

Charts reveal organization of Jonestown

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GEORGETOWN, Guyana — Two family tree-style organizational charts of the Peoples Temple hierarchy found in Jonestown may provide a key to where the power lay in the cult.

A large three foot by four foot chart was found yesterday leaning against the wall of the temple pavilion by reporters and Guyanese investigators. A second chart, written on a piece of paper, was found earlier among the Rev. Jim Jones' personal effects and was disclosed today.

In each chart, Jones is clearly the leader. He is closely followed by a staff of three, called either the administrative triumvirate or the administrative officers.

Also high in the chart are a banking committee, a steering committee, a rally committee, and the accounting and legal departments.

The larger chart was found yesterday during a coroner's inquest into the deaths of 913 cult members Nov. 18.

As reporters approached the sign and began copying the 60 or so names listed, they were stopped by Guyanese officials.

Manny Ramao, the inquest prosecutor, said the document was not a piece of important evidence and that it would be improper to copy the names.

However, as the party left Jonestown on helicopters, the chart was carried aboard, wrapped in a newspaper. It was taken back to Matthews Ridge and was expected to be introduced as evidence in the inquest.

The chart also was noticed by reporters who accompanied Rep. Leo Ryan on his fact-finding mission a month ago. But when they attempted to copy the names on the list, they were also stopped by temple members, who considered it important.

At the top of that chart, Jones was listed as executive director.

He was followed by an "administrative triumvirate" of Johnnie Jones, Carolyn Layton and Harriet Tropp.

Maria Katsaris, Jones' mistress, was listed as the head of banking, and Stephan Jones, Jones' only natural son, was listed as head of the steering committee.

Stephan Jones is believed to be the only person on the list who is still alive.

He told The Examiner today that both lists were drawn up about seven months ago and they applied only to Jonestown, not the entire temple.

He said before the charts were established, no temple members had official titles and, as a result of overlapping duties, there was a good deal of chaos in the temple ranks.

Jones said Terri Buford, a mysterious temple member who was extremely close to Jones and who now says she has left the church, was not on the list because his father had said she had more important duties.

"Terri Buford was voted in as one of the top three," Jones said, "but Dad said she was too busy. He said she had too many strategies to work with that were more important and said that she was a genius."

Jones also said the steering committee, which he headed, was set up only to fill requests and handle complaints, and to steer temple members to other committees.

The second chart listed the same people, although the banking and steering committees were blank. A group called the rally committee also was blank.

The legal department included Eugene Chaikin, the longtime temple attorney, Jan Gurvich and Harriet Tropp. The accounting department included Tish Leroy, who handled the temple's books in Ukiah, and Harold Bogue.

Following the high level staff was a list of 10 "assistant administrative officers" and their duties.

They were Joyce Touchette, food services, central supply and laundry; Robert Christian, sewage, roads, wells, sanitation, engineering and surveying; Marceline Jones, medical; Johnnie C. Jones, internal services, Jonestown police, boat security and front gate.

Shanda James, public relations, guests, movies, videos, and music; Kay Nelson, businesses, store, mails, procurements, watch repair and other business; Ava Jones, education, housing, child care and counseling.

Jack Beam, livestock, agriculture, farm; Charlie Touchette, construction, mechanics, woodshop, machine shop, transportation and power; Lee Ingram, sawmill, bricks, soap, public address system, refrigeration and shoe repair.

Lee Ingram is believed to be the only person on this second list still alive. He was in Georgetown as the basketball coach when the suicide-murders took place.