

officers installed in new NSID chapter

President Nixon, like nobody else, has the advantage of the Secret Service and a complete White House staff to pave a smooth arrival for his visits in Hawaii. They usually come off without a hitch.

But for anybody else, regardless of rank or title, anything can happen.

The Duke and Duchess Arturo Pini di San Miniato had one of those memorable arrivals Saturday night. Duke Pini is president of the National Society of Interior Designers and is here for the formal presentation of a charter for a local chapter.

An excited delegation of local members, organized by Larry Goulet, was out to meet the visitors. But as airline schedules go, the plane arrived a few minutes early, and in all the excitement, the newcomers got all their leis on the wrong — thoroughly startled — woman before they retrieved them and bestowed them on the Duchess. Everybody makes mistakes.

Robert S. Lindenthal, another member of the party, is vice president and regional director of the NSID, and is accompanied by Michael Dietrich, who simply described himself as "being from Germany."

Their Island holiday is a working one for Duke Pini and Lindenthal. Sunday morning they met with NSID members Larry Goulet and Nancy Lee Farrell for lunch and our interview at the Outrigger Canoe Club. Both were such immaculate fashion plates —

bright colors, scarves, the whole bit — that it seemed a shame that the dinner that night called for anything as stuffy as black tie.

The two national officers described an elaborate party given by the Los Angeles chapter, which they attended a few nights earlier. Lindenthal is a member of that chapter and said that he and 11 other designers had created display rooms for the party in cooperation with individual fashion designers.

Lindenthal teamed up with the flamboyant Mr. Blackwell, to carry out a black and silver motif in a room designed with a lattice work of mirrors. Blackwell, himself, sounded cool. He wore a black velvet dress shirt and a diamond bracelet to the party.

Duke Pini, the Italian-born interior designer came to New York from San Miniato 17 years ago. Before that, he had been an antique dealer, selling to big U.S. buyers, he said. "The buyer from Macy's invited me to the United States and I fell in love with it," he said. He became a citizen.

Duke Pini has created interiors for town and country residences of many well-known U.S. and foreign families. He has recently completed the decor for suites in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel Towers in New York, and just finished the restaurant of the Iperbole — the "in" restaurant in Manhattan.

After a heated Sunday



Jack Beccard, left, escorts Duke and Duchess Arturo Pini di San Miniato to the formal NSID banquet at Michel's Sunday night.

afternoon election of the officers for the new chapter, the 27th to be formed, members put on their best bib and tucker for the official installation banquet at Michel's that night.

Jack Beccard, having been the victor in the much-sought-after presidency, escorted the Duke and Duchess to the party.

Guido Salmaggi, there as the honorary Italian Consul, was enjoying a lively conversation in Italian with the Duke, when Michel, himself interrupted to say that John

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date book



Kernell, who was to represent Mayor Fasi, sent regrets, too. Then somebody said it was too bad His Honor wasn't able to join the foreign conversation, to which somebody else added that the Mayor doesn't

speak a word of Italian anyway.

The whole party came about so unexpectedly, that it was really too bad that the Governor, the Mayor or any of the state officials who got the nod, didn't

show up. One of the national goals of the NSID is that of preservation of landmarks. On the national level, Duke Pini said, members assist in the restoration of the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House, among other things.

The Duke and Duchess said they will go to Japan in May to attend the annual NSID meeting at Expo '70. "I'm taking three friends with me to keep me company," added the Duchess, who doesn't go in for NSID meetings.

Duke Pini said his Duchess

is the first woman he met when he came to the United States. She's Canadian. He was previously married to a titled descendant of Amerigo Vespucci for whom America was named, that he said, is how he got his title.

His present wife, he claimed, married him because she couldn't afford him as a decorator.

He must have been kidding. The Duchess was sporting a magnificent diamond and tourmaline necklace at the party. The tourmalines, she said, took New York jeweler David Webb, 10 years to match. She is the daughter of the late Lawrence Wilson, a Canadian senator and philanthropist. "He gave the Italian community in Montreal a cathedral of its own, among other things," the Duke said.

Now the Duchess, he continued, is donating a church of her own to the people of San Miniato. The interior will feature a mural of "the seven faces of charity." Those seven faces will include the Duke and Duchess, the last three astronauts to blast off for the moon, and a couple of friends who helped to finance the project. The artist is Luciana Guarnier ... "one of Italy's best," the Duke added.

The Duchess wore a black on black window-pane checked pant-dress, designed by Cerosa of Rome. "She does all of

my clothes," she said. She's really a princess, you know, Princess Carocciolo.

In her effort to avoid business meetings, Duchess Pini spent Sunday touring the city.

"I hired a car and a driver," she said. "The first thing the driver asked me was if I would like to see the cemetery. I told him, Not yet," she deadpanned.

The guide must have been thinking of Punchbowl. The Duchess thought he meant something else.

U.S. volley finals here

The YMCA of Honolulu will host the 1970 United States Volleyball Association championships, it was announced yesterday.

The first three days of the competition will be held at Otto Klum gym at University of Hawaii, May 6-7-8. The semi-finals and finals will be staged in the Honolulu International Center arena on May 9.

Annually this event attracts entries from at least 80 cities in North America, including Canada and Mexico. Hawaii always is represented by one of the strongest clubs in the country.

This will be the 41st annual U.S. Volleyball Association Open.

Tickets already are on sale at all YMCA branches, at all offices of the Special Services and at the Outrigger Canoe Club.