

Story of African Rubber Plantation

(Continued from Last Week)

There are no horses here as the Tsetse Fly is very prevalent and infects the horses so they have none. The Tsetse (pronounced Tetsie) is sleeping sickness, and here it only bothers animals and mostly horses. I haven't seen a horse since we left the States. There are a few native cows which look something like a small Jersey. I believe they are built a little differently and have a small hump over the shoulders but I have only seen one and am not sure. There are many diseases among the natives, even Elephantiasis, which you may have seen in the States. It is where parts of the body become infected and take on elephant proportions because they grow so large. No white man has ever had it here.

I forgot to say when I was telling about our home, that we have a beautiful yard. All the houses have a great expanse of lawn and there are many, many flowers. My lawn is lovely and there is a great row of Habiscus trees along one side. In the front is a big shade tree which bears purple flowers—I'll have to find out what kind it is. Carnations and Gardenias grow here also and many beautiful flowers which are rare in the States. I also have a Paw-Paw tree, which is a native tree. Now it is bearing fruit and the fruit looks like an overgrown pear about as large as a cantaloupe. You cut it open and scrape out the seeds and serve it for breakfast with lime juice. Limes, lemons and grapefruit grow in my yard also and we pick a grapefruit for breakfast and think nothing of it. It seems that we have come to Liberia just at the end of the rainy season. (Maybe I told you this). Anyway, the rainy season is from May until October in which it rains all the time. Now it rains just a few hours each day but the minute it stops the sun is out and it dries the roads immediately so perhaps we won't mind it so much. The dry season (or summer season) is from October until May, and Christmas here is in the middle of the summer. Gee, aren't people crazy down here, they should know perfectly well that Santa can't use a sleigh in the summer time. October and May is the worst time of the year to get fever as that is the only time of the entire year that the mosquito can thrive, otherwise it is either too dry or too wet for him to live. We are being very careful, you can imagine. Each Sunday night you are required to have a smear taken of your blood as a test for fever. If the blood shows "Positive" you are immediately given a course of Atibren Tablets (No quinine given here as Atibren is much stronger and is a sure cure). It takes many days, don't know how many but think it is about 18, before the fever will catch up with you. By that time you are so full of Atibren that it can't take effect and you feel like you had a touch of the cold and ache a bit for a couple of days and then it is all over with and you are okay again. I think it is wonderful what they can do with Tropical diseases now. The hospital is very modern and all new people must go there for instructions and for tests upon their arrival. If you haven't taken a smear and you get malaria fever you are taken to the hospital and they shoot a bunch of liquid atibren into your blood stream to counteract the fever immediately. You stay at the hospital only five days and are completely well at the end of that time. Isn't that wonderful? Poor "Peter" Farley (Mrs. Farley) was taken to the hospital last night as she has Malaria coming on. She was feeling fine today and will be out in four more days. Joe and I are taking a course of Atibren just to be sure. So far we have felt perfectly wonderful and I sincerely hope we continue to do so. Everyone here has been perfectly lovely to us. The Plantation, itself, is very beautiful and all the people are like one huge family—everyone gets along with the next fellow—they drop in at your house at odd hours just to see what you are doing, the women meet and sew together or some play bridge. They have a small publication called "Planter's punch" which is put out by the Firestone Overseas Club, of which we are all members, and it tells the goings on of all the people here. Some people saw my violin so in this issue of Planter's Punch they have me down as an "Accomplished Violinist".

We have gone to two movies and there is another one tomorrow night. There is usually one a week. We saw "Little Princess" and "Alexander Graham Bell" and tomorrow night is "Rose of Washington Square". Of course they are all old shows but they look good to us. They also have the news reel and a comedy so everyone goes to the shows which are held in the Firestone Overseas Club No. 1. There are two club houses here and

God Has Blessed America

By SUSAN THAYER

If you were standing somewhere outside the world and were told you could choose any country on earth to live in, which one would you, as a woman, pick? Where would you find the greatest amount of personal freedom for yourself . . . the widest range of opportunities for your children . . . the highest standard of living for your family and the most recognition for you as an individual?

The answer is not hard to guess. You would choose America! Everything about this big, new country has combined to make it serve the individual in his or her "pursuit of happiness." Its vast wealth . . . its variety of climate . . . and above all, its form of government "of the people, by the people and for the people" makes this the best country in the world for women.

The state, in our democracy, exists for the sake of the individual and not the individual for the sake of the state, as in a totalitarian country. The result is a nation of independent, hopeful, ambitious fearless men and women and rosy children who look forward to a life of the kind they choose to live.

And perhaps that is the most important thing about America in these fearful days. If your son wants to go into business, he may do so. If he wants to be an electrical engineer that, too, is all right. But in a totalitarian country all boys must be fitted into the same pattern. If you have a short wave radio you and your friends can listen to programs from all over the world. In dictator-ridden countries they must listen only to the programs approved by the state. You read what you please and can get hold of. You can say what you please, "right out in the meeting" if you have the courage to stand up in front of your club or your school or Sunday school. In dictator countries you may be arrested for the things you say, even to members of your own family in the privacy of your own home. You can go to church if you like and to whatever church you choose. In totalitarian states religious freedom is a thing of the past. You can save money . . . if you can, at least a little of it almost every month, while in dictator countries more and more of it is confiscated by the state. Probably you have a car and go where you please. Only a few of very rich women of dictator countries have cars and even they can't go where they please.

And—very important, too—your standard of living is such that you can buy more of the good and necessary things of life than people in other lands. Better goods, and more of them—and a wider choice of goods—all made possible by a free system of industrial enterprise unlike that in other lands.

It's a great country we live in—broad in fertile acres—rich in resources and a free government, blessed by God!

One of them, the small club, is just about three blocks from our present home. They have a library there where you can get books to read, and patterns for dresses. Everyone donates a pattern when they are through with it. There is also a big room where they hold Catholic Church each Sunday but there is no Protestant Church down here. We may go to the Catholic one at times. My Bible is also in the last trunk, the one Leslie and Bernice gave us for Christmas last year. They have a lovely golf course and Peter Farley is going to teach me to play. There is a swimming pool near our house and several tennis courts on the plantation. Everyone concentrates on new people to be sure they don't get homesick at first and that way they get acquainted and make friends and are not so lonely. We are invited to the General Manager's home for dinner next Sunday night and she is having some musicians out from Liberia's music center in Monrovia. She has a piano at her home especially built for the tropics but even so it is hard to keep it in tune. I am not sure I can keep my violin down here as I have been advised to send it home immediately. If I leave it out of the Hot Closet it gets damp and the velvet in the case is wet. If it is in the Hot Closet it dries out so I haven't decided yet what to do. I watch it very closely.

(To Be Continued)

Tournament Held by Physical Ed Class

The boys' physical education class recently finished a tournament which lasted two weeks.

The class was divided into four teams—reds, greens, blues, and whites. Each team played six games. Of the six games each, the reds won four; the greens, three; the blues, three; and the whites, two.

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The members of the various teams were: reds—Loren Cassman, Paul Blumenstein, Allen Hilkey, Harold Meyers, and James Luther; greens—Franklin Gebhard, Frank Richardson, Bill Colley, George Vincent and Bill McCord; blues—Berkley Pinkham, Donald Glenn, John Rector, Lucius Lull, and Shirley Kelly; whites—John Freeland, Ronald James, Bill Croucher, Keith Henagin, and Morgan Jones. Eugene Holt and David Mears were substitutes for the four teams.

This type of competition makes the course very enjoyable for the students. —Central Pointer

Enthusiastic Players Open Baseball Season

Baseball season is again in sight, and practice sessions have been in evidence since Monday, March 19.

The team this season will be built around five returning lettermen. These veterans are Bob Burns, left field, who will change to mound

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duties; Milton Garrett, third base, who will return to that position; Dick Wyatt, pitcher, who will again work on the mound; Harvey Taylor, who will again be man behind the bat; and Wentling Hilkey, catcher, who will play elsewhere in the infield during the present season.

As the players are out this year, Edwin Froehlich will work at first, and Loren Cassman, second base. The shortstop position is being contested for by Milford White, John Freeland, and Bob Colley. Bill Colley, Woodrow Phillips, Paul Blumenstein, Frank Richardson, Bruce Force, and Eugene Holt seek positions in the field, and Jim Pierce and Ronald James are, as yet, undecided as to where they want to play.

A tentative game has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, with Medford. This game will be the first for the '41 edition of the Pointer baseballers. —Central Pointer

Seniors to Sponsor Amateur Night

The senior class plans to present an amateur night about the middle of April. The proceeds from this program will be used to help finance the annual.

All those who can sing, dance, play instruments, or can contribute in any way to the evening's entertainment are urged to do so. It will be conducive to their own development as well as a source of pleasure to the audience.

Those who wish to participate are asked to see Bernice White who is in charge of the affair. —Central Pointer

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Basketball Letters To Be Awarded Soon

An assembly is to be held Friday, March 21, for the awarding of basketball letters to the players who have earned letters.

Mr. Hulburt will award letters to the following boys: Ralph Blasing, captain, senior; Dick Wyatt, senior; Chet Grimes, senior; Wentling Hilkey, senior; Hal Jewett, senior; Dale Seymour, senior; Norman Smith, junior; John Pinkham, junior; Woodrow Phillips, junior; Edwin Froehlich, sophomore; and Jim Pierce, sophomore. —Central Pointer

Address on Grades Given by Jewett

At an assembly last Wednesday, Mr. Jewett addressed the student body on the topic of grades.

He explained that grades are not the most important things in school life and neither are they the least important. Grades are merely means of conveying information from one person to another. A grade is a brief way to convey the instructor's understanding of a pupil's work or progress in his course.

Mr. Jewett also stated that he believed the grades this six weeks were a decided improvement over those of last six weeks, due to the decrease in illness.

The report cards were then passed out. —Central Pointer

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Famed College Choir To Be in Concert Here

An opportunity to hear the Westmont College choir of Los Angeles will be afforded students and patrons of this community on Thursday, April 10, when they will appear in a concert at the high school gymnasium at eight o'clock in the evening.

The choir of thirty voices is directed by Helen Catherwood. In addition to the choir numbers there will be a trumpeters' trio, a women's vocal trio, and a string quartette.

The program is being presented under the auspices of the Federated Church of Central Point.

—Central Pointer

Jim Ross and Harry Elden went fishing for catfish Tuesday afternoon. They brought home some wild fish stories.

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