

**Story of African Rubber Plantation**

(Continued from Last Week)

Well, I suppose before this time you have received the Leopard skins which we sent home on the Hunshaw in care of Dr. Cole. Hope it won't be too much trouble for you to have them taken care. We have been trying to get another elephant table but so far no luck. Still have hopes yet. Did I tell you that we have a native water jug and it is lovely I think. One of the boys who works over at the Factory and knows Joe, was sent down the coast on one of the Barbed boats as part of the crew. They always pick up a big crew of black boys each trip to help them with cargo south of here. The boys heard Joe say he wanted many things so when he was down the coast he bought this water jug for 2/6, (45¢). It was all the money he had but he was so tickled to get it for Joe and you can imagine we were plenty surprised to get it too. Joe gave him something for his trouble so now we hope we can get some more things when this boy goes down the coast again. The jug is made of clay which is very thick. It is quite round with a very small neck and a handle off the side of the neck. They are painted a rust color usually and this one has green trimming on it—all native work of course. The thickness of the clay keeps the water always cool and, since the jug are carried on the head, they are no bother to take along. This one came from down in Belgian Congo territory. Hope we are fortunate enough to pick up some more.

The servant situation is about the same and my cook hasn't been in jail since the last time I told you about him. Sure must be on his good behavior don't you think? He is a rascal from away back but he obeys and is a good cook so we get along okay. Poor George, we came home late the other night and as soon as we got in George came creeping up the back steps and into the back part of the house. We heard him and went out and here he stood, the most abject specimen of human humbleness you could ever see. He had a huge wool scarf of the brightest colors possible would round and round his neck and he said in a small voice, "Missey, you can do something for me? I be so sick, my neck he hurt me too much." I mixed up some medicine for him and he stood in a corner with a long face while I told him how to put it on his neck and all about it. Well, he was practically well by then simply by knowing it

must be good for him so off he went. The next morning he was much better but I had him put some more medicine on his neck and go back to bed. By night I could hear him laughing and gabbling with the other natives so that's that. His neck probably did hurt him but if I would give them plain butter to rub on something it would make it well because Missey say so. Oh, Me!

The servants mind me very well and they stand in complete awe and horror if Joe turns loose on them. He never says a word to them in the way of telling them what to do unless it is something serious so they know it is best for them to take my word for anything rather than "make Boss plenty vexed at we."

Last night we had Spanish Rice like we used to make at home and I showed cook how to make it. The boys are pretty slick so the cook said, "Missey, we better make plenty cause Boss he eat too much." When we had finished the meal there was enough spanish rice left over for a nice dish for each of those rascals. Johnny said, "Missey, I will put it for the ice box or I will waste it?" I said, "Waste it, Johnny." That means you can have it boys if you want it. I went to the kitchen not less than two minutes later and there was not a sign of any spanish rice anywhere and they all had big grins on their faces—the rats!

Well, I have run down and it almost time to go home from work so better close this off.

I want to mention the weather conditions, or report to you. It is as follows. "The weather down here is most unusual. The sun heat goes as high as 170 degrees. The nights cool down getting as low as 45 to 50 degrees and having a temperature variation of up to 125 degrees within

24 hours. The steel and concrete used in all construction work must allow for this sudden excessive variation. Nice thought when it comes to construction engineering." (To Be Continued)

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That it is my duty, by my thoughts, words and actions to uphold and respect all proper authority;

To the end that our Navy will ever be worthy of its traditions and the honor, trust, and support of the American people.

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**Buildings for Navy Completed this year**

The Navy Department recently announced that through accelerating building, two additions to Bancroft Hall, midshipmen's dormitory at Annapolis, and a new recitation hall involving the expenditure of \$2,521,000, have been completed in less than a year. The work would normally require about 18 months to 2 years to complete.

The Bancroft Hall additions consist of two "L" type wings, each having a long leg of 190 by 50 feet, and a short one of 96 by 50. The structures were turned over to the

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Naval Academy September 8, a week before their scheduled completion.

The recitation hall was put into use October 1.

The additions to Naval Academy were particularly needed to take care of the increased number of midshipmen being appointed to the Academy. A total of 3,118 men are now in attendance as compared with 2,602 in 1940 and 1,704 in 1934.

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*Frank Knox*  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY



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