

Africa Calling

A REPORT FROM THE NEAR EAST
By NELS ANDERSON

(The following is a letter from Nels Anderson to Newt O'Hara telling of the agricultural conditions in Niger, Africa, where the former Morrow county agent is now working with the Near East Foundation.)

It seems funny to be so far from home and find many of the same problems we have in Morrow county. The only thing is that the solution is much more painful and slow than I ever imagined it could be. The people here are much more ready for the help, though than the mechanics are set up for.

There are many different groups from many different countries all with some kind of a program and few of them coordinated, and many surely duplicated. Of course, I have been here only a short time and maybe I can see many things now that I won't see after I get used to the way things are done in the circles in which I work. This morning as I stood out under a gowya tree near the village of N-Dounga it was like a quiet day in Morrow county with only the sounds of some birds across the cuvette (valley). I thought of hunting season opening in a few days at home and wished I were standing under a big pine in the Blue Mountains waiting for a buck to come along. It was only a hundred or so in the shade, a cool day.

Later as we went across the cuvette running some lines for boundaries of a school which we are building to teach a group of young Nigeriens the principles of farming, the farmers were beginning their millet harvest, the main crop of this area. It is the staple food that provides stock for soup, mush, and bread. Millet here is much different than the millet I was used to in the Midwest. It resembles the cattail with the "tail" being the head of seed. Many of the heads are two feet long and contain an enormous amount of seed. The farmers cut the heads off one by one, tie them in a bundle, carrying them on their heads to the granary or to town to sell or trade for something they need. I don't know yet how long it takes to get the whole crop in.

Further on, we saw herders with large flocks of cattle that are not bad quality considering everything. They are, I would say, Zebus, although I haven't heard what they call them. They

have the hump like a Brahma but are smaller and less fleshy, although all animals I have seen, other than some camels, are in real good flesh.

This is the end of the rainy season and the grass is still green and plentiful. It will be about nine months, however, before it will rain again, and I guess things get a little on the poor side by then. You see, they don't think about putting up any hay or forage. The Peace Corps boys are doing some good work with silage which might catch on. The School being set up as one of the first of our projects will attempt to train farm boys who want to learn some good principles of farming. The boys will stay at the school for one year, going through the process of raising crops, fencing, caring for livestock, doing routine farm work. The main project for these boys will be to teach them how to use oxen and donkey drawn implements. Each will be sold on credit a pair of oxen for his use at the end of the training.

Life here is quite interesting but awfully dull. We are in our newly-remodeled home and are quite comfortable even though we would complain quite loudly at home if we had to put up with some of the things. We have had dozens of workmen around and still have an outside crew. For the hours they have put in so far we should have a palace to live in, but I hear they only get 12 cents per hour so I don't blame them for not hurting themselves. They are building us a fancy 8-foot wall around our yard. The concrete here is kind of like mud. The cement looks real poor and the sacks are marked "Made in USSR." They mix it with a fine sand, no gravel or pebbles. I guess it gets by!

Our house is mixed right in among the Africane mud "ban-cos" so we are exposed to their every day life. The town is laid out quite oddly. There are few areas where the houses are grouped for Europeans or the officials of the Nigerien government. You will find the poorest to the richest all on one street.

We have a constant parade of naked youngsters by our gate all day long as well as an assortment of whatever you might imagine would be on the loose. We see camels loaded with wood sticks which they cut out in the

country and bring in to peddle door to door. There are hundreds of donkeys hauling wood, and every imaginable thing.

I am amazed at the use the natives make of their heads in carrying things. One cannot go anywhere, and I mean anywhere regardless of the most remote areas, but what one will run into to someone or groups of women coming across a field with enormous loads of hides, vegetables, meat, fish, cloth, pottery, water, millet, peanuts, wine, grass, wood or you name it. The farmers who have their millet fields away from the river carry all of their water to their thatch huts from the river, sometimes several miles away. All on their heads! I have seen little girls with a 4-gallon open pail full of water on their heads without spilling a drop. There are some open wells out in the country especially at a village. A survey of wells of the country has recently been made and plans are to dig or drill more wells in strategic spots if it seems advisable.

There is absolutely no electric power out in the country so everything must be done by hand. They do not understand motors or engines but are not lazy to do things the hard way. Sometimes I think it would be better to leave them to do things as they have always done, but there are the more progressive that want everyone to live their way. I guess.

There is a lot of room for conservation here. They are lucky that the land grows back to grass quickly so they get some cover. Their summer fallow is land they abandon for six or seven years, then go back and clear it for crop again as it builds back up to raise a crop. What we couldn't do with a few shiploads of fertilizer and sprinkler systems in this sand and heat! The Niger river is just running by, doing no one any good other than for the natives to wash their clothes.

Well, I have rambled on here for quite a while, especially in my poor hand and peck style of typing. I am surely missing the good secretarial services was used to at home. But I might get to be a fair typist before my time is up here. No doubt I will learn to do other things also. I hope you are feeling well and are not having too bad of a summer. Fall is there now, I guess. I think this heat will get "old" before we leave it behind us. I always thought a good "sweat" was good for anyone but it gets quite exhausting. I change my clothes at least twice a day and average three showers a day. And the hot season has not yet arrived! Oh, well, I will never complain about the cold again, maybe.

Best regards,
Nels Anderson

Oregon Hunters Eye Elk Season Opening Saturday

An army of hunters, somewhere around 60,000 strong, will be heading for the high, timbered areas of the state this week-end to hunt the big game animal many feel to be the most challenging trophy in Oregon. Saturday morning, October 30, marks the opening of the general elk season throughout the state, which is scheduled to extend through November 14 in the Roosevelt elk areas west of U. S. Highway 97, and through November 28 in the Rocky Mountain elk areas east of U. S. Highway 97.

Hunters are reminded by the game commission that if they hunt for Roosevelt elk they must have the Roosevelt elk tag, or if they hunt for Rocky Mountain elk they must have the Rocky Mountain elk tag. Bull elk only will be legal game in all of the Roosevelt elk hunting area and in the northeastern portion of the Rocky Mountain elk area. Either-sex-elk may be taken on the southeastern Oregon ranges. In the bull elk hunting areas, the bag limit is one bull elk with antlers longer than the ears.

In eastern Oregon, either-sex-elk hunting is available in the Wheeler, Grizzly, Ochoco, Maury, Northside, Lookout Mountain, Murderer's Creek, Beulah, Malheur River, and Silvies units. All other units in eastern Oregon are restricted to hunting bull elk only during the general season.

Hunters are requested to check the big game regulations carefully for seasons, bag limits, and other rules for the hunt. Any bull elk taken must have the antlers with scalp and eyes attached while the carcass of the animal is in possession in the field or forest or on any highway or road of the state.

Rifles that do not meet the minimum requirements are not legal for elk hunting. Minimum requirements include a rifle of at least .25-inch bore diameter and developing at least 1200 foot pounds of energy at 100 yards. Elk hunting rifles must meet both of these requirements.

FFA Chapter Host In Soil Judging

Heppner chapter, Future Farmers of America, will be host to the district soil judging contest Saturday, October 30, at 10 a.m.

Five of the chapter members will also judge in the contest. Ralph Richards, conservationist of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district, is in charge.

Mustangs Throw Hilanders, 26 to 6

League Standings

| | W | L |
|-------------|---|---|
| Sherman Co. | 3 | 1 |
| Wahtonka | 3 | 1 |
| Heppner | 2 | 2 |
| Burns | 2 | 2 |
| Madras | 2 | 2 |
| Grant Union | 0 | 4 |

Burns' Hilanders apparently bore the brunt of the Heppner High's pentup disappointment at suffering two league losses Friday when the Mustang football team punished the Hilanders there, 26 to 6.

It was rather an astonishing victory for the home eleven, supporters of whom had expected a real tough battle. The Hilanders couldn't come within denting distance of the goal line except on the game's last play from scrimmage when they scored on a 30-yard run against Heppner's sophomores and juniors.

Halftime found the score only 6-0, the touchdown coming in the second quarter when Tim Driscoll punched over from the two-yard line. End Mark Brown set up the touchdown when he caught an aerial and, with the run, made it a 35-yard gainer. The point try was no good.

The Mustangs kicked the Hilanders in the kilts again early in the third quarter. Heppner kicked off to Burns, but on the first play from scrimmage, the Hilanders fumbled. Alert Dave Gray picked up the fumble on the Burns 40 and ran all the way to score. Mark Murray kicked the extra point, and it was 15-0, while the small contingent of Heppner rooters cheered loudly.

Lightning struck again for the Harney county eleven late in the same period. Driscoll ran off the left side of the line and scored from 25 yards out. Murray missed the placekick conversion, but the Heppner gang had a 19-0 lead and their stock was still soaring.

In the fourth quarter Driscoll caught a pass from Jim Doherty and made it good for 30 yards and a touchdown against the



MARK BROWN, senior end of the Heppner Mustangs, set up the first touchdown against Burns there Friday when he caught a pass that was good for 35 yards. Brown will be in action against Sherman County Friday in the last league game and final home game of the season. (G-T Photo).

dismayed Scots. Murray kicked the point, and this brought the count to an amazing 26-0.

Coach Jim Potter used all his reserves in the late stages of the game and just a few seconds were left when the Hilanders pulled the 50-yard play that prevented the contest from being a shutout. Heppner took the kickoff after this score, but the final gun sounded on the run-back.

The Mustangs dominated play throughout the game despite the fact that more than 150 yards of penalties were whistled against them to 15 yards for Burns.

Mickey Kindle performed in great fashion on defense with 14 tackles to his credit, and Mark Murray was about equally as effective with 12. Gray also was credited by his coach with an exceptionally good game.

"He didn't make so many tackles but he pounded good and hard," Coach Potter said.

The coach felt that one of the secrets of Heppner's success against Burns was use of a 4-man defensive line, inspired by a scouting report on the Hilanders.

"Their blockers would come through the line and find they had no one to block," he said.

On both offense and defense the Mustangs made very few mistakes, and the coach said that the team looked better than it did against Wahtonka, where it played a fine game.

Driscoll gained 80 yards on 12 carries for a 6.6 average and Jim Jacobs added 36 on nine carries for a 4.0 average. Ken Morgan made 21 on seven tries for a 3.0 mark.

The coach moved Murray to a linebacker spot for this one and placed Kindle and Nailro

Cox in the center of the line. This defense proved to be a good one.

Heppner gained a total of 233 yards, 148 on rushing and 85 on passing, while Burns was held to 105, 75 of which came on rushing and 30 on passing.

Heppner Runners Defeat Hilanders

Heppner High's cross country team, traveling to Burns with the football team Friday, defeated the Hilander runners in cross country, 24 to 32, for their second win of the season.

Rhen of Burns ran the 2.5 mile course in the fastest time, 13.43, but Tim Smith of Heppner was second at 14.07, followed by Bill McLeod in third at 14.22 and Randy Stillman fourth at 14.30. Lennie Hanna was sixth at 15.11, Jim Sherman was ninth at 15.31 and Rick Witherrite was tenth at 15.44. Also running for Heppner were Steve Baker and Ailyn Witherrite.

Eighteen runners were in the dual meet.

The district cross country meet will be Friday with Nyssa, Burns, Wahtonka and Heppner participating at Pendleton, starting at 4 p.m. The top two teams will go to the state meet. Wahtonka draws the favored role in the district.

Examiner Coming

A Drivers License Examiner will be on duty in Heppner Tuesday, November 9, 1965, at the Courthouse between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., according to an announcement received from the Department of Motor Vehicles of Oregon.

Cardinals Top Weston; To Play at Fossil Friday

With the conference title sewed up, Lone High's football team might have suffered just a bit of a letdown against Weston High at Lone Friday afternoon, but they generated enough steam to win a 19-0 victory.

In the first half, things didn't look too good for the Cards. Weston came to Lone in the hope of upsetting the champs, and for a time it appeared they might do it. Although they couldn't break into the end zone to score, they had the ball on 41 plays before intermission to only 17 for Lone.

Mark Halvorsen got his team on the scoreboard in the first quarter when he went off tackle and rambled 86 yards to touchdown territory. The point try was no good, and the 6-0 score stood until the third quarter. At one time Weston had the ball within two yards of scoring, but the team was penalized 15 yards and lost the opportunity of going over.

Lone developed a case of fumbleitis. In one sequence the Cards fumbled and Weston recovered. The Lone team then held the visitors who punted, and the Cards fumbled a second time with a Weston recovery. Holding the visitors once more, they punted and an lone player touched the ball on the return try, and a Weston lad recovered once more. On this occasion the Weston team went to the lone 15, but was stopped there.

In the second half, the Cards looked more like the team that has been rolling over recent opposition. Baker scored from 30 yards out when he skirted left end, and Jay Ball ran the extra point, bringing the tally to 13-0.

Halvorsen added the final touchdown in the fourth when he went over from the two following a Cardinal drive down field.

Lone ended with a total of 240 yards gained, 226 on rushing and 14 on passing, while Weston had 186, 112 on rushing and 74 on passing.

Completing the regular season, the Cardinals travel to Fossil Friday for a 7:30 game under the lights against Wheeler County. Their only loss of the season was the first game to non-league Dufur, and they hope to keep their victory string going against Wheeler.

Coach Meyers said he understood that Crane and Mitchell are fighting it out for the lead in the southern end of the district, and Lone will meet the winner at some time in the future to be scheduled. No information is available on this as yet.

Ruby Fulleton OBRA Director

Ruby Fulleton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roice Fulleton, was elected a director of the girls' Oregon Barrel Racing Association at the convention of the association in Madras last week-end.

Ruby, a sophomore in Heppner High School, has been an active participant in barrel racing and other rodeo events for several years.

As director, she represents this section of Oregon on the board, which is composed of five members.

The Fulleton family went to Madras for the convention and attended a dinner following the business meeting. At the end of the two-day session, girls took part in barrel racing competition but both Ruby and Becky Fulleton finished out of the top placings.



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