

Margaret Marks Tells Of Crops in West Africa

(Ed. Note: This is another in a series of articles sent by Margaret Marks, Heppner High graduate, from West Cameroon, Africa, where her father, Les Marks, is working on a government agricultural assignment. Margaret expects to leave for Madrid, Spain, on June 1 and will attend summer school there.)

Agriculture

Due to the ideal growing conditions which exist in Cameroon agricultural production possibilities are tremendous, with an average temperature of 70 degrees and more than 100 inches of rainfall per year. Most of rain comes between April and August, but there are scattered showers throughout the year which provide enough for the crops.

Crops grown for export include bananas, rubber, pineapple, cocoa, palm oil, coffee, tea, pepper, and timber. These plantations are generally operated by government cooperatives with advising from the English.

Women Do Farm Work

The majority of agriculture is done on individual farms. The tradition here is that all farming is done by the women from the clearing of land to the harvesting of the crops. Often women leave their homes at day-break with large baskets on their heads containing a little food and their hoe.

The hoes have a handle about two feet long and are a shovel which has been bent back right at the top of the blade. So the women must bend over to do all of their work. While hoeing they take the babies off of their backs and place them in the nearest shade. The women return to their homes with their baskets full of "chop" around 9 or 10 before the sun becomes too hot. They may need to return to the bush for more food late in the afternoon, when it starts to cool off.

All farms have the staple, "cocoyams," which are harvested every nine months. This yam is often 12 or more inches long and eight inches in diameter when mature. It tastes very much like a sweet potato. Other crops grown by the women are maize (corn), beans, groundnuts (peanuts), taro, cassava, and sweet potatoes.

The meat supply is provided for the family by the man. However, it is becoming a scarce commodity with the only game animals remaining being the monkey and an occasional cane rat and the domestic goat, chicken, and Fulani cattle. However, domestic meat is quite expensive. The man also provides his own palm wine to drink.

Cattle of Mixed Breeds

Cattle in Cameroon are of mixed breeding, but commonly just called Fulani cattle. Occasionally Hereford as well as

other beef-type breeding is evident. These cattle are lanky with big bones, tough hides, and little flesh much of the time. They appear as fat left and falo type with humps similar to a brahma and long horns which protrude straight up 2-3 feet and often have a spread of 3-4 feet. These cattle are so docile that they are handled completely on foot.

Most of the cattle are raised in the northern grasslands as there is less insect infestation. When ready for market they are driven 300 miles. By the time they reach the market they usually have little fat left and the meat is tough! Some lose over two pounds per day on their 30 day trek.

The U. S. Agency for International Development has started helping with the new programs in poultry and horticulture. In time the natives will have more meat as they get their chicken farms started. Also gardens in each back yard are being started, so they will have more vegetables than just the starchy ones they now have. Other projects which they have started in many villages are fish ponds and pig farms. These will be a good form of protein.

Airlift Postal Service Speeds Overseas Mail

Postal patrons may now send packages up to 30 pounds for American military personnel served by Army and Fleet Post Offices overseas. Parcels can now be sent by air transportation at special low rates, announces Postmaster Jim Driscoll, of the Heppner Post Office.

Residents who use this new airlift service will get faster delivery on parcels to military personnel overseas. The airlift is available on a space-available basis upon payment of the domestic parcel post surface rate plus a flat \$1 fee.

Packages weighing up to 30 pounds, and not more than 60 inches in combined length and girth, qualify for the new special airlift rate.

Postal patrons can get the airlift service on packages mailed to all military personnel at APO or FPO addresses overseas, and in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. It is noted that the new airlift service also applies to parcels mailed back to the States by servicemen from these military post offices.

Parcels on which the \$1 fee is paid get jet air transportation all the way—from here to the port of embarkation and from there to the overseas base. Postal patrons formerly had to pay air parcel post rates to get similar service.

In many instances the new airlift rates are considerably below comparable air parcel post charges. A few examples are: A mother mailing a 15 pound package to her son in Vietnam pays \$2.60 for the new airlift service, while the air parcel post rate for the same package is \$7.73. Or—an eight pound package going from here to Frankfurt, Germany, costs \$3 under the airlift service. The air parcel rate is \$6.48.

In some instances, the airlift service is not to the mailer's advantage. On some light packages, air parcel post rates may be lower than the airlift charges.

Patrons mailing packages should check with the Post Office on the best way to mail parcels to servicemen overseas.

The new airlift service went into effect January 7. It was authorized under the postal rate bill signed into law December 16 by President Johnson.

Regular postage on parcels mailed to servicemen overseas is based on the distance the package is transported within the U. S. No charge is made for carrying the package between the U. S. port and the overseas base.

Until January 7, airlift for parcels to servicemen overseas was restricted to packages weighing up to five pounds. Upon payment of the regular parcel post rates, these packages get service transportation to the port of embarkation and are airlifted from there to the overseas base on a space available basis. There is no charge for this partial airlift and parcels weighing up to five pounds will continue to receive this service.

Those mailing parcels overseas are asked to mark the parcel with the initials P. A. L. in red ink over the name of the addressee.

The Rev. and Mrs. Earl Soward and left May 17 for an extended vacation trip which will take them to the southern states. They were to spend the week-end in Boise, Idaho, with their son, Wayne Soward, and family, continuing on to Austin, Texas, to spend some time with another son, Marvin, and family. They plan to visit their daughter, Mrs. Vern Greenbalgh and family, in Rockwood, Tenn., and participate in the community's centennial celebration while there. Mrs. Soward will be on vacation from her secretarial work at Farley Motor Company.



DONALD OSTENSOE, executive secretary of the Oregon Beef Council, standing at podium, urges citizens of Oregon to purchase "Beef Produced Only In The USA". Ostensoe stated at this recent meeting of cattlemen in Portland that 10% of all beef consumed presently in Oregon was foreign beef. He said this represents a loss to the Oregon cattle industry of over \$12 million. He urged all citizens as well as retail food outlets to only buy and sell beef produced in this country. To Mr. Ostensoe's right is Jim Brooks, chairman, Oregon Beef Council; Governor Tom McCall; Denny Jones, president, Oregon Cattlemen's Association; and Walt Leth, director, Department of Agriculture. They, too, urged citizens of Oregon to get behind this program.

'Water' is Theme Of Entertaining Program for PTA

A variety of musical numbers, many of them relating to the program theme, "water," which is so important in our area at this time, was presented by fourth and fifth grade students at the last PTA meeting of the year, under the direction of Mrs. Ola Mae Groshens, musical instructor for the Heppner schools.

Opening greeting numbers of "Navajo Happy Song," and "Singing Up the Corn," a Papago Indian prayer for rain, were sung by combined classes, with soloists Molly Pierce, Laurie Challey, Susan Wishart, Kimmie Lou Hagwood, Bonnie Davis and Cheryl Turner, taking part. Accompaniment on flutephones was played by Janette Hust and Twilla Riddle.

Other numbers enjoyed were "Eric Canal," with accompaniment on classroom instruments and "Music of the River." "Here Look in the Tulip Bed" was sung by a girls' ensemble, which included Teresa Hughes, Dale Arrington, Mary Ayers, Judy Healy, Debbie Martin, Shannon Kelly, Donna Raymond, Becky Phegley, Juanita Wilson, Lori Dunlap, Linda Pearson, Margie Roberts and Karen Winter.

A delightful ballad, "Copper Kettle," was sung by Debbie Martin and Shannon Kelly. Other soloists for the evening of musical entertainment were Carl Palmer, Steve Jones, Duane Wolfe, Howard Green and Danny Marshall, who combined their talents to sing "Michael, Row the Boat".

A tribute to Woodie Guthrie song writer, who lived near Hood River while composing "Roll on Columbia" was given by the group, who sang several of his songs. Soloists were Dianne Martin, Linda Pearson, Debbie Cox and Jane Roark.

A surprise appearance of the "Mamas and Papas," delighted the audience with a musical number entitled "Cool Water." Mr. and Mrs. Carl Marquardt and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marquardt made up the quartet.

A skit and soap opera by the "Treble Clefs" and the "Bee Majors," who were recognized as cooks and maintenance staff of the school, were the "hit of the show" while singing original kitchen ditties to the tune of "Tea for Two," "Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet" and others.

Performing were Gladys Van Winkle, Betty Orwick, Opal Cook, Camilla Samples, Paul Warren, Darrel Harris, and Harry Green, who also provided guitar accompaniment.

Nomination and election of PTA officers for next year was the main item of business conducted during the meeting. Officers elected were Arnold Raymond, president; Mrs. Bill Johnson, vice president; Mrs. Barnard Marshall, secretary; and Mrs. Anna Schwarzin, treasurer. Newly elected officers were installed by Mrs. Wallace Wolff, outgoing PTA president.

Reports were heard from Mrs. Paul Warren, who reported on the financial outcome of the band carnival and the OEA dinner, and from Alan Martin, principal, who reported that the scholarship committee has plans to send two youngsters to a regular summer camp.

Announcement was made by Mrs. Wolff, that Mrs. Ed Dick, who presently serves as president of Midland council, was elected to the State board of PTA Management and will serve on the High School Service Committee. Mrs. Wolff has been elected to serve as vice president of Midland council, which is comprised of three counties, Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler.

Group Enjoys Trip Into Mountain Areas

A memorable 700-mile trip into the Steens Mountain area of Barney country was enjoyed by Claude Cox and his sons, Clair of Corvallis and Charles of Portland, and 7-year-old grandson, Donald, over the week-end of May 11-12.

Going by way of Burns, and returning through John Day, they found many points of interest, including Frenchglen, Pueblo Mountains, Alvord Desert, Fish Lake, the Wildlife Museum at Narrows; also saw varieties of game and waterfowl in the Malheur game reserves. They heartily recommended the sight-seeing and fishing journey upon their return to any who enjoy seeing the "different" country.

Swim Pool Accepted May 24

On Friday, May 24, the city council accepted the new Heppner municipal swimming pool.

Representatives of McCormack Construction Co., including Harlan Peterson and Bob Zacklan, were present at a special council meeting on May 20, together with Gilbert Groff of Clark and Groff, Salem, engineers, to help clear up misunderstandings between the city and the contractors.

At the April council meeting, councilmen said they felt the work had not been satisfactorily completed in some parts of the construction. They then decided to invoke the penalty clause, and Attorney Bob Abrams sent a letter to that effect.

Flaking of the plaster coating on the pool was one of the principal points of contention, together with some leakage, and trouble with shower valves. Peterson said that the pool was substantially completed on the date established for completion. The contractors agreed that anything unsatisfactory

would be corrected even after the acceptance date through a "warning period."

The contractors, engineers and councilmen agreed that some of the difficulty stemmed from a lack of communication between the three parties during construction.

The motion to set May 24 as acceptance date and dispense with the possibility of liquidated damages was made by Councilman Joe Balfe and passed unanimously.

After the session on the swim pool, the councilmen met with the budget committee to consider the budget, which is set for publication June 6 and 13.

Mrs. Venice Stiles is a patient in St. Anthony hospital, Pendleton, for several weeks where she is being treated for a broken hip. She fell May 14 in downtown Heppner and after X-rays at Pioneer Memorial hospital was taken to Pendleton Sunday. She is convalescing in room 413.

Summer School Starts June 17

Summer school in the county's elementary special education program will start on June 17 in Heppner, Ione and Irrigon. It was reported at the meeting of the Morrow county school board in Lexington May 20. It is hoped to have a speech therapist working with the program this year. Enrollment is expected to be down somewhat from previous years.

Resignations of two teachers were submitted. Bob Mather resigned from his social studies position at Heppner High because of uncertainty on his military status, and his wife, Mrs. Ann Mather resigned her first grade position in Ione. She expects to teach in Corvallis next year and will stay there if her husband is called to service.

Opening of bus bids, originally scheduled for this meeting, was postponed until after the second budget election. The bids will be opened at 2 p.m. on June 4.

Principal Al Martin reported on the situation on the stop light between Heppner elementary and junior high schools. The board asked that he consider returning to the 30 second stop and go intervals. Bob Abrams, attorney, and Supt. Ron Daniels are to look into the possibility of closing the street at the schools to public travel during school hours because of the hazard of school children.

A request of Armin Freeman, special education teacher at the Heppner Elementary school, for an extended contract of one week to do extra work was denied by a vote of two no and three abstaining.

Mrs. Amy Stephenson is now making her home in Portland with her daughter, Mrs. Henry Sun, and expects to be there for an indefinite time with opportunity to have medical therapy. She suffered a light stroke several weeks ago, with some paralysis, but was showing some improvement when she left early this month for Portland.

Don VanWinkle Gets Vietnam Promotion

U. S. ARMY, VIETNAM (AHTNC) — Donald W. Van Winkle, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Van Winkle, Lexington, was promoted to Army specialist five April 24 in Vietnam, where he is serving with the 4th Transportation Command.

A noncommissioned officer in charge of the civilian labor office assigned with Headquarters of the command's 71st Transportation Battalion, Spec. Van Winkle entered the Army in September, 1965, and completed his basic training at Ft. Ord, Calif. He was last stationed at Ft. Hayes, Ohio, and has been serving in Vietnam since January 25.

Spec. Van Winkle is a 1964 graduate of Heppner High school.

His wife, Nancy, lives in Pendleton, Ore.

Heppner TV, Inc Reelects Ed Gonty

Ed Gonty was reelected a director of the board of Heppner TV, Inc. at the annual meeting of the cable system, May 14. Ed Dick was elected president for the coming year; Riley Munkers, vice president; and Carl Spaulding, reelected manager and secretary-treasurer.

Only two members in addition to the directors were present at the annual business meeting.

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