

Port Elizabeth Snake Farm One of Largest in World

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles by former Medford resident Luke Lange, who is on an around the world cruise on the freighter S. S. Friesland. Today's article is about Port Elizabeth, Union of South Africa.)

By LUKE LANGE

One day and night out of Cape Town our ship docked at Port Elizabeth to discharge more Canadian fir and pine lumber that she had loaded at Vancouver, B.C.

It is a clean little town with strictly Dutch atmosphere since many of the old buildings were built by the Dutch or as they were called then, the Boers.

The area is still part of the Union of South Africa and has the same strict segregation. The colored live in one section, the black in another section and the whites in their own area.

We heard the town had one of the largest snake farms in the world as well as an excellent museum which turned out to be true. They had nearly every poisonous snake known in the world in captivity at this farm.

In addition to all the species

of Africa they had our own rattlesnakes, water moccasins, cobra from Florida, python, bushmaster, coral snakes, cobra from Central and South America, Indian and from anywhere else that they are in existence. I did not realize there were so many kinds of cobra, and all of them deadly.

They had one species familiar to nearly all parts of Africa and India and they claimed by their records that this one type of snake was responsible for over 10,000 deaths of natives per year. Then there was the black and green mamba, the bite of which caused death to its victim within 10 to 15 minutes unless proper treatment was available immediately. A large deluxe snake bite had been developed at this place and was on sale for \$5 American.

It was their claim that these anti-venom kits were good for any type of poisonous snake bite. They extract venom from the snake and ship it all over the world.

Open-Air Pits

In addition to the many enclosed pens where each snake was housed separately they had open-air pits with nearly

every kind of snake represented, living in its natural state. You stood on a step and leaned on a wall which was about 5 feet high, and looked directly into the pits. Twice a day a native snake handler gets into the pit and puts on quite a show. He has a uniform of which he is proud. Any native black who winds up with a job that calls for a uniform is head and shoulders above his fellow tribesman.

The pit is separated from the wall by a moat of water about two feet across and two feet deep. The native puts a ladder from the wall to the pit and steps into the

Four Candidates To Be Honored Here

Robert Duncan, Medford, Patrick Flynn, Charles O. Porter and Robert Straub, all of Eugene, the four Democratic candidates for fourth district representative, will be guests-of-honor at a pre-primary dinner sponsored by the Democratic Social club of Jackson county, according to Thomas J. Reeder, president.

The rally, which is designed to bring candidates, their supporters and friends together for a last large social gathering before the primary election May 18, will be held at Ping's Garden Friday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m.

The four Congressional candidates, three of whom will travel to Medford from Eugene, will speak briefly, and all state and county candidates will be introduced individually.

Following the dinner, a social hour will provide opportunities for candidates and voters to become better acquainted.

"The Pre-Primary Dinner Rally has been planned to serve two purposes," Reeder said. "First, to give county Democrats a final opportunity to meet all their candidates before election-day and, second, to thank the candidates for representing the Democratic Party so well in hard clean campaigning these past months."

pit, takes off his hat, makes a very dignified bow to the crowd and gives a speech in the Kings English of what he is going to show you about the snakes.

Striking at His Feet

While he is talking, vipers, asps and cobras have already begun striking at his feet and legs. He wears heavy shoes up to his ankles and from his shoes to his knees he is protected by leather leggings.

Seminar Planned for New Board Members

A one-day seminar for new school board members will be held at Southern Oregon college's Britt Student center, June 16, according to the general extension division of the Oregon state system of higher education.

It is one of a series being held throughout the state during May and June. Theme will be "Fundamentals of School Board Operations."

Cooperating in the program are the University of Oregon school of education, Portland center of general extension division and the three regional colleges in the state system.

Purpose of the program is "to provide an overview of some of the crucial issues which school district management faces" and to help new board members to become effective in "team operation" as quickly as possible.

He wears leather gloves to his elbows and that is all the protection he has. The rest of his body, as well as the face is unprotected.

There are two small trees in the pit and the branches are alive with all types of snakes. At random he starts grabbing the snakes out of the trees and coils some of them around his neck and others he holds by the tails.

They all have their mouths open and are trying to strike, and as they twist and writhe you can see their fangs with the poison venom dripping from them, and they are trying to strike him in the face and body.

Purchase Cheapest Kind

In watching this fellow performing you can only conclude that if you were to buy the uniform for this boy you

Civil Service Positions Available in Country

Several different federal civil service positions are now offering examinations, according to the 11th U.S. civil service region office in Seattle, Wash.

Positions now open include civil engineering technicians and aides, accounting technician, employee development officer, budget analyst or budget officer, realty officer and appraiser, education specialists and officers to administrative, educational and training programs for the armed forces, and librarian.

would purchase the cheapest kind as it may not fit his successor.

There were several of the cobra in the pit that do not eject their poison by bite. They open their mouth and spit. They can spit this venom up to five feet in distance.

They try to spit at the eyes of the victim who is blinded instantly, and without proper treatment immediately, for life.

The native kept these at a safe distance with a forked stick all during his performance with the other snakes.

All and all he was kept pretty busy.

People were taking pictures all the while this was going on and he told us to save our film for better ones. At the close of his exhibition he picked up all the snakes he could by the tails and had them striking toward the cameras for the people.

Has Seen Snake Shows

I have seen many snake shows in carnivals, circuses and have been to other snake farms in Mexico, but have never seen anything that filled me with horror and the fear for the safety of this man in the pit as this exhibition.

After his performance, he had a question and answer period and admitted he had been bitten numerous times but with treatment had hardly any ill effects with the exception of a few hours illness.

We found this man's pay to be 10 shillings a day, which is \$1.40.

From the snake farm we went to the museum where among other things they had taken all the bones of a gigantic whale and reassembled it, making it as they claim, the largest skeleton of its kind in the world. This we could believe, because it ran the full length of the building.

Appointment of solicitation teams comprised the balance of the program.

Comments Community

Casanova commended the community for its support of the drive to build the \$265,000 St. Mary's school on Black Oak Dr., and urged their renewed efforts to reduce the remaining indebtedness and to build a high school gymnasium in the near future.

He noted that a high percentage of the school fund drive was received from sources other than parishioners, and speculated that the workers would receive similar response in the current program.

More than 50 volunteers crowded the Rogue Valley Country club to hear Casanova's talk, which launched the public phase of the St. Mary's Endowment Fund drive.

The speaker was introduced by R. R. (Bud) Parsons of Medford. Following the talk Dr. Arnold M. Depner, general chairman, reviewed the initial phase of the drive, and outlined the accomplishments to date. He noted that the Endowment Fund was first established to raise money for the new St. Mary's High school which opened with an enrollment of 200 students in January this year.

Relieves Overcrowding
The quarter-million dollar modern structure released needed classroom space for the overcrowded elementary grades which now occupy all of the facilities at the original St. Mary's location, 431 South Ivy St.

Dr. Depner reported that the new high school facilities will allow for an increased enrollment up to 300 students but they do not as yet include a gymnasium for other facilities as envisioned for the completed school plant. The architectural lines of the school will permit easy expansion, the chairman stated, for added classrooms as needed or other standard school facilities.

Joe Naumes, Medford, committee-member and master of ceremonies of the kickoff banquet, revealed plans which earmark Endowment Fund monies first to apply to the reduction of the remaining indebtedness on the new high school, and next to apply to the building of a new high school gymnasium and additional classrooms in the near future.

Tax Deductible

Naumes said that the Fund contributions are tax deductible and the money would be used entirely on the St. Mary's schools both high school and elementary. He estimated that the combination of the new St. Mary's High school and the elementary school save the taxpayers of the community a total of \$350,000 annually, in taxes they do not pay to educate.

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The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a woman's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Martha N. - My parents don't consider me engaged, but I am.

Mrs. D. N. - She calls it an engagement. I call it imprisonment.

Martha N. - I'm 18 and a freshman at a college hundreds of miles from my home. The second week I was on campus I dated a fellow student, a sophomore, and although I accepted invitations from a few other boys I came back to Chris by Thanksgiving and we've gone steady since.

We're really just right for each other. Chris says he looked over the new crop of co-eds last fall and picked me out of a hundred. Although he must get his degree and put in a year of post-graduate lab work and I have three more years to go, we don't see why we can't plan to be married early in 1965, say, during spring vacation.

My parents think the idea is ridiculous and that I should continue to date. But I've found my man. Why look further? We're engaged.

Mrs. D. N. - We have no objection to Chris. We met him when we drove Martha back last January. And his parents entertained Martha in their home for a weekend. We don't know how they feel about the idea of a three-year engagement, but we think it's terrible.

I can understand a spinsterish, scared, desperate girl hanging on to a long engagement for fear of never getting another chance. But Martha is young, bright, beautiful, I know a half-dozen boys, sons of my friends, who wanted to date her during Easter vacation, and were flabbergasted to hear her say she was engaged.

She should get back into circulation. She won't be engaged until her father and I announce it, shortly before her marriage. 1965 is fine. Chris is fine, too. But it's a big world and she should look around it first.

The Council: If we ask you, Martha, to think back to when Debbie Reynolds divorced Eddie Fisher, when Castro took over Cuba, and when Clare Boothe Luce almost became our Ambassador to Brazil, you may find your memory of those months a bit hazy. Yet, they were events of 1959, of three years ago.

We mention them to give you an idea of how long three years are, of how precious, and of how much can happen during them. Then we inquire, siding more or less with your mother, "Is it fair to immobilize Chris, socially, for all this time? Is it fair for him to do the same to you?"

You're not polar bears and you can't hibernate, that is, go into a state of lethargic suspension of all body states for this period. You'd be wiser to regard each other as dear friends, not fiancées, until a wedding date is on a nearer horizon.

Martha may very well marry Chris. But the marriage will have a greater chance of success if it comes about in the spirit of "forsaking all others" rather than not meeting any others.

Sometimes the boy who looks like a lion on the campus turns into a mouse in an office. The girl who's all pep and good cheer at a football game may show her real colors when asked to help out with an unexpected and unpleasant chore. Martha says she's found her man. Each of them, however, has much yet to find out about the other.

And part of learning more of each other is learning more about other young people, weighing and measuring THE one as he stacks up alongside other peers. In other words, why say Chris is the one before you've dated many more who are not the one?

Thus far Chris sounds more like a nice pleasant guy, the bird in the hand you don't want to risk for the one in the bush. But the bushes are still full for you, Martha. No need for either of you to be so possessive and so final about your attachment at this stage, unless the wedding can be sooner than 1965.

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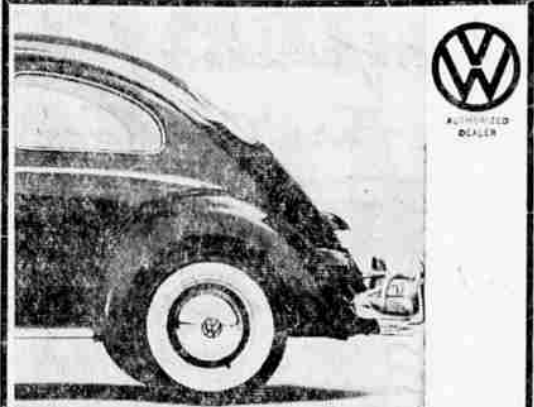
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