



THE RIGHT IDEA — This wild duck at Pittsburgh's North Park seems to have the right idea as he glides gracefully in the lake past a budding branch. The temperature climbed to 90 degrees, making it right for a swim. (UPI)

Liberia Once Backward Country, Promises To Be One of Richest

By WILBUR G. LANDREY
United Press International
Monrovia, Liberia — (UPI) — One of the most backward countries along Africa's west coast — Liberia — was independent for more than 100 years while its neighbors reaped the economic benefits of colonialism.

Now Liberia is on the move and promises to become one of Africa's richest countries. It is doing it the capitalist way by offering favorable terms to foreign investors.

"It's hard to recognize this place from one year to another," said one frequent American visitor.

A country with the drawl of the American deep south, colonized early in the 19th century by freed slaves from the United States, Liberia was neglected by the United States while Britain and France were developing, educating and profiting from their colonies.

The muddy streets of Liberia's capital and primitive conditions in sharp contrast with the strict protocol of top hats and cutaways observed by the "honorable" ruling minority descended from the former slaves.

Sharp Contrast
Monrovia still offers a contrast with the gleaming buildings and wide boulevards of Dakar, Abidjan or Accra. But it offers an even sharper contrast with itself 10 years ago. In a few more years it should be unrecognizable from the ramshackle town of the past.

In 10 years most of its streets have been paved. Street lights and modern skyscrapers are appearing.

Ten years ago Liberia had

less than 300 miles of mostly unsurfaced road and much of the back country was impenetrable. Today there are nearly 1,700 miles of road, including 1,000 miles of all-weather surfacing and 150 miles of paved highway.

Ten years ago, government revenue was \$1 million a year. Today it is \$35 million and in 10 years will be an estimated \$100 million. And as one foreign resident recalled: "Five years ago there was hardly any native women (as distinguished from the ruling class of American-Liberians) clad above the waist. Now it's hard to find one who is not."

Census Planned
The first census will soon be under way and is expected to reveal whether the population is around one million as many observers suspect or the officially estimated 2½ million.

Liberia's currency is the U.S. dollar. Its main riches are rubber and iron ore. Firestone went into Liberia in the 1920's to build plantations and rubber rapidly became the leading export. Now it is being surpassed by some of the world's richest iron ore.

American interests opened the first mines in the Bomi hills in 1951 and they now produce about 3 million tons a year of ore up to 67 percent iron. The second mines, also under American management, began shipping late last year and will eventually produce another 3½ million tons a year.

In 1963, a Liberian-Swedish-American company should begin producing the richest ore

of all from mines in the Nimba mountains. Production is expected to reach 6 million tons a year. Liberia promises to be one of the world's biggest exporters of iron ore.

The country's basic problem is education, the lack of trained and trainable men. The first American technical aid programs, which began in 1951, fell short of their goals because Liberia lacked men educated enough to absorb them.

Educational Aid
Now basic education and reform of the public administration are the major aims of American aid, which should reach more than \$10 million in the fiscal year 1962. Most revolutionary of all, education is being spread to the often still-primitive natives of the back country.

Traditionally, Liberia has been ruled by the Americo-Liberians. Now, slowly, the government is moving to end the "internal colonization" which often oppressed the tribal natives. Most observers believe the process will eventually end the political dominance of the "honorable."

The man at the top is 66-year-old William Vancanarut Shadrach Tubman, who runs Liberia, observers say, like the boss of a political machine. He has been president since 1944. His mother and father came from Georgia.

Observers here say that Tubman makes every major decision and fills every important job. But under Tubman, Liberia has made the greatest progress in her history. Under Tubman, it is government policy to remove the

Senior Citizens Week Plans Made By Medford Group

Senior citizens week will be observed in Medford May 13 through 19, according to Omar Bacon, president of the Rogue Valley Council on Aging. Dr. Frank Roberts has been appointed chairman of the week's activities.

This is the fourth year for this annual observance. Bacon noted, which occurs during May known as National Senior Citizens month.

The first event will be an open house and art exhibit Sunday, May 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Senior Activity Center, 601 East Jackson st. Other events will be announced later.

Appointments Made
During the recent meeting of the executive board of the council, Bacon appointed Gene Williams, vice president, as head of the budget committee, and Mrs. Elsa Walker as representative of the council to the United Crusade board.

A report on the discussion series on "Preparation for Retirement" sponsored jointly by the council and the social and economic issues committee of the American Association of University Women, showed that 91 men and women took part in the five lectures.

Of the total 58 were not retired and represented 28 different occupations. The largest attendance was for the second meeting, "Can we afford to live?" which concerned finance, wills and estate planning.

The council thought the series successful and recommended that it be repeated in the fall.

Mrs. Clifford Zollinger, Portland, founder of the Oregon Craftsman program, spoke on senior citizens housing projects in the Northwest.

Students in Mrs. Evelyn Winningham's room are studying about community helpers in social studies and about animals in science. We went to Hart's Hatchery and saw the stages of chick growth from the embryo in the egg to "fryers" nine weeks old.

Mrs. Huldah Fisher's third grade has been studying a unit about communication. Gary Gresham's father, who works at the post office, told us about the mail. We invited Mrs. Audrey Berry's third grade to hear him.

Mrs. Berry's class went on two field trips recently. We visited the public library and the post office. Catherine Clark brought her Toy Terrier puppies to school for us to see.

We are working hard on multiplication facts. Most everyone knows through the 6's. Several know them through the 9's.

In Mrs. Flossie Murray's fourth grade, Kristine Archibald was elected room president for April.

We took a field trip to the Timber Products Plywood mill. Mr. Ford, Mr. Benglund, Mr. Gordon and Mr. Chapman conducted the tours through the plant.

Skipper Bucklin is the first of Mrs. Nita Birdseye's class to go to Seattle for the World's Fair.

Plans are going ahead for our Spring Concert. The band and orchestra will play, and Howard school chorus will present Cowboy Fantasy, a story about how Little Sam became a real cowboy. The story was written by Cathy Sage; Jon Hardin will be the narrator. Art classes are planning an appropriate backdrop.

The sixth grade science classes have been making projects about weather. Students are making anemometers, barometers, weather vanes, and charts and posters showing the water cycle, cloud formations and different kinds of storms.

The Howard school student body, teachers and other staff members met in the school gymnasium recently to honor head custodian Ken Lacy, who has moved to Trail, where he will hold a similar position in the Elk-Trail school.

Student body president, Kay Brecedde, presented Lacy a spinning reel purchased with voluntary contributions from members of the student body.

Ron Quackenbush, vice-principal, presented a wrist watch to Lacy as an expression of gratitude from the Howard school staff.

Baker Man Arrested For Traffic Death
Baker — (UPI) — Charles E. Betts, 36, Baker, has been arrested on a charge of negligent homicide in connection with the traffic death of a Seattle man, state police said Wednesday.

The victim, Herman H. Saathoff, 34, was killed Saturday night in a one-car accident near Baker.

Drummond Reports

(Walter Lippman is in Europe. Roscoe Drummond reports from Washington in his absence.) (c) 1962 New York Herald Tribune Inc.

A SCANDAL GROWS

Washington — The shoddy, surreptitious, "I've-got-the-influence" manipulations of the indicated Texas millionaire, Billie Sol Estes, have reached such proportions that Congress cannot afford to delay long before it authorizes a full-scale, unimpeded investigation.

Enough facts have already

SCHOOL NEWS

Howard School

Beverly Chisum and Sally Nelson are reporters for Mrs. Dorothy Arney's first-grade.

They reported the first grade class went to the library on the school bus, had an Easter Egg hunt, took chairs outside and had a reading party, and that four students were out with the mumps.

Several children in Miss Mary Klockner's room have been absent with the mumps. For our science lessons Marsha Prince brought a turtle to class; Luana Welch brought her two turtles, and Douglas Hoggard brought snails.

Mrs. Margaret Mann's second grade went to the public library recently. Some of us had never ridden on a school bus before. Mrs. Delbert Ross accompanied us.

Our science corner is full of tadpoles. Pamela Hayes brought a mass of frog eggs which hatched into little black tadpoles. Eddie Randall brought a big green tadpole.

Mrs. Ann Bishop's second grade took a trip to the public library to learn about facilities of the library, including the method of repairing a damaged book. Many of the class signed up for a library card and the summer reading program.

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come out to suggest that the big-name-dropping, influence-peddling, favor-receiving activities of Billie Sol Estes reached to the Cabinet level in Washington and make Bernard Goldfine's operations of a few years back look petty.

The Democratic party has been in control of the machinery of Congress for eight consecutive years. The Democrats alone can decide what shall be investigated and how thoroughly or how timidly. When the Goldfine-Sherman Adams doings broke out into the open, the special House committee investigating the regulatory agencies did not take two breaths before it was sending out subpoenas.

QUITE properly so. But the Democratic investigators of this Democratic Congress are not yet showing equal zeal to investigate the dubious enterprises and actions of Billie Sol Estes, the big Democratic campaign contributor and friend of many who are today politically powerful in Washington.

Is this Estes scandal just a little something which smells worse than it is, or is it a corrupt mess which is really worse than it smells? Take a brief look at what has already come out. The Attorney General of

the state of Texas, Will Wilson, found that Mr. Estes's fertilizer, grain-storage, and financial empire was built on "fraud and loose money."

Plus dubious business with the Federal government.

How dubious? We don't yet know. To find out is the duty of a Congressional investigation.

"We know that in February, 1961, the Department of Agriculture granted Estes a sizeable favor by limiting to \$700,000 the amount of bond he was required to produce as a warehouse of government surplus grain. Attorney General Wilson says the bond should have been \$3,500,000."

Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman named Estes to the National Cotton Advisory Committee.

THE records show that in the single year of 1961 the government paid close to \$3 million to Estes for the use of his storage facilities in Texas at a time when, according to Mr. Wilson, other West Texas warehouses were idle.

Simultaneously, Estes was engineering a windfall of \$300,000 from the government from a cotton crop on 3,000 acres of farm land in five states which was illegally cultivated.

Some people in the Department of Agriculture evidently became suspicious. In the course of a secret investigation, a Department employee working on it died near Bry-

an, Texas, of four gunshot wounds in the chest. A local sheriff quickly ruled the death a "suicide." Doesn't it seem a bit unusual for a man to commit suicide by firing four slugs from a pump gun into his own chest?

Following the hearings conducted by the Texas Attorney General, one Agriculture Department official resigned, another was fired by Secretary Freeman, and a third is being transferred to the Philippines—some 8,000 miles from Washington.

During it all Billie Sol Estes was sprinkling \$17 shirts and \$12 neckties to Washington bureaucrats the way Goldfine once rained Christmas checks on the desks of White House secretaries.

SECRETARY Freeman says the Department will conduct its own searching and independent investigation. This is a good beginning; it is as it should be. But it isn't

enough for the Department to judge itself.

No one can say how wide this scandal spreads or how high it reaches into the top level of Washington officialdom, but if the Democrats who control the Senate's permanent investigation subcommittee do not act soon and decisively, they will leave the impression that they do not want to investigate because they do not dare investigate.

Sunday, May 13

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