

Liberian President First of Race To Visit Buckingham Palace

By LAURENCE MEREDITH
United Press International
London - (UPI) - A cigar-smoking descendant of Georgia Negro slaves came to Buckingham Palace Tuesday and dined off its golden plates.

Soft-spoken President William V. Shadrach Tubman of the African Republic of Liberia is the first chief executive of his race to be housed in the palace's suite of honor.

"Brother Shad" or "Uncle Shad" as his million-odd citizens affectionately call him, is on a state visit as guest of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

In Tubman's tropical home only "Negros or persons of Negro descent" may vote or hold office in a country settled 140 years ago by ex-slaves from the United States. It was a mighty proud day for Tubman.

The 66-year-old African chief executive's wife, Antoinette, shared the honors with him. A warm-hearted, motherly woman, she is Tubman's third wife.

Their three-day visit this week with the Queen rivals in pomp and color the night Tubman spent at the White House in 1954 as guest of President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

And Buckingham Palace has rarely housed a state visitor like "Uncle Shad."

Son of Minister
Born in the Western African Republic just above the Equator, he is the son of a Methodist Minister descended from freed slaves from Georgia. His mother came from Atlanta in 1872.

Tubman is at home in top hats and cutaway and in striped tribal costume which he now rarely dons. He ordered \$4,200 worth of suits from a London tailor for this trip.

He likes whiskey and soda, barber shop quartets and mixing with people at the "Saturday Afternoon Club" in his capital of Monrovia - named after American President James Monroe.

Britain, which was the first foreign power to recognize an independent Liberia in the nineteenth century prepared an impressive welcome for their visitors.

Queen Elizabeth sent a warship, the frigate Virago, across the English Channel to pick up the Liberian presidential party at the French port of Calais and bring them over to the English port of Dover.

In doing this, the Queen recalled a gesture of old-world magnificence when just over 100 years ago Queen Victoria was thoughtful to Liberia's first chief executive. She gave him a warship.

Victoria gave President Jenkins Roberts a warship named the "Lark" after his official visit to England in 1848.

Roberts did not stay at the palace, however. Victoria received him on board the Royal Yacht in which she was then cruising.

A massed flight of Royal Air Force planes saluted the Tubmans as their frigate pulled into Dover and the Duke of Kent escorted them to a special train.

Queen Elizabeth, her husband, Prince Philip, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and members of the government went to London's Victoria station to greet the Liberian chief executive and his first lady.

Then followed one of the great state drives through the streets of London to Buckingham Palace which always brings Londoners out in their tens of thousands and is as thrilling a sight as anyone could want.

Queen Elizabeth rode beside Tubman in her royal purple and gold carriage, the Duke and Mrs. Tubman in a second.

Lackeys and flunkies escorted the Tubmans to Buckingham Palace's famous Belgian Suite, arranged and furnished over a century ago by Queen Victoria for her favorite Uncle Leopold, King of the Belgians.

It is known as one of the

most dignified and quietest of all the royal apartments.

Queen Elizabeth chose it for her confinement when Prince Andrew was born in 1960.

The six-room suite - with additional ante-rooms and baths - is used only by visiting heads of state and their wives.

"Uncle Shad" had use of the private terrace and walled garden at the rear of the palace. Or he could relax in a drawing room with superb eighteenth century furniture, green hangings and a floral

carpet with blue and green predominating its beautiful pattern of roses and leaves.

A magnificent crystal chandelier sparkles in the bedroom which has cream Damask walls, and is adorned with blue silk curtains, pale green carpets and chair-covers to match.

The drawing room is next door. Then comes the Carnarvon room; this is a private dining room for the guests. It was often used by Queen Elizabeth's father, the late King George VI, for his wartime

talks with Winston Churchill and military leaders.

Tuesday night, Queen Elizabeth hosted a splendid banquet for the Tubmans in the white and gold State Ballroom, the largest in the palace.

It is 123 feet long and 60 feet wide. Six lustre chandeliers with white lights shine down from the 45-foot high ceiling.

Two gold and scarlet thrones, made for the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, dominate

one end of the room. They are still used by the present monarch and her husband.

Above the thrones hangs a great canopy of cloth-of-gold used first at the Delhi Durbar when the Queen's grandfather, King George V, and Queen Mary were crowned Emperor and Empress of India.

At the other end of the ballroom is the musicians gallery with a full-sized organ and nearby a golden grille.

Through this, unobserved, a spectator may look down

upon the dazzling scene below.

You can safely bet that little Princess Anne was peeping down on the banquet for "Uncle Shad." She often does.

Anne, who will be 12 years of age on Aug. 15, is sometimes allowed to do so as part of her specialized royal education - to be familiar with such occasions and learn what all the procedure means.

Tubman and his first lady dined while seated in golden arm chairs.

The Queen sat in a smaller

chair without arms - it is more convenient with her wide-skirted Crinoline gowns of state and decorations.

Priceless Service
A legion of servants and footmen in powdered wigs and white gloves tended a royal menu served on gold plate in the glitter of four foot high table candelabras. The candelabras are priceless - depicting classical studies of such figures as the Three Graces, Mercury and Bacchus with his Nymphs.

Gold center-pieces all decorated with flowers and trailing foliage, intersperse and lead to a superb mirror-topped gold pedestal, which separated the Queen and Tubman across the table. But it was not so high that everybody could see both and they in turn each other.

Queen and President broadcast speeches of mutual friendship and esteem at the conclusion of the banquet. Hosts and guests then moved off to the white drawing room for coffee and liqueurs.

Tubman is returning a banquet for the Queen later in the week at the Savoy Hotel - the Liberian Embassy is of too modest size for such an affair.

"Uncle Shad," whose cigar is as much a part of him as Sir Winston Churchill, was host to the Queen in his capital of Monrovia last year.

She was said to have been struck there above all by a larger-than-life statue of the President that she passed. It beamed down at her, stone cigar in mouth.



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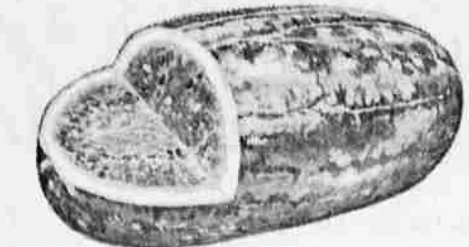
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Professors Praise Oral Examinations

Auburn, Ala. - (UPI) - The oral examination not only is a better instrument to measure individual student achievement, but acts as a catalyst to provoke his thinking, according to two Auburn university professors who prepared a research paper on testing.

Dr. G. E. Tanger and T. C. Minn said their study showed a student may be able to work out assigned problems and pass conventional written tests but does not necessarily grasp the basic principles of the subject. Oral testing probes areas of understanding or lack of it which written tests do not discover, the professors said.