

Survey of Nile Basin Complete in Africa

By WILBUR G. LANDREY
 United Press International
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—(UPI)—The U. S. bureau of reclamation has applied its knowledge to Ethiopia and braved lions, crocodiles and helicopters at high altitudes to complete a survey of the Blue Nile as it rages in a great arc 750 miles from Lake Tana to the border of Sudan.

year, they will be writing the several volumes that will make up Blue Nile river basin investigations. About 50 Americans and 450 Ethiopians have been busy with the project for the past six years, and the result will be what is probably the first complete river basin survey in Africa. At different times, both the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the U. S. Army Map Service have taken part. Two Americans, Earl Fogarty and Howard Ferris, both

of the bureau of reclamation, lost their lives in a helicopter crash in 1961 while helping with the survey. A British pilot was killed in the same crash. **Boat Capsizes** An Italian was eaten by crocodiles when his boat capsized in the river near the Sudanese border, and several Ethiopians died or were killed in the course of the work. The Blue Nile slips silently out of Lake Tana in the Ethiopian highlands near the small town of Bahr Dar and

at first hardly seems to be flowing at all. But 20 miles downstream at the spectacular Tisistat falls it thunders in a cascade of white water and begins its turbulent course to meet the White Nile at Khartoum, the capital of the Sudan. The White Nile is the parent river and begins a thousand miles away in Lake Victoria. But the Blue Nile brings six-sevenths of the water and the mud which has built up

of Egypt. At Khartoum, the "White" Nile is muddy grey, the "Blue" Nile is a green brown. **Above Sea Level** Lake Tana is some 6,000 feet above sea level and by the time the river has reached the border of Sudan it has already tumbled 4,500 feet. No one has ever succeeded making the trip in a boat and of the Swiss party which tried in January, 1962, two were killed by bandits. At places the gorge is as much as 4,000 feet deep, and

the survey teams could only descend from the plateau by helicopter. Smaller streams join the Blue Nile as its gorge snakes across the country, and it was the job of the survey to investigate the land and water resources of the entire basin. The surveyors found that the Blue Nile could produce 19.5 million kilowatt hours of hydroelectric power annually and store 90 million acre feet of water in the 28 dams and reservoirs which may eventually mark the course of

it and its tributaries. (An acre foot is the amount of water it would take to cover one acre one foot deep—325,850 gallons.) **Largest of Dams** The largest of the dams recommended by the survey could produce one million kilowatts and store 22 million acre feet of water. Although rainfall on the Ethiopian plateau ranges up to 70 inches a year, it occurs all in the rainy season from June to September. The rest of the year is dry. For that

reason, the storage dams could provide water to irrigate and bring into production one million acres of land. "It will be many years before this all comes about," Burdick admits. When his team completes its report at Denver, Colo., it will be passed along to the Ethiopian government to be put into effect in stages as the country develops. The survey team also investigated various mineral deposits but found most of them of marginal value. It decided,

however, that the timber of the highlands could support a paper industry. **Nile is Life** between 40 and 45 million acre feet of water annually flow the border into the Sudan. Traditionally there has been fear that Ethiopia could dam up the river if it desired. For Egypt, especially, the Nile is life; without it, there would be no Egypt. Engineers say the fears are groundless. In the first place, it would be impossible. All the projects together, if they were ever all completed, would deplete the flow by hardly 10 per cent. Even then, they would benefit Egypt and the Sudan by leveling the flow of the water into the times of the year when it was most needed.

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Organize Department
 The survey of the Blue Nile basin will cost between \$6 and \$7 million when it is complete, and the United States will have paid an estimated two-thirds of that. Besides leading the survey, the American team has helped organize a department of water resources for Ethiopia. The hardships and natural obstacles have sometimes been tremendous. Many parts of the country are inaccessible except by helicopter. Once a tribe of lions sauntered into one of the wilderness camps. On another occasion, a party in which Burdick was travelling met up with bandits, who became friendly when they saw the Americans carried guns but stayed watchfully with them for three days. "The river is fast and dirty," Burdick says. "You can't see the crocodiles beneath the surface. There are hazards in Ethiopia we don't normally run into in the United States."

Three Men Appear In Circuit Court
 John Edwin Saling, 37, Santa Ana, Calif., received a two-year suspended imposition of sentence when he appeared in Jackson county circuit court this week. He was charged with larceny by bailee, and directed to make restitution if any is required. In other circuit court action, Harry Richard Bostwick, 25, of 509 Sterling rd., Jacksonville, appeared on charges involving probation revocation. He was originally charged with obtaining property by false pretenses. The case was continued for 10 days at his request. The case of Timothy Ralph Barker, Los Angeles, Calif., who is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, was directed to be submitted to the grand jury.

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