

Haburchak's Work In Africa Helps Villagers And Himself

By Alan Abbey

Victor Haburchak sat in front of the grass hut. The hard clay ground around him was swept clean. The little Malawi village was quiet. The man who had brought him there to teach him the Malawi language had told him to sit and watch the nearby banana grove.



"It was like watching TV or fishing," Haburchak said. There was nothing to do and there was nothing to worry about because nothing was going to happen anyway. It was then that he learned to live with himself. "A lot of us are running away from ourselves," he said.

How did someone from Nyssa get to southern Africa? After he graduated from Nyssa High School in 1966, Haburchak wanted to go into some sort of service to the "church and the community" and joined the Jesuit community in Sheridan, Oregon. He spent over two years there. At times he worked as an orderly in skid row hospitals or in geriatric wards. At other times he went on 30-day retreats. The Jesuits call them "spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius." During these retreats he spoke to as few people as possible and tried to work on how he related to his religion. "We tried not to be introspective," he said. To keep on the right track he consulted with the director every day and broke his

silence once a week, when "we'd all let loose."

After that he went to the Union College of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., and then to Africa to work on an ecumenical film team in Zambia. There, he produced films on David Livingstone, and credit unions.

He readily admitted the failure of their first film on Livingstone. Western film techniques just didn't work in Africa. While Americans are familiar with film practices, such as dissolves, fade outs and the like, African villagers just could not comprehend them. Haburchak related a story to explain his point. A film team put together a slide show on how to keep insects away from latrine areas. They went through their whole show and afterwards a man walked up to them and said, "We don't have that problem, because the insects around my village are not as big as the ones on the screen." Haburchak laughed as he told the story but was not making fun of ignorant villagers. Their upbringing and history has not prepared them for Western audiovisual techniques and their ways of perceiving the world are different.

Victor said problems like that have cropped up again and again as Europeans and Americans have tried to "modernize" and develop Africa.

On their second Livingstone film, which was much more successful, Haburchak's crew slowed up the action and employed local people on the scriptwriting.

He was also very excited about the African credit union movement. It is providing loans and money for people without access to large banks.

The credit union program is just one of the spearheads of an entirely new thrust in African development. The older ideas basically tried to undercut the existing culture and graft on an European way of life. Failure after

failure finally prompted changes. Haburchak reflected on his own failures and preconceptions. He originally went over to try "to apply film to villages." His original proposition didn't work and he switched to a simpler program to help villagers "discover their own needs." With a \$20,000 budget he could make one film, but with the same money he "outfitted a number of people with Instamatics and trained them; how to make slide shows" on sanitation, agriculture and other areas.

Finally, some projects succeeded. He felt he was "communicating something they can use." Being someone who makes slides is not quite as high-status as being a "film-maker," but Haburchak said he'd rather be useful than important sounding.

To gain more experience in this field for his return to Africa, he spent part of this summer at the Coady International Institute in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. It is a small training school for persons who want to work in and develop the "Third World," which includes Africa.

This fall he is going back to Berkeley to the Jesuit School of Theology for his Master of Divinity degree. During this time he will work with the problem of whether to go into the priesthood. "I have to figure out and clarify my call."

He will then go back to Africa. "I love Africa," he said. "It is an alive culture. People have a meaningful faith in their own life. The West has fragmented and compartmentalized everything—the spiritual side of life, medical side, political side. In Africa they have a vision of the whole person. I got it myself when I was there. I have learned as much as I have taught."

However, Africa is one of the world's biggest trouble spots. Angola, South Africa and Rhodesia are in the



CHEVROLET'S CHEVELLE features revised front and rear appearances and improvements in ride and corrosion protection for 1977. The top-of-the-line Malibu Classic highlights a new grille with a vertical theme and new tail lamp design. Like the standard Malibu series, the Malibu Classic is available as a two-door coupe, four-door sedan and either

two-seat or three-seat wagon. Base power plant is the 4.1 litre (250-cubic inch) six-cylinder engine except for the Malibu wagon where the 5 litre (305-cubic inch) V8 is standard equipment. This V8 is optional on all other Chevelles except the Malibu Classic wagon which uses the 5.7 litre (350-cubic inch) V8 as base power plant.

County Agent

In work at Squaw Butte Experiment Station with fall calving cows one of the practices considered a must was to creep feed those fall calves because that mother cow just won't produce the milk to keep that calf gaining as it should. Also, it is cheaper to feed the calf direct than it is to feed the cow enough additional feed to allow her to give more milk.

Attention Onion Growers: A 30-40 minutes slide presentation of the New York and Michigan onion crop will be shown on August 31, at Vip's Cafe for all interested growers. The program will start at 8 p.m. and members of the delegation will be there to answer any questions you may have about the crop. I hope that the interested growers of the area can attend the meeting.

Mrs. Rhea Percival, Mrs. Percival accompanied them home after dinner and they took her to Boise where she left in a plane for Denver, then got a plane for Wichita, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Cansler of Topeka, Kansas were last Sunday overnight guests of her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Sprague. They were on their way to Eugene, Oregon where they will enter college and both work for their masters degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Fenn and family of Kent, Washington and a boy from Alaska spent ten days here visiting his mother, Mrs. Carl Fenn and other relatives. They returned home last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Krieh returned Sunday evening from a trip to Washington. They visited his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ehresman at Chehalis, Washington and her brother Melvin Stewart, who had just got out of the hospital. They went on to Tagard where they visited friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lee Hill and Terri visited Mr. and Mrs. Jim Phifer Tuesday evening.

Newell Heights Items

By Dale Witt

NEWELL HEIGHTS - Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Simpson and Marion York went to Portland last Wednesday. The men went salmon fishing and got their limits. They also visited relatives in Gresham.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Simpson spent ten days visiting. In Gresham they visited the Raymond Simpsons and visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Holdt and family in Cammis, Wash.

headlines every day. Victor has a few friends who are Rhodesian. He spoke of one whose father had been imprisoned for 15 years for advocating the people's right to vote.

Victor is in town for a while and is visiting with his family. Mr. and Mrs. Vic Haburchak and his sister Kathy.

They recently moved into a new home. Terry Strong accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Ray Simpson. Mrs. Simpson got three gallons of black berries to bring home.

Mrs. Hugh Eddy and children of Caldwell came Thursday and are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. McKinley.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Honsbick and family of Salt Lake City, Utah came Saturday and are visiting in the Eugene Pratt home.

Sunday dinner guests in the Eugene Pratt home besides their house guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Kirby and family, Carolyn Pratt and Burdette Pratt and family.

Michael Pratt now has his business degree from Portland State.

Mrs. Rollo Fenn was a Saturday luncheon guest of Ruth Draper.

Mrs. Tunis Garner and Tommy and Jinny Danielson of Homedale were Sunday dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Chamberlain.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Chamberlain visited in the Tunis Garner home in Homedale Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Chamberlain went to the Fair in Ontario Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Greg Topliff and son Kelly of Boise came Saturday and spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Topliff.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Topliff were among those who attended the open house for Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hill in Adrian Sunday afternoon.

Other were Mrs. Tina Schiemer, Mrs. Marie Moore, Mr.

and Mrs. R. D. McKinley, Mr. and Mrs. John Fahrbruch, George Schiemer, Mr. and Mrs. Gerritt Timmerman

Darryl and Linda Simpson and son Ryan were Sunday dinner guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Simpson.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hinrichs and daughter Nancy of Bruning, Nebraska visited their former neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Schutte, Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bege-man were Friday afternoon visitors of Mrs. Dale Witt and her sister, Mrs. Rhea Percival.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Van DeWater and son Kent of Caldwell were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Dale Witt and

SUMMER CLOSE - OUT

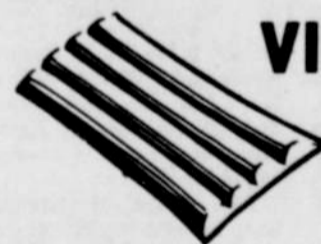


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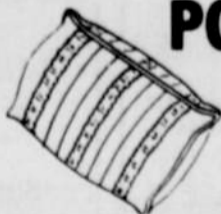
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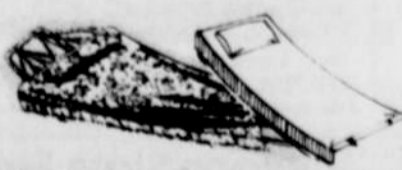
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