

Exploration

Missionary tells of New Guinea adventure

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

For centuries, the Savi people lived in the jungles of Dutch New Guinea. They survived through a culture that emphasized violence and exploitation of their neighbors.

Friends were cultivated to be betrayed. For the cannibalistic Savi, a fat friend might be a future meal.

But when the Netherlands ceded their New Guinea territory to Indonesia, the 20th century was thrust upon the Savis and their neighbors through the new mother country's emphasis on assimilation.

Warring tribesmen were subdued by the gun-wielding Indonesian military police.

Don Richardson was a missionary in the country in 1962 when those changes

were taking place. Richardson, his wife Carol and seven-month-old son, Steven, lived in a 20-by-20 thatched hut. They were 40 miles from the next missionary post.

Speaking in Farmington Hills at the Detroit Bible College, Richardson remembered his early experiences as a missionary.

Through those memories, he strives to explain that many primitive cultures were eradicated by land speculators.

HIS FIRST CONTACT with the Savi was disheartening. They avoided looking at him because they were sure the missionary's eyes could steal their spirits.

After several weeks, acceptance came when an old man came up to Richardson and looked him in the eye.

Slowly, the old man extended his hand. Richardson extended his own hand. Their fingertips touched.

"He realized that I was flesh just like he was," Richardson, now 43-years-old, remembers.

"Then the rest of the men came out of the bushes. And they gave this incredible yell they use," he says, still smiling with victory over the moment. His wife and infant son were in a settlement a day's journey from the Savi tribe. Richardson used the linguistics he learned at the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of Washington to develop a Savi alphabet.

Upon his return by canoe to the Savi land, Richardson saw the tribe lined up along the embankment of the river as the tiny family neared their destination.

Only now, instead of the friendly tribe which Richardson left, they now appeared in their awe-inspiring war gear. They had feathers in their hair. Their bodies were painted.

ON THEIR WRISTS they wore boar knuckles in a bracelet. Each knuckle represented an enemy head taken in war.

"They didn't even look like the same people," Richardson says. "I began to wonder if I had misread God's directions to me and brought my family there too early."

There was no choice but to leave the canoe and walk into the crowd. They surrounded the Richardson family and forced them in the direction of the hut.

Then a cry was heard and the entire group began to jump up and down, repeating the cry and thumping their spears against the ground.

When the family reached the hut, the tribe formed a circle around the struc-

ture and continued dancing. They danced for three days around the hut, welcoming the family.

Once they were accepted by the 2,600 members of the Savi tribe, the Richardson's faced the task of learning the language, which contained about 40,000 different endings.

The language was economical. One word in Savi could translate into an entire English sentence, according to Richardson.

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USING THE NEWLY FORMED alphabet, the missionaries wrote primers and began teaching the villagers to read their own language as well as speak the national language.

Knowing the national language gave villagers the opportunity to go into business for themselves.

Villager-owned stores charge 40-50 percent less for their goods than those which were owned by Muslim immigrants to the country, according to Richardson.

He blames the large scale immigration, which reached totals of 100 persons per day coming into the country in the early 1960s for some of the difficulties faced by the tribes.

Many tribes, including the Savi, were systematically removed from their land by speculators, according to Richardson.

Some speculators resorted to dropping dynamite from planes onto the villages to chase the tribes off their property. Others left poison meat as gifts along the escape trail taken by the villagers.



Don Richardson (left) converses with Kathy Bradley at the Detroit Bible College in Farmington Hills about the experiences he had as a missionary among the Savi tribe in New Guinea. Richardson's book, "Lords of the Earth," details his experiences with a tribe neighboring the Savis. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Library workshop set for indoor greenthumbs

If you don't have a yard for gardening, or if the outdoor season always seems too short, try indoor gardening

Fatima secret finally unveiled

The famous "Third Secret of Fatima" will be the subject of a free lecture by French missionary priest Father Denis Philomena next Monday night, March 12.

The 8 p.m. lecture will be held at Saint Joseph Hall, 29500 Nine Mile Rd., Farmington Hills.

Included in the talk will be excerpts from the letter given to the Pope in 1917 from a Portuguese girl who claimed it was a secret message of prophecy given to her by the Virgin Mary to be revealed in 1960.

When Pope John XXIII opened the letter, he decided not to reveal the contents to the public. However, the Pope allegedly revealed excerpts to world leaders at that time.

For more information, call Sharon Worley, 588-8741.

taught in a workshop at the Farmington Public Library March 17.

Sponsored by Michigan State University in cooperation with the Michigan Hobby Greenhouse Association, four afternoon sessions are planned. They include:

- Indoor light gardening and gesneriads, taught by Mrs. Alice Aldrich of Alice's Violets at 1 p.m.
- Raising holy plants, taught by Gerald Draheim, MSU extension horticulture agent, Wayne County, at 2 p.m.
- Raising bedding plants and transplants, taught by Bill Manthee, at 3 p.m.

At the same time in another room, other seminars will be held. They are:

- Operating a commercial greenhouse, taught by Manthee (owner of Manthee's Greenhouse) at 1 p.m.
- Raising orchids and exotics, taught by Gordon Dennis, MSU extension horticulture agent, at 2 p.m.
- Raising flowers and flowering plants, taught by Draheim, at 3 p.m.

At 4 p.m., a joint question and answer session will be held. The library is at 32737 W. 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads. A door donation will be collected at the door.

Plans readied for medical complex

The \$3.2 million Farmbrook Medical Building is expected to open this summer on Twelve Mile Road and Telegraph in Southfield.

The three-story, 42,000-square-foot, 25-suite complex was designed by architect James Conn and the general contractor is Zervos Construction Co.

The building will be a complete medical complex including a clinical laboratory, X-ray and optical facilities and

a pharmacy, said Jerome Beale of the Beale Group Inc., leasing and managing agents for the project. "Tenants will be specialists in all types of medicine."

Occupying the custom suites will be internists, allergists, pediatricians, dermatologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists and family practitioners.

Suites will rent for \$11.85 a square foot. Tenants will help design their own interiors, working with architects and

coordinating carpeting, cabinets, partitioning, plumbing and electricity.

The complex is energy-efficient, Beale said, because of its large windows and double insulation. An eight-foot corridor through the building provides safety and easy access to suites, he said. Elevators take patients from the doctor's office to the laboratory, physical therapy and other facilities in the building, he said.

Space will be provided for 256 cars. Many doctors, according to Beale, will move into the facility from more congested developments and will be closer to their patients.

The Beale Group will introduce the building during an open house Sunday, March 25 or Wednesday, March 28 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 24724 Farmbrook.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

INSIDE ANGLES wants to give a big hello and thanks to all those nice people who have stopped by the Farmington Observer office on Farmington Road near Grand River. Every so often IA will look up from its typewriter to see a small group of passers-by looking into the newsroom through the picture windows. "See, honey," one mother told her toddler, "that's where they write the Observer." Gosh, IA blushes over all the attention. (But has to admit some persons just seem to know all the Angles.)

THE NORTH FARMINGTON High School Symphony Band, under the direction of Douglas MacQueen, will perform in concert at 8 p.m., March 7 in the school auditorium. They will play three movements from William Byrd's suite. Byrd was an English Renaissance composer. Works by William Schuman and John Philip Sousa also will be performed. Tickets are \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for students and will be available at the door. The jazz ensemble will be performing that night, also.

FOR THOSE OF YOU who like music and want to support it the North Farmington High Band and Orchestra Booster Club continues its orange and grapefruit sale. Money collected will be used to buy new uniforms. For more information, call Douglas MacQueen at 626-8380.

THERE WILL BE a St. Patrick's Day dinner at Broadhead Farmington Hills, 23414 Orchard Lake Road from 7:30 p.m. until 1 a.m. on March 17. Call Erners Anson at 272-0837 for tickets.

THE YOUNG ADULT Department at the Farmington Hills branch library, 32737 West Twelve Mile, is sponsoring a program on Adventure Gaming from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. on March 6. This program is open to all fans of J.R.R. Tolkien and Edgar Rice Burroughs. Guest speakers will be Tim Filson from Joe's Hobby Center in Farmington and Duke Seifried from Heritage Models. Seifried will demonstrate painting of miniatures, fantasy role playing, fantasy figures, collecting and painting of Lord of Rings miniatures, dungeons and dragons, military strategy and fantasy games. For further information call Lauren Bowman at 553-0300 (IA also fantasized it was Gunga Din because it likes being near water.)

INTERESTED IN LINCOLN? Richard L. Evans, Sr. of Winter Park, Fla. will be returning to the Livonia Mall March 6-11 with his Abraham Lincoln exhibit.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY Health Division will offer expectant parent classes from March 12. Classes are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings for eight weeks

from 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield. Classes are free but pre-registration is necessary. Enrollment is limited. Call 424-7058 to register.

Topics covered by the series of eight classes include mental health of the family unit, growth and development of the baby before birth and immediately after birth, labor and delivery and care and feeding of infants. Classes are taught by a public health nurse.

MOLLY MACY and Ronald Thomas have graduated from Mercy College of Detroit in December. Sister Macy, RSM, was honored by being awarded a bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude. She was an English major. Thomas earned his BA with a double major in social science and law enforcement.

RUSSELL FOGG of Realtor Associate with Thompson-Brown at their Farmington Hills office has sold one-half million dollars worth of realty during February, 1979.

PAINT YOUR WAGON, a 1959 Paramount musical with music by Alan Jay Lerner, will be playing at Movies at the Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser at Grand River in Redford. Wagon will be shown from 8 p.m. on March 9-10. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., an organ overture will be played by a selected area artist on the original 1928 Barton Theatre Pipe Organ.

CANCER ACTION NOW headquarters at 110 East Warren in Detroit has a toll-free information line for everyone in the 313 area.

The organization serves all persons who have problems concerning cancer. In addition to answering these questions, the organization will refer persons to all the services they need. Call 833-1977.

DEADLINE

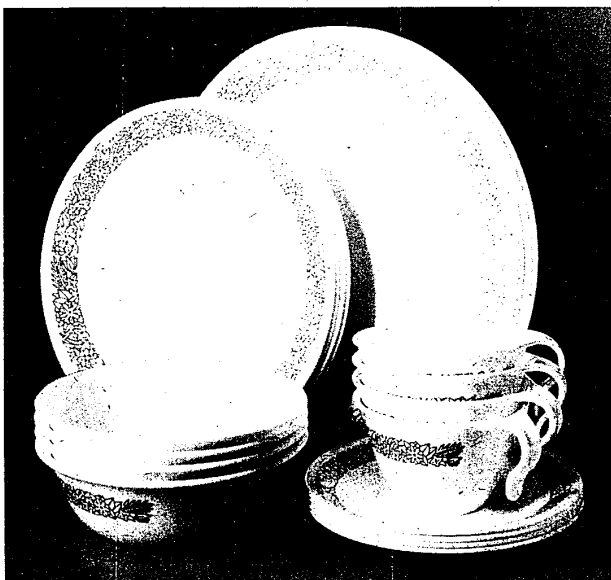
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