



Middlebelt Elementary School students examine hooves, horns and native cooking utensils brought from Rhodesia by Rev. George Dee.

Why African adventure intrigues a missionary

He stalked across the stage, carefully double over as his hands swept imaginary hanging vines from his path. He was tracking water buffaloes in Mid Belt Elementary School's library. Don't track the water buffaloes alone. He'll get you first if you're not careful. Rev. George Dee cautioned the kindergarten, first, third and fifth graders in his audience.

Rev. Dee has spent 22 years in Rhodesia as a Baptist missionary with the Evangelical Missionary Alliance.

Every five years he brings his family back to the United States where he speaks

to church groups that support his efforts. He and his wife Patricia Howe have grown used to the dirt floors and snakes in their Rhodesian home. They have grown so accustomed to keeping a flashlight near their pillows for late night snake checks that they continue the practice in their Southfield residence.

"In Rhodesia, the snakes come under the door," he explained.

HE BRINGS with him a collection of tanks, hooves, native utensils and an elephant's trunk to illustrate his lecture.

My son shot it two years ago when he was 18. Rev. Dee said, referring to the trunk.

He believes that his collection, gathered during his years of service, brings his lecture and slides closer to his listeners, especially the youngsters.

If children can see what it's like in other countries, they can appreciate more what they have in the United States," he said.

He called for two volunteers to help him unroll a 16-foot-long python skin.

This snake ate a deer, he told the children. Afterwards, it didn't move for a month. A hunter came along and killed it.

The volunteers received African coins for their services.

How come they call the lion the king of the jungle, a boy wondered.

Because he doesn't have very many enemies, the missionary answered.

After the lecture, the students were invited to come to the stage and touch the collection.

They held hooves, antlers, native cooking utensils and tried on African masks.

I think he's just fantastic," Mrs. Dorothy Ebb, a substitute teacher, said. He held the attention of all of them.

MRS. MARY Gault, a girl scout leader who brought Rev. Dee to the school, remembered the first time she heard him lecture.

I was coming out of the assembly part of church and my son came running over and grabbed me by the arm and started pulling me along with him. Mom, Mom, he said, come and meet an elephant.

2 injured in collision

Two persons were injured Tuesday morning, March 22, when a Farmington district special education school was collided with a semi-truck at Orchard Lake Road and Grand River.

The bus driver, Gladys McCormick of 2048 Nardin in Farmington, received minor fractures and was taken to Beaumont General Hospital for treatment.

Christine Saper, an eight-year-old student passenger in the van, was treated at the hospital and released.

According to a Hills police report, Gerald Reynolds, driver of the transport

truck, was eastbound on Grand River when he failed to stop at a red light and collided with the van.

Reynolds was arraigned Tuesday before 6th District Court Judge Margaret Schaefer and pleaded not guilty to a charge of running a red light.

Reynolds wasn't injured in the crash. A Farmington Hills Fire Department Emergency Rescue team responded to the collision in a precaution to make certain the truck's punctured fuel tank didn't explode.

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