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# A WORD to the WIVES

If your husband paid you by the hour - at today's wages

for the time you spend in the kitchen

it wouldn't be long until he would gladly make your kitchen ALL-ELECTRIC... HE COULDN'T AFFORD NOT TO!

**OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT**

## Story of Africa

By BLANCHE ALICE RICH

(Continued from last week) Akeley has chosen the ennobling side and does not dwell on the vices either of the animals or of



BLANCHE ALICE RICH

the people, but on their virtues, their courage, defence of their young, devotion to the safety of their families—simple, homely virtues which are so much needed today in our civilization. His work on the gorilla is the latest and perhaps his best portrayal of animal life in Africa as it really is. He defends the reputation of this animal, which has been misrepresented in narrative and fiction as a ferocious animal that attacks man at every opportunity, abducts native women, a monster with all the vices of man and none of the virtues. For this untruthful picture Akeley substitutes a real gorilla, ferocious only when his family rights are invaded. Thus he explodes the age-long gorilla myth and we learn for the first time the place in nature of this great anthropoid and come to believe that it should be conserved and protected rather than eliminated.

I have become acquainted with Dr. and Mrs. McMillan, who are here on furlough from Africa. Dr. McMillan was the first medical missionary ever to go from the United States to Angola. They have devoted 20 years of their life helping the natives. I think they deserve a great deal of praise and credit.

Dr. McMillan was dismayed when they went there as his hospital was only a thatched mud hut, his medical supplies less than adequate and staff non-existent. Mrs. McMillan was his only assistant and she had never witnessed an operation before going out there. She has assisted in several thousand operations since then. She also supervises a weekly baby clinic.

Dr. McMillan immediately began training the natives. He now has a staff composed of 65 outstanding young men and women. I saw the pictures of the new hospital which has 130 beds, and sometimes it is necessary to use floor mats to accommodate the patients. The convalescent patients are moved out into the camps, all treatments in this department are carried out by the natives.

In the beginning of their work Dr. McMillan made a sterilizer out of a gasoline drum. Its pressure indicator was an automobile tire gauge. They now have a new "Simplex Unit," which the natives handle perfectly.

They not only practiced medicine but they have created opportunities for a better life for many people so they can live like other citizens.

Their medical set up covers about four square miles, that includes the hospital, annexes and sick camp, including 45 buildings in all.

People come from all over for treatments of all kinds. (Not only do the natives go for many miles but also Europeans.

Treatments in the past few years have increased from 25 to 40 thousand in the early '30s to 200 to 300 thousand in the early '40s.

There are many injustices in Africa. The complicated caste system is one of the evils causing bitter resentment and the inequalities of taxation and tax collection. Every native must carry a Pass—unless he has a specified exemption. These ills lead to a fantastic number of arrests, so that the prisons are packed with people guilty of a blunder or of an economic incapacity rather than of wilful crime. To simplify the Pass system, temper the blasts of taxation to the shorn lamb and humanize the police would ease life for multitudes who are maddened by that most infuriating of all evils, an impersonal bureaucracy enforcing cast-iron regulations.

The method of dealing with the African that creates the greatest unrest and rebellious feeling is not that of forced labor; it is the method of thrusting him off from his ancestral lands, or refusing to give him a clear, secure title to the lands, that he has. That land was not only their possession; it is held in passionate reverence because their spirits are living realities. The landless people must do 180 day's work each year or Europeans in order to be allowed to stay on the soil that always hitherto has been theirs. Taxation also drives them to work on European plantations to earn the needed money.

Some of the people have never been given a decent opportunity to better their positions. They want education and liberty. Given a chance they will help build a social structure in Africa, and build it upon that sort of foundation. There are many people who believe that it is a sign of weakness to deal with so-called "primitive people," in any other terms but the lash and the gun. They will work harder and better if they are treated as men, and not as a work ox.

The natives unable to pay fines assessed by rural magistrates are being held in pawn and made to labor long hours, without pay, until the penalties are paid. There are some natives who have been held as pawns for 20 years for having committed misdemeanors which would draw a suspended sentence of 60 days in this country.

As Americans we realize there is some work being done with Africa but not enough. President Truman's aid to Greece and Turkey came somewhat late in the day for communism had already gripped those countries. Now is the time to answer Africa's cry for help in industry education and spiritual needs before Stalin moves in that direction. It is rumored that Stalin is building a fleet of steamers to be used in the West African Trade.

We need to expand overseas trade and secure sources of raw material. Africa has hitherto almost been monopolized by Europeans.

More than ever it is important to help Africa now because she can supply us with many things we need, to supplement or displace supplies which we previously had bought from African colonies through European middlemen.

There are many obstacles, financial, racial, international, and the job will not be easy. But I



Thursday, May 29, the Kellom school awarded 63 diplomas to students that will begin their high school studies in September. This fine group of American leaders of tomorrow were as follows: Leo Anderson, Charlene Bates, Raymond Benson, Billie J. Bitney, Donna J. Bomer, William Bowman, Maxine Buster, Ona L. Cain, Billy Chin, Gladys L. Collins, Billy Combs, Alan J. Crouse, Barbara L. Crawford, D. Charlesine Davis, Dorothy Davis, Eugene Delong, Florence Fields, Atha L. Fitch, Dale Foote Libbe M. Givens, Sally Gray, Numand Guererro, Elaine Hall, Fred Hall, Don Halverson, Amelle J. Holts, Nura J. Hughes, Frank Halvey Jr., Mary L. Jackson, Allen Jordan, Joe N. Jones, Clifford M. Kennedy, Janet Eleanor King, Richard Leach, Jacqueline Lewis, Ollie M. Littlejohn, Robert Mackie, Richard Miller, Lillie A. Mills, Mildred Mims, Georgia M. Moore, Patricia L. Olson, Ronald Ryrek, Joan Rogenbaugh, John Tuinlen, Albert Rich, Lorraine Schumaker, Robert Schumaker, Roy D. Seals, Beverly Shearon, Dixie J. Sherman, Milton Shobe, Billy Simes, Don Scott, Jack Taylor, Reggy Taylor, Harry Waller, Barbara L. Walker, Sol Weinberg, Daniel Wise, Howard M. Willis Jr. and Helen Zemunske.

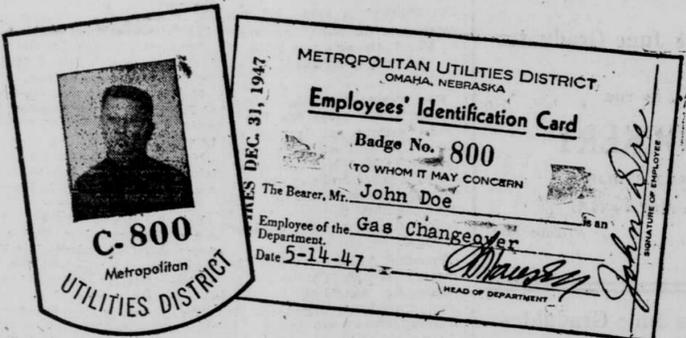


Above photo shows the Eighth grade graduating class of Long School. The story of their elaborate exercises is on Page One.

don't think it is impossible. Africa has both resources and human material making excellent opportunities for both African and American capital. Our help was a long time in coming; although the support we have given them has helped Liberia to preserve her independence, but it did not keep Britain or France from grabbing about half of the original territory. Mr. W. V. S. Tubman who in 1914 became President of Liberia and whose term will last until 1952, is fast becoming one of Africa's outstanding statesmen. He has done many things to help Liberia. He admired the late President Roosevelt, and resembles him in his wholehearted liking for people. He has a great goal in view, and has accomplished much in a short time. He wants to wipe out the class differences, giving all of the people equal rights, opportunities and social status. In the help that we have given them one of the biggest surprises was how quickly and enthusiastically the people took to the new ideas and new methods which have been carried out. Referring back to Dr. McMillan I often hear him tell how eager the natives are to learn. Their pent up souls burst forth with surprising alacrity with little encouragement. There are no people who are productive unless they are free. Without freedom no one can be what they want to be or what they ought to be. Freedom is the highest of all possessions and the most creative of all virtues. Africa wants her freedom, not charity. She wants cooperation and self-determination, not domination, or paternalism. Freedom is indivisible and they want freedom—to be their own master.

Mrs. Vernon Brown, the former Dorothy Brown daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Brown of 2709 N. 28th st. is visiting her parents, Mrs. Vernon Brown returned to Marshalltown Ia., Thursday night after

# MAKE SURE YOUR GAS CHANGEOVER MAN IS PROPERLY IDENTIFIED!



UTILITIES DISTRICT EMPLOYEES WILL CARRY IDENTIFICATION CARD AND BADGE REPRODUCED ABOVE

The job of changing over 62,000 Omaha homes for the new, richer gas is now under way. It will take until approximately October 1 to complete the job. You will be notified the date your home is to be visited. When the changeover man calls, admit him only if he carries an identification card and badge like those shown above. This will assure you he is an employe of the Metropolitan Utilities District and is authorized to adjust your gas burners. Remember that only employes of the Metropolitan Utilities District carry this identification card and badge.



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1x2, 1x3, 1x4, 2x2—all lengths	
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