

1937 SCRAPBOOK, IMAGE 052

(Handwritten date: Thursday, June 3, 1937)

Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Sprunger, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lehman, Irvin Schindler, Margaret Jane Steiner, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Liechty, Simon Schwartz and Homer Schug spent Memorial Day at Indianapolis where they attended the 500-mile auto race.

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ARRIVE HERE

Mrs. Henry Moser and son Burnell arrived at the Peter Moser home northwest of Berne Wednesday. They and Mr. Moser and a Miss Countryman arrived at New York, Monday, from the Mission Fields at Congo, West Central Africa. Mr. Moser accompanied Miss Countryman to Chicago, and will join his family here Saturday. Miss Countryman, who was violently ill, is said to be greatly improved.

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WIVES CAN'T BE DITCHED IN CONGO, SAYS MISSIONARY HENRY MOSER

Local People Arrive in New York on Return Trip Home From Africa; Cannibalism Still Rampant, But Savages Prefer "Black Meat"

NEW YORK, May 27 - There are no old maids in the Belgian Congo, and a husband is guaranteed for every woman over the age of six.

What's more, no man can walk off there and ditch a wife. He has to find her another husband before he can abandon her.

The Belgian Congo's answer to the old maid's prayer is polygamy, according to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moser, of Berne, Ind., Mennonite missionaries who returned to this country this week after 15 years in the land of cannibalism and mass marriage.

With them, the Mosers brought their twelve-year old son, Burnell, who was born in the Congo, and Miss Doris Countryman, of Yakima, Wash., still wide-eyed after her first trip to the cradle of swing music and voodoo.

In the Congo, a wife costs the equivalent of about \$4 in cash, explained Moser, while his own nodded reluctant confirmation.

"A wife," he said, "usually costs one goat, a jug of palm wine, a bit of cloth and maybe some vegetables."

As for getting rid of them, he said:

"There is no divorce - you just trade her to someone else. But you can't leave her destitute. Of course, with a wife being worth \$4, no one wants to."

BATCHELORS ALSO MISSING

Just as there are no old maids in the Belgian Congo, there are no batchelors, Moser revealed. Every man has from four to 70 wives, depending on his wealth.

"They start their matrimonial dickering before a baby is born," he said. "Usually a deposit of a jug of wine is made before the baby's birth. If the baby is a girl, she is considered officially betrothed to the man who gave her father the wine.

"At the age of six or seven, she does to live with her husband."

Christianity isn't making much progress in the Congo, Moser admitted, "because the men have to sell or give away all but one of their wives when they come into the fold."

The Mosers are on their way to the headquarters of the Congo Inland Mission, (1120 West Eighty-Third Street), Chicago.

Cannibalism is still rampant in the Congo, they revealed, but the victims are always black nowadays. As a Cannibal chief explained to Moser:

"White meat too tough!"

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SUCCEEDS MILLER

Noah L. Habegger is the new manager of the Berne Equity Meat Market, succeeding David Miller, who moved to Bremen, Indiana this week.

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Mr. and Mrs. Abe Inniger, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Inniger and Mrs. Victor Graber visited relatives at Rittman, O., over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah D. Mazelin, Mrs. Dan H. Habegger and Mrs. Jacob Huser visited with the latter's sister, Mrs. Fannie Musser, at Rittman, O., Monday. Mrs. Musser is seriously ill and reported weakening fast.

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AGED MAN STRICKEN

Ben Nussbaum, aged 81, prominent retired farmer of northeast of Berne suffered a stroke of paralysis (cut off)

Adams County Historical Museum

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Transcribed by Karin King