

African Wildlife Near Extinction

By LNE WATSON
(Special to the Courier
from East Africa)

This is Miss Watson's second article on wildlife in Africa. She is a Peace Corps teacher in east Africa. Her home is in St. Mary's parish, Bath.

who kill for hides, tails, ivory and rhino horn.

Sometimes it's a zebra strangled by a wire snare. Or an elephant with spear wounds in its stomach.

In November alone, wardens found 500 wire snares in the Serengeti. Once snared, antelope, zebra, giraffe and rhino are easy to shoot.

The race is between the wardens protecting the animals, aided by the scientists studying them and opposite: the land seekers and the game destroyers.

Occasionally a naturalist even gives up his life trying to preserve these African Edens.

On Oct. 1, 1959, a 25-year-old German, Michael Grzimek, crashed his small plane in Serengeti. He and his father, Dr. Bernard Grzimek of Frankfurt Zoological Gardens, made the first aerial photographs of the thousands of wildebeest and zebra in their annual migrations.

Their research continues at a laboratory in the middle of Serengeti, begun on money raised for the Michael Grzimek Memorial Fund. Michael's grave is on the rim of Ngongoro Crater, a 200-mile wide repository of ethereal scenery and wildlife just outside the Serengeti border.

The marker reads: "He gave all he had and even his life for the protection of wild animals in Africa."

John Owen has enough money to keep his Serengeti Research Project going for three more years. He is delighted that youthful Tanzania has created four new parks. But he knows that research, maintenance and staff depend largely on outside contributions.

"I'm not sentimental about the animals," he said. "I know they have to kill each other. But areas like Serengeti are so unique and refreshing to the spirit of man. One is justified in trying to make certain they're kept."



A massive African buffalo—brutal when aggravated.

zanian government. Owen's department has an educational campaign to convince Africans of the need to attract the tourists' shillings.

There are now free hostels at Serengeti and Lake Manyara National Parks for children and adult community leaders to stay when they visit the spectacular conglomerate of animals once reserved for rich tourists.

Game-watching never bores. A game warden's passion for the autonomy of his animals does not decrease with his years in the bush. Vignettes, comic to carnivorous, fill their diaries.

In a sanctuary like Serengeti a visitor is certain to see a choice frame from the same cinema.

A Serengeti warden couldn't sleep one night because lions were chasing zebra "in and out of the rocky paths near the camp. The honking of zebra, thunder of hooves, and grunting of lions went on until the early hours with the zebra apparently unable to leave the hill, being hemmed in by lions. About 5 a.m. a kill was made and peace reigned."

The wardens chanced on a lion butchering a zebra while giving birth, a hippo charging a lioness between itself and the water, another lion chasing a leopard up a tree to grab the leopard's kill.

Too often they find corpses, victims of the elusive poachers,



Biggest mouth in the animal kingdom, a dubious distinction that goes to the hippopotamus.

Unity Prelate Dies in Boston

Boston — (RNS) — Metropolitan Antony Bashir of Brooklyn, N.Y., head of the Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church of North America and a strong advocate for unity within Orthodox and among all Christians, died unexpectedly here, Feb. 15, at the age of 67.

He had come to Boston for treatment of a skin ailment at the New England Baptist Hospital.

First to use English in the ritual, music, liturgy and publications of the Orthodox Church in America and to lead the Americanization of his Church.

An ardent believer in Catholic-Orthodox union, Metropolitan Bashir was widely admired and respected by many Catholic dignitaries. He counted among his Catholic friends Cardinal Cushing of Boston, Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, and Coadjutor Archbishop Philip Pocock of Toronto.

Tanzania — One country pictures another through a Fun House mirror. From here America bounces back the land of sexy surfers, Apaches and Klansmen, Doris Day wardrobes and cavalry finishes.

And Africa — for Americans — is a lion in every village, Tarzan swinging from his Congo rain forest into the country of the Great-White Hunter.

Nature is no more balanced here than the view in the wavy glass.

Not only have most East Africans never seen a wild animal, but they're not likely to unless they visit a game park. The days when a lion would walk into a large African town out of the bush have gone the way of pith helmets.

British author Alan Moorehead writes that "90 per cent of African animals have been exterminated forever. However, the chances of preserving the remaining 10 per cent seem to be a little better than they were, and it may even be that the human instinct to kill all other living things on earth will wear itself out at last."

There are some game wardens so pessimistic about the endangered animals they predict near-decimation within ten years. Their chief is more optimistic, however.

John Owen, director of Tanzania National Parks, believes that poaching and hunting eventually will mean the remains of Africa's wild life will exist only in these game parks.

But he thinks the game parks will survive despite poaching and a population eyeing park lands for farming and grazing.

The parks will probably keep operating on money from foreign enthusiasts and the Tan-

Time 'Running Out' on Racial Issue

Worcester — (NC) — Time "is running out" for the white man in this country, Edmundite Father Maurice Ouellet said here.

The Edmundite priest is remembered as the pastor of a Negro Catholic parish in Selma, Alabama, during the massive civil rights demonstrations there last year. He was ousted from his pastorate as a result of his civil rights work.

Father Ouellet, now master of novices for the Society of St. Edmund seminary in Mystic, Conn., told a Worcester First Friday Club meeting here the next generation of Negroes in America "will not be as docile as the janitor downtown."

He said he decided against discussing his experiences in Selma "because you would all go home, say it was terrible down there, and you would feel good because you are not like the people there." But, he added, although it does not take the same dramatic form as in the South, "people in the North are every bit as prejudiced as those in the South."

The Negro "is just as unhappy here as he is in the South," Father Ouellet said.

He said he focused on the North in his talk because, "I want you to go away feeling uncomfortable... feeling uncomfortable because we have, for too long, been comfortable

Christians who have told ourselves how Christian we are, and not how charitable we are not."

The time has come "when we have got to get out of our pews and into the streets," Father Ouellet said.

The 38-year-old priest, who was asked to leave the diocese of Mobile-Birmingham by Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen because of the role he played in the civil rights demonstrations, said he never disobeyed the archbishop's directive that no Alabama priests were to take an active part in the demonstrations, even though he was involved in the turmoil because his parishioners were involved.

Owen J. Murphy Jr., editor of the Catholic Free Press, Worcester diocesan newspaper, introducing Father Ouellet, emphasized that "contrary to the reports of some individuals and some publications, Father Ouellet is not numbered among what they call 'the ever-growing number of silenced priests in the American Church.'"

To the contrary, Murphy said, "Father Ouellet today is influencing the characters and outlook of all new candidates for the Edmundite society as director of the society's postulancy and novitiate program and, as his presence here among us today attests, he is still speaking forcefully and publicly on the civil rights crisis in America today."

Father Ouellet said he took it for granted that all members of the First Friday Club agreed "segregation is a moral evil and that it grows from prejudice."

He said physical segregation might not exist in some northern churches, but he asked, "how much may a Negro become a part of parish life in the North?"

"Perhaps no one is preventing their taking a more active part in parish activities," he said, "but neither is anyone encouraging them."

Some may advocate giving the Negro opportunity and let him "pull himself up by his bootstraps, but this kind of thinking is a farce," he asserted.

"We have crippled the Negro and now we ask him to walk with everyone else — and we should do nothing about putting a splint on his leg," he observed.

Dialogue Termed Fruitful

Chicago — (RNS) — A better understanding of the "totality of Christian life" was seen here as a result of discussions between Roman Catholic and Lutheran scholars.

The view was expressed during a second meeting of the theologians and church leaders in which fine points of interpretations of baptism were examined for three days. A main emphasis of the Lutheran-Catholic conversations in the early stages is to probe matters of faith and doctrine which are common to both Churches.

The official consultations are being held by the U.S. Bishops' Commission for Ecumenical Affairs and the National Lutheran Council in its role as the U.S. national committee of the Lutheran World Federation.

Dr. Paul C. Emple of New York, NLC executive director, and Auxiliary Bishop T. Austin Murphy of Baltimore, chairman of the Bishops' Subcommittee

for Dialogue with Lutherans, described the conversations as deepening "mutual understanding and respect while strengthening the basis of brotherly affection."

In their joint statement, Dr. Emple and Bishop Murphy said:

"The series of theological conversations in which we are engaged continue to be exceedingly fruitful. We were reasonably certain that the teachings of our respective traditions regarding baptism are in substantial agreement, and this opinion has been confirmed at this meeting."

"At the same time, discus-

Student Drivers
Trenton — (NC) — State Sen. Ned J. Parsekian, a former state commissioner of motor vehicles, has introduced a bill in the State Senate to provide tax-supported driver education courses in public and private schools.

sions dealing with several aspects of the subject brought to light the fact that although at times we use the same words, with somewhat different meanings, we also upon occasion have quite different ways of saying the same things. It has been especially interesting to discover that we have common problems related to the development of doctrine in this and other theological areas, and a comparison of approaches to the solution of these problems has been clarified in the process."

"We will be examining subjects in future meetings," they added, "which present greater difficulties, but are encouraged to proceed in the knowledge that the conversations held thus far have deepened mutual understanding and respect while strengthening the bonds of brotherly affection."

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