

Strom Hopes to See Old Friend

When Liberian President William V. S. Tubman arrives in the United States in a forthcoming visit, one Torrance man is hoping that he will make a stop on the West Coast.

The Torranceite, John Webster Strom, is vice-principal of Walteria School, and former head of the College of West Africa in Monrovia, Liberia.

Strom returned from the only independent Negro republic in the world two years ago, after spending 18 months there. As head of the college, he came in close contact with many Liberian leaders, a number of whom were on the board of trustees of his school.

When he was there, President Tubman presented him with the Liberian Humane Order of West African Redemption, an award given to educators and others who have served Liberia.

Leading School in Liberia Strom's school, sponsored by the Methodist Board of Missions served as the training ground for many of Liberia's leaders. It is the major school in Monrovia.

Children in Liberian schools are basically much like those in American schools, Strom feels. "They all like to talk, get into mischief, and have fun," he declared.

The Liberian government is based on the American form, and American English "with a Liberian accent" is spoken there. Many of its customs, music, and manufactured goods come from the United States.

Since the people there are quite friendly toward the United States, many of its people come to the United States for college training.

The 115-year-old College of West Africa is not a college in the American sense of the word, but rather an elementary and high school. Education is hampered by a lack of funds, Strom said.

"The budget of the entire country, of which one quarter goes for education, is smaller than that of many large industrial plants in this country," he said.

American Textbooks Used Elementary school teachers are mostly Liberian, while high school teachers are largely American. American textbooks, adapted for Liberian use, are studied in classrooms.

Strom's stay in Liberia was shortened by the climate, which is hard on most white people. "I lost 25 pounds, but it made me look better," he declared.

Mrs. Strom's stay was even shorter, since her health was quite badly affected by the climate. Now a teacher at Meadow Park School, she was forced to return because she is what doctors call "not adaptable" to the African climate.

Likes Young People A minister, Strom was sent to Liberia by the Board of Missions. He has worked with young people throughout his life, and prefers to work with them. He was a seventh grade teacher at North Torrance Elementary School before going to Walteria.

Strom is a frequent lecturer at various local groups, bringing with him many souvenirs brought back from Liberia, including native clothes, tools, art work, and leopard and snake skins.

Children in his school also are interested to hear of Africa from a teacher who has been there.



(Herald Photo) MEDAL FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Clad in an African chief's robe, John Webster Strom, of 1750 Martina Ave., inspects the Liberian Humane Order of African Redemption he received from President William V. S. Tubman, whose picture is in the background. He received the award for his work as president of the College of West Africa several years ago.

Democrats To Open New Headquarters

Opening of new headquarters for Torrance Democrats at 1316 Border Ave. has been set for 10 a.m. Saturday, it was announced here yesterday by Blanche Biggio, spokesman for the group.

The opening will be formalized at 3 p.m. Saturday with the visit of Congressman Cecil R. King, who is seeking re-election to Congress from the 17th District.

The headquarters will serve as focal point of campaign activities in the Torrance and Shoestring Strip area, according to Alfred Eachus, chairman of the 68th Assembly District Democratic Council.

The next meeting of Torrance Democrats, Inc., has been scheduled for Tuesday evening, Oct. 12, at 8 p.m.

Child Brides Girls of 12 may be legally married in six states in the United States.

Harvey Aluminum Giving Aid To Industry on New Methods

A major development program giving industrial designers technical assistance on new applications of aluminum impact extrusions has been formulated by Harvey Aluminum, of Torrance.

Although the method of impact extrusion, or impact forging as it is sometimes called, is over one hundred years old and is in common use by most of the aluminum companies, Harvey's new project is planned to encourage a drive in industry for new ideas and applications for impact extruded products.

Extrusion is similar to pushing toothpaste out of a tube in that cold aluminum is forced through a die into the desired product.

The initial success of this research program has been proven by recent experimental work between Harvey's engineers and industrial designers in the automotive, aircraft, and marine fields, Harvey spokesmen said.

Harvey Aluminum is one of two companies in the United States making the specialized raw material for impact extrusions. Consequently, the 40-year-old company is able to produce aluminum impact extrusions with a specified grain structure and can maintain exacting metallurgical control with cross-grain structure.

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Bloodmobile Due Here Next Monday at Civic Auditorium

Every 10 seconds of every day, they need," Mrs. Jones remarked, some hospital patient in the United States receives a blood transfusion supplied by fellow Americans through the American Red Cross, according to Mrs. Virginia Jones, Torrance blood donor recruitment chairman.

Torrance residents will get their opportunity to "strike personal blows" in the fight against death and disease on Monday when a Red Cross Bloodmobile will set up in the Civic Auditorium.

"If our civilian sick and injured are to continue getting the blood

"our hale and hearty civilian populace must continue to give it. Participation in the blood donor program is one of the few instances where in helping others, you are helping yourself."

"Donors will not only help by supplying blood so urgently needed in our own community hospitals," Mrs. Jones said, "but they will be setting up a credit against which they can draw for themselves or their immediate families in time of need."

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