

UNIVERSITY EXPLORER

Lonely Islanders Are Unhappy in 'New World'

Fifty-one men, women and children boarded an ocean liner in England last March for the first lap of a long sea voyage home.

Their destination: a lonely wind-swept island of volcanic rock in the south Atlantic midway between South Africa and South America. Its circular coastline is only 21 miles long, its diameter only 7.4 miles at the widest point.

The island's name is Tristan da Cunha. Discovered in 1506 by the Portuguese navigator Tristao da Cunha, and now a possession of Great Britain, Tristan has been called "the loneliest island in the world."

Was Supply Center

During the mid-19th century it was an important supply center for whalers and sailing ships, but today the whalers are gone and the main trade routes are more than a thousand miles away. The nearest inhabited land is St. Helena, where Napoleon died in exile, and this is 1490 miles away.

Despite this desolate geography, Tristan de Cunha is "home" not only to these 51 people but to some 200 others who expect to follow them from England later this year.

The entire population of Tristan—262—was evacuated to England in October, 1961, after a dormant volcano that dominates the island came to life and threatened to destroy their small settlement.

The volcanic danger apparently is gone now and only nine of the original nine evacuees are not returning. These include four who died of pneumonia and five who took a liking to the "new world."

What Awaits Them?

What awaits the Tristanites on the tiny island and why did they go back? Few outsiders can answer that question better than Dr. Reidar F. Sognnaes, dean of the school of dentistry at UCLA. In 1937 while doing research at the University of Oslo in Norway, Dr. Sognnaes joined a 12-man Norwegian scientific expedition that lived on Tristan for almost four months.

In 1962 Dr. Sognnaes visited the Tristanites again in England and made the following report:

To those who know the Tristanites, the near-unanimous decision to return home is not surprising. They were unhappy in England,

even though life on an old military base provided them by the government was far more comfortable and less demanding than at home.

On Tristan their diet was a monotonous repetition of boiled potatoes and fish with occasional treats of beef, mutton, apples, mollyhawk birds and birds eggs. Caloric intake was extremely low. Milk was scarce, and soft bread, flour, sugar, tea and coffee were luxuries.

Year-Round Rain

Rain fell the year round, sometimes for days on end in the winter. Fierce westerly winds often caused potato crop failures or blew the tussock-thatching off the roofs of their stone and rock houses. Wood was scarce, and many houses had dirt floors. The island was infested with rats.

But the Tristanites apparently cared little about hardship. They would row for miles on a rough sea in an open boat to trade home-

made moccasins for a pack of cigarettes from a passing ship. They would leave for excursions on an empty stomach at 2 or 3 a. m. and go until noon or evening without tasting food.

What they could not get used to in England, however, was the quickened pace of life, the new criteria for success, and the loss of their sense of security, independence and contentment.

For the Tristanites, the old ways were the best ways and the old ways date back to the early and middle 19th century when the present colony was founded by British soldiers who had been garrisoned on the island to prevent any attempt to rescue Napoleon from St. Helena. The garrison left in 1917 but three men were granted permission to remain.

New Blood Added

Shipwrecked sailors of Dutch, Italian and American origin added new blood to

the community, and four native women were imported from St. Helena to marry the Tristanites. Two sisters of English-Irish origin arrived in 1908. The small group intermarried and the present population descends from only 14 persons—seven men and seven women.

The effect of these decades of inbreeding and isolation was to "freeze" the islanders' customs, attitudes, dress, even the language (a slangy cockney English) in the 19th century forms in which they originated.

Nevertheless the Tristanites are proud of their independence. The island has no institutionalized government; the family plays the dominant role. There were no policemen, no jails, in fact, no crime on the islands in 1937. Outwardly the people appeared content and extremely happy.

Health was remarkably good. Unknown to the 1937-38 generation were heart

disease, high blood pressure, cancer, polio, gastric ulcers, TB, VD, diphtheria, arthritis, rheumatism, or such childhood infections as measles, mumps and whooping cough.

No Tooth Decay

X-rays of their teeth showed almost no signs of tooth decay, apparently because of their enormous consumption of fish, which is rich in fluoride and phosphates.

The future of the Tristanites is uncertain, said Dr. Sognnaes. The volcano may flare up again and force another evacuation. It also is possible that the stay in England has affected them in ways they do not now suspect.

Already their teeth and gums are not what they used to be and some previously unknown illnesses have been contracted in England. The teen-agers have taken back "twist" records and record players. Dr. Sognnaes hopes that

Alfred L. Buda Sent to Germany

Army Pvt. Alfred L. Buda, son of Alfred L. Buda, 997 W. Ninth St., San Pedro, was assigned in mid-June to the 178th Engineer Company in Germany.

The 17-year-old soldier attended South High School.

Buda, an equipment mechanic in the company, entered the Army last December and completed basic training at Fort Ord.

His mother, Mrs. Florence Scott, lives at 3829 W. 182nd St., Torrance.

OBESITY HAZARD

Obesity is a major health hazard in this country. A study of 1,000 men working for one company showed that more than half of them were overweight and 284 (almost a third) were markedly overweight.

NEW CAR DIRECTORY

G.M.C. TRUCKS OLDSMOBILE - CADILLAC CECIL L. THOMAS & SONS PACIFIC COAST HWY. AT VERMONT—HARBOR CITY STUDEBAKER OREGON 8-4005 Dealer Authorized by Studebaker Corporation to Service the Torrance Area FRANK H. AFTON CO. 240 N. MARKET, INGLEWOOD

Hahn Says His Inspections Are Boosting Carson Area

A long-standing policy of personal inspections of his district by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn is already resulting in improvements for the Carson area, he said yesterday.

During a recent tour of the district, Hahn noticed that neither Dominguez St. nor Jamison Ave. (just north of the intersection of Main and Carson) are through streets. No warning of this is given the motorist.

Hahn immediately ordered the county road department to install reflectorized warning signs in the area to alert motorists of the dead-end roads.

"In bad weather, a car could run right off the road into the Dominguez slue without knowledge about the dead-end," Hahn said.

Hahn also asked the road department to begin repainting all crosswalks, loading zones, and other curb designations in the Carson area.

Intersection curbs and their extensions 15 feet in either direction are being painted red to prohibit parking so motorists can better see stop signs and signals and so their vision will not be blocked by parked cars at corners.

Such a safety procedure has proved highly successful in other sections of Hahn's district, he said.

Trudy Owens To Speak at Demo Meet

Mrs. Trudy Owens, secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee, will be the featured speaker Sunday at a meeting of the Zenith Young Democrats in Lawndale City Hall, 16726 Hawthorne Blvd.

Mrs. Owens, who has played a major role in Democratic Party organization in the South Bay area for many years, will discuss "The Function and Future of the Democratic State Central Committee at the 3 p. m. meeting with area Young Democrats.

A resident of Palos Verdes Estates, she was elected to the party's secretaryship at the state-wide meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee last year. Currently she is laying the groundwork for the party's 1963 convention, to be attended by more than 1500 in Sacramento Aug. 10 and 11.

HARVEY ADDS PROCESS FOR PRECISE CASTS

Homer Harvey, executive vice president, Harvey Aluminum, Inc., Torrance, and Lester Avnet, president, Avnet Electronics Corp., New York, today announced the signing of a non-exclusive license by Harvey for use of Avnet's Shaw Process, revolutionary new precision casting method.

The patented Shaw process, which can be operated by standard foundry equipment, represents one of the first technological advances during the last decade in the casting industry.

Avnet Electronics, with headquarters in New York, has West Coast offices and manufacturing facilities in Los Angeles.

Parents Without Partners Plan Sunday Outing

Parents Without Partners is planning an outing for children and adults Sunday. Families will gather at the Playa del Rey fire pits for a picnic, swim and song fest around the bonfire.

This group is the Inglewood-South Bay Chapter of a national organization, dedicated to single parents and their children. There are regular monthly meetings, as well as diversified activities, both educational and social.

All interested in learning more about the group may do so by contacting Joe Carman, president, at 378-8889, June Ziegenbein, hospital, at OS 6-3326, or Sue Ritzel, publicity, at FR 6-9780.

INGROWN NAIL HURTING YOU? Immediate Relief! A few drops of OUTGRO bring blessed relief from tormenting pain of ingrown nail. OUTGRO softens the skin underneath the nail, allows the nail to be cut and thus prevents further pain and discomfort. OUTGRO is available at all drug counters.

DAY SCHOOL NOW REGISTERING FOR FALL TERM — REASONABLE RATES — KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE TEACHING THE THREE R'S WITH PHONICS Classes All Day With Complete Bus Service HAWTHORNE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 930 SO. PRAIRIE At 136th Street OS 9-2591



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