

Quinte Native

Pays Return

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY -

Visit to Area

BIOGRAPHY

Bellevillians aren't the only ones awaiting the first snows of a new winter.

So is Elisabeth Huff.

Only the attitudes are different.

The natives are resigned. Elisabeth is excited.

She can afford to like it. If the first flakes fall soon enough it'll be the first snowfall she's seen in her 22 years. And then, in three weeks, she's be home — basking in the highlands of Central Africa.

Already, she has a fair appreciation of the contrasting climates. Yesterday's miserable dampness she found cold and uninviting.

There's also her father to tell her what it's like.

Brock Huff is the reason Elisabeth is in Belleville.

A native of West Lake in Prince Edward County, Mr. Huff is paying a flying return trip to his native landscape for the first time in 23 years.

Flying visits are very much a part of his life — only from the other side of the fence.

As manager of the Zambia's Lusaka international airport — one of the world's newest and most sophisticated — his life's work is tied to other people's schedules.

It's an important job which — combined with climate — adds to the attractiveness of life in Zambia, one of the world's younger nations.

Mr. Huff left Canada after being demobilized from the airforce in 1945. He returned to the United Kingdom — hopeful of work in aviation. Immigration to newer countries was much the talk of Europe at the time.

Mr. Huff joined the rush to what was then British colonial Southern Rhodesia in 1948.

About five years later he entered government service and his sought-after civil aviation career.

When Northern and Southern Rhodesia federated he

went north and took a posting at what was then Bulawayo. When the federation sundered, he stayed on and continued his career as Northern Rhodesia became Zambia.

Distance — and expense — have prevented him making a homecoming earlier. On this trip he brought Elisabeth, leaving his wife and 12-year-old son Peter.

After all that time the changes are apparent.

West Lake is a tremendous contrast to what he remembers of his earliest years.

"Now it's really got a holiday-resort atmosphere," he says.

But the most striking difference is environmental.

The pace of life in Canada is that much faster than Zambia.

"I felt a bit strange the first few days here," confesses Mr. Huff. "We live a slower pace in Zambia. We don't have the rat race as much there. Here, it seems to be so built up and so well established."

But Zambia is also building — and Lusaka international is geared for growth.

"It's one of the most modern airports in the world as far as equipment goes," says its manager proudly. "And it's built for the future — for what is expected in the next 10 years."

Neither is he out of immediate touch with Canada. There are 10 Canadians working on the airport staff under external aid program.

During his vacation he is staying with a brother, F. R. Huff of Lee Avenue. When he'll return to Canada again is indefinite. However, he's got at least one reason for returning — his British wife whom he married before departing England for Africa.

"She's never been to Canada," admits Mr. Huff, "and she wants to see it — of course."

Brock
Huff

Intelligencer
Nov. 8, 1968