

Speaker tells Y's Men

Nigerian life still primitive

Acton Y's Men and guests had the pleasure and opportunity at last Thursday night's meeting to listen to an interesting talk on Nigeria, as told by a native of the north African country, Gabriel Ankell.

Gabriel, a 24-year-old student at the University of Guelph gave both a literal and pictorial description of life in and around the suburbs and larger cities of Nigeria with the aid of slides taken by a former professor at the University of Kansas at which Mr. Ankell first attended before coming to Canada.

Asked why he had come to Canada, Gabriel explained that an educational degree from a country belonging to the commonwealth was more readily accepted in his country whereas a U.S. degree was accepted only on a probationary term of two to three years. He further explained that since his first coming to Canada more than a year ago he has found the people of our country much more friendly and easier to get along with. One difficulty Mr. Ankell did

find here in Canada was becoming accustomed to our cold winters and especially the snow; he has found it difficult walking on snow, suffering mishaps and bruises in tragic tumbles on the university campus.

Y's Men Clarence Rogvaldsen took control of the slide projector as Gabriel narrated a brief tour of his country.

Among the interesting points shown on the slides were scenes depicting various means of transportation, the most convenient and cheapest being the bicycle.

The roads shown as Gabriel explained were classified as A, B and C-roads. The A routes afford a single lane of traffic on which both directions are expected to travel, so one can imagine the amount of traffic these roads will support.

The matrimonial customs of Nigeria greatly interested the attentive Y's Men. Gabriel himself is the son of his father's second of five wives all of which dwell in his father's household at the same time. Wives in Nigeria are procured on the basis

of a trade or barter of a sizeable dowry and any number of wives may be bargained for.

None of the wives are allowed out of the dwelling during daylight hours except for the first wife who does the errands and shopping for the family in the local outdoor market places.

The traditional Nigerian dwelling consists of a small grouping of mud and grass formed huts surrounded by a high mud wall in which all members of the family as well as the livestock take up residence.

Agriculture in Nigeria is on a subsistence level on which the family grows their own vegetables and fruits, supports its own livestock for private use.

Up to five crops a year may be grown on one field. This is due to the Nigerian climate and the extreme fertility of the soil.

The diet of the native Nigerian consists mainly of the normal grain foods, rice, barley and dried corn. Yams or "sweet potatoes" as they are more commonly known are dried by boiling them to the point where most of the

water content is removed and the potato is left black in color. Lack of refrigeration is the main reason for the dehydration of many of the vegetables and fruits.

One difficulty Gabriel said he missed here in Canada was the hot, nippy flavor of those in Nigeria. The hot, nippy flavor of those in Nigeria.

Gabriel gave his talk dressed in his native garb which consisted of a small "beanie" type cap and a cloak which is worn in place of a sports jacket or any type of jacket as we know it.

The older male members wear a turban or wrap-around head dress in place of the cap.

Gabriel has received most of his education on scholarship grants, receiving his secondary schooling in government schools.

One particular agriculture problem the Nigerians have is with their livestock. "The Nigerians," Gabriel stated, "raise their cattle much the same way as they raise their wives, in quantity and not quality." This

is one of the things he hopes to be able to help cure with proper diet and care.

When the subject of wild animal hunting entered upon the conversation it was learned that Gabriel's father was one of the better hunters of his small village of Odurkpo. One particular instance saw Gabriel's father called upon to rid the village of a vicious female lion with a cub.

When the task was complete via bow and arrow and razor sharp hunting knives, Gabriel had to kill the cub. The custom for the hunter now was to go through the village and collect a reward in the form of money for the trouble he had saved the villagers from this attacking lion.

Naturally, Gabriel said, "My lion was smaller so I received a lot less reward."

Many vicious and poisonous snakes are found in the dense jungle and bushlands of Gabriel's Nigeria. His father, on one particular instance, found himself perched on the back of a python (much to his surprise) which had just swallowed whole, a live



VETERINARY STUDENT Gabriel Ankell, in native Nigerian garb, was guest speaker at the Y's Men's meeting last Thursday. After his very interesting talk, he was thanked by Wayne Wheeler, left, and Gary Bateman. (Staff Photo)

Varied entertainment for Golden Age Club

These snakes, the Y's Men were told, reach as much as 15 - 20 feet in length and could swallow a human with ease.

The meat from the python although it doesn't sound very appetizing is eaten by the Nigerians. Mr. Ankell says it tastes like fish but has no fishy smell to it.

On the whole, Mr. Ankell stated that his country of today, although it still practices many of its ancient customs and man-anos to live in crude methods of agriculture, is turning more and more to modern ways and means of civilization.

Modern buildings and machinery are being used more each day.

Wayne Wheeler thanked Mr. Ankell for his interesting and informative talk and presented him with a gift on behalf of the Acton Y's Men.

Another prominent guest at this week's meeting was Walt Bathe, district governor of the Y's Men's branch. The district over which Mr. Bathe presides includes Brantford, Guelph, Galt, Acton and Kitchener-Waterloo.

Mr. Bathe personally invited the local Y's Men to attend the C.O.D. conference held at the Guelph Y.M.C.A. on April 20. Gary Bateman, president of

Acton Y's Men's Club received on behalf of the organization, an autographed hockey stick from the Acton Y's Men Pee Wee tri-county team to show their appreciation for their sponsorship.

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SAFE DRIVING T.P.

Vital stopping distance is essential. DO NOT DRIVE TOO CLOSE TO THE CAR AHEAD. This is called "Tailgating" and "Tailgaters" get involved in accidents because they don't have enough stopping distance, should the car ahead stop or slow down suddenly. Records show that "tailgating" is one of the major causes of accidents.

Remember that safe stopping distance when following in traffic is a car length for each 10 m.p.h. per hour speed. That's five car lengths at 50, six at 60 and so on. Seems a lot, but when you need it, it's vitally essential that you have it.

More communication object of program

Tomorrow evening (Wednesday) parents are invited to the high school for a unique "communications night". It's hoped inspectors, teachers, parents and students will all benefit from improved communications as a result.

Parents have been asked to come prepared with questions, and discussion groups will be formed.