

**THE PERCEPTION OF AFRICA**

"For over a thousand years Roman generals returning from the wars were greeted with a triumphant parade. In the parade marched trumpeters, dancing girls and strange animals from the captured provinces. The prisoners marched in front of the legions and the general rode in a chariot. His children, dressed in white rode astride the trace horses or sometimes they stood beside him. Behind him could be found a slave, holding above his head a golden crown and whispering in his ear a warning—that all glory is fleeting." This is how an ancient historian described one aspect of the Peloponnesian Wars. It is because of this and other reports that we know what we do of these events. It points out the role of the writer in the recording of history. In the past this has been the primary means by which we have been able to know what happened in the past. Involvement in oral history projects is beginning to alter this.

Arnold J. Toynbee, an English philosopher-historian, has suggested that the rise and fall of civilizations is basically a matter of Challenge and Response. In each age of man, from the first appearance until now, the human species, like others of both the plant and animal world, have been faced with numerous challenges. Their survival has depended, in large measure, on the suitability of the responses made to these.

In visiting museums of natural history we can observe that the story of man is a long, complicated and fascinating tale. It covers millions of years and spans the entire globe. Through the use of biogeography attempts are made to establish patterns of order from the apparent chaos of the multiplicity of life forms present upon the surface of the Earth and in its soil, atmosphere, and bodies of water. In so doing it is concerned with the mechanisms whereby both plants and animals originate, evolve and organize.

Theories of global contemporaneity are useful and harmful to the study of the dispersal of man. Questions have been raised recently which suggests that there has possibly been more than one site for the beginning of man as we know him. There are those who believe that mankind has a common ancestry and there are those who believe that man was created and finally there is the possibility that man was created, but not in the form which he is seen today, that he evolved from that point of creation and that because of the numerous different times he developed differently. Whichever of these notions are true the fact remains that, to date, the oldest human form to be found are those discovered in Africa.

Ethnocentrism is the basis for group prejudice. Differences are seen as being the causes for definitions of superiority or inferiority. Ranking others according to one's own standard and categorizing them in a stereotypical fashion serves only to generate more impetus to notions of racial superiority. The history of the idea of evolution is connected with the development of systems of classification in the realm of plants and animals. The Swede, Linnaeus spent much of his time developing a taxonomical classification of human races. His determinations were to have a profound effect on the manner in which the races of man would be viewed by mankind for many generations. He divided hominids into four separate racial groupings, each of which was purported to instill a distinctive "mentality" in its members. The European was described as being lively, creative and superior to other racial types. The Asiatic was viewed as haughty, stern and opinionated. The American Indian was termed tenacious, free and easily contented. The African was said to be slow, negligent, cunning, capricious, mentally inferior. According to his taxonomy Africans were on the bottom of the totem pole.

The perception of Africa as being the "dark continent", totally outside of the sphere of human development was readily acceptable to the bulk of mankind of European ancestry. Linnaeus had believed in a single act of creation. Little did he realize that Africa might very well be the cradle of mankind.

A conscious attempt has been made to deny the involvement of Africa in the panorama of the development of man. H. Junker, a noted Egyptologist of the first quarter of the twentieth century had published an article in 1921 titled "The First Appearance of the Negroes in History". In this he states that "... The skeletons found in the Nubian tombs of the Upper

Nile Valley all belonged to populations who had no black blood at all." Black blood?? In 1930 C. G. Seligman wrote in his *Races of Africa* that "though the Negro is one of the most widespread stocks in Africa, no Negro skulls of any considerable age have yet been discovered." Others, such as Volney and DeRienzi have had an equally negative effect on the perception of the African. They have missed numerous opportunities to rectify the misrepresentations and outright falsifications of the roles of the African as mankind's pioneer guide on the road to civilization.

One needs only to examine the Sphinx, the writings of Herodotus, paintings discovered at Tassili in the Sahara Desert by Dr. Henri Lhote a noted French explorer and ethnologist, the writings of Dr. Cheikh Anta Diop and others to gain a realistic portrayal of African involvement in the human drama. Jarred by misunderstanding, masked by formalities or cushioned by courtesies, the writers of the histories have been unable to accept the possibility that we all may be of African ancestry.

by ROOSEVELT FITZGERALD;  
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**WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION**

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County (E.O.B.) graduated its first group of 15 women in its Teenage Women In Non-Traditional Employment program recently. Those completing the 384 hours of on the job training and 96 hours of Related Classroom Instruction in "Basic Home Construction" were: Francine Banks, Annette Chalmers, Judy Collins, Carlyon Fox, Tami Hatchcock, Althea Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Valerie Johnson, Sherlean Jones, Cynthia Marcus, Sandra Moore, Giovanna Nelson, Jo Ann Smith, Marilyn Thomas and Ruth Toney.

The second group of 20 is scheduled to begin their 90 day training program on Monday, March 12, 1979.

During the 90 day training sessions, the young women receive a general orientation to more than 22 construction crafts and basic preparation for entry into building trades apprenticeship training programs in the Southern Nevada area.

The T.W.I.N.E. program is a C.E.T.A. funded project sponsored by the E.O.B. of Clark County with the Westside Community Development Commission staff providing the Related Classroom Instruction.

There is a growing demand for women in the construction industry locally and nationwide. The average hourly wage for a journey person in construction is \$12.00 per hour, plus fringe benefits. There are approximately 34 women enrolled in more than 20 apprenticeship programs in the State of Nevada at the present time.

**BLOCK GRANT HELPS SENIORS**

During the period between October 1, 1978 and February 28, 1979, the Westside Community Development Commission C.E.T.A. workers and T.W.I.N.E. program participants applied more than 260,000 square feet of paint to the exteriors and interiors of 22 homes in the West Side area. Materials for the painting and other minor repairs were provided from Block Grant funds at no cost to the low income, handicapped and seniors qualifying. The City of Las Vegas Developmental Programs Division staff, located at 330 West Washington Avenue, coordinates the WCDC work projects when Block Grant funds are used for materials.

As part of its "Emergency Home Repair Service" for low income, handicapped and seniors, the WCDC also provides redecorating and repair services for those not qualifying for the Block Grant Materials Rehabilitation program. This phase of the program provides free labor and the homeowners provide the materials.

by H. P. Fitzgerald, Executive Director



Some consider it bad luck to lend salt.



In Ireland it was believed elves amused themselves by running up and down lily-of-the-valley blossoms.

**NEWS OF HEALTH**

**Life-Saver: An Ostomy**

This year more than 100,000 Americans will have an ostomy—a life-saving operation in which a section of the intestine or urinary system is removed. A permanent opening in the body is created, through which body wastes are diverted into a small, external, fully-enclosed pouch.



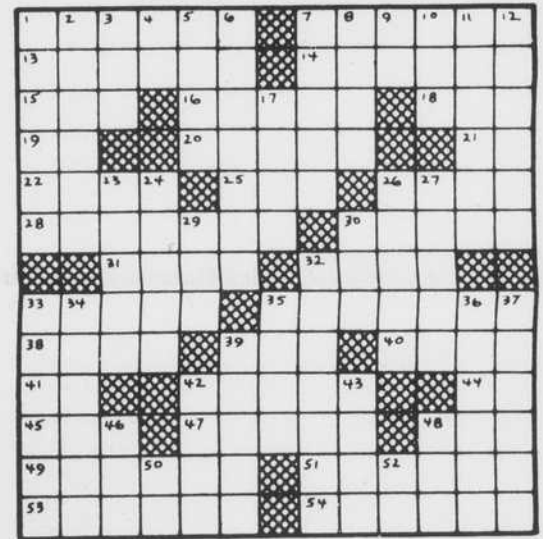
Following recuperation from ostomy surgery, the life expectancy of an ostomate can be equal to that of any other healthy person, and the operation need not impose restrictions on his lifestyle.

Surprisingly, such procedures have been performed since the early 1700's. Today, through advances in medical techniques and products, thousands of ostomates do just about everything they did before the operation—jog, swim, climb mountains, work, travel, become parents.

New equipment also greatly enhances the ostomate's comfort and mobility. The comfortable SUR-FIT™ appliance system made by Squibb is easy to apply, clean, and change. The two-piece appliance simply snaps together and locks, creating a tight seal.

Following an ostomy—or any major operation—a period of physical and psychological readjustment is usually necessary. In general, ostomates usually complete this adjustment relatively quickly—perhaps in three or four months—and return to the mainstream of life.

**Crossword Puzzle**



**ACROSS**

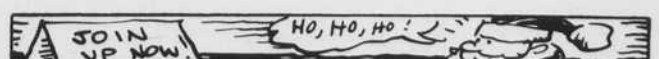
- 1. Oily
- 7. Entangle
- 13. Young woman
- 14. Able to live
- 15. Card
- 16. Old language
- 18. Barrier
- 19. Not any
- 20. Instant
- 21. You
- 22. Blockhead
- 25. Seine
- 26. Charges
- 28. Made a harsh noise
- 30. Weeping
- 31. Uttered
- 32. Caves
- 33. Abounds
- 35. Honest
- 38. Musical instrument
- 39. Wooden pin
- 40. Paradise
- 41. Are

**DOWN**

- 42. Comedians
- 44. Pronoun
- 45. Grande
- 47. Herb
- 48. Blackbird
- 49. Old
- 51. Paper pad
- 53. Deals with
- 54. Unwavering
- 17. Bound
- 23. Vanquished
- 24. Hobo
- 26. Railing
- 27. Soothed
- 29. It is
- 30. Number
- 32. Summaries
- 33. Craving
- 34. More facile
- 35. Prefix: Half
- 36. Restrained
- 37. Thing
- 39. Evergreens
- 42. Beer ingredient
- 43. Bench
- 46. Single
- 48. Wing
- 50. State: abbr.
- 52. Exist



There are some 70 pyramids remaining in Egypt.



The first Christmas Club was introduced by a Carlisle, Pennsylvania bank in 1909!