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THE MIRISCH CORPORATION PRESENTS

Zaire people 'happy, fun,' reports A&M missionary

the A&M Flying Club about his experiences

a shirt made in Zaire from a flour sack. A carving from a hippopotamus farm and care for the children," he

than when he left, looked healthy in

sack. A carving from a hippopotamus

He says his diet included such

foods as monkey, goat and guinea pig cooked in palm oil, along with raw

termites, manioc, bananas and other

to dine with the villagers. He sat on

the dirt floors of their mud huts and

ate with his fingers, just as they did.

On a few occasions he was invited

By TOUMONAVA MULLINS Dr. Calvin Woods, who just returned from serving as a missionary pilot in Zaire, says he found the people there happy, well adjusted, without high expectations and, generally, fun to be around.

Woods, professor in the civil engineering department at Texas A&M University, spent the summer on a temporary assignment for the Presbyterian Church in the United States working out of Kananga, Zaire. Kananga is located 450 miles southeast of Kinshasa, the capital. He says his duties were to transport patients, ministers, fuel, food, medical supplies, gasoline, oil — es-sentially all the needs of the surrounding villagers "They're really happy people," he

says. "On certain occasions, such as a new baby in the village, they would dance, sing and play drums." He notes differences between their culture and that of the United States. "There is no strong sense of private ownership. They share things and expect others to share. They don't think in terms of accumu-

lated wealth. Woods says there is quite a bit of crime in Kananga and in the villages. "They'll steal anything," he says. "And, if a thief is caught, the others will throw rocks at him and beat him. "Once a man is branded as a thief

in a village, he is always blamed for any crime and beat up. Woods says in the city "nothing is

safe," but that in spite of the crime, "you'd still feel safe sleeping on the street.

'They might steal your clothes off ou," he says, "but they wouldn't harm you. Woods says the airplane is impor-tant to the people of Zaire, and that they never bothered his plane. "I left

my money, camera and other valu-ables there. "Pilots are held in high esteem,

and so are professors, so they really treated me with respect. Woods, though 25 pounds lighter

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around his neck.

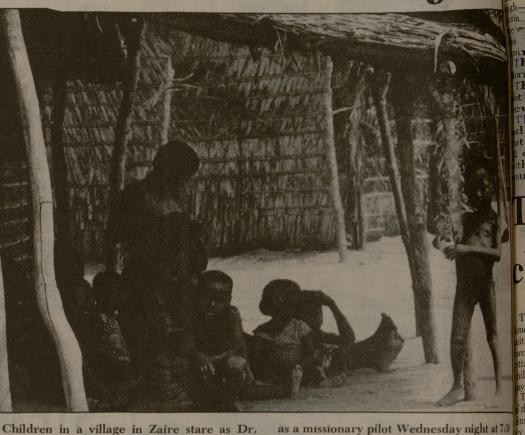
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"We've Never Been



as a missionary pilot Wednesday night at 7.3 Woods takes this picture. He will speak to in Room 301, Rudder Tower. Photo by Calvin Woo

> "The men build houses, hunt and tions hazardous," he says." ht wars, and the women cook, smoky and hazy all the time only two or three miles visib Wood says there are twodo political systems in Zaire. "Th

the chiefs who are very stron

"They file their teeth into p

"Their main pass time is t around and talk," he said. "Bu

children love to play soccer. adds that he plans to send them

The language barrier pose real problems for Woods. "All cussed were flight plans and t

sign language and mentioned m

of towns," he says. Tshuluba is the native tongu

the eastern and western side

soccer balls.

Kananga.

bone hung from a leather strap says One of the most time-consuming things the women do is go after water. They walk five to six miles down a steep hill and make five or six trips a day. There, they do the launtheir advisors, and then there official President Mobutu Ses who is respected as a big chief actually has very little influence. dry and bathe. "It's also an occasion to visit with one another and watch after the children." explained.

The people of Zaire, says Wa place a high premium on at PASA and decorations. Woods says the village women often marry at age 13 or 14 but that the men wait until their late 20s and the women tattoo thems with charcoal. "They also dec until they have accumulated land. They then marry women who live outside their village. gourds used for carrying water make wood carvings."

"Polygymy (having more than one wife) is also practiced, but there are few polygymists in the Christian vil-lages," Woods says.

In addition to his other duties, Woods also designed plans for a hy-droelectric plant for a hospital. Pres-ently, the Presbyterian Church in the United States is applying for funds for the plant through the Agency for International Develop-ment (AID). When the grant is approved, Woods says, he hopes to re-turn and begin the construction.

The A&M professor added Woods' trip to Zaire occurred during the country's dry season. "They were burning off the ground for planting, which made flying condithe villagers believe in spirits ghosts and feel that white men some supernatural powers

PRIVATE AND INSTRUMENT PILOT GROUND SCHOOLS



