

Part two of a two-part series

From Indonesia to Estes Park, the adventures continue

By JAY GENTILE

In 1961, a group from Harvard Peabody Museum went to the highlands of Irian Jaya, Indonesia, to document the on-going ritual warfare of the indigenous people who were still living in the Stone Age.

"I wanted to locate as many of the highlanders that were still alive in the highlands of Irian Jaya from the time they were documented," said Estes Park explorer Bud Hampton, who was serving as President of Amoco Indonesia Petroleum Company in the early 1980's.

Throughout his career with Amoco, Hampton would go off by himself after the work was done to seek the company of locals. Soon Hampton realized it would be part of the foundation for a new career in anthropology.

"That's what I like to do," he said, "get out with indigenous people and just be with them. The only thing I did intuitively was go learn from people. I'm so excited about learning."

Obviously, He holds five degrees from various universities, including a doctorate of anthropology and two master's degrees — one in business management and one in geology.

So from 1981 through 1993, he lived off and on with the indigenous people of Irian Jaya and concluded that "these people were alive in the Stone Age. You're living and traveling with people in the Stone Age and you can't believe it. If you flow with the people and their customs, you are experiencing the Stone Age."

He wanted to see what had happened to certain people since 1961 and to document everything he could about their way of life before it became extinct "like an endangered species."

Among many activities with his indigenous friends, Hampton experienced and documented sporadic outbreaks of ritual-revenge warfare, sacred ceremonies, body painting, the use of rock art and stone tools, healing and surgical procedures, trade, boys' initiation ceremonies and games with children.

He also was hunted with bows and arrows. At times like these, he secured a tape recorder to his chest so he could document the event. "Most of the time all you could hear were the screams," Hampton said.

These events and their anthropological significance were recorded in his first book entitled "Culture of Stone: Sacred and Profane Uses of Stone among the Dani."

"I wasn't looking for a Ph.D. or a book or a dissertation subject," Hampton said. "I was looking to learn and made friends and discover."



Bud Hampton, displaying the flag of the New York City-based Explorer's Club, lived with the indigenous people of the highlands of Irian Jaya, Indonesia, periodically from 1981 through 1993.

Estes Park

Hampton bought his Estes Park cabin in 1975, near a spot picked by Enos Mills for the view of Longs Peak, and was able to nurture his love of climbing that he had developed first as a college student.

"I think climbing is exploration and discovery," Hampton said. "While climbing, you're making discoveries about nature, about yourself, your mentality, physical abilities, psychologies, even religion."

He recently ran in the Frost Giant as the oldest participant and while "I thought I was doing the twelve stations of the cross," he was deeply moved to see so many friends cheering him on and offering water.

"I like running because you cruise around and see so many areas," the explorer said.

While in Indonesia, he was awarded the gold medal by then-President Suharto for winning the 17-K race in the annual Indonesian Olympics.

A tour of his home reveals many things about the man's experiences and beliefs. To fully understand Hampton, one must understand his "stuff" — which he has plenty of.

After we leave the living room, the early afternoon sun having disappeared below the horizon, he takes me into the "mountain room." The walls are plastered with black and white photos of various mountain ascents, including "a crazy climb up Longs that was never done and has probably never been done since."

A depiction of a native woman painted by a starving artist in Africa hangs over the kitchen door, porcelain gifts received from Japan adorn the den, and professional-looking photographs taken by Hampton hang in the back studio/art gallery.

Leaving the main area of the house and entering the "Exploration-Discovery Center," an add-on wing of his home dedicated to learning, we pass up a flight of stairs with photos and paintings on each side. The images are part of Hampton's unfinished composition on "The Essence of Bali," a land he became familiar with while visiting from Indonesia and living with the locals.

One wall of the T-shaped art gallery is decorated with photos of people in Angola. "They were all killed when the Cubans went through their village," Hampton said. "I put this up as a memorial to these people."

Another part of the gallery is covered in images of the Irian Jaya people — some at war, some tending to arrow and ax wounds, some just staring straight forward — above file cabinets with labels like "Africa," "Nepal/Tibet," "Australia," "Costa Rica" and "Siberia."

In a file room, he keeps 20,000 slides from his Indonesian odyssey.

Philosophies

Taking me into the "religion room," Hampton begins to expound on religion. A Hindu Tree of Life and a Buddhist Wheel of Life adorn one wall, while images of Christian icons gathered from Russia grace another wall.

"I work on the similarities of religion rather than the differences," Hampton said. He adds that he is close to a book through which he can "bring the similarities of religion to the public."

Some members of the public visit Hampton at his home. He invites people from universities to stay the night, puts on programs with friends visiting from all parts of the globe, and hopes to someday regularly bring in school kids to nurture their explorer sides.

Hampton feels experience with other cultures is essential for understanding humans, and should be a requirement for anyone going into U.S. politics.

One political role model is Ghandi, who helped keep India together by walking across the country with the poorest. Ghandi felt he wasn't qualified as a political leader without that experience, Hampton said.

"It would be advantageous if, before a person can run for office, they had to live in five different sections of the U.S. and at least four places overseas, each where they practiced a different religion," he said. This would qualify politicians to craft proper legislation.

He fears we are losing our explorer side and said young people need to travel, believing that backpacking around the world is one remarkable way to learn from experience rather than from books.

"The world's a laboratory," he said. "The trajectory of learning never stops." And it's never too late or too difficult to explore.

He said traditionally explorers are viewed as the people who discovered the north pole, first walked atop Mount Everest or were the first astronauts in space.

But "you can explore with a microscope," he said. "Researchers are basically explorers. Writing is discovery, the work leading up to it is exploration."

"Exploration is sort of an instinct," he said "In some ways, all of us are explorers."

Editor's note: Part one of this series was published in the Feb. 7 issue of the Trail-Gazette. Issues are available at the T-G office.

Juvenile charged with marijuana possession

Police seeking citizens' help to stop underage drinking

A male 15-year-old student at Estes Park High School was charged with possession of less than one ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia Jan. 30.

At 8:37 that morning, a teacher detected an odor of burnt marijuana on the student's clothes and took him to the school's office, where police were notified.

At 11:44 a.m., Feb. 3, Michelle Hunnefeld, 46, of Estes Park was charged with theft after she allegedly tried to walk out of Safeway pushing a cart full of approximately \$241 in groceries. Employees noticed the attempted theft and called police.

In the afternoon of Jan. 22, a 42-year-old Estes Park woman took her wedding ring off to try on some hand lotion at Rocky Mountain Pharmacy. When she put the lotion back, she noticed her ring was missing. It has a value of \$6,800.

At 8:59 a.m., Jan. 31, a 1998 Dodge pickup truck was hit while parked in the parking lot

at 1601 Brodie Ave. Less than \$1,000 in damage was caused to the right rear passenger area.

At an unknown time on Feb. 1, a 1986 Ford pickup truck was hit while parked at 380 Community Drive. Less than \$1,000 in damage was caused to the passenger side door.

The Estes Park Police Department is offering a \$50 reward to anyone providing information regarding person(s) involved in hosting, contributing, or participating in underage alcohol drinking parties.

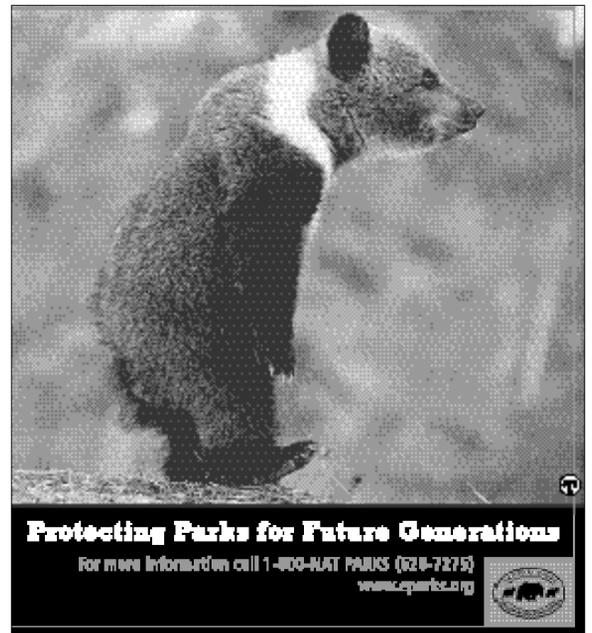
Callers can remain completely anonymous, and if the

information supplied leads to an arrest or is deemed to be a benefit to the community, a cash reward is available.

Callers to the tips line are assigned code numbers, which become the only means of identification.

Callers can leave their tips on the 24-hour tip line at 577-3827 and are assured confidentiality.

CrimeStoppers is a nonprofit organization involving the public, the media and law enforcement in the fight against crime by motivating the public to provide information about criminal activity.



Protecting Parks for Future Generations

For more information call 1-800-NAT PARKS (624-7275)

www.parks.org

That was the week that was

Friday, Feb. 8, 1991

Seat belts urged for child safety

Next week is Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week.

Estes Park Extension Homemakers urges families to protect their children by participating in the national week of recognition.

Buckle Up for Love is the theme for Feb. 10 to 16.

It is designed to encourage parents and others to protect their children with safety seats and safety belts correctly used.

The goal of the 1991 awareness week is to urge correct use of these protection devices.

When used correctly, child safety seats are extremely reliable in preventing deaths and injuries to young vehicle passengers.

Friday, Feb. 6, 1981

How it feels to have a heart attack

The way a heart attack feels can vary. So how can you be sure that what you're

feeling is really a heart attack?

By remembering this.

If you feel an uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of your chest (that may spread to the shoulders, neck or arms) and if it lasts for two minutes or more, you could be having a heart attack. Severe pain, dizziness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath may also occur. Sharp, stabbing twinges of pain are usually not signals of heart attack.

Your survival may depend on getting medical attention as quickly as you can. Call the emergency medical service immediately. If you can get to a hospital faster in any other way, do so.

Don't refuse to accept the possibility that you are having a heart attack. Many heart attack victims do just that. They say it's indigestion or tension. They worry about embarrassment. They often wait three hours or longer before getting help.

But before those three hours are up, one out of two is dead.

Remember what you've just read. The time might come when your life will

depend on it.

Friday, Feb. 9, 1951

Ventilation, even in coldest weather, is essential for safety

Some ventilation in the home, even in the coldest weather, is essential for safety, no matter the type of heating system, it was pointed out here this week following the tragic carbon monoxide deaths of two citizens.

Coroner Harold Warren and other officials recalled several similar deaths in the county during the past years — including at least two similar instances in the Estes area.

On June 12, 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Franz of Los Angeles succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning in a cabin south of the Village.

On May 11, 1948, Elva Albright was made violently ill by fumes in a tightly closed house on Fall River, and authorities decreed that her illness brought about a fatal heart attack. Her son, Guy Albright, narrowly escaped death.