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From C.W.Bendigo  
WBT 2000 Tribes Pavilion  
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HEADHUNTING TODAY

DEPICTED AT NY FAIR

Mammoth Mural Shows  
Intelligent Savages  
Now Being Reached  
Through Linguistics

The WBT 2000 Tribes pavilion at the New York World's Fair contrasts sharply with most of the other exhibits of this space age in its presentation of the 2000 tribes throughout the world that still have no written language and live under primitive conditions incomprehensible to most educated persons.

In the words of former New York Governor Charles Poletti, "The WBT 2000 Tribes exhibit will remind us that even in this space age there are still persons who use the stone axe, persons unassimilated in the culture of their own countries and who have no written language. The exhibit and story of pioneering will appeal to everyone who is seriously interested in his fellow man."

The pavilion features a heroic-sized mural a hundred feet long and ten feet high inspired by the legendary Amazon Indian chief who turned from being a headhunter into an influential citizen of his country today. The huge mural in five sections is entitled "From Savage to Citizen" and shows the transformation brought about by the introduction through Christianity of literacy,

medicine, and agricultural help. The transformation came about through the efforts of two girls who, in 1950, went to live with the then almost-untouched savages in a jungle area that is still unexplored.

An entry room displays artifacts from tribes in the Americas, Africa, and the Far East as well as examples of how modern aids are used to break hitherto unwritten languages which in some ways are more complex than English. (In one tribe, over 250,000 different forms of one verb are possible!)

A huge map shows the approximate location of the 2000 known languages that are still not written and the 330 languages which are being reduced to writing through the efforts of the 1400 trained members of Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc., and its affiliates, the Summer Institute of Linguistics and Jungle Aviation and Radio Service.

During a South American trip, the internationally famous mural artist Douglas Riseborough became so intrigued with the story of the conversion of the Amazonian Indian Chief Tariri that he painted the mural as his most dramatic work to date. The initial scene showing the taking of heads during a massacre is so awesome that some fair officials initially questioned its being shown. Fair President Robert Moses ruled that it could be, and it is expected that the Riseborough interpretation will be hailed as his masterpiece.

When the mural was previewed at Stanford University, Janice Lovoos of American Artist magazine said to Mr. Riseborough, "This is the finest work you have done. I predict you will be acclaimed the top muralist of this country when it is exhibited." Sterling Mackelhaney of Reinhold Publishing Corp. said, "A monumental work. You will give abstract painters cause for alarm. Magnificent."

The titles of the five panels suggest the story they portray: Massacre, Arrival of Outsiders, Conversion, Dilemma, and New Life. A 12-minute commentary accompanies the scenes.

When asked the purpose of the pavilion, WBT General Director Dr. W. Cameron Townsend replied, "Relatively few persons know of the many, many others on the edge of our civilization and still fewer have any concept of their needs or how to meet them. We have over 1400 workers today but need 6000 to reach the 2000 tribes by the year 2000. The fair with its theme of peace through understanding is an excellent means to present the needs of these countless thousands. The theme of our pavilion is understanding through literacy."

"Through our linguists," Dr. Townsend explained, "we cooperate with the governments in 16 countries to make available the system we have developed to reduce unwritten languages to writing, to teach the tribespeople how to read and write in their own language and ultimately also in the language of their country. At the same time,

we give medical help and, often, help in improving primitive agriculture. In addition to their own languages, we record and try to preserve so far as practicable details of their cultures, arts, and crafts. Paramount in our linguistic work is the translation of the Bible into the idiom of the tribespeople to permit them to use the scriptures as the guide for their lives in place of the fears which universally dominate the lives of such people."

Dr. Townsend said that the comment by Lowell Thomas on the fiction of the happy savage in New Guinea (one of the areas where WBT works) applies to savages everywhere. In the January, 1964, issue of Reader's Digest Mr. Thomas said, "The fiction of the 'happy savage' content in all his ways is pretty but untrue. From the time he is born, the average New Guinea tribesman lives with fear and death--from his enemies, from a variety of diseases, from sorcery in a hundred forms. The spirits of his ancestors, all about him, have to be appeased lest they bring sickness and death."

WBT formally began its work in Mexico in 1935, after some initial effort in Guatemala. Today it has 250 persons in Mexico helping monolingual Indians, with the full support of the Mexican Government. In Peru, there are over 200 workers and varying numbers from a few to almost 200 in each of the following: Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, New Guinea plus the Territory of Papua, Nigeria, The Philippines, the United States and Viet Nam.

In each country outside the United States, the organization works with the government of the country; but it has no official connection with the U.S. Government, nor does it receive any funds from the U.S. Government nor any regular support from any U.S. fund or foundation. This remarkable person-to-person work has been supported almost completely by the voluntary contributions of friends and relatives among the general public and Christian communities. In the last ten years the three groups in the organization have tripled in membership and have greatly expanded all facets of their service.

International headquarters for Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc., are in Santa Ana, California. The aviation and radio unit, JAARS, has new headquarters at Waxhaw, North Carolina, while linguistic training under the Summer Institute of Linguistics is carried on at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, Oklahoma, as well as at the University of Washington, the University of North Dakota, the University of Queensland (in Australia), the Wycliffe Language Course (in England), and the Seminar fur Sprachmethodik (in Germany). SIL personnel also collaborate with national universities providing linguistic courses in such countries as Brazil and Mexico.

The WBT 2000 Tribes pavilion building was designed by William E. Kohn and was built by the E.W.Howell Construction Co. The exterior gives the impression of a primitive hut with its dark wood about the whole perimeter and no formal roof. Underneath are low walls of patterned block.

Inside are the display room and the 100-seat auditorium where the huge mural is shown. Outside are three colorful totem poles from the U.S. Northwest. The building is on the principal avenue running from the main entrance to the center of the fair, the Avenue of the Americas, where it crosses the Avenue of Europe.

Personnel staffing the pavilion were brought to the fair from the field so that they can answer first-hand questions about the organization and its work. Dr. Harold Key, of the WBT Extension Department, is in charge of the pavilion.