



Young anthropologist Johann Reinhard checks supply list for expedition

Vanishing Kusanda lure New Lenox man to jungle

By ESTHER WINCHELL

NEW LENOX — A personable young man of 24 will leave his hometown of New Lenox next week for the hot, steamy, disease-ridding jungles of central Nepal.

Lean, good-looking Johann Reinhard has chosen to spend the next year on a solitary anthropology expedition into uncharted regions of Nepal. It is doubtful if any other white man has ever penetrated this remote area.

The object of Reinhard's one-man expedition is to find and study scientifically an almost unknown hunting and food gathering tribe known as the Kusanda which inhabited central Nepal along the border of India in the vicinity of Gorkha Town District.

An intense young man who wears sophistication with innocent ease, Reinhard radiates a contagious enthusiasm as he discusses his expedition.

"Like a perfect dream coming true, it is exactly what I've



Reinhard will fly from New Delhi to Kathmandu and go on foot into Gorkha Town District

hold the key to questions surrounding early settlement of mongoloid peoples in South and East Asia.

The Kusanda are supposed to lead a nomadic life in the wild, least accessible forests of the

turalists and it is thought that the Kusanda tribe is among the last of the hunters and food gatherers.

They may have, in fact, already disappeared, taking with them the last chance for study

New Lenox man plans lonely year in jungle

(Continued from Page one)

study of cultural development, customs and beliefs of mankind.

Reinhard's academic background and research training provides a solid preparation for his trip to Nepal. He majored in general anthropology at the University of Arizona for four semesters; studied German at the Goethe Institute in Germany and has studied for five semesters at the University of Vienna majoring in ethnology and minoring in linguistics.

He worked during the summer of 1965 with two underwater archaeology expeditions in Italy and one in Sicily, all sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

He worked as a surveyor-diver and assistant cameraman and it was during this period that the photograph of Reinhard and Claude Duthuit was taken. The men were in 28 feet of water placing survey stakes for mapping of an ancient ship wreck off the coast of southern Italy.

Reinhard also spent a month with the American anthropologist Russell Bernard, studying the sponge diving industry on the Greek island of Kalymnos and carried out preliminary research of the coral and sponge diving industries along the Yugoslavian coast.

Reinhard took special training in the field of linguistic analysis in London, England, to aid him in classifying unknown tribal languages. He is learning the Nepalese language in order to talk directly to tribal people without using interpreters.

A dissertation on the expedition will be prepared by Reinhard for his doctorate of philosophy degree from the University of Vienna.

Reinhard's adventuresome spirit showed early in his life when he traveled alone through Brazil the summer after he graduated from Lincoln-Way High School.

While studying at the University of Arizona he became an accomplished skin-diver and during vacations from school in Vienna he hitch-hiked throughout Europe, took up mountain climbing, scaling such heights as the Matterhorn in Switzerland in addition to his research work as a diver.

Reinhard, who is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reinhard at 155 Elm St. in New Lenox, for the first time in two years, is assembling supplies for his expedition.

A \$1,500 fellowship from the Weaver-Green Foundation of Anthropological Research will help to finance Reinhard's expedition

However, he is bearing a big portion of the cost himself. He will be entirely dependent upon his own supplies and equipment since there are no villages of any consequence in the remote area he will explore.

Reinhard will stopover in Vienna, fly from there to New Delhi, India, and take an inland flight to Katmandu, Nepal. He will then travel south and west on foot as this is the only means of transportation to the rugged region of central Nepal where the Kusunda tribe was last reported.

Compressing most of the vital

necessities for one year, plus photographic and recording equipment, into four or five packs that can be carried on the backs of porters takes a tremendous amount of preparation.

Reinhard is using a special pack with an aluminum frame which helps to distribute weight evenly on his body. He will take a custom made tent, plus the usual camping gear for eating and sleeping. All of the items, including tools and hunting knives, must be of special material or treated to withstand the deterioration, rust and corrosion of the tropics.

"Packing my camera, tape recorder, linguistic file cards and medicines to withstand the ravages of moisture and fungus poses the greatest problem," Reinhard said.

He is taking a special underwater camera as an added precaution. Plastic film, plastic containers and a substance known as silica jell are his greatest aids.

"Medical supplies for myself and the natives are very important as the Kusunda live in one of the most unhealthy, jungle-covered, sparsely populated re-

gions of Nepal," Reinhard explained.

Over 90 per cent of the ration has worms, so worm medicine is vital. Survival supplies include a snake-bite kit, filter and purification to malaria preventatives and various tropical disease medicines with dehydrated vegetable

form the basis of his food along with a supply of vitamins. "I hope to supplement with wild game," said Reinhard who sees life as a ground learning and this trip as one of his greatest opportunities for growth.

Perhaps a clue to this young man's uninhabited approach to life may be found in his parents' reaction to the expedition that may lead him to the jaws of death.

"Johann considers this part of his education, so more power to him," was his father's comment.

Mrs. Reinhard said, "The whole thing is fascinating. Of course I will worry because we won't be able to communicate with him for long periods. But the country sounds marvelous, especially India. I would like to go there myself."



Reinhard (right) pounds survey stake underwater off coast of southern Italy with Claude Duthuit