



DYING TRIBE—Robert W. Weaver, leader of an American Museum of Natural History expedition just returned from Thailand, stands behind eight surviving members of the Phi Thong Luang or "Spirits of the Yellow Leaf." Until discovered by this expedition, existence of this tribe of nomads from the mountains of Thailand was thought to be a myth.

ANTHROPOLOGY

"Legendary" People Found

Eight surviving members of the Phi Thong Luang, a tribe until now believed to have been non-existent, are discovered in Thailand. This people may be doomed to extinction.

► A PEOPLE previously thought to be legendary have been found to really exist in Thailand, formerly called Siam.

Robert W. Weaver, who headed an expedition from the American Museum of Natural History that recently returned from Thailand, met deep in the jungle a pathetic little group of the Phi Thong Luang.

The little group, sole survivors of their clan, consisted of only six men, a small boy and one woman.

A blanket of sadness seemed to lie over the whole group. The child had no toys and knew no play. His elders were never seen to smile. Indeed, they never raised their voices in anger, fear or joy, but preserved a melancholy silence, speaking only when necessary.

Although extremely shy, the people permitted Mr. Weaver and his associate, Thomas L. Goodman, to photograph them and make tape recordings of their speech.

They did not sing and had no characteristic music.

All eight of the group were suffering from malaria and yaws. The woman was particularly ill and, although members of the expedition treated her during their stay, her chances of survival seemed poor. Al-

though she must have been in her twenties, she had the look of an old woman.

All other women and children of the group had been killed by tigers.

It is possible, Mr. Weaver told SCIENCE SERVICE, that other isolated clans of the Phi Thong Luang may be living in one area of the jungles, but he searched the rest of the territory where they might be without finding any trace of them. At most there could not be more than two clans hidden in the thickets.

It is quite possible that the Phi Thong Luang people, now known definitely to exist, may be doomed to extinction, victims of their hard life and marauding tigers. Until now believed to be only legendary, they may very soon become only a legend again.

Before encountering the little band, the expedition had heard many tales of the legendary people that "haunted" the mountains. They were supposed to have the power to "fade away" at the approach of strangers. They were called "Spirits of the Yellow Leaf" because it was believed they deserted their crude lean-tos when the leaves used as cover turned yellow.

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PSYCHIATRY

Thrill in Speed Based On Delights of Infancy

► THE THRILL everyone feels from swift acceleration and speed may be based on a desire to recapture the past delights of infancy, such as being "rocked, tossed, dandled or swung or just held comfortably in mother's arms," Dr. Max Hayman of Compton Sanitarium, Calif., told the meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association in Chicago.

The hero of the popular song, "The Terror of Highway 101," must have been a very frightened and neurotic person, Dr. Hayman said.

"Hot-rodding, drag racing and other dangerous forms of the love of speed," he said, "may be the outcome of unsolved childhood problems concerning sex, toilet training and the relationship with the parents.

"When overpermissiveness in sex pleasures meets too sudden and strict prohibitions, there must be speedy gratification before the denial catches up. This pleasure is then displaced to speed itself, hence the passion for speed and acceleration. Yet somehow the drive for progressively faster sexual satisfaction never seems to outrace the inevitable prohibition."

One of Dr. Hayman's patients day-dreamed of being able in a powerful dragster or hot rod to reach parents he had lost but who, in his dreams, seemed still suspended in outer space. The impossibility of reaching this goal called for more and more acceleration, more and more speed.

The craving for speed in others may be the result of similar futile efforts to attain peace and satisfaction.

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WILDLIFE

Find New Nesting Area Of Rare Trumpeter Swan

► A NEW NESTING GROUND of one of America's rarest and most beautiful birds, the trumpeter swan, has been found.

Discovery of the nesting ground near the mouth of the Copper River in Alaska was announced by the U. S. Department of the Interior. It extends the known range of the bird farther north and west than was previously known. The Copper River runs south and east of Fairbanks.

The nesting ground was found last summer by Melvin Monson, fishery research biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service. However, it was not definitely known that trumpeter swans nested there until eggs from the area were identified by Fish and Wildlife specialists in Washington.

A proposed hydroelectric development on the Copper River could drive out the swans, since the birds do not tolerate interference from humans. Long threatened with extinction, the total U. S. population of the white, five-foot-long birds is slightly more than 500.

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