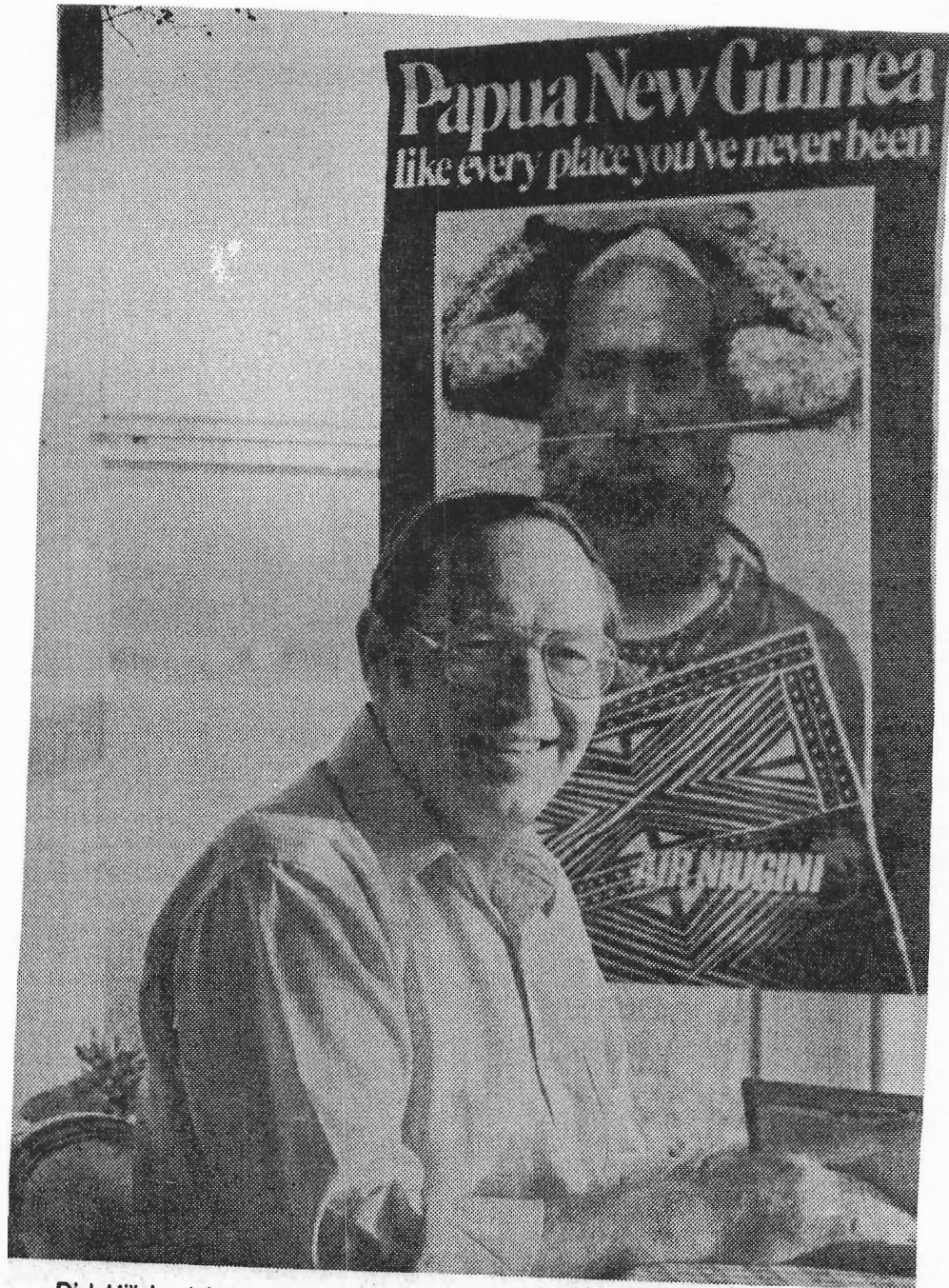


People - Hill

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Oct 31
1990

Mukwonago Chief, October 31, 1990

Eagle man translates Bible in Pacific



Dick Hill, book in hand, ready to return to the pictured man awaiting the translation.

By Joan Holman

EAGLE - Dick Hill of Eagle Street never thought of himself as a catalyst but he's become that to countries as well as climates. Since 1979, Hill has been working in the southeastern Pacific island country of Papua, New Guinea (P.N.G.) returning to Eagle every few years for a mix of the cultures and temperatures.

Hill is working with New Tribes mission supporting the work of translating the Bible into some of the numerous tongues spoken within this island nation.

World War II brought this area to international attention. Invasion by Japanese and Allied forces put names like Bougainville, Kokoda Trail and Solomon Islands into history books.

At the end of the war, Papua and the New Guinea Islands were placed under a United Nation's mandate. Because of position and ties with Australia, the area was given to that country to govern. Then 1975 brought independence and the combined name Papua New Guinea for a change to the world maps.

New Tribes Mission came to Papua before independence. The Mission's goal was to know the people, learn tribal language and translate the Bible. The Mission must be invited into an area before it makes an appearance.

For the past three decades, Mission representatives have been living with native people learning their habits, language and way of life before a Bible translation is undertaken.

Thus is Dick Hill's preview. During an interview in Eagle, he said his association with New Tribes and its work began in 1971 in Waukesha. Vern Bartlett explained Scripture principles; after which Hill realized the mission's purpose.

Hill joined and until 1977 was in training in this country. Training included

are living in the tradition not changed since its beginning. There are tribes in the highlands and rainforest areas which remain isolated. The terrain of the country does not lend itself to road building. Air travel is the main method of transport.

After World War II, this nation went from foot to jet travel without the wheel

"Certainly language is the key for understanding"

Dick Hill
Eagle/Papua, New Guinea

Bible teaching in Jackson, Michigan, boot camp in Pennsylvania and a language and practical skills schools in Missouri.

"Certainly language is the key for understanding," said Hill. "If a student shows talent, New Tribes will spend more time on linguistics and phonetic training."

Hill said he did not qualify so he is working as a bookkeeper in the headquarters at Goroka.

Upon his arrival to PNG in 1979, his first work was as a supply officer in the east Sepik province. In 1980, Hill was assigned to his present position at Goroka when an involvement opportunity arose.

Lufa High School needed a teacher for religious instruction. "This is a regular school subject," said Hill, "Australia, with its English ties, recognizes the importance of (religious) teaching. PNG had been under Australian domain; therefore this subject was part of the school curriculum."

Hill explained that in some places in PNG groups

intervening. Present PNG jet passengers wear the latest fashion of lap lap (loincloth) with bone ornaments highlighting. Their treasures are within a bilum (string bag) of cous cous (small mammal) while they carry a live chicken gift to their destination.

"These are a few of the reasons," said Hill, "that our work goes slowly." He explained that before a tribe allows an invited person to live in the village, that person has to build his own accommodation. An understanding of tribal tongue prior to undertaking a translation is also necessary.

Another reason for not hurrying, explained Hill is that the climate does not tempt a fast pace. However, he felt results will be lasting for the people have taken a real part in placing the book into their language, "ples tok." So far, 39 of the over 700 ples toks have a Bible translation.

Hill will return in March after leaving the people in Eagle with the Pidgin English thought, "Emi gut pe'la buk tru. Plenti man/meri putim long tok save long hia."

South Pacific theology

Eagle native teaches religion

EAGLE — Papua New Guinea would seem as different from the village of Eagle as hot coals from snowflakes but Dick Hill of Eagle, has spanned the gap.

Since 1979 Hill has been working in this southeastern Pacific island country for New Tribes Mission supporting the work of translating the Bible into some of the over 700 languages within the country.

World War II forced this area to international attention. Invasion by Japanese and Allied forces caused names like Bougainville, Kokoda Trail and Solomon islands to be spelled out in world history.

The end of the conflict saw Papua and the New Guinea islands placed under a United Nations' mandate. Because of its position and ties with Australia, the area was governed by that country. Then 1975 brought independence and the combined name Papua New Guinea, or PNG.

New Tribes Mission arrived on the mainland before independence. The mission's goal was to know the people, learn tribal language and translate the Bible. The mission must be invited into an area before it makes an appearance.

For the past three decades, mission representatives have been living with native people learning their habits, language and way of life before a Bible translation is undertaken.

So it was with Hill. In a recent visit here he said his association with New Tribes and its work



Joan Holman

began in 1971 in Waukesha. Vern Bartlett explained scripture principles; after which Hill realized the mission's purpose. He joined and until 1977 was in training. This included Bible teaching in Jackson, Mich., boot camp in Pennsylvania and a language and practical skills school in Missouri.

"Language is important," Hill says, "if a student shows talent, New Tribes will spend more time on linguistics and phonetic training."

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"This is a regular school subject," Hill said. "Australia, with its English ties, recognizes the importance of (religious) teaching. PNG had been under Australian domain; therefore this subject was part of the school curriculum."

Hill explained that in some places in PNG groups are living in the tradition not changed since its beginning. There are tribes in the highlands and rainforest areas which remain isolated. The terrain of the country does not lend itself to road building. Air travel is the main method of transport.

So after World War II, this nation went from foot to jet travel without the wheel intervention. Present PNG jet passengers wear the latest fashion of lap lap (loin cloth) with bone ornaments carrying a bilum (string bag) of cous cous (small mammal) or chicken.

"These are some of the reasons," says Hill, "that our work goes slowly." When a tribe seeks a person to live in their village, it means that representative builds his accomodation, gets an understanding of tribal language before a translation is begun, explains Hill.

Hill knows the mission work cannot be done quickly because the climate does not tempt that pace. However he does feel the results will be lasting for the people have taken a real part in putting the book into "ples tok" (language). So far 39 of the over 700 languages have a Bible translation.

Hill says in Pidgin English, communicating language of New Guinea, "Emi gut pela buk tru. Plenti man/ meri putim long tok save long hia."

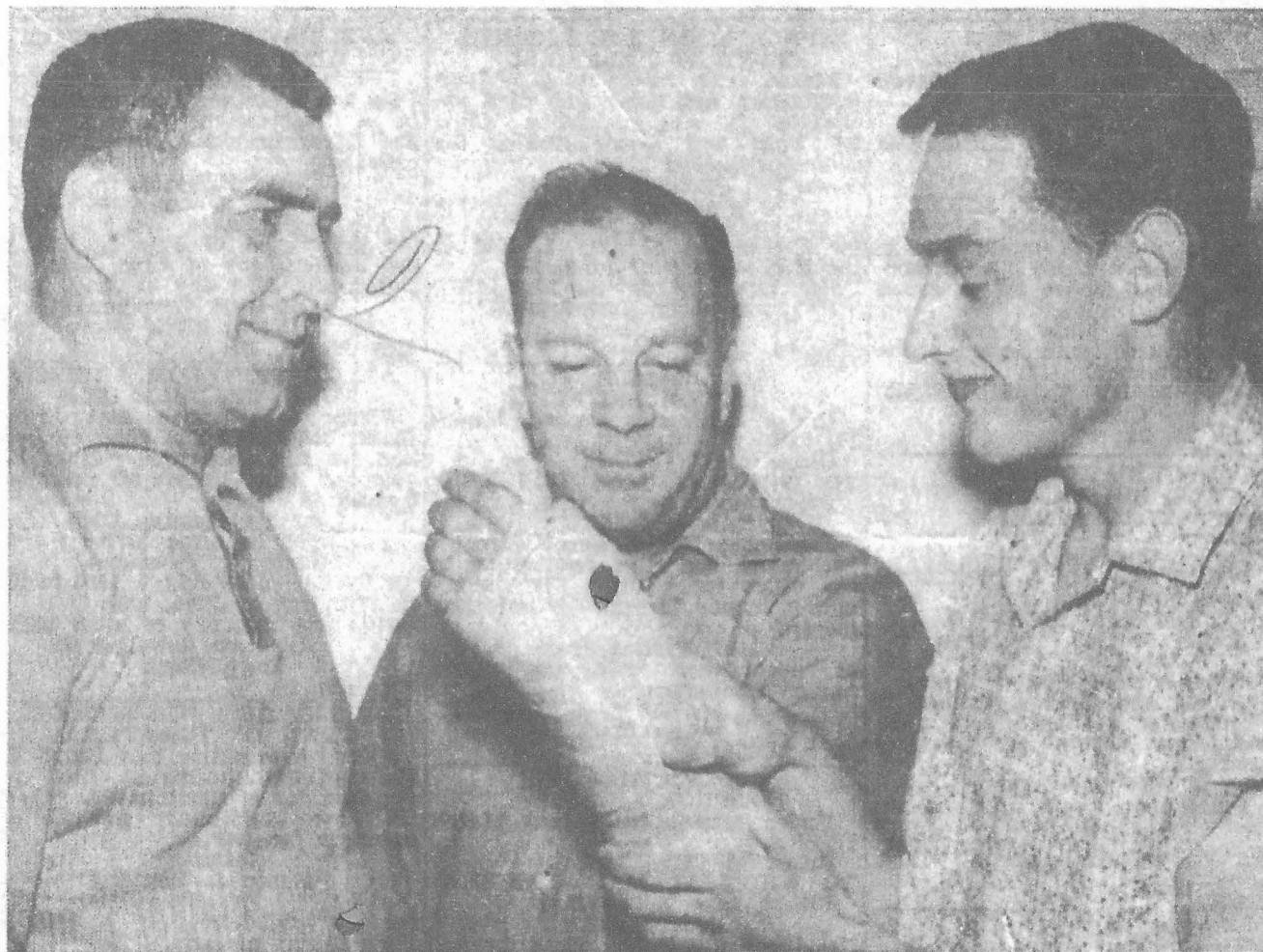
(Joan Holman is a Freeman correspondent who lives in Eagle.)



Freeman

People

Hill, Dick



(Freeman Staff Photo)

GETS AWARD — Dick Hill, Eagle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elwyn Hill, was honored by the Eagle fire department recently as hero of the month. He applied a tourniquet and thumb pressure when a neigh-

bor's arm went through a storm window. Shown (left to right) are Eagle Fire Chief Mike Sasso; LaVerne Deck, the man to whom Hill ministered and Hill. The award will be given regularly.