

Note "dig" from our
Joe is already home!

Mon. at large

July 2, 1979

local blab!

Section

The affection of the U.S. government for its richest
citizens always has been purely platonic. Page C3



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The Riviera of Africa

Former roommates are on

By CAMILLE GAVIN
Staff Writer

beckons
a coincidental journey

Just because you're roommates doesn't mean you know what the other fellow is up to.

At least that seems to be the case with Mike McCoy and Joe McNamara, who didn't know until a few weeks ago they're both headed for the same small spot on the map of Africa: the Ivory Coast.

And they'll be leaving New York for Abidjan, the country's capital, on the same day.

"It's just plain fate," said McCoy, journalism adviser at East Bakersfield High School. "We think we even may be on the same flight on Thursday."

Actually, saying the two 24-year-olds are roommates is stretching it a bit. The fact is, it's been two years since they shared a "grubby little bachelor apartment" when both were students at UC Santa Barbara.

Neither recalls having — at the time — any desire to go to the Ivory Coast, much less Africa.

Once in the small (estimated population, 5 million) western Africa republic the pair may not see too much of each other.

McNamara, a 1973 Foothill High School graduate who has studied French several years, will be there for two years as a member of the Peace Corps.

"I'll be working for the ministry of education in the Ivory Coast, teaching English as a foreign language," McNamara said.

A social studies major — he's just completed requirements for a teaching credential — McNamara describes the former French colony as one of the more stable nations in Africa.

"It's low-keyed, slow-paced, not like America at all," said McNamara, who earned his way through UCSB working summer vacations and holidays as an assistant district manager for The Californian.

(His parents are Dennis and Helen McNamara.) X A

McCoy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leland McCoy, also has been a Californian employee. He worked as a stringer while a student at North High School, covering high school sports for the paper.

He's in for a shorter stay in the Ivory Coast. He'll spend two months there as public relations adviser to the Summer Institute of Linguistics, an organization sponsored by the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

"I'll be helping the institute communicate with the Ivory Coast government," McCoy said. "I'll be doing a lot of photography, flying around the country — the wild parts of the country — in a small airplane."

The institute is based in Huntington Beach. McCoy said he learned about it from Jim Kliewer, a Highland High School instructor, who has spent time in New Guinea under its auspices. Though this part of Africa is an extreme malarial area, McCoy is less concerned about that than he is about possible film damage due to the climate.

"Exposed film deteriorates within 24 hours; a fungus grows on it," he said. "You have to process it right away."

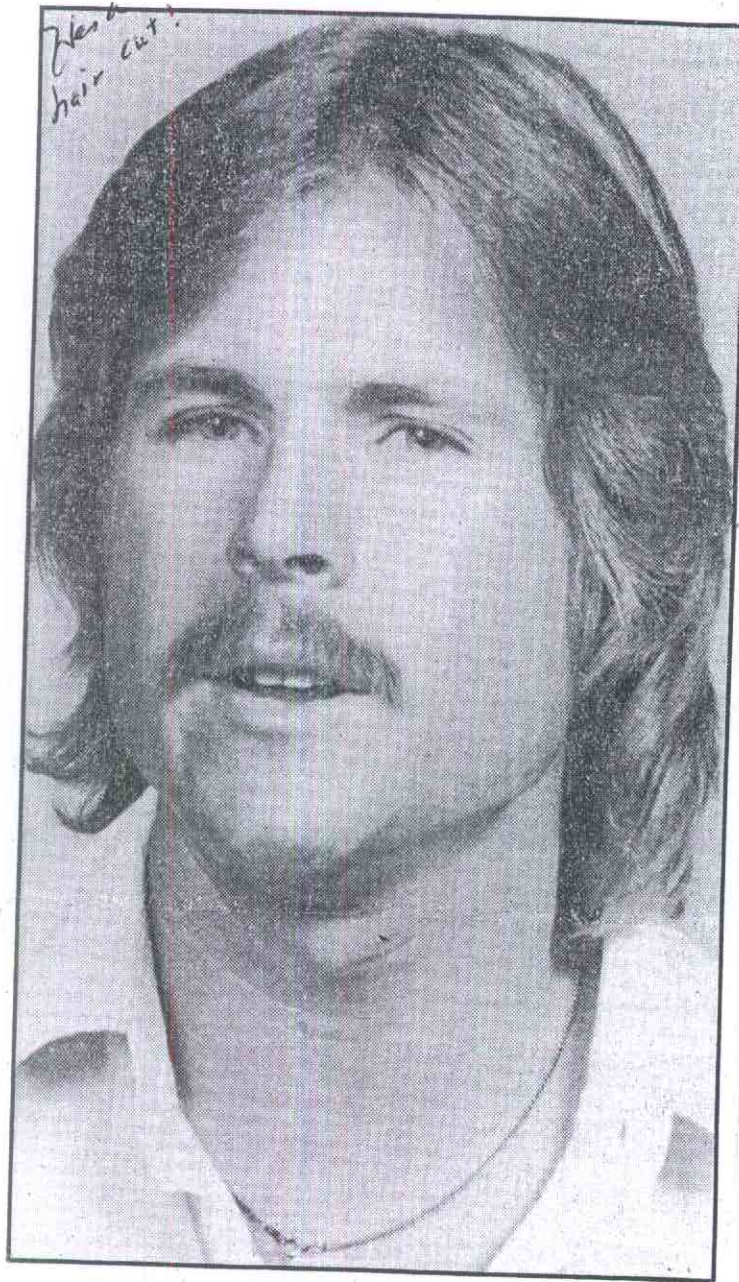
McCoy said he is taking some of his own equipment and plans to set up a darkroom in Abidjan.

He'll return in late August to resume his duties at East High, where he also serves as public relations officer.

The teacher said he hopes he can combine some recreation with his work in the Ivory Coast.

"It's called the Riviera of Africa," he said. "They do a lot of water-skiing and surfing there." However, he looks on the work he'll be doing there as a valuable experience.

"My main reason for going is to support Wycliffe's missionary work there," McCoy said. "It's a major interest with me."



Joe McNamara

Staff Photo by Jack Knight



Mike McCoy

Staff Photo by Alan Ferguson

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