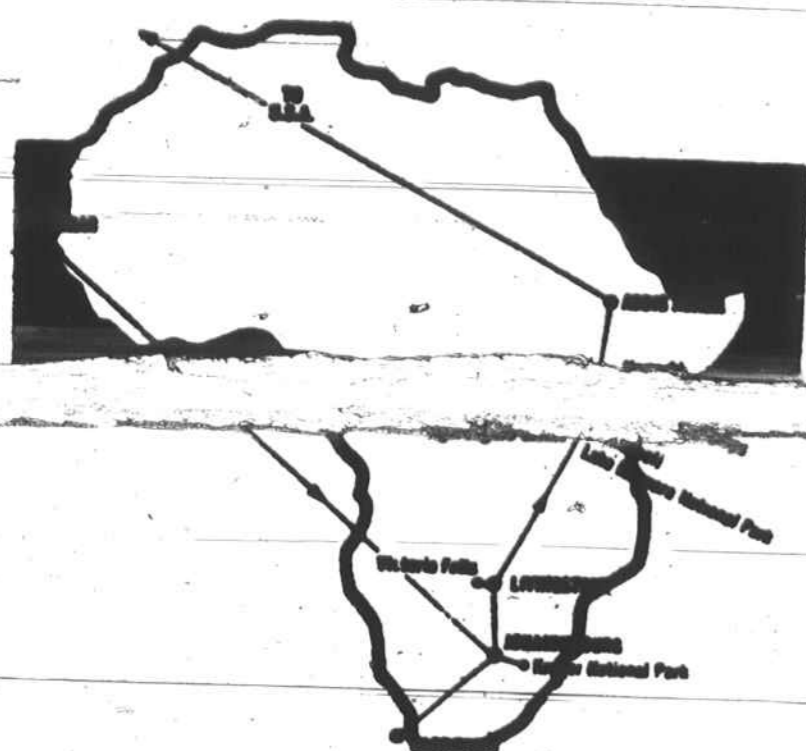


# African Spotlight



## Great African Empires

For centuries, the savannah areas of the Suddan were the scene of great empires such as Ghana, Mali, and Songhai.

The earliest of these empires-Ghana-was founded about the third or fourth century and fell finally in the thirteenth century.

Ghana empire was originally known as Aoukia. The word 'Ghana' was said to be a title which was later applied and it means "War Chief."

As from about the 7th century, people started to attach the title of the king - Kaya Maghan (King of the gold) to the empire and eventually, Kaya or Ghana replaced Aoukia as the name of the empire.

Chronologically, Ghana came into existence in about 300 A.D. but was first marked on the map by 830 A.D. It was predominantly a black empire peopled by the Soninkes who were members of the Mande speaking people.

The growth of Ghana Empire was linked to the wealth of the empire. People came to the empire from all parts of the then world in quest of gold and other profitable merchandize. A Muslim writer in the ten century reported that Ghana's gold was actually visible on the ground. Besides gold, there was also silk. These two commodities provided revenue for most of the empire's projects and wars.

The wealth of Ghana attracted North Africans as well as the Berber traders of the Sahara. These people had earlier accepted Islam after the Arab conquest.

In the moments of her glory, Ghana could field 200,000 soldiers.

In the tenth and eleventh centuries, Ghana was being ruled with an impressive system of:

Court of Justice

Court of Appeal, and

An imperial cabinet.

Among other factors, the fall of Ghana empire came about as a result of the neglect of traditional values and norms. New values made their ways only to the urban areas of the empire while the peasants and rural folks were neglected.

There was no central orientation. And the ability to keep the empire together seemed to have depended on her military prowess and resources and increase in the empire's wealth seemed to have led to the neglect to the empire's basic values hence her fall.

Above all, there was no clearly defined method of succession to the throne. The net result of this kind of situation was that whenever a king died, the empire was systematically engulfed in infighting and intrigues and instability was the other of the day.

Because of her wealth, Ghana was in constant threat of attack from without.

Eventually Ghana was conquered and the empire disintegrated.

Unlike other West Sudanese empires, Ghana was not a creation of military action alone. Ghana was partly a creation of military action and partly a creation of economic advantage of trade. In the end she was destroyed by both for among the products which played important role in the rise and fall of Ghana were iron, gold, copper and salt.

# Data Predicts N.C. Earthquake

A possible major earthquake in the Wilmington area within the next decade is suggested by existing data, according to some geologists.

Although the most severe effects of such a quake would

the possibility for the kind of disaster that occurred in Charleston, S.C. in 1886, which was the second most intense earthquake in U.S. history.

The geologists are recommending that scientific studies be made of the area and elevation changes; characteristics of ground water in the area which show unusually high salt content, high temperatures and high pressures -- which could be

expected to accompany the build-up of stresses in rocks prior to an earthquake, and the earthquake history of the area.

The cost of the AEC studies could run into several hundred thousand dollars, the geologists say. The potential cost of not preparing for an earthquake catastrophe and the actual cost of the nuclear power plant itself, the price of these investigations would be small indeed.

more than 500 miles around and could be felt as far away as Kansas, Canada and Cuba, they say.

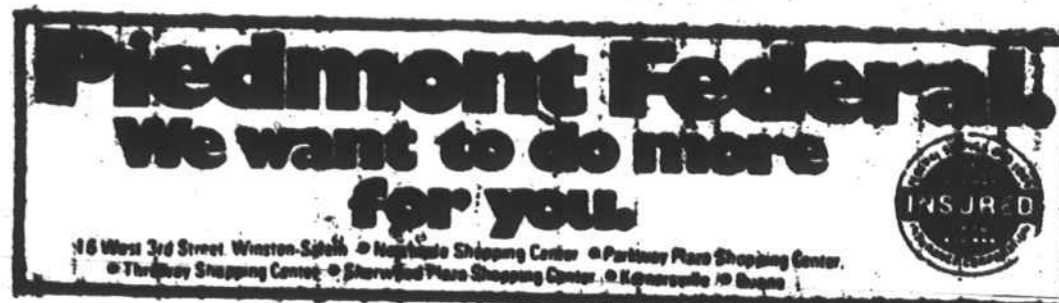
Professors David M. Stewart and David E. Dunn of UNC and S. Duncan Heron of Duke have just completed a study of their findings and recommendations which they are submitting to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) this month.

In it they urge the AEC to order scientific studies to be made that will definitely determine if a quake is imminent in that area before plans for the new nuclear plant owned by the Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L), just south of Wilmington, go further.

CP&L is aware of the unusual features of this area, the geologists say, but have indicated they will do nothing about it unless ordered to do so by the AEC.

"Although we are recommending a complete and thorough re-evaluation of the potential seismic hazard near Wilmington," the geologists say, "we are not suggesting that CP&L alter its scheduled plans to open and operate a nuclear plant in this area. Though ominous, the warning signs are not conclusive. It may be that in a few years the region could be given a 'clean bill of seismic health.'"

It would be irresponsible, they say, to assume that outcome, however, and ignore



FOR SALE VA HOMES  
READY FOR OCCUPANCY  
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

3629 YALE AVE. - 5 rooms, Frame, Price \$11,950, cash down payment \$350, balance payable on the first day of each month in 360 monthly installments of \$93.34 each including principal payment plus interest at an annual percentage rate of 9%.

3850 QUEEN ANNE CIRCLE - 5 rooms, Brick Veneer and Frame, Price \$22,500, cash down payment \$1,100, balance payable on the first day of each month in 360 monthly installments of \$172.20 each including principal payment plus interest at an annual percentage rate of 9%.

SEE ANY LICENSED  
BROKER OR CALL  
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
WINSTON-SALEM, NC  
723-9211 Ext. 226

# Business Cards

at  
**REDUCED  
COST!**

Stop by our office  
and look through  
our catalog

CUSTOM-DESIGNED CARDS  
IN SETS OF 500 OR 1000

Phone your order in to:

The Winston-Salem Chronicle

2208 Patterson Ave. Phone: 722-8624