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BENUE State
Benue in Pictures./
Benue State.— Kaduna: Soji
Press, [1988]
28p: ill, port; 26cm.
Pam
1. Benue State-History-Pictorial
work
2. Benue State-Economic condit-
ion-Pictorial work
3. Benue State-Social conditions
-Pictorial work
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BENUE STATE OF NIGERIA

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The State der
Benue, the second longest river with country, and stretches across the transition belt between the forest and the savanna vegetation. Much of the area consists of undulating hills or grassy open spaces in the North and derived forests in the South. Typical forest and savanna fauna area plentiful.

(1) A Line up of some Dignitries

MILITARY GOVERNOR

Colonel Idris Garba, formally assumed duties as the 8th Governor of Benue State on 22nd December, 1987.

Born on 6th July, 1947 in Gulu, Lapai LGA of Niger State, he has attended a series of professional courses in Nigeria and abroad after his primary education, 1954 — 1962 and secondary education in the Nigeria Military School, Zaria 1963—67: Nigeria Defence Academy Kaduna, 1968; Artillery Troop Commanders course, USSR July 1970, September 1971; Young Officers course, Nowshera, Parkistan July — December, 1972; Technical Gunnery course Larkhill, Salisbury, U.K. May — August 1975; Field Artillery Officer Advanced course, Fortsill, Oklohoma USA June, 1977 to February, 1978; Command and Staff College, Jaji August 1978 to September, 1979; and Regiment/Battalion Commanders course, Nigerian Army School of Infantry Jaji in 1981.

A crack artillery officer, he has held the following commands and postings: Tropp Commander 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, Onitsha November, 1968 and September, 1969; Commanding Officer 2nd Field Artillery Regiment (Rear) Ibadan September 1969 to July 1970; Battery Commander, Oyo September 1971 to October, 1973; Instructor/Chief Instructor Nigerian Army School of Artillery, Kaduna 1974 to August, 1976; Commander, 36 Field Artillery Regiment, Bauchi, August 1976; Acting Divisional Artillery Commander, Jos February to August 1978; Commanding Officer, Heavy Artillery Regiment, September 1979 to April, 1980; Company Commander 82 Infantry Battalion UNIFIL, Lebanon May to December 1980; Commanding Officer, 342 Support Regiment, Zaria 1981 to 83; Deputy Defence Adviser, Nigeria Embassy, Moscow see, 1983 to November 1986 and Commanding Officer, short service course NDA, Kaduna December, 1986 to December 1987 from where he was given his present assignment.

His promotion since he was commissioned 2 Lt. in November 1968 has been steady: He was promoted Lieutenant on 18th July 1970, Captain on 9th March, 1973; Major in December, 1976; Lt.-Col. on 5th December, 1983 and elevated Colonel on 1st October, 1987.

Col. Garba is married to Fatima and they have five children, three girls and two boys. His hobbies include squash, basketball, table tennis, swimming and reading.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Nature has been very generous to Benue State which is blessed with abundant valuable, but largely untapped minerals and natural resources.

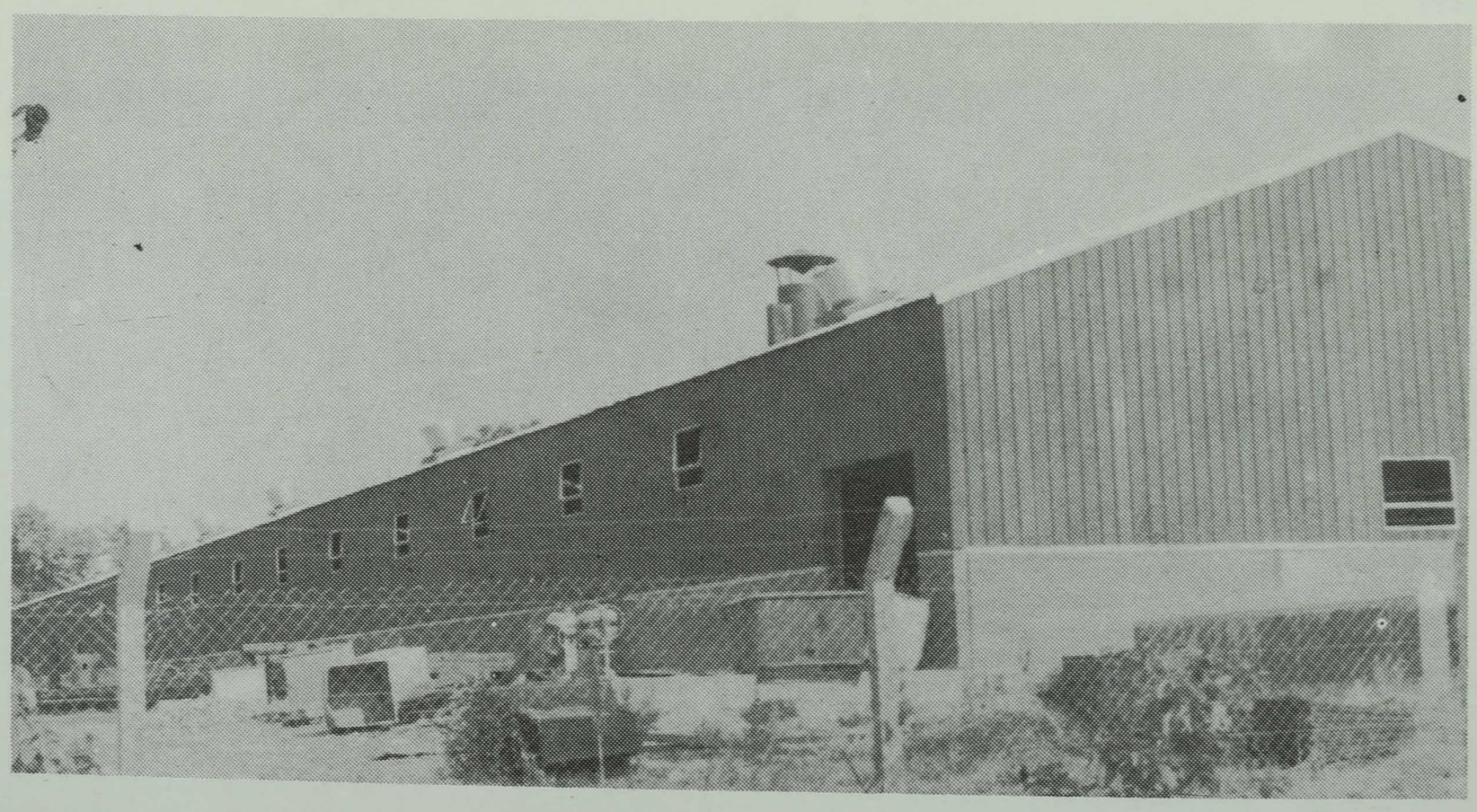
The limestone deposits in Yandev, Gboko Local Government Area which is already being exploited by the Benue Cement Company while Igumale and Agila districts in Okpokwu LGA also have substantial limestone deposits.

Two of the three extensive coal deposits found in Okaba in Ankpa LGA and Owukpa in Okpokwu LGa are being extracted as open mines. The deposits in Dekina LGA are yet to be mined.

Besides the ubiquitous lateririte, marble is found in Elebu and Itobe in Idah LGa which is being tapped in the Sanitary-ware Industry located in Idah. Clay deposit in Otukpo is being utilized in the Otukpo Burnt Bricks Limited.

There are reports of oil deposits in parts of the state and although the NNPC is prospecting in these areas, the quantities have not been assessed.

Benue Cement Company Yandev



benro packaging comp

A Yam Market

Soya Beans Farm

NATURAL RESOURCES

Benue State is justifiably called the nation's foodbasket. Besides being noted for a variety of agricultural products, it feeds substantial part of Nigeria with yams and cassava and in addition, produces over 70 per cenr of Nigeria's soyabeans and beniseed.

The fertile river valleys are heavily cultivated with rice. Palm trees grow wild in large quanities and in plantations, particularly in the southern parts of the state and from them are derived palm oil and kennel. From the forests and fan palms we obtain timber.

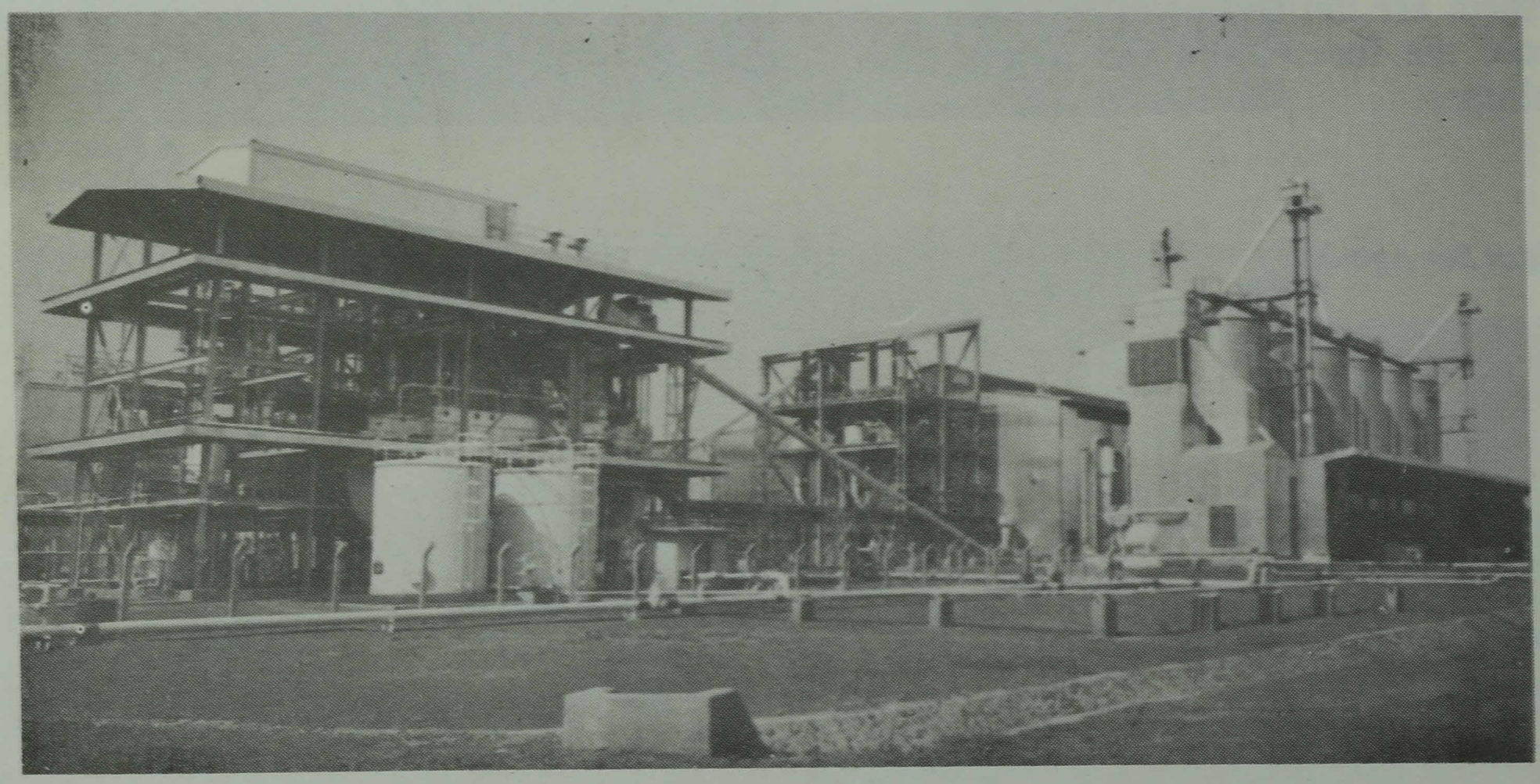
A Palmtree Plantation

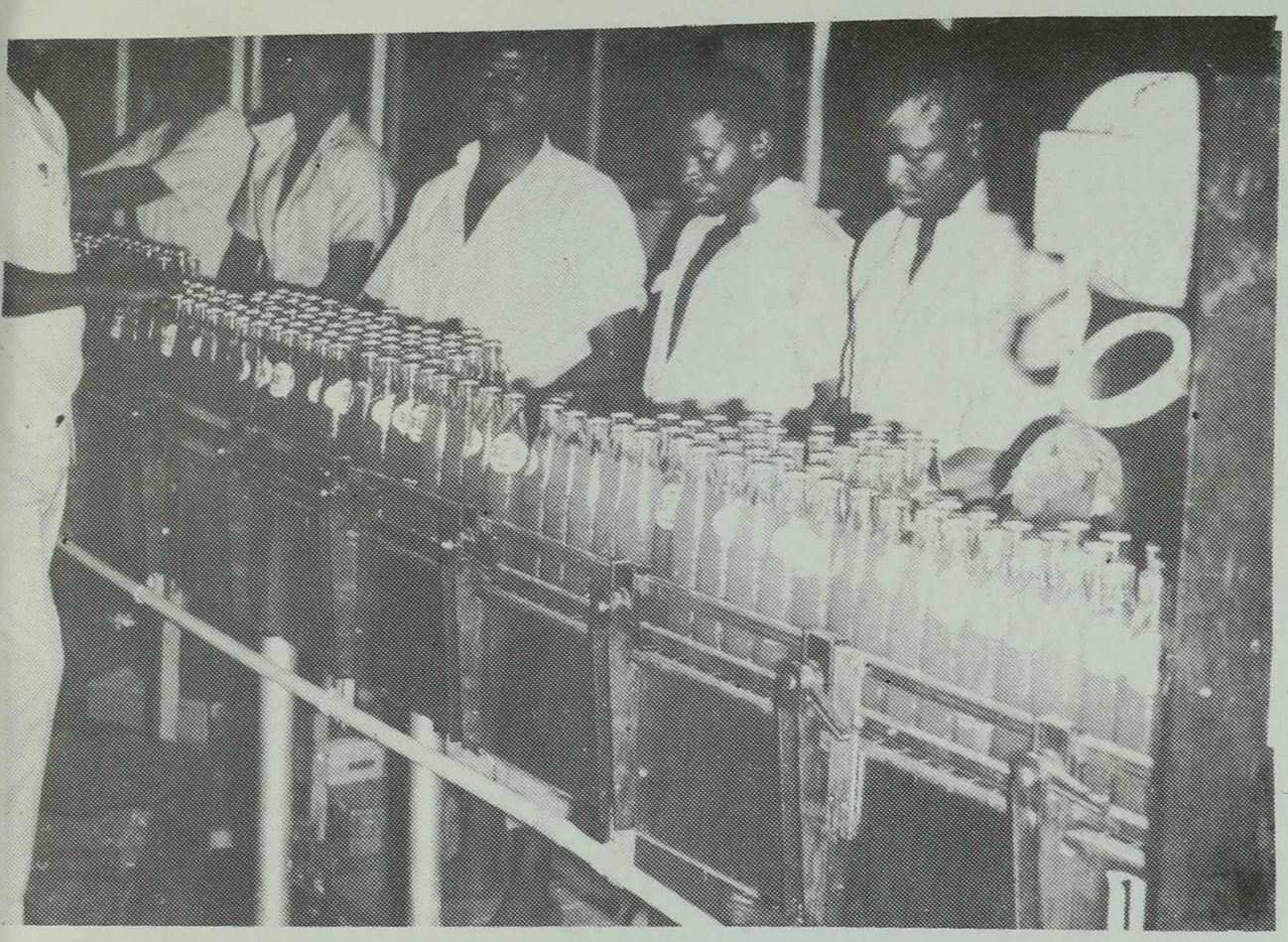
Rice Growing at Ber Agbun

Some agro-based industries have been established to process these products include:

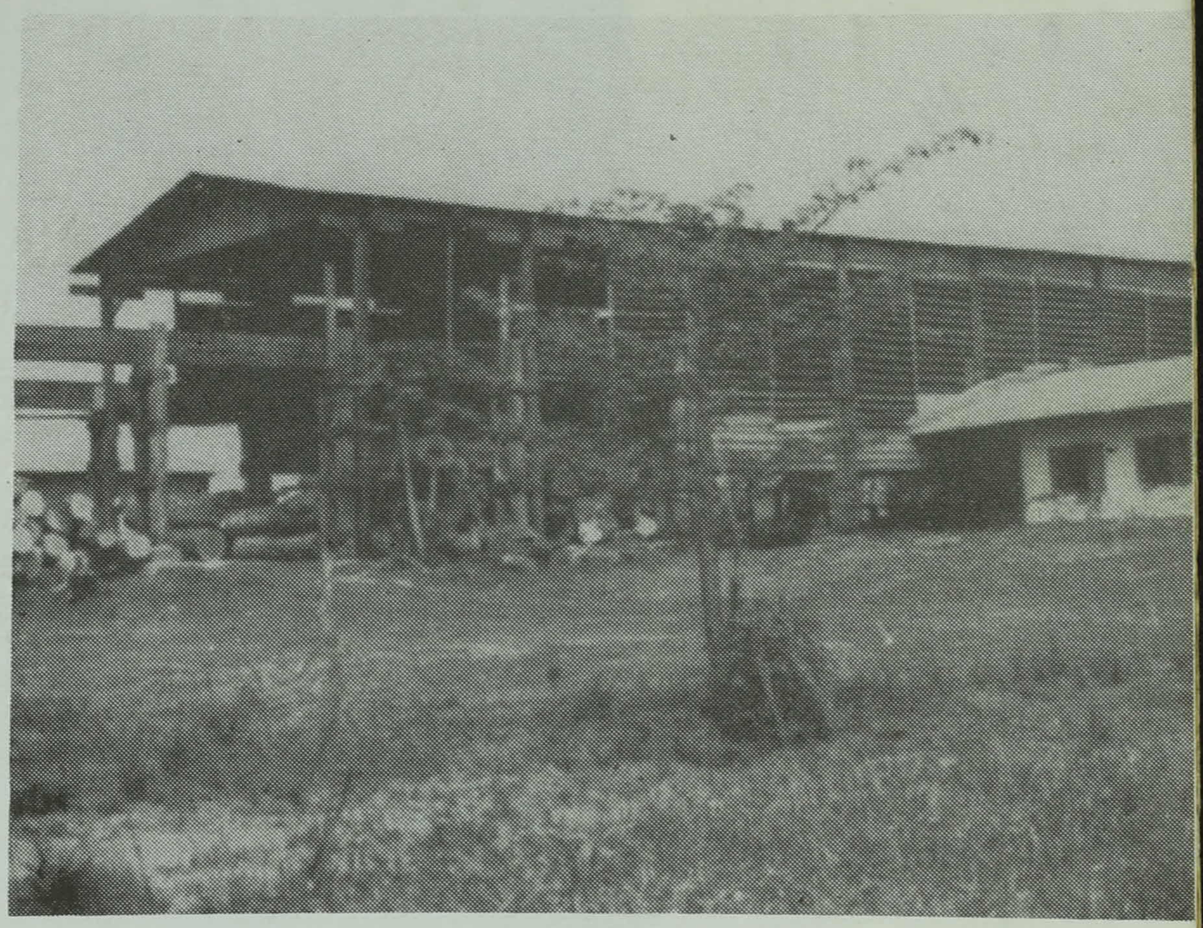
1. Taraku Vegetable and Animal Feeds Industry
2. Benue Agro-Millers Limited,
3. Acharu Palm Oil Mills
4. New Nigeria Timber Industry, Okura-Olafia.

There are therefore a lot of opportunities for investment in the industrial and agricultural potentials of the state.

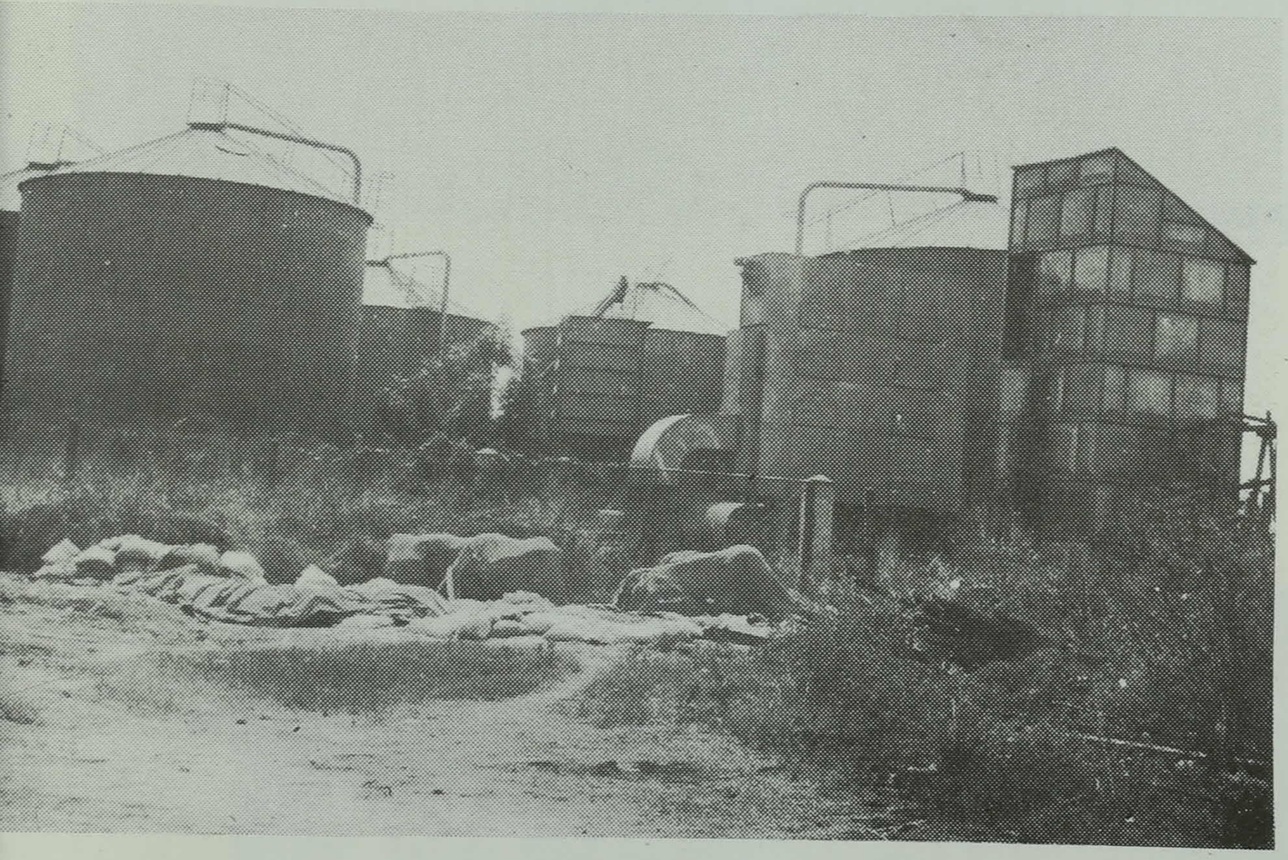




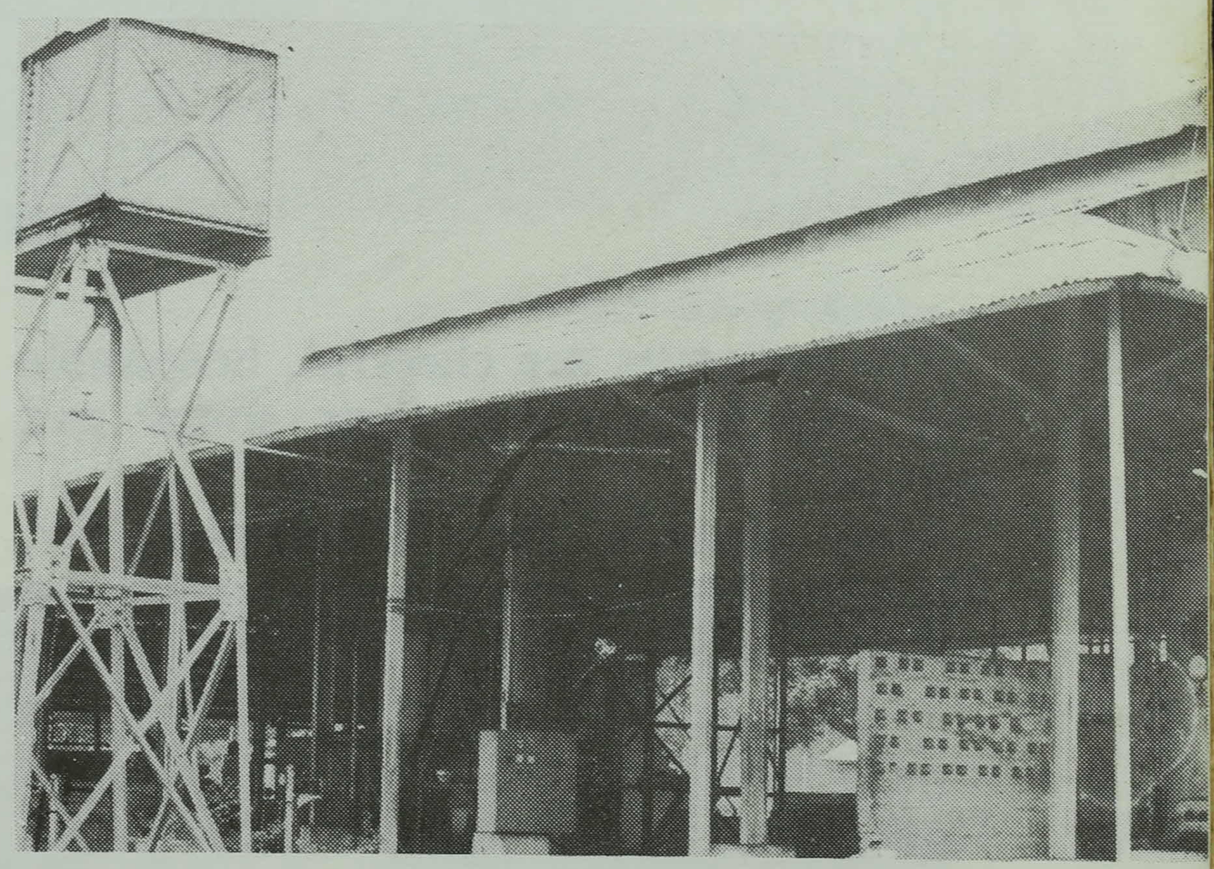
Inside Benue Bottling Factory



Timber Factory, Okura Olafia



Animal Feed Mills



Acharu Oil Mill

Benue Brewry Makurdi

A Scene at Tiv Day '87

THE PEOPLE

The indigenes are cheerful, hospitable and well known for their songs and dances.

They include the industrious Tiv, Nigeria's 7th largest ethnic group; the enigmatic Igalas who are intensely proud of their long history; and the enterprising Idomas who treasure their self-respect. These three main groups account for nearly 80 per cent of the population.

Other groups like the Igedes, Bassa Komo, Bassa Nge, Igbirra, Etulo and Jukuns are also found in the state.

Most of the population are farmers while a few engage in hunting, fishing, carving, black smithing either as full time occupations or to supplement farming.

Fishermen at Katsina Ala River

Ogani Group Ankpa

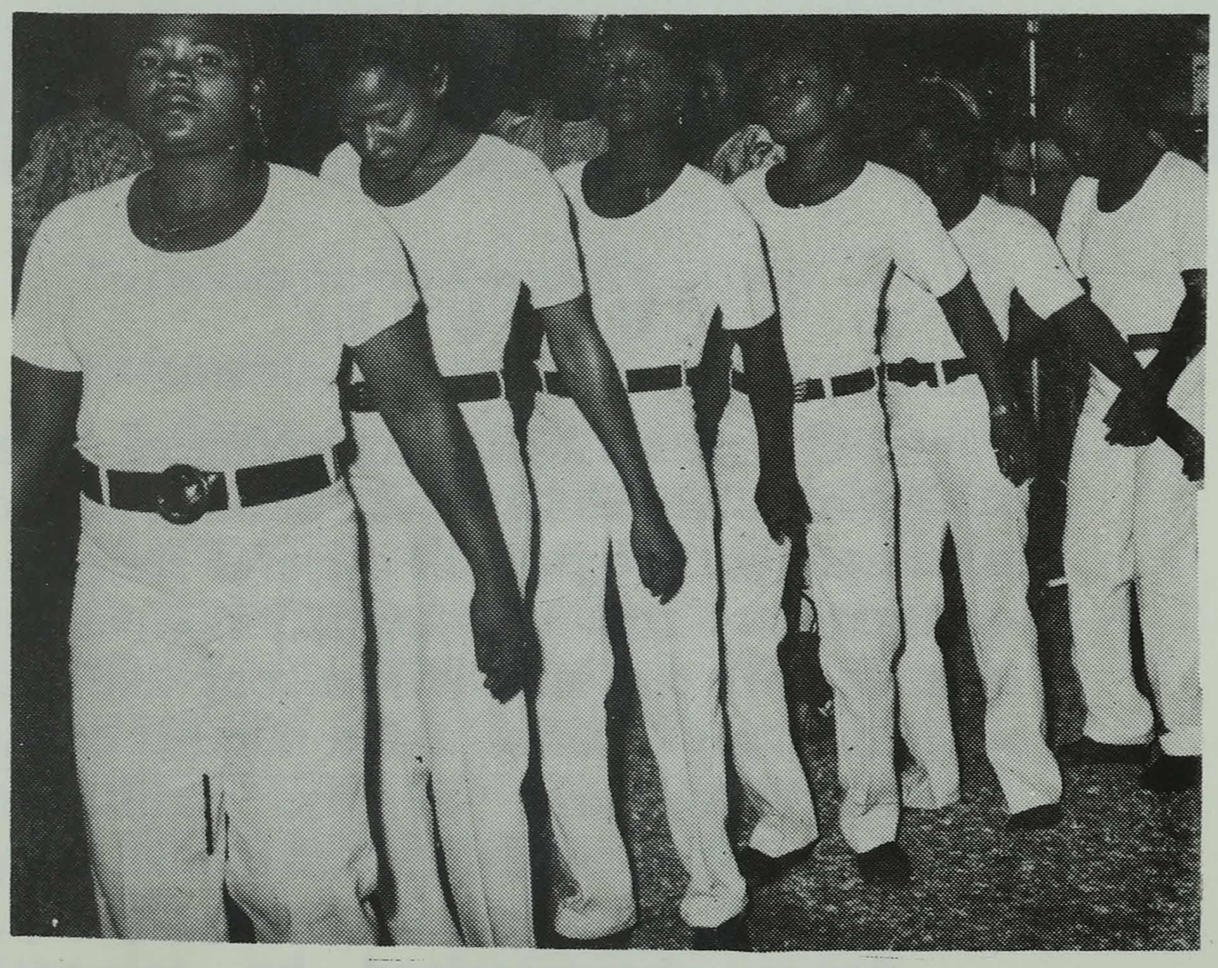
A scene from Ujo Festival, Agila

A Dance Group from Bassa L.G.A

Ogirinya Dance Oju L.G.A

Women Group from Makurdi

Part of Kwagh Hir Tro



Swange

Ingough

Acharakupa

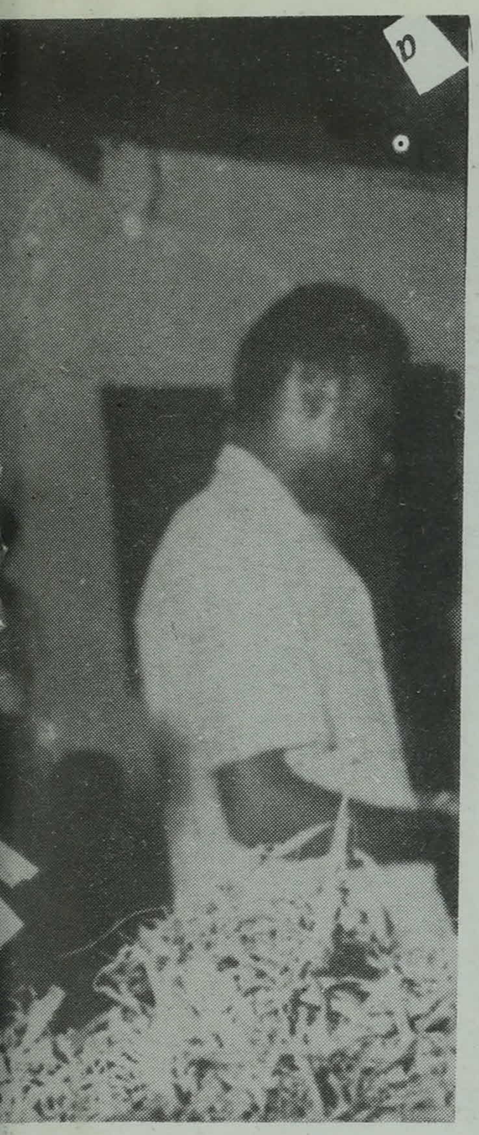
Anuwowo Akpa

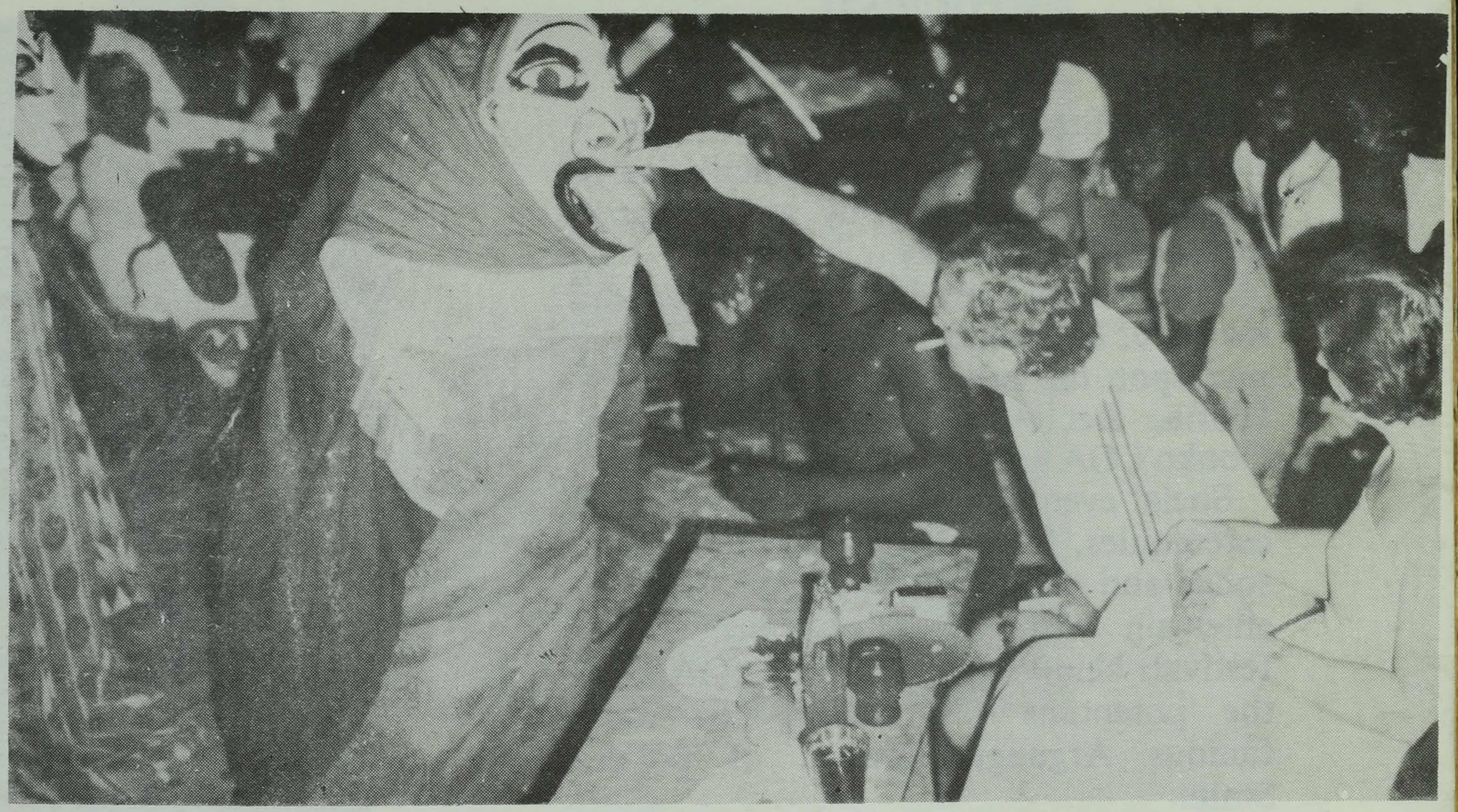
CULTURE

The state is famous for its dances. Tiv an
Idoma dances have won acclaim for bot
state and Nigeria in cultural festivals a
national and international competitions
The Tiv can improvise a song and danc
for every occasion and a number of thes
are imitations of the habits an
movements of animals and human beings
Every town has its swange group,
dance characterized by serpentin

Akujane Contracted

Akujane Elongating



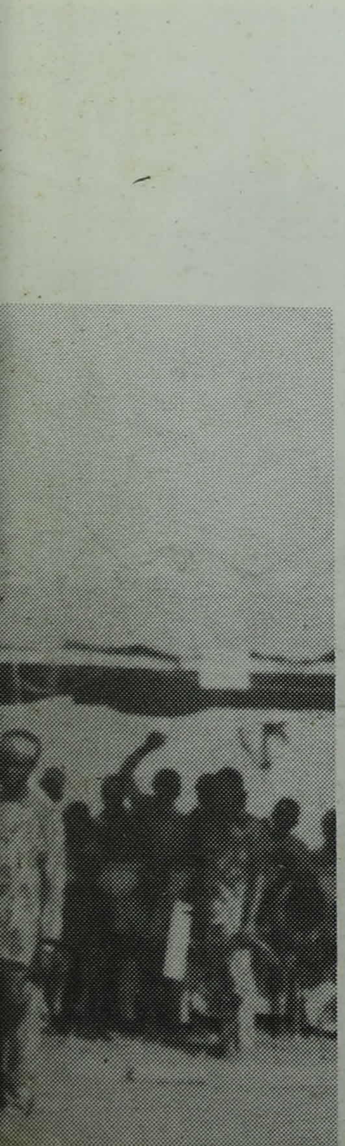


Two scenes from a Kwagh-Hir Display

movements. But by far the most popular, is a dance — puppet show, *Kwagh-hir,* which is also a dramatization of folklore and some topical issues. The shows depict Tiv proficiency in handcraft and their ingenuity in manipulating the various shapes and sizes of animals and figures, causing them to move, to jump, to knit, to smoke and perform other intricate actions.

The Idomas and Igalas have numerous festivals designed to ensure abundant havests or success. Each district has its own percularities and delebrates its ancestral or agricultural festivals at convenient periods of the annual cycle. From Ibaji District in Idah LGA comes *Aku Jane,* a mystifying masquerade that can contact, enlongate, double and flatten itself and perform other wonderful feats.

Anger Kwande



TOURISM

Benue State offers a visitor a lot of fascinating scenery to see, activities to watch, sourvenirs to buy and a happy memory to carry away.

The scenery include Kpata Rocks consisting of big boulders delicately balanced one upon the other, waterfall at Okura-Olafia, Ber Awuna Lake in Tombo, Gboko LGA among others.

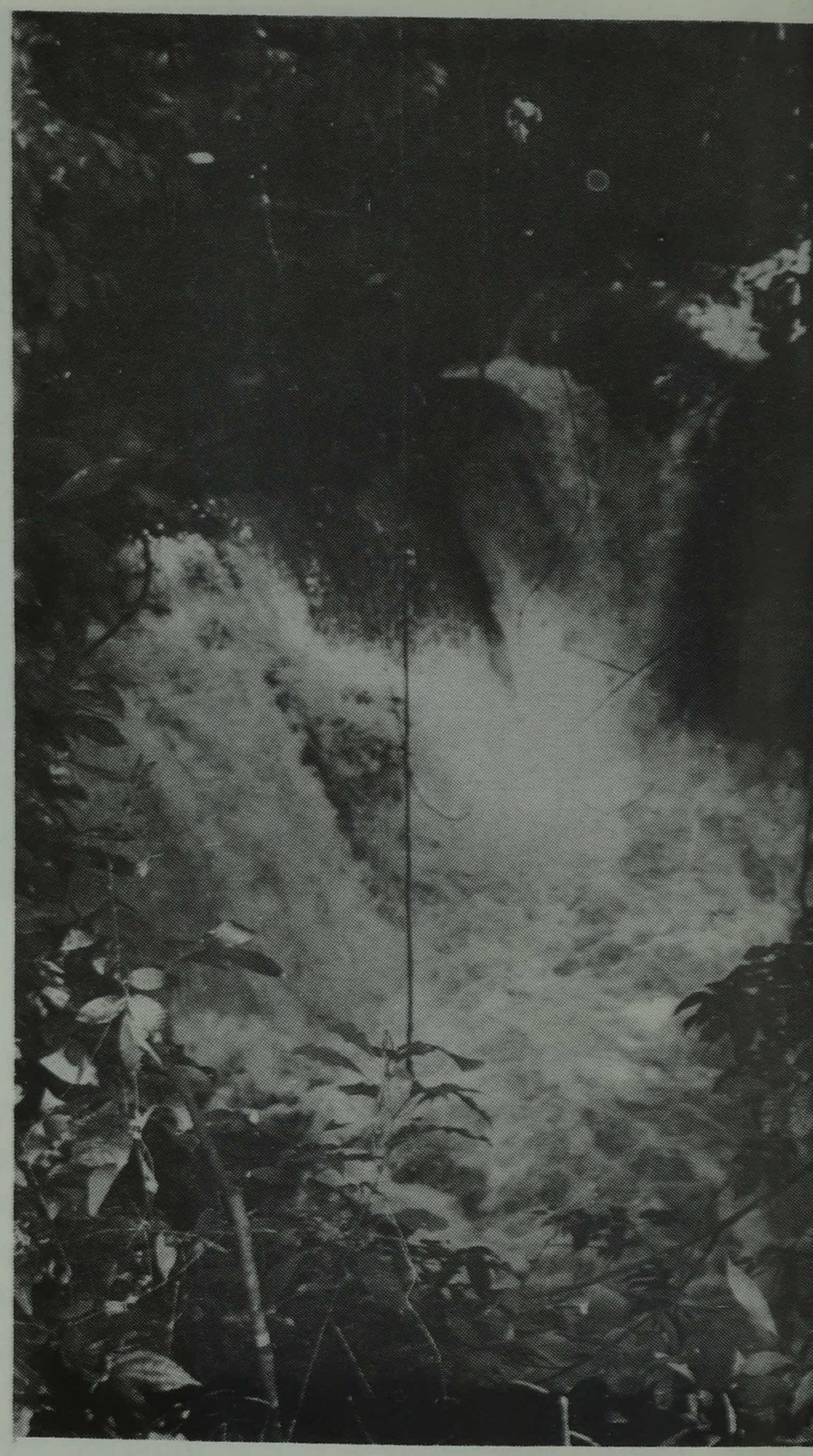
Social events, burial and second burial ceremonies, festivals and the ever present songs and dances are there to thrill and entertain visitors. The Akiri fishing festivals held annually in Katsina-Ala has the potentials of rivalling the more famous Argungu Festival of Sokoto State.

Various handcrafts, carvings can be purchased in any local market after a spirited bargain. A market, especially in Tiv-land is a hub of social communication and not just a place to sell one's produce and buy one's wants but where one attends for news, to find one's relations, friends, debtors and run away lovers.

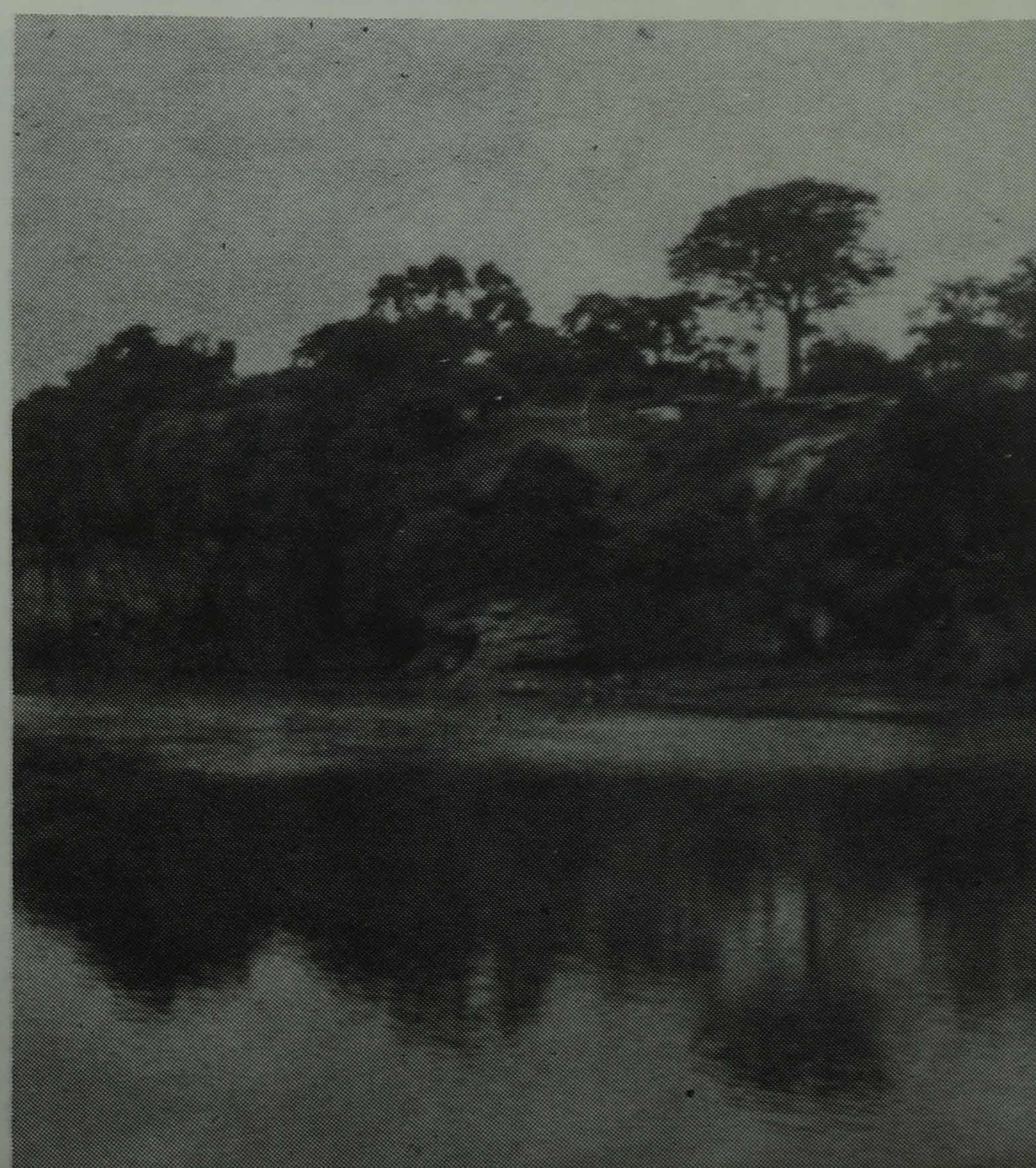
In most towns, visitors are assured of adequate and comfortable accommodation and standard catering facilities. Makurdi Sheraton Hotel under construction is to boost this sector.

The state capital is accessible from other parts of Nigeria by road, rail, air and water major towns within the state are connected by a network of roads.

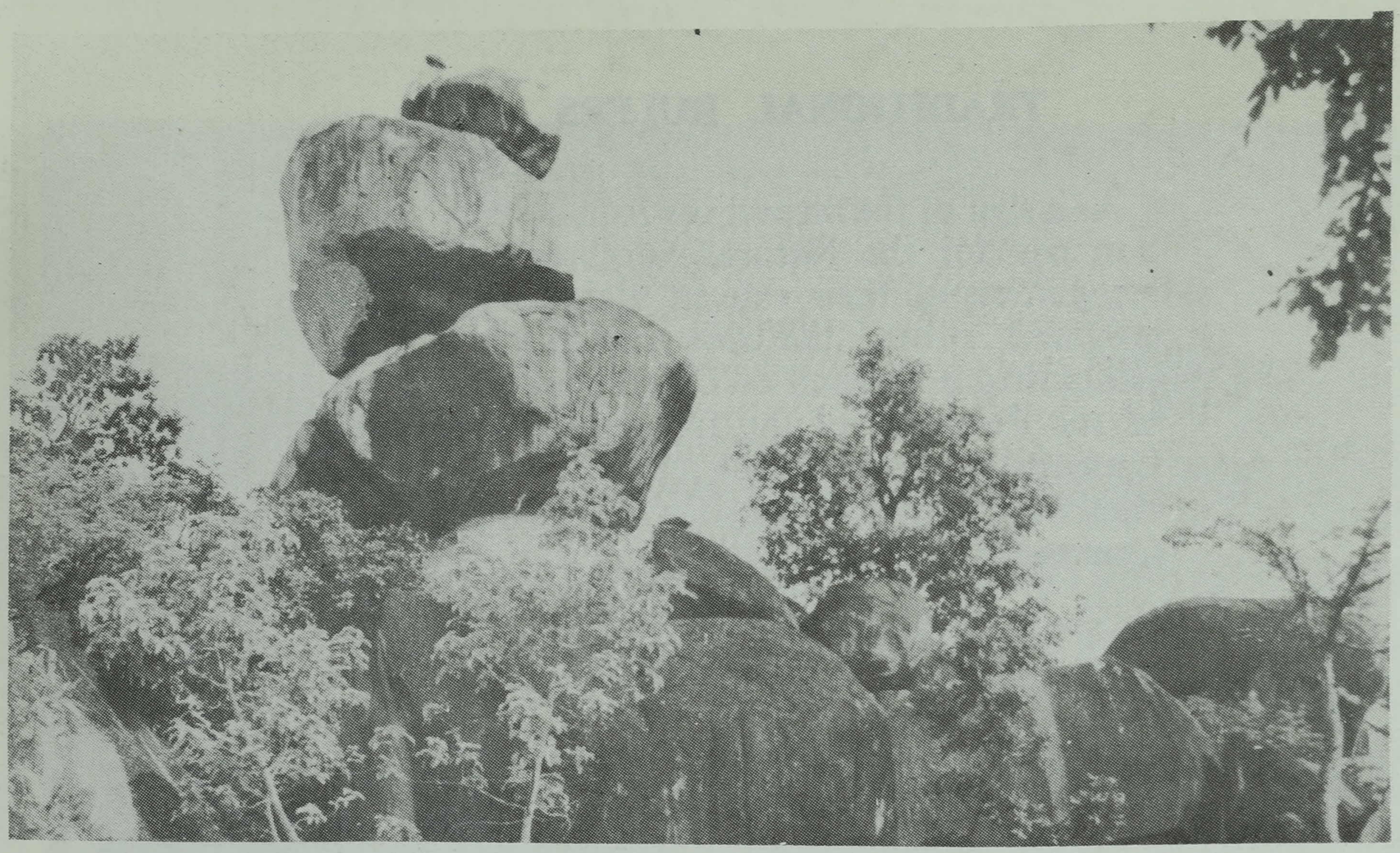
Several branches of commercial banks offer normal banking services.



Okura Olafia Water Falls

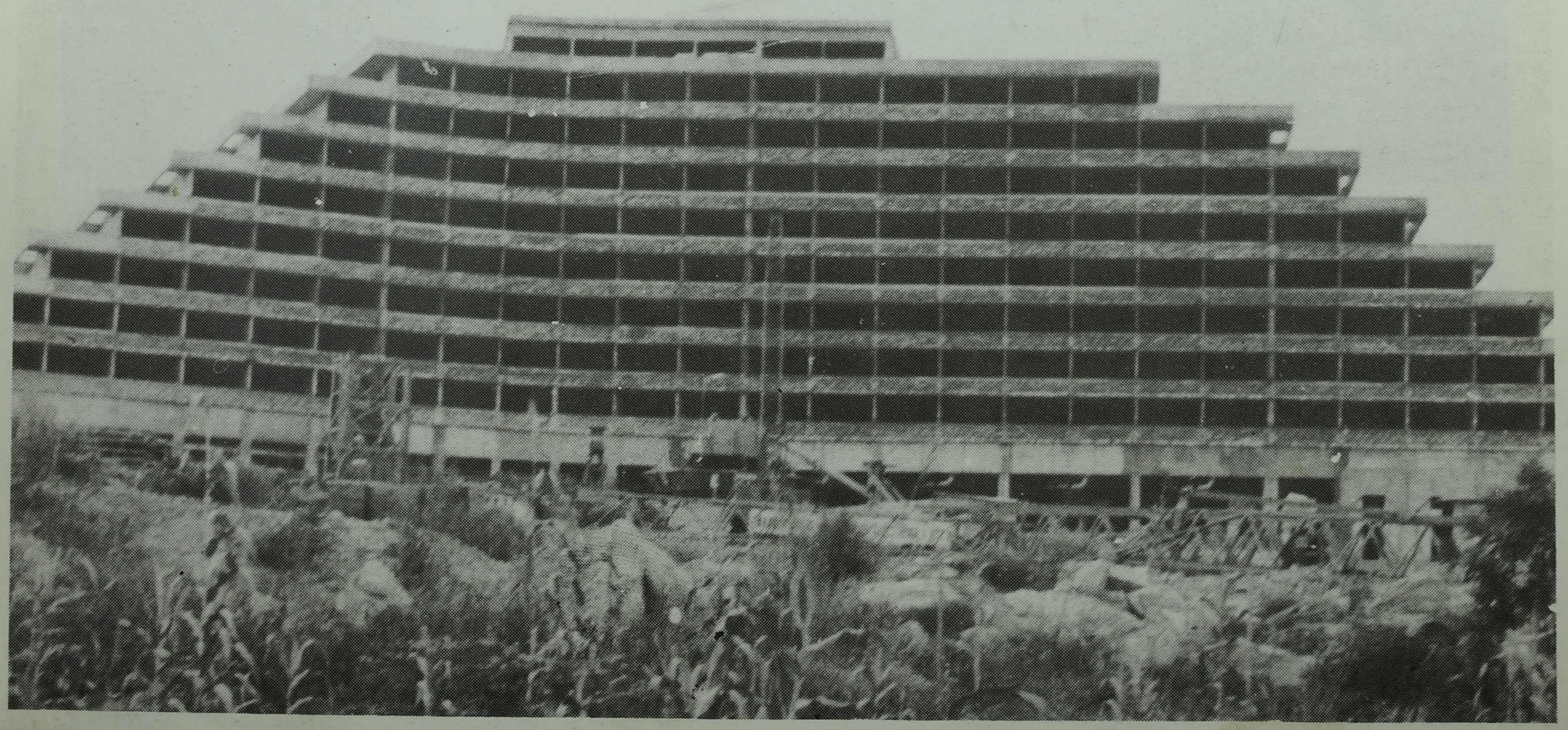


Ubi Ogba Cliff, Idah



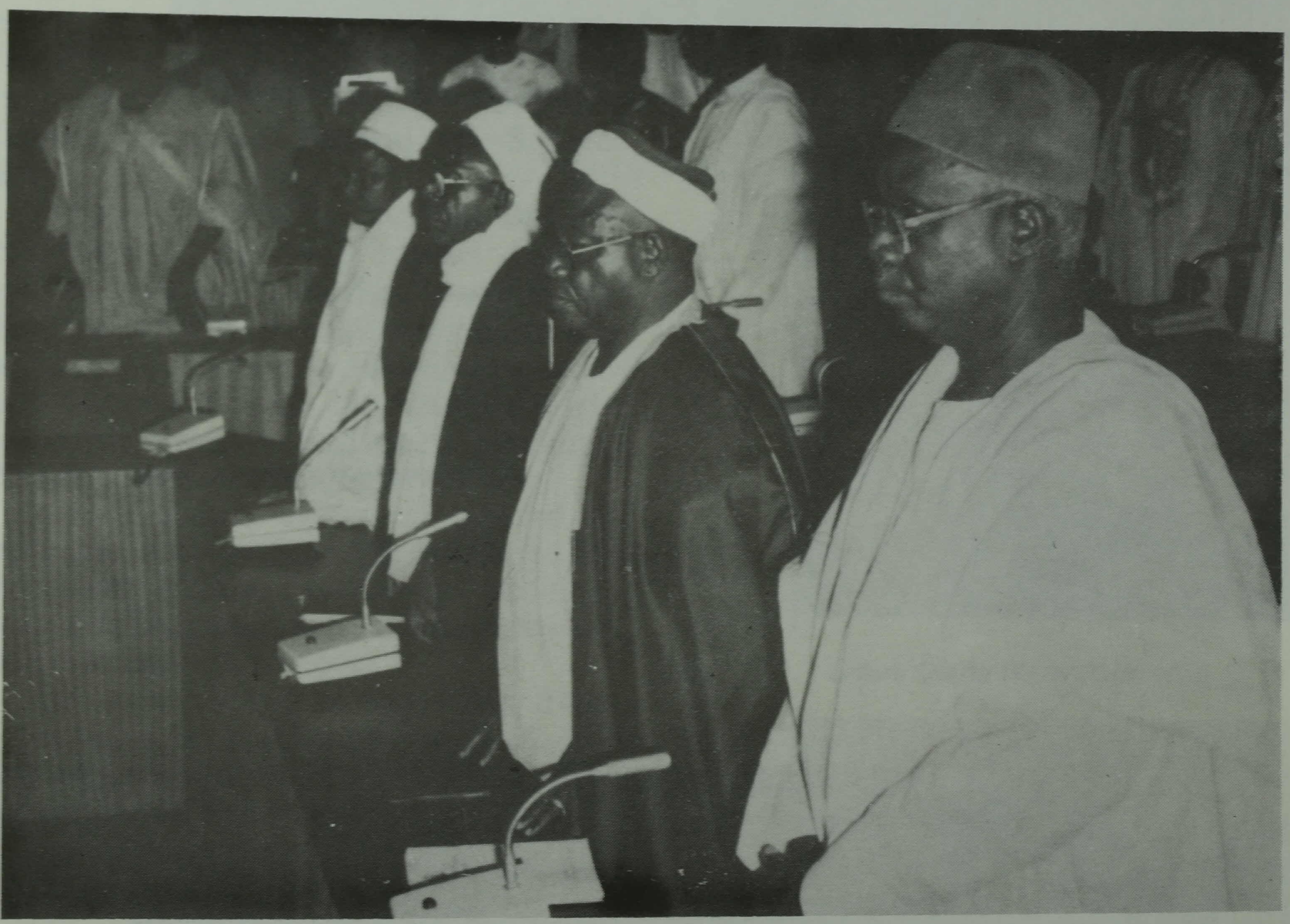
Kpata Rocks, Bassa

Sheraton Hotel Makurdi, under construction

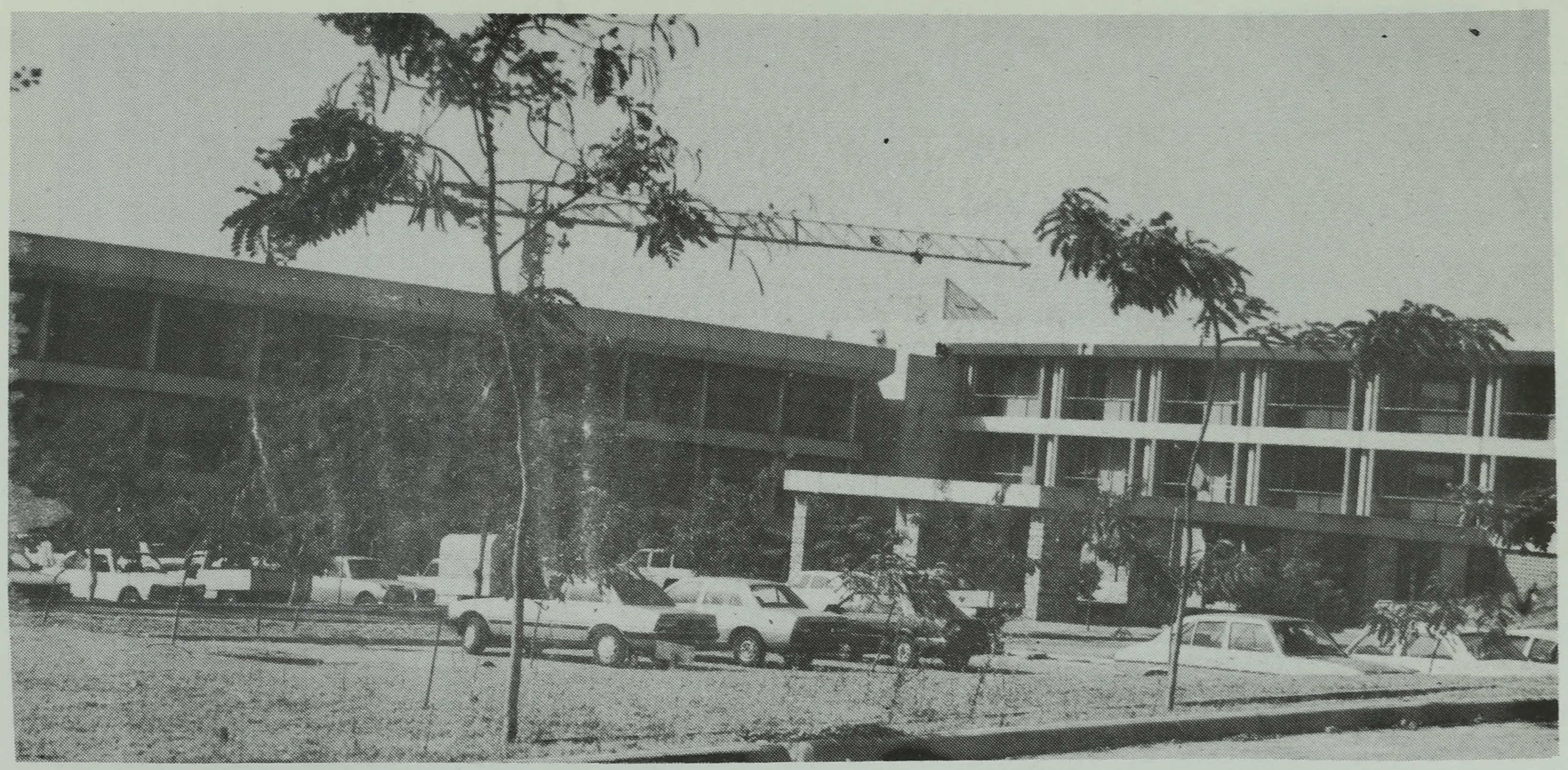


TRADITIONAL RULERS

As a sign of the respect the Administration has for the Natural rulers and in recognition of their role in maintaining law and order, the Government has established a Council of Chiefs made up of the President of the five Traditional Councils and some paramount chiefs/clan heads. The Tor Tiv is the Chairman of this body.



The Tor Tiv, Attah Igala and Ochi Idoma



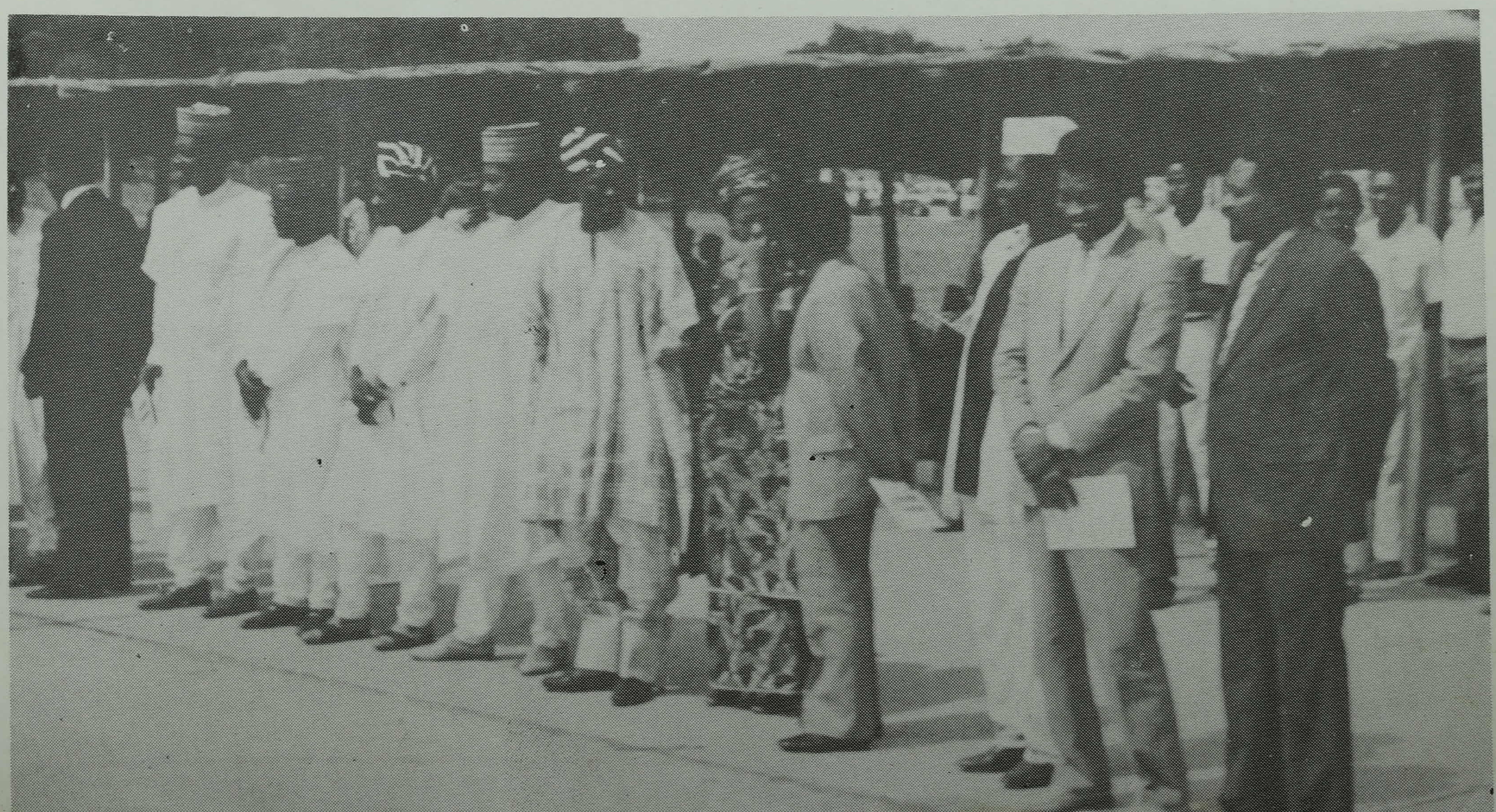
Part of the State Secretariat, Makurdi

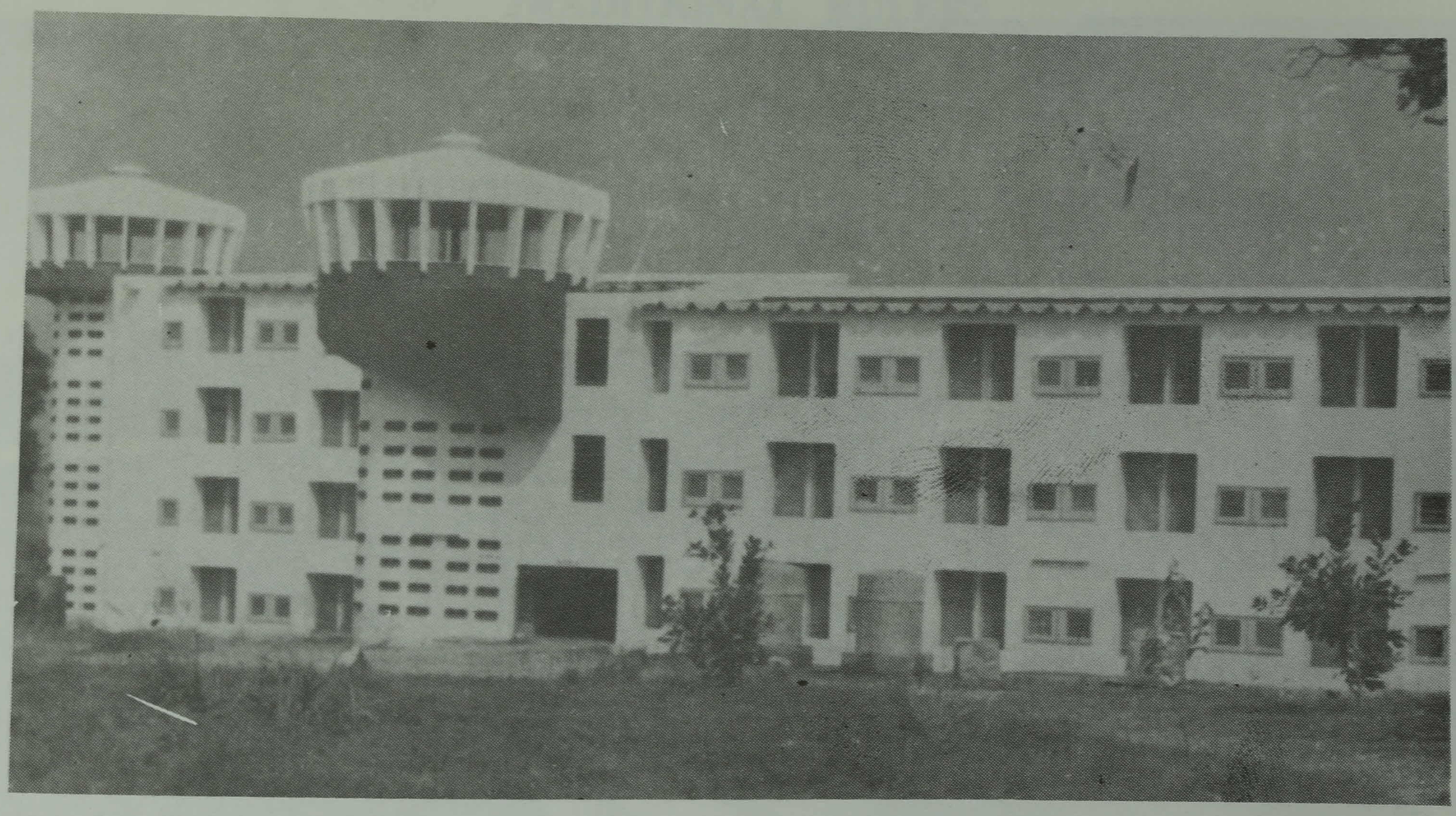
THE STATE ADMINISTRATION

At the helm of state administration is the Military Governor who presides over the State Executive Council comprising nine Civil Commissioners and representatives of the Army, Air Force and Police.

There are 10 ministries, a number of extra-ministerial departments and some parastatals through which the government tries to mobilize the human and material resources to facilitate the rapid development of the state. All the ministries are headed by a Commissioner except Land and Survey which is overseen by the Military Governor himself.

Civil Commissioners, Chief Judge, Extreme Right





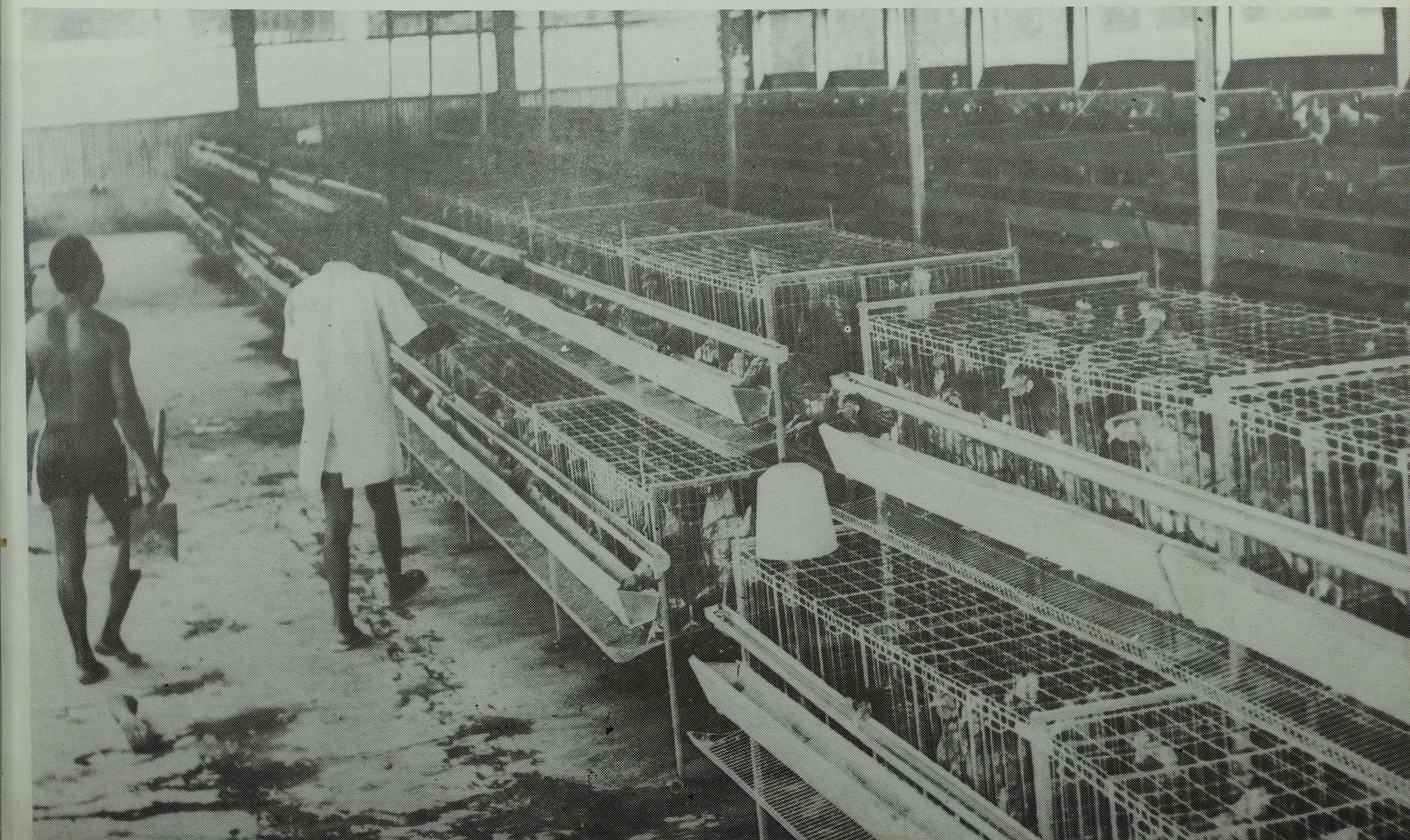
Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi

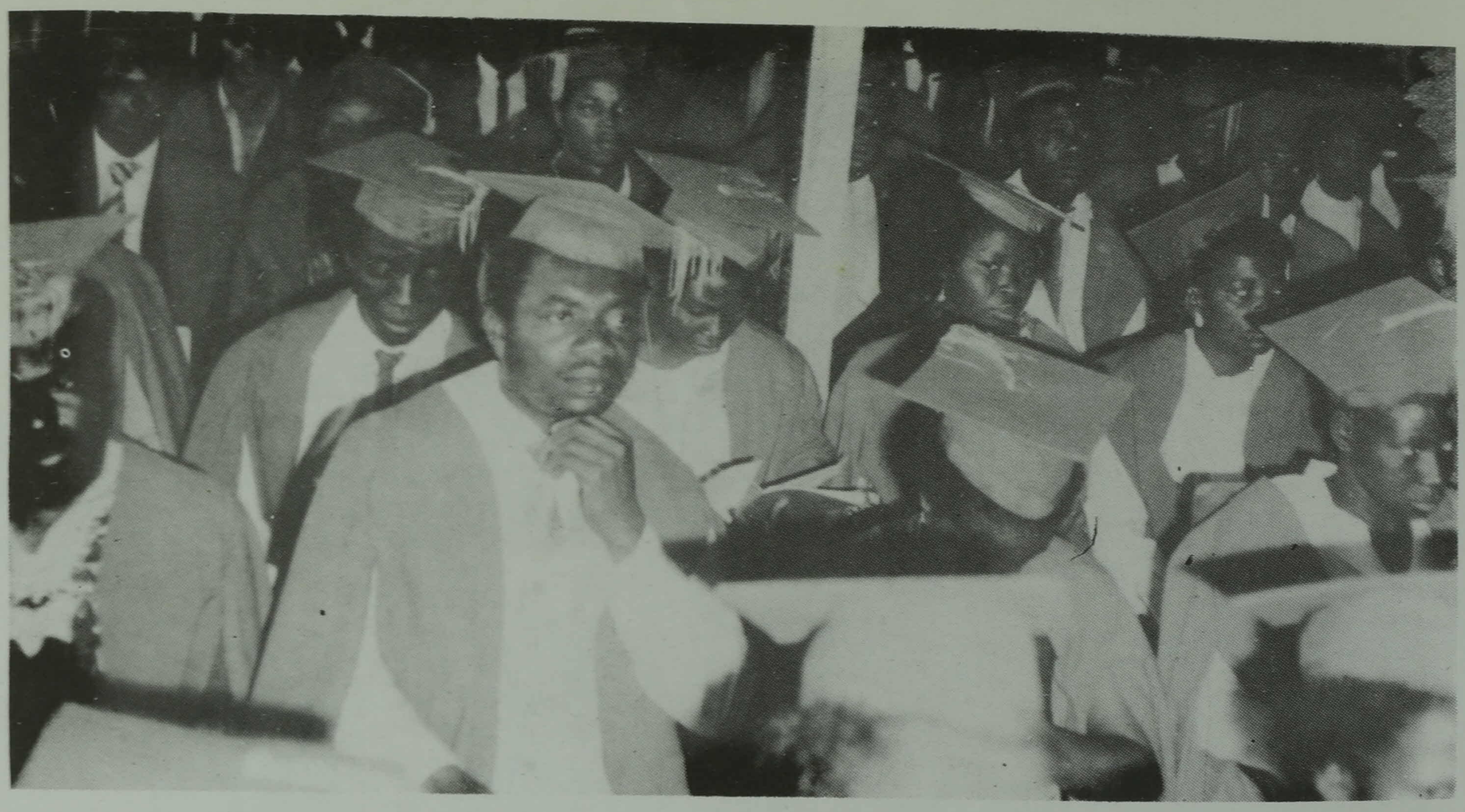
AGRICULTURE

The priorities are to increase crop and animal production, encourage mechanised farming, liberal credit, loans and provision of fertilizers at subsidised prices.

In recognition of the State major role in Agriculture, the FMG has established a University of Agriculture in Makurdi

Tractor to encourage mechanised farming





Graduating Students at a College of Education

EDUCATION

This remains the state biggest industry. There are hundreds of Nursery/Primary and Secondary schools and two colleges of Education to feed them with teachers.

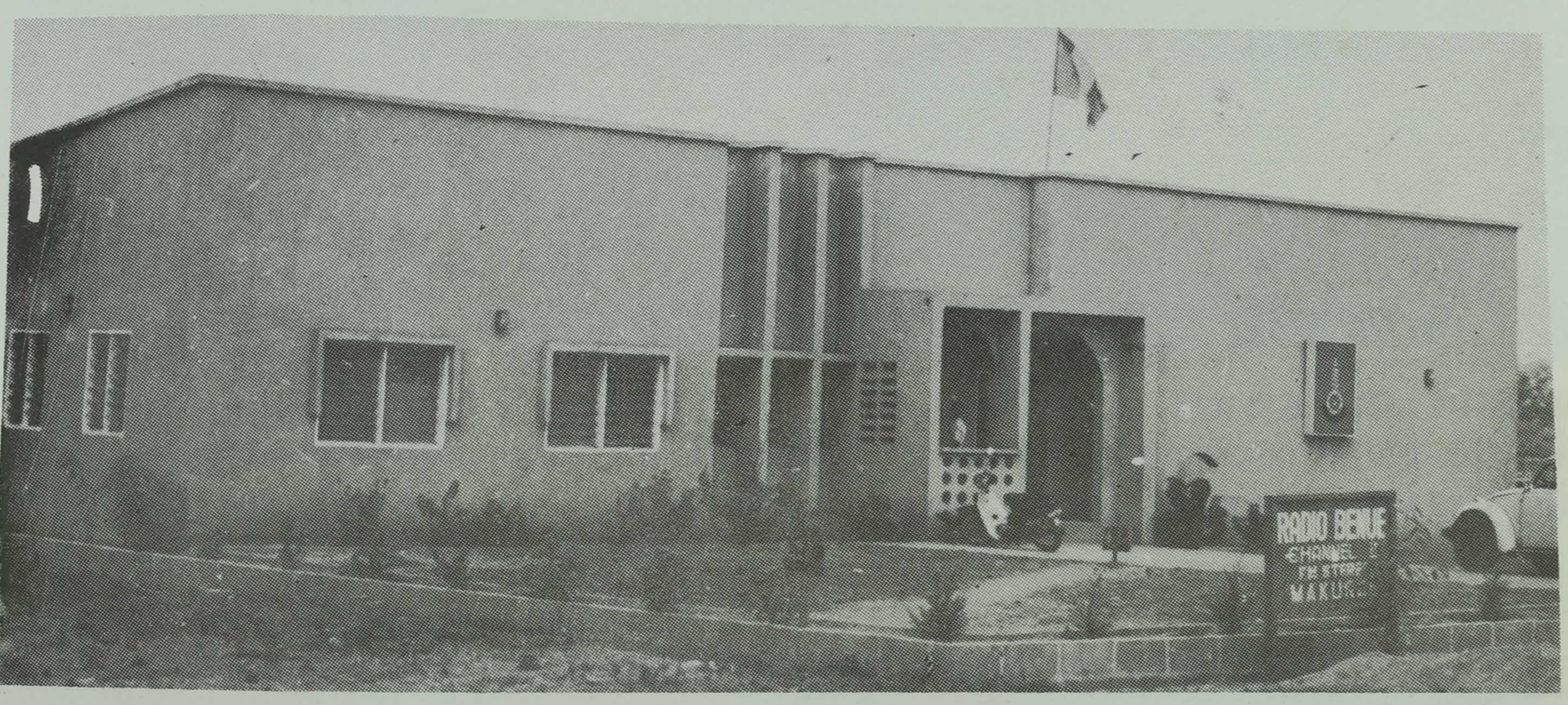
Scholarships are automatic for every indegene in post-secondary institutions.

Students at an Assembly

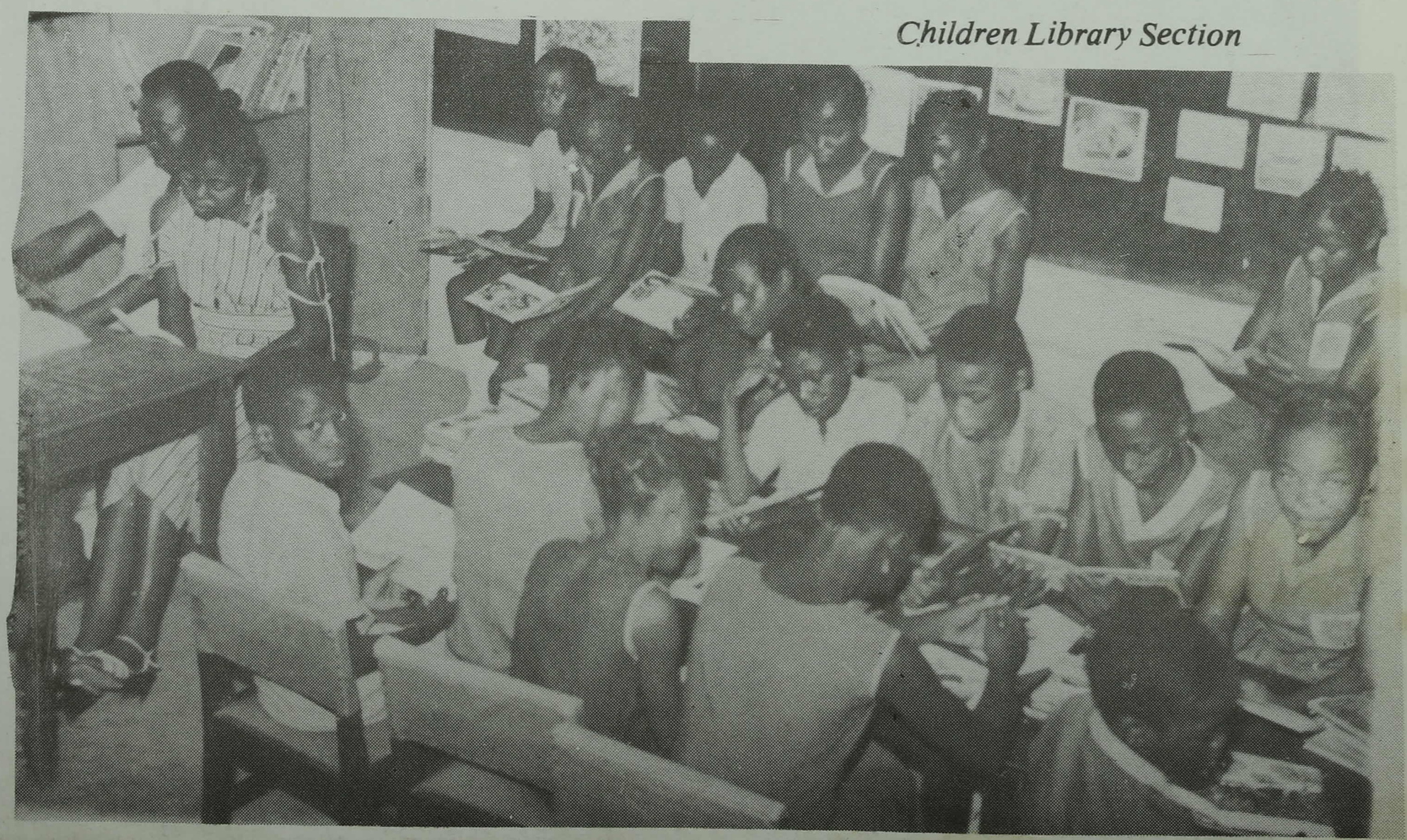
INFORMATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

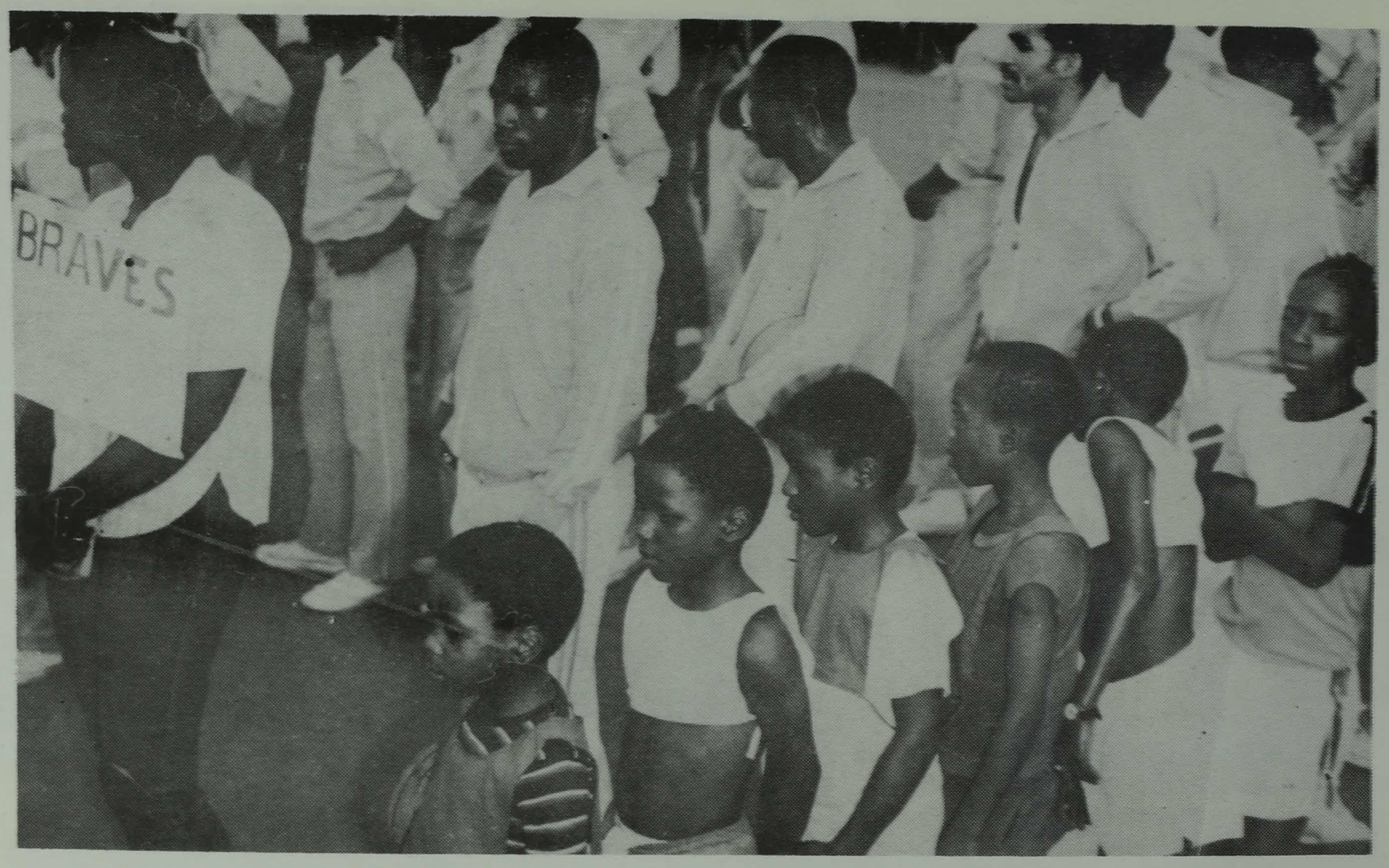
Radio Benue, The Voice, the Library and ministry provide the public with enlightnment, education and entertainment. Sports are encouraged through the provision of stadia and support to clubs.

F.M. Stereo, Building Radio Benue



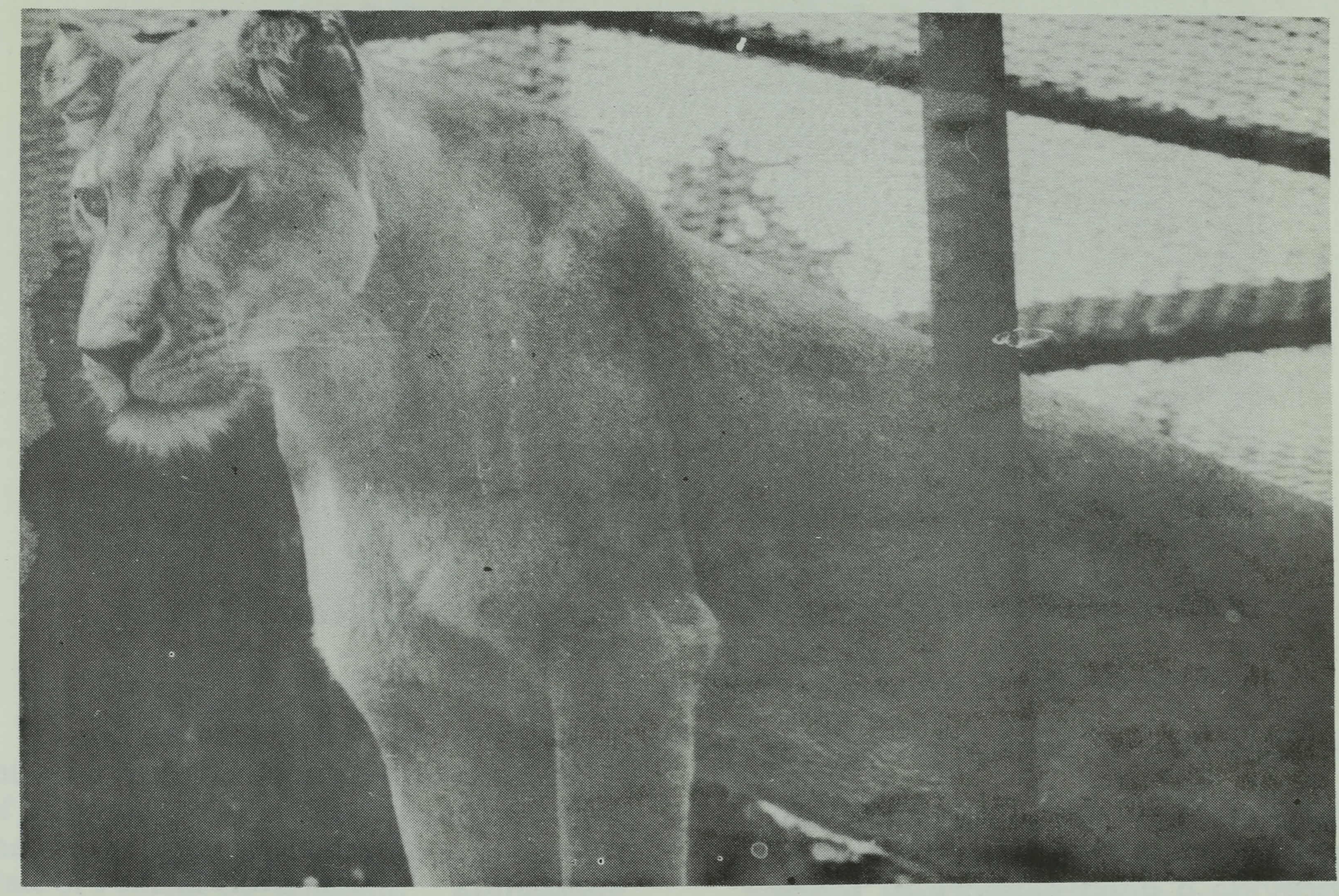
Children Library Section





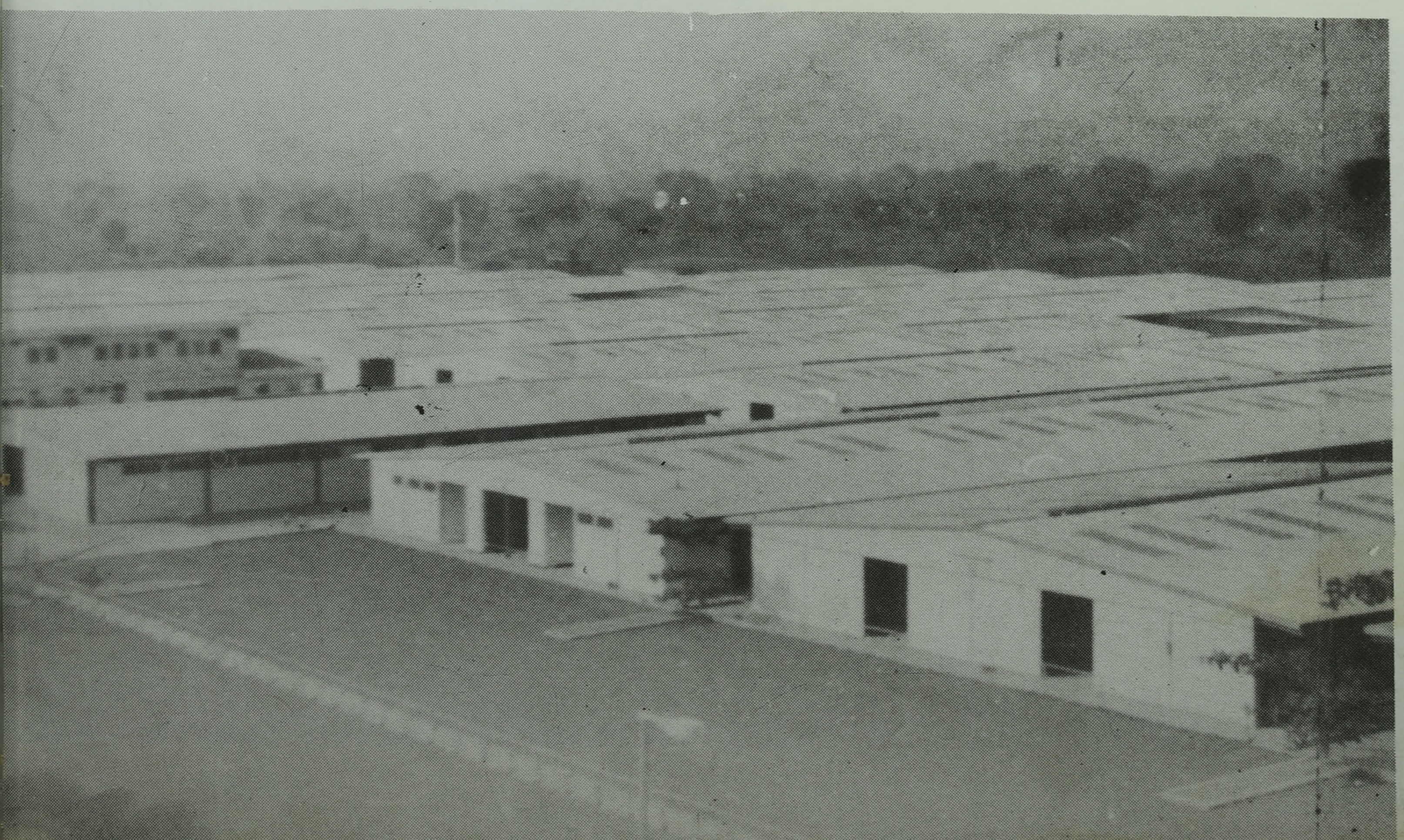
COMMENCE AND INDUSTRIES

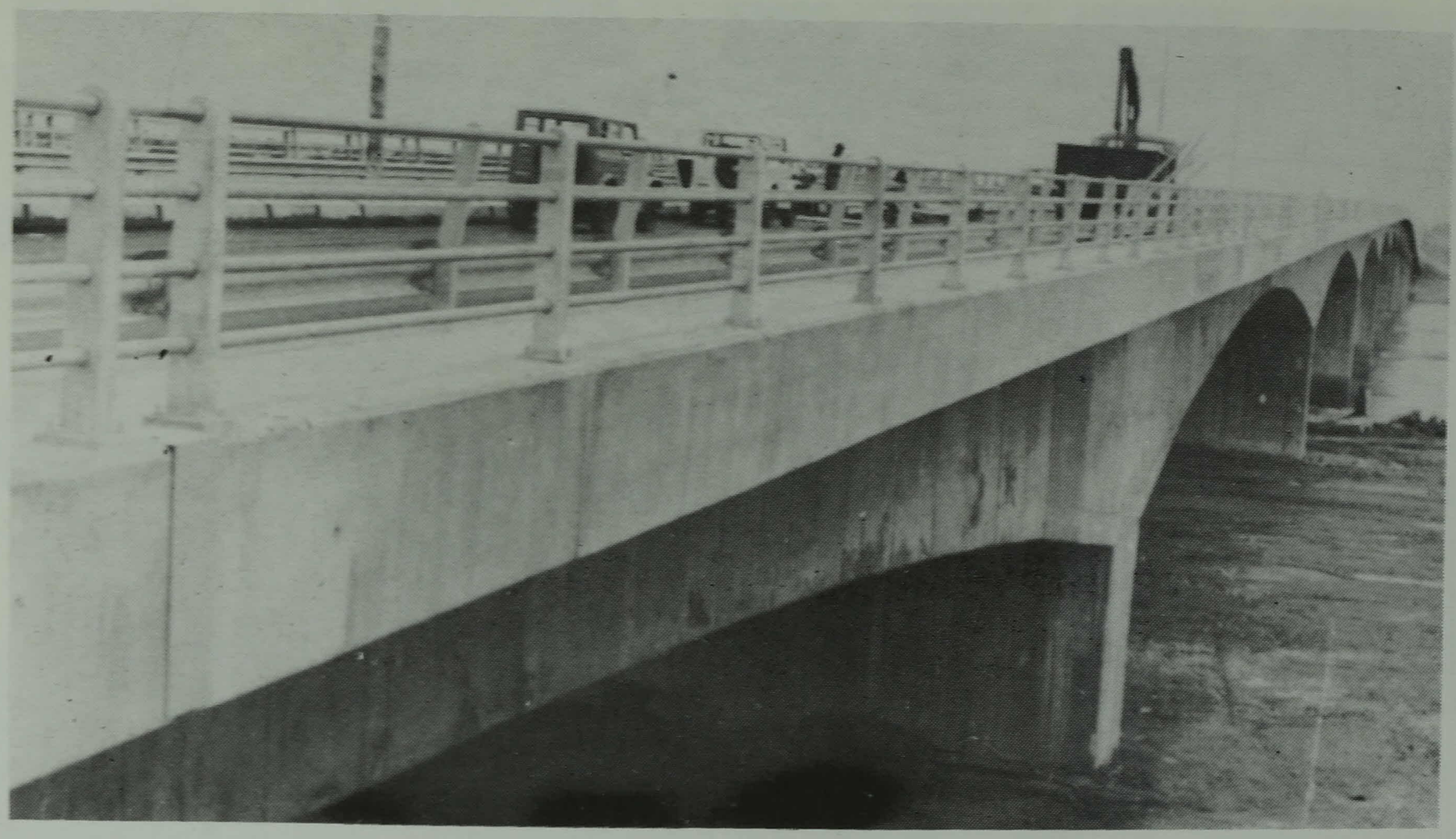
Several incentives are being provided to encourage the development of Tourism, industries and Trade through the establishment of hopel and wild parks generous incentives so investors and building of modern markets like the recently oponed Makurdi International market.



A Lioness in the Zoo and Manateerium Uni-Makurdi
Manateerium

Aeriel View of Makurdi Modern Market which also
a Hospital, Police Station, Court and Recreational Facilities





New road Bridge Across River Benue, Markurdi

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Construction Work on both urban and rural roads are being intensified to provide a good network of roads and facilitate transport and made the rural communities more easily accessible.

Plants Busy on a Rural Road

A recently Constructed Rural Road

SELF-HELP PROJECTS

Throughout the state, various communities have become increasingly aware of the need to provide basic amenities for themselves without waiting for the local, state or Federal Government.

This awareness is portrayed by the healthy competition among different communities association, societies and clubs who have embraked upon a multitude of self-help projects initiated and executed mainly through their efforts.

The projects include feeder roads, bridges, culverts, dispensaries, clinics, primary and secondary school halls, women centres, market stalls, earth dams and rural electrification. At present, such projects totalling 268 and worth over 26 million naira are being executed throughout the state.

Soon this type of bridge will be rare

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

For administrative convenience, the state is divided into 13 Local Government Areas as follows:

S/NO.	LGA	POPULATION	HEAD-QUARTERS	CHAIRMEN
1.	Ankpa	482,600	Ankpa	Mr. Chris Enenche
2.	Bassa	118,300	Oguma	Alh. A. Abdulkadir
3.	Dekina	225,600	Dekina	Mr. J. Ijibili
4.	Gboko	416,270	Gboko	Mr. J. Gberkon
5.	Gwer	359,000	Aliade	Mr. V.A. Aondoakaa
6.	Idah	421,500	Idah	Dr. S.A. Achema
7.	K/Ala	325,500	K/Ala	Mr. J. Meme
8.	Kwande	459,300	Adikpo	Mr. D.D. Buter
9.	Makurdi	318,900	Makurdi	Mr. Felix Ijoh
10.	Oju	202,300	Oju	Mr. John Enyi
11.	Okpokwu	450,000	Okpoga	Dr. E.A. Idoko
12.	Otukpo	255,200	Otukpo	Mr. Daniel Philip
13.	Vandeikya	388,600	Vandeikya	Mr. Mike A. Shima

Gboko L.G.A. Secretariat

Benue in pictures

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