1958

My Trip Around the World

Jane Gibson
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol38/iss3/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
SEEING HOME ECONOMICS around the world was an interesting part of my trip last summer. Homemakers in Philippine nipa huts and along the canals in Bangkok were all carrying on the same activities we learn about at Iowa State.

The middle of last June I left from Los Angeles on the way to Karachi, Pakistan, to visit my family, there on a two-year assignment with the U. S. Government. The return trip from Pakistan through Europe to the United States completed my circle of the globe in time for the start of college this fall.

I received my impressions during the couple of days I was in each country, so I am by no means an authority on the Orient. It is probably like someone who, after spending 24 hours in New York, reports in his native land, "Let me tell you about the United States."

Tokyo school children, dressed in uniform white shirts and blue shorts or skirts, were just coming out of classes when I arrived in the city. Walking in groups, each child carried his books in a zipper airline overnight bag. Street signs written in Japanese characters and traffic going down the left-hand side of the road reminded me I was a visitor in a foreign country.

The Japanese specialty, Sukiyaki, was prepared for me in a small cast iron skillet at the table. Pieces of beef, onion, mushroom, potato root, soy bean cake and a few other vegetables are cooked lightly together in soy sauce. The delicious combination is, of course, eaten with chop sticks in the true Japanese manner.

In the Philippine Islands a visit with relatives living at Clarke Air Base, north of Manila, gave me a chance to see more of the native country. Filipino farmers live in nipa huts, thatched and built up on stilts to avoid the wet season. Many caribou or water buffalo, used as the beast of burden, are seen in the rice fields.

The different modes of transportation in the Philippines are worthy of mention. The calesa is a horse-drawn, two-seat carriage with no springs. Calesas are driven blithely down the highways, slowing down motorized traffic and presenting a danger at night since they have no reflectors.

The jeepneys are used in the towns like small buses. They are gaily painted according to the taste of the owner. The drivers zip in and out of city traffic while carrying up to eight passengers in the back section. The people depend on the bus system for most of the between-city travel. One line is called the Rabbit bus because it claims to be the rabbit that went faster than the greyhound.

Landing in Bangkok, Thailand, was like coming down in a vast sea of squared rice paddies. Thailand is sometimes referred to as the "Rice Basket of the Orient" and is aptly named.

A boat trip on the river running through Bangkok and up into its canals gave me a closer acquaintance with some of the Thai people. At 7 a.m., when we started out, they were starting the day's activities, centered around the river. Washing dishes, and clothes, bathing, drinking water, refuse disposal, and navigation all take place here.

Hong Kong, meaning fragrant harbor, is a romantic name appropriate for the island just off the China mainland. Frequent ferry service connects Hong Kong with Kowloon, on the mainland. From the Peak, hilly area in the center of the island and the home of the more well-to-do residents, beautiful views of the city below and of the smaller islands off in the sea can be seen.

Food in China is very different from what we eat in America. Their tea is known over the world. Rice, a staple in the Chinese diet, is prepared moister than our American version to make easier eating with chop sticks.

All through the Orient I was impressed with the multitudes of people everywhere, and Hong Kong was no exception. The people seem to live everywhere possible, in conditions ranging from the nice Peak homes, to crowded city apartments, from refugee...
Stationery, Napkins, Placecards
imprinted with your name, initials, Greek letters or emblem. Various letter styles are available. Stop in today.

SWEETLAND
Sheldon Munn Hotel Dial CE 2-3355

Buy All Your Party Cakes, Rolls, Pastries and Bread
Ferguson Bakery
Downtown Ames CE 2-4320

Smart Romantic lines of this coiffure for fall are subdued, yet chic — silkey smooth yet strikingly modern.

MAX/HARRIMAN
hair stylist
619 Main Dial CE 2-5305

LeBaron (Continued from page 5)

Because there is no time for a great many other things Dean LeBaron might otherwise enjoy, she has to simplify her living to maintain her versatility. A small flower garden must suffice to satisfy her green thumb, and while she hasn't much time to cook fancy items for herself, Pennsylvania Dutch food often satisfies her guests palates!

During the six years she spent at Pennsylvania State College, she acquired recipes and a fondness for such items as "shoo fly pie" and sauerkraut and pork. Dried sweet corn for dishes like chicken and corn soup became another favorite which, oddly enough, she can't find in Iowa.

Though Miss LeBaron's excellent taste in clothing also seems cosmopolitan, she does most of her shopping right here in Ames and Des Moines. However, she does do a lot of travelling over the country to attend national committees, and what woman could resist the urge to pick up a few choice items!

As one of the outstanding and greatly respected personalities on our campus, Dean LeBaron is a woman who began her college career as a shy freshman and is continuing it with the balance of outside interests and activities that make her not as the feared professor but a warm, friendly woman whom most home economics gals come to know very well indeed.

My Trip (Continued from page 9)

huts clustered on the hill sides or on top of the down­town buildings to small fishing boats.

In the Floating Market area, Thai women in small canoe-like boats paddle to the houses built on stilts along the waterfront. Cooked foods — rice, meat, tea — are offered from some of the boats. Fresh vegetables grown on farms looked good. (I was told the farms were tended by the man of the family). I recognized squash, greens and coconuts among the pro­duce on the boats. From other boats straw hats and mats and cotton cloth were sold. Instead of sending the children down to the corner store for bread, the Thai mothers send their children down to the land­ing for supplies.

In Bangkok, as in Hong Kong, I saw families liv­ing on river boats, here about twenty feet long. Often several were fastened together by lengths of wire to be pulled down the river.

Yes, the means for homemaking are different, and the equipment is certainly different, but all through the orient the activities are still the same — cooking food, bringing up children, managing a home.

Watch For The Big
ROOM CONTEST
In the November Issue
—of the—
IOWA HOMEMAKER PRIZES