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AFGHAN DIARY

By Kathleen Trautman

We've been on vacation now for over a week in India and the word to sum up this wonderful land is colour.

Lush green grass, fields of yellow mustard flowers and the brightest and gayest oranges, pulps and pinks in turbans and sarees. The drive from Kabul took three days with overnight stops in Rawalpindi and Lahore. It's a rugged, grueling, yet fascinating drive and the Grand Trunk Road is filled with bullock carts and people—a vivid contrast to the highway linking Kabul with Peshawar.

First stop was New Delhi for the Christmas holidays and it included colourful strolling hands who came to our door to serenade us and garlands of flowers hung ceremoniously around our necks on Christmas morning.

It seems that everyone came to visit us on Christmas, including a snake charmer and a fortune teller.

My experience with the snake charmer only emphasises the perils in traveling with two small boys. The snake charmer arrived outside the door of the apartment house in Sunder Nagar where we were staying with a basket—full of cobras and a huge python.

I got a little less than hysterical upon opening the front door to see our oldest boy Max with the python wrapped around his neck and our youngest son, Karl screeching with glee. Since the snake charmer spoke only Hindi there were some tense moments between him and one very distraught mother.

The snake act was followed by a dancing bear and two monkeys doing somersaults. Our boys were ecstatic. India was obviously just meant for them.

A drive to the pink city of Jaipur brought more experiences with the animal kingdom. This time I got into the act too, when our family rode an elephant up the winding road that leads to the Amber Palace. It was great fun and the view is spectacular.

To add to the colour, a local musician dressed in blue and white silks accompanied our elephant playing the Raanhatta—a musical instrument made of bamboo and a coconut shell with goat hide and wire strings. It was played with a horse hair bow and the Indian folk tune he played was enchanting. All this for the price of one rupee.

Reasonable prices are another feature of India I find attractive. India has her share of tourists—but the number hasn't become so great that the prices are out of proportion. Admission to many of her famous sites are reasonably priced and many times are free.

And speaking of India's famed sights—the more I travel through this exciting land, the more I realise the significance of Babur, the first Moghul to rule India and whose tomb I have visited in Kabul. India is filled with fascinating palaces and mosques erected by his grandsons and their sons.

I must say that the rulers of Rajasthan had the right idea when it comes to enjoying life. Not only did the Amber Palace outside of Jaipur that was built in the 17th century have its own unique system of air conditioning but I found the Chamber of Mirrors absolutely fascinating.

They close the doors and light two candles whereupon the thousands of tiny mirrors in the ceiling sparkle and dance and it gives the effect of standing under a night sky filled with the most dazzling galaxy of stars imaginable. And I understand it was for this very purpose the room was designed.

From Jaipur it's four hour drive to Agra and suddenly there it is—the famed Taj Mahal.

You stand there and look at it and it doesn't seem real. I had a chilling moment inside the tomb when I turned around to see a man carrying Karl up the steps.

It seems that Karl in his exuberance had fallen down the marble steps leading to the tombs. Happily only his dignity was hurt and in a few minutes he was skipping down the beautiful mall and wanting to see more of India.

The Red Fort at Agra was a favourite of the boys. There were ramparts to climb, imaginary arrows to shoot from narrow medieval towers and huge courtyards to prance about in.

Max was taken with the idea of all the fabulous gems that are in India and conned us into buying him a smoky topaz (for one rupee) so that he could pretend to be a Maharaja. Speaking of Maharajas, we actually got to meet one but that comes later.

Travelling with Mr. and Mrs. "Mad K" who are friends of ours, with AID in Kabul we met them in Agra—we journeyed to Fatehpur Sikri, the "lost City. If you can't imagine the trouble two small boys can get you into—add one more—his one named Robbie Keith. We now had three small boys

(Continued on page 4)

Aborigine Trackers Find School Teacher, Students

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan. 11, (Reuter).—Aborigine trackers Tuesday found missing American school teacher Jean Laing and her three child companions on a tea estate about 10 miles from where they disappeared in the jungle of Malaysia's Lameron highland's four days ago.

The senior assistant manager of the estate, R.D. Ouvry told Reuter 30-year-old Miss Laing, of Altuna, Pennsylvania, was sitting exhausted by a jungle stream when they found the party. The three children were in good condition.

The aborigines, who work on the estate and who have been assisting police and British army gurdhas in the rugged search, rigged up a makeshift stretcher and carried her back to their village.

The three children, 14-year-old Sarjit Kaur, 12-year-old Manjit Singh and 11-year-old Lalbir Singh, whom she had taken for a picnic last Tuesday, were able to walk out.

The aborigines also gave them their first food since they finished their picnic lunch on Tuesday.

Ouvry said quartet had been following jungle streams and subsisted on water since they got lost.

Miss Laing taught in the Dalat Christian Missionary school in the Cameron highlands, nearly 300 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, for the last two years, and the children were the brothers and sisters of a servant at the school.

They went missing not far from where American silk tycoon Jim Thompson while on holiday from his business in Bangkok. Not a trace of him was found.

An intensive search has been going on with police, British army gurdhas, civilians, Malaysian and British royal air force planes taking part since Tuesday night.

Hope was fading fast till aborigines announced that they had discovered tracks that appeared to be those of a woman or a girl.

The aborigines followed up the stream till they came across the party, whom they led to a road-head after feeding them. They were picked up by a police doctor and an ambulance who took them back to Tanah Rata in the centre of the highlands.

Tid Bits

Glasgow

Two raiders beat up a bookie and then relieved him of his trousers before making off with 200 sterling from his betting shop here.

Police said the idea was to stop the bookie, 46-year-old Patrick McCana, giving chase as the raiders escaped with his cash.

Rome

The 24-year-old wife of Brazilian diplomat died in her bath here yesterday—apparently killed by a shock from her electric toothbrush, police reported.

The Rome magistrate has ordered an autopsy on Mrs. Lea Maria Soares de Oliveira, wife of the second secretary of the Brazilian embassy here.

Belley, France

Olympic officials here have received anonymous telephone warnings of an attempt to steal the Olympic torch.

The snatch might have been planned for last night as the torch was carried across the Jura mountains on its tour of France on the way to Grenoble for the winter Olympic next February.

Robert Bailly, president of the Valromey ski club, who was carrying the torch said he and his escort noticed lights which seemed to be signalling as they skied through the night.

To avoid any possible incident, the party altered their route and increased their speed.

Police believe the warnings are probably a practical joke—but they are investigating.

Bayeux, France

Firemen here are threatening to resign over an order to salute their superior officers when off duty.

Soragna, Italy

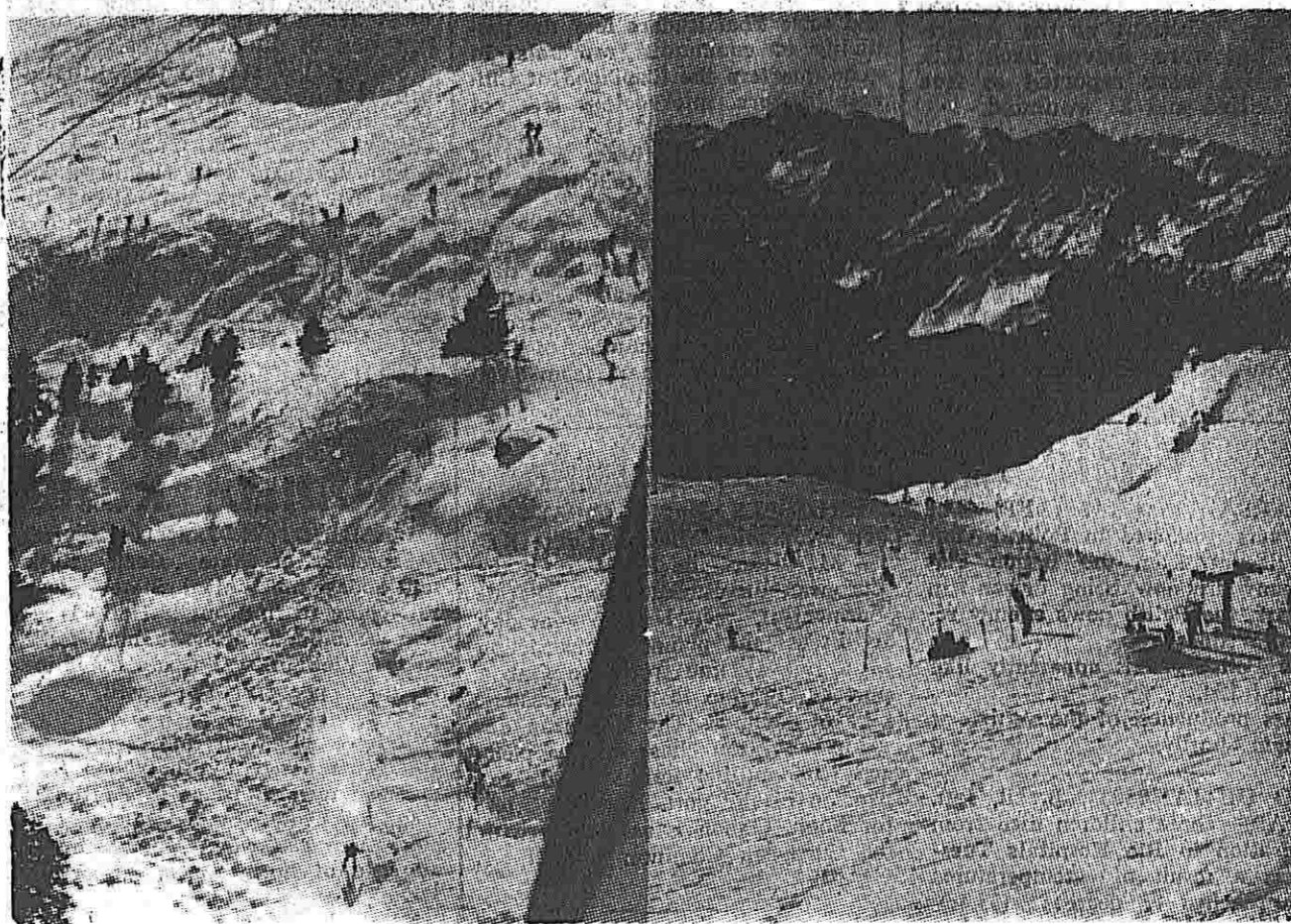
An 80-year-old retired butcher beat more than 50 other contestants to become Soragna's "King Of Big Noses, 1968".

Signor Livio Tencati, whose nose officially measured 7.2 centimetres (two and three quarter inches) long and five centimetres (two inches) across, was crowned under a giant paper mache nose set up in the plaza of the town, near Parma.

The annual contest, which began last year, is organised by members of the town's exclusive "Noses Club," founded two years ago.

Lausanne

Outstanding women athletes with husbands and babies may still have to take sex tests to



The slopes of the 6,750 foot Bebelhorn in the Allgau Alps in the Federal Republic of Germany, are among the world's most popular ski runs, suitable for both novices and experienced skiers.

Year after year Oberstdorf ski jump, the world's largest, is the rendezvous of the ski jumping elite. Sun lovers and the sick also head for the fairy tale winter landscape round Oberstdorf and the Nebelhorn.

southern Italy, in the next few days.

The professor said it was not unusual for the heart to stop in such cases, "but the surprising thing was the frequency with which it happened afterwards."

Milan. The barman called on the police when a man walked in his bar in freezing weather for a cup of coffee. The reason: the man was completely naked. Police took him to a psychiatrist.

Boston. Massachusetts supreme court has ruled that bar owners can be held responsible for highway deaths and injuries caused by drunken drivers.

In a decision written by chief justice Raymond S. Wilkins, the court said the Gregory Adamian, a lawyer, was entitled to a trial in a suit he brought against the owner of a bar over a car accident in which his wife was killed by a drunken driver.

The court said the bar continued to serve a patron who was already intoxicated. The patron, "greatly intoxicated" according to the court, then drove his car onto a highway and became involved in a fatal accident killing Adamian's wife.

Moscow

Seven Soviet girls have won the titles of either "Miss World" or "Miss Europe" of 1967. The newspaper Trud announced their names. Liliya Stryukova won the title of "Miss Stewardess-67" at a contest in Canada. 16-year-old school girl Lena Karpukhina, was called in Copenhagen the world's first grace and the "Russian miracle with pig tails," not simply the world's championess in calisthenics.

Moscowite Yelena Petushkova, the most elegant horse-rider won the title of "Miss Amazon of Europe" at a competition in the Federal Republic of Germany. Her love for horseriding is backed by her enthusiasm for biochemistry in which she has recently defended a thesis.

The title of "Madam Butterfly-67" belongs to Maria Bieshu, a Moldavian singer, the winner of a contest in Japan for the best Chio Chio San.

Trenton, New Jersey. A man drenched himself with petrol and set himself alight, apparently because his wife had left him, police reported.

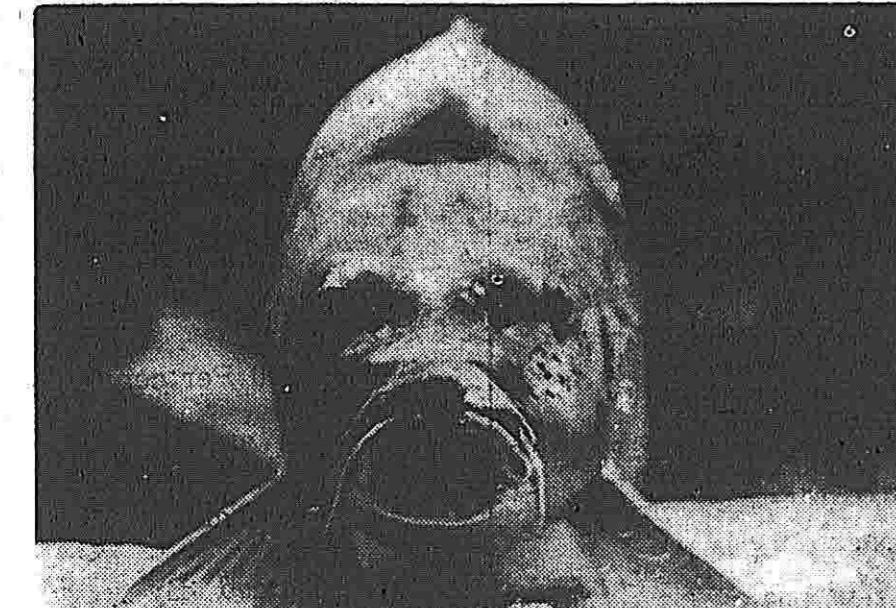
Anthony Czyn 51, is now in critical condition in hospital. A passer-by rolled him in the snow to put the flames out.

Kinshasa. About 50 lions are terrorising the central Congo province town of Kimpese, killing and eating cattle and frightening peasants away from their work in nearby fields, newspaper here reported.

Doctors at the heart of Lucia Longo, a student teacher, stopped beating six days after a plastic valve was inserted into it on November 23. Massage and electrical shocks set the heart beating again.

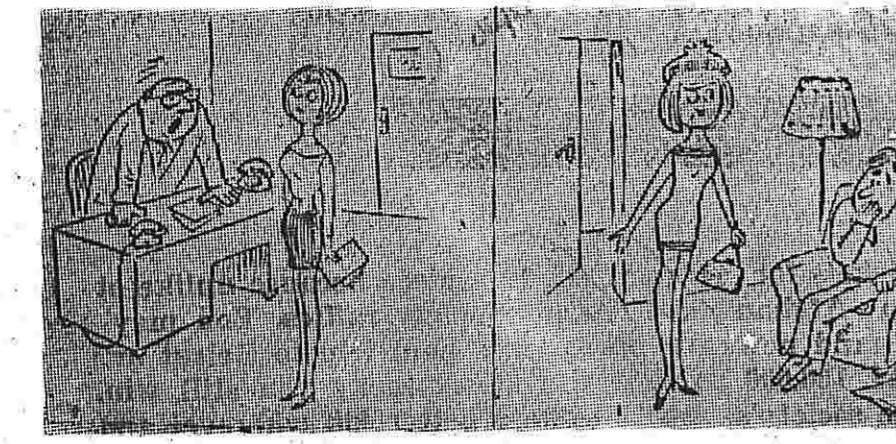
But in the next 12 days it stopped 109 times more, and was reactivated in the same way.

Professor Angelo Actis-Dato, who performed the operation, told reporters Miss Longo now was in good health and would return to her family in Bari.

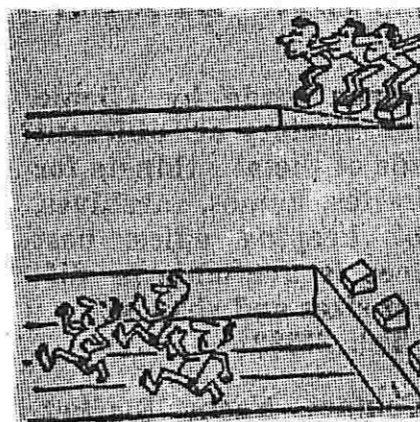
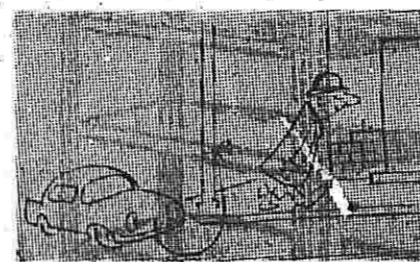


William, a 40-year-old female carp, became the number one attraction within a matter of days of her arrival at West Berlin's aquarium. Who is interested in more exotic breeds of fish when a yard-long, 50 pound, popeyed, pouting-lipped carp is on view

A Berliner born and bred too! The mature old lady here, age and sex ascertained by experts—has spent some four decades in woodland waters on the outskirts of the old German capital. The angler who caught her took her straight to the city aquarium, which has just celebrated its centennial. Delighted by the unexpected addition, the aquarium director declared that had never had such a big carp in the place.



Your clothes are so provocative, the chaps I bought it a bit longer to allow for shrinking can't get on with their work. From today you'll work in my room!



(Continued on page 4)

