

OUR TRIP

DEC. 8, 1957 - JAN. 15, 1958

Honolulu - Manila - Hong Kong - Japan - Honolulu.

Sunday Dec. 8, 1957 about 6:p.m. Barbara and George Nelson, the young couple who lived in our guest house drove Paul and me to Pearl Harbor to embark on the U. S. N. S. ~~Ship~~ Barrett. Helen and Ed Cooper, Barbara and Chet Caldwell, Mary Purcell and daughters Sally and Linda and mother Mrs. Parker, Bob Wallberg and Paul's secretary Ruth Keene were there to see us off, with gifts and leis galore. We were overwhelmed!

The ship left promptly at 7:45 and we were glad as we were so tired after a very busy day.. We had one of the nicest cabins on the ship and next door to a wonderful couple, Maj. Gen. (Ret) and Mrs. Pete Corlett from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The weather was rainy and windy, with only brief glimpses of the sun for the first few days out. Many were seasick and Paul felt a little squeemish, but thanks to dramamine he was soon over it and was not bothered any more during our entire trip. I never seem to be bothered that way at all. Neither one of us missed a meal!.. The rolling hurt my back for a night or two and kept me from sleeping well, but during the day I faithfully wore my brace and soon got my "sea legs".

We were seated at the Captain's table which was very convenient as we could eat anytime during the two servings each meal and did not have to hurry to let someone else have our place. The Corletts and Cdr. and Mrs. John Eisle were the only ones with us at the table and Captain Reddy very seldom ate at his table. We enjoyed each other so much and became well acquainted.. The Corletts were on their way around the world by freighter from Manila, and the Eistles with their big boxer and Indian mynah bird were going to duty in Guam as John was a Navy pilot. They had been stationed in Hawaii at Barbers Point and two years before they had made the trip from California to Hawaii on the same transport with our friends the Caldwells. Had not seen each other since until the Caldwells came to see us off!

We had been told in Pearl that the ship would make a stop at Kwajalein, but having no cargo or passengers for that island we headed direct for Guam. We were disappointed as Paul and Pete Corlett had been there, but Pauline and I never had. The Corletts were especially disappointed as Pete was in command of the forces that took the island during the war and a monument was erected with his name at the top in commoration of the event.

Other friends going as far as Guam were the Thomases who did much to make the trip a happy, friendly one for all. Paul had known him slightly before as he was a civilian with the Navy in Guam. There were many more fine people, and the Ship's Officers did everything to make the trip enjoyable. So many young people were on their way to new duty stations for navy, army and air force, and more children than we had ever traveled with before. They were well behaved, and were kept busy with school lessons given by volunteers among the passengers.

Our biggest , most gala event was when we crossed the International Date Line on Thursday Dec. 12th. We had lost the 11th to father Neptune. On the memorable date of the 12th all of us miserable, lowly "Pollywogs" became full fledged "Golden Dragons" after going before King Neptune and his court.. Beginning at noon all "Pollywogs" crept around with our clothes on inside

out, (have you ever tried to work a zipper inside out?) the women with no make up and hair in pin curls. The men had to wear the make up and had gone to extremes with lipstick, powder and eyebrow pencils. Paul, Pete Corlett and John Eisle were among the many lucky, and loudly "Golden Dragons" and helped plot our course for the ceremonies that night. We were blindfolded, then lipstick, eyebrow pencil and eye shadow generously applied. I didn't know Paul was such an artist until I had a look at my face much later! After singing some songs to King Neptune, led by Dragon George Thomas, we were led in groups of three to face His Majesty's Court. I was glad to be included in the first five with Pauline, as we were then able to see the rest of the proceedings. Still blindfolded, we were told to kiss the Royal Baby - a fat, jolly fellow, clothed in a sheet for a diaper, and with shaving soap smeared all over his tummy. He had a plastic baby bottle filled with vinegar which he playfully squirted at us. Next in the row of "royalty" was the "Queen" - a man with mayonaise spread thickly on his hand which we had to kiss! We must have been pretty sights (I know the others were!) when we came before King Neptune. All charges were read against us - our council objected to no avail, and then sentence was passed on each of us. I had to feel the "brain of a squid" (fruit jello), "dead men's eyes" (canned cherries) and "carry worms" (spaghetti of course) to the Royal Baby!... Others had to go to the Royal Barber (John Eisle) who realistically cut a piece of rope held to the hair, and others to the Royal Dentist who worked on the teeth with a pair of pliers while someone cracked nuts for sound effects!... When our blindfolds were removed we decided it was a good thing we had our clothes on wrong side out as we were smeared with mayonaise, shaving lather and vinegar and our faces were a mess! All were such good sports, and it was quite an initiation, and now we are Golden Dragons too, and have lovely certificates to prove it.

As if approving the crossing of the Date Line, the sun came out in all it's glory. Our days were spent sun-bathing on the fine sun deck, and Paul played volley ball with the ship's officers and some of the passengers. He got such "charley horses" in both legs that he could hardly walk, but kept at it until he finally worked them out. I always took a book or magazine up to read, but never got around to it for watching the game, chatting with friends or taking pictures. Capt. Reddy often came up to visit with us during this time and we got better acquainted with him. His hobby is making furniture and other things out of wood and he has quite a shop for it on the ship and spends most of his time there when free of his duties. He is a bachelor, but such a big, attractive man that some girl surely has missed out! He owns a home and small ranch in California and has made most of his own furniture.

At nights for awhile we spent most of our time at movies and saw some fine ones.. Then, in some way, I got roped into a bridge tournament! It was the first time I had played in two years and with a stranger as a partner! Young Ens. Garry Stephens and his wife were avid players and had signed up for the tournament. Their first night of play she became quite ill and they ended up with a zero! The next day she had to go to the hospital where she remained the rest of the voyage to Manila. Garry could not find another partner and wanted to play so badly, so someone suggested me. He had such a fine personality and we talked bridge for hours, then played that night. Garry was a joy to play with and we had good cards. Out of the eleven teams playing, all wanted us to play the first game over except one team of an air force colonel and major, so we kept the goose egg. We, and everyone else were delighted when we beat those two very badly! And we went on to the finals and when all scores were tabulated, we were second to the winners! I was so glad for Garry!

On the lovely morning of 17 Dec. we arrived in Guam. Paul had been there before, but I never had of course. We were met at the ship by old navy friends - Capt. and Mrs. Jack Roulett, Capt. Harry Thrapp whose younger brother Dan, had

lived in New York with us many years before, Capt. and Mrs. Castelazo, and three cililians - Mr. and Mrs. Marshall and Mr. Grafton. It was the first time we had met Jack Roulett's wife "Dusty" and liked her so much. We were told that during our six hours before the ship sailed Slim Grafton would drive us around to see the island, then deliver us to the Thrapp's quarters in time for lunch.. The Admiral in command at Guam came to the ship to greet the Corletts and invited them to lunch, but they preferred to go with us as they were so cordially invited to do.. We had such a nice sightseeing trip with everything pointed out to us of interest. Then back to the Thrapp's lovely quarters where Leah had a wonderful luncheon all ready. The Rouletts and Castelazos joined us and we had such a grand time! After lunch Dusty took the Corletts in her car to the Ship's Service store and Paul and I followed with Harry. After shopping for awhile they all took us to the ship and we sailed at 3:p.m. for Manila minus the Eisles, Thomases and many others.

Early in the morning of Dec. 20 we started passing islands until we entered the San Bernardino Strait. Land was on both sides of us there and at times quite close. The sea was like a lake and flying fish and dolphins everywhere. Capt. Reddy invited us on the bridge for awhile and then we had a very realistic "man overboard" drill. A rubber dummy was thrown over, the ship came about, lowered a life boat which picked the dummy up and then returned to the ship to be picked up in turn, and it all took just 16 minutes!

For some reason Capt. Reddy could not get his orders thru telling him whether to go to Subic or Manila first, so we had to anchor in the bay until early morning when we proceeded into Manila and docked on 21 December.

Jack Frisley met us at the ship, but my niece Judy had to stay home with the two little sons as their maid was off. As Jack was the Junior Naval Attache at the American Embassy, they were provided with a car and fine driver "Mack" who helped us to collect our baggage and then they took us about five or six miles out of town to Judy and Jack's lovely, comfortable home.

It was wonderful to be with them all again and to meet for the first time the new member of the family, little Steve. Fred, now two years old soon overcame his shyness with us, and the dachund Looley made us welcome.

We were in Manila at the best time of the year and the weather was delightful. Very much like our Hawaiian winter. Christmas decorations were everywhere and many unusual and beautiful ones. It is a dirtier place than Hawaii, and was so crowded and noisy and everyone seemed to be in a hurry, especially when in a car. No effort had been made to rebuild the ruined "walled city" and squatters lived in the walls. One demolished cathedral was being repaired, but other ruins were everywhere. Riches and squalor lived side by side.

We spent our time sight-seeing, shopping for additional Christmas gifts at the several P.X.s, and just enjoying being together. Twice we went to the Jai Ali games and Paul and Jack were quite lucky. The Palace and grounds were very impressive, spacious and lovely. One evening we went to Sangley Point by boat and enjoyed a good dinner and movie at the Officer's Club with Judy, Jack and other friends.

Christmas Eve was lots of fun. Friends came in and we all decorated the tree then had our Christmas dinner as we would be on our way to Hong Kong the next day. Bernado, their cook, prepared a wonderful dinner. We all enjoyed our first "family" Christmas in years!

Christmas morning was mostly Fred's and it was such a joy to watch his expressive little face! Each new gift was of untold wonder to him, and his joy was complete when he saw his first tricycle all his own!

We took numbers of pictures for our record and to send the family, then left with Jack for the airport. Judy had to stay with the boys as it was Christmas and the servants were off. On the way we were halted by caribo in the road. They pressed against the car and their horns scraped against it, but no damage was done.

Our flight was due to leave at 12:30, so we checked thru customs and had time to spare. Jack had spotted Burgess Meridith among the few people waiting for the plane, and we were quite surprised when he came over to speak to us. In the conversation it turned out that he was going to Hong Kong for a rest from the movie he was making in Manila. He was very worried about leaving, as he said one of their young writers was in the hospital and he had just found out that morning that it was polio! Jack took his name and said that the Embassy would look into the case for him and give all assistance possible, so Mr. Meridith seemed greatly relieved.

The trip to Hong Kong was the smoothest flight I have ever had! It was on a PAL Viscount, turbo-jet assist, and though it was a 46 passenger plane, there were only 10 passengers on board as it was Christmas day. After lunch the two lovely hostesses brought a beautiful, huge cake up the isle for us to see and presented everyone with small cordials and holly bouquets.

Mr. Meridith was very friendly and we enjoyed talking to him.

A few minutes out of Hong Kong we hit a solid overcast and the pilot dropped to about 500 feet to get under it. This he did, but landing on that air-strip between high mountain peaks was like threading the eye of a needle, but we landed safely at 3:10 P.M.

We were met at the airport by Mr. Chan, representative of the H.K. Travel Bureau. He brought us gifts of an ivory buddha and a pair of folding binoculars and an invitation to Mr. & Mrs. Clemo's Open House Christmas party which we regretfully had to decline, as it was so late.

We asked Mr. Chan if we could take Mr. Meridith to the hotel with us as he also had a reservation at the Peninsula Hotel. He was delighted and we had an interesting twenty minute trip.

The Peninsula Hotel was the first of its kind I had ever been in, with such an international atmosphere. As we entered the lobby it looked like every country I had ever heard of was represented! Not only in faces, but in costumes and language which I heard in snatches... We were given one of the finest rooms in the hotel. A huge, corner room on the top (6th) floor overlooking the busy harbor, the island of Hong Kong and the Star Ferry which plied back and forth constantly. The never ending parade of ships from all over the world, junks and ferries was so fascinating to me that I was torn between staying close to our windows and going out among the sights we could see. The service in the hotel was splendid and we were carefully looked after by our room boy named Hoy. We had two lovely bouquets of flowers in our room, one from the management and one we presumed was from the Clemos, though we never found out for sure. Hoy arranged them beautifully and took good care of them every day. He also took care of our laundry, did our unpacking and put things away, saw that our shoes were always kept polished, and packed for us when we left!

Water in Hong Kong and Kowloon is very precious, so is rationed. A big sign in the bath room told us when it was cut off, and then we had a caraffe of water for brushing teeth and a pail of water with dipper to use in the wash basin. The toilets use the water from the harbor so was plentiful.

We had learned a few words of Chinese and practiced on Hoy and the elevator boys much to their delight. I would advise anyone going to a foreign country to take the time to learn a few words of their language, such as "good morning", "good night", "please", and "thank you" to get the most out of your trip in cooperation and friendship! It will add greatly to your own enjoyment as well as to theirs.

Mr. and Mrs. Moss whom we had met on the ship from Guam to Manila, called us soon after we got in, to ask us to go to dinner over in Hong Kong with them and another couple. They came to our hotel to pick us up and we walked to the Star Ferry (passengers only - another ferry takes cars) besieged by children begging! I found it very hard to get used to the constant begging of youngsters, often very little larger than ones they carried on their backs.

We went to the Parisian Grill for dinner then on to Maxine's for the good floor show. The feature singer was a negro man from the deep south and he was a fine actor as well as singer. I was as fascinated by the variety of people as by the floor show!

The next day we went with the Mosses on a tour of Kowloon and out to the New Territory to the fence dividing it from Red China which could well be called the "point of no return"! Military outposts guard the fence on both sides as far as the eye can see.... There were women and children where we had to stop who were eager to pose for pictures. They were an odd looking group dressed in black, with large black hats which had fringes hanging from the broad brims. We were told later that the fringe helped to keep the insects away from the face and neck as the women worked in the fields.

On our way back, we stopped at the ancient Walled City where about three hundred people, their chickens and pigs exist in the most unbelievable filth, squalor and crowding!! Nearly everyone we saw had sores on the visible parts of their bodies, and so many were toothless or nearly so. I don't know how those people existed! I couldn't leave there quickly enough!

We had lunch at the Carlton Hotel and I have never been so happy over a new treat we experienced there for the first time and learned it was the general custom. After the Walled City we were eager to scrub at least our faces and hands and after this was done, the attendant, instead of giving us a dry towel to wipe on, handed us hot, sterilized, sweet smelling towels that were damp! What a wonderful, refreshing thing this custom is!

The hotel is built on a hillside overlooking the fairly new vast City of Refuge, scene of a big and bloody riot about 1955.

Upon returning to our hotel we found that it was the "water on" period, so it was wonderful to have a fine hot bath after our trip. We dressed and went to dinner at Gaddis' in the Peninsula Hotel with Burgess Meridith. That was one of the most delicious meals I have ever had. The chateau briand was perfect!

We had arranged only one other tour and that was to see Hong Kong and the island. Mr. Chan was our driver and guide and he asked if a young couple could join us. They turned out to be a Lt. and Mrs. Braun, a young Navy couple from Subic Point in the Philippines and he was a CEC officer under our good friend Joe Luppens! He was from Louisville, Kentucky and his father is a member of my cousin E. T. Hutchin's architect firm. Mrs. Braun was from Frankfort and we discovered that we might be distant cousins!! Small world!

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P.6 (new)

We ~~got an early start~~ ^{left Rowloon party} and went across
the harbor on the car ferry to the Peak
cable car terminal. We got out there to go
up by the cable car and Mr. Chan drove
up to meet us at the top. It was not
as long a ride as Piki's Peak, but
^{a strange illusion as we sat in the car was that we were}
much steeper and such a thrill! And
what a view from the top! Could see
clear into Red China. We went to Pigi
Balm Gardens - a fantastic place which
I care nothing about seeing again. All
sorts of gaudy statuary etc. and up and
down hill. ^{The only nice thing about the place was}
^{the private residence & swimming pool of}
^{Amoy Byron Hau & the Pigi King}

level of buildings & trees

Drove out to lovely Repulse Bay Hotel
for lunch then back by Aberdeen Fishing
Villages. Were advised not to eat lunch
there as the tide was out and the odor
^{made one's appetite}
evaporated one's appetite! I have
forgotten how many thousands of junks
are tied up there where people are born,
live and die! The children have no

schooling as they have to pay to ~~go~~ go to the public schools. ~~There~~ Everywhere were fish nets drying and small fish on wire frames drying in the sun. Again there were the beggars for "bumshai" everywhere. Little children carried buckets of water on poles and other loads which weighed more than they did!

We drove around beautiful bays and by fine looking truck farms where mostly women worked in long black dresses and big hats with cloth fringe to keep the bugs away from face & neck. Women worked on road construction too, as most of such work is done by hand. So many of the men go out on the big fishing junks for months at a time.

There are many beautiful homes and apartments in Hong Kong too. We saw the lovely home which was Clark Gable's in the movie "Soldier of Fortune" and took a picture of it.

The temptation to go to the Portuguese Island of Macao was great, but we didn't feel we could spare the time.

As far as the shopping was concerned

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one could surely go broke saving money! Prices were amazingly low and we even got a lower price by going to the Navy Exchange where the most reliable stores had samples of their goods. He picked out things which were written down ^{by a clerk} and ~~we~~ ^{then} took the certificates to the different stores where we were given a 21% discount. On all items one got a certificate of origin as nothing made in Red China can be imported into our country. First we picked out materials and had clothes made. Paul got two suits, two sports jackets and ^{two} pairs of slacks. He had several shirts and two pairs of shoes made and all fit beautifully. I had a finger tip length beige coat and a beautiful pure white cashmere tailored jacket made! Then we bought a nest of six pieces of leather luggage including a wardrobe case for less than the latter alone would cost ^{if you}! Leather goods are very fine in H.K., so I ^{purchased} got a lovely handbag and we ^{found} got a fine briefcase for a gift to Paul's assistant, Bob Walberg. My chief extravagance was a pair of jade earrings and a lovely lapel pin to match my jade ring which Paul brought me from China ^{so many years ago.} Then we went to a

fine furniture store where we ^{invested in} got a lovely set of four nested tables and the most beautiful arm chair I've ever seen, all hand made of rosewood. Also another small table of teak and birchwood. a fine brass bound teakwood jewelry chest and one or two other items. Of course we bought lots of ivory items, perfumes, Bangkok table ^{ware} items made of ^{brass} and buffalo horn which is quite the thing here, and several other items.

We were so fortunate to go into Willie Magee's tailor shop ^{in HK} and to find he was a man Paul had known and bought from in Peking, China! you would have thought Paul was a long lost brother and what a character ^{Willie is} ~~he was~~! He had to have us meet all his ^{fine} family and what a fine family it was. Every time we went in we had to have tea and when we would leave one of the sons would get us a cab and the whole family would see us off and Willie would insist on paying the driver and telling him where to take us!

Our other tailor in Kowloon was recommended by a note from Dusty Roulette

in Guam. He was Mr. Chu, and ^{before we left} ~~one~~ would have thought we owned the two shops he had from all the attention we received from all the clerks. One night he and his nephew Stephen took us to dinner at a fine new Chinese restaurant which just opened Christmas Eve. (Escallator)

Then Mr. George, a fine elderly Chinese gentleman who owned the furniture store was from Shanghai and Paul remembered his fine store there. He is a well educated, interesting man and designs all his furniture himself. One last night there we were rushing around like crazy collecting our purchases etc. so he put his station wagon and driver at our disposal which was a life saver!

^{U.S. Line} We were told that our freighter, the Pioneer Mist was sailing that night of the 30th and we had to be aboard by 9: PM. so we had dinner and with Hoy's and Mr. Chan's help got all packed. The travel agency sent all our things to the ship ahead of us and then Mr. Chan took us in a water taxi to the ship. Mr. Clemo was wonderful help too and a fine man. His son lives in Manila and Judy and Jack

know him well.

Capt. Knowlton, skipper of the ship said we would not sail until morning and was surprised to see us board that night! However I was glad to get settled in our nice, spacious cabin. Tony, our room steward was a big help.

It was so interesting the next morning to see the junks, bum boats etc. crowd around the ship selling hand made furniture and all types of ^{things} ~~things~~. He bought a ^{split bamboo} "saucer" chair and ^{an} hour glass type table, both for about \$3.⁰⁰ from a nine year old boy who could quickly figure the price in U.S., Hong Kong or Japanese yen! The men tried to trip him up, but couldn't.

Women in hand skulled junks were picking up any lumber, no matter how small, tin cans, bottles or anything they could salvage!

When we were ready to get underway all the hand powered boats got tows from the gasoline launches back to their docks as we were anchored quite a way out.

We left Hong Kong at 10: AM. - the same time the retiring Governor was boarding a ship for his return to England. Rice boats were throwing streams of water

just as they do in the U.S.

It was very interesting going out of the harbor and at the fairly narrow mouth of the harbor we saw a lovely four year old Dutch freighter which had gone on the rocks in a typhoon just about two months earlier. Such a tragic sight! Couldn't be salvaged as it was just hanging on a rock ledge with very deep water to slide into. We were told that all the crew got off safely.

I was the only woman on the ship. We had only five passengers in all. Our fellow travelers were interesting men who preferred freighter travel as did we. Mr. Abramson, one of the head immigration officers in Honolulu sat at table with us in ^{the} dining saloon. And a Mr. Hilliel and Mr. Denkin from Tokyo who are the line's largest import-exporters. ^{were at the Capt. table.} Mr. Hilliel was born in Bagdad and was in China and taken prisoner by the Reds!

Our skipper, Capt. Knowlton from Long Island, N.Y. was a most interesting person! He had been a navy captain during the war, but had gone back to merchant ships afterwards. He was a wonderful host.

during our trip to Japan then back to Honolulu. He had cocktails in his cabin nearly every evening before dinner. He was a fine artist in pastels, tho was entirely self taught. Did mostly nudes ~~tho~~ ^{but} had done a fine portrait of his son. He was well versed on almost any subject and tho at times he was quite caustic. he had a wonderful sense of humor.

Our first day ~~out~~ when out of sight of land we were all sitting in the passenger's lounge when one of the crew dashed in for Capt. K. and told him we were in the midst of a fleet of junks and the whistle had stuck! Upon going on deck it was a sight to behold with sea going fishing junks as far as one could see! One skimmed in front of the ship so close that we held our breath for the crunch! Later the captain told us that they would do that for good luck - as they thought it cut off any following evil spirits. They almost got lots more than that cut off!

That night was New Years Eve. We dressed up and went to the captain's cabin. He had a gorgeous tray of hors d'oeuvres^(?) and drinks, then we had a special dinner in the dining saloon. After dinner we walked on the limited deck

awhile then back to the skipper's quarters to stay to see the old year out and the new one in. At midnight we blew the whistle. then after good wishes to all we went to our cabins as it had been a full day.

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at that time it was left to the master of a ship whether he deemed it safe to go the much shorter route thru the Bering Strait to Japan or to go around. We went thru and tho we could see land and mountains of Alaska, we did not see a plane or any other ship.

~~Later in the afternoon before~~

The day before we were to reach Kobe, we started passing some of the southern most islands of Japan. We saw a volcano spouting steam and many interesting sights.

Early in the morning of Jan. 3rd we went on deck to find it bitter cold! By the time we docked it was snowing a little. the first we had seen in a good many years.