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Asian journal to record the journey
of Nancy Ferguson, Doug and Whitney Moore and
myself to Nepal to view its temples and
sample its jungle experience

Oct 28 - Nov. 12, 1989

Oct 30, ~~Sunday~~ Monday Morning - at last I think it is a Monday. We lose a day on the overseas flight so it must be Monday. Japan! We are here. It is 5:30 in the morning local time. We are staying at the Narita View Airport Hotel about twenty minutes away from the air port itself. As for most of what I have seen here in asphalt and cement, but glimpses yesterday afternoon from the windows of our airport bus showed a beautiful country side, marshy in spots, low hills covered with pine and Bamboo and grasses along the highway - tall marsh grass like that in our Golden Screen back home. Here and there tucked between the hills and at the sides of the road are small rice fields. No land seems wasted if it can be cultivated.

Narita air port is big and sterile looking, very crowded and hard to move our luggage carts around in. But all the people are friendly, polite and very tolerant of the confusion. If one takes his time one can get through the crowds eventually.

Our flight from Fort Worth was really quite smooth and pleasant. Nancy and I got to the air port at nine o'clock for our eleven o'clock flight. Nancy's sister Elizabeth drove us. Brent brought Whitney and Doug. Whitney as usual had not slept a wink the night before and she looked it. Although our plane was almost full we managed to get our seats together in the smoking section, and Nancy

managed to get two seats to sleep on right next to me.

Our hotel is not fancy, but it is comfortable. We got to our rooms after some delays in getting passports checked and waiting for our airport bus. We almost immediately went to sleep as soon as we got into our rooms, waking up at about eleven. Somewhat later we all went down stairs and got a Japanese breakfast, Omelets, a Thailand seafood soup and a rice dish. We then went to a video game room for a few minutes then returned to our rooms.

It is really a shame that we have neither the time or the money to see something of Japan. Everything looks so modern and antiseptic here that I simply cannot get a good even brief look at Japan - the countryside. But here and there there are hints at how truly beautiful this country must be. From our hotel room I can see westward toward a simple pagoda on the horizon. Oh well, such has been the story of my traveling life. Today we fly to Hong Kong for the night then on to Bangkok for a night and a day. I have some idea of the beautiful sites that await us, and that does somewhat mollify my disappointment at not being able to see something of Japan.

Nov. 1st. Wednesday. Bangkok.

Hong Kong is almost a blur to me as a sit here in our suite at the Imperial Hotel, supposedly the finest hotel in the world. We are staying in the old section which is truly

Charming. Although our room number is 259 I feel that we are about four stories above the ground here with a very good view of the river which cuts this city in half.

First let me get back to Hong Kong. It has been twenty three years since I was last here and in some respects the city looks the same to me. True, there are more tall modern buildings than before, and the Peninsula Hotel which once had a great view of the ~~harbour~~ harbour is now surrounded and checked off somewhat by more recent buildings.

But the same amount of soot and grime seems to be on everything and I guess there are more people. (Hong Kong is the most densely populated city in the world and looks it.) Nancy and Whitney and I stored our gear in our rooms at the Regent Hotel and decided to use as much of the three hours as of shopping time before stores closed to explore a couple of shopping malls nearby. I swear that Nancy gets so keyed up when faced with the tempting prospect of so much shopping that she seems almost to be another person. She's fun to shop with but she moves so fast that I can hardly keep up with her. I swear that she moves around from one store to another as if she were herself a buyer for some department store back home. Of course there is every thing to be had here,

Day
 In morning
 drive in Rhin.
 see gharial
 proper Rhin.
 and close by
 a tiger Day
 was seen
 by our guide
 Chandy a spotted
 deer.

ARRIVE by helicopter in afternoon at
 tented camp, Chuch, Sich and
 I don't go out but stay in tent. Later
 in evening go to tiger battery, no luck
 wake up feeling better go on 3 hour
 nature walk with Doug, Allen Russell
 and Bruce with Chuch and Krishna.



Return to camp for late breakfast
 and at noon take rafting trip down
 river (Carnali River) with Whitney, Alden,
 Bruce, Nancy, Donna Rodgers Allen and
 Russell. Disembark, lunch and
 return to boat down river to where
 elephants await. Whitney and I on elephant.
 Nancy, Bruce, Alden up ahead sight
 tiger and much game, birds, monkeys
 in late afternoon night. Return to
 camp for dinner. Return to tent for
 early to bed.

Day Early Boat trip to jeeps that take
 us for one hour drive to Carnali Lodge.
 arrive at about noon. Rest. In evening
 I take a nature walk with park
 ranger - almost see a tiger.

Day Next morning say our goodbyes, take
 three or four hour jeep trip, dusty road
 back to Nigalgung Airport wait 2 hrs
 for plane to take us back to Kathmandu
 arrive Kathmandu late p.m. Ed has
 dinner for us.

Day Drive to Dashapatti to Great Hindu
 Temple, see cremation, ~~then~~ then
 drive to Bakthapur (old city restored)
 then to mountain hotel for open air
 lunch with incredible view of Himalayas.
 Return to K. duns for fancy party at Ed's
 art room and courtyard. Good party. Lots
 of Big wings.

Day Prepare to leave Rotterdam, some shopping.
Leave Vrij at night for all night
flight to Hong Kong via Bangladesh
stop over. Manage to get on early
flight to Tokyo. Arrive in afternoon
but cannot get early flight to Home. So
stay at Naita View until next Day.

Day Spend morning doing nothing at
Hotel leave at 3:00^{pm} for airport and
flight (6:55) for Leeds.

clothes - real labels and counterfeit ones -
furniture, shoes, antiques, Everything. Nancy
and I finally wound up at a fabulous
and very expensive Oriental art place
where she purchased three very beautiful
and simple tortoise shell boxes. I bought
a Tankha from Nepal for \$12800 which was
quite nice. By the time we finished we
still had not explored but a small fraction
of the Terminal Market Shopping Center. All
the shops very clean and the whole place
quite modern, even futuristic in rather
dramatic contrast to the junkie street
shops and sidewalk vendors crowded
along the way back to our hotel. Whitney
had returned to the hotel earlier to shop
at a mall nearby. I was not feeling
very well because of loss of sleep and
a persistent cough that has bothered
me since a day before we left for this
trip. Nancy and I spent the rest of
the evening at the hotel enjoying the
fabulous harbor view from our hotel
room window and resting for the
early morning flight to Bangkok.

Tuesday morning saw us packing
early for our 9:30 flight. We had breakfast
at Pitney, Doug, Nancy and I in the Hotel
restaurant then looking the harbor. Breakfast
was late but we managed to get out of the
hotel without problems and the Daimler
(Rolls Royce like car) got us and all our
luggage to the airport on time.

Our flight to Bangkok was packed

full. It's interesting to see how the physical traits of the people begin to change as we move farther westward. Our Tokyo and Hong Kong flights had mostly Anglo-Europeans and Japanese or Chinese Asians on board, but this flight had increasingly darker skinned people - clearly with East Indian and Burmese blood. The flight of three hours was smooth & I read my biography of Elizabeth I and Mary, her Chronicle of Harmer. Whitney slept and Doug looking more tired than ever remained awake in the seat behind me.

The airport at Bangkok is huge and quite clean and modern - even beautiful. The temperature and humidity changes quite noticeably. Our trip from the airport took about forty minutes. The traffic in this city of six million is quite heavy.

Bangkok is really not like I thought it would be. In the area that I traveled there were few canals and the streets were literally clogged with cars, motor bikes and motorcycle cabs. Side streets very narrow and ^{cramped} cramped with people.

Friday Morning - Katmanlu

I'm going to try to reconstruct the last few days since I have been literally going non-stop since we arrived at Bangkok.

After we settled into our rooms at the Imperial Hotel, our guide arrived to take us to see the Royal Palace, the Emerald Buddha and the reclining Buddha. All are located

fairly near to each other in the old section of Bangkok along the river. These palace and Temple buildings of old Siam are truly wonderful. Nancy thought them quite glitzy with their mosaics, mirrors and gilding, but I thought them truly splendid and much of what the fabled East is ~~all~~ or was all about. There were literally thousands of Tourists among the worshippers at the temples, and this greatly detracted the impact of this place's beauty. All the buildings are separated one from another by courtyards filled with statuary and potted plants. Also the size of the structures is deceptive; The buildings are really much larger than they appear. The heat ~~was~~ and humidity were bothersome, and this coupled with the fatigue of our journey here made most of us anxious to return to the hotel. My cough was also getting the best of me. Still the trip here to the palace and temple grounds was worth it. The huge reclining Buddha, the gilded temple where they kept the Emerald Buddha were truly fabulous.

We returned to the hotel through Chongking on exhaust and congested traffic every bit as bad as Mexico City. This city of six millions feels absolutely crammed as I have said. The hotel gardens and tea room ~~gave~~^{offered} a necessary respite when we finally got back. After a couple of beers we all returned to our rooms. I was not feeling very good, but I could not really tell if I was all that sick or simply tired. Nancy went shopping with Whitney and Alden and did not

return until it was dark. She bought an
interesting Turtle shell mask of Baidawa (sp?)
and a bracelet. Later Everyone except Doug
and me went out to a Thai restaurant
across the River. Nancy was back by Ten
o'clock and stayed with me while the
others again went out to the red light
section of Bangkok to see a strange floodshow
where women did water things with
their vaginas - like shooting ping pong
balls and darts and other strange things.

My cough was not getting any better
my morning and we had an early flight
that had us packing as soon as we got up.
We had ~~of~~ a four hour flight to Katmandu
which was quite smooth. We were in
first class this time and the service was
quite good.

As our plane made its descent into the
Katmandu Valley our pilot told us to look
out the window to the right and we would
see Mount Everest. Try though I might,
I could not see it.

Ed Bost and his staff were at the
airport to meet us. The Customs people of
Nepal are quite thorough, I'm told to prevent
smuggling into the country. They made Mark
and Alden open the bird books because they
could not believe that boxes that big would
be holding books. I really believe that they
went above and beyond the call of duty to
drag them here.

The Katmandu Valley is truly beautiful,
much like the highlands of Central Mexico.

The snowed rice fields and neat little houses lining the road give one the impression of general prosperity at least in the countryside.

We were given necklaces of marigolds and purple flowers and Ed held forth about the valley and the people while we rode into town. Nancy and I were not quite sure what to expect as far as the Vajra Hotel was concerned, since we were told that it was a "Cultural experience" rather than a hotel.

Sir:-

We, the writing members of W N Fund and The Fort Worth Zoological Society, would be honored if you would accept this book, "OR BIRDS AND TEXAS", as a token of our admiration and regard for your achievements in restoring and preserving the natural heritage of Nepal. It is truly a model for all the world to follow.

In its own way our gift will allow us to share with you a part of our own natural heritage of Texas in return for the enjoyment we have experienced here in Nepal. ~~that the book will bring you many hours~~ ^{you hope}

Respectfully

Sir Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bin Bikram Shah

Sir:

It is with deepest regrets

- 1 - TOKYO - NARITA HOTEL
- 2 - TOKYO → HONG KONG
- 3 - HONG KONG → BANGKOK
- 4 - BANGKOK - KATMANDU

Sumbago Stop

Dinner at Ambassadors

- 5 - KATMANDU

Doog and I at River, Temple, walk through old KATMANDU.

Bus Trip to DORBAT (Katmandu)

Bus Trip to PATAN

OLD buildings

by Tanks

Dinner at Hotel in downtown K. - boring!

6. - Morning at Katmandu, Flight to Tiger Tops picked up by Elephant, arrive T.T. at night. House with Stupples and Charlie and Kit.

7. - Morning, pick up in Lorries, driven for 2 hours to Ruins Captain site. Elephant shaken to start Ruins (22 elephants), return to Tiger Tops and elephant ride to Tentel Camp.

- P. - Early morning departure from Tentel Camp, nature walk back to Tiger Tops. Catch helicopter to Carnali Tentel Camp, arrive

Animal water colors etc 30⁰⁰

3 TANKS (1) 10⁰⁰

(2) 35⁰⁰

(3) 100⁰⁰

Jewelry, necklaces + brooches 30⁰⁰

Skull necklace 20.00

Masks

Skull Mask 2.00

Dark mask of Hd man 10.00

Broken Mask of BAIKAL 2.00

Brass Mask 20.00

Skull of Goat ornamented, Tibetan Style 20.00

Tiger Top Hunting shirt 10.00