

# 'You can get there from here & back again, but it ain't easy'

(Editor's note: The following is the second of a four-part series featured weekly in the Gazette-Times. The author, Kay Anderson of Heppner along with her husband Frank, an area wheat rancher, recently traveled to India, as well as other countries, and has written an account of their interesting trip.)

By KAY ANDERSON

We left Tiger Haven the next morning, being towed to the pavement, such as it was, by the wheel tractor, and hounded our way back to Jaeknow, the Indian driver honking all the way.

We discovered as we left Tiger Haven that all of us, including Raj and our two Indian drivers, were suffering from the same sickness, known in every country by a different name. Here in Northern India, it is known as "Delhi Belly" and we were to have it a lot throughout our trip, no matter how careful we were of what we ate and that the water we drank had been boiled. The only cure we found effective was a diet of tea, toast, hard boiled eggs, bananas and lots of diarrhea medicine.

So back to Delhi, where there was a foul-up in our reservations at the hotel where our bags were. We

were given rooms at what had been the viceroys' guest house in days long gone by. This wasn't too bad, an interesting old place with very large cockroaches. But the beds were clean and the cockroaches stayed in their corner and we in ours.

After obtaining a change of clothes from the baggage we were always leaving in Delhi, we were off to Bharatpur, famous for the Knaladeo Game Bird Sanctuary, the largest in the world. We were up and out on the lake at 5:30 a.m. the next morning to watch the sun come up and to see and hear the thousands of birds awaken to the day. I'm not the keenest bird watcher in the world, but must admit it was an impressive experience. This was quite a large park to explore and we saw lots of game, sambar deer with racks of horns like reindeer, spotted antelope, pigs, snakes, and lots of jackals that howled at night.



Painted storks at the Knaladeo Game Bird Sanctuary



Bengal Tiger

The next day our big experience was a python hunt. I was very eager to do this as I thought we would do it like you do in Africa—drive up alongside a python and take his picture. Not so in India! The driver stopped and Raj said, "Okay, everybody out. We go the rest of the way on foot."

My reply was, "You've got to be kidding." Well, he wasn't. He told me that pythons are very shy and that we would approach their pits very silently, then track them to where they would be sunning themselves. So off we went, very silently and I wasn't in the lead. The first thing we did was stumble onto a brown boa constrictor, about six feet long. The snake was asleep in the middle of the path. He did turn out to be quite shy, because he woke up with a start and was gone like a streak of lightning, so no pictures of him. From then on we tiptoed to the python pits. The pythons wait for wild pigs and ground porcupines to dig pits in which to wallow and then the snakes move in. Of course, the pigs and porcupines move right out. We started tracking, and soon found a python about 12 feet long and very large around, obviously having just eaten something like a small antelope. We were able to get quite good movies of him before he disappeared. We found one more but he was also a streaker, so no pictures of him either.

We drove next to Agra and went to see and photograph the Taj Mahal which was completely covered with Ja-

panese tourists. The Taj Mahal is truly one of the most beautiful monuments to be seen and we were duly impressed.

From Agra we went back to the bush. We went by plane to Khajuraho, where the Hindu temples are very ancient and world renowned for their erotic art. From here we went bouncing along in our "limousines" to Bandhavgarh for more game viewing from elephant back, still seeking the Bengal Tiger. And we found the tiger this time. We were riding our elephants up a ravine and found the tiger napping on the bank at eye level and about 12 feet away. My first thought was that he was liable to leap and be sitting between Frank and me in our howdah. However, he looked at us and yawned, turned over and went back to sleep. We found this to be the tiger attitude throughout. He seemed to know that he's an endangered species and that the camera is not a lethal weapon. We also saw many of the beautiful sambar deer, spotted deer, and monkeys galore. It wasn't a snipe hunt after all.

From here we went to Kanha-Kisli, the best game park in India, and we found lots of tigers. In this park the mahouts went out about 4:30 a.m., taking about seven elephants. They found a tiger, left one or two elephants and mahouts with him and then came out to the road to pick us up so we could join the hunt and do our photographing. We stayed there four days and it was the highlight of the trip for me. I learned a lot of different ways to get on and off an elephant, and we saw more game there than in any of the other parks.

(to be continued next week)

## Lexington City Council meets

Judge Don McElligott was present at the Tuesday, Dec. 8 meeting of the Lexington City Council, reports Linda Jones, city recorder.

Judge McElligott presented the plans and specifications for the new county shop, to be built on recently acquired county land, donated by Virginia Rosewall of Heppner.

In other business the council:

—discussed a contract agreement on a water pump for Mel Boyer.

—ordered materials to install a new water line for Jay Howard.

—granted Maintenance Man Floyd Borman, Lexington, three months absence.

—set special meeting dates for Dec. 16 to discuss next year's budget.

## First Christian to hold Christmas program Sun.

The First Christian Church in Heppner will present its Christmas program this Sunday evening, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The program will feature special entertainment by children in the Sunday school and weekly Bible Club, announced the Rev. Shelton.

Included in the program will be special numbers by many adults and youths of the

church. "We will also be lighting the final candle of the Advent Wreath in celebration of Christ's coming," he said.

After the 11 a.m. worship hour the church will be presenting a sack of Christmas candy to each child present.

"The community is extended a warm invitation to attend any and all services," the Rev. concluded.

## SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Heppner Elementary School

Heppner High School

Thursday, Dec. 17 - sloppy joes, green beans, celery sticks, fruit and milk

Friday, Dec. 18 - hot dinner sandwiches, vegetables, salad, fruit and milk

Monday, Dec. 21 - hamburger gravy, whipped potatoes, vegetable salad, fruit, biscuits, gelatin and milk

Tuesday, Dec. 22 - Christmas meal: Mrs. Claus special, snowball potatoes, reindeer's vegetables, Santa's bread, Christmas tree cookies, vuletide delight and milk

Thursday, Dec. 23 - cook's choice.

Monday, Dec. 21 - tacos, shredded lettuce, grated cheese, hot vegetable, dessert and milk

Tuesday, Dec. 22 - Christmas brunch, sausage, scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, cinnamon rolls, orange wedge and hot cider.

Wednesday, Dec. 23 - cooks choice.

Thursday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve, no school.

Friday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day, no school.

## TOYS FOR TOTS NIGHT

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC BEGINS AT 9 p.m.



Cover Fee: One toy in usable condition. If you can't make it—we'll welcome a toy donation anyway.

Thank you, Doug & Kathleen

### LAST CHANCE

TO BUY TICKETS, 25¢ EACH ON PIONEER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY NURSE DOLL WITH WARDROBE. DRAWING DEC. 19 at 2p.m. AT GARDNER'S MEN'S WEAR.

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

## Holiday Hits

WESTERN PANHANDLE SLIM SHIRTS



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WESTERN COATS

WESTERN HATS

BOY'S COATS SIZES 1-20

BOY'S SHIRTS SWEATERS & JEANS

CUSTOM MADE BELTS

PERSONALIZED WITH HIS NAME ON THE BACK!

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WESTERN BOOTS

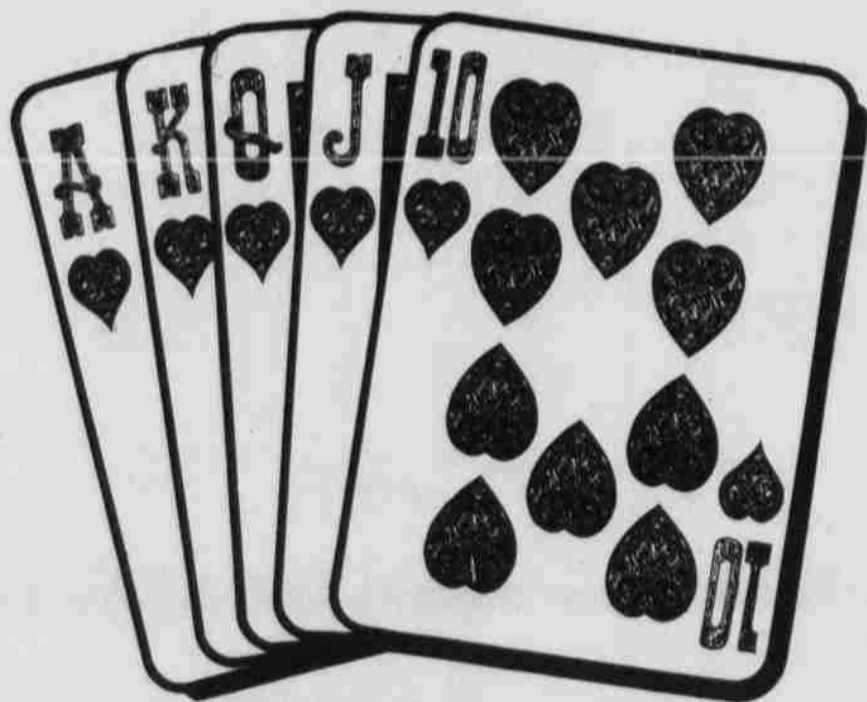


open until 7p.m. weeknights



Gardner's MEN'S WEAR

## PINOCHLE PARTY



Sat. Dec. 19 8p.m. at the Lexington Grange Hall

PRIZES AND REFRESHMENTS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

\$1.50 per person

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TO A ROARING 20'S TYPE GAL....  
You're always roaring that you're still in your 20's.  
Happy 50th to **MARY M. HOLTZ**