

Williams Arrives in Calcutta; Tells of Crowds, Heat, People

(Editor's note: This is another in the series of articles by Jeff Williams, who is completing a round-the-world trip, part of which has been by hitch-hiking. Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams, Medford, is expected to arrive in this country this month. The following dispatch is from Calcutta, India.)

By JEFF WILLIAMS
Late July, Calcutta, India: My train from Benares to Calcutta arrived about 9 o'clock, and since the station platform was packed, I didn't waste any time fighting my way aboard the third class coach with the rest of the mob.

Somewhat in the noisy confusion of the train leaving, I found myself wedged between a soldier and his two children. We were close enough to the engine so that ashes swirled in and blackened everything. At 11 o'clock that night it still was in the 90s, and the humidity wasn't far below.

The next morning as we were easing our way across a long steel bridge we passed a family of monkeys. Some were sitting on a rain barrel washing themselves, while others were tending babies or just loafing. They were the

first I had seen on the whole trip, and I was tickled pink but they seemed quite bored with the sight of us.

Goes to Substation
The first thing I did when I got off the crowded train, and out of the crowded station, was to get on a crowded bus, and go to the Salvation Army headquarters. But it too was so crowded that I had to go to a substation.

About half the men in the Salvation Army substation were Anglo-Indian, and the rest were Europeans, mostly British. But they had one thing in common, they were all relics of a past India. Now with Britain out, the tables were turned and the Indians were on top, and making it especially hard on the Anglo-Indians. There appears to be no cooperation between the two, and now there is no Britain to straighten things out for them.

The man next to me talked constantly of things he had been (not in reality, and things he would be (never in reality). There was another Englishman who was interesting as long as he was sober enough to talk. My first night there, he said he would show me some of the real life, behind the doors of India.

Moslem Holiday
So we set off into the

street, tides of people surging all around us because this was the eve of a Moslem holiday and festival called "Muhurum."

This celebration lasts for 10 days and recalls the battle in which the Moslems struggled against the infidels in an attempt to remove the belief in idolatry. Moslems were dancing in the street and dashing about carrying torches and intricate paper houses on top of bamboo poles.

We twisted and turned through a number of alleys completely dark except for a few small cooking fires. We suddenly turned off the alley and pushed through a plain swinging door and still in the dark we passed down a narrow walkway to stop in front of a cawing station in front of a house revealing the interior of a Chinese home.

This opening was covered by wire screen with a hole cut in it, through which was passed to us in turn for 8 annas (12 cents), a tumbler of clear liquid tasting somewhat like turpentine and gin. While we drank, we could watch the Chinese family eating with chop sticks and take in the furnishings of the house. I bought him another one, and while we were standing there a number of Chinese and Indians stopped at the speaker's easy to have bottles and jugs filled.

The next few days, I took to look around Calcutta and arranged for my flight to Saigon, via Rangoon and Bangkok.

The Brahma cow is held sacred in India, and I am sure the cows realize it, for they take full advantage of it. They amble all over in the busiest districts of Calcutta, graze on the park lawns, and loaf in the middle of the sidewalks, placidly ignoring all the pedestrians. I even saw a snake charmer with an elaborate altar built of human skulls and a picture postcard of an old man as the center piece. He had a little boy with him who lugged a 10-foot python around while he went through some gyrations to cast a spell. Then he squatted in front of a box that looked as though it should contain

Porter Sets Visit In Cave Junction

Cave Junction—Clyde Broefle, spokesman for the Water Resources board, has announced that a meeting between the Water Resources Executive board and Congressman Charles O. Porter is being arranged here for Sept. 29 as the initial step in the work necessary to obtain congressional authorization.

Porter will be in the valley that day on a campaign tour and to visit Oregon Caves and attend a potluck dinner rally sponsored by the Illinois Valley Democrat club.

On Monday, the County Board of Commissioners canvassed the vote in the special election held for an irrigation district. The vote was 128 in favor and 20 opposed.

The work to get congressional authorization starts with the Oregon congressional delegation who work with the department of interior and bureau of reclamation in Washington.

Illinois Valley UF Workers Are Listed

Cave Junction—Mrs. Harry Floyd, Illinois Valley chairman of the United Fund campaign, has announced her corps of workers.

In addition to Gordon White, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who is heading up the industrial division, and the Civic Women's league, who are handling the business houses along Main st. in Cave Junction, other workers are Mesdames Leonard Pullen, Elwood Husey, Don Fulk, Dale Brown, Howard Yurbrough, Robert Bottel, Gilbert Clayton, Lucius Robinson, James Payne, Glenn Davis, John Campbell and Vivian Deaton.

a cobra
He played his little pipe over it for crowd effect, but then when he saw I was getting impatient, he brought the box over to me and showed me, in a very secret manner, that it was really empty. He hoped that I wouldn't go away without giving him a few rupees. He really let me down, so I gave him a few annas and stalked away.

On Aug. 31, I said goodbye to the fleas and dirt of Calcutta and boarded a plane for Saigon, South Vietnam.

Tapping Canes, Sharper Minds Help Blind To Find New Life

Editor's note: This is the second of three dispatches in which a reporter describes life at the VA's Blind Rehabilitation Center, where he spent two days with his eyes blindfolded.

By IRA LURVEY
UPI Correspondent
Maywood, Ill.—(UPI)—Tapping canes and sharpened memories search out a new life for the blind at Hines Veterans hospital.

Staff members of the hospital's world-famed Blind Rehabilitation Center use "orientation" to help their sightless charges learn to live in the world of darkness.

"Orientation is a person's physical relation to his environment," Center Director Russell Williams said. "We replace sight with orientation."

Williams, a 40-year-old former teacher and artillery sergeant, once took the same faltering steps his charges take. He is totally blind. He began the "rehab" center 10 years ago. Many of his original staff still remain.

Only Validated Techniques
"This is not a research center," he said. "We use only tried and validated techniques. We don't feel our people should be experimented with."

Nevertheless, the Center's methods are world-acclaimed. Recent visitors included teachers of the blind from Sweden, Korea, Japan and India.

The Center rejects group instruction on ward housing. Each patient has his own room and is handled individually for the 16-week course.

The "working" day is divided into six, hour-long periods, split by lunch. Two hours go to orientation, the others to shop work, typing and braile.

"We're not trying to give a man just a vocation," resident psychologist Don Blasch said. "We're hoping to give him a life."

'Man Without Sight'
The Center's theme is that a blind man is "merely a man without sight—not a freak. Patients are encouraged to leave the hospital on nightly passes and part of their training involves in-town walking and shopping.

"Sure, you find 'helpful' sighted persons who try to

assist you across streets and all that," a patient said. "Most of the time, though, they just about manhandle you to death."

The correct way to lead a blind person is to offer an elbow, then let him follow.

"What kind of sense is it to make us walk in front?" a patient asked. "Why should we be bumpers for sighted persons?"

The Center currently has 16 sighted orientators, working in "round-the-clock shifts, and a half-dozen shop, typing and braile instructors. It is geared to accommodate no more than 20 patients.

Standard Plates
Patients must make their own beds, sweep their rooms daily and handle their own laundry, preferably in the Center's automatic washers. They walk to the cafeteria, pass through regular food lines and eat from standard plates.

"The men are taught they

live in a sighted world," chief of orientators Stanley Suterko said. "Society isn't expected to adjust to the blind. It's the blind who must adjust—and accept."

The patients agree. "All we ask is that society recognize we can adjust, a patient said. "The hardest part of this thing is leaving here and returning home. People still think that a blind man's only place is on a corner, holding a tin cup."

(Next: How the Blind Adjust)

THEY WON'T LET IT DIE
Des Moines, Iowa — (UPI) — State Public Safety Commissioner Russell I. Brown was a bit embarrassed today. During the week end he got a ticket for speeding.

SOMETHING COOKING
Detroit — (UPI) — Firemen rushed to a Detroit apartment house Sunday night, looked for a fire, found none, but did discover an illegal 250-gallon still.

Night Classes Set At Southern Oregon

Ashland—Night classes will commence at Southern Oregon college Sept. 29. Mrs. Mabel W. Winston, registrar, has announced.

Courses to be offered are ceramics I, 2 hours, Mondays 7-9 p.m.; painting, 2 hours, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.; art history, 3 hours, Mondays, 7-9 p.m.; orchestra, 1 hour, Mondays, 7:30 p.m.; public and prof relations, 3 hours, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

First aid, 3 hours, Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m.; skating, 1 hour (fee \$5.00) Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; geography of Asia, 3 hours, Mondays, 7-9 p.m.; history of the Pacific Northwest, 3 hours, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 4 p.m.

Persons wishing to enroll may register no later than the second meeting of the desired class. The fee is \$9 per credit hour. Those wishing further information are asked to contact the college registrar as soon as possible.

BUY ELECTRONIC BRAIN
Brussels — (UPI) — The Italian Defense Department has purchased an American electronic brain to speed up its missile program.

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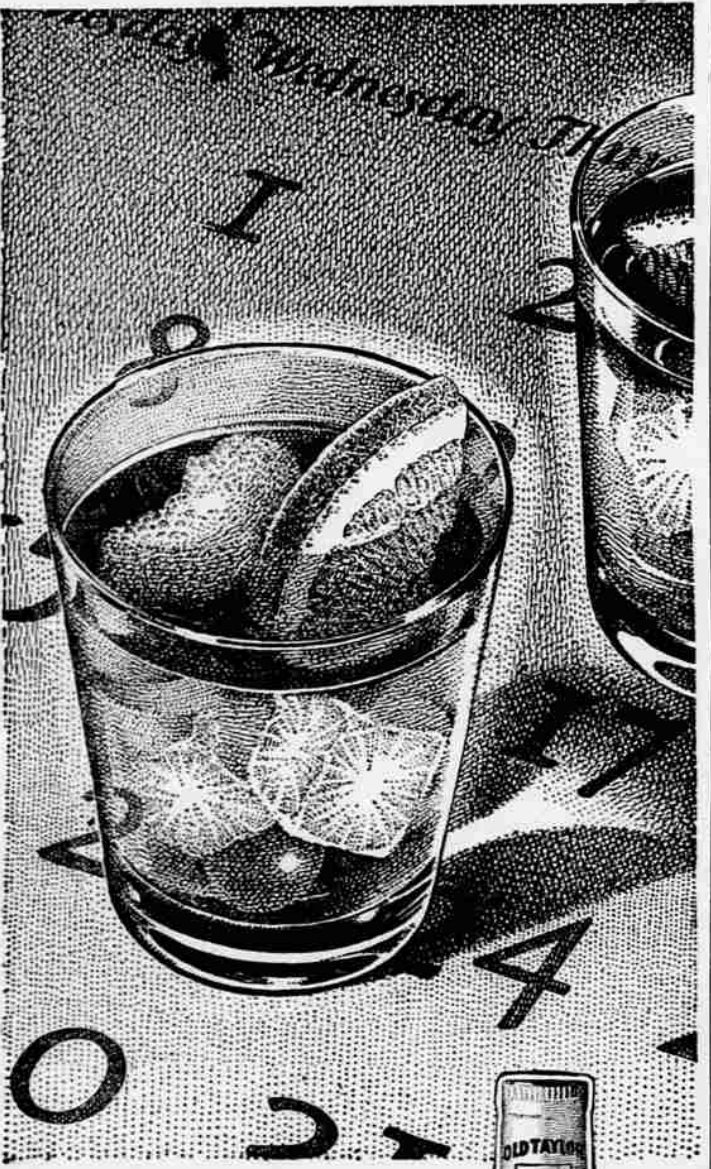
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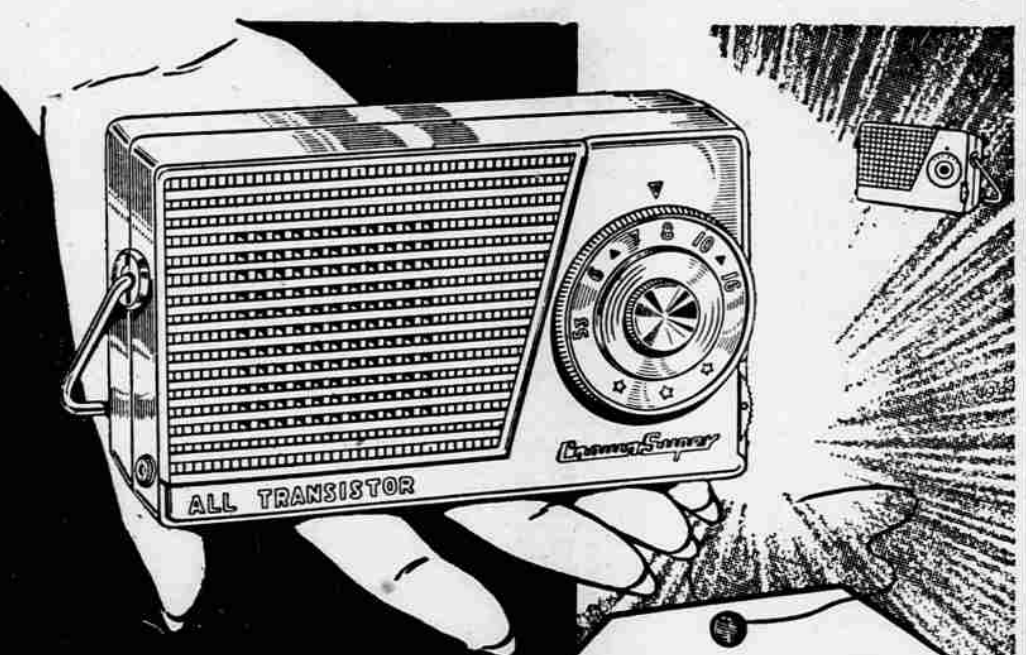
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