

Ex-Resident Tells Of Foreign Living; Ideals on Attitudes

(Editor's note: The following letter, by John Conlon, formerly of Medford, gives his views on the role Americans should play in visiting foreign lands. It was motivated by one of a series of articles carried in the Mail Tribune, written by Jeff Williams of Medford during a hitch-hiking trip around the world last summer.)

In one of the back issues of the Mail Tribune I have just received, I became quite interested in an article written by Jeff Williams. I grew up in Medford, although I never knew Mr. Williams, but in this letter of his relating incidents which he had encountered on his hitch-hiking trip around the world I was shocked as to the way he continually compared everything he had witnessed to the everyday life of our United States. I am also a "true blue" American, as he put it, but in my travels throughout the world I have never found reason to criticize a people's way of life.

Since graduation from Medford High school in 1954 I have spent only two months in the United States. I have lived with my wife and family in two foreign countries although I have traveled through many countries, and at this time I am residing in the Republic of the Philippines.

There is one thing which aggravates me and that is the American who, when traveling in a foreign country, continually compares his surroundings to those he is accustomed to in the U.S.A. By this not only the prestige of the nation is lowered, but the man is losing a valuable friend for himself as well as the free world.

I consider it one of the greatest pleasures of life to be able to eat the food of another country as prepared in that country, because there is no other place that the natural taste and flavor in the cooking can be experienced.

A few weeks ago I visited the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, and on this visit I noted many things which I have not seen in the United States and I encountered many customs which were somewhat strange to me. Even with all this it never entered my mind to criticize the people, not even to myself. While there I rented a car and traveled up to the Chinese Communist border. On this tour I stopped in the New Territories at a small village called Lok Ma Chow, this walled town dated back through the Ming dynasty and the antiquity bringing forth a beauty which overpowered the stench and disease which I noted within the stone walls. Those people knew nothing else except poverty; that is poverty as we look at it, although in their own eyes they are happy.

I noticed nothing strange on the Communist side of the border, one large city named Shum Chen and the rice fields extending into the mountains.

Coast Guard Crew Demolishes Mine

Astoria—A World War II marine mine was destroyed on the beach at nearby Ft. Stevens yesterday morning by a Coast Guard demolition crew.

The weapon, weighing 400 to 600 pounds, was trucked to the deserted Ft. Stevens rifle range during a heavy Pacific gale after it had spent the night in Astoria's west end mooring basin on the deck of the dredge Silver Moon. The dredge had "caught" the mine off North Head, Wash., and brought it here for the Coast Guard to handle.

Hilton Hotel Drive Nearing \$3 Million

Portland—Businessmen striving to raise three million dollars to assure construction of a downtown Hilton hotel here announced yesterday they had achieved 94 per cent of their goal with \$2,818,400 collected.

Roy Vernstrom, general chairman of the campaign, said the drive headquarters would remain open for a week to collect the remaining funds. An option on the square block or downtown property where the hotel would be built expires Oct. 31.

Separating the two countries and the ideals of Communism from Democracy was a tall iron fence paralleling the Hong Kong side of the Canton river. The Cantonese railroad continued to operate between the city of Kowloon in the Colony and Canton in Red China, and strangely enough the trains were crowded each day from both directions.

The one thing really outstandingly different in the people of the Colony and those of other nations I have recently visited was the tragic problem of refugees. At the edge of the city of Kowloon along the barren mountains leading into Communist China are miles of seven story buildings, with each building housing over 1,000 families, all preferring near-starvation to the Communist way of life. The mountains on the island of Hong Kong were also swarming with refugees who have set up their homes

in cardboard shacks along the terraced hillsides. These are the people who an American must know to realize it takes more than words to win friends. Thousands of small children marked for life with scurvy rashes on their heads and bodies and those with bloated stomachs begging for a bite to eat. Pictures of old men and women on the billboards of police stations who were found dead and unknown. This is the dirt and filth of war that we don't want in America, this is the thing Americans should think about when traveling so they can know the truth of just exactly why we live more prosperously than our neighbors. It is not the customs, the transportation, the clothes, the food nor the night clubs, but it is the political and military situation. People are basically the same everywhere, their needs and wants are always the same. Surely

their skin may be different but they are all of one blood. I would like to say this: That a "true blue" American is not one who vainly portrays his Americanism and his so-called capitalistic egotisms throughout the world, but one who rather wishes to give a little bit of himself for the cause of a free world which at this time is threatened by those who give nothing, but take all.

This letter is of course my opinion and therefore I am not actually condemning Mr. Williams, but I cannot stand to see anything in print for the public to read that so completely shows the dominating American opinion of an undeveloped people who are not Americans.

The people of the world wherever they may be are naturally different in certain ways and respects from us, but to them we are of a far greater difference. The more

we brag about ourselves and condemn others the fewer friends we will have.

We Americans criticize the Filipino for being lazy and for his government being corrupt, but actually we do not look beyond our own pocket-books. The Filipino is not lazy nor is he behind in the times, he is simply doing things the way he knows best.

Not only the Americans but also the Japanese, the British and most other great industrial nations criticize the more common people, but they do not realize the people are happy in their own way of life.

In America we would not be as prosperous as we are today if we had not the opportunity to continue in our lives as we wished and if we had not been free.

I have also found language is no real barrier. I have many very good friends among foreign peoples, Portuguese,

Indonesian, Japanese, Filipino, Chinese, to name a few, and I have taught English conversation to Japanese students as Mr. Williams said was the American practice in Turkey. Through these friends I have learned that a smile will make friends and there is the international language of expression, and signs.

There is an old saying that rings true in all languages: "The only way to make a

friend is to be a friend."

I believe if some of the ideals of international friendship which I have stated in this letter could be tried out by more Americans abroad this would be a more peaceful world in which to live.

I thank you for reading this letter and with all respect to you, the Tribune, Mr. Williams and the people of my home-town, Medford.

John R. Conlon
N-3002 NPO
c/o F.P.O.
San Francisco, Calif.

A WORD ABOUT OUR OFFICE MACHINE SERVICE . . .

A recent check shows our service charges to be substantially lower than the average in the large cities of the Pacific coast and we know the quality of our work is tops as we have had many years in this work and do our very best to please every order.

- If you are having problems with your
- ★ Typewriter
 - ★ Adding Machine
 - ★ Mimeograph
 - ★ Spirit Duplicator, etc.

CALL
C & E BUSINESS MACHINES
For Prompt Service

CHAPMAN & ELDER
218 South Central — Medford — Ph. SP 3-4895

DAVID RESTAURANT
SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT
315 North Riverside Avenue
CLOSED Monday & Tuesday
OPEN WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

Harvest of VALUES

OPEN TILL 9 Monday Night!

SENSATIONAL!
NEW and EXCLUSIVE
at
Weeks & Orr!

ALL FOAM 7-PIECE

STARFIRE LIVING ROOM GROUP

complete design correlation



7 PIECES
for only
\$179.50
In Chrome Spun Covers
\$199.50 In heavy Friezes
Good Choice of Covers and Colors

Complete correlation in your living room at a budget price. The upholstered pieces' gleaming brass stars, the plastic covered buttons for extra long wear, the brass self-leveling glides on the table legs are all matching, bringing you the look of a \$500.00 correlated living room group for under \$200.00. Note the generous extra width in the chair back and custom welted arms found only in higher priced sets.

Now the big extras! Foam padding, a full 2-inch thickness in the arms—soft enough for Junior to sit on. Cushions enough to insure years of wear on the arms. Foam padding everywhere you sit, too—to add to your comfort and the wear of the upholstery.

Over 60 western stores bought 7 carloads of this group to bring you these spectacular savings. What else but mass purchasing could command these prices?

Added to these upholstered pieces and tables are 2 matching table lamps and a floor lamp. That's right—7 pieces in all in this group.

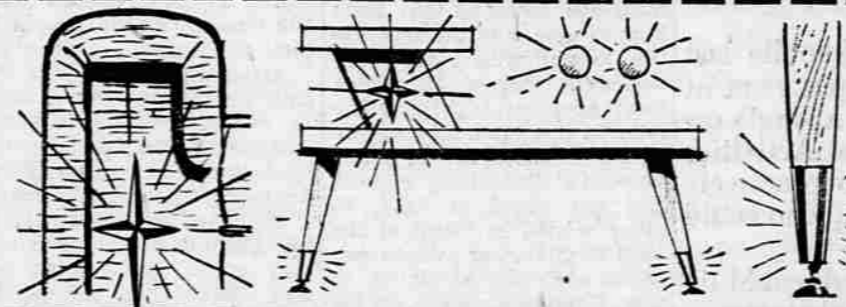
Another **WEEKS & ORR** money-saver



EXTRA FOAM PADDING EVERYWHERE
Not just seat and back, but arms, too, are luxuriously foam rubber padded!



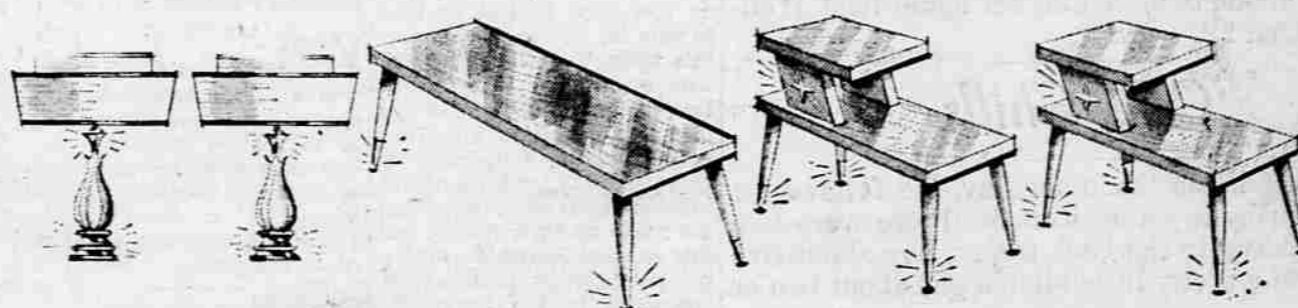
EXTRAS



COMPLETE CORRELATION

- Plastic covered buttons
- Metallic stars
- Brass self-leveler glides

EXTRAS



EXTRAS

ALL THESE EXTRA BONUS PIECES INCLUDED IN PRICE

And Here's EXTRA Savings . . .

No Interest or Carrying Charges! At Weeks & Orr You Pay Only for the Merchandise!

Other Groups Priced to **\$219.50**

WEEKS & ORR

Southern Oregon's Oldest and Largest Furniture Store

HOW CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALS

Station KWIN 1400 K.C. Sundays 10:15 A.M.