

Liebman Travels from Third Class Bus to Prince's Palace

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles by Jerry Liebman, who is on a trip around the world. In this series, he is discussing Afghanistan. Liebman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Liebman, 4262 Colver rd., Medford.)

By JERRY LIEBMAN
I climbed back into my travel clothes, a pair of Levis and Army shirt, as a guest one night of our American Ambassador to Iran, Sheldon Chapin, at a square dance party he gave for his niece. This only confused matters more.

Life in Afghanistan was similar. I arrived in Kabul by bus, hot, dusty, and dented head, to join a school

friend, Prince Falmay Mahmand, nephew of the King of Afghanistan. Off the third class bus and into a palace again. And back to washing my one suit. It was difficult, after my Kabul stay, to step back into the bus life again only this time I stepped onto the back of a flat bed truck, hitching a ride through the Khyber Pass to Pakistan.

I discerned that it can be very helpful to know a prince. I had Falmay's permission to telephone him in the face of any emergency and I used the privilege only once and with telling effect.

Needed Five Days
I needed five days in Kabul to complete affairs whereas foreigners are allowed only three days in one place in

Afghanistan. The man in charge of visas was a being quite difficult in a somewhat insolent fashion. I asked permission to use his phone, called the Prince and after a few words had passed between my friend and the visa officer, I was given grade A service, two cups of tea, and permission to stay in Kabul six days more if needed. As I say, it's helpful to know a Prince.

It turned out to be helpful to know the King, as well. I took tea one afternoon in the King's country residence and was given a treat of treats as I left, a huge mound of strawberries. Only a traveller who has just spent two months pushing across Middle Eastern deserts can understand the value of such a lavish gift. On returning to the city, the berries proved not only tasty but useful and I was not above letting them serve an ulterior purpose.

Shows in Service
My hotel service had not been too satisfactory and when I returned to the hotel that afternoon in the chauffeured limousine, the King's servant insisted on following me into the hotel, the regulation 10 paces behind, and bearing the fruit on a huge platter. Mind you, I can carry my own fruit as well as the next man, but if the hotel manager, and hotel's assistant manager, and six bellboys are watching, I'm darned happy to let the King's servant do the job. Especially, if it means a vast and sudden improvement in my hotel service. And it certainly did.

The hotels in Afghanistan are soon to undergo a government directed improvement in both service and number. The country wishes to increase tourists visits soon but wisely realizes that the tourists must be able to find good and sufficient hotels. As part of this program, a number of Swiss hotel people have been invited to Afghanistan to train the locals.

The hotel program is just one of the many improvements the government plans or has in progress now. The country is fantastically backward in every field. Afghanistan is awakening at last but has a great distance to travel, having just opened themselves to the world and to progress.

Lack of Financing
The greatest difficulty to be overcome is the lack of finance needed to set in motion Afghanistan's bold and wise plans. The country's resources are just now being charted and exploitation has yet to begin. Oil has been discovered south of Kabul and will mean an immense amount to the country just as it has to Iran and Iraq. I am certain the country will use the oil revenues wisely, having been impressed with the logic of their improvement plans and above all, with the chronology of implementing the plans. First things first and everything in wise order.

Signs of the country's long self-imposed seclusion and consequent backwardness are everywhere. For example, the streets of the capital, Kabul, have just recently been paved. This was a Russian gift to Afghanistan as part of their plans to woo the country to their side or at least to a harmless (to them) neutrality.

Afghanistan and Russia are not friends historically and I suspect Afghanistan of using their northern neighbors to gain all they can without paying the piper. This is, after all, the world's new small government parlor game. Knowing the Western education and orientation of Afghanistan's leaders, I can't feel that the country will be led into Russia's growing company of satellites.

By the way, Russia's paving of the streets of Kabul was a great propaganda victory over the United States. We are pouring immensely more money into Afghanistan than Russia but with much building dams, for example, hidden well in the mountains and we are helping the air system through ICA, but the common Afghan is not aware of this help. It just isn't as visible as, for example, the street paving which he uses daily.

Kabul has no street lights. Imagine a capital city with no street lights, and as I mentioned above, no paved streets until recently. I have no figures as to the amount of paved roads in Afghanistan but it must be an infinitesimal one. Paving of highways is in progress now but is very limited and is being rationed out.

The Eastern portions of Afghanistan will get the first pavement as almost every ton of goods imported into the country enters from Pakistan and then at only two points. Afghanistan has no sea coast. It is as though all imports entering the U. S. entered through Detroit and a border city in Montana. As



CHALLENGING ELECTION—John F. Wells, newspaper publisher from Little Rock, waits to testify before the special House elections subcommittee in Washington which is investigating the write-in election of segregationist Dr. Dale Alford over Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.). Wells has charged that Hays was defeated thru irregularities, violations of law, and a conspiracy involving Gov. Orval Faubus.

ILLINOIS VALLEY Christmas Party Held

By RUTH RAUSCH

Cave Junction—A Christmas party and gift exchange was held by members of the Farm Bureau Thursday in the high school vo-ag building.

Mr. and Mrs. Les Archer talked on their four-day stay in Salem attending the State Farm Bureau convention. Wally Eichler, high school

vo-ag instructor showed a film on soil.

The annual shutdown at Moore Timber Products will be from Dec. 19 to Jan. 5. This close down period is utilized by the mill to make necessary repairs and overhaul of the machinery.

The Oregon Caves Monument reports an increase of visitors for October and November compared to figures for the same period last year. The continued spring-like weather in the valley this season may be partially responsible for the increased number of visitors to the Caves.

A new post is being created at the Illinois Valley Ranger station, that of assistant district ranger.

Assigned to the new post is William C. Fessel Jr., a graduate of the University of Syracuse and recently with the Powers District Ranger station.

Fessel has been serving on timber sale detail here recently with Ranger Clifford Pink and is expected to assume his duties here this month.

The Illinois Valley High school combined band and chorus will present a program at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19.

The Everett Cox family of Kerby have left the valley to spend the holidays at their former home, Salem, Mo.

A special executive meeting of the Illinois Valley Grange was held recently at the home of Melvin Gray, Grange master. Plans and programs for the coming year were discussed.

The Grange Christmas party Dec. 18, will be a potluck supper with games and entertainment. In place of a general gift exchange, those attending are asked to bring a toy for the children under 14 years of age.

The Harlem Clowns basketball team is scheduled to play in Cave Junction Dec. 31 against a local team which Coach Eldon Durham is recruiting. The famed traveling cage outfit will appear here under the sponsorship of the high school Letterman's club.

A Christmas party and gift exchange was held at the joint meeting of the World War I veterans and the auxiliary last week following short business meetings of the two groups.

Illinois Valley Hardware has been selected as the new Illinois Valley California Oregon Power company agent. All business of the company is to be reported there and the monthly bills paid there beginning with the billing of Dec. 19, according to district manager, Robert Moyer.



RETURNING FROM TIBET, Father Franz Eichinger makes public photograph of "Abominable Snowman" of high Himalayas. Priest said "Snowmen" actually are saint-like recluses who devote lives to healing, good works. Missionary priest now is living in Frankfurt, Germany.

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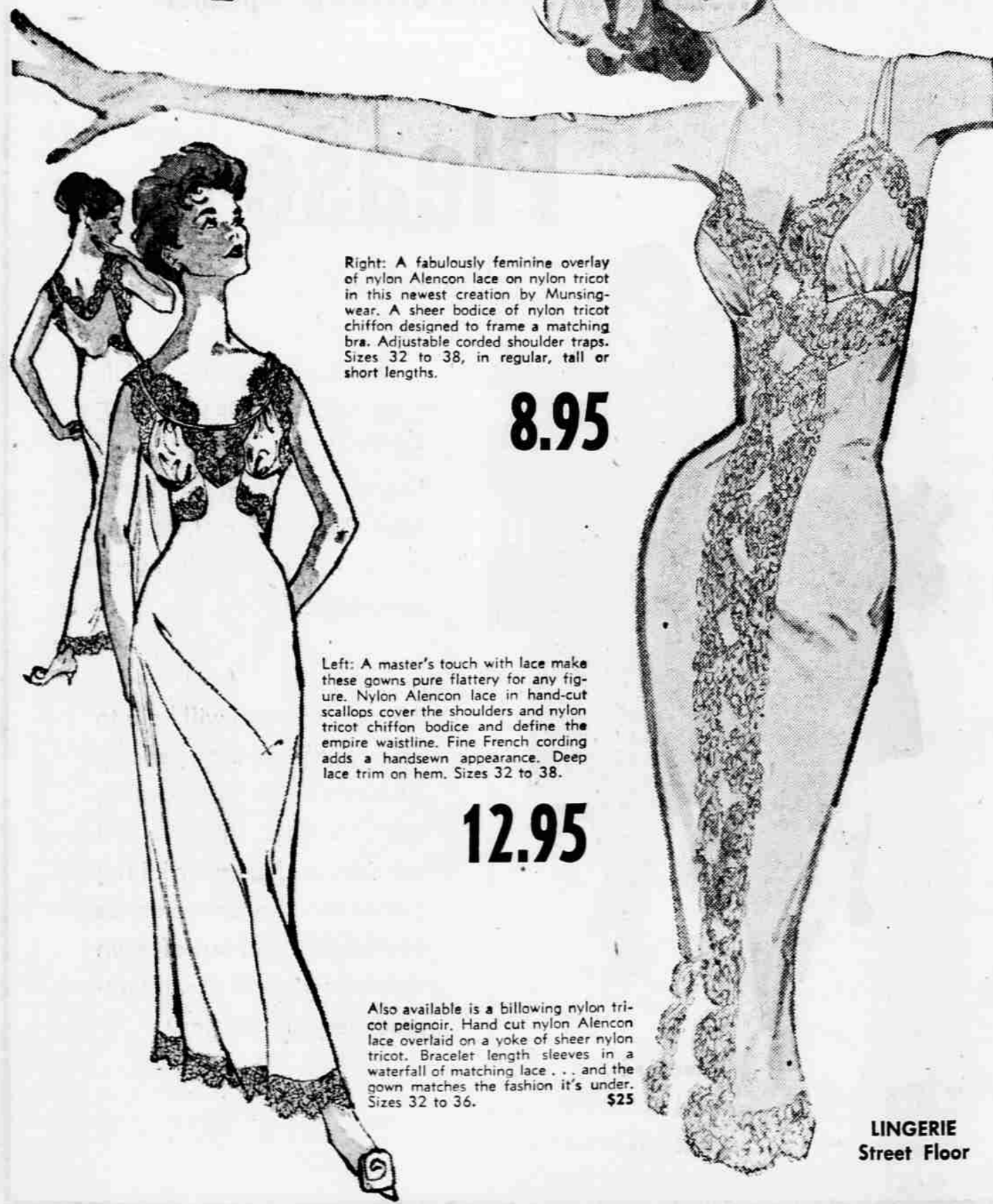
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Right: A fabulously feminine overlay of nylon Alencon lace on nylon tricot in this newest creation by Munsingwear. A sheer bodice of nylon tricot chiffon designed to frame a matching bra. Adjustable corded shoulder straps. Sizes 32 to 38, in regular, tall or short lengths.

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Left: A master's touch with lace make these gowns pure flattery for any figure. Nylon Alencon lace in hand-cut scallops cover the shoulders and nylon tricot chiffon bodice and define the empire waistline. Fine French cording adds a handsewn appearance. Deep lace trim on hem. Sizes 32 to 38.

12.95

Also available is a billowing nylon tricot peignoir. Hand cut nylon Alencon lace overlaid on a yoke of sheer nylon tricot. Bracelet length sleeves in a waterfall of matching lace . . . and the gown matches the fashion it's under. Sizes 32 to 36. \$25

LINGERIE Street Floor

Shell Offices in Portland Picketed

Portland—(UP)—A group of about 20 men picketed offices of the Shell Oil company here Tuesday. The men said they were independent service station operators hurt by the current gasoline price war.

A spokesman said pickets believed Shell was trying to fix prices through its company-controlled stations. A Shell spokesman denied the firm was "fixing prices." The pickets marched around the block on which the Terminal Sales building is located and also picketed two Shell

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