



ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Kathleen Ward, paused long enough in Bombay to have this picture snapped in company with Mrs. Frey J. Dubash, right, member of a prominent Bombay family who did much to make Mrs. Ward's stay in this city an interesting one. The picture was taken in the Taj Mahal hotel.

Kathleen Ward, Roving H&N Correspondent Has Fine Time In South India

By KATHLEEN WARD

The last two weeks of my sojourn in the wonderful land of the East and the South were extremely interesting, if a bit hectic ones. Time was running out and there was so much more I wanted to do and see. Upon my arrival, at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay, I was greeted by Mr. C. B. Khandekar (Prabhakara's uncle) and his family. Again, it was most wonderful to have someone native to the country to look after me and this family truly treated me like I was visiting royalty. They took me to their home, a delicious "Khanna" and were pleased to see me, refusing the proffered forks and spoons, eating with my fingers, Indian style, and very obviously enjoying the food thoroughly. It was entirely vegetarian and was served on large silver trays with several small bowls holding each food separately. The mother and eldest daughter prepared and served the delectable dishes.

Their spacious sixth floor apartment was nicely and comfortably furnished, having, along with westernized furniture, a Hickka (beautiful hardwood swing, suspended from the ceiling) and a Gadi Takia (mattress and huge pillows, on the floor) on which they sit cross-legged and manage to look comfortable and so very graceful. As I understand it, the building, in which they live, is a city version of a village life. Being called a compound and community owned. It houses some two hundred families and has its own school and playground, on the premises.

Bombay is a huge sprawling city and is quite the most westernized of all the cities of India. There isn't a cow or animal-drawn vehicle to be seen any place! After four days of sightseeing and shopping in Bombay, members of the Kamdar family and I flew to Madras, in the south of India. We took a side trip by taxi to Mahabalipuram, a seventh century seaport, on the Bay of Bengal, famous for its rock cut pagodas, huge elephants and bulls, each carved out of an individual stone. We climbed the 500 steps (it nearly finished me) in nearby Pakhalithirham, to witness the feeding at noon by the temple priest of two white eagles, which legend has it are the departed spirits of two saints who attained salvation on the spot and vowed to visit the temple daily to partake of their Khanna. Be that as it may, the strenuous climb had other rewards, as it afforded a magnificent view of the valley below with its many temples, elaborate water tanks, green rice paddy fields and long avenues of coconut and banyan trees.

Next came Madurai and the great Meenashi Temple. It is the largest Hindu temple in India and when we met the sacred elephant, resplendent in his robes and with gaily painted ears, being led through the corridors, he didn't even appear large, by comparison, with huge pillars and statues of the temple.

Subteen Fashion Emulates Adults

Subteen fashions emulate adult preferences this spring, especially in ensembles and Oriental styling, and the result is delightful. Ensembles for the growing-up girl represent one of the most wanted groups. Here, dresses team up with long, straight coats, jackets, sweaters, sleeveless boxy or belted jackets or little capelets. In subteen suits, boxy jackets coupled with narrow or gently flared skirts head the favored list, with bloused backs providing a new variation of the box jacket. Textured silks and wools are popular, and a quality look in fabrics pervades styles in all price ranges as cottons, rayons and synthetic blends disguise as silks, linens and satins. The empire dress continues as a favorite with the junior high set. Side-slit sari dresses styled in Oriental cotton prints and pique are liked for dress-up wear, along with other Orient-inspired fashions.

and I was simply entranced with the beauty of this lush, tropical city and surrounding country. A drive of 55 miles took us to Cape Comorin, lands end of India. That was a thrilling experience, as we drove through miles of coconut palms and mango trees. Passing through clean villages, with typical scenes of Indian life unfolding at every turn.

It is in this part of India where a matriarchal society exists. The only evidence that there is any difference seemed to be in the fact that everyone was working extremely hard. Many women washing clothes in the rivers, others carrying baskets of fruits and vegetables on their heads and the men carrying great shocks of rice and wheat straw on their heads, while others were driving oxen and buffalo carts, loaded with coconuts and other products of the region. The women must wear most of their family wealth in the lobes of their pierced ears, as they have huge blobs (and I do mean blobs) of pure gold hanging from their ears, which cause the lobes to elongate and hang nearly to their shoulders.

We stopped several times en route to enjoy the delicious delicacies procurable along the roadside. Mainly, fresh roasted cashew nuts, Mango's, fresh coconut and rose water.

Three oceans converge at Cape Comorin, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. It is one of the few places in the world where it is possible to watch a sun rise and set in the same sea. There is one spot where it is clearly visible, because of the sands being different colors, that the seas are merging and we kicked off our shoes and did a bit of wading there, just for sentimental reasons.

The flight, at rather low altitude, along the Malabar coast from Travandrum to Cochin, was absolutely breathtaking in its beauty, with the deep greens of the palm trees and the blues of the ocean and the inland waterways, forming an intriguing panorama. After that, came Bangalore and Mysore with their enchanting gardens and then the return, via Poona, to Bombay. I hated having to hurry the journey, but certainly wouldn't have missed seeing the south, as it represented an entirely different India, than the north. Different cultures, customs, speech, dress and types of flora and fauna.

Back in Bombay, I met Prabhakara's mother, who had come from Jaipur to meet me as well as to see another son and nephew off to the U.S.A., where they will enroll, spring term, at Oregon State College. Mr. Kamdar obtained passes for the meeting of the joint session of the houses of the Legislature, where we heard an interesting address by Dr. Harekrishna Mahabab, the governor of Bombay State. He touched briefly on the subject of the recent riots and the troubles between the Mahatmas and the Gujaratis, expressing the hope that future differences could be peacefully settled without further incident. All of India is embroiled over the riots in Bombay! The meeting was conducted entirely in English (the official language of the courts) but the men were dressed in India's national dress, all white caps, three quarter length coats and dhotis.



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