

merry CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to all

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Bobby Smith Tells About Customs He Learns In Burma

By BOBBY SMITH

Much has been written about the exotic women of many eastern countries, but no one seems to have composed a best-selling novel on the unusual and charming women of the land of Burma. By combining their golden complexion, their slender well-built bodies, their jet black hair and their dark eyes, with excellent grace and poise, they form a most alluring picture. They have a sincere, warm and friendly personality. Industry and thrift are virtues of Burmese women, who probably enjoy more freedom of movement than the females of any other eastern country.

The Burmese code of wifely conduct toward her husband is based on the Hindu code—such things as eating only after the husband has finished, sleeping only after the husband has retired, getting up from sleep before the husband awakes, and other such things are prescribed. It is interesting to note that men avoid walking or stooping under women's clothes hung up to dry, for such a thing tends to make a man subservient to the woman. Yet, women are to be found very much in the business circles of the country and some in its political life. The home, however, has been chosen by most ladies of Burma as the best expression of their personality, for many are aware that if they push themselves forward too readily they will probably be reminded of the Burmese adage, "A good dog keeps his tail tucked in, a good woman keeps in the background."

A homemade orchestra, a gaily decorated house, loud talking and nobody paying much attention to the bride and groom are characteristic of a Burmese wedding. Yesterday, I attended the marriage of Mg Toe Aung and Ma Khin Myint. The wedding reception, during which the ceremony is performed, lasts four hours. Upon our arrival we were presented with flowers and a gift as compliments of the bride and groom. We were expected to drop a silver donation in the pot which stood near the door as our present to the couple. After being seated, we were served coffee and sweet cakes. During the actual ceremony, which nobody except the marriage couple paid any attention to, the bride and groom sat in front of the village elders and heard their marital duties explained. At the conclusion, the bride and groom dipped together their hands into a bowl filled with water and flowers, telling the world that they were now officially married. I understood that, as a joke, friends throw stones on top of the house of the newly married couple all night, just to be sure they don't get any sleep.

Marriage in Burma may be based on either love or arranged through parental agreement. No financial consideration or dowry is made. The married girl does not change her name on marriage; and it is a civil contract, with both husband and wife signing it.

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Road Commission Sets Up Projects

The State Highway Commission met on November 19, 1959, at Raleigh, N.C., for the purpose of setting up projects for the maintenance of roads and bridges and \$74,300 for construction projects.

Construction projects are listed as follows: 1212, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 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