

### Marion Arthur, On Oriental Trip, Finds World Small, Orient Exotic

Miss Marion Arthur, Kings Mountain citizen and civilian army employee of the army in Tokyo, Japan, recently took a several-day trip to Okinawa, Hong Kong, and Bangkok.

She describes the trip in a letter dated April 16, and recently received by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Arthur.

Miss Arthur, who went to Japan two years ago, expects to return to the United States in July.

The letter follows:

"You had better prepare yourselves for a little reading as this will probably drag on forever and ever. I arrived back in Tokyo yesterday morning about 7:30 from Taipei, and my trip couldn't have been more wonderful. I'll start from scratch and give you the details, step by step.

"We left Tokyo, from Haneda Air Port, at 2:00 on April (Sunday) at 2:00 in the a. m. Our departure was changed from 7:15 to 2:00 because the plane didn't get in from Taipei sooner. From Tokyo, our first stop was Okinawa, and we arrived there about 9:00 Sunday, where we had a delicious breakfast. Okinawa was hot and flat and not too much going on. While there, I just had time to call Clyde MacCurry and talk to him for a few minutes.

"From Okinawa, I got to ride in the co-pilot's seat to Taipei, which was certainly an experience for me. The pilot of the plane was a Capt. Richardson who graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne college and whose home was somewhere in Tennessee. From Okinawa to Taipei, it takes 3 hours or 2 1/2 if the weather is good. We arrived there in time for lunch and Col. Leeborough met me and wanted me to go to his home for lunch but they wouldn't let me leave the terminal as I only had a one-entry visa. (I'll come back to Taipei later and give you the details). Well, we left there and it took about 3 hours for us to get to Hong Kong. There, we were given a permit to leave the air-field for dinner and we stayed there for an hour. Hong Kong is perfectly beautiful and the harbor is beyond anything I have ever seen. It's impossible to describe in writing.

"From Hong Kong, we started on our long flight to Bangkok, Thailand (Siam) which took us 7 1/2 hours straight flying. This was certainly a long trip and I was beginning to get pretty tired. We flew over French Indo-China, where they are fighting, but most of our flying was done over water. We arrived in Bangkok about 4:00 in the morning and it was about 90 degrees and all of us with a winter suit on. First, let me say that the air terminal is just beautiful there. It is a large new modern building and since it is hot the year around, no doors but large entrances. All the furniture in done in bright orange and different colors and the cafeteria there would hold 1,000 people. Bangkok, itself, is very primitive. From what I could gather, all the people do is eat and sleep. They appear to be terribly lazy to me. We stayed at the Trocadero Hotel and this hotel reminded me of those in the pictures filmed in the West Indies. Any minute, I expected to see Sydney Greenstreet walk around the corner. It was dark and misty and we walked in this huge bird let out a big yell and there sat a big Siamese cat on the step. We managed to get to bed about 5:00 that morning and were up at 7:00, ready for breakfast. In Bangkok, you use the ticals as money and 1970 ticals equal one U. S. dollar. This rate of exchange changes from day to day so you have to be careful. We went on several tours to the shrines and temples for which Siam is famous. We went to a Siamese dinner and saw the classical Siamese dance. One afternoon, I spent at the Sports Club where we had lunch on the terrace and swam; with an American whom I met at the hotel. He was in Siam making motion pictures.

"I didn't buy too much there. I bought myself an alligator purse (velvet style), a pair of Siamese dancers' pictures, some straw shoes, hat etc. We went out on the floating market one morning at 6:30 and got back about 10:00, where we had breakfast at the Oriental Hotel. I think we ate about a loaf of bread. The mode of travel there is mostly pedicabs (called samloys there) and I know I spent about \$20 riding through the streets there. I had a very good little driver who spoke good English and who knew where to take me for the stuff I wanted to buy. I think he really earned every penny as I felt like a dog with him pulling me through that hot sun. I went to two night clubs there and both of them had Filipino orchestras which were very good. At one of these clubs, we had a regular dinner which consisted of beef curry (very hot) lots of different fruits etc. Of all the food (foreign) that I've eaten, this I could hardly get down. For instance, they had mangos for dessert served with a sweetened rice which was sweetened with coconut milk. From there, we went to an opium den which perfectly legal there. Don't be alarmed, I had a handkerchief over my face and we just walked straight in and out. This, in my estimation, was just horrible. You can't imagine what it's like — so hot and they reminded me of animals in cages. More about this when I get home.

I've never gotten as much enjoyment in my life as I have eating all the delicious bananas and fruits. They sell bananas there for about 3 cents a pound and they have about 200 different species which consist of various kinds of cook nigandneitan-enWe kinds of cooking and eating bananas. This is enough about Siam for now. The fleas and mosquitoes were terrible and I hardly slept a wink while there.

"(I'll stop here and say that I met two charming girls before we left Tokyo, and we spent the entire trip together. One was Doris Watkins from Weaverville, N. C., a Special Service girl, who is a dietitian by profession. The other girl was "Marty" Oliver, who is a professional nurse and is in Public Welfare here. She has spent 2 1/2 years in the Dutch West Indies, and her home is in New York. We got along perfectly and roomed together the whole time).

"We left Bangkok at 2:00 Wednesday morning and you should have seen us getting on the plane. My feet had swelled and I had on my bedroom slippers, a big straw hat on my head and loaded down with stuff. We arrived in Hong Kong about 9:00 and this is a paradise. We stayed at the Peninsula Hotel which sits right on the harbor and everything in Hong Kong is strictly British. We had our tea at 4:00 in the afternoon in the lobby and they served the most delicious assortment of cakes you've ever eaten. It was raining when we arrived so I had breakfast rather brunch, then headed for the tailors which was right behind the hotel. I had my tailoring done at Harilela's which is run by 3 Indian brothers. Now, this is what will amaze you. I had

a full length dressy cashmere coat, a three-quarter length bright red camel's hair coat, and a grey wool suit made and the whole works cost me exactly \$102.00. They are perfectly beautiful and I don't have to worry about a thing to wear next winter. The tailoring is perfect and so is the fitting. Can you imagine getting a cashmere coat for \$41.00 when the cheapest one advertised in the States is \$179.00 not including tax. This is my pride and joy from the whole trip. From there, I had my hair done and you will just die when you hear what I did my first night in H. K. I had been given some friends to look up so I called them immediately upon arrival. They are Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Crosthwaite, British, rather he is. He had lived his life in H. K. and he married a girl from Washington, N. C., and her name is Mary. We just had a wonderful time talking! We had dinner and then afterwards, this is it — we played bridge. My partner was a retired British Colonel and I ended up by winning about \$5.50 in U. S. dollars. Had I known we were playing for points, I would have been terrified. They exclaimed what a good player I was and I thought them good myself. In fact, I didn't know what I was getting in to! The next day we shopped. We were staying on the Kowloon side and you take a ferry to go over to the Hong Kong side, takes about 5 minutes. I bought some more linen, some Chinese jewelry, and odds and ends. I took lots of pictures but since it was so dark, don't know whether they'll turn out so good or not. The second night there, us three girls went over to the Parisian Grill for dinner which is the place to dine. There, we met 3 American men who were very nice so we ended up by going with them to the various night clubs, to the top of the peak to see the lights and then riding on a Walla Walla which is the little boat that runs after the fer-

ry stops at 1:00. That is something I'll never forget. At one of the clubs, the Arizona, I met Dr. Jose Rodriguez, who is Consul of the Republic of the Philippines, and who invited me down there for a visit. He's an M. D. and very jolly and a good dancer.

"In H. K. you use Hong Kong dollars and American currency. Six H. K. dollars equals one U. S. dollar and here, too, the rate of exchange changes from day to day. The highest I got while there was 650 H. K. dollars to one U. S. dollar.

"We left Hong Kong about 2:30 Friday, April 9th, and arrived in Taipei about 6:00 that afternoon. Phil was there to meet me and here I had a wonderful time. As I said before, he is a full Col. in the Air Force and now holds down a Brigadier Gen's job. Is a West Point graduate and very smart. His daddy is a Baptist minister. He had a big house there with another col. and a Maj. Kissick and his wife, Pat, plus 5 servants. When I arrived at the house that



**TENNESSEE RAMBLERS COMING SATURDAY**—Cecil Campbell and his Tennessee Ramblers, famous radio and television performers, will appear here Saturday night at Central school auditorium at 8 o'clock. The group, along with Fred Kirby, is being brought here by Otis D. Green Post 155, the American Legion and a large crowd is expected.

nite, they were having a dinner party for which I am thankful. There happened to be a Captain there by the name of Candaras who works with the Mar Trade Corporation in New York. Now, they don't carry passengers on their ships but he invited me to go to Europe as their guest when I got home. Their ships go to Europe, usually France, and stay there for 2 weeks, and they carry passengers occasionally as good-will. The last passenger they had were 2 old ladies 65 years old and one was 68. Their life-long ambition had been to go to Europe, so they fulfilled their dreams. He said that Capt. Candaras was very sincere and meant every word he said so my trip was in the bag, absolutely free.

"Taipei is entirely different from the other places. All you can see there is soldiers and they always stand watch with fixed bayonets. The mode of travel there is principally oxen and water buffalo and rice is their main crop. They have fresh pineapple

and bananas year around plus lots of other fruit. I had always thought of Taipei as flat but it consists mainly of high mountains. We covered about 90 miles my first day there looking. One night, we went to the "Friends of China" night club for dancing. The next night, we were invited to a dinner party given by Col. and Mrs. Ying-Nan Yung and we had Chinese food cooked Cantonese style which is supposed to be the best. It was really delicious and I'm afraid I ate like a pig — chopsticks and all.

"Then one afternoon, Mr. Z. Y. Chow, Vice-Pres. of the Bank of Taiwan, and an M. I. T. and Cornell graduate, came to pay us a visit. He was so sorry that I had to leave as he wanted to have a party for me. As I sat there talking, I thought how much I felt at home talking about the various cities in China, Japan, etc., and talking with an International set. This business of travelling is wonderful, and you meet so many interesting people. I brought a big basket of bananas and a big bag of fresh pineapple home with me for the Colonels in the office. Fresh pineapple is delicious, much better than canned, in fact, the taste is entirely different."

### Civil Service Exam Announced By Falls

A Civil Service examination for the position of Library Assistant, GS-2 thru GS-5, in the Federal Government is now open, it was stated today by M. C. Falls, secretary of the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners at the Local Post Office. The basic entrance salaries range from \$2950 to \$3410 a year.

The examination is being held by the Fourth U. S. Civil Service Region, Washington, D. C., to fill positions in various Federal Agencies in the States of Maryland (except Montgomery and Prince Georges counties), North

Carolina, Virginia (except Arlington County and the city of Alexandria, and West Virginia. Applications will be accepted by the office of the Director, Fourth U. S. Civil Service Region, Temporary "R" Third and Jefferson Drive, S. W., Washington 25, D. C., until the needs of the service are met.

This examination requires a written test. The experience requirement range from one year to three years of work in the field

of library science. Approximate education may be substituted for experience.

Complete information and application blanks may be obtained from M. C. Falls at the local Post Office.

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