

Spends Two Days Filming Imperial Japanese Palace

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR
Special Writer for The Eccentric

World traveler Charles J. O'Connor of 2276 Avon Lane, has a hobby of taking motion pictures, but only uses his pictures as a means of furthering his real hobby—that of educating people to the ways of the rest of the world.

As president of Reichold Chemicals, Inc., of Ferndale, O'Connor visits his company's 22 foreign plants and with his movie camera has made friends for himself, his company and the United States. He is a sort of goodwill ambassador for the U.S. and public relations agent for the company, rolled into one.

"I try to capture the beauty of a country on film," O'Connor remarked. "Confucius said that one picture is worth a thousand words and I try to show people the beautiful and unusual scenes and events in a country.

"SOME PEOPLE wouldn't believe what I tell them of what I've seen on my travels, but they do when they see it on film. Even then, sometimes they are doubtful. "Years ago in Rio," he explained, "I took pictures of the beautiful modern buildings in the city which, architecturally, were way ahead of us. Some people thought it was trick photography."

Since O'Connor uses his films for educational purposes, he has been able to record scenes that ordinarily are never photographed. This happened the last time he was in Japan when he was a dinner guest at the home of Prince Takamatsu, brother of Emperor Hirohito.

The prince, upon finding out that O'Connor wanted to film the cultural life in Japan, gave him free rein in the Imperial palace for two days.

"I GOT A command performance of the 'Ragaku' dance, which is a ceremonial dance done by men. It is an ancient warrior dance and has seldom, if ever, been photographed," O'Connor said.

"I also photographed a tea ceremony which is usually given in a tea house in the garden. This time a red carpet was spread on the grass in a park on the palace grounds and the ceremony was performed for me by six beautiful girls—three of them Japanese royals."

A Shinto wedding also was recorded on film by O'Connor.

"The girl wears a strange sort of headgear during the ceremony," O'Connor said. "It is at any time she disobeys her husband."

she has to wear it again for 30 days!"

ON A VISIT to South Africa at the time of Queen Elizabeth's tour, O'Connor was able to record command performances of the dances of 15 African tribes who work in the gold mines at Johannesburg.

"These African natives, called 'Bantu,' meaning pure blacks, are attracted to work in the gold mines for a period of nine months. When their period of work is concluded, a whole new batch comes in so as to provide work for more people, 340,000 of them work in the mines. They are kept in compounds practically in the city while the gold mines are underground.

"South Africa is a tinderbox of racial hatred. The English, the Boers, the Bantu and the 'colored' which includes the Hindus as well as those of mixed blood, are all at odds with each other."

YEARS AGO O'Connor was with Eastman Kodak Company and started taking pictures by following the advice of the company. On press the button, and we'll do it best."

For 30 years O'Connor has been clicking his camera but since 1936 all of O'Connor's films have been in color. He uses a 16 millimeter movie camera with a 24 frame sound speed.

"He has shown his pictures privately to other organizations and chemical societies from coast to coast. He also has been invited to show them to other organizations such as men's clubs and church groups. In one showing of O'Connor's films, the audience can travel 70,000 miles.

WHEN O'CONNOR visits a foreign land, he first looks up someone on the map of the country well and is proud of his native land. From them he finds out where outstanding pictures can be taken and when is the best time of day to take them.

He then works out a scenario and allocates the number of film footage so that his film will have continuity and will cover all the scenes he wants to shoot.

"Taking movies is more work

that's it quite true that average little children (just as when we were their age) have many heretofore unsuspected talents. Unwittingly, many times the heretofore unsuspected talents negatively upon children's minds.



O'CONNOR IS SERVED TEA BY JAPANESE GIRLS, THREE OF WHOM ARE ROYALTY
Party took place on red carpet spread in palace park

than is imagined," O'Connor contends.

Lately he has been interested in three dimensional pictures and now takes his Stereo-Realist camera as well as his movie camera along with him on his trips. The three dimensional photographs are "still" pictures, but are extremely life-like as they have the third dimension—depth, which ordinary pictures do not have.

THEY MUST BE seen through a special "viewer" by an individual but group showings are possible by the use of a projector for these photos at an aluminum coated screen. The audience must wear special glasses and O'Connor is equipped with 14 pairs to take care of a group showing of that size.

Recently O'Connor became an author. After his visit to South America this year, he prepared a booklet of his travels and experiences there. His philosophy is contained in the foreword of this booklet: "We Americans need more of what the Latin Americans call 'simpatico,' which means understanding, real understanding. The other peoples of the world are truly different from us.

"THEY THINK differently, eat differently, dress differently, live differently and ride differently. But this doesn't mean we're right and they're wrong all the time."

"Before we can write the prescription for world peace, order and industry, we must have more of our good American businessmen travel the world and get to know the customers.

"Good American businessmen would be the best ambassadors we could have, but please note that 'good' in connection with businessmen. Some of the new-rich loudmouths now taking the grand tour are giving us a bad name.

"We need good American businessmen, with 'simpatico' to represent us in the markets of trade that make the world go round."

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The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 3

Thursday, October 2, 1952

Plan Members Ask More Study On Adams Zoning

Strong opposition to the rezoning of the east side of the blocks on Maple between Ruffner and a point north of Holland assured the Birmingham board that more study was required on the area and no action was taken Wednesday night, Sept. 24.

On recommendation of City Planning Technician Robert Boatman, the board held an informal hearing on the change of zoning from business A to income-bungalow.

Boatman advised the rezoning to protect existing residences from the property becoming of a commercial nature in the future.

Judson Bradway, of Grose Pointe, opposed the rezoning of the property.

"AS A MEMBER of the Detroit planning commission for 10 years, I can say that I'm very familiar with good planning," Bradway continued, "I don't believe that this is good planning. The amount of traffic that Adams soon will be carrying stamps this property as of value only to a commercial building."

Boatman, defending his stand on the rezoning, told Bradway that Birmingham contained no part of Detroit's problems in strip zoning.

"This would constitute strip zoning instead of following a good pattern of concentrated shopping centers," Boatman contended.

Bradway answered that the type of business that would go in along this area would not be of a nature that would go into a shopping center.

Acting Chairman William M. Brown explained to Bradway that the city was trying to clean up zoning messes such as those where residences have been developed on business property.

JOHN W. HOLMES, 665 Pleasant, reiterated Bradway's statement.

"I own the northeast corner of Adams and Cole and believe that it would not pay me to build an income bungalow on this property."

Mrs. Holmes added that she "had surveyed the neighborhood and found that good commercial buildings would not be a detriment to the cheap homes in the area."

Board members agreed that more study was needed before any recommendations would be made to the city commission.

Rezoning Petition On Maple-Adams Corner Rejected

A petition to rezone two lots on the southeast corner of Maple and Adams was recommended denied to the city commission Wednesday night, Sept. 24, by the Birmingham plan board.

The request of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Charleton, 119 East Maple, called for a change from residential to multiple dwelling.

Mrs. Charleton told board members that the property was not suitable for single family residences because of the traffic on Maple.

CHARLES SALINAS, 1583 Villa, opposed the rezoning. He stated that if the change were granted on this corner, owners of property adjacent to the Charleton lots could also expect the city to favorably consider rezoning their lots.

A written objection to the rezoning from the Birmingham Villas Property Owners association was read to the board.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Outdoor Rites to Mark Induction of 44 Cubs Into Quarten Pack B2

Pack B2 of Quarten school will induct 44 Cub Scouts in a campfire ceremony at high noon Saturday, according to Tom Ward, Cubmaster.

Ward said present members, those who will join the pack and their fathers were to meet at Quarten school Saturday at 11 a.m. for instructions on transportation and the location of the ceremony.

The affair will open with an hour of hunting games, followed by the induction rites. Each potential Cub, accompanied by his father, will carry a lighted log to the central bonfire as he becomes a Bobcat member.

Bob Reed, program chairman and Chuck Zetler, assistant Cubmaster will have charge of the induction. Transportation to the wooded area near the new high school will be arranged by Chuck Williams. Bill Zabriskie has charge of the dinner which will be served to about 200 Cubs and their fathers.

Planners Reject Vacation Of Alley

Birmingham plan board members could see no advantage to either property owners or to the city by vacating the east-west alley between Wallace and Lincoln from Southfield to Watkins, and recommended that the vacation petition be denied by the city commission.

Accompanying the petition was another request to vacate the north-south alley between Wallace and Lincoln at the east end of the block. This also was recommended denied.

UTILITY FIRMS serving the area were willing to approve the vacation if the full eight-foot easement be retained for future repair work. An 18-inch sewer main also runs along the east-west alley.

Board Member George F. Green stated that if the alley was vacated to abutting property owners under the conditions of the retained easement, the property owners would still be risking any fence or landscaping they might develop on the added property.

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