

Friends Share Letters From India Missionary

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Birmingham friends of the Rev. John Bathgate are becoming quite well acquainted with the scenes and ways of India.

They have developed a unique plan of sharing his letters by having multiple copies made and distributing them among his former close associates.

In a letter dated June 7, Mr. Bathgate gave more insight into the country and its people as he recounts a trip into the Himalayas, "Home of the Snow".

The superstitions of the people induce their lives by making many areas restricted to certain classes, others closed to "outsiders". One of these in Jammu, in the Himalayas, is open to non-Indians, and was the destination of Mr. Bathgate and his party.

ON THIS TRIP, as on most others, the party ran into a religious pilgrimage which filled the town to overflowing and taxed accommodations to the utmost. The Bathgate party of four found themselves in the midst of a sea of natives, traffic a mess and quarters unavailable.

Tickets were obtained for an extra bus run to handle the crowd, and the party started to a nearby section where sleeping quarters were available.

Mountain travel in India has its own peculiar problems, due to the roads.



REV. JOHN BATHGATE

In some spots roads are narrow, hedged on one side by sheer cliffs and flanked on the other by a drop of several hundred feet to the river bed below. In these places traffic is handled in shifts.

Vehicles are held in one place while travelers from the opposite direction are given the freedom of the road. When they have passed, the "holders" are released and permitted to go their way.

THIS PARTICULAR bus had an "assistant" driver, a young man, according to Mr. Bathgate, good looking in a piratical sort of way with jangled arms and gold loops in his ears.

His job was to fill the radiator whenever it boiled, which was often; crank the motor whenever the bus stopped, and jam a block of wood under a rear wheel whenever the stop was made on a hill.

The balance of his letter Mr. Bathgate devoted to a detailed description of his mountain hike, telling of the ways of the people, the country through which he passed and his own experiences as a camper in India.

He has discovered the chiggers of that land consider him as great a table delicacy as the mosquitoes of Michigan did before them.

A LATER note from Mr. Bathgate said that a change could be noted in the political life of India. He said the people were pleased that their country was being given a prominent place in the peace-making, and that the press was roundly praising his leadership.

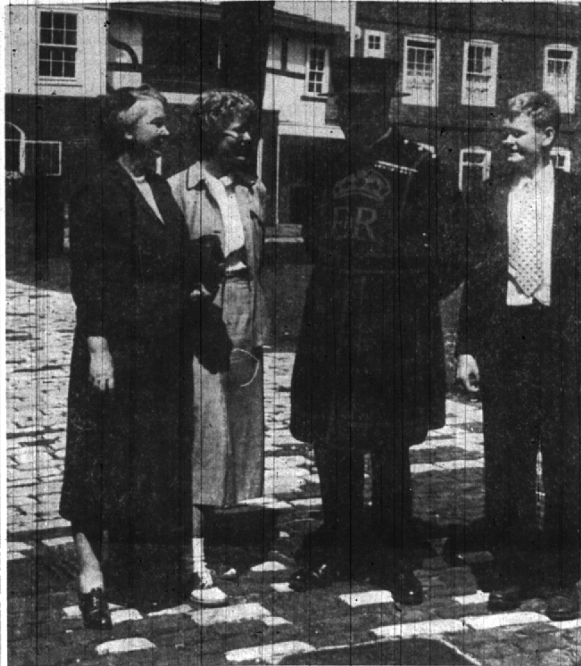
Another letter from Mr. Bathgate indicates that he will have to answer to the Indian government for an infraction of the law.

It seems that while on one trip he and his party came face to face with a tiger. Not waiting to find out what the tiger's intentions were, a shot was fired and the beast fell dead.

After the incident Mr. Bathgate found he had committed several blunders all at once. He didn't have permission to shoot a tiger and it wasn't the time of year to shoot a tiger, and so on. Now, he is awaiting the day when he will be hailed into court and asked to pay for his "crime".

I'LL PROBABLY have to pay a whopping big fine," he wrote, "but it will be a pleasure. The role of the deceased may have been reversed."

Mr. Bathgate is a graduate of Baldwin high school and a member of the First Presbyterian church here, where he was ordained in 1946 just prior to leaving for India.



LONDON, England: Birmingham residents Mrs. Henry Bean and her son, Henry, of 311 Larchlea Drive, and Miss Ann Hammer of 5420 Long Meadow, are pictured here at the Tower of London during their recent vacation in Britain. With them in the picture is one of the Yeomen Warders, or "Beefeaters," who guard the historic fortress. The Birmingham residents spent several weeks touring Britain by car before going on to the Continent. They are returning home in mid-August.

Service Clubs Select Summer Meeting Sites As-House Vacations

With the closing of the Birmingham Community House for the summer vacation, several service clubs are planning other meeting places.

The Rotary club has scheduled their Monday luncheons at the Baptist church for the month of August.

Tuesday dates will see the Kiwanis club, an evening group, meeting at the homes of members and planning a varied program such as club picnics. Members of the Exchange club plan no formal meetings for this period but will probably schedule a family picnic during August.

Devon Gables will be the Wednesday noon meeting place of the Birmingham Lions until the Community House resumes its activities in September.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

B'ham Swamps Berkley, 12-1

Birmingham won its third straight American Legion title of the second half of the schedule Sunday, July 26, when it swamped Berkley, 12 to 1, behind the six-hit pitching of Dick Sheldon and Danny Corina.

Birmingham gathered 16 safeties off three Berkley pitchers and committed two errors to Berkley's three bobbles.

Becker started on the mound for Berkley. He was relieved by Johnson in the third, who in turn was replaced by Hickman in the fifth inning. None of them could stem the steady flow of hits from the bats of the Birmingham club.

DICK SHELDON fanned 14 batters. Jerry Weigle stole home twice for Birmingham.

Wednesday, August 5, the Birmingham team travels to Waterford for a game at 6 p.m.

So far this season, the home

Sick Robins May Have Eaten DDT Treated Bugs

Several persons have reported an unusual mortality among small birds in Birmingham this past week, and three robins have been brought into Cranbrook Institute of Science after showing behavior symptomatic of poisoning.

The overuse of DDT in spraying gardens is suspected as the cause, since birds are frequently poisoned by eating DDT treated insects.

The Institute points out that though DDT has proven useful in control of flies and mosquitoes, it has several bad characteristics. Many flies and mosquitoes show a strong resistance to DDT and these animals may be developing resistant strains. Some insect pests, such as bean beetles are not poisoned

by DDT, but other insects which are useful, such as honey-bees, the mosquito-eating dragon flies, and ladybugs are killed by the sprays.

DDT ALSO IS poisonous to fish and frogs and should not be used over water. It is limited in its use in dairy areas for through the medium of cows' milk it reaches people, and though no human deaths from DDT are as yet reported, it is believed to be a cumulative poison that may take its toll.

Where DDT sprays are used outdoors care should be taken not to exceed a dosage of 2 pounds per acre.

Oakland County, with its important resources of orchards, dairy farming, poultry raising, and fishing is a poor area in which to use large-scale DDT treatment, and even back yard-spraying must be recognized as dangerous to birds and useful insects.

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