

# Traveler's First Impressions of India

Julia Hoopgardner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian D. Hoopgardner, 1414 Lenox, Birmingham, is in India with the Experiment in International Living program. Following is the first in a series of letters she will send to the Eccentric describing her experiences. The column will appear next week.

June 27, 1961

Dear Friends and Neighbors: You can imagine our excitement as the 35 of us stepped off of our

modern Air-India airliner into Bombay.

We represent America from one coast to the other. Most of us are upperclassmen in college, graduate students, or recent graduates.

Our races and religions vary greatly, as do our interests. But we have in common the common; that is to further international understanding on a personal basis.

We were very hospitably greeted with garlands of fresh flowers and the crowd would stay overnight before traveling on to our homes in Bhavnagar, Ahmadabad, or Baroda.

**THE BOMBAY** seashore is cool and lovely at night. Marine Drive is truly lit up like a Queen's necklace. The Gateway to India is a grand old arch; and many new buildings, like the water tower and which has been reconstructed since the 1950's.

But the real experimenter and I chose to spend our evening seeing old Bombay. With a newly met Indian boy and his driver, we drove up and down the narrow, jam-packed streets.

The driver had to keep his hand on the horn to warn bicyclists, pedestrians, horse carts, cattle and stray dogs.

**THE OPEN** markets were colorful and strange, more than we had imagined. Apparently the white-skinned people were strange to the Indians, too. Everywhere we went, people stared. We were off the beaten track already.

Twice we got out of the car. Once to buy flower wreaths, and once to observe an Indian wedding reception. The latter proved a real adventure.

The bride's mother immediately motioned us into the long narrow room. It was completely bedecked with garlands of flowers and lights. A long center aisle led to a raised platform where the wedding party was seated.

**RUTH AND I** were whisked past maroons, blues, greens, and every color of every color and pattern imaginable until we were face to face with the honored couple.

The bride had shed her traditional red outer sari. The white one remaining was lavishly bordered with gold and orange threads.

The bridegroom wore an all-white suit. Around his neck was a huge garland. It is the custom in Hindu weddings to transfer the garland from the bride to the groom.

Both of them were wearing much jewelry. (Expensive jewelry has always been a part of the dowry tradition in India. Recently a law was passed limiting dowries, as cause so many men have had to go in debt in order to give the expected amount.)

**THE NEWLYWEDS** looked as happy as any American couple I've ever seen. We offered our best wishes and congratulations.

By then all of the guests had gathered us. It was explained that we had just arrived from "America." The photographer asked us to take a picture of Ruth and me on either side of the couple.

Everyone was completely gracious. After many "no thank you's" we finally ate some Indian ice cream. (I had been warned to eat only boiled food.)

**WE FINALLY** departed amid numerous shukras and manamas of the families and friends of the bride and groom.

If this wedding reception is an example of the hospitality of Bombay, we can count on a wonderful stay.

Adventurously yours,  
JULIA HOOPGARDNER

**Red Faced**

Canton, Ill., officials banned 10-ton trucks from the city streets. Then they found their fire trucks weighed more.



**Traveling Experimenter**

Julia Hoopgardner, a Birmingham junior at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, is traveling in India this summer under the Experiment in International Living program. This photo of her was taken by the Kalamazoo Gazette before she left.

## NATURE NOW State Parks Offer Top Vacation Sites

With vacation days at hand a large percentage of our citizens will seek out, as a vacation center, some favorite state park or recreation area within our state.

So accustomed are we to this beauty, coupled with its own wealth of natural resources, that we frequently take it for granted.

But someone must always pay the bill—in this case your tax dollar must include not only the original cost, but the maintenance of these thousands of acres of lakes, streams, woods and hills. This year the state is collecting a small fee of 50 cents per day for using these facilities or you may pay \$3.50 for an entire stay which will admit you to your chosen park.

**French for "Thru"**

John Peter, in Dallas, Tex., is known as the "Number One Bull Shooter" of the southwest. He is a livestock photographer.

**What's in a Name?**

The first two prisoners brought from the Tulsa, Okla., city jail before Judge John Imler were men with the names "Ice" and "Cool."

**IN HIS SURGERY**, his small patients are treated for such human-sounding complaints as dental work ("older dogs are frequently plagued with tartar"), Caesarian and normal deliveries and even, lately, tonsillitis.

There's been a rash of that this spring with dogs. Dr. DePorre said incidentally, a lot of my patients are older dogs. People take such good care of their animals in this area that many of them live a long time.

**DE P. DEPORRE**

Michigan State University Veterinary College. He is training required two years of "pre-vet" training plus another four in college.

Born and raised in Gross Pointe, he met his bride in Virginia, there at a dance. She is a registered nurse and, despite the hospital, helped him in the hospital until the arrival of their two children, Pierre, Jr., and Louise Renee.

Following his graduation, Dr. DePorre was associated with a veterinary hospital in Mount Clemens for two years before opening his own hospital.

The family lives on E. Dartmouth, Bloomfield Township, where the doctor and his wife spend some of their leisure time gardening.

**HIS FAVORITE** spare-time activity is time with his pleasant and fishing.

"You'd be surprised how many

**THAT'S MY** dog, Duke. He's in for a checkup," said the doctor. "I've to keep him on the farm because of my wife's allergy."

He grinned and added, "You know, we hope to have a toy poodle some day at home. The wife's allergic to Virginia and wants a dog as badly as the rest of us."

**TO COME BACK** to the recreational opportunities in our state one needs only to quote the words with which our founding fathers inscribed Michigan's coat of arms: "Si quaesant penitentiam morum circum spem." (If you would seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you.)

**Michigan Facts**

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The world's highest man-made ski jump is at Iron Mountain. . . . The longest and fastest man-made toboggan run is located at Grayling.

Michigan regularly sells more hunting and fishing licenses than any other state, running well over a million in each category.

## Mahn-Go-Tah-See Opens 32nd Year

With school out and summer here, a boy's thoughts turn to fun and adventure. And that's what he's ahead for 25 Birmingham area boys who boarded a chartered bus recently and headed for Camp Mahn-Go-Tah-See on Loon Lake in Hale, Michigan.

Directed for the third consecutive year by Wallace E. Cripps of Birmingham, Mahn-Go-Tah-See is beginning its 32nd season of camping in cooperation with the Y.M.C.A.

Howard Sumner, a physical edu-

law, John Goggio, Paul Goggio, Robert Houghton, Fred Jeffers, John King, David Leach, Doug Leach, Bernard Terwiller, Douglas Thomas, David Tinker, Rosa Warren, and Bob Wild.

**Congress Slated**

"Interpreting Cooperation" is the theme of the 1961 American Municipal Association Congress, to be held Aug. 26-30, in Seattle, Wash.

Birmingham city commissioners were notified of the meeting and theme this week. They have not decided yet who will attend the congress.

## The Birmingham Eccentric Features

DOWN TO EARTH

### Gardener's Job Is Like Housework, Never Done

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

It is the rare person who is contented with his garden. If you have several which do not perform properly, there is a very good chance they are planted in the wrong place. A progressive gardener has the contrary to most plants around like the living room furniture.

If you have to pay for garden assistance, it often does not pay to attempt to move shrubs; but if cheaper to buy new, the new selections will probably have more flowers and a stronger heredity.

**IF YOU ARE** moving to a new site, don't make the mistake of doing all of the landscaping at one time.

At first, just place the fundamental plant material. Then in the following years, place new selections that have captured your attention.

The best way Mrs. Burlingame to develop your property with confidence is to ride around and see the homes which have comparable architectural lines and topography to yours. Be sure and notice the exposure of specific plantings in relation to the placement of the home structure.

**PROBLEMS ARE** really fun to conquer. As an illustration, where there is a grading problem, you can hold a bank of land immediately by placing stones in the bed of a gully.

You can control the growth of grass between the stones by spreading salt over the surface. You can block views by planting Austrian pines or a clump of shrubs such as Nanking Cherries. Hibiscus cranberry is good, too.

If you are going to be gone for the summer you can continue to plant burlap and balled nursery stock which could be trestled, shrubs, etc. Make sure you give them water each day and cut at the period of maximum sun.

**AFTER THE PLANTING** of the Oak'd County Cracks Down On Stray Dogs

Attention, all Rover and Fido—look out.

Oakland County authorities are cracking down on stray dogs running loose around the county.

And, the crackdown is affecting dog owners more than the strays. The owners are forced to pay a fine.

AT LEAST 20 residents in the last month have had to pay Justice of the Peace Court fines and costs because their dogs have not been vaccinated and licensed.

"A crackdown on owners of dogs running loose is in full swing," said Dr. Frank Bates, county dog warden.

"Enforcing the law is strictly a precautionary measure for the dog owners, pedestrians and property owners," Bates said.

**POLICE THROUGHOUT** the county have received an increasing number of dog-bite calls. Calls are immediately referred to Bates.

If a dog accused of biting someone has been vaccinated and licensed, it will be put into quarantine at home.

If not, the dog will be taken to the shelter and kept for observation. This costs the owner a \$1 dog pound fee, plus 60c a day for board.

IF THE DOG is reclaimed, it has to be vaccinated and licensed.

"The warden's office has investigated more than 500 animal bites in the area since the first of the year," Bates said.

One case that the office has not seen, he added, was rabies since 1954.

**THE PUBLIC HAS** become better educated on the importance of immunization of dogs," Bates said. "After all, it's for their own good."

**Golden Silence**

A sign in a coffee bar window in London reads: "We are the only coffee bar in London without a juke box."

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