

# Saigon: A Touch of Paris in the Orient

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the eighth in a series of dispatches to The Eccentric from Donald Dennis and his wife, Margaret, as they make a seven-month trip around the world. Dennis teaches art at Bloomfield Hills High School; his wife is a teacher in the same school system. The following letter was written after the couple had arrived in Saigon, South Vietnam.

There has been a most welcome change after visiting several of the other populated areas in the Far East. In spite of all the tension in the air due to the Viet Cong infiltration, this city brings a touch of Paris to the Orient.

The clean, wide boulevards lined with rubber trees which shade the sidewalks, make walking a pleasure. Outdoor cafes are everywhere, and one has only to walk a few feet to find a bench under a shade tree to relax and catch a glimpse of the passing parade.

The French have left their mark on Vietnam vividly, and Saigon has fared well as a result. To us, this is a most interesting and pleasant surprise.

It is! The Vietnamese people are friendly and seem to possess a happy-go-lucky attitude in spite of the present crisis.

The women are almost always daintily dressed in the traditional skirts and blouses which give them a very feminine appearance. They are petite and pretty and the colorful silk skirts fluttering around the long slacks along with the equally colorful parasols or umbrellas hats give them an appearance distinctive from that of the rest of the Oriental women.

**BICYCLES ARE** the main method of transportation, and Saigon is equipped with about 500,000 of them. These, along with French Renaults, Italian Fiat and American Jeeps, transport most of the people to and from work.

Another method of transportation is the "willow pole carrier." He succeeds in balancing heavy loads by suspending baskets from both ends and joggling down the streets.

It's amazing to me to see the load these people are able to handle. The baskets may skim the ground, but they never seem to touch. Most of these baskets are lunch counters that can go into operation at the approach of a customer.

**THE VERSATILITY** of the Oriental salesman never ceases to amaze us, and here in Saigon, we were to discover a new one. This is the art and craft salesman who gives you his sales pitch right at the dinner table.

All the while you are eating, he is displaying his wares; and the less you pay attention, the lower his prices become. It's quite a bargaining game, and the casual observer always has the upper hand over the more interested party.

**PROBABLY** the most enterprising salesman of all is the one on the corner by our hotel. He can't be more than eight years old, and he stands a full meter in height—bare feet, broad grin and all. He makes up for his size in his salesmanship.

He has daily papers, both in English and French, which he sells

AND WHAT a passing parade

## Behind the Welcome Mat

by CORRINE ABATT

A short time ago I received a letter from a national magazine asking me to buy a subscription. To capture my interest the letter listed some of the pleasurable features that would be in future issues. Some of them sounded worth reading, but two on the left left me with a sickish feeling.

One will offer more information about the filming of the movie, "Cleopatra" and the other is a piece where Micky Rooney talks about himself including his present financial crisis. Now if there were ever two stories I can live without reading, they are these.

**PREVIOUSLY** THE old Frank Sinatra-Ava Gardner international love contest has topped my list of most tiresome reading material. I think we've hit a new high in misplaced values when the amorous activities of such couples continue to make headlines month after month.

As to Micky Rooney and his financial problems who cares? Everyone has financial problems, his just sound more exciting because they involve more wives than most then could accumulate in several lifetimes.

**A FRIEND** suggested the column might list pamphlets that would be of special interest to readers. So with that in mind, here's one which can be mounted on the medicine cabinet or the kitchen cupboard door.

To obtain a copy of the cardboard folder, "In Case of Poisoning" send five cents to the American Medical Association, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Illinois. Be sure to include the name of the folder in your request.

For double safety, mothers may want to write the phone number of our local poison center at the bottom of the folder which is the Poison Information Center in Pontiac.

## Leaders Meet to Plan Leadership Conference

Students and counselors from 21 Michigan high schools will meet at Oakland University today to make final plans for the first annual Governor's Conference on Student (High School) Leadership being sponsored by the university's division of continuing education.

Governor George W. Romney will keynote the student leadership conference which will be held April 22.

The university invited representatives of 21 co-sponsoring high schools to help develop a conference which would help high school and student government officers. All student officers who attend the conference will be upperclassmen selected by the faculty of their respective schools.

Each high school in the state has been promised space for at least one student, and has been asked to list in priority order the names of additional students who will be coming if space permits.

Following the governor's address, student participants will break into discussion groups. There will be time during the day to attend one group in each of three topic areas. These areas are group psychology and human inter-relationships, practical organization structure (duties of officers, committees and

**Attends Convention**  
Mrs. Peter Decker, science teacher at Derby Junior High School, recently attended the 11th annual national science teachers convention in Philadelphia, Pa. Over 5,000 science teachers from the United States and several foreign countries attending the meetings, held from March 29-April 2.

**Receives Fellowship**  
Frederick W. Barber, 2588 Yorkshire, Birmingham, has been named as recipient of a National Science Foundation cooperative graduate fellowship for advanced study in science and mathematics. Barber is currently a student at Wayne State University.

## Novel

(Continued from 1-D)

The rural obscurity she has insisted upon.

More important is Zimmerman, the high school principal, who is Zeau. The character of Zimmerman is revealed through the interaction of several characters at a basketball game, and through his promiscuous actions with a lady school board member.

Zimmerman holds retirement over Caldwell's head as rigorously as Zeau held the arrow in Chiron. Both were agonizing wounds, but Zimmerman's charity toward Caldwell is somewhat less than the charity of Zeau.

**CHARITY** COULD be the moral of "The Centaur" if it has one, but the power of the book seems to be in the style.

Udipke has trimmed off all the excess. The style is as lean as the author. Three days anywhere, especially in Pennsylvania, have never been accounted for so perceptibly, so lucidly.

The parallel theme is woven and intertwined without causing difficulty to the reader. Caldwell's Buick (transportation to and from school) provides situations which elicit more emotional responses than 100 Rorschach ink blot tests. The idea and the emotion waves are out of hand in the hands of Udipke. He is truly responsible to his art. Few writers have achieved in a lifetime what he has at 30 years of age.

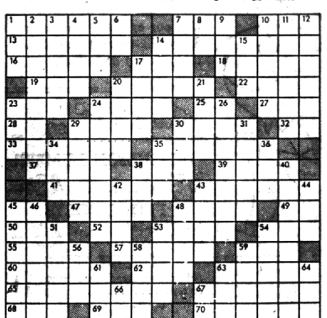
**THE CENTAUR** is truly wise and noble—as is its author. The organic form allows the reader to discover and grow. In a country of matter of factness and smugness, John Udipke gives hope for better things to come.

Yet some critics cry for the "big novel"—I'll wait till Udipke is ready, and he will be soon.

**In Piano Recital**  
Peggy Bush, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bush, 2700 W. Long Lake Road, Orchard Lake, took part in a piano recital Mar. 30 in Highland Park.

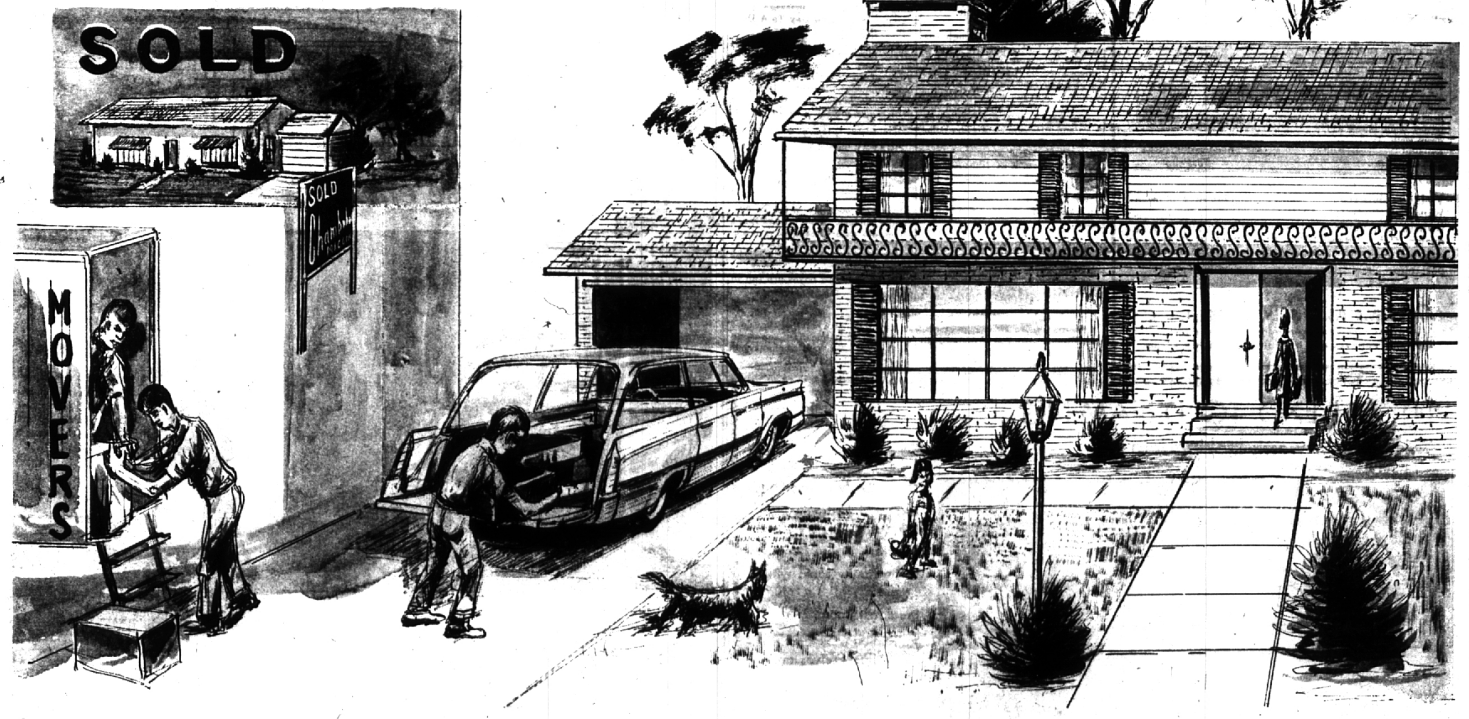
- ACROSS**
- 1 Give a sermon
  - 3 Hawaiian food
  - 10 Brain part
  - 13 Withdraw
  - 14 Dangle cats
  - 16 Giddy
  - 17 Be
  - 20 Victorious
  - 21 Satisfies
  - 22 Dance step
  - 23 Pastor's house
  - 25 National
  - 26 Period of prosperity
  - 28 Cooling devices
  - 29 Us
  - 30 Dutch painter
  - 32 Musical syllable
  - 33 Dry
  - 34 Greek letter
  - 35 Christian Science
  - 36 Identified (abbr.)
  - 37 Woods
  - 38 Have
  - 39 Utensils
  - 40 Drop
  - 41 Inlets
  - 42 Sway
  - 43 Trains
  - 44 Part of to be
  - 47 Period of time
- DOWN**
- 1 Pairs (abbr.)
  - 2 Appeal
  - 3 Vessels to
  - 4 Heat liquids
  - 5 Helms
  - 6 Thai man
  - 7 Cooking utensils
  - 8 Upon
  - 9 Possessive pronoun
  - 10 Plover part
  - 11 Peaceful
  - 12 Impose a tax
  - 14 Metal fasteners
  - 15 Possessions
  - 16 Bacon
  - 17 Female servant
  - 18 Pitches
  - 19 Indian
  - 20 Worried
  - 21 Everlasting
  - 22 Foster
  - 23 Marsh
  - 24 Paradise
  - 25 Egyptian dancing girl
  - 26 Guided
  - 27 Electric unit
  - 28 Fixed substance
  - 29 Negative word
  - 30 Kinks

**Answers to Puzzle Will Be Found on Page 7-D**



PUZZLE NO. 751

# WHO WANTS TO WAIT?



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