

Armchair Travelogue

Autumn Colors in April as Nurse Thrilled by Australia, N.Z. Trip

Flora Moffat, a nurse who lived here formerly and is a member of Duncan Moffat, is now back home in British Columbia after a fascinating visit to New Zealand and Australia. She shares some of her impressions in a letter which is so interesting, we publish it in its entirety.

I arrived back in Vancouver on May 22 thus completing my travels around New Zealand and Australia, and now I will endeavour to tell of some of my experiences.

At the end of February I left Auckland by bus to visit a friend in Wanganui that I had become acquainted with by correspondence through Women's Institute work.

Never Tedium
There is never a tedious mile travelling in New Zealand as everywhere one finds interesting and beautiful scenery and all in a different way. On the journey south to Wanganui I passed Lake Taupo which is situated about the centre of the North Island. Lake Taupo is an old volcano crater and is the largest volcanic lake in the world, the dimensions being 25 miles long and 17 miles wide.

Some years ago trout from North America which normally weigh 3 or 4 pounds were put in the lake and for some unexpected reason some have grown to weigh 25 pounds in Lake Taupo. The belief is that some undiscovered minerals promote the growth. Naturally this spot is a fisherman's dream of paradise.

Active Volcano
We drove through the national park south of Taupo passing Mt. Ngauruhoe which is still an active volcano, and at Wairakei we passed the geothermal station where they have harnessed the power from 32 thermal bores for electricity.

In the evening I reached Wanganui on the west coast of N.Z., a lovely town situated on the river by the same name. The shores of the Wanganui River at one time was the home of many of the native Maoris.

Equal Rights for Maoris
The friend I was visiting was very interested in the Maoris and was able to tell me a lot about their early history. There is no discrimination and they have always had equal rights and privileges with the white man, consequently they are well educated and progressive citizens.

Mrs. Spurdle, my hostess, worked for many years in the museum and was also a free lance writer for several of N.Z.'s leading newspapers and she showed me many interesting artifacts and presented me with a book she had published recently dealing with the native customs.

All Love Races
All New Zealand people are horse lovers and every town of any size has a race course. I attended a horse show at Taihape where Miss Pat Smythe, England's famous horse woman, gave a fine exhibition of riding and hurdle jumping.

While at Wanganui I was taken to New Plymouth, a distance of 90 miles, and I enjoyed the scenery enroute immensely. Mt. Egmont, the highest peak on the north island, is the town's pride and joy.

Some years ago gum trees from Australia were introduced to New Zealand; these trees blossom profusely and we passed

many along the way that were covered with crimson flowers, truly a beautiful sight.

Site of First Settlers
After a week at Wanganui I went on to Wellington, the most southerly city of the north island and the capital of the country. After a pleasant visit and some sightseeing I took the inter-island steamer at 8 p.m. and arrived at Lyttelton, the port of Christchurch on the south island at 7 a.m. the next day.

Christchurch, which is situated on the Canterbury Plains, is the home of the early English settlers in N.Z. There is much competition among the gardeners so the city has many lovely lawns and gardens. I had tea with Mr. and Mrs. Deans, Mr. Deans' grandparents being the first settlers on the plains, and I took a picture of the first house which they erected over 120 years ago which is now a museum piece.

Sheep Station Overlooks Ocean
From Christchurch I went on to Timaru to visit Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hart. Mrs. Hart is a granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thus Rumbly whom many Actonians well remember with affection.

They have a sheep station overlooking the Pacific on one side and on a clear day, Mt. Cook, N.Z.'s highest peak which reaches an altitude of over 12,000 feet, is clearly visible in the background. This was the first mountain to be climbed by Sir Edmund Hillary and is one of the country's favorite tourist attractions.

The Harts took me to Lake Tekapo, here we saw the Church of the Good Shepherd, a lovely stone building on the shores of the lake built in Memory of the early settlers. The church has a large picture window facing the Southern Alps and I couldn't help feeling praise should come easy in such a beautiful setting. They also took me to see some of the sheep stations in the mountainous country and as the weather was becoming cool men were mustering the sheep from the highlands down to the valleys for the winter.

Famous Resorts
After leaving Timaru I went on to a guest house in Invercargill where I spent three wks. While there I went to Queenstown on Lake Wakitipu and Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri. These places are all famous resorts and very lovely. At Queenstown I had a trip to Skipper's Canyon, a very scenic drive which follows the Shotover River which at one time was a wealthy gold mining river. Easter was spent in Invercargill and it was very chilly and windy with temperatures reaching close to freezing several nights.

Off to Australia
In mid April I returned to Auckland and on April 20, I flew to Melbourne, Australia. While there I paid a visit to Captain Cook's cottage which is situated in the Fitzroy gardens where it was transplanted brick by brick and stone by stone from Yorkshire, England. It now stands as a monument to the memory of the great explorer and navigator that discovered Australia in April, 1770. Another place of interest to be visited in Melbourne was the Flinders St. railroad station reputed to be the busiest depot in the world.

From Melbourne I took an organized bus tour to Canberra and Sydney.

Canberra is the most beautiful city I have ever seen. It was designed solely to be the seat of

people by a landscape architect by the name of Walter Giffin. The first parliament was held there in May 1927, and today the city has developed so magnificently that it now ranks as one of the finest capitals in the Commonwealth.

We were taken on a tour of the parliament buildings. The speaker's chair in the House of Commons was a replica of the one in the British house that was destroyed during the war. Later the British applied the Australian timber.

Autumn in April
The carpet on the floor weighs a half a ton and was woven in Scotland of Australian wool. The design in the carpet was made up of gum leaves, acorns, and wattle flowers, gum trees, and oaks being very plentiful in the country and the wattle the national flower. In the early days of the city over eleven million trees and shrubs had been planted and these were pretty when we were there in their autumn colours on April 25.

It happened that our tour was there on Anzac day which was the forty-sixth anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli in the first Great War. There had been a parade and service at the war memorial in the morning. This memorial takes the form of a Hall of Memory, Galleries and Stairways in which are kept the relics and records of the part played by all the Australians who served in two world wars.

Koalas, Laughing Birds
On April 27 we went on to Sydney, which is a vast city of over two million people. Set amid delightful surroundings Sydney is renowned for its beautiful harbor, surfing beaches and other tourist attractions. Crossing the harbor bridge to the north shore in the Taronga Park Zoo you will find the Koala bears known as blue gum babies because the only foods they will eat are the leaves from these trees. Kangaroos are also plentiful as are the laughing Kookaburra birds. The city itself is a busy place and now the third largest in the British Commonwealth.

On May 8, I boarded the Orient & Pacific Liner "Oriana" at Sydney and started my journey home. The Oriana was launched by H. R. H. Princess Alexandra of Kent in Nov. 1959, and is the largest ship ever to be launched in England. Its overall length is 804 feet with a gross tonnage of 42,500. It carries 2200 passengers and a crew of 900 with a service speed of 27 1/2 knots.



(Michael Burns Photo)

PRIZE DAY ENDED the school year at St. Andrew's College, Aurora, Friday, June 9, and Corporal Andrew Knox piped the dignitaries in to the ceremonies outside in the quadrangle. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Knox, he was awarded a proficiency prize, a complete set of the works of Shakespeare. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Knox, his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. George Spencer-Lee and Mrs. C. F. Leatherland.

Night School Committee Debates Fall Fair Display, New Courses

Planning far in advance, members of the Acton night school committee Monday, June 12, agreed to again arrange a booth at the fall fair for exhibit of work done in the classes, and then went on to discuss courses for next fall.

Night school next season will begin Monday and Tuesday, October 23 and 24, with December off. There will again be 12 two-hour lessons in each course.

Last year's popular courses will be offered again, some with different teachers. High school teacher Michael Bevan indicated his willingness to teach a course in dramatics and committee members enthusiastically heard a report, given by Mrs. Peter Dinn,

I had a splendid trip home and enjoyed the luxuries of this lovely ship immensely, visiting Auckland, Suna and Honolulu enroute. **And Back Home**

My travels have been very thrilling and I am deeply grateful to the people of Australia and New Zealand for the kindness extended to me and to the Governor of all good things for his care over me in bringing me safely back to Canada. I have enjoyed recording my experiences and I trust that my readers have derived some pleasure in the reading.

I have resumed my work at the Mission Hospital in Bella Bella, B.C. and would be pleased to hear from old friends again. In closing I wish to thank the Editor of the Free Press for publishing these letters.

Most sincerely,
Flora Moffat.

HALTON COUNTY Weed Control News

by V. E. McARTHUR, COUNTY WEED INSPECTOR.

CONTROL "YELLOW ROCKET" IN FALL

Each year we see an increase of "Rocket" throughout Halton County. At a meeting of County Municipal authorities and Weed Inspectors in Milton recently, it was pointed out quite emphatically that the best time to spray "Yellow Rocket" is in the fall season. The meeting was addressed by Howard Henry, Fieldman, Ont. Ag. Francis, Agriculture Representative for Halton County and Earl Muir, Fruit and Vegetable specialist for the Counties of Halton, Peel, York and North West. During a discussion on the control of "Yellow Rocket" all three authorities agreed that "Rocket" should be sprayed in the fall. The most effective chemicals recommended are 2, 4, D, B. In fields where clovers are present, or 2, 4 D in either the Amine or ester form, if there are no clovers in the meadow.

would ever develop a chemical weed killer that could be used safely on such a tender crop as tomatoes. However the obstacles have now been overcome and a limited amount of "Solan 4, E, C" is available for commercial use this summer. "Solan 4, E, C" is used at the rate of one gallon per acre as an overall treatment or one gallon will cover four acres using a 15" band. It is applied to tomatoes two weeks after planting, when the weeds are less than 1 1/2" high. Indications are that "Solan 4, E, C" will be a big factor in reducing weed control costs for tomato growers in the future.

Display Today

The Home Economics and Industrial Arts rooms will be busy this afternoon (Thursday) as a fashion show and display of work will take place at the Robert Little school.

Parents are urged to attend the display and see samples of children's work and enjoy a demonstration of floral arrangements by Mrs. Pierce of Rosedale Floral Georgetown.

TOMATO HERBICIDE, NEW THIS YEAR

The new selective herbicide for tomatoes is called "Solan 4 E C." A few years ago it was doubtful as to whether research workers

JACK RIDLEY CARTAGE

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? C O M I N G S O O N ?