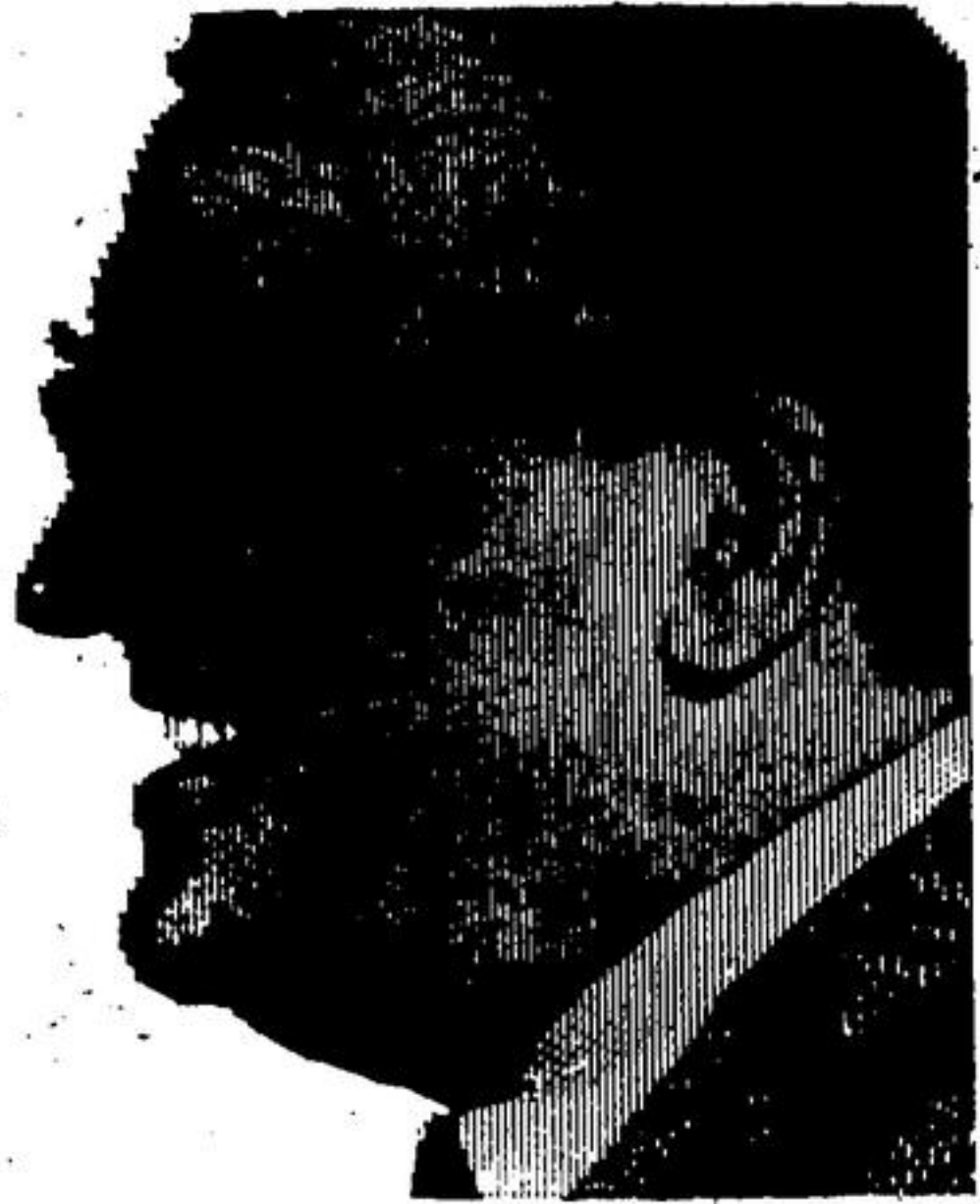


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RAY SONIN

SEEING THE WORLD. PART THREE

Topkapi Palace Super Attraction for Tourists

Sorry, it was Turkey, not Tehran which Janice Carter described in her first letter of this series of interesting glimpses of her travels. We should have known better. In this instalment people who saw the movie Topkapi will relish her descriptions of the Sultan's Palace, one of the world's fabulous attractions.

November 13  
It's raining (this morning but it is mild and not unpleasant.

Yesterday we went to the bazaar — quite an experience! There are streets and streets of jewellery and leather shops, brass, antiques — everything — and everyone tries to entice you inside to buy even tho' we must look pretty poverty-stricken. Again everyone was very kind to us there. We were invited in for coffee (Turkish) and tea at several places. In two shops, the salesmen knew people in Toronto and were very pleased to meet Karen and I. In one very expensive place we were invited in, had coffee and talked with the owner and his friend, a young Turkish fellow who is now a ski instructor in Vermont and who played tennis for Turkey. They are taking us out to dinner tonight.

Our funny friend Abbas keeps trying to do everything for us. After we got our visas on Monday he had Hussein drive us around — again. Unfortunately Abbas wants the best for us and thinks that we should go to nice hotels and have coffee and tea and then be driven around the city. What we really want to do is walk around a bit and be on our own more. However, there are compensations — like the fact that he buys our dinner everyday and although he is always rushing here and there doing his business and keeps us waiting all the time, when he is with us he is fun. He bought 2 kilos of corn for the pigeons outside the bazaar and fed them so we could take pictures of thousands of pigeons flying around his little body. Last night he wanted to take us out to a Turkish nightclub but we were all so tired we just could not face it. I think that we are really beat from the trip from England and we haven't managed to shake off our colds. Abbas only needs 3 hours of sleep per night and thinks we are disgraceful to be young and in Istanbul and not to want to do everything and see everything all at once.

Hussein is 23 and nice. Last night he brought his wife Namura to visit us. She is tiny and beautiful and speaks enough English that we can communicate with her and Hussein.

They have been married for one year and are very happy together. I think Hussein had to show her that we are like his sisters, although we did ask him to bring her around. We tried to find out from Hussein about Namura why Abbas is so good to us. Hussein said he didn't know — only that he doesn't like Abbas very much because he works for him and that we should always be five together with him which is our policy anyway.

We have just eaten our lunch (fried eggs, fried eggplant, fresh tomatoes and bread — all cooked on our little cooker. It is about 6" high and 4" wide and 4" across so you can imagine that it does take some organization for us to cook. Patti and Sheila normally look after the loaf of bread was only 75 cents but the eggs work out to be about 50 Kurush each which is expensive. There is a little fruit vendor at the steps of our hotel and biscuit shops and yogurt shops, etc., all close at hand and for the most part we can live very cheaply — especially as most everything is bought for us.

November 14  
Raining again! You are so lucky that I have time to write.

Yesterday was another good day. We lazed about in the morning and then in the afternoon Hussein's wife came and we went with her to Topkapi Palace. It is a super place very well laid out and full of so many interesting things. The first major room had all the crockery used by the various sultans in certain centuries. Because they always bought the best of any period, there were displays of beautiful Chinese ware from the Ming dynasty of the 14th and 15th centuries and not just display cases but walls full of huge serving platters and bowls. In the cases were jeweled goblets and ordinary bowls — tiny rubies and emeralds in old flower-like settings. There was French Limoges china — huge vases — Bohemian crystal and Persian and Turkish glassware. In the kitchen area, there were huge cauldrons and gigantic trays. Patti says that they used to heap the trays with food and then the guests would come forward in order of importance to eat from them. There was one whole area devoted to the sultan's clothes. One gory garment 400 years old had the blood stains of an assassinated sultan. Chris liked that the best! The cloth and embroidery and colors were superb.

In the treasury, we saw the Topkapi diamond — 88 carats and hundreds of little diamonds around it. There were uncut emeralds heaped up in one cabinet — one the size of two fists. The rings and earrings of the sultans' wives were in another case and then there were all kinds of trinkets (!!!!) encrusted with pearls and turquoise, rubies and emeralds.

NORVAL

Humorous Pageant Crowns Brownie Queen

Norval Brownies, Guides and Rangers held a Christmas party in the Parish Hall on Friday evening, December 13th. Parents and friends enjoyed the variety program presented by the girls with Rev. Walter Ridley as chairman. The Brownies sang several Christmas songs and acted them out on the stage. There was Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman, etc. Leaders are Mrs. R. Hamilton and Mrs. D. Robinson. The Guides danced two square dances with Orval Shea as caller. Leader is Mrs. Lynda Howse.

The Rangers put on a humorous beauty pageant complete with the crowning of Miss Norval as Queen. Kathy Carter won the honors dressed as a housewife. Santa Claus arrived at the end of the program to hand out the gifts from the tree. Under his long white whiskers he had a remarkable resemblance to Norman Shea. Lunch was served and a social time enjoyed. — Mrs. Ed McLean

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NOTICE OF ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENT

A steady increase in the cost of bulk power, wages and materials, particularly in the last two years, made it necessary to review the existing rate structures. As a result a comprehensive rate study has been undertaken by the Commission in conjunction with Ontario Hydro. This revealed the need to adjust rates to provide additional revenue and at the same time to correct some inequities that have developed in the present rate structure.

A new rate schedule has been approved by this commission and will go into effect with all billing dated on and after March 1st, 1969, subject to Ontario Hydro Commission approval.

NET RATES

In the past the rates have been gross, with a prompt payment discount of 10%. The new rates will be net and will be subject to a proposed late payment charge of 10% if the bill is paid after the discount date.

RESIDENTIAL

IN 1967 the AVERAGE use of electrical energy by residential customers was 573 kilowatt hours per month. Under the proposed rates the charge for this amount of electricity will be increased by APPROXIMATELY \$1.00 per month from the net payment at the old rate to the net payment at the new rate.

COMMERCIAL, SMALL COMMERCIAL & POWER

Commercial, Small Commercial and Power customers will now be billed under a general service classification, in which more emphasis is placed upon total energy use rather than demand. The change in the amount of each customer's bill due to this transition to a more equitable method of billing, varies widely, depending on the ratio of the load to the amount of energy used. Because of this, it would serve no purpose to indicate the effect of the average bill.

The new rate structure will be published when Ontario Hydro approval is received.

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