

Hippies Spoiling Eastern Travel for Legit Tourists

Continuing a series of letters home from Janice Carter to her parents Mr. and Mrs. Orville Carter describing a tour which she is taking with Karen Korzak of Glen Williams and some English girl friends.

Peshawar, Pakistan
December 13th

Arrived here yesterday in brilliant, warm sunshine — there are palm trees, flowers, lots of greenery — and we left snow in Kabul!

Sheila and Chris were only sick the one night, so that was good and we are all well now. Tuesday was quite uneventful and as we were becoming tired of Kabul we decided to leave Wednesday a.m. Sheila, Patti & I sat up very late drinking tea with the boys. They were very interesting, especially as they understood everything we said. They have been working in Greenland at the American Air Force base, so they have seen most of the films we have seen and read the same books. They hope to sell their Land Rover in Nepal and get work again in Thailand or Australia. Oil has been to Nepal and India before and had lots to tell us.

Wednesday we got up fairly early and went to the Consulate, Poste Restante, etc. in order to get organized. We also went to the bazaar to change money as you get the best rate for changing dollars into Pakistani rupees in Kabul — about double.

Wouldn't you know it was warm and sunny as we left! The drive through the mountain pass between Kabul and Jalalabad was magnificent. It was nice to be in a private car rather than a bus, because we could stop for pictures whenever we wanted. Because the weather was so good, the boys decided to turn back at Jalalabad and go to Mazar-Sharif in northern Afghanistan. We decided to hitch to the border. That was a bit of a mistake because we ended up with crowds of people around us every time a car stopped. We didn't mind too much but the boys finally got upset and decided to drive us to the border. We were pleased, but felt that they had already done too much for us!

At the border, everything was in absolute darkness — at 7.00 p.m. It was ridiculous because nothing could go through until the next morning, so we had to stay there for the night — without lights, heat or food, etc. The boys came to our rescue again — brought out a gas stove, rice, tins of fish and peas and coffee — we had quite a nice dinner. Then the soldiers brought us oranges from one of the trees — they were sour but were refreshing. We camped.

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ed in the living room of the customs house for the night.

We were up soon after dawn — Chris and Karen came in to say that they had arranged a lift to Peshawar with a truck driver. What a truck! The engine was exposed (and none too proficient) and the body was very rickety. Patti, Karen and I sat in the front with a grinning Afghan driver — Chris and Sheila were in the back with the silent mechanic. We free wheeled our way thru the Khyber Pass with frequent stops for engine renewal. The pass was very impressive — narrow roads moving almost like stair steps up a steep rock face. There were lots of forts on the tops of the cliffs and many border stops; so we really felt as if we were entering another country. The scenery changed drastically too — much more — lush and fertile and green everywhere.

The driver let us out on the road to Lahore and we escaped before he could ask for any money. We walked into the bazaar area, decided to have tea at an impressive structure called the Royal hotel. We met a Dutch boy called Elgar who was living there — he had spent about a month in Pakistan traveling — studying everything he could. He works for KLM in Holland and can fly cheaply, so he picks a country, studies all he can about it, and then spends as much time as he can afford to there.

We decided to stay overnight in Peshawar as Patti arranged a room for 5 rupees for the 5 of us (a rupee — 20c official but about 12c according to the exchange rate we got in Kabul). We spent the afternoon wandering around hoping to meet a nice family. But no luck — we felt it would be best to leave early in the morning as it didn't really like it there. After a very hot dinner (I had to use lots of bread to get the stuff down), we sat in the lobby quietly hating Peshawar and finally went to bed at about 6:30! I fell asleep but Patti and Sheila went back down to the lobby where they made

friends with the hotel manager and his brother, the owner. About 9 p.m. they came back to the room, picked up a guitar and we all went up to his rooftop apartment for songs and conversation and sweets — and fresh cut sugar cane. Suddenly, Peshawar was alright! We decided to stay over today as we had going to dinner tonight with them.

Three German boys came thru this a.m. on their way to Lahore. We spoke with them for a while. Most travellers are very angry about the impression that the hippies have made on the people in the Eastern countries. We spoke about this last night as well. Because most people have to travel cheaply — blue jeans, hitch hiking, etc. they tend to look a little bit like hippies and the people are immediately distrustful because a lot of hippies evidently beg in the streets and spend ALL their time smoking hashish. Then people who are genuinely interested in the country and its people have trouble in being accepted by the inhabitants. It is not even the hippies who are to blame since they are often interested in the Eastern culture but it is the people who masquerade as hippies (some of the outfits in Kabul were unbelievable) and take advantage of the freedom they have in these countries to exploit the people. Anyway, there are a lot of sides to this problem — the official attitude is wrong, too. Our Danish friends, who have planned and worked hard for their trip, can only get one month in India for every \$100 in travellers' cheques. They want to travel to Nepal and Ceylon and all over India but they don't have enough money in cheques even though they have more money all told. According to the Embassy the reason for the restriction is to cut down on hippy-like types entering the East. They are about the most unlikely people to be kept out of a country as they are cleaner and healthier and better groomed than we are (and richer!) but the law is the law. It helps to be a British subject out here!!

(Continued next week)

Easter Seal Funds Help Restore Children's Health

The annual mailing of Easter Seals is one of the biggest voluntary projects undertaken in Ontario in the interest of children. In 230 cities, towns and villages members of Easter Seal service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Kinsmen and others are seeing that appeal letters and Seals are sent to all residents in their community, inviting their contributions to help boys and girls who have a physical disability.

This year the Easter Seal campaign must raise at least \$1,500,000 to guarantee that the care and treatment needed by more than 14,000 crippled children will continue on a full scale basis this year.

In the forty seven year history of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and its association with service clubs, there have been thousands of children who have overcome their physical disabilities or have made such great improvement that they have carried on a normal existence. The public's support to the Easter Seal campaign has made additional services and expansion of activities possible so that the Society, through its field offices, is continually reaching out to help children who have a physical disability and need assistance.

Rehabilitation of crippled children can very often be a lengthy and expensive program, but when the results mean some children will eventually be independent in movement and speech, the time and cost is not important. It is most important to know that every Easter Seal gift will be of benefit to a crippled child.

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SMILE

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