

**Osprings**

# Doris Fines returns from an Australian-wide holiday

By Doris Fines  
 From 24 to minus 11 degrees was a mighty chilly reception at Toronto airport when Myrtle Theaker and I returned from our 28-day tour of the South Pacific. Even at Los Angeles where we began our tour, we were greeted with 80 degrees F temperature. (We were told if it drops below 40F the people panic, lock up their children and practically die).

Our tour group consisted of 43 people from across Canada, from Victoria to Montreal. Some of us met at Toronto and joined the rest of our companions at Los Angeles, where we were given a bus tour of the city, Hollywood and Beverly Hills, while we waited for plane connections. From there on it was by Air New Zealand jumbo jet. A five hour flight landed us in Honolulu, where our young Hawaiian tour guide took us on a two-day tour of the island.

The children were quite visible, not being in school. The teachers were voting to see if they would go on strike in two weeks. I never heard how they made out. Every available building space seemed taken up, with houses built half way up the side of the mountains. The average home, we were told, is priced at \$197,000. We saw some valued at a million dollars, but the people who own the houses don't own the land it sits on. They lease it.

We drove by a 120 acre prawn farm, which is a sea food prepared like shrimp, and we visited a small water cress farm surrounded by a shopping centre. The man refused to sell his land, so they built the shopping centre around it.

Some of us went out to Pearl Harbor in our spare time, to see the memorial. The last afternoon was spent at the Polynesian Centre, where the Polynesians gave us instructions on how to do the Hula.

After the colorful Polynesian concert in the evening, we said aloha to Hawaii, and began our long flight to Australia, our main destination. Crossing the International Dateline we lost Friday completely. It is a 7 1/2 hour flight from Honolulu to Auckland, N.Z., but we landed on Fiji for an hour to refuel. Leaving Fiji at 7 a.m. Saturday morning, it was 2 p.m. Friday at home. By this time my body didn't know what time it was.

Ronald, our tour director, left us at Auckland after putting us on another plane for our final hop to Brisbane, where we were met by our

very capable, friendly, fun-loving Australian tour manager, Bill Glover, who stayed with us through Australia and New Zealand. Our bus driver, Ken Smith, was with us throughout Australia, but Bill said he has yet to find a way to get Ken and his bus to New Zealand.

It was rather startling at first to go travelling along the highway on the left side of the road, and see a car come hurtling around a curve on the right hand side, especially on a mountain road where there didn't seem room for a car and bus both on the road.

We were introduced right away to the koala and kangaroo at a sanctuary. The koala live in eucalyptus trees, and you can never see them outside a park.

In some areas there are kangaroo crossing signs here. A kangaroo can wreck a car or bus if one hops on to the road in front of it.

Our first motel, for three nights was at Surfer's Paradise, 56 miles south of Brisbane, and it was rightly named. We enjoyed walking barefoot along the beach in the evening, as the waves rolled in with the tide, but it kept us on our toes keeping track of one another in a 30 storey motel.

Lawn balls is the most popular pastime in Australia, outside of fishing, and men and women belonging to the clubs, dressed all in white for this sport.

School children are also dressed alike, with light blue blouses or shirts, and darker blue pants for boys and skirts for girls.

As we drove down the coast we stopped at a sugar cane farm. Sugar cane grows for 1000 miles along the coast. When the leaves dry and turn brown, they set fire to it. It gets rid of the snakes, vermin and trash, and makes it easier to harvest the cane. It doesn't hurt the sugar.

Christmas lilies grow wild in some areas, and become a pest. They are white and look like our Easter lily. There are 2000 varieties of eucalyptus or gum trees. Each species grow in their own environment. You don't take trees from one area to plant in another, as they won't grow. One kind sheds its bark, and on first glance you would think they are all dead.

We had picnic lunches in parks, boat rides up the river when the bus went on ahead and picked us up farther along. We visited an oyster farm where Mr. and Mrs. Regan sell

half a million oysters every year, and we saw the Murray-Grey cattle which are the only true Australian cattle. They are a cross between a white shorthorn and an Angus cow, and have no horns.

Banana fields were plentiful in the sub-tropical area. They cannot stand extreme heat, and are grown on the slopes of the mountains to get the benefit of the sun. At the banana plantation of Bob Sekale, who came from Malasia, we were shown how bananas are grown. Each plant produces one bunch and is cut down with the bunch of bananas at harvest time. Suckers grow up around the bottom, and all are cut out except one on the north side, which will produce in 14 months.

As we drove down the road, Bill got off the bus at a fruit stand, and came running back with a huge stalk of bananas, enough for everyone.

There was no shortage of food. We ate and ate. Towards the end of the tour when some were complaining of gaining weight, Bill said "You can't expect to take off in two days what you put on in three weeks." Breakfast was brought to our rooms every morning. Ah, the rude awakening when we got home.

I will continue my tour of Australia another week.

A euchre party will be held in the basement of Knox Presbyterian Church, Osprings, on this Saturday sponsored by the Ladies Aid. Games will start at 8 p.m. Come on out and enjoy yourself.

Congratulations to Gary and Sandra Ferguson on the arrival of their baby daughter. Rebecca Ashleigh was born Feb. 21 at Guelph General Hospital, weighing in at 8 lbs. 9 oz. She is a little sister for Ryan, a granddaughter for Mr. and Mrs. Ross Ferguson and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Johnston, and a great granddaughter for Mrs. Thomas Fines.

Last Saturday, 22 school students along with two parent volunteers, Mrs. MacDonald supply teacher, and Mrs. Trimble, went to Terra Cotta Conservation area for a ski day. The weather and skiing conditions were good. The group skied a total of 18 to 25 kilometres, and ended up with lunch in the warm-up area.

The school staff held a pot luck luncheon for all the mothers who assisted in the elective program. Thank you's were given to Mrs. Viletstra, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Sinclair, Mrs. Grundy and Mrs. Sanders.

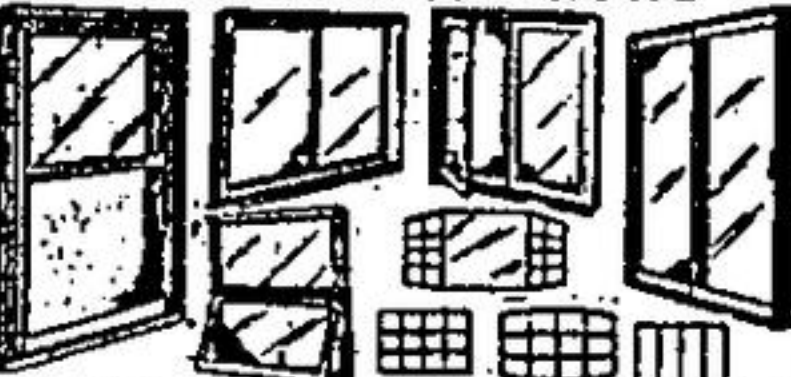
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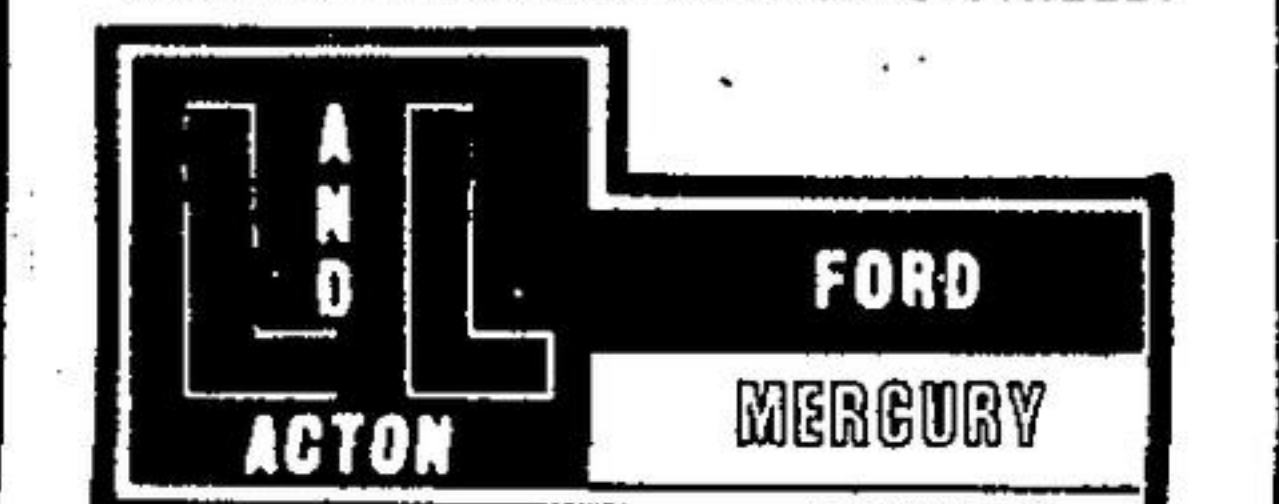
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**ARIES** March 21-April 19  
 The arrival of a houseguest has a stabilizing influence on the changing domestic scene. Future prospects look much brighter.

**TAURUS** April 20-May 20  
 Take care while travelling, especially the short trips in the neighborhood. Keep your eyes on the road.

**GEMINI** May 21-June 20  
 Differences with another person over money can put you in a nasty situation. Look for a happy solution.

**CANCER** June 21-July 22  
 There are many questions to be settled concerning part-ownership matters. Follow your hunches. Emotional differences result.

**LEO** July 23-August 22  
 Favorable events influence a business related project could turn out to be a huge success financially. Very satisfying too.

**VIRGO** August 23-September 22  
 A new partnership venture should progress from the discussion stage. It's time for positive action. Be aware.

**LIBRA** September 23-October 22  
 Be on guard against problems with a co-worker who is really eager to finish the job. Avoid stressful situations.

**SCORPIO** October 23-November 21  
 An exciting social schedule awaits this time for breeding our imagined flights. Be realistic about what your goals are.

**SAGITTARIUS** November 22-December 21  
 Do some over-the-hill travel with a good host, and satisfy the longing to break loose from the office that bind.

**CAPRICORN** December 22-January 19  
 Being a thief, recommended and you find a new source of income to get you out of a tight spot.

**AQUARIUS** January 20-February 18  
 Group activities demand much of your time and energy. Continue to give as much as you can. They need you.

**PISCES** February 19-March 20  
 Don't push for your own way with most. Relationships can reach the breaking point.

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