## Adventures in the Temple of the Sacred Tooth

By STEPHEN FROST

Herald Special Well you can lay your mind to rest; both my horses came in dead last, one trying to outdo the other for that rather dublous honor.

"Dog meat," John Pladdy says, and I think he's right. His horses were somewhat better, with one winning and another one placing.

Oh well, all is not lost; i found some lovely cigars that cost nine-tenths of a cent. which, I was assured by the natives of Hikkaduwa, are of the best quality. The cheaper(!) ones the Ceylonese smoke are called beetles and are about a quarter the price. They are more like a coneshaped cigarette and are sur-

prisingly good. On our last night in Hikkaduwa, the owner of the establishment we were staying in invited us in for a drink of Arrack. Arrack is distilled from coconut milk, I believe, and comes in different qualities, something like Johnny Walker Black and Red. Arrack is graded either Black or White, the White being the better of the two.

The proprietor was mixing his with lemonade and John and I followed sult. God knows you couldn't possibly drink the stuff straight. I liked the Mekong whiskey better by far.

When we went to the restaurant that night, our favorite waiter, Bunja, gave us a 12ounce bottle of Arrack for dinner, saying it was our last night here, so we might as well enjoy it. I hadn't realized we'd been at all dissatisfied. Needless to say, we drank it all, that being the polite course of

POURED OUT

All the time he was drinking it. John kept telling our waiter how good it was, then drowning it with lemonade or pouring it through the bamboo wall when our friend wasn't look ing. Naturally, I managed to twist mine down, but I paid for it later on. I didn't sleep all night and felt terrible the next

We caught a train back to Colombo, where we stayed the night before leaving for the

holy city of Kandy. From my journal: "Leaving Hikkaduwa - the train ride up was uneventful. As usual, the train was late, but only half an hour, so it wasn't too bad. We're used to waiting by now. There was a very beautiful sunset over the ocean, which was on our left on the way up. It was rather spectacular

really. "We booked into a youth hostel last night in one of the grubbler sections of Colombo (incidentally, the Canadian embassy is there) and afterwards went looking for something to eat. Unsuccessully, I

might add. "Anyway, on the way back, a young Ceylonese, apparently trying to protect his truck, tried to put a lovely big brick through the window of a Datsun pick-up truck, which pulled a 180-degree turn right out of "Bullitt". The boys in the pick-up were trying to damage the truck, I suppose, and thought better of it when they saw the brick. It all happened so fast that J.P. and I stood around for a while hoping for a replay. Unfortunately, the brick thrower was giving us the evil eye, so we bid him good evening and continu-

ed on our way. PLEASANTRIDE "Travelling to Kandy by train was one of the most pleasant rides we have had. Up through the mountains and out of the flatlands. The contrast is

> If your car's out of shape you get rid of it, right? What if your body's out of shape?

> > PH.D.

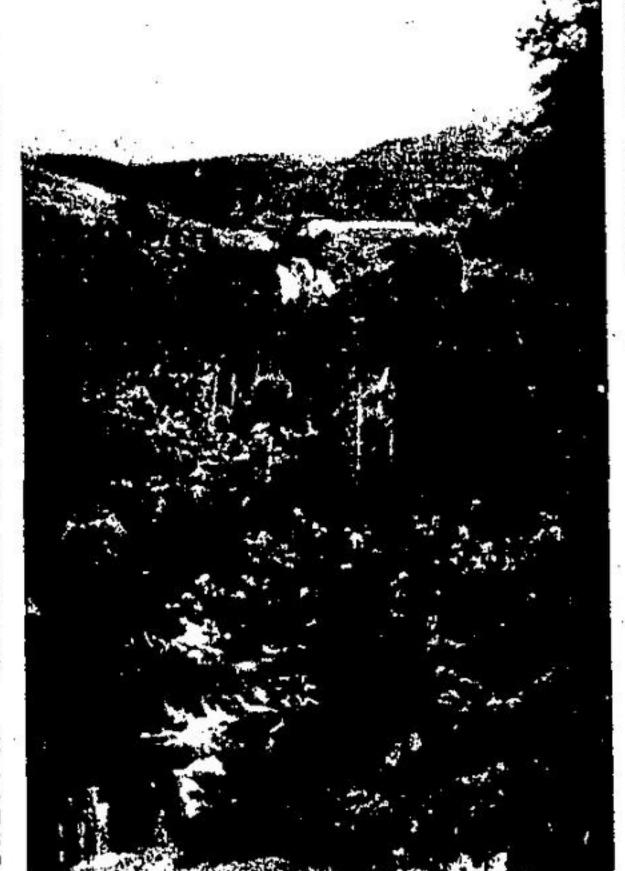
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"The mountains rise to a height of between six and 7,000 feet. Some of them are like mesas one sees in the western States, while most of them rise

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The Hinas Falls Hotel, and the falls themselves, as seen from the main road two miles away. The hotel is set in the midst of a Ceylonese tea and spice plantation and is only an hour from Kandy by bus.

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quite near or among the paddies themselves. All very beauti-

"Today when we arrived, some boys in a taxi took us to a house owned by an elderly Indian woman who is not only an articulate in her English but very hospitable as well. The house is a 15-minute walk from town and is consequently very quiet. A nice change. The cost to us was only about \$2 a night for bed and breakfast.

"John and I had a very good meal at the house, which cost us very little and consisted of curried beef and different vegetables. The meal was the nicest we had had for a while and part of the pleasure was simply sitting down to a readymade meal like civilized people. Restaurants are becoming very tiring, to say the least.

"Last night Sabina, a girl staying at the same house, and I snuck into the Temple of the Sacred Tooth behind a group of tourists from one of the big hotels in town. Their lour was aiready paid for, so Saby and I didn't have to pay anything. BUDDHA'S TOOTH

"This is a very big temple and is supposed to house a tooth relic which is said to be Buddha's. There is a very elaborate ceremony with beating drums and colorful Ceylon-

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**\$0++**--844.. delight, as evidenced by the camera freaks crowding around. That was the outer temple; the inner temple only holds about 15 people, and 1 didn't want to join a line-up. especially since the priests of the temple display the tooth only on certain dates during

certain years. No one ever tells

the tourists that. Humorous,

really. "Later we went to see some Ceylonese dancers. An hour's entertainment for only 35 rupees. The girls were innocent and lovely, as well as skilled in the native dances. The dancing was energetic and the costumes colored as only the Ceylonese seem to be able

"There was also a fire eater whose act was right out of Las Vegas, plus a young girl and man spinning eight discs of a wooden holder."

to color them.

I spent the last day in Kandy visiting Hinas Falls with Sabina. The falls are about 20 miles from Kandy and set in the middle of a tea and spice plantation. A two-mile road leads up to the falls, twisting through the tea shrubs and spice trees, across rivers caused by run-off from the rains until it arrives at the top. Here you'll find the Hinas Falls Hotel, complete with

ese dancers. It is a tourist's small lake, tennis court, swimming pool, a commanding view of the valley far below

and, last but not least, fancy prices. Oh well, the trip up there was well worth it.

The trip back to Colombo was as enjoyable as the trip up; the next day John and I

flew to Tcl Aviv via Bombay. Next week, I'll talk about our 4 travels in the Holy Land.



the mountainous and hilly country can be seen rice paddies Travelling by train to Kandy, one rises from the coast into the mountains that surround the Holy City. All along the sides of carved out of the jungle.

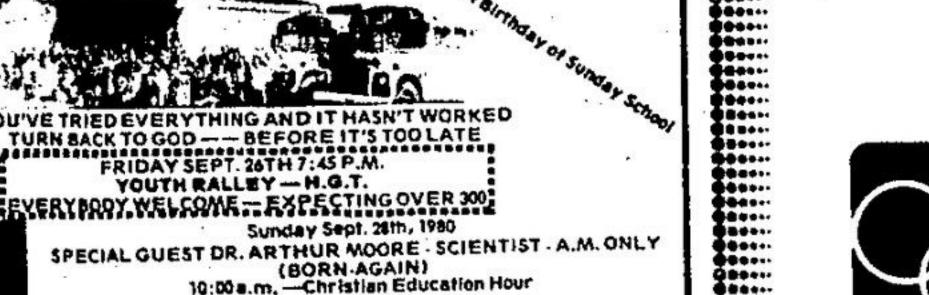
## Shopping locally makes good sense



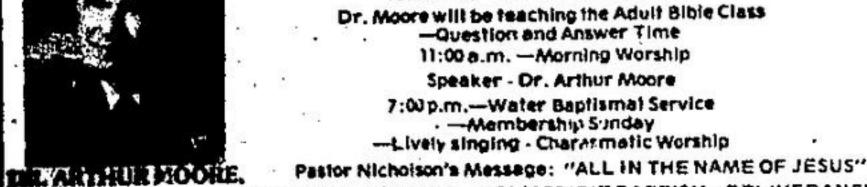
Sure, you work hard for your money, and you want to get your money's worth. But getting your money's worth is not all it's cracked up to be.

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