

Adventures in the Temple of the Sacred Tooth

By STEPHEN FROST
Herald Special

Around the World in 380 Days



16th in a series

Well you can lay your mind to rest; both my horses came in dead last, one trying to outdo the other for that rather dubious 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 cone-shaped cigarette and are surprisingly 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 suit. 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 12-ounce 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 action.

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 looking. 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 day.

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 grubbier sections of Colombo (incidentally, the Canadian embassy is there) and afterwards went looking for something to eat. Unsuccessfully, 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 continued on our way."

PLEASANT RIDE

"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 amazing."

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

"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 to peaks."

"Anywhere there is arable soil on their slopes, one sees rice paddies terraced into the sides. Houses with thatched palm or tile roofs are engineered into the sides, usually



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.

quite near or among the paddies themselves. All very beautiful.

"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 ready-made 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 tour was already paid for, so Sabby 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-

dance dancers. It is a tourist's delight, as evidenced by the camera freaks crowding around. That was the outer temple; the inner temple only holds about 15 people, and I 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 to color them."

"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."

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

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 Tel Aviv via Bombay. Next week, I'll talk about our travels in the Holy Land.



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

Besides merchandise, you're also paying for service. When you shop at a highway store and ask an employee for help, what kind of answer do you get? If it's "I don't know" or "If you don't see it, we don't have it," then you're getting no help at all! If you're tired of that kind of service... try ours. Shop locally, where the people you deal with enjoy dealing with you.

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<p>GEORGETOWN ALLIANCE CHURCH 14 Main St. S. PASTOR PETER RALPH Sunday September 28, 1980 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Come and Make Our Church Your Church Everyone Welcome P. RALPH 877-9812 853-3923</p>	<p>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH 177 Maple Ave. Georgetown PASTOR EDWIN H. MITCHELL 877-6665; 877-0320 9:45 a.m. ALL FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 a.m. WORSHIP & PRAISE Children's Church 6:30 p.m. PRAISE AND Fellowship Nursery at all Services WEEKLY Prayer and Bible Study Children's Clubs Little Cherub Nursery Youth Activities Recreational Activities Biblical-Evangelistic Missionary 25 Years and Growing Sunday September 28, 1980 11 a.m. Reverend L. Roblin 6:30 p.m. Godfrey Thorogood Student Intern</p>
<p>ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH Anglican REV. ROSWELL TEES Sunday September 28, 1980 17th Sunday after Trinity 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Junior Church Nursery 11 a.m. Morning Prayer</p>	<p>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Windsor Road at Carole St. PASTOR: REV. DR. J.M. DRICKAMER Sunday September 28, 1980 11 a.m. Church Service 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Church of the Lutheran Hour</p>

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11:00 a.m. — Morning Worship
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