

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1950.

Visitors From India Have Enjoyable Time In Region

By Mrs. George Eichelberger

Tuesday was Tour Day for the Boy Scouts from India who are visiting in Saxton, R. D. as the guests of Robert Williams of Saxton.

Accompanied by Mr. Williams and Sheldon Horton, at whose cottage in Paradise Camp the Scouts are making their headquarters, the group motored to Huntingdon.

When we reached the Horton cottage about 11 o'clock, we were greeted by the sight of our own American Flag and also the Flag of India, with its broad red, white and green stripes and center emblem of that country. Both flags were flying in the crisp July breeze.

The group was ready for its trip: the Scouts wearing their uniforms, gay colored pugrees (headgear), and with Mrs. N. N. Pundole, the only woman with the group, colorful in her green sari, with beautiful silver and green dangling earrings. And thoroughly enjoyable was the trip through the "back country" of Huntingdon County, to the Penn Koffee Shoppe at Huntingdon. The turkey farms along the way were of great interest to the visitors, as were the machines working on the detour to Huntingdon.

At the Koffee Shoppe the group was met by Editor John H. Biddle who gave them a cordial welcome and escorted them into the luncheon meeting of the Huntingdon Rotary Club. The group was delighted with the cordial reception from the Rotarians and with the lovely white carnations that were presented to each member of the party.

Then, a short tour of interesting spots in Huntingdon. We visited Radio Station WHUN, where the Scouts were much interested, especially in the fact that our radio stations are not government-owned and controlled as in India. Then on to The Daily News to see the paper being printed. They were amazed that so many copies of a newspaper could be printed in such a small space—and were

enough interested, to express the hope that The Daily News might come to them in India, so they could follow the doings of their friends in the area. The fact that the news would be quite old on arrival didn't seem to matter much to them. "We'll like reading about you."

Leaving The Daily News, we went up town to visit Grimsion's candy shop but unfortunately it was closed so we continued down to the corner where another fine selection of candy was available. This visit was especially for Mrs. Pundole, who was interested in sampling American candy. Monday evening, Charles Williams of Saxton had made her a collection of candy from his store, mainly to see what kind she would like. It wasn't too successful a venture. "It was sticky, and so hard, and kept popping out of my mouth." And Charles said, "If you have false teeth you may lose them when you eat this," and you know, he was right. It turned out the candy in question was the "candy kisses" so familiar to American children. And how they all laughed at her story. But she finally made her selection of those she would like to try, and when asked if she didn't like chocolate candy, answered "Choc-ko-late? I'm not sure," so we purchased some "Chokolates" for her to try.

Coming out of the confectionary store we missed two of the Scouts, but walking up the street they were soon located. They had stopped in at Williams Music House—and here the entire group collected. What a time they had, looking at the records, the various instruments, the music, and the wide variety of greeting cards. It was quite hard to get them away from the store and we didn't even try, they were so thoroughly enjoying themselves. Among their purchases was a small-type flute purchased by 18-year-old B. I. Morani. "I'll practice, and then I'll play for you—but I don't think I can play the American music." However, he had a book of instructions and the familiar folksong of our coun-

try. Morani was teased without mercy all day by the others in the group. Due to a typing error, another Scout, T. K. Irani, was listed as the baby of the family. "What will I do," Irani questioned, and all the answer he was getting was more laughing from the group. As it happens, Irani is in his thirties, and the very proud father of twin sons.

"When I go home, they will be able to speak to me, and I hope they will still know me. Now when someone asks them where papa is they point to the picture of my plane, and mean I'm gone in the plane, I think they mean that....." (He owns two planes.)

Morani is quiet and is taking the teasing in good form, but he did seem a bit concerned. Asked why he wasn't married yet, he answered, "I am half-married," meaning, his family has selected his future wife, as is the custom in India.

Two dozen records were purchased by the group to send back to their children in India, with the hope the records will arrive there before they do in October.

A visit was also made to the courthouse and much interest was displayed in the various rooms and the working of our system. "The only place I don't want to see, is the jail," said T. K. Irani, the humorist of the party. "Who WANTS to see a jail.....?"

Finally, the automobiles were started back toward Saxton. The cars were moving swiftly along the country road, when suddenly there was a "bang"—a puncture in one of the tires of the car driven by Mr. Williams. All piled out—and as the Horton car came along it was flagged down, and "they" all piled out. Then you should have seen how India Boy Scouts change a tire—as Irani said "Look, even a sign 'men working' waiting for us." There was, too, for the workmen along the road.....The jack was put to work, but didn't raise the car quite high enough so the Horton jack was also used. Off came the wheel, on went the spare—and then they tried to lower the jack. It didn't work.....Irani came through with another bright thought, "Let's lift the car off the jack"—well, that didn't work either. But finally, the jack worked, the tools were put away, and the cars went on to Saxton with no further delay.

Mr. and Mrs. Pundole were interested in seeing the stores of Saxton so they were visited during the afternoon. "My, aren't the people friendly?" Their comments, too, were on the difference in the types of stores we have, from the type they have in India.

Then, after visiting a few homes in Saxton, visiting the "backyards and gardens" to see how

they differ from India, the group returned where supper was waiting for them.

Just like Americans, they are proud of their country and bring out snaps around. They are children, just as we think, in his thirties, and the very year-old daughter is smart. "When she understands our language to talk in English if I think we didn't want. But soon, she knew English so now we had to talk in words. NOW, she is learning to understand the And Mr. Pundole would beam as she talked.

Then, on Sunday evening, Garner very generously gave a Chevrolet convertible to disposal. "DON'T give it to Irani.....I can still see whizzing down the street bay at eighty miles an

Scouts From India Given Hearty Welcome At Saxton

The Boy Scout delegation from India arrived in Saxton Sunday afternoon and formed another strong bond of friendship between their great country and the great country of America as they entered into the hearts and minds of the people of the area.

Greeting the group as it arrived at the Saxton Borough line after the long trip from the National Encampment at Valley Forge was the Saxton Liberty High School Band, in full uniform, and a group of the town leaders who escorted the honor guests to a reception at the Community Honor Roll.

And a colorful group they were as they left the automobiles in which they had traveled and entered the two convertibles, waiting to take them on into the town. The Scouts all wore their Scout uniforms, and the colorful red, green and yellow Pugree's (headgear to us). Adding to the colorful display was the attractive Mrs. N. N. Pundole, with her brilliant red sari, gay with beautiful embroidery around tiny mirrors. She carried a handbag of the

same embroidered mirrored material, with gold sandals, long red and gold earrings and bracelets adding to the costume.

Members Of Party

The group, visiting in Saxton as the guests of Robert L. Williams, includes Comdr. K. B. Godrej of New Delhi (Indian Roy-
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al Navy), Mr. Noshir N. Pundole, D. C. C. Ak L. of Bombay, assistant state commissioner, honorable state secretary and treasurer of Bombay State, and leader of the group; K. L. Thakkar, Scoutmaster of Bombay, B. I. Morani, T. K. Irami, both of Bombay, and Mrs. Pundole. The seventh member of the group, R. Sheal, had to return to his studies in California, and was unable to come on to Saxton.

Led by the band and escorted by a long line of automobiles, the parade moved to the honor roll, where several hundred interested people of the area had gathered for the formal welcome ceremony. The high school band, under the direction of Richard Shoemaker, played the National Anthem, followed by the invocation by the Rev. Paul Dilling, president of the Saxton Ministerium.

Walter Slick, commander of the Saxton American Legion, served as master of ceremonies, and welcomed the group to Saxton, in behalf of the American Legion.

Robert E. Huff, president of the Saxton Lions Club, then welcomed the group in behalf of the club, with the hope the group will enjoy every moment of their visit to America. Charles Deering, of the Saxton VFW, spoke briefly, as did the Rev. A. E. Siple, Scoutmaster of Saxton Troop No. 71. "Welcoming Scouts from another part of the world, gives us a closer feeling for Scouting, a wonderful organization that promotes fellowship throughout the world. Through Scouting, brotherhood and fellowship may be promoted throughout the world."

The burgess. B. T. Weaver and Police Officer Nick Villa, were also present in their official capacity. The fire company was represented by the truck and loud speaking system.

Mr. Slick, then presented N. N. Pundole, who expressed the deepest appreciation of his group for the sincere and heart-felt welcome that was being extended to them. "In our visit to America, we have had the honor and privilege of meeting many Americans, and the greatest kindness and hospitality that was shown to us at the Jamboree is a thing we will remember." He expressed also the gratitude of the group to their host, Robert Williams, for making possible this visit to Saxton.

Mr. Pundole, then introduced all the members of the group, with the Scouts responding with the Scout Salute.

An enthusiastic round of applause was given to Mr. Williams

for being responsible for bringing the group to the Saxton area.

At Williams' Home

The informal service completed, the Scouts paused briefly at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Williams before continuing to Paradise Camp, where they will make their headquarters at the Horton cottage this week.

The group was brought to Saxton by automobile by Mr. Williams and George Eichelberger. Also through the courtesy of Clay McCahan of Chester, all their baggage was also brought along with them. The India Scouts were the last to leave the encampment at Valley Forge. They had unexpectedly spent the night with friends from Norristown, who had learned they were to stay Saturday night at Valley Forge, and who brought them back to Valley Forge in time to meet the Saxton automobiles on Sunday morning.

Coming to Saxton, they were keenly interested in the farming country, especially in the Lancaster section. They knew nothing of the official welcome awaiting them, until they were very near to Saxton, and as one Scout said "We are completely speechless at this welcome."

Each member of the group is a charming person, speaking beautiful English. All are married with the exception of 18-year-old T. K. Irami, the "baby" of the party.

Mrs. Pundole said the wives all gave their husbands into her keeping, and "they have given me no trouble so far." All have a wonderful sense of humor, and keen wit, and the supper table with thirty-one persons around it, was the setting for much laughter and jollity, at the Horton Cottage.

"Most Wonderful Country"

Our roads have made a deep impression on the visitors, for all those they had traveled were so very well kept. "America is certainly the most wonderful country in the world—but India is home."

Mrs. Pundole, the only woman in the group, is a charming person, with sparkling eyes and a merry smile. Already she is a bit homesick for her children, a daughter of four and a son of ten months. "And we won't be home until October—it seems such a long time since I have seen them." The children are her principal interest, with music a close second.

"We have three or four choirs, and so have several rehearsals every week, and with the children, that keeps me very busy. I do love my music so much. America isn't as unusual to us as India would be to America. We have read about your country, and we have seen your movies, and too, we have bathrooms, Frigidaires and drawing rooms as you do—but it is a wonderful country." Then, too, they have an advantage of all speaking the English language—and not many Americans can speak the language of India.

Differences Are Noted

The differences between the people were also a bit apparent during the supper which they thoroughly enjoyed. A good bit of food still remaining at the close of the meal, one said. "This will all make a good midnight snack" "What!" exclaimed one of the Scouts, "You call all THIS a SNACK?"

Then there was the difference of opinion as to which was better, salt on cantaloupe as many of us enjoy it, or sugar as the Scouts enjoyed. "Milk, oh no," was part of their reaction, while others of the group will say, "The milk here

Mrs. Noshir Pundole Of India Feted At Luncheon In Bedford

Fifty-two clubwomen of Bedford County attended a luncheon on Thursday at Fort Bedford Inn, Bedford, in honor of Mrs. Noshir N. Pundole of Bombay, India. The luncheon was arranged by the past county president, Mrs. George Eichelberger of Saxton.

The luncheon tables were arranged by members of the Twentieth Century Club of Bedford who also made the attractive tickets in replica of the flag of India.

The group was welcomed by the hostess following the invocation. A welcome was extended from the Bedford County Federation by the president, Mrs. Lloyd Furry of Loysburg. In closing her remarks, Mrs. Furry told of the custom in America of taking a "sample of jelly or cake, etc." from neighbor to another and so she presented a jar of jelly to Mrs. Pundole. Mrs. Richard McIntosh, president of the Twentieth Century Club, also spoke briefly, and presented a lovely corsage to the honored guest.

Mrs. Pundole then spoke to the clubwomen. She told in detail of their manner of living and of how well she likes the little houses of America. "In our country the last thing we are interested in is the kitchen but here the first thing seems to be the kitchen and you have such attractive ones and such wonderful gadgets." She spoke of the methods they use in cooking and of their manner of dress.

"One thing I love are your hats—they are so beautiful I never wear them for my husband lothes hats—but then the men are more or less alike." She told, too, of how the man rules the family in India and about the difference in the freedom of the women.

In answer to questions she told of the differences in their schools and how until now, all were taught to speak English, which was the main language. Now since India has its freedom there is a bit of debate as to which language will be the main one—but English will be the secondary language. She spoke, too, of what she thought was our greatest fault here—that of wasting food.

She told of the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides of India, of the marriage customs and the naming

of children. In closing she said, "Do not think of India as a land of princesses, of lions and tigers roaming our streets—India is not like that. India is a wonderful country—but America is a wonderful country, too, and we have fallen in love with America and the Americans."

Mrs. Eichelberger then presented to Mrs. Pundole, from the clubwomen and through the courtesy of the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce, a copy of the beautiful book, "My Pennsylvania—A Pageant of the Counties."

Many pictures were taken of this unusual event and the feeling growing out of the luncheon was well expressed by one of the elderly ladies present who said, "If we could have more visits like this in the countries of the world—there would be no more wars."

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