

More From Nepal Porter Impresses Native Farmers

During the course of conversation the subject of American food came up. Although the Tharus don't drink tea he was anxious to try coffee and hot chocolate. I was immediately engaged to cook an American meal as these people do not have any taboos about foreigners or non-caste people cooking their food.

I prepared a stew containing a chicken, one head of cauliflower, six onions, six hard-boiled eggs, some string beans, a handful of pulse and enough rice to make the pot full. (I don't know how American that is.) I used about one-fourth the amount of spice that they use. I served oranges for an appetizer and hot chocolate for dessert. This was new to them as they never eat fruit with a meal and the only beverage is a home-made wine on special occasions.

I wasn't quite sure how

things would turn out as I am a tin-can cook at home and I had a smoky wood fire instead of an electric stove. They really enjoyed it. They were surprised that food could have another taste besides hot spice. I make this judgment on the amount consumed and not on what they said. My host father felt like some of us after a Thanksgiving dinner but was feeling fine after a few belches. In Nepal you belch to show you have enjoyed a meal. (I'll have to watch myself when I get home.)

One of the new things I tried here was plowing with the oxen. They do not use a mold-board plow because their oxen are not strong enough to pull one. Instead they use a metal tipped piece of wood that penetrates the soil about six inches. They keep plowing until the soil is fairly fine and finish working it with a

log pulled by oxen. It is a slow process but it gets the job done. The oxen did not understand English, only Tharu, and reacted like most cattle do to strangers. I got some plowing done but it wasn't as good a job as they do.

I also cut rice. They use a sickle with a serrated edge. You take a handful of rice in one hand and pull the sickle toward you. Then you lay it



GLENN PORTER

in a line behind you for drying. Here they cut it about eighteen inches high and the cattle graze the stubble. Other places they cut it near the ground. Most of it is threshed by oxen. Six oxen walk in a circle over the rice. The straw

is removed and the grain swept into a basket. Dirt is removed by throwing the grain into the air, if there is a wind, or by throwing and catching it in a large tray made of woven bamboo strips. The dirt gradually works to the top and is removed.

Some rice is threshed by hand. They hold a large bundle above their head and beat the ground. About three blows will remove all the grain. The straw from this process is not damaged and is used for making mats and rope. The only floor covering in many village homes is the straw mat. Many times it serves as a bed also.

The straw from the former process is used for bedding and fodder in the cattle and buffalo shed. The cattle are used for power and the water buffalo for milk in many places. This straw is not a good source of nutrients and neither is the pasture that they graze.

Cattle feed is a problem here. Cost of construction and equipment make silos impractical. Hay would spoil during the monsoon season, the weather being so damp. Irrigated pastures would solve the problem but irrigation is expensive and the land is needed for human food.

Efficient use of grazing land will be hard to achieve because the Hindu religion will not allow the inferior cattle to be discarded. There are

thousands of cattle in Nepal that serve no purpose but to eat fodder and produce more cattle to eat more fodder. Such are the problems of those who are trying to develop the agriculture of Nepal.

From Rapti I journeyed to Gour on the Terai side of Nepal. The Terai is a strip of land twenty to fifty miles wide along the southern border of Nepal that is culturally economically, and spiritually a part of India, but politically Nepal. The "real" Nepal doesn't begin until you cross the hills that are the beginning of the Himalaya Mountains.

In this area the difference between the rich and poor is much more noticeable. A few landowners control most of the land and the laboring class is economically oppressed. The laborer lives in poverty. When I asked why something isn't done to improve the living conditions of these people the reply was that they are just the laboring class and of a much lower caste. It is part of their religion. One Nepali told me that his people are rooted to their religion like a tree to the soil, and I find this to be true.

The language of this area is known as Terai Lingo. It is quite similar to the Hindu of Northern India. Only the few educated can speak Nepali, so I had to rely almost entirely on interpreters. 99% of the people are illiterate but this is changing as there are many schools that have been built recently and many under construction. Lack of teachers and text books is a problem where they do have schools.

I was the first white person that most of these people had ever seen. Their reaction was mixed between curiosity and fear. They would just stare at me or hide from me. One day, as my accompanying Village Development Worker and I were returning from a neighboring village, an old woman stopped us and pleaded with us not to poison their sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes are the main diet of the poor people in this area. The rumor was going around that I was carrying poison in my water canteen and we were going to kill all the sweet potatoes. Before we reached home we had to stop six times and explain to the people that I was carrying boiled water and not poison.

In contrast to Rapti the place of women in society is (Continued on Page 20)

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of

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and

Farm Equipment

Wednesday, March 14, 1962

12:30 P.M.

The undersigned will sell at Public Sale on the premises located one mile East of the Old Philadelphia Pike on Route 772 along the Horse Shoe Road known as the John Sauder Farm, the following:

LIVESTOCK

25 Head Holstein Cows — 3 Bred Heifers

Herd is Blood-tested and Certified. Averages 11,660 lbs. Milk, 446 lbs Fat and a 3.82% Butterfat. Record provided for each Cow. All Cows bred to S.P.A.B.C.

FARM EQUIPMENT

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Farm-all Super C Tractor, Cultivator, Plow and Mower for same.

John Deere heavy-duty Disc-Harrow, Spring Harrow, Culti-packer, Groove Farm Wagon, New Holland 77 Baler, New Holland Tractor-drawn, New Holland Forage Harvester.

Vermeer Hay Crimper and Crusher, Smoker Bale Elevator, Case-side Rake, Ezee-flow Fertilizer Drill, New Idea Manure Spreader.

Some POULTRY EQUIPMENT: Brooder Stove and House 8'x16', Bucket-a-day Stove and a Trailer and many other articles.

Terms by

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Henry Shreiner, Auct.

PUBLIC SALE

of

Farm & Poultry Equip

Thursday, March 8, 1962

12:30 P.M.

The undersigned will sell at Public Sale on the premises located one mile west of Lexington off 501, 2 miles north of Lititz the following:

FARM EQUIPMENT

2 Rowcrop Tractors, 960 Ford with Power-steering and live P.T.O., Silver King with Hydraulic Draw Bar, John Deere 2-bottom 16" trip Plow with 3-point hitch, Earthmaster Disk Harrow on wheels, Heavy duty Case Disk Harrow with wheels, 28 Dunham Disk Harrow, 2-row front Cultivator for Rowcrop Ford and tool bar, Tiger Tobacco Planter, John Deere 13-disk Grain Drill on rubber - 3 years old, Oliver 14" 3-bottom Trip Plow, 2 Raydex 14" Plow Bottoms, Ferguson Rake.

John Deere 110 Chuck Wagon — fully equipped high side boards and heavy duty running gear, 3-section Harrow, 2-wheel Trailer, Wagon with bed, Cultipacker, David Bradley side-delivery Rake, David Bradley Tractor Spreader, Schultzy Side Dresser Fertilizer attachment for rear Cultivator, 3-point Hitch Blade, 24' Mayrath Elevator with swivel Chute, 2 Weeders - 1 with 3-point Hitch, Fertilizer Attachment for Farmall A, Wizard Walking Plow #80, Potato Plow

Platform Scale, 3-point Hitch Carrier, Double Tobacco Hoers, Minnich Tobacco Press, Snow Plow, Saw-buck and Blade, 500 gal. Water Tank, 275 gal. Oil Tank, 4 Feed and Silage Carts, 2 pr. Disk Hillers, Bench Saw, Electric Portable Saw, Drill Press, Copper Kettle, Iron Kettle, Galvanized Buckets, Electric Meat Slicer, Window Sash and Vinegar by the barrel.

POULTRY EQUIPMENT

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