



The Pennsylvania contingent on the Oriental People-to-People tour pause in Anchorage, Alaska, on the first leg of their trip to the Orient.

Area Farmers, Agri-Businessmen Home From People-to-People Tour

By J. Homer Graybill

On Friday, October 27, 1972, my wife and I along with 41 other people, mostly farmers, left Olmstead Airport on a "People to People's Goodwill Tour" of the Far East. The late President Eisenhower introduced the program to promote greater understanding on a people to people basis involving individuals and groups, rather than officials and institutions. President Nixon is Honorable Chairman Mr and Mrs Enos Hersey formerly of Hershey were the tour guides.

We departed Harrisburg for Chicago O'Hare Airport, departed Chicago on United Airways for Seattle, then we departed Seattle for Alaska on a Boeing 727, arriving at Anchorage. We spent Saturday touring Anchorage, a beautiful city and we saw much Earthquake damage. They have a tract of ground called Earthquake Park which is as the Quake left it for the tourists to see. They had snow there, and the mountains were covered. We also saw many Bush Pilot Airplanes.

We left Anchorage for Japan Saturday and arrived in Tokyo Saturday. The reason for this is that we crossed the International Date Line and lost part of the day.

The next six days were spent touring Tokyo and the countryside. This was a very beautiful city and country. We saw thousands of acres of Rice Paddies most of them covered with water for the growing season. There were many men and women working in them. The farmers plant the rice up to the buildings—there are no lawns or shrubbery. Some of the rice is grown on terraces on the mountainside.

We visited an experimental rice farm where they had electric fences around the plots to kill the rats. Last year they killed 25,000 rats.

We also saw many Grape

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Vineyards. On Tuesday, November 2, we saw the great Buddha. From here we had a ride on the world's famous "Bullet Train" with a speed of 150 miles per hour, that was like low level flying.

On November 3, we had a full day of sightseeing, including the Heian Shrine and Nyo Castle. There are many pavilion shrines and temples in this part of the world. The people worship them. One Bronze Buddha was cast in 1225 A.D. and weighs 121 tons. In the year 1495 A.D. a tidal wave swept it off its foundation. However, it was not damaged much, and it was replaced.

On November 5, we departed Osaka on Thai International Airways for Taiwan. We had two days tour of Formosa during which we visited a land reform exhibit, a Taiwan agriculture extension and a farm. That night at dinner we had to take our shoes off and sit on the floor and eat with Chop Sticks, the custom of the Oriental people (try it sometime!).

On Sunday, November 6, we had church services in view of the beautiful waterfalls in our hotel lobby.

On November 8, we departed Taipei on China Airlines and arrived in Manilla, seat of Government in the Philippines. They were in a state of Martial Law at the time, but it did not effect us. The terminal at the airport was partially burned by the Communists shortly before

we had arrived.

The city of Manilla has many parks and many beautiful fountains. Here we visited the U.S. Military Cemetery. There were 38,000 soldiers buried there. We also visited a prison compound where many prisoners were drowned when a tidal wave swept over it.

On Friday evening, November

10, we called home. It took 15 minutes for the call to get through. They received the call at 5 a.m. Friday. The reason for this was because we talked through the International Date Line. We talked to people there, they were very much pleased that President Nixon was re-elected. We departed Manilla November 11 at 3:45 p.m. on a

K.L.M. Boeing 747. This was the first of five 747 flights. We crossed Vietnam, and managed to see some of it. We arrived in Bangkok Thailand after a good flight. Bangkok is exactly half-way around the world.

Early the next morning, we took a fascinating boat ride to see the farmers' market and their

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