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Martha Deane WOR Radio Program, 1957, Lisa Chickering and Jeanne Porterfield Collection,

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WEBVTT

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<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: Um, And Porter-- are you related to Bob Porterfield who runs the theatre in Virginia?

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: Yes, as a matter of fact, I am. We're cousins and I've worked down there, for him, barter.

<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: Have you?

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: mm-hmm.

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Before we took this trip, I was down there.

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<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: He's a nice fellow. I used to know him quite well when he was in New York a long time ago.

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: Isn't he though?

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<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: Well now we've organized the family background. [[laughter]] I left you in Greece didn't I?

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: Yes, I think you did.

<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: I better get you out of there. [[laughter]] And back to the--

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<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: We -- we might sort of stop here. You said you were able to live in every country pretty inexpensively.

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: mm-hmm, that's right.

<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: But that you didn't live in the kind of places where the tourist goes.

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<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: Oh never--[[cross talk]]

<i>LISA CHICKERING</i>: You know that what's so important, even for wealthy tourist really--they'd get so much more out of traveling if they did stay in the out-of-the-way hotels and inns. Because actually, if you stay in the luxury hotels in Europe, it was very nice but you might as well stay right here in New York.

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<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: In a big hotel.

<i>LISA CHICKERING</i>: That's right, because it is identical.

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Even in India - the hotel, the finest hotel there, is like an American hotel. It's like the St. Regis or the Plaza. And there is certainly nothing wrong with that.

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But if you've gone all the way to India, you certainly don't want to stay in an American hotel. And of course, we did it for the economical reasons.

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But no matter how much money I would have I would absolutely stay in these little places where, even though they don't speak the language, English, you can manage.

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<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: Oh, you can always get along.

<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: Of course. Where were you in India?

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<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: Well, we went to New Delhi, and down to Agra to see the Taj Mahal, and Jaipur the Pink City. We rode on elephants. And we went to Amber. And then even up to Kashmir, up to Srinagar and lived on a houseboat.

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And incidentally - speaking of a houseboat - the other day I read an article in a paper, and it was of a person who had gone to Srinagar and said, "never stay in a houseboat, stay in the luxury hotel". But the houseboat is one of the most fabulous experiences.

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We had a living room. Now this is right in the middle of Lake Dal --

<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: And it is a houseboat.

<i>LISA CHICKERING</i>: Oh, it's a real boat.

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: -- in the center of the Himalayas. It's absolutely Shangri-La.

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And it's a real houseboat. And we had a living room, a dinning room, a kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. We had 4 servants, a shikara which is the Kashmirian gondola, and we had 3 meals a day.

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And we could say to the cook, who did speak English, because the English, when they were occupying Engla-- ah, India --they always went there on their vacations. So we would tell them, we want Tibetan food tonight, or Indian food, or European.

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And all of that cost us 7 dollars a day for both of us. Everything, our food, our boat, our little shikara, everything.

<i>LISA CHICKERING</i>: That's right. It was a reasonable place.

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<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: So, when I read in the paper advising Americans to stay in the luxury hotel - Don't take a trip to Kashmir to stay in a hotel!

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<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: Seven dollars for both of you!

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: For both of us, yes.

<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: And this elaborate suite with 4 servants?

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: Yes, this beautiful, beautiful boat.

<i>LISA CHICKERING</i>: [[cross talk]] And tea in the afternoon with service.

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<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: You know, he would take us to the Shalimar Gardens which is so magnificent--

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<i>MARTHA DEANE</i>: You mean the man who ran your boat, your chauffeur?

<i>JEANNE PORTERFIELD</i>: [[cross talk]] Yes, that's right Adu, that was his name, yes. And he would take us - and in the shikara -

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- well, he would take us for lunch in the Shalimar Gardens and spread, ah, one of these fascinating materials on the ground and he then would serve us our lunch. And then he would take us all around, the 4 oarsmen taking us at any speed we wanted to go through --



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