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down to start with it's difficult to do much more briefing and do them justice. However, knowing The Review editors and what they'd say if I asked for two full pages each month, we'll give it a try....Last month we left Ray and Dot sampling 165 brands of Scotch in San Francisco. They were able to make their 707 in time, however, and headed across the Pacific for Tokyo with stops at Hawaii and Wake. They saw Mt. Fuji on the way in and a little while later were sampling a gin concoction of the same name in the Imperial Hotel. The Imperial, by the way, has "seven superb restaurants." You'll find as this trip goes on the Lehrers are eating and drinking their way around the world in high style.

There were several days in Japan with all sorts of trips and sortis. One was to a hot springs area, but Ray balked at taking a bath with rubdown by a "chubby little Japanese girl ... water was too hot!" They were aghast at the terrific traffic snarls they ran into almost everywhere. "All roads are overcrowded. There are plans for new ones as well as toll roads, but there is just no place for the people to go to make room for the roads. It was interesting to note that a driving school for training new drivers has its own private roadway system with built-in hills, bridges, etc. It would be suicide for learners to get out on the highway." And here's another bit that emphasizes the overcrowding: "The population pressure has made cremation mandatory, as there is no room for burial. A new apartment building is being constructed to house the ashes of the departed--just as we would lay out a new cemetery." At a time when public expenditures for education are skyrocketing here, "There are no free schools, so parents have to pay, but it is compulsory for children to go through the equivalent of our Junior High School."

They went to the Kabuki Theatre, a Japanese wrestling school, a tea ceremony, and a demonstration of flower arranging. Trains only stop at a station for one minute, and if you don't make it you wait for the next one. In the resulting crush lots of buttons get lost, so every station has a button box which you're free to paw through and hunt for your own. They went up the Tokyo Tower, "43 feet higher than the Eiffel Tower. At about 400 feet is an observation platform which holds 2,000 people." (Your provincial secretary had never heard of it.) Theatre in general does not exist, but there were plenty of night clubs, mostly strip-tease "with emphasis on the 'strip.'" I might add this was not part of the tour but had to be ferreted out by oneself." That's our Ray.

So at last they boarded a Thai Airlines DC-6 for Taiwan. "First, hot towels. Then cigarettes were passed, then a snack (lots of sandwiches), shortly thereafter cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, then filet mignon, etc., with champagne and wines, and finally coffee, liquors and petits fours." Well, he can always go on Metrecal when he gets home.

They arrived in Taipei on the Chinese New Year. "Taiwan seems to be a home for some ten million resigned souls living a life of austerity. The streets are crowded but mostly with people. There are few cars. Underground bomb shelters ready for active use are everywhere. Nationalist Chinese seem to have firmly ingrained in them no 'if' they will return to the mainland but 'when.'" Then to Hong Kong with its "seething mass of humanity, misery and filth," its sampans, junks, tailors who make clothes while you wait (they got some), and a side excursion to Macao where they saw the gate into Red China, lost a bit in a gambling casino, and, of course, "had a very interesting Portuguese dinner with excellent wines." That letter ended: "P.S. Here we are in Singapore, 75 miles north of the equator with bright sunshine and 90 degree heat---wonderful!" We'll tell you all about Singapore food and drink next month.

Now to more mundane things....Col. Walter H. Kennett has been nominated for a second four-year term as Maine director of Civil Defense....Brig. Gen. Frank J. McSherry is the new president of the Boston Boy Scout Council....Hank Simonds made it back to California. He got snowed in at New York, but from there on had bare roads all the way, including crossing the Sierras. He did pick up one sad bit of news. Helen Hardy Blackwell died of a stroke on January 26. She was a widow and leaves one daughter.

The trip that the Ingram Lees had planned failed to materialize when Ike had to have a major job of plumbing done on his house....The Griffin Crafts got an unexpected trip because of adversity. Three bouts with viruses made them think that the Caribbean would be healthier than New York in mid-winter, so they took off for St. Croix for a month. They went over to San Juan on a visit and tried to reach Al Roig without success. Then, at a party for actors and patrons of the San Juan Drama Festival, the first person they ran into was patron Roig, just back from New York. The evening was long and the daiquiries plentiful, and a gay time was had by all.

A couple of new Executive V.P.'s: Jimmie Crist has been just a plain V.P. of the Southern Company heretofore, located in Birmingham. Now he's back at home base in Atlanta with the more impressive title....And Admiral Felix B. Stump, long top man of our Pacific Fleet, has retired. He's now in Valley Forge, Executive Vice-president of the Freedom Foundation.

A last sorry note: Leon T. Colman died unexpectedly in January. Leon was a World War I veteran. From graduation until World War II he was with Public Service of N.J., then for three

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