

Sooner Magazine was besieged by photographers applying for the job. Twenty-five days in the Far East was a prize worth their efforts. But one by one they ruled themselves out. The regular magazine staff was quickly eliminated for complete absence of photographic ability; most of the free-lance professionals lacked imagination or failed to grasp the importance of recording the adventures of O.U. alumni amid the exotic wonders of the Orient; a few even expected to be paid for their work. Finally it became necessary for the job to seek the man—and we found just the man we wanted. He was talented; he was willing; he had his own equipment—and he was going anyway. G. L. Cross, who also doubles as president of the University of Oklahoma, became Our Man in the Orient. He came back with several

hundred exceptionally fine color shots (which you will notice are presented here in black and white). We concluded that photography lost

Our Man in the Orient

one of its truly great lensmen when he abandoned the camera for the classroom. But Photographer Cross was recording only one of three alumni tours sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Association this year. While 37 Sooners visited Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Hawaii, 69 of their fellow alumni (traveling in two separate groups) spent 23 days in London, Copenhagen, Paris, Lucerne, Vienna, Venice, Florence, Rome and Madrid. This is the third year of Alumni Association summer tours; in 1961 one group visited Europe, and last year two groups made the central European circuit while a third toured Scandinavia.

Photos by G. L. CROSS



Our photographer stepped in front of his camera at the Emerald Temple in Bangkok. Warriors (far left) guard the entrance to the Temple, containing a Buddha carved from the most valuable single piece of jade in existence.

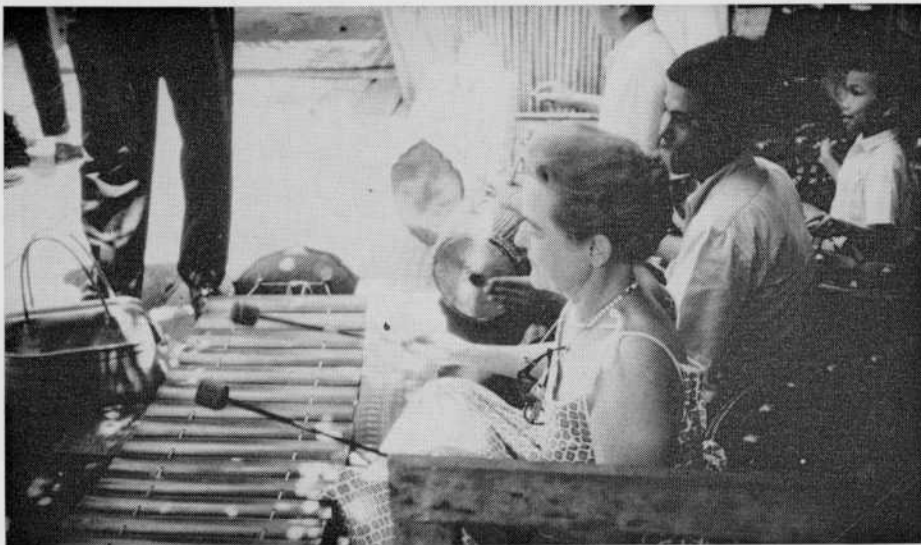
"Wally," who was in charge of the Bangkok tour, welcomed the Sooners to his home on a klong. "Wally's" real name was Vorapol Mekinsurakoop.





This giant Diabutsu or Great Buddha greeted the Oklahoma tour at Kamakura, Japan. The 700-year-old bronze Buddha stands about 40 feet high. Kamakura, now a seaside resort a few miles from Tokyo, was the seat of the feudal government of Japan from 1192 to 1363.

A native orchestra entertained at "Wally's" in Bangkok and enlisted Beatrice Adler at the xylophone for a stirring rendition of "Boomer Sooner." "Wally" also provided his guests with samples of unusual fruits available in Thailand. Bea is the wife of Alumnus R. G. Adler, '31bus, Oklahoma City.



At Nikko, Japan, alumni tourists pause before a five-story pagoda at the Buddhist Toshogu Shrine. Both Buddhist and Shinto temples are found together in this area.

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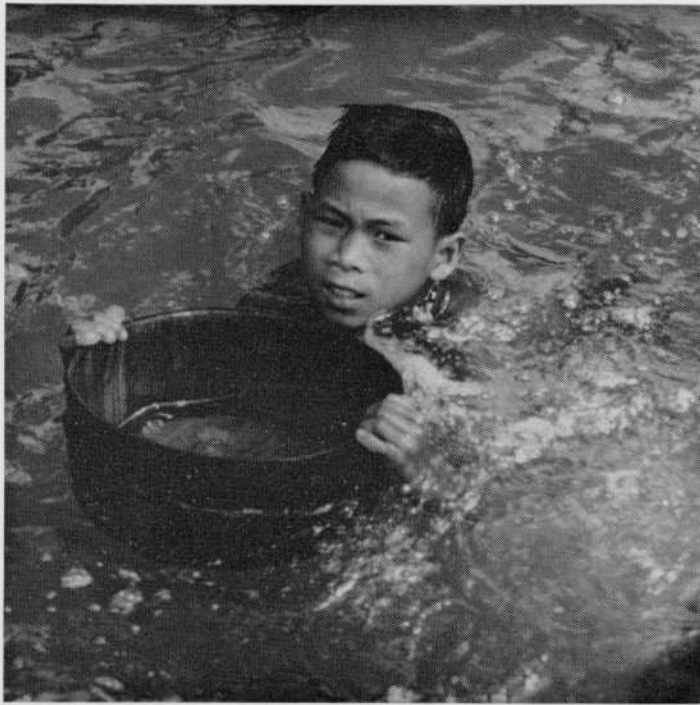


OUR MAN IN THE ORIENT

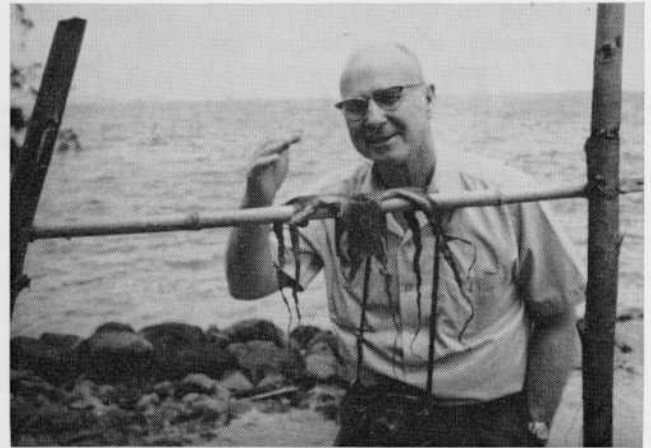
A minimum of five refugees from Red China share each 10 by 12 apartment in government resettlement projects on teeming Kowloon Peninsula. Apartments, renting at \$5 to \$6 a month, have no plumbing. Central toilets and kitchens are shared by all occupants.



Honk Kong means "fragrant harbor," but it could also mean "magnificent harbor," judging from this view from Victoria Peak. Across the harbor, near the waterfront, is the Kowloon Peninsula Hotel where the tour stayed. They went by jerry to Hong Kong Island and took a cable car to the peak.



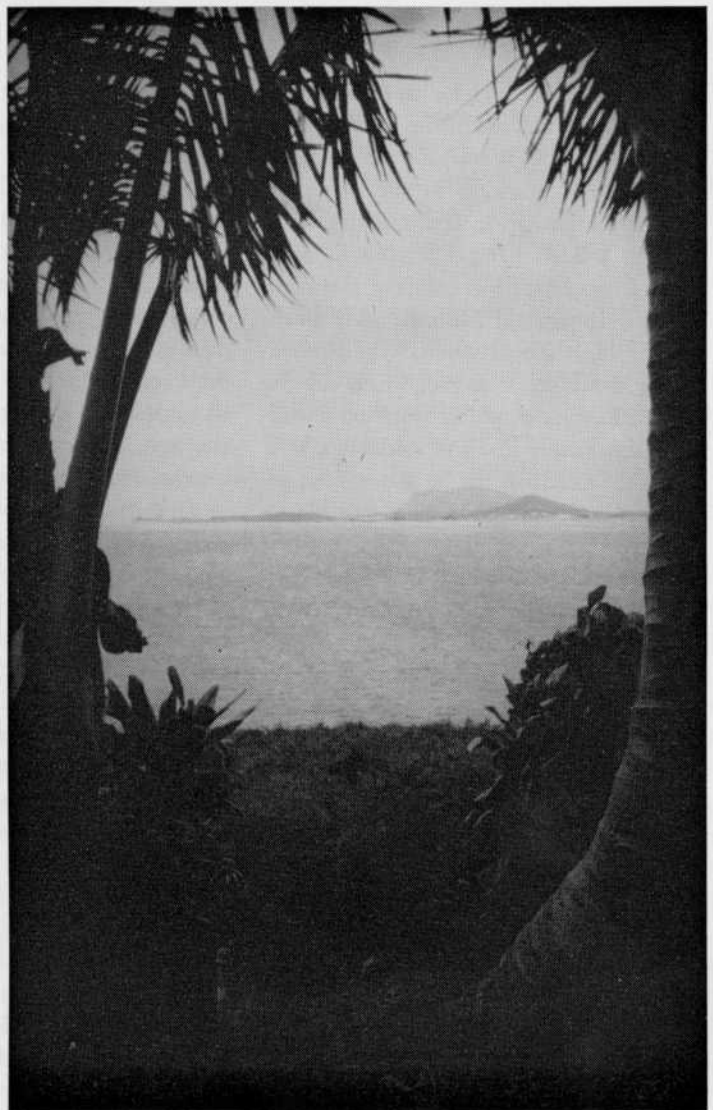
Hong Kong boys, such as the one pictured at left, swim near a floating restaurant hoping to catch coins tossed to them by the tourists.



Dave McKown, '21geol, Oklahoma City, examines a young octopus being dried for food in Hawaii. Mrs. McKown is the former Florence Monnett, '22ba.



After touring Oahu, Mrs. Earl Sneed (Cornelia Lynde, '37ba), left, relaxes with Bill Wolfe, '36bs, '38eng, Sneed, '34ba, '37Law, and Mrs. Wolfe (Zetta Ponton, '26).



As in all good travelogues, too soon it is time to "bid farewell to beautiful Hawaii" and head for home with the view of Diamond Head one of many memories.