

January 5TH



IN FLIGHT

MANILA → SINGAPORE

Dear Folks,

I am not sure just where to start. By this I mean that the last three weeks have been like a chapter out of a ^{book} fairy tale or something. I don't think I could begin to thank all of the people that have went out of their way to make this one of the most enjoyable trips that I have ever been on.

Upon arriving in Bangkok at 7 A.M., a Thai Engineer whom I had met a few years earlier in Suany Prabang, met me and took care of me during the four hour layover I had prior to going to Hong Kong. Back in high school in F.F.A. at the bottom of the lessons was printed the following - "A good start is half the race" - & this was certainly the case.

I arrived in Hong Kong a few minutes ahead of the Royal Air Jao Flight from Vientiane which was carrying two Philippine secretaries whom I had known for about 8 months. I took them around Hong Kong - showing them all the sights from the Tiger Balm Garden to the Communist Frontier. Just as they were leaving, I met another teacher from

21/ The University of Hawaii working & Jack & we were off again. Prior to joining him for more of Hong Kong, I called up an old Tennis friend & went out & had a fantastic Chinese meal with him, his wife & 3 children. Once before, I had had dinner at his house in Ventiane & had the chance to meet Roy Heinicke the chief of America correspondent for S.E. Asia.



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Following this & rejoined the U. of Hawaii teacher & we met some old friends of his who lived in Hong Kong & we started around the town. Another great meal, a tour of the "cheap market" & finally a movie.

On to Manila -

Gilbert met me at Manila International Airport at 8:15 P.M. 4 hours later than scheduled & we went directly to his house for dinner. Other guests included the Second Secretary of the French Embassy & his wife & ~~one~~ ^{one} of the United States Information Agency. The next day was spent driving around Manila & making plans to visit the many Philipinos who had extended lunch & dinner invitations to me. Christmas Eve with one Philippine family & Christmas with another. Tennis in the morning, sightseeing in the afternoon. Then on the 24th on to Baguio the resort of the Philippines for five relaxing days.

A return to Manila & more entertainment. Dinner at an American house & a night out on the town with another American & met briefly in Ventiane.

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On the 3rd, I met the three girls + another philippino - all from Iloilo + we drove to Cavite which is near Manila - where I met the parents + family of the girl that I have been dating for almost a year. Another enjoyable meal consisting of several kinds of fish, shrimp, crab + other sea foods. After lunch, we visited another family there - more food - and finally back to Manila Int. Airport to see friends off who were returning to Iloilo. Ended up seeing about 6 people off that I knew, including an American working for USIS in southern Iloilo whom I did not know was in the Philippines. More food after returning home + viewed slides that Mrs. Faulque - my hostess had taken in Japan. The next day - my birthday spent watching T.V. with their two children one 4 years the other a girl 1 1/2. The boy, incidentally, remembered me from Iloilo - 2 years before. The afternoon spent saying goodbyes to friends - then home for dinner - steak, with French wine + cheese. Excellent!! Two exciting weeks in Manila + I had spent \$40 only!! of which \$10 was on beer + film. This morning they got up early to take me to the airport - 7:50 A.M. flight! Better



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friends - one could not expect to find - must have family.