

Norway and India trip 1981

In November 1981 I traveled to Norway to visit with Haldor Fykse, who had done research on translocation of 2,4-D and MCPA in Canada thistle, and then on to the APWSS conference in Bangalore, India.

11 November

On an Oslo city tour I saw the sculptures in Vigeland Park, mostly concerned with people and their lives. The Art Gallery was very good, and offered a very different sense of history than in Holland or England. The Oslo City Hall was fabulous, with murals inside and sculptured things on the outside. In the centre a large hall, with all-marble floor. Probably used for concerts or other public events. The Council room was compact, meeting rooms tables and chairs in groups in large rooms, one with murals all around, depicting all kinds of life scenes in Norway. Office areas were almost completely isolated, by doors and walks, from the public area. Very inviting. Built in 1950.

Old Viking ships - burial ships for trips to Paradise (Valhalla).

14 November

Arrive Ok at Delhi and Taj Hotel. Not very sleepy yet, just tired from the all-day flight. Got to the hotel about 1 am and went to bed at 2:30. That was about 9 pm London time.

Woke up again about 6 and slept a bit more after that. Hotel is noisy, with water running, banging sometimes, outside noises, even on the 8th floor. Had breakfast about 9 (not cheap, at Rs 40), then went for a walk. In the meantime sent 3 shirts and 3 shorts out to be washed. My walk was first around the outside pool, inside the fence, then I went out on the street. Almost immediately accosted by a taxi driver - very persistent. Then a fellow dumped some mud on my shoe (I think), pointed at it and said 'shit' from bird. There was a bird in the tree and, like a fool, I believed him. He took my shoe, to clean it, ripped out the insole (I think), and then proceeded to fix it, and charged me Rs 65 (about \$10). I was ripped off properly and was so mad it took me most of the day to cool off again. While he was 'fixing' my shoe, someone else pinned a flag on my shirt ('Indian flag day') and asked for a donation to charity. I gave him 1 rupee and he was not impressed. Took the pin back. I asked at the hotel - "Every day is Indian flag day." I am afraid I am not impressed by the brash people. Staff in the hotel seem to be OK generally.

17 November

Unusual birthday. Mary and Lindell Friesen took me to see silver inlay work. Beautiful. Took pictures of shop and workers. I am to go back with her Saturday afternoon. Sounds great. Diarrhea has settled down, so I feel much better. Getting used to sights, sounds, smells.

Supper is Polynesian - shredded pork, chicken fried rice, almost lifted me off my chair, so spicy. Soup (coconut and something else) was creamy, smooth, and excellent.

A lot of people walk 20-30 km quite commonly.

Met Dawn Faris, Don and Sue Byth, Bob and Sue Willey, Bob and Jean Anderson, Christine Phillips, and Rose Virmani (from Lethbridge). Also John and Jackie Burford.

APAU research officer salary is approximately \$200 per month. Indian scientists at ICRISAT are paid 60-70% more than in Indian government service. Perhaps more is expiated also.

Principal scientists are paid 'international level' salaries, tax-free, in dollars. In addition, 20% is paid into a commercial plan in Barbados for pension. Also, \$100 per month housing allowance (rent is perhaps \$130 per month). Also home leave each year, 30 working days. Even some spouse travel. Sounds not bad really.

Toured Golconda fort. Built as a mud fort about 1100 AD, as stone fort 1500 AD. Took 62 years to build and was occupied 174 years. Clapping at the gate can be heard at the top of the fort. Acoustic vibrations - roof design? Three perimeter walls. Now 15,000 people live within the outer wall. Elaborate water system (wheels and pipes on several sides), and a royal palace. Powder magazines and soldiers' quarters, a

temple and two mosques. Beggars and card and pop salesmen along the route. I had a 'private' guide, at Rs 20. According to George Friesen the going rate is Rs 5!

George Friesen has a 9x11 wool carpet priced at Rs 91200, i.e., \$1300.

His 56th birthday was 11 December.

He is Research Scientist II (Canada). Top of III, plus \$5000, and 4 weeks' vacation. He may get RS III with his Indian work, but no assurance.

"Indians are seldom in the office before 10:30 or after 2:30."

26 November

Chin (Malaysia) quotes, allegedly from the Bible, "Care with the seed, joy with the harvest."

Impressions of India

As many people in London downtown at 5 pm Saturday afternoon.

Lots of people, lots of poverty.

Lots of rip-off attempts - awful.

Dog-eat-dog everywhere, especially boys at airport, e.g., at the Bombay bus between terminals.

Glad to leave India again. Malaysians and Thais also were glad to leave again.