

TRAVELING THE WORLD

# Crawford enjoys India visit

By Billy Dale Crawford

I am writing this article following my return from a five week trip to India. It's not often that a 75-year-old man has the opportunity to take a trip like the one provided by Rotary International. I was selected to lead a team of five young men and women (ages 25 to 40) on what is called a Group Study Exchange, a cultural exchange experience to a foreign nation to learn more about life in that culture. The team I led to India included a librarian, a teacher, a public relations person, and a personnel representative. During the month in India, each of the team

members had the opportunity to visit their counterpart businesses and to exchange information about them. I personally had the opportunity to visit and to be interviewed by staff at multiple newspapers and at four television stations. They were most interested in learning about my years of experience in the media and to discuss the changes that I had seen over the five decades in which I had been involved. During the month in India (almost a week involved travel), the four team members and I were guests of Indian Rotarian families in a total of 13 different communities in Maharashtra, the second largest province

of the nation. We made presentations about Kentucky and about the individual communities from which we came - Carlisle, Lexington, Georgetown, Villa Hills and Covington - to more than 25 Rotary clubs. The Indians were absolutely shocked that there could be a town as small as Carlisle, because a small town there is one of 25,000 or so. The Rotarians and their families were most interested, though, in seeing such sites as the central block downtown, the courthouse with the flag atop, Sycamore Street, Garrett's Restaurant and the Rotary room there, and my home out in the country.

Another thing that caught their attention was the fact that I spent the first 12 days of the month without my luggage. When we got off the plane in Mumbai (Bombay), all of the team had luggage except me. My wife Joyce located my luggage in Hqanton, home base of Continental Airlines, after about a week. We still don't have an explanation from Continental, even though my Indian host and I checked each and every day from his home in Nagpur, to which the luggage tag was addressed. I was very happy to see the Little Town with a Big Heart sign when my wife and I arrived from the airport in Covington - after more than 40 hours on planes or sitting in airports, coming from the Rotary District Conference in Goa on the Indian Ocean

to Mumbai to Newark, New Jersey, and finally to CVG, Covington. I had not had any meat of any kind during the trip, because the cattle are sacred and the Indians are vegetarians, but I was so glad to be coming home that I didn't even ask Joyce to stop at McDonalds. I just said, "Take me home, my darling. Take me home," and none of you can come close to understanding how happy I am to be back out on the hill on Harris Road. I may never leave again!

**Editor's Note:** Our thanks to Billy Dale for his story and pictures. It isn't often we are allowed such insight and personal input from the like.



Photo by Billy Dale Crawford

Ghandi in Sand - An amazing sand carving of Mahatma Gandhi.

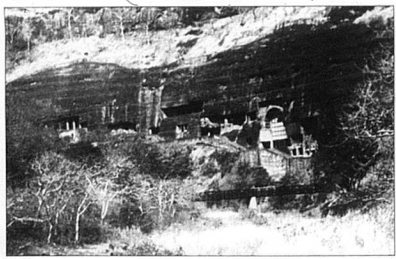


Photo by Billy Dale Crawford

A series of ancient caves in a mountain side, discovered by a tiger hunter when a tiger disappeared from sight into one of them.

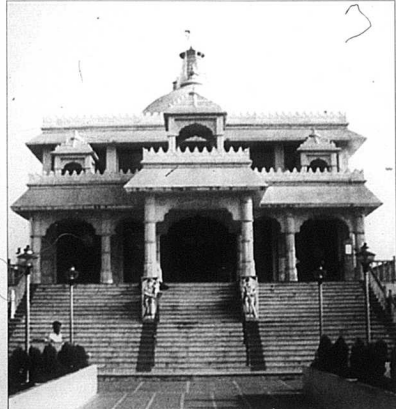


Photo by Billy Dale Crawford

A marble temple of the Jains, one of the many religions in India.

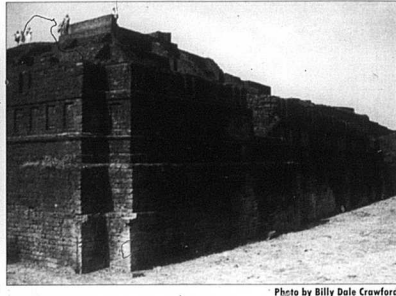


Photo by Billy Dale Crawford

A huge ancient temple was had been buried for generations and was discovered and dug to the surface only recently.

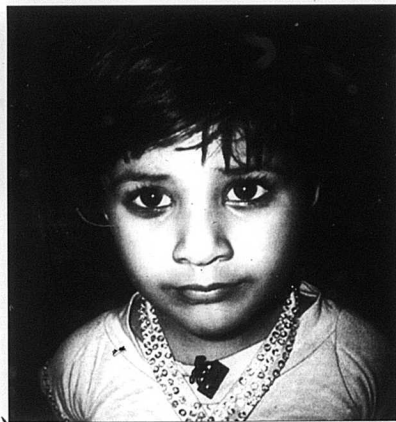


Photo by Billy Dale Crawford

A beautiful child in the home of one of the Indian families with whom I have the privilege to spend a couple of days.

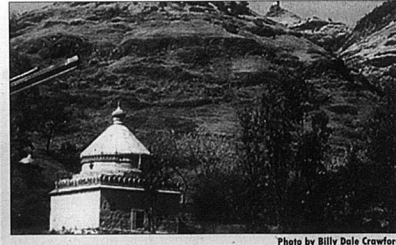


Photo by Billy Dale Crawford

Throughout the area visited, temples could be seen both at road level and atop the mountain through the India countryside.

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Notice: Pursuant to KYRS 355.9-504 on October 30, 2007, Steven A. Thornburg executed a Security Agreement assigned for value to the Deposit Bank of Carlisle, Kentucky. Default having been made on this agreement, Deposit Bank shall offer for sale a 1979 Ford F250 Extended Cab truck with #1FTRK16H1A3223. Sealed bids will be accepted until February 22, 2008 at West Side Branch. Bids will be opened at this time. The Deposit Bank reserves the right to accept or deny any bids. Published in The Carlisle Mercury Wednesday, February 13, 2008.

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