

## WORLD TRAVEL (1957-1959)

After the UNESCO Expedition to the Sahara in 1953-54 and the FAO assignment to Jamaica in 1955-56, we did some more relaxed traveling. This enabled us to renew many friendships around the world. In January 1957 we drove to San Antonio, Texas, for a short visit with our older son and family, then drove to Queretero, near Mexico City, to visit friends from Holland, and then back to Texas. Later we flew to Kingston, Jamaica, where I made a final check on my 1955-56 work there, combined with visits with our many friends in that warm land. We next stopped at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to visit longtime friends originally from Pullman, Washington. During the previous seven years they had carved a farm out of the pine-oak forest high in the mountains 60 miles northeast of the capital. They had about 50 different crops growing when we were there. We had short visits in several countries enroute back to the States. Highlights of this trip included Jamaica's most violent earthquake since 1907, and flying close beside an erupting volcano in Nicaragua.

The rest of the year our travels were confined to the 48 contiguous states, and included attending meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Stanford) and the Soil Conservation Society of America (Monterey).

In August 1958 we started a long trip by air. We flew to Seattle, Frobisher Bay (Baffin Island), London, Copenhagen, Bonn, Rotterdam, Frankfurt am Main, Athens, Cairo, Karachi, Lahore, New Delhi, Bangkok, Manila, Biak (New Guinea), Sydney, Auckland, Wellington, Nandi, Honolulu, and home to Portland in late February 1959.

In London we rented a car, visited friends at Exeter and also the L. Dudley Stamps at Bude (Fig. 86). (Note: Rockie reported on his visit with Dr. Stamp in a letter to the editor of The Professional Geographer, Vol. X, No. 6, November 1958 [Publication 62].) We then enjoyed England's south coast (their Riviera) all the way from Exmouth west to Land's End. We did not find the palm trees I had been told grew there, but we did find palmettos.

Our next stop was Denmark, where A. Krarup Mogensen, my Danish co-worker in Africa six years before, shared his apartment at Aarhus with us. We were in Scandinavia for several weeks, most of it in Denmark, and this enabled me to learn much about the Danish Heath Society.



Fig. 86. L. Dudley Stamp home, Ebbingsford Manor, Bude, England (photo from Stamp Christmas card).

(Note: The following comments on the Danish Heath Society are excerpts from Rockie's "Report from Denmark" [Publication 63]. This inclusion is deemed appropriate as it shows his appreciation and respect for others, even in another country, who share his ideals of conservation and respect for the resources of the land.)

Many conservation activities center around the Danish Heath Society, which was founded by Enrico Dalgas in 1866 with the primary objectives of afforestation and cultivation of the heath which then covered nearly half of Jutland. With the passing of 92 years, its objectives have broadened until today they include most of the goals of both the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service. The Heath Society has a membership of 20,000 and has always been a voluntary association, though since 1880 it has had some assistance from the government.

One hundred years ago Jutland was quite different than it is today. Settlements and farms had developed along and near coastlines, water courses and lake shores, but most of the interior consisted of treeless, barren looking heath. This vast area of heath

(approximately half of Jutland) lay quite vacant, usually unused and unwanted. This level to hilly terrain is monotonously bare of any upstanding plants. They usually rise from six to eight inches above the earth. Today, however, scattered individual Mountain pines (*Pinus Mugo*) have become established on the heath and may mark a step in plant succession, from heath to forest.

The heath is very much like the Scottish moors and quite similar to the Alaska tundra which I have studied and consists entirely of low growing, almost prostrate plants. Although the heath is a lonesome looking landscape, especially in the typically cloudy and foggy atmosphere, its detailed makeup is truly lovely at all times.

We have recently been guests of the Danish Heath Society at one of their most interesting projects, the Kongenshus Memorial Park. The Society's editor, Harald Skodshoj, was our genial fountain of information. The park is 3,000 acres of virgin heath which they have reserved for the coming generation to know and enjoy. Although nearly half of Jutland's six or seven million acres was heath in 1850, the area of potentially arable heath is today approaching the point of disappearance, so this park will insure that future generations can know what much of Jutland was just 100 years ago.

The outstanding features of this park at present consists of many mammoth glacial boulders of granite and quartzite, placed upright along an avenue to honor the now deceased conservation leaders from every part of Jutland. Their names are deeply chiseled into these standing monuments for all people to see and revere. It is to me the most impressive and meaningful memorial I have ever seen. It is simple and plain, is completely encircled by the heath, but, oh, how effective" (Publication 63).

After leaving Scandinavia we bought a Karmann Ghia in Germany, enjoyed several days at the Brussels Fair, and also visited friends in

Germany and Saarland before cold weather came to northern Europe. In November we went south via Brenner Pass just before the first heavy snows and enjoyed the mild weather around the Adriatic. We took a quick run east to Trieste and Yugoslavia, then back to Venice and up the Po Valley into the foothills of the Alps at Lake Como, south to Milan and Genoa, and west to Madrid. Spent several days there with longtime friends from Texas. Then to southern Spain, Gibraltar and Portugal, and north to Rotterdam where we delivered our car for shipment to Portland. We had not driven in any snow up to this time. The next morning all of northern Europe had a heavy blanket of snow!

We stopped briefly at Athens (Fig. 87), Cairo, and Karachi, then spent 10 days at Lahore for Christmas with old friends from the early days at Pullman, Washington. They entertained us royally in spite of our succumbing to the Asian flu while there. We continued east through Bangkok, Manila, Biak, and across northeastern Australia to Sydney where we reentered the English world. And it was truly English, for they would not permit me to enter the hotel dining room without a tie, even though it was oppressively hot. We next headed across the Tasman Sea to Auckland, New Zealand, where we stayed two weeks, mostly at Wellington, the capital, resting from our bout with the Asian flu (we had an English-speaking doctor there). Next came the long tiring trip to the Fijis, followed by another long hop to Hawaii, where we were met by our younger son and his family, and J.H. "Heinie" Christ (with the Soil Conservation Service in Hawaii). Heinie had replaced me as Regional Conservator when I resigned in 1938, so I had worked closely with him until I retired from the S.C.S. in 1952. After six weeks in Hawaii visiting family, friends, and renewing S.C.S. ties with Heinie and others, we returned to Portland in late February, 1959, then on to our home in Spokane.

Shortly after our return I began discussions with Clarke Brooke and other geographers at Portland State College regarding my teaching in the Geography Department. This culminated in our moving back to Portland, and my teaching in the fall quarter, 1959. This was the beginning of a most enjoyable and rewarding academic affiliation that continued for the next 20 years. (Note: In 1958 the Soil Conservation Society of America selected Rockie to be honored as a Fellow for outstanding contributions to the science of soil and water conservation.)



Fig. 87. Will and Edith Rockie visiting theater ruins, Athens, Greece. December 10, 1958.