

As I Saw The World Abroad

ONE OF OUR PEOPLE VISITS U.S.A.

THIS is an article specially written for *Dawn* by Mrs. Margaret Tucker. Mrs. Tucker who was formerly Margaret Clements (one of Mrs. Lowe's girls), is known as Princess Lilardia, a descendant of the Australian Aborigines' Ulupna Tribe from the Murray River of New South Wales.

Introducing her article, Mrs. Tucker said, "At last I have managed to get together my travel story which I am delighted to share with my people and indeed everyone who reads *Dawn*. I am so interested in reading *Dawn* and I do feel part of *Dawn's* great family. I have been to a great many of the places *Dawn* has mentioned and also know a lot of the people written about. Being an old girl of the Cootamundra Girls' Home I also remember Mr. Mullins, Mr. Pettit and Miss Lowe and although I did not know Mrs. English, I am very familiar with her name and the good work she has done for our girls.

Coming from Australia by plane was a new and breath-taking experience for me. My first trip in an aeroplane and my first trip out of Victoria and New South Wales. We changed from the T.A.A. plane when we got to Sydney into the big Qantas plane and I cannot really describe my feelings when I left Sydney in that huge plane looking down and seeing land vanishing and a huge expanse of water, and then nothing but white clouds for a while in all shapes and forms, and then my first strange land—Fiji.

Instead of staying for an hour or so we had to stay there for forty-eight hours owing to engine trouble. I did not mind—Fijian people were very interesting. I tried to talk with them, but they could not talk English! Qantas took us right around the island in taxis and oh my, talk about an abundance of coconuts, mangoes, paw paw and other fruit! The sugar cane harvesting was in full swing too, and we visited the coral reefs which were very pretty and interesting, seeing the queer fish and strange creatures in the clear water.

One of the Fijian boys climbed those tall straight coconut trees and brought down a huge coconut. Then we visited the chief's village, which was wonderfully kept. His house was open for inspection with all sorts of pictures and weapons which were used in the days before western civilization came to Fiji. The children came out in droves and I asked them to sing for me. After half a dozen attempts to make them understand they sang in beautiful harmony that lovely old hymn, "Dare to be a Daniel" in the Fijian language. I shall never forget beautiful Fiji, its people, its singing and guitars.

We left for Honolulu. Before reaching there we landed for a few minutes at Canton, a little island about 7 miles round, to refuel. In fact, when we were landing I thought the plane was coming down in the water. It is the hottest place I have ever been in. After having a cool drink we got back into the plane. When we arrived in Honolulu we were met by an air hostess with pretty flower leis which she hung

round the neck of each passenger. I was thrilled. We stayed all day at Waikiki Beach Hotel—a fabulous place. Honolulu was at its best. The hotel is right on the beach with a long cool porch right around. A huge swimming pool is in the grounds. On the porch there were gay coloured tables and chairs where the guests were sipping drinks while they watched the surfing. The guests wore the quaintest holiday clothes you ever saw. Honolulu was so different from what I expected—so modern. I did not hear any Hawaiian music or see any hula dancing!

I was glad to get on the plane with our little party for San Francisco. We arrived there in the morning and were taken around to see the city in two big cars belonging to friends in Moral Re-Armament. We saw the famous Golden Gate bridge and the Alcatraz prison situated on an island in the bay. I got a bit homesick when I saw an avenue of beautiful Australian gum trees which had been imported years back.

We left in the afternoon for Chicago, where we stayed the night. In the morning we left by plane for the small acrod ome 20 miles from Mackinac Island, our destination and where the Moral Re-Armament Assembly of sixty-four nations was in progress. At that time there were 1,100 people from all over the world housed in the beautiful buildings. Some came for a few days and stayed for weeks. I intended to stay three weeks and stayed six months. I will never cease to be grateful to Dr. Frank Buchman, the initiator of Moral Re-Armament, for giving me this wonderful understanding of the superior ideology—the four absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, and the guidance of God. The aim of Moral Re-Armament is to restore God to leadership as the directing force in the life of men and nations. A leading negro woman said at a Moral Re-Armament Assembly, "What idea grips the coloured people of the world may well decide the future of our civilization. The real differences are not between black and white, but between good and bad. The deciding struggle is not between race and race, class and class, or nation