

## KREIDER FAMILY ODYSSEY

On June 7, 1976, at Camp Wesley, near Mohican State Park, OH, Hettie Kreider and her children (Maynard, Lorrin, Loretta and Irma.) sat down with a tape recorder in the presence of most of her grandchildren to recall what they could remember about their trip from Istanbul to New York. Maynard did the taping and sent copies of the recording to some family members.

I, Lorrin, have a copy of the tape. This is my attempt to provide a verbatim transcript of that tape with some additions, such as identifying speakers and contributing some historical research to clarify dates. The text is written so one should be able to distinguish the original conversation from the additions.

Hettie began by explaining the circumstances surrounding the decision to leave Istanbul: "In 1941 war had broken out and authorities in Turkey were asking mothers with children to leave almost immediately. We chose to stay on for about a year. Finally, we were urged, both by the government and by the President of Robert College, that I should leave with the four children."

What World War II events precipitated this crisis? Germany had re-occupied the Rhineland in 1936. In 1938 it had taken Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia and Hungary. In 1939, Poland and the rest of Czechoslovakia and Hungary had fallen to Germany and Albania had been conquered by Italy. The English were defeated at Dunkirk and France fell in June of 1940. By the end of 1940 the Balkans was in the hands of the axis powers. (Later research by Lorrin.)

After some discussion it was agreed that it was in February 1941 that Hettie and four children finally left Istanbul and went to Beirut without clear plans beyond that. "We were going to wait to see how things developed." Hettie explained. We were acquainted with quite a few members of the faculty of American University of Beirut because AUB was a sister institution to Robert College where Herman was Bursar.

Hettie was 43 at this time. Maynard was 13, Lorrin was 11, Loretta was 10 and Irma was 5. (This came up in the discussion and Lorrin researched it later.)

Hettie explained, "The children went to the American Community School in Beirut." One of the grandchildren asked, "Besides going to school, what did you guys do?" Loretta recalled, "We had a neat place to go swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, at a beach owned by the University. It had many rocks to play around." Maynard continued, "We often climbed the Banyan tree on the University campus and, if it is still there, it has our names carved on it." Loretta explained. "It's where we learned to ride bicycles because in Istanbul there were lots of hills and the streets were paved with cobble stones but here there were flat streets paved as they are in America." Hettie remembered going with Irma to visit friends who lived in the mountains. Other new experiences in Beirut were remembered - eating corn flakes, and having an ice cream Sunday at a soda fountain across the street from the entrance to the University.

One of the grandchildren asked whether her parents, when they were children, had more fun in Istanbul and Beirut than they had in America. Loretta's answer was, "That's hard to say, you have fun wherever you are." Hettie expressed her opinion, "Life was very good for us in Istanbul, at least until the war broke out." Loretta added, "I'm not sure any of us kids felt there was anything wrong with it even when the war broke out, at least the younger ones."

Herb asked where we lived in Beirut. Hettie responded, "We lived with a Mrs. Somerville in her home which was quite near the University and the Community School. She was an English lady who had lived in Beirut many years but was not connected with the university."

"Did you have an apartment?" Herb asked. "You might say we had an apartment," Hettie answered, "We had separate bed rooms but we shared the kitchen and dining room with Mrs. Somerville." "She had a bedroom off to the back," Loretta added. Everyone remembered the apartment's tile floors and Maynard explained, "They were very comfortable for lying on during hot summer nights." I (Lorin) remember lying on the tile floors for most of two or three days, during a sand storm, when the temperature rose to 127 degrees and the desert winds drove the sand through the air so violently that we could not go outside.

"Did you have a maid?" Herb asked. "No," Hettie replied, "We went out for groceries and did our own housework." Maynard remembered that the nearest grocery store was one where the proprietors spoke Turkish. Loretta added, "We had lots and lots of bananas; they had been rare to us but here they were plentiful and cheap. We ate them as snacks and began to get tired of them."

A grandchild asked how long we were out of America. That led to an explanation that all of Hettie and Herman's children were born in Turkey and lived there until 1941 except one year of furlough in America. That led to some discussion about how old each child was which I have researched and entered early in this narrative.

"When did you leave America to go to Turkey, in the first place, and why?" one of the grandchildren asked. Hettie replied, "In 1926 we went out there to work with the Mission Board of the Congregational Church."

In June, 1941, after five months there, we left Beirut. "Why did you go back to Istanbul?" Herb asked. "There's a long story to that!" Maynard exclaimed. Hettie began, "We left Beirut because war came to Beirut." Then others joined in to fill in the details. The English came to throw the Vichy French out. We and many families from the University were required to leave as the British prepared to take Beirut. Cars were engaged to take the Kreiders and four other families to Jerusalem. However, the Kreider's chauffeur had taken a family into Palestine the day before and was arrested there. We did not know this at the time so we waited and waited and our car did not come. We got in touch with Dr. Dodge, President of American University of Beirut at that time, who did some investigating and found out about the arrest. He tried to get another car but was unable to do so. Finally, three families left for Jerusalem and one stayed behind to go with the Kreiders the next day, since there was no man in the Kreider family. But before the next morning word came from Herman and from Dr. Wright, President of Robert College, that we should not go to Jerusalem but rather, come to a mission station in the interior of Turkey. So all plans had to be changed immediately; for example, changing Palestinian money to Turkish money. Nevertheless, the family was off to Kayserie, Turkey, the next day. Incidentally, the family which had stayed behind to go with us to Palestine was held up and robbed that day on their way to Jerusalem.

A very pleasant summer was spent in Kayserie with the people stationed at that mission: American Mission Board families who had fled Istanbul and an English family. The English lady was known for her leading of singing. Hettie remembered her particularly for "This is My Father's World."

Elizabeth challenged the whole idea that the parents had "tough times" arguing that she doesn't go swimming every day and have a chauffeur on call. Her mother Loretta, tried to reply: "I suppose

there were a lot of differences which, if you lived with them like we lived, pretty much in hand-me-down clothes, seemed normal. We didn't own a car and had to walk every where we went. We didn't have refrigerators or television or a dish washer. So a lot of things which you take for granted we didn't have, but we had a lot of things we got a lot of fun out of, so we didn't feel particularly deprived. One of the things I particularly remember from that whole experience is that when we traveled we frequently waited for long periods of time. For example, the morning the taxi cab driver didn't come we must have waited at least four hours before we found out that he wasn't going to come or gave up. We were always waiting and waiting, which I find hard for my children to do."

(I would add that in tragic times most people, particularly children, find fun things to do because their spirits are unwilling to become captive to tragedy and suffering. And, when remembering those times, it is much easier to talk about those happy experiences than to resurrect painful feelings deeply buried long ago.)

Returning to experiences in Kayserie, Hettie remembered that Mrs. Block was the English lady who led the singing. Loretta and Maynard recalled that, because of her pacifist leanings, Mrs. Block would not let the children's choir sing. "Onward Christian Soldiers."

We lived in a hospital there. Mrs. Blake and her children were living in the same building (another American missionary family). They had one floor and we had another. Loretta noted, "We kept our caterpillars in the surgical cabinets." The Turkish army had requisitioned this mission hospital at one time, and then the army had given it up so it was not in use when we arrived.

One of the children observed, "That must have been hard: all that moving around and so forth." Maynard replied, "The hardest part comes later." Hettie concurred. The question was asked, "But wasn't the enemy pushing you around all this time?" "No," Loretta explained, "the enemy was not that near to us." Maynard remembered sleeping out on a porch that summer in Kayserie. Hettie added, "We had a very nice summer there, with good friends."

Lorrin remembered climbing a mountain there. He called it Uludag but that can't be correct. Uludag is near Burma and is only 2648 meters. The highest mountain near Kayserie is Erkayos Magi (3916 meters; about 13,000 feet). Everyone seemed to agree that it was the second or third highest mountain in Turkey. Lorrin recalled being equipped with alpenstocks. There were about fifteen climbers tied together with a rope; climbing up a snow packed gorge surrounded by volcanic rock which broke off easily. A memory of giving up near the top because of a shortage of oxygen, was shared, and the fun of coming down by sliding on his rear-end using the alpenstock as a tiller and, at the bottom, finding out that he was riding on skin. He recalled the air pressure being so low that water boiled without getting significantly hot. He also related seeing an extended family of nomadic sheep herders who lived in a huge, black tent which expanded with the addition of another new room every time a marriage created a new unit in the family. All remembered the volcanic rock in the area of Kayserie which had come from this mountain and the sport of whittling boats out of pumice rock which could float on water.

In June of 1941 Germany invaded Russia, reducing the chances that its army would move in a southeasterly direction through Bulgaria and Turkey. In September it seemed safe to return to Istanbul. However our house had been rented. So we remained in the interior until September and then returned to Rumeli Hisar and moved into the house across the street from ours. We ate

breakfast at that house but had lunch and dinner in the Robert College dining hall.

Phil asked about the military presence in Turkey: "Were they evident in the streets you traveled?" No, the army was on high alert but it was deployed to the borders to defend against a German invasion.

Hettie explained that she had taught the children for a year before leaving the first time. She recalled that at this time we were expecting to leave at any time so it was difficult to know what to do about schooling. Maynard was enrolled in the Robert College Academy. Lorrin took at least one course there. (A dispute arose at this point in the tape recording. Hettie thought we left Hisar by Thanksgiving but others recalled not leaving until early in 1942.) It is accurate to say that we were in Istanbul in December 1941 when Pearl Harbor was bombed and that we did not leave for Beirut until February 1942. Also, we were back in our own house for part of this time. I have pictures of the unusually heavy snow fall that winter.

Phil asked, "Why would Pearl Harbor make any difference in your lives since it happened on the other side of the world?" Various older members of the family explained that we were very conscious of the war, the U.S. reluctance to get involved in it and the effect of Pearl Harbor on the entire world scene. Until then we were citizens of a neutral country, Loretta recalled, but now that we were officially enemies of Germany we would be put in concentration camps if caught. It should also be noted that U.S. support of the war in Europe increased dramatically after Pearl Harbor, so the long term prospects of victory in Europe increased substantially.

We arrived in Beirut for the second time. The British were in charge this time because they had taken both Lebanon and Syria from the Vichy French in July of 1941. (An explanation: during our brief time back in Turkey, the German army conquered France and the French people became divided between the "Vichy French" who cooperated with the Germans and the "Free French" who joined allied forces.) Here in Lebanon, as in the British army in general, a great variety of ethnic groups were fighting as a unified force - Australians, New Zealanders. Poles, Greeks, Indians, Gurkhas and Americans.

When we first arrived we stayed with a family on the grounds of American University of Beirut. But soon we were back living with Mrs. Summerfield. The Community School in Beirut was noticeably smaller than the year before. Maynard remembered that currency was in short supply so bananas could be used for change or for passage on a street car.

The presence of war was much more obvious than in 1941. The beaches we had enjoyed the previous summer were closed because of mines; large gun emplacements dotted the hillsides; a ship was torpedoed in the harbor; an enemy plane flew overhead. This was also the war souvenir collection time: shrapnel, bullets and shell casings, a German helmet, part of a German airplane and military insignia of all kinds. Loretta remembered a "theological awakening" when she first saw a German belt buckle with the inscription, "God is with us." Maynard remembered British Army bands on the University campus. It was our introduction to bagpipes and there were a lot of them.

In answer to John's question, "Did any kids have guns in their collection'?" Lorrin explained the collecting in more detail after assuring him that no one had obtained guns. One source of souvenirs was finding them on the beach, near the airport, etc.. The other source was from soldiers on R & R from fighting in the Libyan dessert. Kids would take lonely soldiers through the University museums and to other points of interest; then, as a tip, we would ask if they had any souvenirs to give us. This was the best source because they had collected things from the battlefields.

Lorrin remembered two soldiers he met in this way. One was a British officer from London. After the "Cooks Tour" he asked about souvenirs. In response, the officer brought out a variety of insignia and medals while he explained, "I have been saving these for my son who is about your age but yesterday I learned that my whole family was killed in the German bombing of London." The other was Bill Offner, the son of a rich textile manufacturer from New York City who had joined the American Field Service and was driving an ambulance in support of the British Army as it fought in the Libyan desert. All AFS drivers came from similar, wealthy backgrounds. They had volunteered, before Pearl Harbor, to help the British. They bought their own ambulances, received no pay and were free to leave when they wanted to. Less than two years later Lorrin spent a night in New York City as a guest of Bill Offner.

The American Consulate did not want a mother and four children staying in Beirut. The war was going badly. The Germans had taken Greece and Crete and were about to break across the Western border of Egypt. Returning to Turkey, while desirable, was not likely to be a long-term solution so the family decided to head for the U.S. The Mediterranean was closed and the Africa option (overland to Cairo and fly to Capetown or America) seemed very dangerous so the best option seemed to be the route through India. We hired a taxi (the only means of transportation available in those days) and headed for Jerusalem.

Hettie explained that we went to Jerusalem not knowing whether we would go to Egypt or India. But once we got to Jerusalem the American Consulate there refused to allow us to go to Egypt. In Jerusalem we stayed at a Roman Catholic school which had been converted into a refugee hostel. We slept on cots in a large room with other refugees. We had to go out to find meals. Mrs. Clark, the widow of a physician who had served in Talas, came with us from Beirut to assist Hettie with the four children. However, she came down with malaria shortly after we arrived in Jerusalem so Hettie had an additional person for whom to care. We brought meals in to her. She hoped to get to the U.S. but we had to leave her in Jerusalem when a rare opportunity for us to get to India suddenly arose.

Maynard, Lorrin and Loretta remember the Greek kids who became our playmates in the refugee hostel. Maynard recalled their dangerous escape across the Aegean Sea, from Greece to Palestine, in a small boat. Lorrin recalled the dramatic ping pong tournaments which became more important to him than seeing holy sites. Loretta's memory was of one of the boys, as handsome as a Greek god.

Hettie said that we did not have time to do much sight-seeing in Jerusalem. The consulate wanted the family to get out of the area; the only course was India. A troop ship was scheduled to reach Bombay soon, unload its cargo of soldiers and then it would be available to take passengers back to the U.S. Some recollections of Jerusalem were shared: a town bulging with refugees and military personnel; Hettie making daily trips to the consulate and the travel bureau hoping to find seats on an airplane flying to India. She had to check in with these sources every two to three hours for any news. The family had to prepare each day to leave on an instant's notice. There were Zionist terrorists already, active in the area, trying to get concessions from the British. We visited Bethlehem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Garden Tomb.

Because there was virtually no possibility of getting five seats on one flight, a plan to split the family developed. Mother and the two girls would go first and the two boys would follow as soon after that as they could get a flight. It is difficult for a person living 50 or more years later to understand the

circumstances which existed at that time: it was a two day flight; there was one flight a day; and it carried no more than twenty passengers. We were in a war zone so military personnel had absolute priority to bump any civilian up to the minute of departure. Only carry-on luggage was permitted, so our possessions were reduced to one change of clothing per person. One morning, when the first three were planning to go, two more seats became available. At 5 A.M. the family was in a taxi headed for the Dead Sea near Jericho. There a seaplane belonging to the British Overseas Airline took off with our family of five Americans and about fifteen British Army officers in its belly.

All agreed that it was a "flying boat" with an uncertain number of engines (2, 4 or 8). All of us felt it strange to be traveling all day over desert in a craft created to land at sea. We recall periodically coming over a small pond of water, dropping down and landing on it. All the passengers would get into small launches which took us to a pier where we would be escorted into a small building, have tea and something to eat with it, and return to the plane to take flight again. Hettie recalled these stops as very frequent and their purpose being to drop off and/or pick up army officers. I am sure that, since flight attendants had not been invented by 1942, the landings seemed to fit the traditional British schedule for mid-morning tea, lunch and mid-afternoon tea. At dusk, after circling quite a few times to find a spot relatively free of timber and trash, we landed on the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and motor-launched to a hotel in Basra. Some of us remember that as the hottest night in our lives even though we had withstood temperatures of 127 degrees during a sand-storm in Beirut.

The next day we took off around 7:00 AM., repeated the up and down flights and arrived in Karachi, India a little before nightfall. Hettie's recollection of those two days of flying included: our family sitting on orange crates so the officers could have the regular seats; landings in which we went below the water's surface and waves rolled up over the windows because the passengers' cabin was submerged in water. Such landings occurred at least hourly. Memories of the refuse on the water at Basra and seeing the remains of the plane which tried to land just ahead of ours were vivid. The kids had a somewhat less terrifying experience: the truth remains unclear; however Hettie never flew again.

Fortunately, one of the Army officers on the airship, who was going to Karachi to visit his wife, offered to help our family in making the arrangements necessary for the next leg of the journey - a three day and two night train ride across India. Among other things, he recommended that we hire a servant to be with us for the entire train trip. Hettie reluctantly accepted this advice but later realized its importance. The English style compartments were one large room which could only be accessed through an outside door (there was no hallway from one compartment to another). At one end of the compartment was a small room for the "servant boy." The main compartment was furnished with lounge-type couches and chairs and we slept in bunk beds. The much needed air-conditioning was a large galvanized tub with a chunk of ice and a fan. Whenever the train stopped the servant boy, who knew how to deal with the local vendors, got fresh ice and other supplies we needed. In order to be sure about the safety of the food, all of it had been bought in Karachi before we left. All of us were impressed with the masses of people in India and the poverty in which they lived. Lorrin remembered the night he fell off the top of a triple-decker bunk bed.

Herb asked about the costs of such a long journey and how they were paid. Hettie explained that the currency used was travelers' checks but also that Libby Wright, President of Robert College, had told her to spend anything necessary to get the family home safely and the College would pay for it. Cooks Travel Agency was our primary resource for all kinds of arrangements.

Our next 'home' was Bombay. We were there for about two weeks. The family stayed in the home of a missionary family who was summering in the mountains, a customary way of getting out of the heat. This was a huge, magnificent home with lush gardens all around it. Others who were going to travel on the same ship with us also used this as a way-station before boarding ship. Hettie remembered the owner of the house appointing her to be in charge of running the house and supervising the servants. She discovered that Indian servants had specialties and did only one type of work - cleaning, cooking, laundry, etc., so there was a whole regiment of servants. Fortunately one spoke English. Loretta recalled being sick there and lying in a luxurious bed with servants dressed in white attending to her every desire. Others remember Bombay as hot in the summer. Hettie noted a time on a city street when an unidentified British soldier asked to kiss Irma's hand - a rich illustration of those soldiers' years of separation from their families and their fear for their families' well-being. None of us remembered any other experiences outside of the compound in which we lived in Bombay. However, some recall that Ghandi was in the news in those days.

In Palestine Hettie had been told that there would be a troop ship returning to the U.S. from Bombay around this time, but for obvious reasons exact dates were secret information. The ship proved to be the Mariposa of the Matson Line. It was a reconditioned south sea luxury liner and the largest troop carrying vessel America had at that time. Its state rooms and ballrooms now had bunk beds rising from the floor to the ceiling. The swimming pools were dry. Large guns had been mounted at the bow and stern: smaller guns were located on both sides and members of the Coast Guard manned them. It traveled alone, instead of in convoy, because its 16-20 knot speed enabled it to outrun U-boats. But it had to zigzag across the water, making a radical change in direction about every 2 - 3 minutes (just short of the length of time required for a U-boat to get a bearing on a target and fire a torpedo).

It had carried around 4,000 U.S. soldiers to India - the first contingent to go over the 'hump' to fight in Burma. Now it was carrying about 350 passengers back to the States. Many of these were members of the Flying Tigers, fighter pilots who had fought for the Chinese against the Japanese under the leadership of Major General Chenault since the summer of 1941 and now were returning the U.S. to join the American forces. The remainder of the passengers was refugees, like the Kreiders, trying to get back to the States.

Phil asked if we slept very well, knowing the danger we were living in as we crossed the ocean. Hettie recalled the Purser asking to talk to her privately as the family entered his part of the ship. He advised her to keep her clothing on all night. Also, to have each child undress and make a little bundle of his/her clothing tied together and ready to grab at any moment, saving time and energy to get to the life boats when the siren blew.

Loretta remembered the life-preservers we wore all day and the frequent unscheduled lifeboat drills when we had to run to our appointed station. She recollected looking over the edge and thinking that the distance to the water was so great that she would not be able to jump if commanded to do so. She also noted the strict rules about not dropping anything overboard and no lights at night.

Hettie recalled being told that a torpedo narrowly missed us not far outside of Bombay. I believe the same thing happened as we left Capetown. It was customary for U-boats to lay in wait along shipping lanes not far from harbors, to hit ships as they came by - a more economical strategy than chasing them in open water.

Maynard mentioned good times the two brothers had such as being on deck with the soldiers after dark. Loretta remembered the Flying Tigers as having a lot of money, spending most of the time gambling with each other and getting drunk. (I think that there was no alcohol on the ship even though they may have gotten rowdy sometimes.) Making money on tips by getting soft drinks from the PX for the gamblers who didn't want to leave the table in the middle of a high stakes poker game was an enterprise many of us kids tried. Lorrin turned it into a full-time business. At one point he came to his mother and asked her if Irma could tag along with him as he ran these errands for the Flying Tigers. Hettie was reluctant to do so because one piece of the Purser's advice was to never let five-year-old Irma out of her sight. But Lorrin persisted, explaining that when Irma was along the tips were bigger. His goal was to earn enough money to buy a new bicycle in the States. He succeeded; in fact, it was a very nice bicycle.

Several missionary families were on the Mariposa, returning to the U.S. from various parts of the world. Loretta and Maynard remembered the vesper services they held every evening on the deck of the ship. They recall that "Abide with Me, fast falls the eventide" was one of the favorites. Those who had come out of China had gone through hardships much greater than ours. Hettie remembered that Maynard, as the oldest, was particularly sensitive to the danger we were facing, recalling an evening when he asked if he might go to bed without removing his clothes because he had heard that we were going through very dangerous waters.

Loretta reminded us of the storm we rode through in Capetown harbor. That cape region is known for its dangerous storms, Herb noted. Lorrin called it "a real storm!" and went on to talk about Maynard and him wandering around the ship with it listing so much it was difficult to stay on one's feet. Then he recalled that the next morning the weather was calm but several good sized freighters had lost their moorings and were thrown up on the beach by the storm. Hettie explained that the Mariposa was riding high in the water because it lacked the weight it was designed to carry.

Hettie recalled the long southerly course taken by the ship as it came into Capetown harbor, in order to miss mine fields and U-boats. Maynard remembered hearing that this circuitous route had added four days to the journey. But this apparent knowledge introduced a point all agreed upon - no one but the Captain really knew where we had been or where we were going. Of course, this did not prevent conversations on the subject as groups gathered on the deck with little else to talk about. At one point the common knowledge was that we had been at sea so long we must be rounding the cape of South America on our way to a port in California. Others were quite sure that Brazil would be the next land we saw.

Hettie reminded everyone that all doors to the deck were closed throughout the night. This introduced another topic of deck gossip - that there were fifth column agents on board who were signaling the enemy with mirrors by day and flashlights at night. Hettie added credence to this fifth column fear by explaining that it was an established theory of the crew, because torpedoes had been fired at our ship a certain distance out of Bombay and again, at the same distance outside of Capetown. My recollection was that passengers were not informed of any torpedoing until we were safely docked in New York, so the crew's suspicions could not have been known to the passengers when at sea.

Maynard reminded the family of the night when the Mariposa, shrouded in complete darkness, passed by a neutral ship going the opposite direction with all its lights ablaze and spotlights focused on the Red Cross on the side of its hull. Most of us remembered that encounter. I can still see it vividly in my mind, but it is a strange contradiction to our firm belief that no one was allowed on deck at night and all portholes were painted over and closed. This Kreider family conversation may contain some "tribal



legends" as well as facts.

We were off the ship in Capetown for about half a day. All remembered going up Table Mountain. Some recalled that it was a time to stock up on chocolate. Loretta, based on her current interest in African history, said that she could not remember seeing any Blacks in the city and wondered whether that was the reality or her limited perception. No one could assure her that they had seen a black person in Capetown that day.

Returning to life at sea, we recall spending most of the daylight hours on deck. The weather was pleasant. It was summer and we were in temperate or tropical regions most of the time. The days were colder around Capetown. The deck near the life boats was a safe place to be. Our cabin was very small and about three floors down, so even though it was still above the water line, it would have been difficult to get from there to our life boats in an emergency. The dining room was several floors down. The only lounges which were open were at deck level and they were usually occupied by Flying Tigers playing cards.

One of the grandchildren asked if anyone got sea sick. The children remembered being active and not getting sick. Hettie confessed that it was the first ocean voyage she had taken in which she did not get sea sick. She explained that, when she boarded the Mariposa she told herself, "You can't get sick; it's a luxury you can't afford. You have too many responsibilities." So she beat sea sickness and concluded that it may be a form of sickness the mind can control. Many passengers did get sick during the storm in Capetown harbor.

About two days before we saw land a U.S. PBY (a high winged military sea plane) flew over us. From then on, one such airplane was overhead at all times watching for submarines. As we got closer to shore we were ushered in by several airplanes. Then we saw New York City. Hettie recalled the purser saying to her at this time, "We're glad you're here. We didn't think you'd make it. We were almost sure we would lose this ship." I do not recall being that worried during the month we were at sea but I do remember an overwhelming feeling of relief as we passed by the Statue of Liberty. By nightfall we were safely docked.

Now, as it appeared that we were about to re-enter the normal world, clothing became one of Hettie's major concerns. Remember that back in Jerusalem we had been reduced to one change of clothing per person. Then, once aboard ship, she discovered that there were no laundry facilities and no hot water. She took the only course available, washing clothes in the cabin sink in cold water. But as the clothes got to looking grimier she tried to use one set as frequently as possible and to save one set for getting off the boat in America. So the morning after docking everyone put on his/her best set of clothes and everything else was packed into the luggage (except toothbrushes which Hettie slipped into her purse) and the family went for breakfast. When we returned to the cabin our luggage had been taken away to be searched and we were told we had to wait in the cabin until it was our turn to be interrogated as the next step toward being permitted to enter the U.S.A. We sat in our small cabin all day and into the night. Finally, after midnight, our number was called. We went up on deck and the entire family was ushered to a card table where three officers sat (FBI, Immigration Bureau and one other) with a seat for Hettie and space for four children to stand around her. After a few questions, one officer said, "I think we'd better let this lady put her children to bed." So we were released and we returned to the cabin for a few hours of sleep. Some people, we heard, were questioned for many hours. We were required to stay on board the next day and night. Then, about 48 hours after our luggage was taken from us, five grimy people disembarked the Mariposa, picked up their belongings and officially entered the 'New World'.

When we telephoned relatives in Ohio to tell them we had arrived, we discovered that during the time we waited on the ship (that is the second day in port) FBI agents had simultaneously visited several of our relatives to verify things we claimed in the on-deck interview the night before. Among them were: Allen Shoup, Hettie's brother, and Henry Kreider, Herman's father.

Once on shore, Hettie found a taxi that took the entire family to a department store where a very nice lady helped her to find a new set of clothes for each of four kids and herself. Maynard remembered that day as his first day to wear long pants. Hettie expected that, in years to come, that clerk often told people about her outfitting a sorry looking family of five who had just landed in the U.S.A.

We spent two nights in New York, visiting a few of the major tourist attractions, before boarding the train for Ohio. Hettie recalled that our family attracted considerable attention on the train. Loretta remembered that we wore very British hats. I'm sure we spoke with British accents and still wore rather British clothes. For example, I was probably still outfitted in short pants or knickers at twelve years of age. At that time Americans were engaged in a new and growing war effort and they must have been particularly conscious of "foreigners" wandering among them.

In Orrville we were greeted by a large contingent of Mennonite relatives. Loretta, noticing that many of them wore plain, black clothing, wondered for a moment whether she was back in Turkey. Soon thereafter, we located a place to live in Wooster, Ohio and got into school a few weeks after it had started.

The tape recording ends with a number of miscellaneous recollections which I have inserted at their proper places in the chronology of events. However, two serve as a fitting conclusion.

Lorin suggested that, over this two year period, we gradually became more and more accustomed to war being near at hand. It started with the slit-trench air-raid shelter among the trees in the backyard of our home in Istanbul. Somewhere along the way it became natural to have blackouts and for cars to have slits in their headlights. Then, in Beirut, meeting wounded soldiers and soldiers whose families had died: to have mines in the waters and barrage balloons overhead. Seeing a sailor who nearly died in a ship explosion last night in the harbor you were looking at today, was troubling. Traveling through dangerous waters on an unescorted ship which fired its guns at various times throughout the day fortified our impressions. These things taught us to accept danger and to make the best of life with it as part of the present reality.

But Hettie, who was always the leader, guide, manager and responsible person, deserves the last word: "Surely there is a lot more about which we have not spoken. Certainly it was an interesting trip but I would not call it pleasurable. It was not much of a lark for me but I'm glad that the children were able to experience adventure in the midst of danger."