

THE *Crawan*
BANGKOK, THAILAND.



MRS RICHANDA RHODEN
285 - 8TH AVENUE
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK
U.S.A.



PLEASE DON'T DESTROY THESE LETTERS THEY WILL SERVE AS NOTES

TIME
11 PM
TEMP 95°
FORECAST
FAIR MOON -



Crawan Hotel

BANGKOK, THAILAND
CABLE ADDRESS - CRAWAN
TEL. 58051. 88

DECEMBER 25, 1957

DEAR RICHARD.

CHRISTMAS DAY. JUST ANOTHER DAY. IT HARD TO BELIEVE IT AND WHEN I WAS IN AMERICA I RECALL WORKING, THE DIFFERENCE WAS THAT WE WERE TOGETHER. I'VE BEEN IN BANGKOK, THAILAND (SIAM) AND HAVE NOT SEEN AS MUCH AS I SHOULD HAVE SEEN. YESTERDAY I SPENT MOST OF THE DAY AT THE EMBASSY TRYING TO SETTLE MY SCHEDULE AND VISA PROBLEM TO CAMBODIA. I WAS CABLED THAT I WOULD GET IT HERE AND IN THE MEAN TIME THE TWO GOVERNMENTS BEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. NOW IT SEEMS THAT I WILL GET IT IN SAIGON. THE CULTURAL ATTACHE HERE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE TOGET IN HIS CULTURE. HE'S TRIED TO MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT WASHINGTON DIDN'T LET THEM KNOW IN TIME THAT I WAS COMING, AND AT THIS TIME IT'S VERY BAD BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY, ALSO HE WAS VERY BUSY. OH COUSE I SET HIM RIGHT FAST AND TOLD HIM THAT I WAS SURE HE WAS A "BUSY MAN" JUST REFER ME TO SOME OF THE ARTISTS OR SCHOOL AND I TOLD HIM HOW I THOUGHT THAT I COULD MAKE MY OWN PROGRAM. MY JOB HAS TO BE DONE. IF NOTHING REALLY DEVELOPED THIS WEEK, I'M SEEING THAILAND AS A TOURIST AND PLEASURE. I'LL MAKE A SIDE TRIP. ANY PLACE IS LESS EXPENSIVE THAN BANGKOK.

TODAY AND INDIAN FRIEND OF A SCULPTOR THAT I MET IN DELHI, TOOK ME TO A FEW PLACES. NOT TO THE PLACES I'D EXPECTED. HE SEEMS TO BE OF A SOCIAL TYPE AND THE REAL HUNTER LIFE OF THE PEOPLE WE NOT OF MUCH INTEREST. I SHALL SEE THESE PLACES IN A PAID TRIP. I MUST SAY THE VISIT TO CHANG TOWN (SAMPENG) WAS MOST INTERESTING. THERE WERE MANY DIFFERENT TRIBES AND CLANS OF CHINESE (MOSTLY DARKER THAN I AM) 3.2% IS CHINESE. MOST OF THEM I WAS TOLD ARE COMMUNIST. THE US GOVERNMENT GAVE THAILAND AN EXTRA 2 1/2 MILLION FOR THEIR AID. THE HISTORY OF THE CHINESE IS VERY IMPORTANT HERE FOR OVER 500 YEARS. THE SQUARES NOW WENT HURT THEM. THEY HAVE BEEN TOUGHENED FOR CENTURIES. ONE THING REALLY IMPRESSED ME WAS THE AMOUNT OF GOLD BEING BOUGHT AND SOLD.

Begin with my love Acharys

John Brown Specialist

WRITE TO THE (AMERICAN) EMBASSY
INDONESIA
DJAKARTA

I HOPE TO SPEND MOST OF THE TIME THERE IN
BALI & JAVA.

THE WINDING STREET AND MANY STORES AND SELLING AND COOKING
FOOD, THE SMELLS AND PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN ANY
PARTS OF HONG KONG, SHANGHAI OR THE MAINLAND ITSELF.
I WAS TOLD BY A VISITOR OF ALL OF THESE PLACES.

THIS AFTER NOON I TOOK A LONG WALK (GOT A BIT
HOT). I VISIT THE UNIVERSITY. A BEAUTIFUL PLACE
BUILT IN THE STYLE OF SIAM ARCHITECTURE. A VERY
MODERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. NO JOIN THE CAMPUK.

I VISIT THE SNAKE FARM. I EXPECTED THREE SNAKES.
THE ONLY DEALER IN THE MOST DANGEROUS SNAKES.
THEY HAVE THE LARGEST KING COBRA IN EXISTENCE. WHAT A
DEADLY LOOKING CREATURE. HE COULD STAND UP MORE
THAN 7' AND STRIKE A DISTANCE OF 10 -

I WENT TO A CHINESE THAI RESTAURANT FOR
DINNER. IT WAS GOOD BUT EXPENSIVE. I ATE FOR YOU AND
ACTUALLY USED CHOP STICKS WITH EASE. EVERYONE ELSE USED ONLY
THE STICKS - THE BEST DISH WAS SHRIMP EGG ROLL.

THE HOTTEST WAS A CHICKEN SOUP. I ACCIDENTLY GOT
HOLD OF GREEN HOT PEPPER. I THOUGHT MY TONGUE WAS GONE.
MY SCAP WAS JUMPING AROUND AND WHEN I GOT BACK TO
THE HOTEL A PATCH OF HAIR WAS MISSING.

REALLY - TO TELL THE TRUTH I HAD MY FIRST BAD
HAIR CUT. I LOOK LIKE HELL TILL DOT SHOTS AT ME.
I WAS VERY EMBARRASSED BECAUSE I HAD DINNER WITH
MR. LAWRENCE ROBERTS' NEPHEW. HE'S PROTOCOL OFFICER HERE.
(OR JOHN)