

## The Ladies in San Francisco

by Suzy Frederickson

The Conference this year was an exciting experience, there was something to interest everyone. It is always fun to spend time with old acquaintances and, of course, make new ones.

While the men were busy with their meetings, the ladies attended an interesting and entertaining program arranged by the host association.

This year the activities started out with an exhibit and explanation of precious jewels by Mr. Robert Lindeman. I never realized how many types of jewels there were! Maybe I don't want that diamond bracelet after all, not when there are so many other jewels to choose from.

That evening they held the get acquainted cocktail party. It's amazing how many people you can manage to see and talk to in less than two hours time. The only thing that bothered me about the get acquainted party was where do you put your ashes?

San Francisco has a lot to see, and we saw it on Tuesday. It certainly is a beautiful city, if you can take the altitude changes!

My biggest disappointment in San Francisco was the Golden Gate Bridge. It's not golden! It's not even gold colored, it's sort of an "orangey-brown". I had to admit, though, it's a magnificent structure.

One of the first things that you think of when you think of San Francisco is the cable cars. They are exactly what I imagined them to be. How they ever manage to make it up those steep hills is beyond me, but they do! It's really something to see people loaded down with packages, hanging on the side of these little cars. They certainly must have a lot of intestinal fortitude, it took all I had to sit on the inside!

We never did get to Haight-Ashbury. It wasn't necessary to go that far to see the hippies and flower children as they are on every street corner, selling their underground newspapers.

The most charming place we visited was the Japanese Tea Garden. It was just like stepping into another country. There are little tea houses where you are served tea by girls in traditional costumes, and there is atmosphere everywhere.

Another interesting place we visited was the Cliff House, a restaurant overlooking Seal Rock. We could see thousands of seals basking in the sun. I had one all picked out for a coat until I learned they were protected by the law.

Another part of Frisco we visited was Fisherman's Wharf. There were boats bringing in the fish that would be served for dinner, and the vendors cooking and selling fresh shrimp, crabs, clams and other sea food. Oh the aroma!

Chinatown is store after store and ninety per cent of them are gift shops, where you can buy genuine imports. There's one place where you would be disappointed if you bought an object that wasn't stamped "made in Japan". China Town looks just like it does in a Charlie Chan movie except, instead of Opium dens, you see places like the "Gong Gong Topleess".

After the bus tour we had a delicious luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel, followed by an unusual fashion show. We were shown ancient ceremonial robes each followed by a modern adaptation of the original, ranging from sports clothes to glamorous formal wear.

Tuesday evening we went to a "Happening", and what better place than San Francisco to attend one? The odd thing about it was that many of the hippies

that were there looked a lot like some of the Superintendents we knew. Especially the band of flower children that made an entrance bearing geraniums, carrying signs and looking really up tight. Who was their leader? The one sporting long blonde locks, a five o'clock shadow and a large cigar?

Wednesday we were given a continental breakfast and a choice between a preview of the Hawaiian tour and a "Behind the scenes" shopping tour. On the shopping tour we were taken to some of Frisco's most distinctive merchandise centers and shown what happens behind the scenes.

Thursday a program called "Styles in Cosmetics" was given where we were shown the newest in make-up styles. Beauty Counselors, a cosmetic firm, gave the presentation. We were shown how to make our eyes look larger, smaller, closer together or farther apart. It's amazing how much a woman will go through to make herself more attractive, and there are so many preparations available. There are enough colors, powders, brushes, and paints to bring out the Picasso in every one of us. It was an interesting program, and couldn't have been shown on a better day because the information was fresh in our minds as we prepared for the banquet that evening.

The ladies' program was truly a wonderful experience and I'm sure, enjoyed by all. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the National GCSA, and the G.C.S.A. of Northern California, and their wives, our charming hostesses, for arranging this outstanding program, and making our trip to San Francisco an unforgettable and enjoyable experience.



Joe Canale and John West, a new member of the M.A.G.C.S.

A baby girl "Kellie Sue Sering" was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Sering February 25, 1968.

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