

My WestPac Cruise – 1964

July 10, 1964 – November 23, 1964

Ann Beardshall





WestPac Cruise Preliminary Information

- In 1964 airlines rules allowed the purchase of a ticket to the most distant point of travel, with stops along the way, no backtracking with a fare of \$1,000 for my trip.
- Under these rules, the U. S. S. Kearsarge 1964 WestPac Cruise would go to Hong Kong (most distant point) with many stops along the way. I added a few.
- On July 10, 1964 I embarked on my trip, leaving from the San Diego Airport aboard United Airlines for Los Angeles, then onto the Honolulu, HI aboard JAL (Japan Airlines).



Honolulu, HI (July 10-August 1, 1964)

- Trip to Hawaii aboard JAL, tried my first Japanese food (sushi, fish cakes)
- Coming into Honolulu saw the islands of Hawaii, Maui, and flew directly over Molokai. Elmer met me at the airport with two beautiful orchid leis.
- Stayed at Kaila Inn on Waikiki Beach for \$7.50/night, Waianae Army Rest Camp for \$5.00/night.
- Elmer and I toured Oahu, including Punch Bowl Crater, went skin diving several times at Haunauma Bay. Went to steak/lobster night at O Club, Elmer went back for lobster 12 Times!!



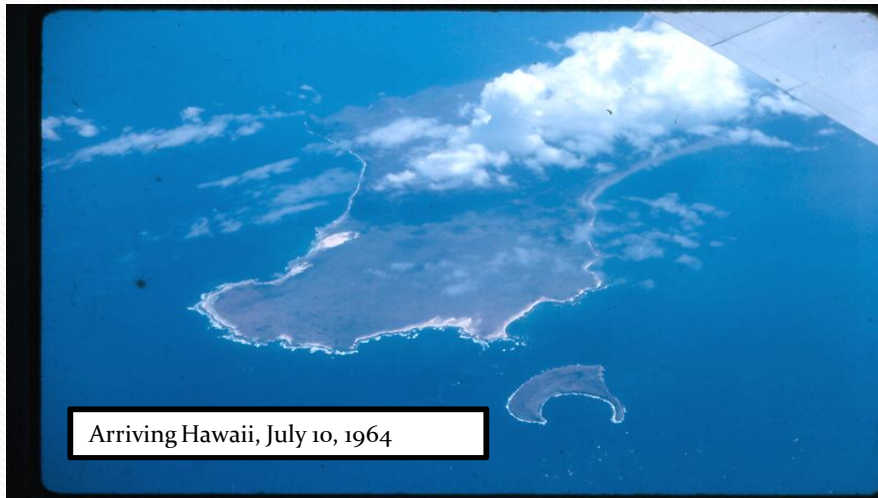
Honolulu, HI (July 10-August 1, 1964)

- July 20, 1964 Kearsarge leaves HI for Japan.
- We stayed on in HI until 1 Aug at Ft. DeRussy for \$1.75 a night along side the show stage. Place rocked until 1-2 am every night.
- Met Dixie McCarthy during that time (her husband Matt was in the VA-153). She became my traveling companion and life-long friend. Linda Jamieson and Irene Weinberger were traveling friends whose husbands were on destroyers.
- Dixie arranged a trip on an Admiral's Launch to the Arizona Memorial. It was only a couple of years old at the time. Quite impressive and moving.

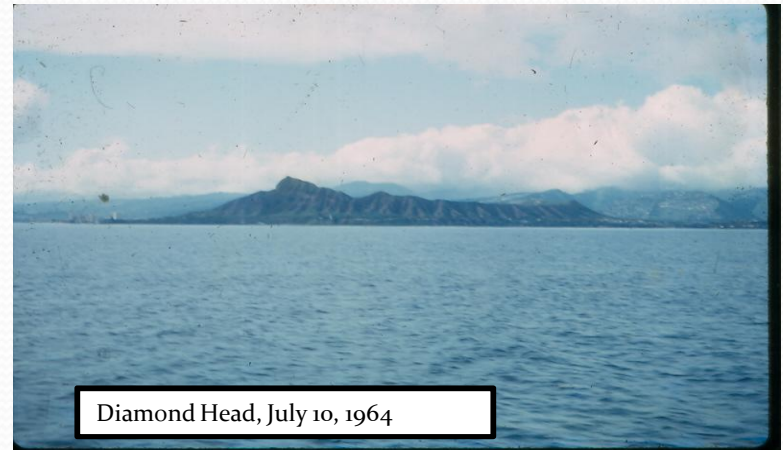
Traveling Companions



Honolulu, HI (July 10-August 1, 1964)



Arriving Hawaii, July 10, 1964



Diamond Head, July 10, 1964



Kearsarge leaving Pearl Harbor,
July, 194



Beautiful Bay Hawaii, July 1964

Honolulu, HI (July 10-August 1, 1964)





Yokosuka, Japan (2 Aug, 1964 – 31 Aug, 1964)

- Arrived in Tokyo on August 2, 1964 aboard JAL (880). Just one month before July 1964 the Olympics was held in Tokyo. The airport had been modernized and they had a monorail .
- On the way to Yokosuka, toured Kamakura and saw “The Great Buddha”; took a cab to Euoshima Resort. There were millions of people at the beach – no blondes, very crowded
- August 5, 1964 the Kearsarge left port to participate in the crisis in Vietnam – the Gulf of Tonkin incident
- My diary says, “hope we are not here for a long stay.” turned out to be about a month when the Kearsarge would re-surface in the Philippines.
- We were there so we made the most of “seeing” Japan by taking trips to Tokyo, Haikone, and other Japanese tourist spots.

Yokosuka, Japan



Yokosuka, Japan





Subic Bay, Philippines^(31 Aug 1964-14 Sept 1964)

- Left Tokyo flying on Air France, 707 on August 31 after hearing that Kearsarge would be coming into port at Subic Bay soon.
- Arrived at Manila International Airport at 14:15. We had several options (not plausible) for getting to Subic Bay.
 - 1. The CO would send a car for us. (Least likely)
 - 2. The base would have a car bringing someone to the airport. (Somewhat likely)
 - 3. A scheduled bus called the Victory Lines would take us to Olongapo (Highly likely)
 - Note: most people stayed at a hotel in Manila and made the trip to SB in the daytime. Dixie McCarthy and I took the Victory Liner.



Subic Bay, Philippines (31 Aug -14 Sept 1964)

- Victory Liner to Olongapo - 5 hours at night. It was probably dangerous, but everyone liked Americans back then in the Philippines.
- The Victory Liner looked like a converted school bus with rows of seats that went across the width of the bus. Seats had no pads and a wood back.
- Bus stopped many times on the way to Olongapo. Each time people jumped on the bus and sold food items. One of most popular was “balut”, an egg with a 3 week old chick in it that had been boiled.
- After arriving in Olongapo, we took a jeepney to the US Naval base at Subic Bay.



Subic Bay, Philippines (31 Aug -14 Sept 1964)

- Elmer arrived several days after I got to Subic Bay. We stayed at the guest quarters which were very nice.
- We took several trips while the ship was in port. We took the Victory Liner again to Manila and when to Pagsanjan Gorge and Falls.
- At [Pagsanjan Falls](#) we rode a bongo boat on the river to the Falls. Remember it was very tropical with coconuts, tropical birds.
- Also went to [Baguio](#), a mountain resort on a DC-3. Stayed at Camp John Hay, a military recreation facility. it was cold we had a cabin with a fireplace.
- Return from Baguio was very scary. The weather was bad so we could not fly back to Manila. Bus had holes in the floor and you could see the ground. Many bridges with large holes, landslides. Had to wait 3 hrs. in San Fernando in middle of night and we told we weren't safe, but we lived through it!

Olongapo, 1964



Subic Bay, Philippines (31 Aug -14 Sept 1964)





Bangkok, Thailand (Sept 15 – Sept 19, 1964)

- Kearsarge pulled out of port on Sept 15 and it was time for us to move on. The next place we could meet the Kearsarge was in Hong Kong in about 2 weeks.
- Linda Jamieson, Irene Weinberger and I took a side trip to [Bangkok](#) on [KLM](#) (DC-8) on September 15.
- We flew over South Vietnam while the war was just gearing up.
- We stayed in the [Princess Hotel in Bangkok](#).
- Enjoyed the services of a tour guide named Charlie. We toured the Grand Palace, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, dressed for the summer season!



Bangkok, Thailand

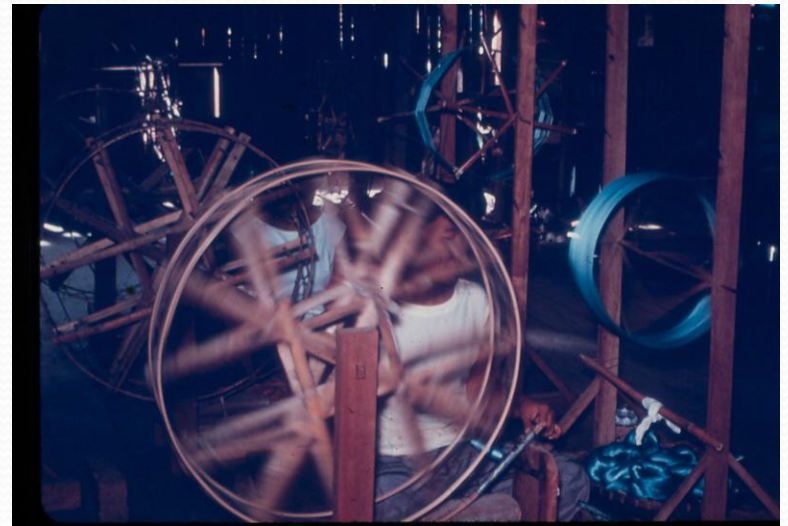
(Sept 15 – Sept 19, 1964)

- Palaces and Temples were quite ornate and among the most unusual of the whole trip.
- We spent one afternoon shopping at Johnny's gems and bought 3 harem rings and one star ruby.
- One day was spent on a small boat shopping at the floating market. We stopped at a Thai silk factory. I bought emerald green Thai silk to take to Japan to have made into a maternity evening dress.
- Saw the Royal Barges, a very long rowboat with 60 oarsmen.
- Attended a performance of Thai Classical Dance.
- My notes say "Bangkok is the most exotic and friendliest place we have visited!"

Bangkok, Thailand (Sept 15 – Sept 19, 1964)



Bangkok, Thailand (Sept 15 – Sept 19, 1964)





Singapore (19 Sept – 20 Sept, 1964)

- Next stop while killing time between the Philippines and Hong Kong was Singapore, the City of the Lion.
- We flew on Malaysian Airlines (F-29) and made a stop in Penang before arriving in Singapore
- Stayed at the Cathay Hotel in Singapore for \$6.18 per day.
- Toured Monkey Garden, the waterfront, saw Chinese junks, Hindu Temples, China Town, a snake charmer complete with basket and cobra, Tiger balm Gardens, and a jade collection
- Linda, Irene and I had a Chinese dinner at the hotel and ordered way too much food. British guests tried to tell us we were ordering enough for a banquet, but we didn't listen.
- Also toured a rubber plantation outside Singapore.



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (20 Sept 1964)

- After a day in Singapore, we flew Malaysian Airlines (F-27) again to the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
- Even in 1964, it was a very modern city with skyscrapers.
- Just spent a day there and saw the national museum, parliament building, residential areas, an Indian cave, another rubber plantation, a mosque, the University of Malaysia and the railway station.



Hong Kong, China (21 Sept – 4 Oct 1964)

- The Kearsarge arrived in Hong Kong around Sept 21st so we traveled from Kuala Lumpur on BOAC (Comet 4) which Elmer now tells me was a dangerous plane.
- We met up again with all our friends and compiled our shopping lists.
- We stayed at the Ambassador Hotel.
- Remember going aboard Kearsarge and piling up my plate with American food. Marine officer told me “to take all I could eat, but eat all I take.” Don’t remember what they served.

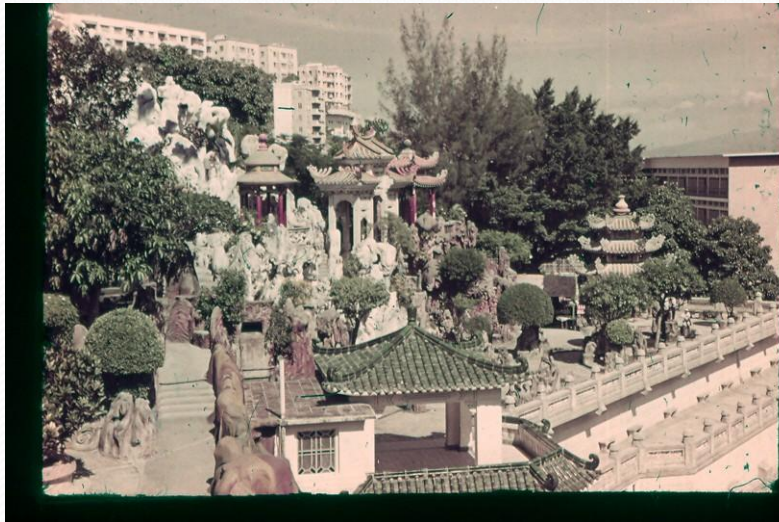
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Taipei, Taiwan (4 Oct – 6 Oct, 1964)

- We left Hong Kong and flew to Taipei on JAL (Boeing 880).
- Stayed at The First Hotel
- Saw the Confucius Temple, Chinese Buddha, Wulai Aboriginal Village, the Grand Hotel (owned by Mme. Chiang Kai Shek, Porcelain factory and Green Lake by gondola.

Okinawa (6 Oct – 9 Oct, 1964)

- Dixie McCarthy and I flew to Okinawa on CAT Airlines (Civil Air Transport – Air America).
- Stayed at the BOQ in Naha



CAT Plane(Air American)

Okinawa (6 Oct – 9 Oct, 1964)

- A rather amusing shopping incident occurred in Okinawa. Dixie and I purchased screens made from tiny pieces of wood weighing about 80 lbs each. We naively took them to the USPS and asked them to be mailed to our home in CA. They laughed at that one. PO doesn't take heavy cargo items. Dixie suggested that we take them to a supply ship that was in port and ask the CO to transport them back to Long Beach for us. He agreed. When the ship arrived in LB, they weren't on board. Almost a year later they called us with the news that our screens were there. I currently have mine in my home office. Dixie has hers somewhere at her home in Coronado.





Sasebo, Japan (9 Oct – 28 Oct, 1964)

- On Oct 9 we returned to Japan via a JAL (Boeing 880)
- We flew to Fukuoka to the Itazuke Air Force Base (closed in 1972) and stayed until time to meet the ship in Sasebo.
- We tried to leave the AF Base at 4:30 am to catch the train to Sasebo. We weren't allowed to leave that early without the CO's problem and we were hesitant to wake him up. But we did! Got permission to leave so we could catch the early train and get to Sasebo before the other wives and secure a space at the Town Club!



Sasebo, Japan (9 Oct – 28 Oct, 1964)

- The Kearsarge was in port for almost a month at Sasebo.
- Elmer and I toured [Nagasaki](#), where we saw the Peace Museum, the Epicenter, and Madam Butterfly's house.
- We also went to the Fukagawa Pottery Factory, the [Unzen National Park](#), and the Takashima Pearl Farm.
- It was there we had to stay in Japanese Inns and sleep on the floor, take community baths, and be treated to chicken salad sandwiches made with mayonnaise heavily flavored with fish oil.

Sasebo, Japan (9 Oct – 28 Oct 1964)





Across Japan (28 Oct – 3 Nov, 1964)

- On Oct 28, the ship left Sasebo for Yokosuka.
- We traveled to Beppu where we toured monkey mountain, the spas, the geysers and the bubbling clay. Stayed at Ryokan Fugino.
- We then boarded a boat that crossed the inland sea of Japan from Beppu to Kobe. There were many students who were on the boat on holiday. We traveled on the Kansai Line.
- Oct 31 we went to the Three Sisters Inn in Kyoto for several days of touring. The 3 sisters had studied at UCLA.
- Kyoto is a very beautiful place and prototypical Japanese.



Across Japan (28 Oct – 3 Nov, 1964)

- On Nov 2, we left Kyoto for Osaka. Osaka is and was a large industrial city in Japan. We attended an all girl show that depicted the story of Lost Horizons.
- Nov 3 we were back in Yokosuka for our final WestPac stop. The Kearsarge arrived and we stayed there until November 23 when Linda Jamieson and I left for home.

Across Japan (28 Oct – 3 Nov, 1964)



Yokosuka, Japan (2) (3 Nov – 23 Nov, 1964)

- On Nov 3 the Kearsarge pulled into Yokosuka. We spent the next 20 days touring around Tokyo, went to Mt. Fuji and environs of Yokosuka.
- Finished up shopping for the trip and had a maternity evening gown made by Betty, a tailor in Japan, from the Thai silk I purchased in Bangkok.



Mt. Fugi, 1964





Home to Coronado

- On 23 Nov, 1964 Linda Jamieson and I boarded a plane at 10:15 pm in Tokyo on a non-stop flight to Los Angeles.
- About 23 hours later (accounting for crossing the International Dateline and time zones), we landed at LA International. Linda went to Long Beach and I flew from LA to San Diego. Barbara Mitchell met me at the airport and I stayed with her and “Mitch” for a few days while I looked for a house for us to live in when Elmer returned the 1st week in Dec, 1964.
- I moved into 240 Soledad Place in late Nov. Elmer came home with all our “stuff” we had bought and a new car!

240 Soledad Pl, Coronado, CA



**Our New House:
240 Soledad Place
Coronado, CA**

**Our New Car:
1965 VW Bus**

