

Soldier's 'Memoirs' Describe Pre-War Korea

By Kent Axtell

(Editor's note—This is the first in a series of articles on Korea as it existed during recent years of U. S. occupation. The material for this series has been contributed to The Daily Nebraskan by George Wilcox, a University student who formerly served 15 months in Korea with the occupation army. The following stories include accounts taken from papers which Wilcox wrote during his spare time—or off-duty moments—to serve as memoirs of his stay in Korea.)

To the ordinary soldier who served as a member of the United States army of occupation, there were a lot of things lacking in Korea. If you were accustomed to lots of whoop-de-doo entertainment—American style, you were out of luck on this Oriental peninsula called Korea. Especially when all the shows and night spots were "off limits."

Wilcox Uses His Time
But one soldier, George Wilcox, scrapped ideas of relaxation and beat the no-entertainment jinx by busily recording his versions of a strange country and its people.

"To the casual visitor, the housing and architecture of ancient Korea might be described as "quaint"; yet to the American soldier who is in reality a diplomat in the pay of the armed forces, the housing and architecture represent the past and perhaps the future of an individualistic nation, proud, courageous,

vants (lower class) and secretaries (middle class).
"The main building contains a large middle room which serves as parlor, office, dining room and in case of rare emergencies, a bedroom for visiting relatives.

"At both ends of this big room are smaller rooms for the male members of the family. The women live in separate inner rooms in accordance with old Korean custom.

However, that custom seemed to steadily diminish and states the article, "in the past sixteen months, that custom has practically gone out of existence due to relatives moving in on other relatives."

This was caused by the Americans who confiscated so much property in order to house dependents of army personnel. Wilcox described one sidelight of the Korean homes, as "something out of a Ripley's 'Believe It or Not.'"

Korean Stairways
"The reason," wrote Wilcox, "that most of the Korean homes walls of brick painted in different colors."

Explains Wilcox, "All upper class homes have a series of build-are only one story is that down through the 4,000 years of Kor-

'kans' with bath, sleeping porch and kitchen added.

The home owned by the poor class can be described as a shanty, according to Wilcox. It is small, low and often crowded with "squatting relatives which accumulate." Thatched rice straw covers the roof. There is little or no light and poor ventilation. Usually there is one window and doorway.

"The family dog and chickens all sleep in the same room," explained Wilcox. "The majority of people in Korea . . . are in this condition. Yet they seem to be happy."

Construction Described
With few exceptions, all Korean homes are made of wood, preferably bamboo, points out Wilcox. "Only the foundations are made of granite or hard rock, or in rich upper classes, cement."

The partition walls are filled in with a mixture called "wattle," which is no more than matted twigs. Clay and limestone, of which there is quite a quantity in Korea, is also used.

On the whole, the houses are very inflammable and during the summer months when the wood is dry, whole sections of the city sometimes went up in smoke.

"Despite the fact that nearly all Korean buildings are composed of wood," explains Wilcox, "the great works of Korean architecture in palaces, gateways, pavilions and Buddhist temples have withstood fire and decay for over 600 years."

'Central' Heating Effective
A central heating unit as old as ancient Korea and more effective than some of America's "scientific" heating plants "is called the 'ondol,'" reports Wilcox.

This type of unit is installed in almost every home and upper class dwelling. It has received universal use due to its inexpensive operation.

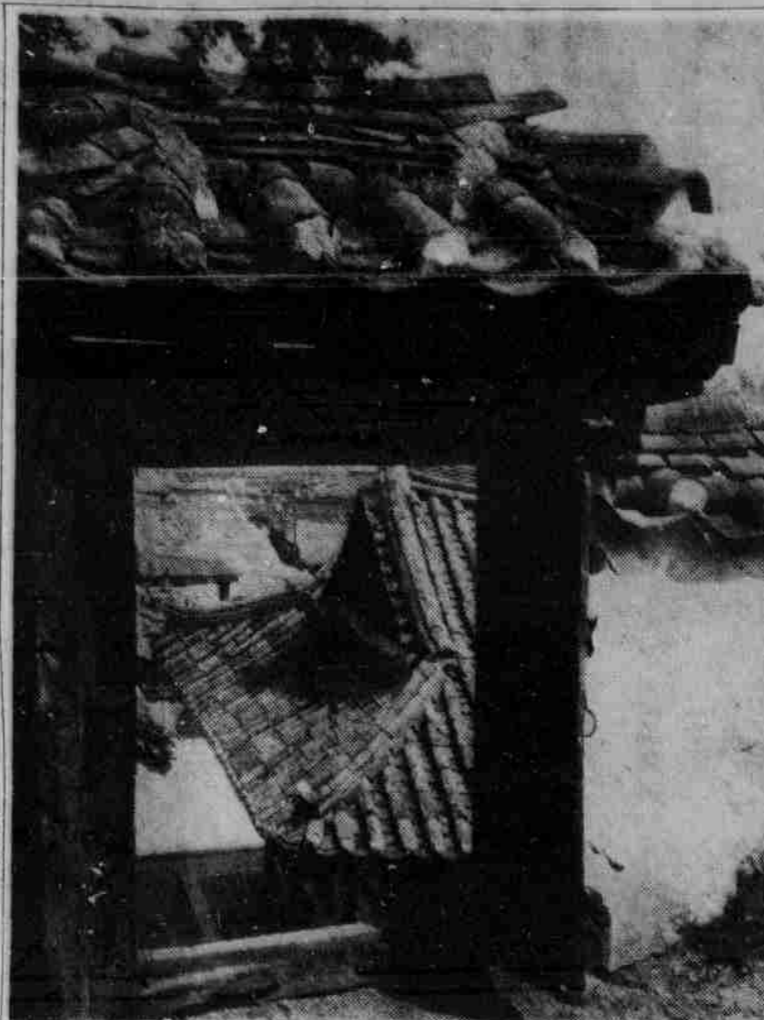
"The floor of the home," states Wilcox, "except in the poorer class homes is made of flagstones plastered over with clay and covered by some gelatin like substance that looks something like oil cloth."

"Underneath the floor, runs a series of flues in connection with one another that when viewed from the bottom looks like the sewers of Paris, running everywhere."

Charcoal Stove "Double Duty"
A fire is made in one room, which according to American standards might be called the kitchen. It is in that room that all the cooking takes place over a little charcoal burner stove.

The hot, smoke-laden air passes off this fire into the flues. "No Shoes in the House" Asks Wilcox, "When a person enters an Oriental house, the first thing he does is to bow low from the waist (as a matter of respect) and take off his shoes."

In stocking feet, the floor must be kept warm and so down Wilcox calls attention to the



KOREAN ARCHITECTURE—This picture is part of the collection "snapped" by Wilcox while he was in Korea, during the days of American occupation south of the famous 38th Parallel. The heavy roof structure is displayed prominently. Tiles are used to cover this home—a typical middle-class house.



KOREAN LAUNDRY—Illustrated above is a common scene in any town of Korea. Here is where the women get a chance to exchange the latest gossip as they wash the week's collection of laundry at a common open-air trough. This is but one of the many primitive customs in existence throughout the ancient country.

reason for such a heating system. No Shoes in the House Asks Wilcox, "When a person enters an Oriental house, the first thing he does is to bow low from the waist (as a matter of respect) and take off his shoes." In stocking feet, the floor must be kept warm and so down Wilcox calls attention to the

Jr Ak-Sar-Ben Winners Receive New Trophies

By Rex Messersmith

Attention all you University students—wouldn't you like to win a sparkling gold or bronze trophy? That is what is offered for the winner in each class at the 1951 Jr. Ak-Sar-Ben.

These new trophies will be the permanent possession of the winner with their name inscribed on them. Donors of the trophies are sheep, agriculture division of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce;

swine, Nebraska Farmer; beef, Gooch Mills; dairy Skyline Farms; and women's riding contest, National Bank of Commerce.

It was decided at the Block and Bridle club meeting last week to postpone the deadline until next Saturday for those who still wanted to sign up in either the swine, beef or sheep divisions. It was also decided that the jumping horse portion of the show would be made into a contest with ribbons being given for prizes, as it is now tentatively set up.

Larger Seating Capacity.

Since this year's show will be held in the State Fair grounds Coliseum, it will allow for a much larger seating capacity than did the 4-H Arena where it has been held in recent years. In view of this fact, Block and Bridle members set the ticket prices at only 90 cents for adults, 65 cents for students and 35 cents for children under 12 years old.

As a one feature of this year's agenda the Annual Jr. Ak-Sar-Ben dance will be substituted by a big barbecue and a free square dance following it. The date set for this event is March 16, or the night before the big show. Tentative plans are to serve barbecued beef as the meat item with an otherwise regular menu. Barbecue ticket prices will be announced later.

Trickriders Featured.

As one of the main features of the big show, Jimmy and Rita Murphy, trickriders from Wisner, will be on hand to show off their many and varied talents.

Their featured horse, "Frosty," is white with a white mane and tail. These trick riders have such sets as Roman riding, where one person rides two or three horses while they jump obstacles, run in a figure eight and others. Another act that may be featured is an "under-the-belly" trick where Jimmy goes under the belly of his horse while galloping at break-neck speed.

This pair also does rope-spinning and other acts such as hanging head-down from a running horse and making their horse balance itself on a small pedestal.

Due to the fact that this act is booked almost solid this year throughout Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, the Block and Bridle club considers fortunate that this duo may appear at the Jr. Ak-Sar-Ben show.

The Murphys have taken out a contract with Jimmy Lynch and his Death Dodgers which will put them on the road about May 1. In this, the horse act will be presented right along with the regular Jimmy Lynch show.

Jimmy Lynch's death dodgers show is well-known throughout the middle west for its high thrill and adventure. Featuring the Murphys and their trick horse "Frosty" is something new for the death dodgers.

Samuel Begins Lecture Series

"Is Faith in God a Delusion?" is the topic of Leith Samuel's lecture tonight at 7:30 p. m. in the Union Ballroom.

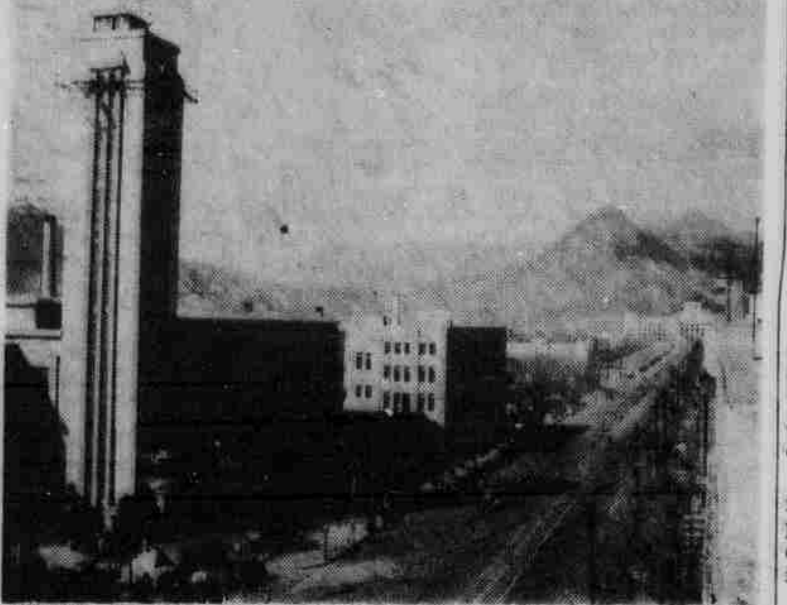
This is the first in a week-long series of lectures sponsored by the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Samuel will be featured in the program. Tuesday he will talk on "Insecurity—The Vicious Circle." His topic for Wednesday is "Truth on the Scaffold" and Friday he will conclude his series with "The Fifth Freedom." The latter meeting will be held in the Campus chapel, 15th and U streets.

Samuel has conducted lecture series since 1938 in universities in Great Britain, in western Canada, at McGill, Toronto, and Northwestern universities. He was graduated from Liverpool university with a master's degree. He entered Queens college where he studied for the Anglican ministry graduating with a L.Th. He passed his ordination exams but was not ordained.

Each lecture will be followed by a question period in which Samuel will discuss the controversial questions and theological problems that interest students. Coffee and cokes will be served following the sessions.

With Samuel will be other IVCF staff members from United States and Canada. Paul Little from the Illinois area, Cathie Nicol from Canada, Gene Thomas from Kansas, John Herrmannson from Minnesota and Ann Mary Williams of South Dakota. These people will act as leaders in discussion groups and will also be dinner guests of fraternity and sorority houses throughout the week. Both Samuel and the staff members will be available for personal conference during the day.

The Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship is an interdenominational organization originated in England and spread from there to Canada, the United States and the Orient. The Nebraska chapter is one of 500 in the United States. It is headed by Bryan Johnson who planned this lecture series. All students are invited to its meetings and to take part in IVCF activities.



SEOUL IN 1947—Shown above is a part of the business district in the ancient capital of Korea. This is what soldiers, stationed in the capital, called "Pennsylvania Avenue" since the building at the end of the street below the mountain is a capitol building. It resembled the White House somewhat. The building with tall tower at left belonged to the Fourteenth Corps and was called the Theater and Special Services building. According to soldier Wilcox, latest newsreels show this building demolished and gutted by fire.

confused and conquered many times in its history."

Thus did Wilcox begin his first paper on Korea.

"Throughout the years, Korea's native characteristics in architectural style have been preserved, despite the domination by two countries, China and Japan, who thought differently terms of architectural patterns. Not even demands by Japanese conquerors could change these patterns."

Copies Chinese Architecture

Continues the "memoirs," "For seven centuries, until the Japanese drove the Chinese out in 1895, Korea was a protectorate of China, dependent upon that nation for help in time of war and constantly admiring and even duplicating some of China's more advanced civilization.

"Each year, caravans threaded their way along the towering mountain passes of northern Korea, bringing new knowledge of China's culture into the 'Hermit Kingdom' as Korea was known in ancient days."

These caravans, points out the article, helped Koreans to adopt many of the Chinese practices regarding architecture and housing just they made Chinese Buddhism the number one religion.

'House Divided'

The Indian caste system is recalled when the different types of Korean homes are analyzed, for the houses made provisions for the different classes.

"For some unknown reason, the brick wall of the Korean home is the pride and joy of the Korean owner. No wall is complete without a big double gateway, outer and inner.

"The wall may be individual in design set with different colored and symmetrical stones, with the family symbol.

Upper Class Homes

Wrote Wilcox, "The Korean upper class home may have tiled roofs and are surrounded by great gates that are quarters for ser-

ean history, there has never been a stairway built by Korean carpenters that wasn't too steep or difficult to climb for the average Korean!"

It was not until the Japanese invaded Korea in 1910 that a successful stairway was built for a two story house.

It would be hard to mistake a Korean home, because almost every part of the house is decorated with the lotus flower, the national flower of Korea.

"A domino game with 'kans' sprawling." This is the description Wilcox gives to many of the homes which are enlarged so many times.

Rooms Added Anytime

Whenever relatives move in, or there is a birth in the family, the Koreans simply attach another kan, or eight foot square room. There seems to be no system to the addition, because the kans run out in all directions.

Said Wilcox in his papers, "Every nation has a contribution to make in architecture and Korea's is a distinctive as America's "skyscrapers."

swer was, "I'm with you but I'm not happy about it. Oh sure, I To The Student Body:

Straight roof lines, slightly sprung at the ends, perfect symmetry and harmony of edifices are the classical patterns that belong to Korea.

Homes All Same Plan

Basically, all Korean houses are built on the same plan. The only difference lies in size and decorations. When a prospective home owner decides to buy a house, he must first consider the size and number of 'kans.' The average home contains three

Alumni Name Walter White As President

Walter W. White, publisher of the Lincoln Star, was elected president of the University Alumni association Thursday night at the 82nd annual Alumni banquet in the Union.

White will succeed C. W. D. Kinsey who was elected to a two year term on the executive board. The new vice-president is Mrs. John Bentley; and Mrs. Sig North, secretary and Winfield Elman, treasurer.

Former Nebraska Gov. Dwight P. Griswold, spoke to the group on U. S. foreign policy. He said that the United States is hampered by its inability to see the world forest because of the local trees.

The former administrator of aid to Greece criticized the nation's foreign relations and called for a long range policy. Chancellor R. G. Gustavson was also a special guest at the dinner. Representing the University, Gustavson commended the Alumni association for its contributions made to the University foundation.

Marvin Franklin of the University coaching staff praised Coach Bill Glassford for the recent successful football season for which Glassford instilled a spirit of inspiration and faith.

The Kappa Sig quartet, composed of Jack Davis, Bob Gardner, Jack Gardner and Charlie Deuser sang.

An interesting note of the banquet was the presence of three generations of University alumni, L. M. Troup, '08, and his two daughters, Mrs. Elmer Hanson '16, and Mrs. L. H. Redelfs, '20, and Mrs. Hanson's daughter, Mrs. Norman Jones, '42.

Rev. Vin White Speaks Today On Marriage

Rev. V. Vin White will speak on religion in marriage for the marriage relation series sponsored by the YM, YW and Union. His lecture will be today from 3 to 5:30 p. m., in the Union faculty lounge.

Rev. C. Vin White is pastor of the first Presbyterian church.

That religion plays a definite part during marriage and a true and meaningful love will never develop unless there is religion in marriage is the contention of Rev. White.

Topic for the third lecture will be sexual adjustment in marriage with Dr. Janet Palmer as speaker. Dr. Palmer is University lecturer in medical information for social work and acting director of the division of mental health at the state department of health. The lecture will be given Feb. 19.

Final lecture in the series will be marriage in wartime with Kenneth Cannon, assistant professor of family relations at Ag, as speaker. Cannon teaches family life classes. He will lead a panel of six students.

There was a large attendance at the first lecture, choosing as a topic, by Dr. William Hall, professor of educational psychology at the University.

The marriage relations series is under the direction of the Union convocations committee headed by Jack Greer and Joe LaShelle.

AS IT MIGHT BE SEEN IN LIFE

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OPEN A PACK of Chesterfields. Compare them with the brand you've been smoking.

SMELL 'EM

SMELL CHESTERFIELD'S milder aroma. Prove—tobaccos that smell milder, smoke milder.

SMOKE 'EM

SMOKE CHESTERFIELDS—they do smoke milder, and they leave NO UNPLEASANT AFTER-TASTE.

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PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN ON CAMPUS