



KATHY GOERTZEN, who recently spent three months in India.

Trip to India Recalled

India seems so far away; remote and untouchable, with a vast population of people that we know so little about. Few Americans will ever see this country, or meet its people, but Kathy Goertzen has. Kathy is now a junior at Ramona, and not long ago, she had the opportunity to travel to India, making stops at nine other countries along the way. Some of the cities she visited were Beirut in Lebanon, Cairo in Egypt, Rome in Italy, Paris in France, and for the first time she got to see her own capital in Washington.

For Kathy, India became a home to her while her father was employed as a soil scientist for the government. She and her family spent three months living there in the city of Poona, one hundred miles east of Bombay. Kathy describes the living in India to be quite uncomfortable compared to the easy American life.

People are starving in India because there is a food shortage. Three fourths of the crops harvested from the crude farming conditions are destroyed before

they get to market. The people have to eat buffalo meat because the sacred cows cannot be killed.

The homes are also different. Kathy lived in an advance house with a sink, shower, and a toilet. Very few Indian houses enjoy such convenience. The house was styled by the British, and it had a terrace, and fans on the ceiling. There were no screens on the windows, so lizards and scorpions were common houseguests. Fortunately there were no snakes.

When asked about the people, Kathy said they admired Americans and often stared at them. She also said that they are under the impression that all Americans are very rich. They speak the native language of Hindi, and if they know English, it is with a thick British-Indian accent.

Kathy still recalls experiences and memories she had from her visit to this far away country. She saw the land and met its people, and in her own words she describes her feeling for it by saying, "I still have dirt on my feet from India, and I wish it never washes off."