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Farrars visiting between Peace Corps assignments

Having met while in Peace Corps training and being married by a Hindu priest in India, Henry and Phyllis Farrar have spent their married life in the Peace Corps.

They were in West Bengal, India, for five months, are now in Roosevelt visiting his parents, the Ralph Farrars and will leave July 6 for more Peace Corps training in Bisbee, Ariz.

Following three months of training in Arizona, they will go to Libya, North Africa, to serve as teachers.

The couple met in California, decided to marry and were, by a Hindu priest in a ceremony which was as authentic as two Americans could make it.

"Marriages are always arranged," Phyllis said, "and the bride and groom are not supposed to have ever seen each other." I wasn't allowed to look at Henry during the ceremony, according to tradition". She wore an Indian wedding dress for the ceremony. She wore a sari recently to speak before a group of Roosevelt residents.

She wore a blue and black printed sari at the meeting, with a black underblouse, which she explained is only worn in the Indian cities.

The sari is six yards of material and she also had the soles of her feet outlined in red paint, which Indian women do on special occasions.

While in Libya, the couple will teach English to fifth and sixth graders.

The point of choosing Arizona for the training site, Henry explained, is so Peace Corps volunteers can get practical experience teaching English, using only English, to Mexican students in elementary schools in Mexico, only a few miles from Bisbee.

"We, at the same time, will be learning Arabic, using only Arabic in the classroom," Henry said.

of a change in the country's government, the incoming government, which came into power the day before they arrived in West Bengal, asking all Peace Corps volunteers and all missionaries to leave.

"We were to work with the government and government officers, and if they could not or would not work

with us, the Peace Corps program would not be effective," Henry said.

He explained there were 22 volunteers in the program in West Bengal and only four are still there. Those four are in very isolated villages where there is no political activity, and are thus relatively free to continue working, Henry explained.



Henry and Phyllis Farrar stand with several of the items they brought home from their Peace Corps stay in West Bengal, India.

Henry is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, with a degree in secondary social studies education, and Phyllis received her degree from the University of California at Berkley, in economic development. Her family lives in San Francisco.

While in India for the five months, Henry worked with farmers on improving agriculture products and Phyllis worked with women in nutrition and family planning.

"A typical plot or farm in West Bengal is one-half acre," Henry said, "making mechanized farming too difficult."

The couple left West Bengal after five months because