

TEACHES IN INDIA

Jesuit Returns To States For First Time In 33 Years

By JAN MITCHELL
(Times Herald Reporter)

The 60-year-old priest with sparkling eyes, sat by the fireplace as he talked about the land he has known and loved for 33 years.

Rev. John H. Lane S.J., left native Chicago for India in 1932 . . . the first year that Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States.

This six-month trip to the States is the first since then.

Thursday he visited Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Moore Sr., 4335 North River Road. He met them on their recent round-the-world tour.

"When I go back in November or December, I'll live out the rest of my life there. . . I'll work there until I die," Father Lane smiled.

Priests of the Jesuit Order may volunteer for a life in the missionary fields and, until re-

cently, could not return home to visit.

"Because I'm older and they didn't know how much longer I might be around, they let me have one of the first trips," Father Lane said with a laugh.

He was reunited recently in Chicago with his three brothers whom he hadn't seen in the 33 years. He is the "baby" of the family.

Though Father Lane enjoyed talking of his family and the change of America, 1932 vintage to America, 1965 vintage. . . the topic always seemed to return to India where he is a teacher at an Old Delhi school for boys.

"It's hard to make people understand the poverty in India because there is no comparison here. If the Indian people saw the things that you throw away, they would go crazy," the priest said.

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ABOUT two-thirds of the people in India go to bed undernourished. If they have one meal a day, they're lucky, he added.

"That is why the war between India and Pakistan is so sad and unfortunate. The people suffer enough because of poverty without the war," Father Lane said.

However, it is a "popular"

way among the man-on-the-street. After Pakistan troops invaded the Rann of Kutch (on the Indian-Pakistan border), there was little doubt it would provoke fighting, he added.

"I just don't know what the goal or aim of the war is or when it will end," Father Lane states.

He said he had no worries about going back to India or not being able to get into the country.

Father Lane discussed the population problem in India and government attempts to curtail it.

"I'm sure the Indian women have known about birth control methods long before commercial contraceptives were thought about. The Indian woman just won't accept these changes," Father Lane said.

The Indian women stabilize the home through their children. If they have no children or are limited, they lose face and are "put on the shelf" as useless, he explained.

Each family must have a son. If a brother has more than one son and his brother has none, the first brother gives a son to the second brother.

It's the law of the land and hard to change, he said.

Similarly, when Father Lane first arrived in India, all women wore veils across their faces and did not go out into or participate in the community at all.

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TODAY, more and more of the women are becoming educa-

tank.

ted and many are moving into public life and sports.

"In India, It is becoming the thing that you must have your children in missionary schools. . . especially for the girls and definitely for the boys," he explained.

A child can be sent to school for \$7 a month.

"After all, good servants wages are only \$15 a month. It takes a third of a day's wages to buy a bar of soap in India," Father Lane said.

The Jesuit schools in India, of which there are 50, have a great demand put on them. Six of the schools are run by American priests. Four of the six, including St. Xavier's where Father Lane teaches, are conducted in English and two are conducted in Hindu.

Of the 2,000 boys at St. Xavier's, only 100 are Catholics.

"We aren't looking for converts. We just want to teach and help the Indian people," Father Lane emphasized.

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