

with Annette, Ruth Vanderzee and Lee Johnson
12-4-44 Spent the day on the river trail DEHING, AFO 689. Recorded

the following pictures at the home of Jolish Claud Banti, a Hindu gentleman of exceptional kindness. Approximately three miles up river from LEDO, along the DEHING river, west bank. *Following photos from above locality*

1-12-4-44 Wife of Banti. Location as above. With no visible objections from Hindu Banti took the pleasure of photographing the lady of the house. The women in this area possess an appearance and attitude that does not conform with the general belief of just how Indian women are expected to act. If only one could believe those things he reads or hears by those who are supposed to know would find his mind at ease, but when you run into so many contradictions which are not as explained, your mind turns to frustration. I have become to know some of these families quite well and I do not find that extreme reserve or the chastity of women that is alleged to exist. I speak of these people as found in their native home and not of those reactions when a primitive people is forced to expose themselves to cities and civilization. These women remind me of Jack when a superior dog turns him tail to the front porch, where, within the protection of his own home turns around and challenges with confidence in his bark and growls. We would certainly not be justified in adjudging Jack's normal actions from his abnormal retrogressive movements only. It is true that these women fear an intruder outside their territory but when within their home and when under more intimate moments of acquaintance there is established the picture of a complete reversal. The man becomes the inferior with the dominance in initiative and intelligence being taken over by the women. They are most excellent hostesses and good company. Why these women act so fearful of man outside their home is still a mystery to me, but with further experience with these people will probably find an answer. Temporarily I will go on the basis that their fears are natural and wholesome ones which have been