Glamour fades when the writing begins

By CORINNE ABATT
Lots of people think about throwing on a rucksack and traveling the world like a gypsy, Most simply fream. Pew make it a reality.
Bill Dation of Birmingham is one of the few. In seven years of gypsy-style travel, he covered a good part of southeast Asia, Africa and the Middle East. And in the process, he developed a successful career as travel writer and publisher.

and publisher. Now, back in Birmingham, at least for a while, Dalton is still writing and publishing.

The latest edition of his "Indonesia Handbook," is due to be distributed rationally within a month or two. The time is vague because the book is printed in Hong Kong, and thousands are sitting in a carton in the port of New York.

New York.

The handbook started as a four-page Mimeographed piece which Dalton put together and sold in Australia for 50 cents when he needed money—a content when the needed money is not the needed money and the needed money and the needed money are needed money—a content when the needed money are needed money—a content when the needed money are needed money—a content when the needed money are needed money and the needed money are needed money are needed money are needed money are needed money and the needed money are needed money are needed money and the needed money are needed money are needed money and the needed money are needed money are needed money and the needed money are needed money and needed money are needed money and needed money are needed money stant problem for this type traveler.

Dalton had his first, and only, novel rejected when he was a student at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. The disappointment, plus a \$1,000 inheritance from his grand-mother, was enough to make him buy a rucksack and start moving.

He said that in 1972, "I took off and never looked back once." The inheritance lasted its months, and he tan out of money in Bangkok. From there he latich liked to Cambodia where he taught English for seven months to what he describes as "junior echolon executives of companies."

For a while, the finance minister of the country was in the class, which was essentially oral English.

"I hove the country." Cambodia is seven most of the country was in the class, which was essentially real English.

"I hove the country." Cambodia is "The was west still on, most of those men are probably dead now, the windows would rattle in the night from the B-32s and the plaster would fall from the ceilings while we had class.

The classes were in Phnom Penh where Dalton said a teacher has the status of a monk—highly respected and revered

"There were five American ex-patriots teaching there at the time. They would take us with them on their lei-sure trips, and I saved \$1,300 in seven months.
"But the bombs drove me out—the city was under seige at the time, and I got scared."

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The major cities of Laos and Thai-land, Dalton said, were controled by the Kuner Rouge, so he left for Java and Bail.

There are lust, green jungies that are breathtakingly beautiful.

"Life was so unique that I stayed for five months in a little fishing village." With luck and a winning smile, he was able to get a visa for Australia. He ran out of money again in Townsville, Australia, and went to work in a botanical gardens.

ville Australia, and went to work in a botanical gardens. It was then that he realized that how many people were asking him questions about Indonesia and encouraging him to write down what he knew mine orgraphed copies of "A Traveler's Notes" and sold them all at a Woodstock type music festival at Nimon. Stock type music festival at Nimon. Which was the stock type music festival at Nimon. Which was the stock type music festival at Nimon. Which was the stock type music festival at Nimon. Which was the stock type music festival at Nimon.

still retains that name.

He was working on a book on the
Australian counter-culture, hippies,
communes, womens' lib and gay lib,
when he was asked to leave.

"They have everything down there
that we have here; in microcosim. I
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LIKE SO MANY before him, Dalton sensed the great potential of the country.

"For a young man with a lot of energy, everything's ahead there, Native publishing is in its infant stages. The same is true of air-conditioning and steel garages, for instance.

"A young person willing to work very hard for three years could become a wealthy man."

After Australia, it was on to Singapore, New Guinea, Celebes, Borneo and the Mollucas the Spice Islands). Although he was in many off-beat corners of the globe, Dalton was never without fellow Americans.

"Americans are so affevent they

Java sea. There must be 100,000 hard-core American travelers toving around the earth's surface."
Most, he said, range in age from 21-27, and the majority are single men. He explained the age group.
"You usually have one chance in a

lifetime to travel when you are emo-tionally free and able to go. A single-woman is a rarity—occasionally two women will be traveling together." Travelers, Dalton said, talk among themselves and exchange tidbits of info



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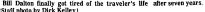
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