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Women On The Go! Travelers Land In Livonia

"You say the Army's sending you to Europe, Calvin," Phyllis Blum's mother said to her brand new son-in-law after a wedding on television a score of years ago.

"Well, you be sure to write to Phyllis every day." The implication was there that after the Army stint was out of the way the young couple would settle down properly in Brooklyn.

"It never occurred to my mother I'd want to go along to Europe," said Phyllis, now a Livonia resident, "and it never occurred to me to do anything else."

The wedding of Phyllis and Calvin Blum on the Bride and Groom television show was the culmination of a series of quiz show appearances the couple had made, and the Army assignment to serve in Germany was the start of a travel fever that has taken them and their children all over the world.

Now, with Army days behind them, they are beginning a new business venture to help others discover, as they have, the enjoyment of exploring new places.

Their Fantastic Travel Service is just getting under way, and Phyllis Blum is ready to pass on an abundance of travel ideas they started picking up on week-

end jaunts from their base.

"We went all over Europe," she remembers, "sometimes with a couple of rolls and cheese and a dollar in our pockets."

Eleven countries, one tour of duty and one son later, the couple decided they didn't want to give up their exciting life, so Calvin signed up for another tour. This time the assignment was to the Far East.

Stationed in Japan, the Blums managed a lot of travel-to-such-exotic-spots-as-India and Hong Kong.

They also fell in love with the country and its people, enjoyed teaching English to Japanese children and had another son.

"And I found myself helping a lot of other Army couples see the Far East," Phyllis said. "I became sort of an informal travel counselor."

By this time Calvin Blum had settled on an Army career, so there were assignments in Mississippi and in Newburg, N.Y. The couple's third son arrived while they were in the south.

Then came a stint on Okinawa. From there, Phyllis said, "we went back to Hong Kong and visited Vietnam and flew half way around the world to Spain."

Soon after Okinawa, the Blums reached the time for retirement from the Army and that meant a civilian job and a new life style.

They picked Livonia as home after Calvin was hired as a writer by Sycor in Ann Arbor and, Phyllis said, "It took us about five minutes to adjust to civilian life."

Phyllis has taught gourmet cooking in adult education classes at Stevenson High School and she and her husband both were active in arrangements for their new city's Spruce '73. Calvin worked on games and recreation and Phyllis headed a flea market.

Their small daughter, Adina, was born while they were on their final Army assignment in North Carolina, and two years ago the family, packed up, baby, bottles and all, and made a return trip to Europe.

"But now we're quite excited about our service for travelers," Phyllis said.

observing life



PHYLLIS BLUM and her daughter, Adina, enjoy the comfortable chair the family bought in Hong Kong. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe).

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