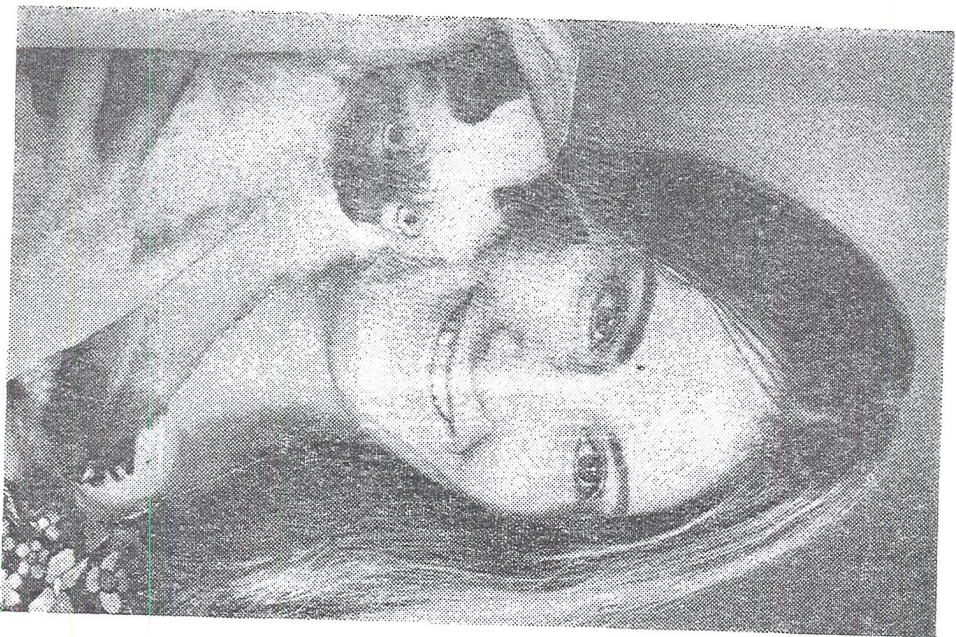


A New Kitten, A New Life for Mary Ann



By Will Ellsworth-Jones

Two months ago Mary Ann Harbert was world news. Now she is history — a 26-year-old girl trying to pick up the threads of her life after almost four years of captivity in China.

And yesterday she was given something to make that difficult task a little easier — a four month old Rag Doll cat to keep her company in her new apartment in Santa Clara.

1968 Capture

The kitten, white with black ear tips, will be fed with Clinicare dietary animal food at 42 cents a can and Purina dry cat chow. A very different diet from what Mary Ann could feed her cats in China — scraps from her own plate and all

the snakes and rats it could catch, and there were many.

Mary Ann had to leave her cat in China when she was finally allowed to go home last December. She had been captured in 1968 while sailing with a friend of the China coast. Her friend committed suicide while still in captivity.

Mary Ann had been a cat lover since childhood and it was obvious yesterday, as she greeted her new-found friend, how much her cat in China must have meant to her. The cat was delivered to her at San Francisco International airport by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dayton of Thousand Oaks who breed Rag Dolls and heard of her love for cats.

Lives Alone

Mary Ann will have time to think of a new name for

her cat as she tries to write a book on her experiences.

Mary Ann prefers to live alone with her cat not because she had grown so used to life alone in China but because "I'm always the type who lived by myself."

In fact in the two months she has been back one of her greatest joys has been "to go out, being with people again and talking to them," even though most of her old friends are "spread around."

She is learning to handle again the mechanics of the American way of life. She puts the soap in the dishwasher then "shut my eyes and run away." Next she says, she will tackle the vacuum sweeper.

The America she has come back to she finds has changed only gradually from the America she knew.

Bob Dylan, she was sad to find, has gone into semi-retirement. Long hair has grown a little longer.

Speaking Up

She says she sees less censorship here now — "more people are speaking up on any subject" and the country is "moving towards solutions to problems that before were never even spoken about."

What of the future after her book? She is a graduate in psychiatry, specializing in criminology, from the University of Utah. She had planned to go into social work.

But Mary Ann has had more than her share of tragedy. "I don't want to work in a prison right now," she says, "I want to make my life somewhere else."

A LIVE GIFT TO EASE A COMEBACK
Mary Ann Harbert and her new Rag Doll Kitten