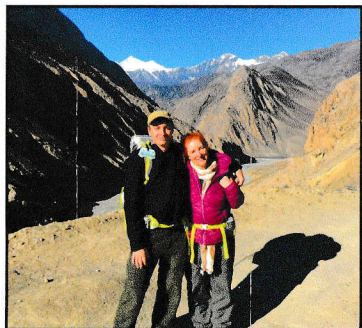




# The Newlywed C H R O N I C L E S

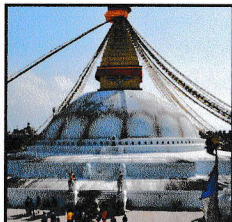
## Nepal Was Never On the Bucket List

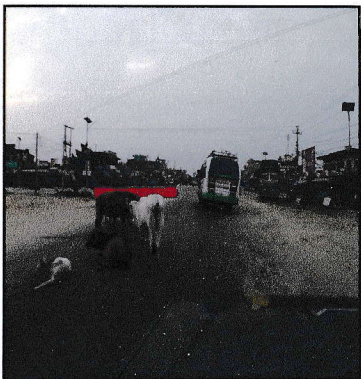


Life is funny. In 2017, Deb's work crew had big plans. They would travel with friend and coworker, Pramod, who was returning home to Nepal for his 50th birthday. One by one everyone dropped out even Pramod. He went to Texas but somehow Debbie and Mark and Mark's cousin, Keith, still ended up in Nepal.

## The Journey Begins in the Capital of Kathmandu

Everything about Kathmandu is exotic - cremations on the banks of the Bagmati River, giant prayer wheels at Buddhist monasteries, offerings of marigolds and live goats at the temples of the Hindu gods in Durbar Square. Mark realizes quickly that there will be no shortage of stories to tell the guys back at work. Assuming he makes it back in one piece ...





Mark wonders if every Nepali driving test comes with a cow in the road.

## **Dal Bhat - It's What's Cookin' ... for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner**

At home Mark is a very picky eater. But in Nepal, he is a champ. He eats everything served to him including *dal bhat tarkari* (rice, lentils, and curried veggies), *buf momos* (water buffalo dumplings), and buckwheat paste. Deb is happy to see he is growing his palate until he leans over and whispers, "Don't even think of feeding me this at home."

## **Driving: A Health Hazard**

When she sold the trip to Mark, there were a few things Deb forgot to mention like the insane driving. In Nepal, you won't find things to slow you down like stop signs or speed limits just the random goat or dog in the road. Deb also says nothing about the buses that frequently fall off the steep winding Prithvi Highway and disappear into the Trishuli River below. Her itinerary has four trips on this highway ...



## Whitewater Rafting

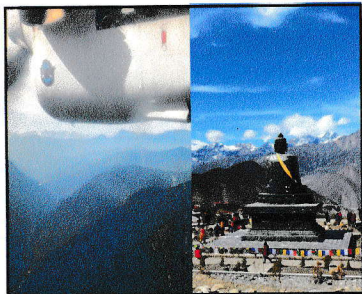
On the way to the resort town of Pokhara, the three adventurers take on the Class 3 rapids of the Trishuli River. Their guide, Captain Jack, encourages them. *Keep paddling! Use your power!!* Deb, drenched by a wave and unable to see, keeps paddling.



## Nothing Like a Walk Through the Jungle ...

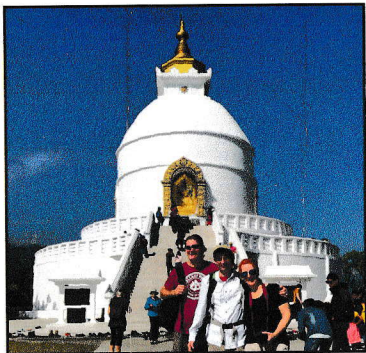
Who plans a walking safari through a jungle inhabited by elephants, rhinos, tigers, and cobras? Deb does. But even she is a little concerned when the only protection their guide has is a stick ... and not even a pointy one. His plan if a tiger comes running towards them? "We will throw the backpack down and hope it distracts him." Mark is not convinced that this is a quality plan. Luckily, the tiger they see is some distance away. The tiger they hear snoring is only yards away but apparently not in the mood for "Tourist with a side of Guide." They live another day ...





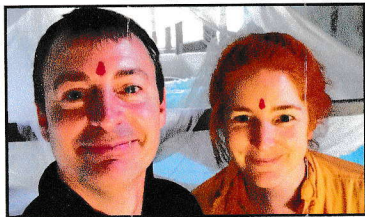
## Hiking the Annapurna Range

Jomson Airport, high in the Himalayas and with a runway of only 500 meters, is one of the world's most dangerous. But the travelers risk it all to trek in the Annapurna Range. Staying with a Lubra Bon family, they help with the chores. Mark is a little worried. Deb is getting really good at beating things with a stick.



## World Peace Pagoda

Deb uses up all of her prayers at stupas, wishing wells, prayer wheels and temples - praying for a safe return. We made it!!



We wish you all great adventures and stories to share

Happy Holidays!

To Be Continued...