

# Akronites Entertain Hong Kong Hostess

by **HELEN WATERHOUSE**

Hong Kong may be 8,000 miles from Akron but it's very close to a lot of Akron residents today.

A slender 26-year-old Chinese woman is bridging the miles as she visits here for the first time with a number of Akron families who came to know her in her own city of Hong Kong.

\* \* \*

**IN FACT**, Mrs James Coe, whose stage name is Barbara Fei, has become almost official host to tourists from this area going to Hong Kong.

One tells another about the warm hospitality the Chinese songstress and her husband give to travelers who drop in at their jewelry shop and at the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce where Coe is a director.

The raven-haired singer has been the guest of eight Akron families she met and entertained in her home city during the last two years.

When Mrs. Coe leaves here she is heading for New York where she will appear on the Ed Sullivan show. Later, after visits in Chicago and Denver she will go back to her husband and 9-month-old son in Hong Kong.

The child is a namesake of Dr. M. S. Harvey, pastor of First Methodist Church, her host here.

\* \* \*

**OTHER** Akronites who met her in Hong Kong are joining in showing her the sights of the city and having her for dinners and lunches.

These include Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hollinger, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Klages, Mrs. Warren Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Smithers, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Parke Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Scott Belden.

"Everyone has been so wonderful," Mrs. Coe said. "I love this country. I hate to leave."

She likes American food. She said especially the way we eat light lunches at noon. She even likes the American dentists after a bad toothache sent her to one here.

At the Rotary Club luncheon Mrs. Coe, in a typical scarlet Chinese dress, held the men spellbound as she sang Chinese folk songs and a couple of Spanish numbers.

\* \* \*

**A CHRISTIAN**, she also sang at services at the First Methodist Church.

She spent the Summer singing at the Salzburg, Germany, Music Festival. Later she sang in Vienna and Paris.

Her husband flew to this country to meet her before going to Hawaii where he is starting a branch jewelry store.

Mrs. Coe and her husband are refugees from Red China.



**MRS. JAMES COE**  
... 'loves America'