

Italian city, cruise ship exciting for "wonderful group" on tour

With students very busy catching up on missed work, one of the chaperones on the Mediterranean cruise has written a travelogue for the Free Press, which will appear in instalments. Accompanying Mrs. Marion Patterson's story are cartoons, cleverly drawn by one of the tour leaders from Aurora, John Beddington.

By Marion Patterson

Well, we are all back home again, more or less back to normal after what our family considers to have been the most exciting experience of our lives so far, next to learning to drive the Volkswagen! Needless to say, the tears flowed freely and shamelessly at Malton as we were re-united with our families and were all pretty exhausted by that time.

The sweet nostalgia of returning to welcoming loved ones, and saying farewells to our fellow travellers who we felt very close to over a period of some three weeks, was really a great experience.

School's ambassadors
At the outset of our journey, my husband and I being only human were discreetly sizing up our charges and mentally making notes as to the ones we thought we would have to keep a close eye on. It turned out that "you can't judge a book by its cover" as our 8-year-old had told us.

The students from Acton were really a wonderful group to travel with, and conducted themselves beyond reproach, making us very proud indeed to proclaim that they were typical Canadian kids. They seemed to sense that they were ambassadors of goodwill



El Traffico in Napoli - WOW!

not only from their school but their country as well and we were very proud to be associated with them.

The adults that were along with us proved to be the heartiest travellers and were so game to go along with whatever was decided, never once complaining, when at times they indeed might have been justified in doing so.

Fan flight

The flight to Rome was fun, with lively passengers visiting one another and no sleep was really accomplished.

A four-hour bus ride to Naples and the hotel was very wearing, especially when you consider the clock was noon-time in Naples, and still the middle of the night back home. However, after a most delicious dinner and a room assignment for everyone, things began to look brighter.

Everyone was keyed up about touring their first Italian city, and the prospect of leaving the

very next morning by ship made us feel it urgent to get out into the city and have a good tour. A half-hour walk around the hotel had most of us back inside before long. It seems we were in the poorer section of Naples near the docks, and so we took refuge in our lovely marble-floored hotel till supper time.

Out again

After another scrumptious meal, we ventured out again, this time finding the station and main square of Naples to be quite attractive and modern compared with our immediate environment surrounding the hotel. Still, there were no women about, only groups of men in threes and fours, and perhaps the odd "woman of ill-repute" warning herself by a fire on the street corner. A great number of kids went off with some of the leaders for a Pizza before bed-time, which played havoc with our curfew time, but it was a circus-like experience.

The Neapolitans are not accustomed to cold weather I guess, because most of us slept in sweaters and slacks that first night, as the rats were icy. Then we learned that we would not board the ship on Saturday morning, as it was on strike! It seems the crew wanted an extra night in Genoa with their wives, etc., before embarking on this voyage. The extraordinary development called for an extraordinary solution, which Ship's School came up with very beautifully. We spent Saturday on the Isle of Capri where it was warm, sunny, very picturesque, and most of us saw Gracie Field's home, now turned into a Tourist Villa. The waters there were that exquisite shade of aqua that resembles a precious gem. The narrow, narrow winding streets that we were driven up at break-neck speeds with sheer drops on either side, left us completely breathless for quite some time, as we marvelled at the drivers getting us back to the docks alive and well. We all loved Capri and many of us saw part of the Sixth American Fleet on manoeuvres there, and talked with the lonely American soldiers who have been on duty there since last November and were looking forward in another week to going home to their wives and families. They impressed us as being so very young.

Spending spree

Capri was a holiday place away from their tour of duty at Naples and all around the Mediterranean. The souvenirs were inexpensive and original there, and we all picked up quite a number of items to start what turned out to be the biggest spending spree ever for most of us.

What fun!

Sunday we boarded our lovely ship the Ausonia, and it was not a disappointment. There were two swimming pools, but the weather was a bit rough, so after a couple of days the indoor pool was filled, and it felt like a warm bath to us. Being hearty souls who swim in fresh water in May, we found the salt water too warm and it was a heated pool as well. There was a water game called Marco Polo and this writer felt it wasn't quite Cricket.

Sea-sick souls

The service and meals aboard the Ausonia were really excellent, and now that we look back, it was good that we all were sea-sick for the first couple of nights, or they probably wouldn't have let us come back together on the plane because of the "excess weight problem."

The seven-course dinners were really too much but when you learned to say "troppo" quite vehemently, the stewards finally believed you and only gave you enough on your plate to feed two starving horses. The meal usually started off with a delicious soup, then a fish usually marinated in wine sauce, then your main course of meat, or chicken with potatoes and a green vegetable and a salad. Then came the cheese course.



First stop - Mal de Mer

and the slabs of cheese were too generous too. Then usually an ice-cream, rum flavoured or some other unknown liqueur flavoured type, or a delicious cake, resembling a french pastry with a liqueur flavoured base.

Maybe it wasn't sea-sickness that we suffered after all!

Different fruit

Then came always a fruit course at the end of each meal with lovely apples unlike anything we have here in Canada, or what the kids called "blood-oranges", which were actually called Rose Oranges as the inside was deep red and sometimes almost purple. They are very sweet and similar to the Florida Orange for their juice and the skins varied from very thick to quite thin. The pears were most succulent and all in all we must have consumed more fruit, per day than we would

perhaps eat in a month here at home.

We always had tangerines or some type of fruit to take to the cabin for snacks. Then after the meal, you would congregate up in the bar, on the next floor for your coffee or tea. It was free but was never served at the dining table, except at breakfast time, with the hard rolls and jam.

Got to know doctor

We had some very interesting discussions with the ship's doctor, during the first few days.

One such discussion first expressed in Italian, then translated into French, which helped us to understand just what really was going on, was on the topic of Needles.

Our son Jeff found it necessary to have a couple of shots, so to his eternal mortification, they never give shots in the arm over in Europe, and the French nurse

was very helpful in showing us how much more rapidly the dosage took effect in the hip.

Huge capsules

The huge sea-sick capsules we had to devour when our gravel wouldn't do the job were really something to get down without a drop of water. I thought the doctor was exaggerating when he told us to take no water at all, but when I finally swallowed the huge capsule for the third time without a drink, it stayed down. Boy, what a feeling! And next morning there were about five kids at breakfast out of some 200.

Exciting ruins

We soon forgot about that when we landed at Beirut in Lebanon and drove through magnificent mountains for two hours to Baalbeck and saw a most exciting ruins, which more than

lived up to our earlier expectations. We saw camels on the side of the road, very narrow passes through everywhere. We saw unbelievable poverty where refugees lived in the hills in horrible patched cloth tents, and were told they had everything including TV's in those tents, but were visibly shaken by the surroundings of these Tartars.

While we were touring the ruins from our vantage point, we could hear the faint music of what reminded us of Arabs below in the little town. The thrill of seeing our students proclaim what we felt, that the age of this place was so awe-inspiring as to be almost incredible.

We were all very impressed indeed.

(Continued next week)



PAUL MARTINDALE of Acton, third from the left, sitting, and T. Ramautarsingh, of Georgetown (far right) were among 300 delegates who attended last week's Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation annual assembly in Toronto. Other delegates from the area were, left to right, H. M. Rapcewicz, H. A. Childs, Mr. Martindale, D. W. McLean, R. M. Smith and Mr. Ramautarsingh. Attention of the assembly

focussed almost exclusively upon negative effects of provincial ceilings upon education spending. Delegates passed a resolution empowering their executive to use sanctions that could include rotating walk-outs to oppose the ceilings. Federation president G. P. Wilkinson said the ceilings will mean a "mindless butchery" of educational programs in the fall.

Crazy boat race on Credit Sat.

The fifth annual Crazy Boat Race sponsored by Georgetown Jaycees gets underway from the 10th Line bridge, just north of Glen Williams, this Saturday, April 10, at 12.30 p.m.

Six official classes make up the race ranging from comic, rubber rafts and boats, all types of boats, war canoes, two man canoes and professional canoes and kayaks, and if last year's race is any indication the event should be another laugh-a-thon. Thousands lined the banks of the Credit River last year to see dozens of contestants take off in everything from bath tubs to unsinkable

rafts that sank.

Finish line for the race is at Norval about three miles from the starting point. In between there are all sorts of hazards including rapids, rocks, and portages which add to the enjoyment of spectators and increase the probability of entries being dunked in the cold Credit.

Popularity of the race has seen it grow into an almost province-wide festival. It was originally scheduled for April 3 this year but chunks of ice on the river made navigation too difficult.

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NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By Mary Ann Freuler

The school halls are finally back to normal now that our own globetrotters have returned. No one could deny that these students were missed. Before school and noon hour chatter is filled with discussion of the Mediterranean lands. Some teachers have also given up classroom periods so that the travellers may tell of their trip and answer the questions of their fellow students.

Many people have shown interest in next year's Easter trip to London, England. It will last for nine days and take place during the holidays.

The summer of 1972 promises trips to Africa and Australia.

Secret prize
The Student Council candy campaign began Thursday, April 1. Students were to have chocolate bars and bridge mixture for sale. Due to trouble at the outlet, the latter will not be supplied to the students. A final drive for additional promotion will take place this week.

Students who sell the most bars will be rewarded for their time and interest. At present the prize is a secret.

Office improved
Over the mid-winter holidays, the secretaries of the office enthusiastically made over their office. Walls and cupboards were painted and the wall facing the students was covered in lively paper. The change certainly is an improvement.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ACTON
TO DISPENSE WITH
A
VOTE OF THE ELECTORS

WHEREAS The Ontario Municipal Board by order made February 2nd, 1971, approved reconstruction of Mill Street from Park Avenue to Victoria Avenue at an estimated cost of \$31,550.00 and the borrowing upon debentures of an amount not exceeding \$15,775.00.

AND WHEREAS it is now estimated that the actual cost of the said work will exceed such approved amount and that the total expenditures will be \$52,400.00, of which it will be necessary to borrow upon debentures the sum of \$19,945.00.

TAKE NOTICE THAT:—

1. The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Acton intends to apply to The Ontario Municipal Board for approval of an additional expenditure of \$20,850.00 for completion of the said work, whereof the amount of \$4,170.00 shall be raised by the sale of additional debentures payable out of the general rate over a period not exceeding 10 years.
2. Application will be made to The Ontario Municipal Board for an order to dispense with the assent of the electors to the said additional expenditure. Any ratepayer may, within twenty-one days after the first publication of this notice, send by post prepaid to the Clerk of the town of Acton, at the address given below, a notice in writing stating his objections to such approval and the grounds of such objections.
3. The Ontario Municipal Board may order pursuant to the statute that the assent of the electors shall not be required and may approve of the said additional expenditure, but before doing so it may appoint a time and place for a public hearing when any objections will be considered.

DATED at the Town of Acton this 7th day of April, 1971.

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