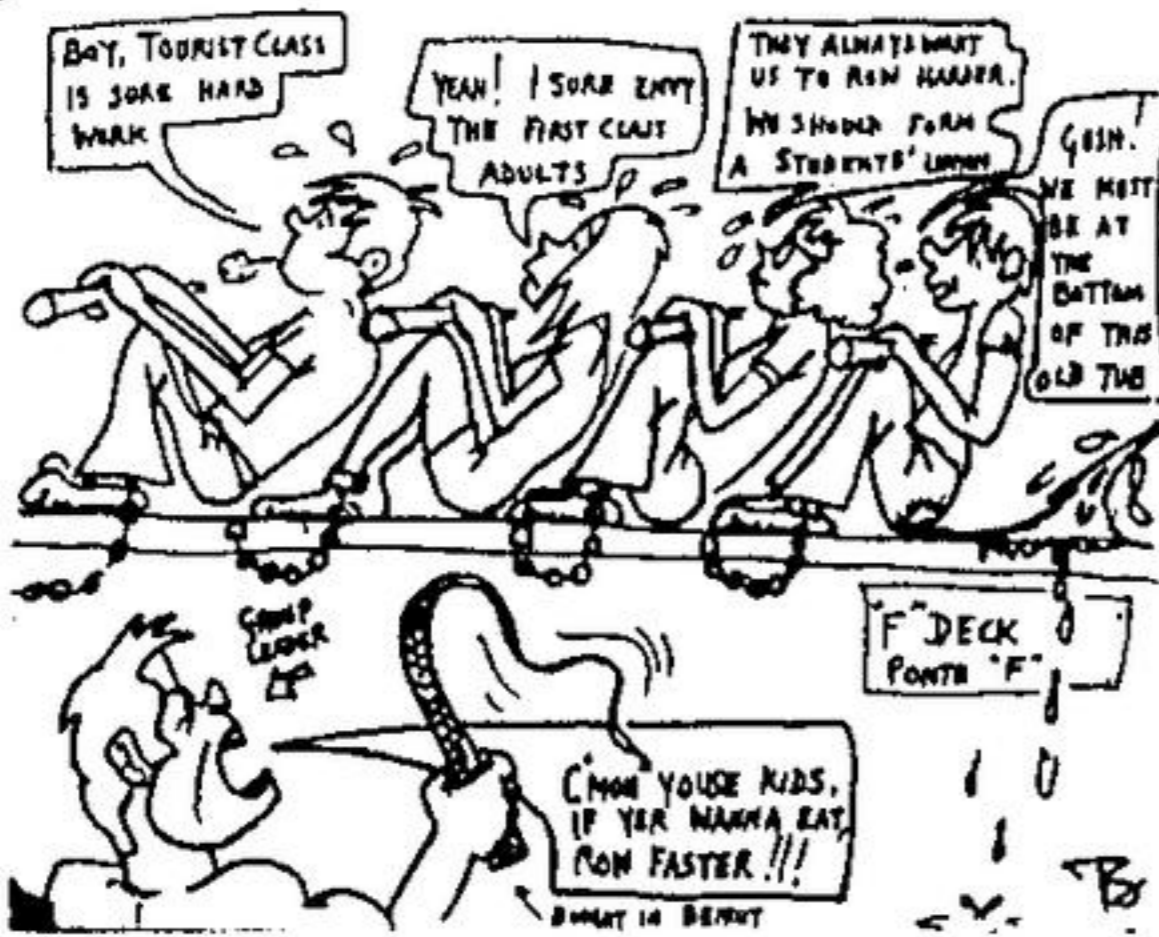


From luxury to monastery, Rome's variety ends tour

Mrs. Marion Patterson this week concludes her account of the high school trip to the Mediterranean. With her younger fellow-travellers busy catching up on missed school work, Mrs. Patterson was asked to write about their experiences. Readers have shared her pleasures and problems for the past two weeks.



Sunday after lunch, we arrived in Syracuse, Sicily and walked around trying to find the Greek Ancient Theatre till we came upon a charming 'hansom cab' driver, with a willing horse that took us sightseeing with Cathy Hinton and our little family. We went up to the top of the city and into the catacombs under the supervision of a sweet 10 year old French speaking Italian boy who pointed out the families of interest entombed there. The only real problem we had was with the age of things. We would ask him in our best high school French to "repetez-s'il vous plait". So finally after two repetitions of the years involved, he got down in the mud completely exasperated with us and drew out the years with a stick.

Saw the new city and the old city and back to the ship for an evening seminar. Then the Formal Captain's Dinner which was enjoyed by all. (I had the flu so was told how delicious it was). Seven-course meals are a real challenge to our North American stomachs.

Monday Mr. and Mrs. Katz came aboard at Naples.

Hugh went ashore to get some Italian Lire with his travellers' cheques as the students cleaned the Purser out with their money-changing. Then the purser called for Mr. Hugh Patterson on the PA to come to the Purser's Office... which usually means he hasn't come back aboard yet and they can't leave till he checks in... boy, what a panic! I thought, "He's been mugged in broad daylight and that's it!" He arrived fifteen minutes later, and it turned out that they decided to leave port 15 minutes earlier than planned, till they counted heads.

Captain's ball That evening was the Captain's Ball and everyone was presented

to the Captain this night. The students were dressed in their finest. Some had formals.

We thought this would be a late night for sure, but were relieved when everyone was exhausted and tucked into bed at 12.30 p.m., as we were.

Shop daily

Tuesday a.m. we had a tour of Marseilles by bus, and after lunch back aboard ship went in groups into town to shop and sightsee. It was great fun and a lovely place to walk around. Cheese markets, and lovely fresh vegetables and meats everywhere available for the French housewives who must shop daily as their refrigerators are not nearly as efficient or as large as ours.

This town was very particular about letting us in. Customs men took 3 hrs. checking us out before allowing us to disembark. Most red tape encountered so far.

Didn't want to leave

Wednesday a.m. arrived in Genoa... disembarked for the last time, and many of us really didn't want to leave this beautiful ship and way of life. It was sad to leave the floating home, but exciting to see where Christopher Columbus was born. Extended bus trip to Pisa where at noon we had a packed lunch and then on to Florence which is where we stayed overnight and fell in love with the city. It is a glorious city and although it was affected by the strike, we vowed to return there for sure... missed seeing the Ponte Vecchio as it was siesta time.

Arrived in Rome at supper time, and were billeted in a monastery.

What an experience that was!

There was an outer wall around the monastery with a huge wooden door that locked, then an inner door which also was locked and led directly into the courtyard. A door leading from the courtyard took you up dozens and dozens of marble steps to the "first piano"... (the floor to you Canadians), and most of our group were bedded down on the second and third pianos.

Without a word of exaggeration, all of us who thought we were physically fit soon learned differently after a



couple of trips up and down to look the situation over.

The rooms were huge and very beautifully tiled, and the bathroom facilities were very modern with showers and bathtubs, and also the rooms were pleasantly warm after our experience in Naples.

Change from ship

The one real laugh we had the first night at this place was the evening meal that was served to us after the luxury we had all become accustomed to while on board ship. The Fathers served a delicious soup, which we all enjoyed and then a plate came out that we couldn't believe. A platter with instant mushy

potatoes and wee tiny sausages was placed at each end of the long tables which seated approximately 14 people.

Well, the boys at our end of the table nearly fainted dead away. We took our ration of one sausage each and a tablespoon of mush, then hopefully looked forward to the main course.

Another wonder

Well, wonders never cease. The fathers then served us a raw apple on a plate, and that was it. We really were stunned, but had to admit it was a most amusing sight to watch the unbelieving looks of amazement on everyone's face when they finally realized the meal was over.

Students see Home Show new ideas

By Lynne Dunn and Anita Thibodeau

"Now, be out here no later than 5 p.m. because the bus is scheduled to leave the coliseum at that time, and once you're inside you're on your own". So with these words of wisdom we lined up and proceeded to discover the unknown—the National Home Show.

The classes which participated on this trip Wednesday, April 14 were the grade 11 and 12 girls Home Economics classes and the grade 12 boys' shop (Industrial Arts) class.

View sights On entering we were left to traverse the building and view the sights and sounds intended for the people to partake of.

Gardens, pools, patios, plants, kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, cottages and homes plus a multitude of demonstrations for the housewife and man of the house were open for our inspection.

The classes from the high school were given assignments to be completed using the information they received at the home show.

Show highlight The most outstanding feature of the show was the Consumer's Gas Model Home and Decor '71.

The home was outfitted with the newest ideas of modern convenience and Decor '71 had the old and new of several room settings found in our present day homes.

All accounted for, I feel it is a unanimous decision that all benefited from this trip and opened many minds with the key of new ideas.

NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

Notes from Acton High By Mary Ann Freuler

After much anxious waiting, many pictures of the Mediterranean have been returned to the students.

Those who were not able to attend last month's trip are finding pleasure in studying the photos and slides and hearing the stories behind them. For the travellers, it's a time of old reminiscences as well as hopes for maybe someday returning for an extended stay.

Winnipeg choir

The students were treated to an assembly last Friday morning. The MacIntyre Choir from Winnipeg, under the leadership of Barry Anderson, performed for an hour, filling it with a selection of songs which would satisfy anyone waiting for their favorite type of music to come up.

After their introduction by Joe Petric the choir sang two spiritual songs. "Dem Bones"

gathered the enthusiasm of the audience by their using unusual sounds to signify the different bone structures.

The choir also had a barbershop quartet, and excellent accordionist, a band with guitars and drums, and several talented soloists.

Resounding applause

Jim Frizzell, a member of the student body, thanked the group for their program and the resounding applause of the spectators showed their own gratitude.

The English department now has tickets for Macbeth, which are open to sell to the student body. Anyone wishing to make a purchase should contact Mr. Ellis.

Motherbare will be playing at the next student council dance. This dance will be held on April 30, beginning at 8:30.



ACTON DISTRICT High curling champions was a rink comprised of l. to r. Sharon Ellerby, Jane Watson and David Cunningham. Although they had only three curlers, the rink bested all opponents to cop the trophy. —(Staff Photo)

Club activities stress unique "senior power"

by Mrs. Elsie Reed

With the snow and ice mostly off the sidewalks, driving conditions improved and the sun beaming warmly down, more senior citizens attended the afternoon meeting of the Golden Age Club last Tuesday. As well as the club's activities, and working in their various church groups, the Golden Agers are represented in the Wednesday "Drop-in in the Luxton Hall, and the thriving Swap-Shop in the Y Building.

By keeping ourselves active in the community we help ourselves by helping others. In spite of progressively diminishing potentialities, it is a good feeling to be part of any worthwhile project.

Senior power

There is tremendous emphasis on Youth-to-day, their energy and new ideas etc. While Senior Citizens do not have youth now, and their energy is not as great as it once was, we can still take on new ideas, as well as holding fast to some of the best of the old ones. And we like to stimulate interest in "Senior Power" also, not only to help the Senior Citizens of today but the increasing numbers in the future.

Welcome back

Mr. Warne, president, welcomed back several who had been sick and ailing, or just unable to cope with the rough weather conditions of the long winter.

Reports were speedily dealt with, several Thank-you cards read, and an invitation to the annual tea and bazaar to be held in Halton Manor, Milton, on May 12-from 2:43 and 7-9 p.m.

The call to the 13th annual convention of United Senior Citizens' of Ontario was read. As

the convention is to be held in York University, Toronto, it means no driving through the busier part of Toronto, it was thought maybe a carload or two would go down for a day returning at night. The decision was left to a later meeting.

Splendid report

Mrs. Shoemaker gave a splendid report. Mr. Kingsmill was reported home from Hospital. Mrs. George Fryer is home from hospital but far from well, and Mr. Fryer's health not the best. Mrs. Anna Smith had lost a brother and Mr. Percy Woods had lost a sister. Several cards had been sent out.

Eight tables of euchre and three tables of crokinole were filled.

Winners

Winners, Euchre, Ladies first, Mrs. Ferguson; second Mrs. Near.

Gents first, R. L. Davidson; second, Joe Fuller.

Crokinole ladies first, Mrs. Spear; second Mrs. Mason.

Gents first, Mr. Healey; second, Mr. Warne.

Some of the Rockwood ladies provided, and served, a delicious, and ample lunch.

For Mr. and Mrs. Cam Agnew's 49th wedding anniversary they were remembered with the "Happy Anniversary" salute.

Next meeting, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. a large attendance will be hoped for. Plans will be started for the annual zone picnic in June.

STREET sweepers are still at work

S.S. play presented Request permit nursery school

Esqueing Council will meet in committee to decide on a request for a permit to run an all-day nursery school, made by Andrew Sonne, a resident of Lot 5, Con. 4, near Milton.

Mr. Sonne told council he has a license from the nursery school branch in Toronto and that the school receives inspection from the government regularly.

Grade 5 and 6 United church Sunday School pupils of Mrs. R. Laughlin and Stephanie Merrin presented a very impressive Easter play last Sunday. The young actors and actresses performed for the rest of the Sunday School on Sunday morning in the downstairs chapel. The Easter play took half an hour - a long time for youngsters to maintain dialogue.

They had prepared costumes and special settings for the play. Its presentation had to be postponed a week due to Donald Coats' accident.

Chile subject U.C.W. meeting

The regular meeting of the afternoon unit of Trinity United Church Women was held in the church parlours on Tuesday, April 13.

Mrs. Cleave and Mrs. Near took the Devotions. Mrs. Lidkea, leader of the unit, conducted the business. Mrs. Earl Lambert filled in for the secretary.

Mrs. Shoemaker gave a full report on sick and shut ins. The women made 83 calls to homes, hospitals and nursing homes during the past month.

Mrs. Shields with the help of Mrs. Buckland gave a most interesting and informative talk on Chile in South America.

The group in charge served a delicious lunch and a pleasant half hour was spent.

SEVERAL weddings coming up. Special forms are available at the Free Press and stationery store for write-ups for the paper.

Winnipeg choir sings at school

By Karen Pierce

On Friday, April 18, the Winnipeg choir of 82 students came to perform at Acton District High School.

The group, "The Madrigal singers", of which this choir is a part, has existed for nearly 35 years. At one time there were only 24 voices and now there are about 400.

The students' ages range from 16 to 21 and their conductor is Mr. Barry Anderson.

Their music ranges from religious songs to songs from the Broadway play "Hair".

Most of the students are from Daniel McIntyre High School in Winnipeg.

Variety in program During their one hour performance we listened to a

barbershop quartet sing "Sentimental Journey", an accordion player and a duet. The whole choir sang songs such as "Jean", "Shadrack", "Aquarius" from Hair, and "Let the Sunshine In".

From the rewarding applause, they were surely an excellent group of singers. Everyone seemed to enjoy it very much.

New department

Premier William Davis has announced that A.T.C. MacNab, deputy-minister of highways, will become deputy-minister of the soon-to-be-created Department of Transportation and Communications.

Mr. MacNab lived in Acton as a boy.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REQUIRED!

Part-time Program Director to help organize and supervise youth programs at Acton Y.M.C.A. is required.

The person chosen will be expected to work evenings and weekends on a 12 to 15 hour basis.

INTERESTED PERSONS ARE ASKED TO REPLY IN WRITING TO ACTON Y.M.C.A. BOARD

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