Madrid tour, six bullfights on travellers' first day in Spain

By Dolline Des Hales

Hello, again! I'm back to retel! another "fascinating" episode from "Spain or Bust" etched forever in the pages of our diaries. When I left you two weeks ago, we were boarding our above average—with a shower, plane—the luxurious Iberian clean beds, telephone service and 747-our "castle in the sky." Take-off time from New York. the busy street below, During our City was approximately at 7 p.m. This made it dark enough to see the thousands of lights flicker below us as we climbed higher into the air, like a reaching finger.

Good slogan Iberian airlines slogan for their 747-"your castle in the sky" was perfectly suited for this monstrous winged glant.

Short night

After eating a full course meal and watching the movie, Cabaret starring Liza Minelli, there was barely two hours of sleep to be taken in because of the six hour time change. With the dawning of the new day, the thrill of seeing a sunrise from aloft (over 37,000 ft. altitude) was a new experience for many. Far below us, one see the famed Sierra Nevadas.

With the announcement that we were to land shortly after 8 a.m. local time, the "fasten your seat belts" and "do not smoke" signs lit up. Next thing we knew we were landing on the Madrid airport runway. Gathering our belongings, we said "Adios" to our flying castle and crew.

Spanish eyes

After customs, we boarded our buses and were accompanied by Jose Villa, our guide, whom we found to be a pleasing and cooperative Spanish gentleman with beautiful "Spanish eyes."

Shortly, we were on our way.
As we drove through the city, we saw many unique and interesting things: Jose briefed us not to expect things to be the same here as they were at home. The first thing he mentioned was the different living style of his people. Here the people live at a slower rate than we do. (But you wouldn't suspect it from a glimpse of their driving habits.)

In the afternoon most shops are closed from 1.30 to 5.30 for the Spanish siesta. The people, too, are most friendly, especially the males (and I think that we found this out!) After our briefing on the Spanish customs, we were pleased to find out that our Hotel Hotel Metropol. was situated in the central section of Madrid with shopping areas all around.

Room with view However, before we could unboard the bus, our chaperones were given time to arrange roommates. As our keys were handed

Notes from Acton High

One of the best types of field trips took place this week. Yesterday, Mr. Jim Goring accompanied his grade 11 geography class on a stream analyzing program. The students were to take a section of the creek and determine type of vegetation growth, speed of the current, and width of their part of the stream. This trip is part of a course studying the earth's forces.

We had some visitors from Cathedral Boys High School in Hamilton, on Tuesday. That we are still attracting interest from other schools, shows that the semester program is steadily gaining favor.

Seven more weeks

The second set of reports for this semester were given out on Monday. There are only seven more weeks of school left and the final report cards, in June, will mark the end of the term.

This Thursday will be a short period day. An effective reading workshop is being held for the teachers. In addition to our teachers, two or three members from each of Acton's feeder elementary schools, five from Georgetown H.S., and three or four from Milton H.S. will attend.



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horsemen, dressed completely in black, following the ancient style to us, everyone raced to their respective and neighbouring friends rooms out of curlosity's sake. For those who have travelled to Europe before, we found our accommodations to be the ring. for some a balcony with a view of Tremble with emotion

city had been arranged for those who wished to go. So with gorgeous weather on our side, two bus loads of tired but eager students barrelled through the streets of Madrid, to take in what this marvellous city had to offer. A few of the sites we saw were Madrid's university; the El Prado, Madrid's worldreknown art museum; Florida Park, a huge 40 acre park with a lake for canoers; several arch-

unpacking we were informed by

Jose that a bus tour through the

Anticipation Finally we arrived back at the hotel, exhausted but pleased that we did go. During our meal, it was announced that we had the opportunity to view a bullfight if we wanted to. "A real live bullfight," everyone thought. This would be extremely exciting and very Spanish. Little did we know what was in store for us.

ways and many fountains.

With lunch over, we proceeded to get ready for an "unknown" excursion. When we arrived at the arena our buses pulled into a parking lot, where we found a swam of vendors, all trying desperately to sell their posters to the passing tourists. The only way to get the message across was by spelling out loud and clear that you had "non pesetas." The arena, the Plaza de Toros de Madrid was basically a round structure built with the design of the Byzantine period. The price we paid to get in entitled us to a cushion, a program and generally a good view for picture taking, if you felt like taking any after what you saw. The arena itself was able to hold thousands of spectators while the bull-ring was composed of a sandy, dirt floor with six small separate walls built out of the main encircling wall. These were to serve as protection for the Picadors.

Symbolic key
The history of the bull fight is
said to be of colorful notes and emotions, which have been skillfully portrayed by the best masters of art. The "paseillo" or parade is the initial moment. Two horsemen burst into the ring and symbolically ask for the key to open the door, from where the pikemen will emerge moments later, in their corresponding

After taking the keys, the two

of the Alguacilillos leave in search of the Matadors who are followed by their corresponding team of Banderilleros and Pecadors-all of which parade into

According to Spanish tradition, it is one of the most exciting moments. The bull-fighter nervous. The grandstands, trembling with emotions. The "paseillo" spills out excitement and galety. The bull fight consists of three acts, testing the bull's strength, provoking the bull, and

killing the bull. Act one begins when the bull comes into the arena, and a "Banderillo" puts his courage to the test inciting the bull with the cape. This is the first "trick" of the bull fight. Some probing of the cape follows. Immediately, the Matador, to whom the bull corresponds, places himself face to face with the animal, his legs Free Press Youth Page

the style of the cape movement, and challenges the bull. The cloak is gradually opened out. Normally the cape passes are "Veronica" style, but there are other interpretations, according to the manner, personality or art of the person performing it.

Next Act The next act is opened by the picadors and closed by the banderillas. The picadors are men who are riding horseback and carrying long sticks with iron "picks" on the end. There are two picadors in turn endure the bull's onslaught with their picks when

together or apart, according to eyes of a Spaniard are considered beautiful, when the bull is not permitted to reach the horse but such action calls for a strong

The picks are stuck into the bull's neck just in front of its back in order to lessen the bull's strength.

Nowadays, the horses are not hurt; they are protected with breast-plates and a special mattress in which the bull's horns are enanared without harming the horse. Personally, this section of the fight is also most pitiful-to see a horse being charged by an oncoming bull with the bull charges the horse. These needle like horn tips was a "tricks" of the picadors, in the horrifying sight, even though the

this aspect of the fight is a necessary part.

Balting bull

"How marvellous the Ban-Bull and bull-fighter have the charm of the world over." Thus goes a couplet of Rafael Torres Podial. The builfighter plays with the bull, balting it openly, challenging it and there Torros remains, seemingly nailed to the arena sand, holding back its charge. The mere snatch of a belt, a slight movement breaks the violent charge and with his arms raised the banderilla drives in the darts. A sole colossal outburst of applause thunders out from the ring

as Act two closes.

The final trick, the "kill" is the final act. This trick is supposed to be an exciting moment. The builfighter approaching from the the front of the bull, has to physically hurl himself onto the bull, to drive the special sword into the bull's nape. Before doing this, the matador has carried out the so called displays with the "mulata" or red cloth. These actions may be made up of derechazos (straight), "Ayvdados' (assisted), "manoletinas" (hand) and natural passes.

Natural pass

The natural pass is described. The bullfighter generally takes the "mulata" in his left hand and with his body challenges the bull to the onslaught. He embraces it very gently in the "mulata" and pulls at it until the bull leaves, and the matador effects another pass, ending the series with the breast pass. When the matador sees the animal's strength is lessening, this is the moment for

Spanish people assured us that the final "trick". The man turns face to face to the bull, takes alm and drives the sword in, right up to the hilt trying to ensure that the bull falls immediately so that the "puntilla", a special sword with a cross shaped end won't need to be used. At this time of the kill the matador must dodge the sharp half moon of the bull's

We sat through six bullfights each having its own peculiarities and building up a "North American" dislike for our first bull fight. But in fairness to Spain read Death In the Alternoon or I'll Dress you in Mourning and see a bullfight yourself. Watch for the next column on what happened in Toledo, Spain.

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SETS OF beads caught the fancy of these two ladies at Saturday's Robert Little school bazaar. Lots of interesting articles were on sale, as students raised funds for the graduating class' trip to Ottawa.

(D. Gibbons photo)



ROBERT LITTLE students Kim Wood and Norm Thornhill display one of the intriguing articles on sale at Saturday afternoon's bazaar which raised money for the graduating class' upcoming trip

to Ottawa. The bazaar was well-attended and some goods were almost sold out in the first hour.

(D. Gibbons photo)

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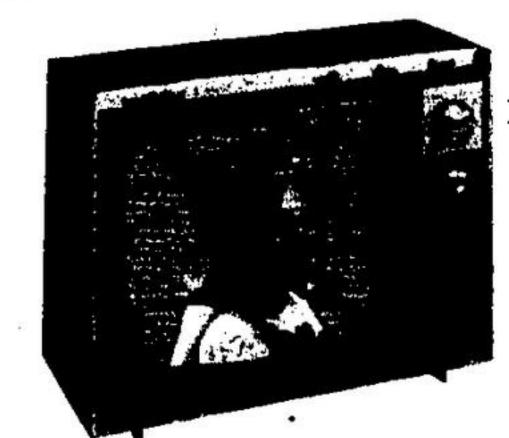
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