

Lets Go Europe most comprehensive for the back packing crowd

by Shirley Whittington
There are lots of travel books around for the casual tourist, but Let's Go Europe is the most comprehensive one I've seen which is directed to

the back packing crowd. Each summer Harvard students travel through Europe, and their reports on bargains, places to see and out of the way hostels and hotels are published

in an annually updated guide. Let's Go Europe for 1978-79 includes information on Israel, Turkey, North Africa and the USSR. For \$5.95, it's a lot of

book. The advice within its orange covers is practical and down to earth. In London, young travellers are advised against Simpson's-in-the-Strand.

"You'll have to wear a tie and jacket and it's not worth it - the food is expensive and the service is rude, particularly to young people."

Various uses are suggested for the bidets of Paris: "use them for chilling wine, soaking tired feet, washing underwear and socks and so on." If you are really broke in Paris, LGE suggests you "try wandering around the markets a few minutes before closing time... a few minutes later, after the vendors go home, the gutters will be filled with over-ripe, but often only half bad, vegetables and fruit."

Young travellers in Russia are reminded that foreigners are required to

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stay within a 25 kilometer limit of major Soviet cities unless they are members of an escorted group. "Foreigners have been deported for this violation, so stay within the limit, or make yourself very inconspicuous if you venture further." In case of problems in Russia, "always speak English - it usually gets you off the hook."

Does Iceland beckon? LGE warns that in order to enjoy Iceland you need "either bags of money or the heart to make yourself at home camping in the cold and windswept moors." Nightlife is not one of Reykjavik's big attractions, and most Icelanders are "Saturday night professionals", according to the Harvard investigators. "Drinking until you are dead sen-

seless is perfectly acceptable."

Travel in Poland is complicated, confusing and slow. The Polish character according to LGE is an inter-weaving of Marxism and Catholicism plus fierce loyalty to the idea of a sovereign and free state, and a mistrust of strangers.

Let's Go Europe includes a 29 page introduction called Planning European Travel which fills back-packers in on attitudes and tips on hitchhiking, documents and formalities.

Women travelling in Europe must count on spending about 25 per cent more on ac-

commodations and food than a man.

"Two women travelling together are absolutely fine anywhere (except in Muslim countries, where they are simply doubling the trouble) and it is always cheaper, less hassle, to travel with a guy." Women are further advised not to carry anything valuable in a shoulder bag. "Carry money and valuables around your neck, in or in a money pouch or belt at your waist."

Since the book is aimed at students on a shoe string, a lot of the advice

is directed to penny pinching.

"The key to an inexpensive trip is to adopt the life style of a permanent resident whenever possible."

How much should it cost? LGE suggests between \$8 and \$15 a day, "adding a little extra for mistakes, especially if it's your first trip...the only way to enjoy Europe is to assume - no matter what the chances seem to be at the moment - that you'll be returning."

A nice thought - returning. And if I do, I'll surely tuck Let's Go

Europe in my suitcase. I'm not an impoverished student, but the advice within those orange covers would stand any

traveller in good stead. Let's Go Europe published by Clarke, Irwin and Company. \$5.95.



Joyce Hamelin and Inga Cornish, members of the Quota Club of Huronia, an international ladies service club, present Gord Walker, chairman of the arena fund raising committee with \$100 toward the new arena. The Quota Club has been actively helping the arena fund raising committee and ran the telethon held last year at this time. Staff photo

Donation

Gable biography is well balanced

by Terry Dupuis

Clark Gable has been dead for almost 18 years now, yet to many he is still thought of as having been the quintessential movie star of Hollywood's Golden years. In a career which spanned exactly 30 years and 66 films, he became known as "the King of Hollywood". Yet for a star of his reputation, he made a surprising number of poor films. Only about four of his 66 movies can genuinely be regarded as classics today, and they were all made during his first decade in motion pictures (Mutiny On The Bounty, It Happened One Night, San Francisco, and of course Gone With The Wind.)

Gable has been the subject of at least a dozen books but the latest Gable biography Long Live The King, by Lyn Tornabene is the best one yet and likely to remain the definitive book about Gable for years to come. It was published two years ago as a hardcover and it has just recently become available in paperback.

Tornabene's book is the result of almost three years of exhaustive research. She interviewed more than a hundred people who knew and worked with Gable. She also dug deep into the files of MGM, the studio under which Gable was contracted for most of his career.

The achievement of Ms. Tornabene's volume is that by her research she was able to cut through

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all the legends, press releases and studio fabrications which surrounded Gable for so many years that they had become accepted as gospel. For instance the official studio biography of Clark Gable claimed that he was born William Gable to parents of Dutch-Irish ancestry. However, the truth is that both his mother and his father were of pure German immigrant stock. The MGM publicity department manufactured the Dutch-Irish ancestry.

In fact, the thesis of Long Live The King is that Clark Gable was indeed manufactured by the studio and that young Billy Gable the young oil-field labourer who was to strike it big in Hollywood was indeed at first nothing like the Clark Gable image which was presented on the screen. But, Ms. Tornabene feels that the real-life Gable gradually took on the characteristics of the screen-image Gable, and eventually developed into that screen person.

For example, in the thirties the MGM publicity department issued statements that Clark Gable was an avid outdoorsman, to fit in with the he-man image he presented on screen. Now Gable had never been fishing or hunting in his life, but he began to do so

for publicity promotion reasons. He found to his surprise that he really did love the outdoors, and he became an avid hunter and fisherman in reality.

Ms. Tornabene covers the entire Gable story—his early years as a rising star, his years as a superstar, and his mature years when he was regarded with awe within the industry. Long Live The King covers Gable's five marriages—his first to two older women who advanced his career, his marriage to Carole Lombard which ended tragically, and two final marriages.

Long Live The King is a well-balanced biography. It does not portray Clark Gable as the plaster saint which some earlier biographies portrayed. But neither does he emerge in its pages as a heel. Tornabene portrays a very real human being who had both faults and virtues. Long Live The King is one of the most readable biographies ever written on a major Hollywood star.

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