

## TRAVEL Yugoslavia

By BILL HOLLENBECK  
DUBROVNIK, Yugoslavia — It was mid-morning and I wished fervently it were some four hours earlier when the first rays of a summer sun had broken through the passes of the Dinaric Alps. It was before the first tour buses descended upon the Ploce and Pile Gates, disgorging their human cargoes who during the next few hours would not venture much further from each other than had been their situation en route.

But, somehow they are not a problem here. Since they pretty much stick to the main thoroughfares and rampart walks you have all of the delightful side streets and alleyways to explore without congestion.

It is here you come upon the good citizens of Dubrovnik. At this time of day most are housewives conversing animatedly in small stoop-sitting groups, seeking the cool of the narrow stone-shaded streets in summer, the brief warmth of the passing sun in winter.

And about them and beyond the children occupy themselves with simple pursuits communicated mainly through expression and motion.

In the narrowest of lanes you find surprisingly large plants growing from window boxes, their impressive size indicating age made possible by loving care.

Here and there an ancient grape vine winds upward past second and third story windows. And one, the undisputed patriarch, boasts a gnarled trunk of some twelve inches circumference.

What great moments it must recall in the long history of the little Republic of Dubrovnik (often called by its Italian name Ragusa). Moments of fear as the awesome power of the Turks plowed the Adriatic and the other Dalmatian towns chose to resist invasion. And then complacency as she opted for complete independence whatever the cost.

Through the years she would be cruelly criticized for paying exorbitant tribute to Constantinople, for not allowing the Orthodox Church to set foot within its gates, and for many other reasons that made it possible for her citizens to enjoy a prosperity in neutrality not unlike the Swiss Confederacy.

A visit to Dubrovnik is much like one to a grand old manor run by a superb housekeeper and first rate staff. The streets are not only clean but the paving stones appear like hand-polished marble from the brushing of countless soles through hundreds of years. The protective stone ramparts are among the best preserved you will find anywhere and a delight to walk upon.

And the inhabitants, through pride of ownership, allow themselves to be outgoing

and friendly, like the smiling artisan who turns out the delicately embroidered blouses that make such a marvelous gift for yourself or others, or the little old lady in the market place who sells bottles of the purest lavender, or the engaging elder grappa maker who welcomes guests into his tiny cave crowded by musty oaken barrels and offers samples of his product in stemmed crystal.

Of course we bought a bottle. This particular formula, lightened by the use of aromatic herbs, is said to be effective against high blood pressure, heart trouble, stomach disorders, arthritis and migraine headaches. And besides it tastes so good!

One of the most charming of the family-groups-within-a-family we visited the excellent restaurant Nada. We first met with the owner Monsieur Joseph in late morning over a slivovitz at which time my wife was presented with a gorgeous bouquet of carnations. After glancing at the menu we made reservations for later in the day — a decision we'd later class in the category of pure genius.

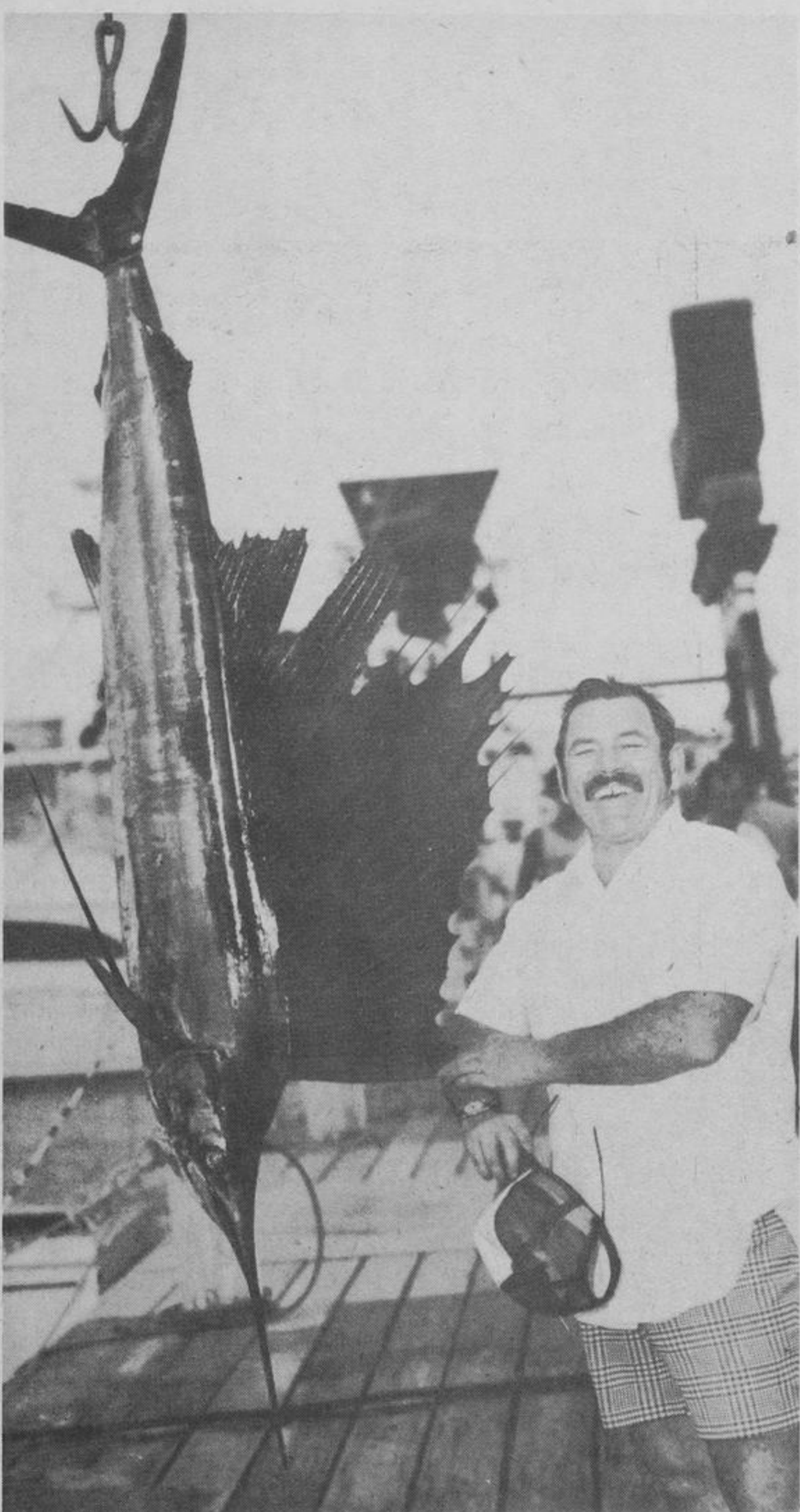
If you enjoy mussels (my wife is a fanatic on the subject) you will (as did she) go out of your mind!

They're delicious. So was the huge lobster we shared. And we were served by a charming young lady who spoke the English language beautifully for the reason that she was indeed English. When we left the Nada we bade goodbye to all of the members of this family-within-a-family of Dubrovnik. It was like departing from the home of a good friend.

They say that in the Town Square something is occupied with food all day long. In the morning it is the market. And it is interesting to note here that these are all small independent operators who, at one time when the government insisted they get a percentage on all sales, refused to cooperate by allowing the quality of their produce to fall off drastically, thus upholding the tradition of their ancestors and succeeding in negating the edict.

At noon the market is cleared away and the pigeons are fed. And from then on the sidewalk tables are set up and homo sapiens again take over far into the night. Dubrovnik should be among the pleasantest of memories in any case but if you would like the secret formula that worked so well for us in but a brief, precious, few hours span, it is Gino!

Gino is the guide extraordinaire! A gentleman with the tongue of a poet, a joie de vivre, an acquaintanceship with every citizen of Dubrovnik, with a villa with rooms to rent, and an ability to shut up when there is no need for further chatter.



Ken Ham, Talmage Avenue, Richmond Hill, stands beside the 57 and 1/2 pound sailfish he caught and entered in the Metropolitan South Florida Fishing Tournament's Unlimited Division. He fished

aboard Capt. Skip Randolph's Good Time IV, out of the Castaways Docks on Miami Beach, and will receive a Citation for his catch.

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• 4 dinners, including a beach party with dinner and entertainment, an exciting luau with limbo show and entertainment. Jamaican style barbecue with calypso entertainment and farewell dinner pool-side with entertainment.  
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• Continuous entertainment from morning to evening.

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- round-trip taxi between hotel and airport
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- welcome cocktail party
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## TRAVELCHAT

By Anne Wanstall  
Travel Editor

You can still buy yourself a March or April trip to sun spots for a late winter holiday before our Canadian summer arrives.

Sunlight Holidays still has accommodation available in more than 50 hotels, apartments in Barbados and the Angelina, and Amerikanis cruises are even available for the March Break out of San Juan.

There's a choice of one-week and two-week vacations in Acapulco, Antigua, Cozumel, Barbados, Freeport, Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, Jamaica, Nassau, San Juan, St. Lucia, Texas and Grand Caymen.

Don't call Sunlight direct. All bookings must be made through a travel agent.

Pipemokers please note that American Airlines will no longer permit you to smoke on their aircraft. You'll have to switch to cigarettes for your trip.

Aer Lingus and Quebecair in conjunction with Sunlight Holidays are offering charter returns from Toronto to Dublin, Belfast and Shannon from \$299 return. You must book 30 days ahead, and you can make arrangements at the same time for low cost car rental, with Sunlight arranging your bookings for accommodation.

The much publicized Airtrain service between Toronto and London has been temporarily suspended because too few passengers were using the service.

Due to begin again on April 16, Airtrain is an excellent service for people unable to book flights in advance and needing to get to Britain in a hurry.

The proposal to ration gasoline in the US could send many Canadians travel plans into a tailspin.

Already there's talk of a black market in gasoline coupons with an asking price of \$2 a coupon, taking the price of a gallon of gas to \$2.80. If rationing does begin, it will start April 1.