

On The Side

By E. V. DURLING
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Paris—As we leave, my girl friend completes her part of the packing. She gets everything in the bags. Then my part begins. I count the bags and put the tags on them. I also have to check on the bags at regular intervals en route. If a bag is missing I am to blame. This is a great responsibility. Especially on the trip on the boat train. When I get our bags safely into a ship cabin I always go to the bar and drink a toast to myself. What a relief!

Guides
There are innumerable guide books to Paris. You can get along nicely with two of the pocket type. The street guide, "Paris Par Arrondissement" and Nagel's "Guide to Paris." Some of the guides although dated as 1936 editions are in reality much out of date. You will find in these guides glowing statements as to the food and service available at the Cafe De Paris and La Rue. The Cafe De Paris is closed. La Rue no longer exists. Its place on the Madeleine has been taken by a lunch room called "Queen-let." There are many similar erroneous and misleading statements in these allegedly up to date guide books.

Praise
In one book intended to be of aid to a stranger in Paris I noted the statement that "A Frenchman doesn't care what you think of him." That is far off the beam. The average Frenchman is extremely interested in his work. He wants to be the best of whatever he is. If you praise his efforts he is extremely appreciative. Also a Parisian cares very much what you think about Paris. Praise the efforts of a Frenchman and Paris and your difficulties in France as a traveler will be greatly decreased. It can also save you money.

Subway
The Paris subway has a first and second class. Though the price of the first class subway ticket is only slightly higher, the average Frenchman refuses to go for it. So you can nearly always get a seat in the first class section. This is always located in the middle of the car. During rush hours the Paris underground is just as busy as the New York subway. There is a train every two minutes.

Asides
The most popular drink among the patrons of the Ritz bar is a mixture called "Champagne Pick-Me-Up." This is made of orange juice, cointreau, brandy and champagne. The six day bicycle race is still an annual feature of the Paris sport season. It is held in March at the Palais de Sport which has a capacity of 18,000.

Racing Form
The name of the French racing form is the "Paris Turf." It does not even come close to offering the aid to the horseplayer that our racing form does. The handicappers in Paris are no bargain, either. About the only way a stranger in town can break even at the races is to wager on the horses owned by the Aga Khan and Aly Khan on a progressive system. However, why worry about breaking even when you can limit your bets to 100 francs which is about the equivalent of 28 cents?

Sidelights
My new lightweight typewriter, which weighs eight and one half pounds, including case, has worked wonderfully well on this trip. A remarkable machine. Paris taxi drivers working for a company get no salary. Their income is entirely from tips. There is a monument to Guy De Maupassant in the Parc Monceau. There should be one to O. Henry in Union Square park in New York City. How about starting a campaign for same?

This morning there was a long time at the pari-mutuel booth at the Bistrot on the corner. Many Parisians, of both sexes, were waiting to place bets on the jumping races at Auteuil. A Parisian will bet on anything. He always has a wager riding on something. On the horse races, dog races, in the national lottery or on the football pools. His life is eternally filled with the hope that for a little money he is going to win a lot.

Six Children Killed In Fireworks Blast

Bogota, Colombia — (U.P.) — Police believed Saturday an accidental ignition of fireworks powder caused an explosion which killed nine persons, including six children.

The blast levelled the homes of three workers in the Barrio Ingles district of Bogota Friday. Police said powder being used to make fireworks for Christmas and New Year's holidays apparently was touched off.

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FLYING WHITE FLAGS, painted white, United Nations jeeps carry truce observers along "No Man's Land" in Suez Canal zone as hostilities end. (International Soundphoto)

Passenger Train Hits Tank Truck With Oil

Palatine, Ill. — (U.P.) — Some 75 persons escaped injury when a passenger train was covered with blazing oil after it rammed a tank truck.

The driver of the truck and a passing motorist were treated with released for minor cuts and bruises. Flames flickered over the nine coaches of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway train, travelling from Madison, Wis., to Chicago Friday.

About 1,000 gallons of oil provided fuel for the flames, which were shortly extinguished by Palatine firemen.

William Jonas 44, Des Plaines, Ill., the truck driver, said he was blinded by sunlight as he approached a crossing, and failed to see the train until it was only a few feet from him.

A Norwegian female has the world's highest life expectancy — 72.65 years — according to a United Nations survey.

Four Men Marooned On Vancouver Island

Vancouver — (U.P.) — A Royal Canadian Air Force plane took off from Sea Island Base Saturday in an attempt to drop food, fuel and medical supplies to four men marooned in Cape Scott, on the northern tip of Vancouver Island.

An Air Force spokesman said severe weather conditions prevailed in the area.

The search and rescue coordination center in Vancouver was in contact with the men.

A barge was waiting off-shore for heavy seas to recede before making a bid to take the men off. One of the men was reported to have suffered a heart attack.

The men have been living since Sunday on one box of soda crackers.

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Moscow — (U.P.) — Persistent reports in diplomatic circles Saturday said resigned Polish Defense Chief Konstantin Bokossovsky will become commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact Communist defense alliance.

Atmore, Ala. — (U.P.) — A Navy training plane crashed Friday killing two airmen and setting afire some 20 acres of timber near here.

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Common Day of Thanksgiving Will Be Observed Mainly Through Woman's Effort

Concord, N. H. — (U.P.) — Americans in the 48 states will join in a common day of thanksgiving next Thursday, chiefly because one of the most remarkable women of the 19th century waged an unceasing campaign for national recognition of the ancient Pilgrim custom.

Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, born in Newport, N. H. in 1788, badgered presidents, governors and other influential men for 25 years until finally Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

Known best as the author of the nursery rhyme, "Mary Had a Little Lamb," she was the champion of many worthy causes, but took up the idea of a national thanksgiving as a personal crusade.

It had of course been celebrated by many communities since the Pilgrims in 1621 set aside a day to give thanks for their harvest. But even after George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving Day proclamation in 1789, most states and communities went back to observing their own various dates.

Steady Pressure
In her novels and in the editorial pages of her magazine, "Godey's Lady's Book," Mrs. Hale inserted propaganda for a day of national observance. Each year the magazine would list the states which had accepted the date of the last Thursday in November—and each year it would scold those not falling into line.

In addition, this brilliant and influential woman, who had been left a widow with five children at 34, wrote thousands of letters urging the re-establishment of the custom proclaimed by Washington.

She maintained that among other benefits, a national Thanksgiving would strengthen the ties of union strained to the breaking point by the tensions of the pre-Civil War era.

At last her campaign bore fruit.

Abraham Lincoln issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation since George Washington, saying:

"... It has seemed to me fit and proper that they (the gifts of God) should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people."

Great Career

The custom has been kept ever since. It was a major achievement in the career of a woman whose life was a series of splendid efforts and accomplishments. Mrs. Hale raised the money that finished Bunker Hill Monument, she was the first to advocate women as teachers in public schools, she founded the first society for the advancement of women's wages and better working conditions, and she started the first day nursery.

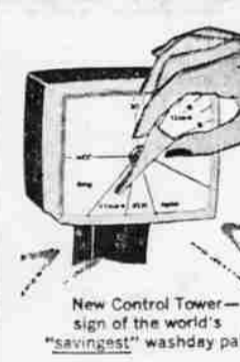
The indomitable widow was the first woman editor in this country, organized the Seaman's Aid Society and was instrumental in preserving Washington's Mount Vernon as a national memorial.

Only less remarkable than her accomplishments is the fact that all her achievements took place after she was 40. She died in 1879 at 90, after having influenced the nation probably more than any other single woman in American history.

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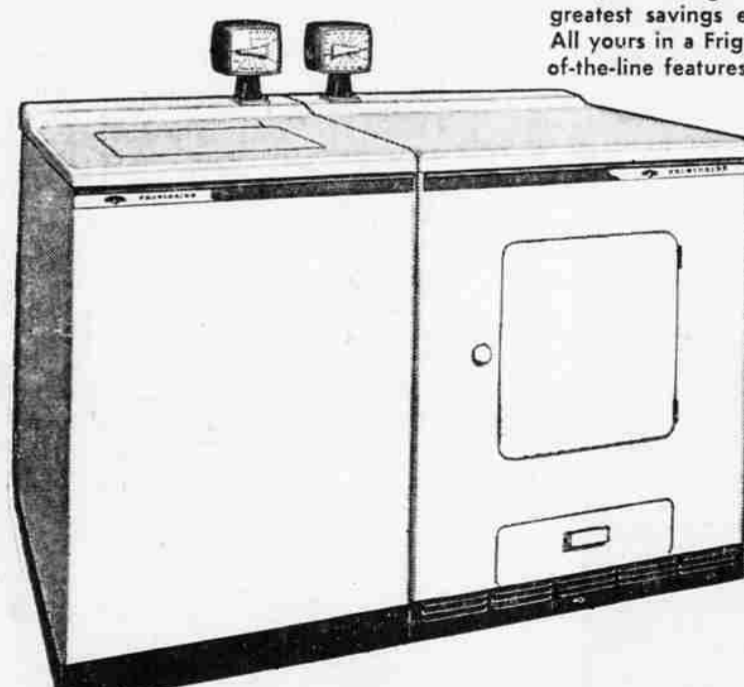


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