American Motorists in Russia Will Find Interesting Contrasts

Moscow —(AP)—The Soviet Union this summer is permitting foreigners for the first time to bring their own automobiles into the country and spend a holiday crossing the Russian nation.

Not many Americans are expected to take up the offer but those who do will find an interesting contrast with the American road network of billboards, motels and speed traps.

Vast as this country is, there is no chance of the visitor getting lost. For one thing, he must stick to one of the two trunk highways. To make sure he does, an Intourist Agency guide will join him at the frontier and accompany him throughout the trip.

Repair Shops Available

The highways, especially the north-south route from Moscow to the Black Sea—are excellent by Russian standards and, in most places, good by European ones. They are three and sometimes four-lane roads with long stretches where you can put your foot to the floorboard.

Gas stations, repair shops, snack bars and restaurants are to be found about every 100 miles. Hotels are spaced at reasonable distances and built right out on the highways in the remote Steppes.

Traffic is very light, consisting mostly of trucks and buses. There are no hitchhikers. When Russians travel, and they love to, they usually go by train. Few have private cars.

Whenever the foreign tourist stops in a village or smal town, he will be surrounded by wide-eyed onlookers including knowledgeable young men commenting on the mechanical features of his auto.

Driving Rules Simple

Rules for driving are simple:

1. Stay on the right hand side.

2. Highway and traffic signs are pretty much the same as in Western Europe. One difference is that you can turn right on a red light.

3. Drivers must keep their cars clean. If a policeman spots a dirty, muddy car, he has the right to stop it and fine the occupants.

4. The speed limit in a city is 35 mph. On the open road it is unlimited.

Should you run out of gas between filling stations, put an empty can on top of your car. The next truck that comes by will know your trouble and offer to sell you some of his gas—at a profit.

LAUGH AND RUN

Chicago —(AP)— Hat designer Yvonne Verdun says it's okay for men to laugh at women's hats. "If a hat doesn't fit a woman's personality, she looks funny, so why shouldn't a man laugh? Especially if he can outrun the woman."

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood —(UP)— Six-shooters are blazing away on the TV range. Now that Hugh (Wyatt Earp) O'Brian has done rock 'n' roll on television, Jim "Gunsmoke" that he thinks such antics are "disillusioning."


Aline Mosby

Lumbering, 6 foot, 6 inch Arness once was under personal contract to John Wayne, resembles him and admittedly patterns his career after the veteran screen hero.

That doesn't include stepping out of character to sing rock 'n' roll or calypso—or even endorsing kiddies' merchandise, Arness says.

"It may be fine for other actors, and I don't mean to condemn them, but it's not for me," Arness said heatedly on the set where he's working in next season's CBS "Gunsmoke" series.

Shocked Audience Possible

"If fans see you as a certain kind of buy, and if you suddenly come out and do something contrary such as rock 'n' roll, it shocks people," he said. "Producers may notice that this guy is versatile. But the fans say, 'What is Marshal Matt Dillon doing with rock 'n' roll?' Did you ever see Wayne or Gary Cooper doing rock 'n' roll?"

Handsome Arness, an ex-laborer, carpenter and salesman before he began working as a movie actor in 1949, only hit the big money after becoming the star of "Gunsmoke." Although he has a wife and three children to support, he consistently turns down a small fortune in offers to appear on TV variety shows and to endorse commercial products.

The market is flooded with Elvis Presley lipsticks, Roy Rogers shirts, Gene Autry jackets and Wyatt Earp guns, but you won't find any Jim Arness or Matt Dillon items.

Actor or Salesman?

"So you pick up 10 grand, but you lose a million as far as your future is concerned," Believes Arness. "A lot of fans write that my show is the only one on TV they buy because it seems real. The minute you appear as a cardboard cut-out in a drugstore, you're a salesman."

O'Brian caused a stir when he showed up in tuxedo to sing and dance with a bevy of beautiful chorines on Dinah Shore's show. But Arness insists not all of Robert Sarnoff's NBC money could get him to carry on that way.

"If an actor has no confidence in his future," growled Arness, wants to make a fast buck, okey. But I have confidence in my future. I have a good 20 years left in this business."

Home Dry Cleaners Should Use Caution

Urbana, Ill. —(AP)— You had better figure out the value of your home and personal belongings before attempting to do your own spring dry cleaning to help the family budget.

O. L. Hogsett, safety specialist at the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, said you might be gambling your holdings against a small cleaning bill.

Few people realize, Hogsett said, how quickly explosive vapors from cleaning fluids can travel in a home. Then, it only takes a small spark from an electrical appliance or a pilot light to touch off the fumes.

Hogsett advised letting a professional dry cleaner do the job and said that if you must use cleaning fluids for cleaning small spots, be sure to have plenty of ventilation and use an non-inflamable cleaner.

Northwest Projects Pay Part of Costs

Walla Walla —(AP)— Ten federal power projects in the Pacific Northwest have repaid more than 15 per cent of their costs to the U. S. treasury up to last June 30, according to the Inland Empire Waterways Association.

The total cash returned to the federal treasury was $449,689,000, or nearly a third of the $1,569,976,000 appropriated for construction, operations and interest payments.

Bonneville dam repaid 41 per cent of its investment, and the Bonneville power administration was credited with repaying 25 per cent. Several of the projects had been operating for only a short time, and their earnings were small, the IEWA said.

Salem —(AP)— Brig. Gen. Raymond F. Olson will retire June 30 as assistant state adjutant general.