

Teen-Age Invasion of Europe

(Continued)

clined to be impatient with the slow pace of Europeans and to hunger for hamburgers and sodas.

Occasionally, some pampered teen-agers have indulged in cut-ups and antagonized the natives. In Switzerland last year, five girls who couldn't make their dessert order understood flew into a rage, ripped up the hotel draperies, smashed a vase, and did damage totaling \$150. Girls also are inclined to drip-dry their clothes over expensive rugs or to phone home and neglect to pay the toll.

Although most tours require "character references," once in a while an obnoxious youngster slips in. One boy who consistently got drunk and a snippy girl who stubbornly wore Bermuda shorts in an elegant dining room were dispatched home halfway through the itinerary. Such flagrant misbehavior, however, is uncommon.

A willful, inconsiderate teenager can create a nightmare for the chaperoning leaders. In Rome last summer, 17-year-old Phyllis, a starry-eyed high-school junior from a Chicago suburb, left her hotel for the post office and vanished. Frantically, the tour leaders searched for her all over Italy. Finally, after three weeks, the girl was located. Phyllis, determined on a career as a ballerina, had hopped a train to Paris, where she was staying with an aunt.

ON SOME TOURS, the more sophisticated, older teen-agers may be permitted—with parental approval—to visit places frequented by their daring elders. At the Folies Bergere in Paris, most of the youngsters are bored and walk out halfway through the show.

"No talent," they say, or "It's terribly overrated, strictly a show for

farmers and old men."

At the Koursaal, a night club and gambling casino in Lucerne, Switzerland, one youngster walked out with enough winnings to pay for a succession of parties virtually every evening during the last two weeks of the tour. When he returned home, he still had \$1,300—more than the original cost of his trip abroad!

Unlike this lucky tourist, most of the teen-agers bring back intangibles of value. "They return," observes John McNulty of American Express, "with the sights, sounds, and smells of Europe, a view of geography and history."

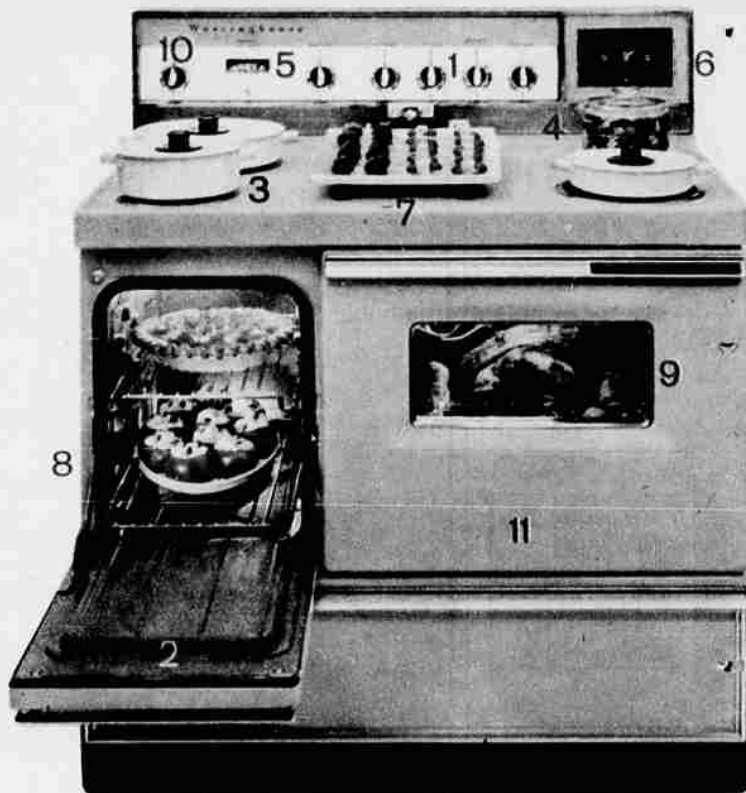
Some deliver travelogues at their high schools. Those on study tours acquire a better command of a foreign language and a fresh insight into international problems. For many, their first roving trip is but a sampling, and they become bent on returning as adults to countries which caught their fancy. And there's also an awakened appreciation of their native land, sometimes reflected by the tears in their eyes as the orchestra in the homebound ship plays *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

One shy, awkward, plain-looking girl from a small Midwest town returned home after a summer in Europe with a new hairdo, a chic wardrobe, and a self-confident poise that amazed her parents and friends. Going abroad had magically altered her personality.

From all signs and portents, the teen-age travel trend will keep booming as word spreads among the younger set. With the shortage of ship and air space, the problem for adults may be to get to Europe without having to make a reservation in the first-class Verandah Grill of the *Queen Mary*!

For More Information on Teen-Age Travel

- American Express Co., 65 Broadway, New York, N.Y.
- American Friends Service Committee, 20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
(For work camps)
- American Student Information Service, Frankfurt Main, Germany.
(For summer jobs)
- American Youth Abroad, 83 University Station, Minneapolis 14, Minn.
- American Youth Hostels, 14 W. 8th St., New York 11, N.Y.
- Arista Student Travel Assn. (Thos. Cook & Son), 587 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.
- Council on Student Travel, 179 Broadway, New York 7, N.Y.
- Experiment in International Living, Putney, Vt. (Live with European families)
- Sita World Travel, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.
- Travel and Cultural Exchange, Inc., 550 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N.Y.
(Living with French family)
- United Christian Youth Movement, 79 E. Adams, Chicago 3, Ill.
(Work opportunities)
- U.S. National Student Assn., 20 W. 38th St., New York, N.Y.



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