

Mail Delivery in Europe Is Speedy and Efficient

London—UPI—A letter mailed to London, England, from New Orleans, La., might well beat one mailed from New Orleans at the same time to Boston, Mass.

The 700,000 Americans expected to travel abroad this year will doubtless be astonished at the speed they get their letters from home.

On the whole, Europe's speedy and efficient mails catch most Americans by surprise and win their admiration.

A United Press International survey of mail services from correspondents in 15 European capitals netted eye-opening results on postal efficiency in Britain and on the continent.

In 12 of the 15, if you mail a letter to another part of the city before noon, it will be delivered that same afternoon.

The fastest services are in England, Switzerland and Denmark.

In the center of London, there are four mail deliveries to homes and business offices every week day. They come at 7 and 11 a.m., and at 1 and 3 p.m.

It is not unusual to mail a letter in London at 11 a.m., and have it in the receiver's hands by 1 p.m.—or 3 p.m., at the latest.

Persons living outside the center, but still in London, get three deliveries a day.

In Switzerland, a letter sent from Zurich at 8 a.m. to Basel probably will be delivered that same afternoon.

Principal Swiss cities get three deliveries a day, and the speed is due partly to Switzerland's small size.

Copenhagen has three deliveries a day, and if you stumble into best conditions, an in-Copenhagen letter will get to its destination within an hour.

Throughout Europe, smaller cities have a somewhat curtailed service but usually receive the number of deliveries the bigger cities receive, less one.

The poorest European mail service seems to be in Austria. There are two daily deliveries in Vienna, but a letter mailed from one part of the city to another will sometimes take two or three days.

The Viennese also complain

about postal counter services. Due to rigid weighing practices, every air mail letter has to be posted separately at an office, and this procedure may take three minutes for each letter.

Almost every European nation sends regular mail by the fastest possible means. Usually, if a regular letter can get to its destination faster by air than by land or sea, it is flown at no extra charge.

Most of Europe's postal services aim at same-day delivery within big cities, and for next-day delivery between cities. If they must fly a letter to attain the goal, it's done.

Generally, postal services cost more than in the U.S.,

in relation to the general cost of living. For example, an air mail letter from the U.S. to England costs 15 cents, but from England to America it's 17½ cents.

A letter within Britain's boundaries costs thruppence (3½ cents), which is slightly higher, comparing living costs, than in the U.S. The same picture is true throughout Europe.

Some Profit
Some of the mail services profit handsomely. Holland's postal department had 70 million guilders (\$20 million) to spare last year, Denmark's had 50 million kroner (\$7 million) extra, and England's had an excess of 6,400,000 pounds (\$17,920,000) in the 1959-60 fiscal year.

Practically all the countries' postal departments run special banking services. Most pay interest that compares favorably with bank interest. Most charge a small amount for the service, but a few pay interest while charging nothing.

Every European country has raised its postal rates in the last six years excepting Switzerland, where the last raise was in 1924.

France and England claim special postal services features.

In Paris, some letters (for a 30-cent fee) travel through pneumatic tubes that run between various post offices. With this system, departure to destination may take but two hours.

London possesses the world's only underground mail train. The "post office tube railway" is a 6½-mile network connecting eight major postal stations and is used exclusively for the mails. The tunnels, which are 70 feet below ground level on average, carry 45,000 mail bags every day.

Gambling-happy Britain also has a post office "lottery." For one pound (\$2.80) you buy a "premium bond." No interest is paid, but each month the accumulated interest is pooled and winners drawn. You either have your one-pound premium bond or a prize of from 25 pounds (\$70) to 5,000 pounds (\$14,000).

Errands, of all Europeans, like their postal system. It even gives away money.

Moon Round Trip May Cost \$600

New York — (Science Service) — Future vacationers could be taking a round trip to the moon for the bargain price of \$600.

This low price, which does not include tips, could become a reality if a single stage nuclear rocket was used for the trip, M. W. Hunter of Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc., reported. The \$600 figure does include the cost of pilot, stewardesses, food and other direct operating factors.

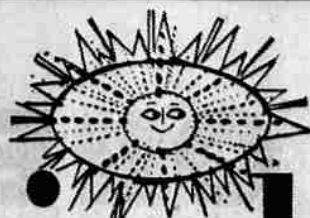
The success of the venture hinges on making the space craft reusable, as conventional aircraft now are. Multi-stage rockets would skyrocket the costs to an impractical figure, Hunter states.

About 200 tons of payload a year would be needed to keep a 20-man expedition continuously supplied on the moon, Hunter reported here in the journal of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

The \$600 price tag is actually much less than the present average cost for a vacation trip to Europe.

Portland — UPI — The State Sanitary Authority has set June 28 as a date for a citation hearing to show cause why an order should not be adopted to abate alleged air pollution caused by burning at a refuse disposal site south-east of Salem.

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COTTON SHORTS... in Cotton Sheen, Ripple Cord, Cotton Print 8 to 18



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