



Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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Editor's note: Sylvia Porter is on vacation. During her absence a column by Ralph McGill is being substituted. McGill is currently on a tour of African nations, about which he is writing.

THE TIDES OF HISTORY

West Africa—Outside Dakar there is a small seashore cafe conducted by a Frenchman and his wife. It is famous for its langoustes, or small lobsters, served cold with mayonnaise. The owner was apologetic. The cook was outside praying and there would be a slight delay. The waiter, too, was praying. This would not have mattered as the owner himself could take orders. But the cook would lose face if the owner had to take over the kitchen.

So, we waited. Outside, on mats, the cook and waiter, side by side, were facing eastward in prayer. They alternately knelt and bowed their head to the mat, and then stood and silently called upon God to hear them. Moslems pray five times per day.

There is nothing more fascinating than coming upon evidences of ancient tides of history. The old trade routes along which passed salt, amber, spices, gold, slaves, and the perfumes of Arabia brought change with them. It was inevitable that religion would come with trade. Long before the establishment of Christianity and Islam, two routes led out of the upper Nile Valley, moving westward and southward into Africa.

Christianity spread from Egypt to Nubia in the sixth century. By the seventh, it was strong enough to resist the southward pressure of Islam for about four centuries.

It was the camel, not the wheel, that brought migration and change. People on the edge of deserts or in heavily wooded regions understandably did not think in terms of wheels when they considered transport. The camel was the answer to arid desertlike country and, finally, to the Sahara itself.

The Romans conquered Carthage in the second century B.C. The empire spread itself along that side of the Mediterranean we now call North Africa. Alexandria became a great center of Christianity. Neither Rome nor Carthage was able to reach beyond the desert. But some of the nomadic tribes were moving southward and westward. As the Roman empire decayed, the way was opened for the Islamic migration.

It is recorded that the first Moslem Arabs entered Egypt in A.D. 639. By the end of the seventh century they had overrun all Africa north of the Sahara and had mounted invasions of southern Europe. Historians believe that a major motivation of the pressure southward and westward was that of population.

The Sudan became Moslem. Traders spread from it. After the collapse of Byzantine power there was nothing to check Islam. The faith proved easy for Sub-Saharan Africans to assimilate. It did not interfere to any great extent with tribal culture or custom. It allowed a plurality of wives. It required prayer and faith and it promised paradise.

There was a mysticism about it which appealed particularly to nomadic peoples. It did not conflict, even, with animism—the belief that all natural objects and the universe have a soul. This advantage endures into our own day. Old cultures are difficult to upset. (There are African Christians who see no conflict in possessing two or three wives, one married in Christian rites and another one or two by tribal law.)

February was the month of Ramadan—celebration of the dictation of the Koran to Mahomet. For 30 days no Moslem eats or drinks from sunrise to sunset. The effect on the economy is severe. Since much of each night is given over to prayer and eating, the devout are not too active by day. They tire badly. Many Moslems believe that urban and industrial societies will bring about a reform in Islamic practices. (Ramadan is not unlike the severe Lenten fasting period of the early church.) But none thinks there will be any lessening of the appeal of Islam. Some see it gaining now at the expense of Christianity, but no exact figures exist from which to make a judgment.

Oregon Veterans Receive \$67,749,180 in Benefits

Portland—Oregon veterans and their families received \$67,749,180 in cash benefits and services during fiscal year 1962. R. J. Novotny, manager of the Portland Veterans Administration regional office, has announced.

In Oregon, compensation for service-connected disabilities and pension for total and permanent nonservice-connected disabilities totaling \$30,560,457 was paid to 33,840 living veterans.

Death compensation and pension totaling \$9,166,925 was paid to the dependents of 11,092 deceased veterans. Certain GI insurance dividend and indemnity payments totaling \$9,722,913 were made to veterans and their beneficiaries.

Train Under Act

Sixty-four disabled veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict in Oregon trained during the year under the vocational rehabilitation act to overcome the handicaps of their disabilities. They received \$132,462 in subsistence, tuition, supplies and equipment.

An average of 1,012 veterans trained during the year under the World War II and Korean GI Bills. They received \$1,365,453 in cash allowances.

The remainder of cash benefits, services and other VA expenditures in Oregon during the year totaled \$16,750,970. These included war orphans' educational allowances, hospitalization, loan guarantee and direct loan programs, automobiles for certain disabled veterans, wheel chair homes for the seriously disabled, administrative costs and miscellaneous benefits.

Soprano Calls Off Her Recital Debut

New York—(UPI)—Leonie Rysanek, the world-famous soprano, has cancelled a March 17 recital debut in New York because of the city's newspaper strike, it was announced Tuesday.

Mme. Rysanek, star of the Vienna State Opera, currently is singing at the Metropolitan Opera.

Paneling Will Make Kickplate for Door

New York—(UPI)—A piece of plastic-surfaced hardboard left over from a paneling project makes a practical kickplate for the inside of a door.

Grants Pass Youth Reports on Trip to Europe Under Program

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of reports from Chuck Moore, Grants Pass, who is now in London under the Lewis and Clark college exchange student program. The series of reports will be written in a diary style.)

By CHUCK MOORE
Feb. 6: Portland Union station

Passports in hand, my traveling partner, Norman Schlesinger, and I boarded our Domliner coach. After goodbyes to our families had been said, our thoughts turned to future problems. Foremost on Norm's mind was meeting on the 44-pound luggage limit for the oceanic crossing. I offered to help by relieving him of an extra pound; but since it was a British bank note, he declined to accept my offer. Later a good omen for Lewis and Clark's adventures shot across the haze of the Columbia River Gorge. The Stonehenge, standing majestically in the mist so high above the river, seemed to be sending good fortune our way.

Feb. 8: Chicago

While waiting for our train to leave Chicago, Norm and I visited the main financial and business districts. Reaching the Chicago Board of Trade building, we shot up to the observation gallery on the 45th floor. The view was singularly unimpressive. Descending to the grain ex-

change, we had visions of golden fields of flowing wheat. To our surprise, they were trading heavily in the unglamorous soybean.

Feb. 9: This was a day for reunion. Just as the group was boarding a new train at Springfield, Mass., Joanne Taggart (niece of Fred Acklen, Grants Pass) and Mary Twining (niece of Gen. Nathan Twining) came sprinting, baggage in hand, to make the train. They had just finished a two days visit to New York and Mr. Acklen's daughter, Linda, who is attending Mills college. It was good to see Mary again.

Arriving in Brattleboro, Vt., we found ourselves in what the conductor referred to as "hick country." At the station I met Richard Senior, English graduate student at Yale who is to be our British resource at orientation. He reported that Mike Blair, the Scotch boy who worked under the Oregon Junior Chamber of Commerce work program, is doing well at Yale and enjoying himself immensely.

Soon we were shuttled by cars to Sanandona, place of light. Here on the old Virginian sheep ranch both the experimenters and the Peace Corps receive training from the Experiment in International Living's staff.

Feb. 12: Approximately 72 students

from Lewis and Clark, Pomona, Cornell and Fredonia were oriented during the last 2½ days. While our group is predominately composed of freshmen and sophomores, the other groups are exclusively juniors. Our orientation included discussions and films on the United States, Europe, and the Experiment. Possibly the most valuable concept it introduced was the idea of constantly meeting new faces and ideas.

I learned through private conversation with the Orientation Coordinator that Lewis and Clark's group program is more successful as an experiment than the strictly independent programs of other schools. He believes it develops a deeper sense of obligation to succeed in the homestay portion of the program. He also frankly said he had hoped our freshmen abroad program would fail miserably and end all that kind of nonsense. Unfortunately from his point of view, the freshmen showed very well in making their adaptations.

Before we left Sanandona, everyone had weighed and reweighed their luggage. Then what must have been hundreds of pounds were dutifully wrapped and sent back. It is a little wonder a state of depression descended on the throng at the airport. After hours of our juggling the scales, the baggage check hardly seemed to consider weight. Everyone was sadly considering that extra sweater, sport coat, or typewriter

that could have gone through after all.

Feb. 13: This being my first flight in an airliner, I was anxious to visit the cockpit. After two hours before reaching Copenhagen, I made my request to the steward who relayed it to the captain. Permission was granted and received; so with camera in hand I headed forward. After taking snapshots I spent 15 minutes watching the plane fly, the radio receive, the dials dial, and the crew eat.

Feb. 15: Today and yesterday must have been "fall in love with Copenhagen" days, because that is precisely what I did. The first morning I awoke to the sound of scraping. In front of the hotel were 11 men shoveling snow from the street.

Breakfast having been served at the hotel, our first big "cultural challenge" was lunch. Five went to KAR on Vesterbrogade. By menu-pointing we ordered different types of smørrebrød, open sandwiches. Having never seen them before, we were quite confused as to which was which when they were all placed before us on a platter. "Cultural shock" descended on all so the waitress finally indicated each smørrebrød's owner.

There are at least two ways to walk through Copenhagen. One is with a group of five boys. We were weathering stares from passing eyes, but when a passing conversation contained "Yankee Boys," it

was really time to get lost. I separated from the group and tried to feel Danish. Walking along the streets in my grey overcoat and cap (dress suited to a man of about 25 years h. e.), it soon became apparent that no one was even noticing me. The feeling was intensely exciting.

After viewing the changing of the guard at Amalienborg Slot, I joined two friends and toured the Christiansborg Slot. The guide, honestly (I like to believe), mistook me for a Dane. Finding he was wrong, there came the insistence that I had Scandinavian ancestry.

During these two days I fell in love with Danish pastry and Copenhagen. The others fell in love with Danish women. The pastry was far more accessible.

Feb. 16: Exhaustion is finally catching up. Most slept through Holland, Germany, and Luxembourg. It was either dark or poor sightseeing weather anyway. Our steamer crossing on the channel was also nice—we slept.

But at Liverpool station in London, all miraculously awoke to meet the host families. Everyone had such a warm feeling to finally be back where English is spoken, or is it?

As we stepped off the train the fact I had sent my host family a picture was suddenly comforting. Out of the din rang "Chuck," and I was confronted with Miss Seldon, who introduced me to Mr. Seldon and Doug Johnson.

Troops Relocate Near University

Washington—(UPI)—Army troops in Oxford, Miss., will move from the National Guard armory and Oxford air field to field tents about a mile south of the University of Mississippi, according to the Pentagon.

It said consolidation of the troops at one location would permit a reduction of about 40 in the number of military personnel at Oxford. The new strength will be about 300 men remaining from more than 20,000 troops stationed at Oxford at the height of the integration dispute at the university last fall.

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Summer Irrigation Shortage Predicted

Portland—(UPI)—Late reports on snow conditions in the Cascades indicate Oregon probably will have an irrigation water shortage this summer, W. T. Jack Frost, snow survey supervisor for the Soil Conservation Service, said today.

He said the outlook appeared "grim" for the farmers. Frost had forecast low water conditions at the first of the month. Another forecast is due March 1.

Frost said he believed it would take "a remarkable series of winter storms" to prevent a dry summer.

AND SOME CHANGE

Chilton, Wis.—(UPI)—David Karls, 17, was fined \$45 for spearing a sturgeon without a license. He got part of his fine back because the fish bore a state conservation tag promising \$10 to the fisherman returning the tag.

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- ☒ Irons—2
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