

Around the World

with
Stan Delaplane

GUAYMAS, MEXICO—This could be a pleasant winter resort. Far enough down to speak Mexican, far enough up to have a supermarket. Hotels a little pricey for Mexico, but not bad in dollars.

The desert comes right to the blue Gulf water. The effect is like laying Arizona down on the coast of Florida. Best hotel I found is Posada de San Carlos. About \$8 to \$20 suites. Good food. Some entertainment.

"We've heard the cheapest places for a prolonged stay are Austria, Spain, Yugoslavia and Portugal."

Yugoslavia I don't know. Of the others, I found Portugal the cheapest. The Portuguese family is living on father's wage of \$2.50 a day. Many price controls keep costs down. I'd guess \$300 a month for a couple in the pretty fishing villages within an hour of Lisbon. Maybe less.

"... If we could, but our prices quoted to us are more than we can afford."

For a close budget, you must go to one place and STAY there. Hotels, restaurant meals, tips, movement—those are the things that destroy you.

Many countries are cheaper to live in than the U.S. If you live as you did at home. Arrive with a reservation in a tourist hotel. Then you start looking for a posada, pension, guest house. Room with meals. Now you've got a low, fixed budget. You can start looking for a house to rent.

AFTER you get your lowest fixed budget, you can make cautious, cost-planned excursions. If costs exceed your plans, you have a place to retreat.

Don't try to rent from long distance. It just doesn't work. A brochure description doesn't mean the same thing to you and to a European. I had a London house with "central heating." That meant a two-coil steam heater. A doll house size in a two-story house. The coils never got WARM until summer.

"We enjoyed your stories on the South Pacific. What do you think of renting a house in Tahiti or Samoa around January?"

That's rainy country in the winter. I put in a week in Tahiti, and it rained almost constantly. My shoes grew green fur overnight. It was depressing, damp, and not pleasant. (But no better place in spring, summer, and fall.)

Mexico and Caribbean islands are the winter warm and dry places. Short-term house rentals are hard to get or expensive. But not too hard to find guest houses in the British-type islands: Bermuda, Jamaica, Trinidad, the Bahamas. Posadas in Mexico—

I will switch to two that hold two suits each. For flexibility (I am away two and three months at a clip and find I want that much.)

Travel editors I know go much more often. Usually one and two week trips that may take them half way around the world. Most of them use a hang-up cover bag into which they slip one or two suits. (The stewardess hangs it up in the plane.) They carry a small under-the-seat bag for shirts and personal gear. This gives them the advantage of not checking in or waiting for baggage. Everything is carried on.

I've been using a canvas bag that holds four suits, pockets for shirts, etc. It folds over and buckles. But I think One thing you can count on

in Europe. Somewhere you'll have to pick up (and maybe carry) your own bag. Porters go on strike. The "bellboy" is out in the little British pub, and your room is up the stairs. Train porters will put luggage on a train, but they have a rule against taking it off. You have to pull it out of the overhead and hand it out the window.

In your luggage, pack a pen-size flashlight. Falling over furniture in the dark in a strange hotel room is a traveler's hazard. Put in a paperback book. One that takes a long time to read. Foreign hotels don't have a magazine stand open evenings.

A little coil heater for water and a few packages of instant coffee and bouillon are handy. There's a time change you aren't used to. Wake up in the middle of the night, and you're starved.

Work is scheduled to begin this week on improvements to the east side of Avalon Boulevard between Carson and 213th streets.

13 Plays Ready for Institute

Dr. Howard Banks, theater arts and speech instructor at El Camino College, is presenting a series titled "Everybody's Shakespeare" for the Institute of Lifetime Learning in Long Beach.

A total of 13 shows will be taped and will reach approximately 450 radio stations throughout the country. The broadcasts include "Hamlet," "The Merchant of Venice," "Romeo and Juliet," "Richard III," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Henry V," "Midsummer Nights Dream," "Macbeth," "Taming of the Shrew,"

"Twelfth Night," "As You Like It," "King Lear," and "The Tempest."

"The Institute of Lifetime Learning is for people of retirement age," Dr. Banks explained. "Its purpose is to stimulate the mature mind."

THIS IS the third opportunity Dr. Banks has had to teach at the institute. Last fall he taught a class in reading plays and in the spring a class in acting, and this fall Dr. Banks is instructing an acting class.

supposed to last about an hour; however, they are not to be considered as school classes but as discussion groups which sometimes last three hours," Dr. Banks said.

Dr. Banks has selected students from his acting class of last spring for his presentation. Sherman Dorsey, Claudia Wilkens, Kim Turner and his wife, who are or have been students of El Camino College, will do special readings.

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