

Around the World

with Stan Delaplane

FIDDLETOWN, Calif.—This tries Balloons, maybe? Cray-

is the long, empty foothill country of the Sierra. The gold rush land. The Mother Lode. Back roads will take you to sleepy towns where rusting iron doors hang on the buildings once used by Wells Fargo: China Camp, Whiskey Flat, Fiddletown, Red Dog, You Bet, Yankee Jim's.

Best route is to Placerville (old Hangtown) on Highways 40 and 50 from San Francisco. (Before Sacramento, stop at the Nut Tree, the best restaurant-souvenir shop center in the U.S.) Turn north or south on Highway 49.

Not many restaurants and no Hiltons on this route—but like Coast Highway 1, little traffic. Good small places are Sierra Nevada House at Coloma; Mine House at Amador; the St. George in Volcano; the St. Leger at Mokelumne Hill. It's warm, sunny country of live oak and pine. My great grandfather mined here in 1850 and later wrote: "The climate in the gold mines suits me better than any other, and if I had a good ranch there I would go to it and remain until I was called up higher."

"We are driving to California this summer and would like to drive around the state avoiding fast freeways. More leisurely travel..."

California estimates 15 million visitors this year, and most of them will be on the freeways. But you can make the leisurely drives on Coast Highway 1, Mother Lode Highway 49, the road through Los Padres forest starting at Ojai through the central valley on good roads and little traffic.

Any gas station map will show you criss-cross roads going through wonderful back country. I do this one a year between San Francisco and Los Angeles and can make the whole route seldom seeing another car.

"Morning coffee is our delight. Have you run into unusual brands?"

Me, too. Best I've had is Jamaica Blue Mountain (a type not a brand name) and the Guatemala coffee that comes from around Antigua. Some place I had black coffee in which they'd up a pinch of cardamom seed. You could try it.

"Is it permitted to wear sports clothes in Hawaii? I mean can you wear shorts to breakfast, and do women wear shifts on the street?"

Hawaii is the most relaxed dress country in the world. Shorts for breakfast and lunch. Mother Hubbard muumuu day and night. Aloha shirts and shorts for men anytime. Bathing suits on the street. Minimus (short muumuus) all the time.

There are a FEW places that want dresses and coats and ties at dinner. (Offhand I can't think of more than four in all the islands.) As soon as I get to the islands, I shed my shoes and never put them on again.

Hold off buying clothes until you get to Hawaii. The selection will drive you out of your mind. And you'll be more relaxed in bright colors and styles. Buy at home and you'll do it all over again when you see the shops at Waikiki.

"... a famous bar you spoke of in Paris?"

Maybe the Ritz Hotel? Go in the front entrance and walk all the way to the back. The bar is just before you exit through the revolving doors into the Rue Cambon. For years, the Ritz bar was known as the only place you could get a dry martini, and every famous person has been there at some time.

"What could we carry for children's presents on a drive through Central America? Gum?"

Gum is made in these coun-

ons? Hard candy? Nearly all few rooms, too.) A colorful children in these countries are poor. Any present is a big treat.

"A very good restaurant you mentioned in Cuernavaca, Mexico..."

That's Las Mananitas, a pretty garden restaurant with excellent food. (They have a

spot for a snack lunch is the Cardenas delicatessen, just across from the Cortez palace in the middle of town. Chancy. One day you're served Polish ham by an Aztec princess. The next day it may be greasy local stuff. And the surly Indian waitress has her thumb in the soup. You never know.

Fences To Go Up At Night

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has urged that upcoming fence replacement work on the Harbor Freeway be accomplished at night, rather than during heavily-congested daytime hours.

The cable with chain link fence between 94th and 135th Streets with a new type barrier. Hahn led a long campaign to have median barriers installed on Los Angeles freeways to prevent head-on collisions.

He said experience has proven that work can be accomplished faster—and as safely—with little inconvenience to motorists between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Birch Film Showing Set

Harbor chapters of the John Birch Society will sponsor free showings of two films entitled "Show Biz in the Streets" and "Opinion Makers." Friday evening at the Lomita Elementary School auditorium, 2211 W. 247th St.

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