

Around the World

with
Stan Delaplane

PAPEETE, Tahiti—Tahiti is preparing for the Juillet, the 14th of July celebration that lasts a glorious, wine-soaked month on this French Polynesian island. Guitars thump day and night along the waterfront. And Quinn's, a piece of South Seas out of Somerset Maugham, is jammed with sailors and the Foreign Legion and brown vahines.

There's a steady procession of put-put scooters with cargoes of bare-legged brown girls, long black hair streaming in the wind. The air is like warm silk. The food is French—best in the South Pacific. Good hotels. Prices are not low, but not killing. (About \$15-\$18 a day for a double.) Rent cars and rent scooters available. Boy Meets Girl? Indeed they do.

"When we finish college (or maybe we won't) a couple of us would like to spend a few years in Tahiti or some island. We don't require much..."

The French don't make it easy for young beachcombers. You need onward tickets, proof of income. And even then, they have some kind of six months limit. You are not permitted to work.

Have a return ticket. Don't burn all the bridges. I've known several men who tried the Gauguin thing down here and have gone back. Tahiti is small. And gets smaller as you live here. (Not much to do except cut up local gossip.)

One man who left his U.S. wife and children for the free and easy life and took up with an island girl, complained: "If I get home after 6 o'clock, she beats me with a canoe paddle." (Great place to visit. I wouldn't want to live here.) I know only a dozen or so

Shutterbug Club Plans Exhibition

The South Bay Camera Club's 21st Salon of Photographic Prints will be open for public viewing Aug. 9 through 19 at Bullock's Fashion Square, Del Amo Shopping Center.

The club will furnish award plaques for the three best monochrome prints and the best color print in the open division and the three best prints in the junior division.

Bullock's Fashion Square will award gift certificates in these two categories. Four \$40 certificates will be presented in the open division and three \$15 certificates in the junior division. Each exhibitor will be eligible for only one gift certificate.

Anyone living west of the Harbor Freeway and south of Manchester Boulevard is eligible to enter the exhibit. Entries should be sent to South Bay Camera Club, c/o Paul's Photo, 24012 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, Calif. 90505, by July 26. Those desiring to enter the exhibit have been asked to write for an instruction sheet.



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in the islands and are counting the days until they get out. Even the French long for Paris.

"We are a young couple, no children, with \$3,000 saved. Now where could we go on that money for a year?"

You can make it in Mexico. An added advantage is transportation by bus won't chew

into your money too much. Around Europe by camper runs \$12 a day. (Bus to New York and take the cut-rate Icelandic Airlines.) Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Greece are cheap countries if you want to stay in one place. You can do well in the South Pacific: Fiji, Western Samoa, the Tonga Islands. But the air fares might eat you up. Madeira and the Spanish Canaries are cheap, warm

islands. Say \$200 to \$300 a month for a couple. But can you take an island for a year? One reason islands are cheap is there isn't anything to spend money on.

"Some warm island where we could spend just two months..."

Tahiti is just right for that. Just long enough, not too long. There's nothing like a South

Pacific morning. Cool weather, under a thatch roof dining area. Hot croissants (baked by Chinese and better than Paris) and butter flown in from Normandy. "Butter should have an aftertaste of chestnuts," the French say.

They tell me you can rent a beach house for \$150 a month. I wouldn't bet on help—Tahitians are not hard workers. A few bottles of Hinano beer on Saturday night is enough.

If the island drags, you are trip and overnight on the lovely island of Moorea. (Last time the captain was drunk and ran on a reef. But the sea is not bad.)

The French aren't anxious for long-time visitors. You melt into the economy and quit spending money. But two months, that's just about right. And this is the good time of everything you want. The boat year.

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