

Prices in Europe Still Reasonable, He Reports

Editor, Press-Herald:

In a recent issue (Sunday, Sept. 5) you featured on the front page a report from Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta, the gist of which is that Americans should stay away from Europe because prices are exorbitant and everyone is out to gouge the American tourist.

My wife and I have just returned from a two month tour of the major countries of Europe, including all of Great Britain, and our experiences were definitely contrary to those reported by Mr. Sciarrotta. In fact, his statements lead me to believe that Mr. Sciarrotta must have followed the routine and well-worn tourist channels, and must have stayed in luxury hotels and patronized the high-priced bars and restaurants which admittedly exist chiefly as traps for "the wealthy American" and which can prove quite costly for those who are foolish enough to patronize them, just as certain hotels, restaurants, and night spots in this country charge notoriously high prices to those who venture into them. Has Mr. Sciarrotta ever tried to order only a salad in the Twenty-One Club, for example?

Let us examine some of Mr. Sciarrotta's statements in detail: "There are three sets of prices in Europe, one for the natives, one for other Europeans, and one for Americans." If Mr. Sciarrotta had stuck, as we did, to medium price bars and restaurants (which provide excellent service and food) he would have found that in the bars the prices are listed on the wall, and anyone who pays more than the listed price is rather naive.

Again, if Mr. Sciarrotta found that "meals in (European) restaurants are much higher than what we pay for meals in America," he must have restricted himself to the "luxury" circuit. I still have a check for a dinner which my wife and I had in England: soup for each, lamb chops for Mrs. Moore and roast beef for me, two strawberry tarts each, and a pot of tea containing enough for two generous cups each—the total for this was \$1.57 (Yes, for the TWO of us!), to which I added a 21-cent tip. Admittedly, the restaurant was not fancy, but the food was good. In Cologne we had an excellent dinner, complete, for \$2.50 each, including the service charge; in the Los Angeles area, where does Mr. Sciarrotta find excellent meals in good restaurants for less money than this?

In Rome we ate very good meals at several restaurants in the square adjacent to the main railway station. We had our choice of sidewalk or indoor tables, and never did we pay more than \$1.75 for a complete dinner.

In hotels where the "service charge" is added to the bill (and most of it was in our case 15 per cent, ranging from that down to 10 per cent), anyone who tips another 10 per cent is either very foolish or very profligate or both; if the service has been exceptionally good, an extra 2 per cent added to the bill will bring happy smiles and very sincere thanks. In not one single instance was there the slightest intimation that we should give tips if there was a service charge included in the bill. One learns (or should learn) very early to ask in each country (and the necessary foreign phrasing is easily available from a Berlitz phrase book): "Is the service included? In France, for example, one asks, "Service compris? (Sehr-vees compris?)"

It is true that, by our standards, soft drinks are expensive; this is because most of the places selling drinks are in business to sell alcoholic drinks, and are not much interested in soft drinks. By the way, How much would a Coke or a Seven-Up cost at the Cocoanut Grove? If you really want soft drinks at reasonable prices, they can be obtained at many of the small grocery shops.

Coming back to Mr. Sciarrotta's salad, if he really wanted to go to a restaurant and have a salad and nothing else, it would be very easy to do so: select a restaurant which has the menu posted in the window (as all but the very expensive restaurants and "clip joints" do); the menu will be in two parts, the "a la carte" and the "table d'hôte." If, of course, you order the "table d'hôte" (called in many French restaurants the "menu de jour"), you are ordering a complete meal, and must pay for all of it whether you eat it or not, which is the situation prevailing in all restaurants here. If, however you order "a la carte," you may order and pay for as little as you wish.

For example, several times my wife and I ordered for lunch an omelet and tea (the French omelets, especially the ones with mushrooms are an epicure's delight!), and there was never the slightest objection, even though an omelet is considered by Europeans as something which one eats after the soup and preceding the main course. We were able to get this type of lunch even in the Hotel Palais d'Orsay in Paris, which is comparable to the Biltmore in Los Angeles. The price of these simple luncheons varied from 80 cents to \$1, including service charge. So, Mr. Sciarrotta could easily have found many places where he could have ordered his salad without having to order anything else!

Mr. Sciarrotta mentions taxi fares. In Paris my wife and I arrived from Le Havre at St. Lazare Station a couple of hours before we were due to check in at the airport for our trip home. As my wife had not seen Sacre Coeur Church (in my opinion, easily the most beautiful edifice in all of Europe), I asked the taxi driver if he could take us to Sacre Coeur, give us 15 minutes to see the church, and still get us to the airport in time.

He said he could, so we drove us through the Montmartre to the church, and waited while we explored the place both inside and out. He then took us to Le Bourget Airport, a considerable distance from the center of Paris. It is true that he made an extra charge for driving the taxi back empty to the city, but it was only about 15 per cent of the fare; the total fare was \$4.40, including the tip. Can Mr. Sciarrotta get a taxi to take him from Los Angeles International Airport to St. Paul's Cathedral in central Los Angeles and then to Torrance for \$4.40?

Now for the hotels. The average price we paid for a hotel room for the two of us in Europe was about \$7, and most of the time this included breakfast—and in England the breakfasts were hearty and substantial! We spent our first night in Europe at a new and very modern motel, where we paid \$5 for a truly luxurious room with a private bath. In a French village we paid \$3 for a very charming room with twin beds. BUT, we stayed away from the Hiltons and the big luxury type hotels!

As for wine, I don't know where Mr. Sciarrotta bought his, but my experience in France and Italy was that a glass of wine with a meal was not more than 20 cents, and one could have a one-litre bottle of Chianti served with a meal for less than 75 cents, and could buy it a shop for about 30 cents. (A litre is about a quart).

Finally, my wife needed to have her hair done several times while we were in Europe. The price of a "shampoo and set" was \$2.20 in Monte Carlo and France, and \$1.54 in England, including the tip. Ask any housewife how this compares with what she pays for a shampoo and set in Torrance! On the last day we were in England I decided to get a hair-cut; the hair-cut was 49 cents, a shampoo was 63 cents, and the barber was almost deliriously happy with the 21 cent tip I gave him—a total

of \$1.34 for a hair-cut, shampoo, and tip!

I have estimated that our expenses in Europe, including rooms, meals, entertainment (we saw both the Moulin Rouge and the Folies Bergere in Paris, and went to the Palladium and the "Talk of the Town" in London), two trips across the Irish Sea by steamer, one trip across the North Sea to Holland, three trips across the English Channel by car ferry, a train ride from Hook of Holland to Wolfburg, Germany (where we picked up our car at the factory), another train ride from Le Havre to Paris, and all running expenses (including cost of garaging in some cities) for the car, averaged about \$35 a day for the two of us.

My conclusion is that if one is judicious and is able to use discretion and common sense, he can have a wonderful time in Europe, visit the places where ancient history was made and where modern history began, and meet some fascinating people and observe some very quaint and interesting traditions and customs (for example, in northern Italy and southern France the peasants are using milch sows as draft animals to pull farm implements and wagons), and do it all very economically.

ALAN S. MOORE
1741 Elm Ave.

New Phone Directory Out Monday

Delivery of the Southern section of the telephone directory—green cover—to General Telephone subscribers in the Southwest is scheduled to begin tomorrow, according to Bernard Le Baron, South Bay division manager for the utility company.

A new feature of the new directory will be the green page classified advertising index, which appears in General Telephone's Southern section for the first time.

"We are very proud of this index," Le Baron said. "We feel certain that customers will find it helps them find whatever services they require much more speedily."

Telephone directories are revised and published once a year. Subscribers wishing copies of the directories for other areas may phone the nearest business office.

Alumni Club Of Michigan Sets Meeting

The first meeting of the newly organized University of Michigan Alumni Club of South Bay will be held Friday at the Airport Marina, Lincoln at Manchester, at 7:30 p.m.

It is hoped that a large number of the more than 1,000 alumni located in the Southwest area will attend.

Future meetings for the year include a visit from Dick Emmons, editor of "The Michigan Alumnus," in November and a Christmas party.

Public Notice

Upon narrow streets as authorized herein, no person shall park a vehicle upon any such street or violation of any such sign or marking... of any such sign or marking... of any such sign or marking...

TRUCK TRAFFIC IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, 1954
That a new Section 17.144 entitled "Truck Traffic in the City of Torrance, 1954" is hereby repealed in its entirety.

TITLE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY
By RICHARD A. WALTER
Assistant Secretary
S—Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 1965

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
No. 48989
Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Los Angeles.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Public Hearings will be held before the Torrance Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m., October 6, 1965 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Torrance, on the following matters:

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CERTIFICATE OF BUSINESS, FICTITIOUS NAME
The undersigned do hereby certify he is conducting a business at 3633 W. 228th Street, Torrance, California, under the fictitious firm name of...

CERTIFICATE OF BUSINESS, FICTITIOUS NAME
The undersigned do hereby certify he is conducting a business at 15233 W. Western Avenue, Gardena, California, under the fictitious firm name of...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1965, at 11:00 A.M. TITLE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY, as duly appointed trustee, under and pursuant to Deed of Trust dated January 28th, 1964, executed by CHARLES W. MATHEWS and MILDRED B. MATHEWS, husband and wife, and recorded February 13, 1964, as instrument No. 1389, book 73518, page 155, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder in lawful money of the United States at the entrance of the said States at the entrance of the said States at the entrance of the said States...

NOTICE OF MARSHAL'S SALE
By virtue of an execution issued on August 25, 1965 by the JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Los Angeles County, California, upon a judgment entered in favor of ROBERT CARDELLA, doing business as VIOLET J. DUFFY, against PATRICK J. DUFFY, individually and as partner in the partnership of VIOLET J. DUFFY, individually and as partner in the partnership of VIOLET J. DUFFY and PATRICK J. DUFFY, consisting of...

Public Notice

of Trust, by reason of a breach of default in the obligations secured thereby, heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Demand for Payment and Demand for Sale, and written notice of breach and of election to foreclose, and of the date of sale of the property to satisfy said obligations, and thereafter, on June 17, 1965, the undersigned caused said notice of breach and of election to be recorded in book M1893, page 642, of said Official Records of the County of Los Angeles, California. Date: September 21, 1965.

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Public Notice

J. DUFFY as judgment debtor, showing a net balance of \$218.38 actually due on said judgment of execution, I have levied upon all the real and personal property of said judgment debtor in the property in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, as follows:

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DEATH NOTICE

MYRTLE C. MOON passed away Sept. 22 in Torrance Hospital. Born May 16, 1905 in Arkansas. Survived by daughters, Florence M. Graves, Hawthorn & Martha J. Flowers, Torrance, Sisters, Clara Combs, Inglewood; Mrs. James Johnson, No. Carolina; Beanie A. Cron, Michigan; 4 grandsons, 4 granddaughters. Services Sept. 24th, Garden Chapel of Inglewood Mortuary. Interment Rosewood Memorial Park.

JOHN JONES passed away Sept. 21st in Torrance. Born in England (Sumner) 1892. Survived by wife, J. Lillian; a Daughter, Lillian Vida Worthington of Virginia, Brothers, David Lewis, Clifford, Stanley & Percy. Sister, Lillian Kerr. Services held Chapel of St. Paul, Stone & Myers Sept. 24th, 11 a.m. Interment Green Hills Memorial Park.

CEMETERY LOTS

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ARMSTRONG'S
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