

Around the World with Stan Delaplane

Coloma, California—Green for the children. I'd be wary of regular milk even if it says "pasteurized." Mexico is great country for kids.

"What about camping in the National Parks?"

On the hill above this gold rush town, the bronze figure of James Marshall points to the place on the American River where, in January, 1848, he picked up the first yellow flakes, "about as much as a 10-cent piece would hold."

"... summer vacation place that would interest our three boys."

You can still pan gold all through the Mother Lode country of California. It's an inexpensive, easy-to-learn process. A lot of fun — you're sure to get the "color" occasionally. A thin pencil line of gold on the edge of the pan.

Skin divers do well in the rivers, using a suction pump in deep holes that the Forty-niners didn't reach. People who live up here hit occasional pockets and bring out quite a bit. (You can buy gold dust here in collectors' bottles.)

Not too many hotels. You should have reservations, especially for weekends. A number of them are done in gold rush style. Try Sierra Nevada House here at Coloma and Mine House at Amador City. Sierra Nevada House and the Jug and Rose at Volcano are tops for sourdough pancake breakfasts.

This is all treasure hunt country. Did your grandfather leave any letters or diaries from here? (Mine did.) What happened to Fremont's brass cannon? To Marshall's diary? And where is the \$80,000 in gold pieces that Joe Williams buried at Drytown?

Best book for exploring the golden country: Sunset Travel Book "Gold Rush Country," \$1.95 from Lane Magazine and Book Co., Menlo Park, Calif.

"We would like to plan a 'country-style' vacation as all of our children have been raised in the city..."

There are a number of working farms that take a few summer guests. You find them listed in a booklet "Farm and Ranch Vacation Guide," \$1.50 from Farm Vacations, 38 East 87th Street, New York City.

One listing is here in the Mother Lode. Write Family Guest Ranch, Fiddletown, Calif., 95629. (Gold panning. Pack trips. Help with farm animals.)

"What do you think of taking small children on a trip to Mexico? We could take a camper. One child is a year old."

Mexico has some camping places but not many. Trailer parks are so popular down there — (living is cheap) — that they're usually booked up far in advance by people who do it year after year. Especially true of beach towns like Mazatlan.

I'd say, try it. Use hotels when the camping looks too rough. Country hotels are generally cheap in Mexico — \$4 to \$8 for two. Use powdered milk with bottled water

Telephone Firm Pays Tax Bill

Pacific Telephone Co., joining thousands of other L.A. County taxpayers, has paid a final installment of nearly \$20 million on its 1966-67 tax bill.

Jim Leggett, local manager of the utility, said Pacific's total countywide tax bill for 1966-67 was \$39,390,535.04 — a jump of some \$348,911 over the 1965-66 bill.

Torrance city taxes paid by the firm amounted to \$46,285.46, he said.

Pacific's statewide tax bill was \$126.7 million, making the utility the state's largest single taxpayer for the eighth consecutive year.

All-School Band Plays In Concert

The fourth annual honor band festival of the Torrance Unified School District was held at North High School gymnasium, Thursday evening, April 13.

The concert featured selections by the North, South, Torrance, and West High bands, by the combined bands and by the High School Honor Band.

Directors were: Robert Jones of North High, George Andrews of South High, John Spence of Torrance High, and Ronald Large of West High.

Nevada Banks Approve Card

Californians traveling in Nevada will be able to use their BankAmericards very soon under terms of a licensing agreement signed between the Bank of America and the Nevada Bank of Commerce.

The credit cards are now honored in eight Western states under licensing agreements. Those states are California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and Hawaii.

Lot of people writing me the last few years that the big parks were too crowded. Everything being overused and breaking down. Maybe something not so well known would be better. Good listing is "Western Campsite Directory," \$1.95. Same people who publish "Gold Rush Country."

"Would like to know something about the Club International. Their trips sound good, but I'd like to hear from someone who knows."

This seems to be patterned after the popular Club Med-terranean. That's a membership thing operating its own summer vacation villages in off beat places. In the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and South Pacific. Sort of like kids' summer camps for adults. Group travel and group operation make it inexpensive and Club Med-terranean has done very well.

Four Choirs To Appear In Concert

Four Choirs at Ascension Lutheran Church, 17910 S. Prairie Ave., will present a spring concert of sacred music at 7:30 this evening at the church.

The concert, the church's second annual Cantate Sunday Concert, will feature the cantata, "The Seven Words of Christ on the Cross" by Heinrich Schuetz.



HONOR EMPLOYEES... Employees of General Telephone Co.'s South Bay Division were honored this week for their contributions to the Mental Health Association of Los Angeles County. Hon Lesing (left), a member of the Mental Health Association board, presents a certificate of appreciation to Helen Sandstrom, chairman of General's United Appeal's Committee, and Harold Nelms, South Bay Division manager.

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Interest to End on All Postal Savings Deposits

United States Postal Savings certificates totaling \$12,709 which are on deposit at the Torrance Post Office will stop earning interest for local depositors on April 27, Postmaster Carl L. Backlund said today.

Nationwide, the Post Office Department is holding more than \$90 million in the now obsolete program which was discontinued by the Congress on March 28, 1966.

As of April 27, a year ago, Postal Savings were discontinued, and no deposits have since been accepted by the Post Office Department. Certificates whose anniversary dates have been reached since last April 26 have earned their final interest payment, Backlund said.

On June 30, he said, all remaining funds in the program will be turned over to the

Treasury Department to be held in a trust fund until liquidated. There will remain available for payment without time limitation whenever proper claims are received. Holders of Postal Savings certificates can arrange to redeem them simply by applying at the post office where the certificates were issued.

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