

PRESIDENT CALLS DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE IN INDIA

"Let us concentrate on the aims and purposes of Servas ---especially its relevance in a world troubled by fears--and realities--of poverty; disease, war and hate.

F'I should like to propose 'The Growth of Servas' as the conference theme.

"...Servas members wish to live in a better world. This will mean something different to each person, but, through Servas, all our small efforts could add up to a significant contribution. The question is, Can we make Servas better able to serve this ideal?

"I believe we have made a start with the production of the Servas Internation-

al Handbook [for national secretaries, interviewers, and co-ordinators] and the wider distribution of Servas International News [to all members who read English]."

--from Servas International President Graham Thomas of London, writing about our organization's biennial governing conference being held in India from December 27 through 31, 1980#"

3 THOUGHTS FOR MEMBERS

1 a Traveler: Take along a map and some photographs of your country, to help you explain it a little to hosts who haven't been there and haven't had previous visitors from there.

2 Host: Realize that if

you ask for long advance notice you will hear mostly from travelers on short vacations, whose schedule for every day must be planned. If you are satisfied with shorter notice, you have a better chance of meeting travelers who are spending more time in your country, perhaps

hitchhiking or bicycling, on more flexible schedules.

3 - Host and traveler: Exchanging ideas and talking must be at least as important as meeting a foreigner or having a place to sleep--or you may be in the wrong organization, --Davy Bar, Israel **

WELCOME, SIGN HERE, PLEASE

"I can always tell when a Servas visit is going to produce nothing important except food and a bed," a Servas traveler said after a few months on the road.

"There is a certain kind

of host who--the minute I put down my backpack--- immediately brings out the guest book for me to sign!"

We had been talking about one traveler's report that characterized a host family as "not interested in travelers or their ideas,

but only in being able to show their names and addresses to the neighbors." Of course it is fun to keep a record of Servas visits. But the best part of that record is in the mind. The pages of a book are only a reminder. **

Servas International News
13,000 San Vicente Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA

"We are all
travellers
in the wilderness
of this world,
and the best
that we find
in our travels is an honest
friend."

=Robert Louis Stevenson

I REPRESENT A PARTY WHICH DOES NOT YET EXIST: THE PARTY OF REVOLUTION, CIVILIZATION,
THIS PARTY WILL MAKE THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. THERE WILL ISSUE FROM IT FIRST
THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE; THEN THE UNITED STATES OF THE WORLD,

--written on the wall of the room in which Victor Hugo died, 1885

SERVAS: A DEEPER MEANING

--by Doreet Dinitz & Udi
Oren, Jerusalem, Israel

We are back home, and we think about the time five months ago, before our trip to Europe, when a friend whose parents are Servas hosts here suggested that we join Servas.

We arrived in Europe quite skeptical of the organization, and it was not until we met Antonie Fried that we could understand what Servas is about.

[Antonie Fried of Landau/Pfalz, West Germany, was Servas national secretary and is now co-ordinator for Europe.]

We arrived at her home in the evening, expecting to stay only a few minutes. Antonie urged us to stay for dinner and the night.

Then she was off to a Spanish lesson, but not before showing us around her home and, to our astonishment, leaving us the key!

When she returned, we had a long talk about Servas and we began to understand.

At the beginning of our travels, visits with Servas hosts were inter-missions in our journey.

Soon they became the center of it. We found that people, and conversation with them, were more important to us than the monuments and museums around them. A missed visit made us feel we were wasting time and missing the whole point of traveling.

At the same time we were worried that we were not

as able as our hosts to behave in a free and open way towards strangers. But as we enjoyed more Servas encounters (26 visits in all, in six countries), we found we were developing a belief in the possibility of people living together without suspicions, with an open door and open heart.

This trip gave us a good understanding of life in many places, including great differences. More important, it gave us hope that peace will come, for we found the desire for peace everywhere.

We thank all Servas hosts --not only those who received us so kindly, but also the thousands of others who gave us a warm feeling simply by being on the list! **

FOR NON-MEMBERS: WHAT IS
SERVAS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?

"With every true friend-ship we build more firmly the foundation on which the peace of the whole world rests."--M.K. Gandhi

Servas is an international co-operative system of travelers and volunteer hosts, established to help build world peace, good will, and understanding by providing opportunities for contacts between persons of different cultures and backgrounds.

Hosts (mostly individuals and families, plus some community groups) provide information about themselves for listing in a national host directory.

Approved Servas travelers choose the hosts they wish to write to, or telephone, about possible visits (usually two nights), to

share life in the hosts' homes and communities.

Servas charges travelers a small fee. No money changes hands between travelers and hosts. (Ideas, we hope, pass freely between them.)

Servas is nonprofit, interracial, and interfaith. It has consultative status as a Non-Governmental Organization with ECOSOC in the United Nations. **

JOIN, SUBSCRIBE. DONATE.

Join the several thousand Servas hosts and travelers worldwide, whose friendships can perhaps help to hold the fragile world together.

Check one or more of the boxes at right; enclose a donation if possible, and a long envelope addressed to yourself; and mail the form. Thank you. **

TO: Servas International News
13,000 San Vicente Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA

/ / I am not now a member of Servas, but I am interested in the organization. Please send me information, including the name and address of someone who can tell me more about Servas in this part of the world.

/-/ Please send me the next four issues of your publication. I am enclosing the equivalent of US \$2 or more -- International Postal Coupons, money order, or check.

/-7 To help Servas in its efforts toward peace and international understanding, I enclose a donation.

SERVAS THANKS YOU. PLEASE
PRINT YOUR NAME & ADDRESS:

THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL
AFFAIRS: GLOBAL SERVICE IN
LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Servas travelers Anne and Ralph Bleaden-Castro of California visited five Human Development Demonstration Projects of ICA in Latin America last year and saw "startling results" in all of them. They stayed for six months as volunteers in Azpitia, Peru.

ICA is described in its 1979 report of 25 years of activity as "a research, training and demonstration group, private and voluntary in nature, concerned with the human factor in world development."

he organization helps to focus--and inspire--hope and determination in villages, towns, and neighborhoods around the world where local residents are seeing the need and possibility of shaping their own communities.

The 1979 report's summary of the Peruvian project is

titled "Forgotten No More," and in part says this:

"Just south of Lima on the Pacific side of the Andes is San Vicente de Azpitia, a remote village of 500 inhabitants which has become a beehive of activity and spirit.

"Just a year ago, Azpitia farmers contended with worn out soil and inadequate irrigation. To borrow money required paying commercial interest rates of 60%. Sanitation facilities were primitive and electricity scarce. No postal or telephone service was available.

"All this has changed. Farm production has increased. Azpitia now has a health center, two-room primary school, level access road, twice-weekly mail service and regular community celebrations. Preparation is underway for irrigation system reconstruction... Visitors see streets which are cleaned regularly and an attractive plaza with

flowers and budding trees.

"And they learn that villagers of all ages got together to build it themselves."

Anne Bleaden-Castro says, "We lived in the home of the mayor, and ate and did our planning in a large structure donated by the village for use by the ICA staff. The experience changed our lives."

The ICA 25-year report quotes these words of Barbara Ward: "I...put to you what I would call a modest hope. It is possible that in the latest age of turbulence and disaster, our science and our wisdom are coming together and our faith and our reality are beginning to coincide."

Further information about ICA is available from The Institute of Cultural Affairs, 4750 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60640, USA (telephone area code 312; 769-6363). **

It was in the garden that man, thanks largely to woman's efforts, found himself completely at home--at peace, if only fleetingly, with the world

around him. In orchard and garden, a nonmechanistic world in which life prospered without inordinate effort or systematic carnage, man had his first

glimpse of paradise, for "paradise" is the Persian word for a walled garden.

--Lewis Mumford, in The Pentagon of Power

TRAVELING IN CHINA TODAY

"I had first visited the country in 1975... Visits to Potemkin-village communes, model factories, and new housing developments--hardly tourist attractions in other countries--were orchestrated and meaningless, and were accompanied by a barrage of official propaganda about the success of the socialist revolution, the sanctity of the principle of 'self-reliance,' and the evil influence of anything foreign.

"Today, travelling in China can be strikingly different. Provided that their [knowledge of spoken Chinese] is adequate, travellers who manage to sidestep the government

travel agency can set out on their wn--by 'hard class' train, boat, and bus--to profit from China's new openness and the almost insatiable desire of the Chinese for conversation.

"...[But] despite the country's new wave of cordiality, the average traveller, who must join a package-tour group to get there, remains very much isolated from the people.

"Most people--who fly from place to place (air travel costs foreigners two to three times the amount that Chinese pay), eat in special dining rooms, and are escorted to scenic or historic sites in Japanese-

made minibuses--find that

their contact is limited primarily to China's tourist personnel..."

--David Finkelstein in The New Yorker Magazine, September 10, 1979

[Underscoring for emphasis added by the Servas International News editor.]

A participant in the July 19.80 US Servas-connected group tour of China has reported that conditions at that time were freer than this magazine article indicated in the previous year. Members of the tour group were able to explore freely "on their own" in major cities without Chinese tourist personnel accompanying them. **

2 IRONIES & 1 HAPPY

ENDING

From the Servas experience of the Granzer family:

1 - "When we moved out of Paris, our living space almost doubled. But our Servas status changed from 'Always-Host' to 'Seldom-Host.'"

[Traveler, get away from the cities and discover the countries you visit.]

2 - "On our trip to the United States, we had an exchange house waiting for us in Florida. What made us become Servas travelers? The parent minority in our family of five became frightened at the idea of staying in a hotel in New York City with-out arms or bodyguards. (Forgive us.)

"I dared to write to only one host. That wonderful couple borrowed a neighbor's extra-big car to meet us at J.F. Kennedy Airport; accommodated all of us easily in their home; showed us around the city the next day; and even let us stay another night because our flight to Florida was overbooked.

"Thanks to Servas, I know that--contrary to some rumors circulating in Europe --there are Americans just as open-minded and welcoming today as ever before. Thank you."

--Randolf Granzer,
Vernouillet, France **

INVITATION FROM
INDONESIA

"For us to be Servas hosts is gratifying. But for us to be Servas travellers is impossible. Travel is simply too expensive for the average Indonesian.

"So let us visit this way: Send us six color slides of your country, and we will send you **six** slides of Indonesia."

--Flory & Mardjuki,
Blunyah Cilik 176 A,
Yogyakarta, Indonesia **

Nations are quite capable of starving every other side of life--education, sanitation, housing, public health, everything that contributes to life, physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual...to maintain their armaments.

--G.L. Dickinson, in
The Choice Before Us

A FEW LOSSES; MANY GAINS

The list of countries in which Servas hosts are waiting to meet Servas travelers changes continually. Generally, it keeps growing.

Hosts move, marry, separate, or find themselves unable to keep up with a flood of requests for visits. Others move to larger or smaller quarters, are enlisted or alienated by travelers they meet, or settle down after being Servas travelers themselves. The reasons--and the list--are never the same from month to month.

Between the March 1980 and August 1980 lists issued by General Secretary Barbara Whitehead, Servas lost its contacts in Greek Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, El Salvador, and Singapore.

New contacts were established in Mali, Swaziland, Peru, Barbados, Belize, and Bermuda.

Other notable additions: a second and third host in Botswana, a fifteenth and sixteenth in Colombia, a second contact in Malaysia, host number 4 in Tunisia, number 23 in South Africa, and more.

When we meet individuals who subscribe to Servas ideals, let us recruit them as Servas hosts. Especially in places where (unlike Denmark with its 200 hosts and New Zealand with 300) Servas has far too few:

Greece, Eastern Europe, Central and South America and the Caribbean islands, many African countries...

And even some areas of the USA: around Grand Canyon, Salt Lake City, Niagara Falls, and New Orleans. **

MY INDIAN SERVAS HOSTS

--by Josephine Scholes,
England

[The Servas International Conference meets in India the last week of 1980. If delegates and visitors are able to visit Servas hosts before or after their stay at the Anand Niketan Ashram, what kinds of people will they meet? This is part of the experience of one Servas traveler in that vast, varied land,]

The first Servas host I came to was Swami Poornanand, who lives in a small hermitage in the hills above the town of Jwalamukhi in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh. Swamiji speaks only Hindi, but we were able to communicate nonetheless.

Mahashay Tirthram is an old freedom fighter who runs an ashram in Himachal where there is a nature-cure hospital stressing diet, fasting for cleansing the body, yoga, etc. I have become an informal student of the traditional system of Indian medicine.

At Chandigarh University I stayed with Mr. & Mrs. Verma. He has great knowledge of religions and is a follower of Christian Science.

At Delhi I stayed in the suburb of Janakpuri with the Kathurias. I spoke to one of Mr. Kathuria's classes where the children asked, "Aren't you afraid to travel alone?" and "Why aren't you married?"

Mr. Tej Singh lives near Meerut in Amarsinghpur, a traditional village with separate Punjabi-style mud houses for men and women.

The Hindu women observe purdah in front of their male elders including the father-in-law. People use the greeting "Ram Ram" (God God). I enjoyed seeing day-to-day life in the village, from making curd to turning the grinding mill.,

[As her account of months of travel in India goes on, no two visits seem alike.]

Servas General Secretary Barbara Whitehead has commented, "In a country with a big income gap between rich and poor, the ashrams make a very useful bridge, In countries which don't have ashrams, hosts some-times disappoint serious travelers by providing luxurious accommodation and entertainment, which only makes the income gap seem worse,"

IF YOU HAVE NEVER,,,

--seen cherry blossoms silhouetted in the moonlight

--slept comfortably on a tatami mat on the floor

--watched enchanted as your hostess performed the tea ceremony

--eaten ⁹'shabu-shabu"

--basked in the elegant simplicity of a roycan (inn)

--tried to teach your language to 30 laughing, enthusiastic Japanese boys and girls

--felt guilty using a fork after eating three meals a day with chopsticks

--experienced the actual spiritual communion one can feel bathing in the same water in which members of a family you have learned to love have bathed

...then you can't imagine the unending gratitude my husband and I feel for the Japanese Servas families we visited.

For three weeks, each time we walked through a new doorway we felt we were being received by friends. Each time we left it was with a feeling of regret we could not stay longer.

--Kay Lanz, California °"

STAMP COLLECTOR: FREE postage stamps from around the world. To receive 25 or more cancelled stamps from unspecified countries (no special selection--take a chance), send the editor an international postal coupon and an envelope addressed to yourself.

YES, SERVAS HAS HOSTS IN BOTSWANA, TOO!

--By Ronald & Helen Eveleigh, West Yorkshire, Regional Co-ordinators for northeastern England.

Botswana covers a vast area on the map of Africa but the settled part is limited to a narrow strip along its boundaries with South Africa and Zimbabwe. We spent most of our stay in Gabarone, the entirely modern capital.

We spent a couple of nights at Mahalopye with Servas hosts, the Comes, who are on the staff of a boarding

school. We were asked to a meal at the school with the Thiessens, also Servas hosts. Art teaches at the adjoining "brigade" akin to a British YOP training centre, where carpentry, sewing and knitting, vehicle maintenance and agriculture are learned.

On our own way to Gabarone we called in at Mouchudi to see the Bergens. They live and work at a hospital which is a real mixture of the primitive and the modern, climbing up a precipitous rocky rocky hill almost in steps. Henry has given up his teaching work to administer the hospital's department for the blind.

The Lowes and Thiessens were hoping to find successors as Servas hosts before leaving the country.

Our memories of Botswana will be of the natural gentleness and courtesy of so many of the African people as well as of Servas hosts.

[There are indeed new hosts in Botswana, as mentioned elsewhere.

Travel interviewers, please note:

Martin & Liz Whiteside, c/o Mahalopye Development Trust, Malahopye; and Lenore Bergey, P O a Box 124, Selebe-Pikwe, -- DF]

It is the editor's sad duty to report that Mr. Masuo Ama, Servas national secretary for Japan and co-ordinator for southeastern Asia, died in September. He will long be remembered by the literally thousands of travelers who stayed in his "Servas house" in Tokyo and by others who met or corresponded with him during his long and devoted service to the cause of world peace.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FROM READERS OF SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS NUMBER 11

"LET US OFFER A DIFFERENT OPINION FROM THE ONE THAT WELSH HOSTS PRESENTED..."

[asking travelers to write -"enclosing International Postal Coupons for reply--- and not to telephone for same-day accommodations].

"We found it difficult to make detailed travel plans far in advance and still remain flexible and take advantage of opportunities that pop up during a trip..."

"The international mails are very unreliable. Letters often take three weeks each way. That means six weeks of planning, just to contact hosts. Our entire European trip was organized in less than six weeks' time!

"So in our Servas travels we called only those hosts who had indicated they were willing to take in travelers with minimum notice. (As hosts, we will try always to be available to last-minute callers because we know how changeable travel plans can be.)

"If a country's Servas host list tells how much prior notice each host requires, travelers should by all means respect that requirement.

"Then perhaps they can be model travelers like those the Bladons of Wales==and all of us-prefer to host."

-Sandra & John Levine
Lansdale, PA, USA
[Fewer and fewer Servas travelers seem to me to rely on letters for making contact with Servas hosts. Hosts who insist that all travelers ask for accommodations two or three weeks in advance may be cheating themselves out of the kind of experiences they joined Servas for. Think about that, the next time you are asked to give information about yourself for inclusion in your country's Servas host list. -- DF] **

"YOUR ARTICLE ABOUT HOSPITALITY FOR BICYCLISTS..."

in Britain was especially interesting to me. I have applied to a U.S. organization of a similar type; namely, the Touring Cyclist Hospitality Homes, a project of the League of American Wheelmen.

"The League is a nationwide organization for promoting bicycling. Hosts of Hospitality Homes offer simple overnight accommodations to touring League members. International memberships are encouraged and Servas members who want further information can contact the League at P.O. Box 988, Baltimore, MD 21'203, USA (telephone area code 301; 727=2022).

"Low-coast travel is always a popular topic for discussion between Servas hosts and travelers, and I hope our publication will continue to give information on the subject"

--Andy Fabula
La Jolla, CA, USA