

SERVAS IN EASTERN EUROPE: SUMMARY & UPDATE

--from a January 1980 report by Antonie Fried, Servas co-ordinator for Europe:

Yugoslavia: Five Servas hosts live in Ljubljana and one in Skopje.

Bulgaria: Servas has two hosts in Sofia and one in Plovdiv.

Hungary: The continuing availability of seven hosts in Budapest has been confirmed, plus ten in other parts of the country.

For a Western visitor to stay overnight in a Hungarian family's or individual's private home, host and guest must register with the local police. So, as Servas International News Number 10 advised, it is suggested that letters to hosts ask that a meeting be arranged, and reservations secured in a hotel or "contacted private room" (tourist room). Other arrangements may be possible after the first meeting with a Hungarian Servas member.

Rumania: The only Servas host whose availability has been confirmed lives in Timisoara.

Poland: The former Servas organization in Poland officially ceased to exist in November 1979 when the national secretary resigned. Government authorities had refused to register the organization on the grounds that "there are plenty of peace organizations in Poland, travelers are provided for by special state institutions, and there are also several youth agencies for student travelers."

Soviet Union: There is one host in Tallinn, Estonia. See the report elsewhere on this page.

In Kiev, the Ukrainian Society for Friendship & Cultural Relations will receive Servas travelers for meetings, discussions, and visits to schools. A month's notice is required.

Approved Servas travelers interested in visits with hosts in any of these countries should unite (enclosing a copy of the approved Letter Introduction) to: Antonie Fried, Rudolf von Habsburg Strasse 50, D 6740 Landau/Pfalz, F.R. Germany, or (from North America) to: Reva King, 268 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10014, USA.

ABOUT SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

This issue of Servas International News focuses on other peace organizations and their publications. After all, we became members of Servas not to contribute to the greater glory of one organization, but to help find ways to prevent World War III. (Do all members agree?) Most of us know too little about what other organizations are doing to help promote peace.

WANTED: EDITOR for Servas International News 1981-82. A new editor is to be elected at the Servas International conference in December.

Barbara Whitehead edited the first six issues; Harry Steinmetz was elected editor at the Servas International conference in 1976; Don Fawcett was chosen as his successor at the conference in Denmark in 1978.

A new editor, proficient in American or British English and with access to a low-cost printer, is needed. Volunteers, please send your names to your Servas national secretaries.

SERVAS INTERN

Number 11, F

SERVAS HOSTS IN BERLIN HOLD MEETINGS EACH YEAR, (DO MEMBERS IN YOUR CITY?)

Eike and Ulla (Ursula) Offer report they were hosts for a gathering of more than 20 Servas members, who exchanged word of their varied experiences in the organization.

Several of the hosts had had some of the same Servas travelers as visitors, and were surprised to find their reactions to those travelers differed widely. [You may wish to keep that in mind, the next time a Servas visitor seems to you less than ideal--Ed.]

Kaethe Denicke spoke to the gathering about her visit to India, and others had stories of travels in North Yemen, Ceylon, Thailand, Japan, Egypt, and the USA.

Members of this January 1979 group decided to arrange more meetings during the year, and the next was a springtime barbecue in the garden of Elfriede Jeanes-Anhalt and Hiltrud Anhalt, among the earliest Servas Berlin hosts. The 25 guests enjoyed steaks and sausages, wine and beer, and Servas conversation. They agreed to invite members from Hamburg and Sweden to their next gathering.

So in June, again in the garden, Swedish Servas Secretary (then) Lasse Thomasson and his daughter Camilla, and Paul Bedick and Achim Hell of Hamburg, were among the guests. So were April Lawrence of Brisbane, Australia, who was visiting Friedhelm Arnoldt and Monique Philippe, and an American teacher who was the guest of Irmtrud Koch.

Paul had brought an invitation from Servas members in Hamburg to meet in that city in July. Seven Berliners attended a party there at the home of Ingrid Sparbier and Yves Grisel beside the Elbe River. German Servas Secretary Peter Brock, his wife Christiane, and their "helpers" Angela and Dieter Niefuehr, Katja Regenhart, Christoph, and Irina also were guests, as were Italian Servas travelers Rosa Calderazzi and Francesca Tassoncini of Milan.

"People of all ages from 20 to 75--people of different parts of Germany and the world--were together, made contact and conversation, and were friends," Eike Offer says. And that is a good part of what Servas is all about.

We have heard that Servas hosts in Switzerland meet every year. We know that US hosts in Orange County, the southern part of the Los Angeles area in California, meet five or six times a year over "potluck" suppers. Are any other local Servas groups as active? The editor would be pleased to receive reports.

Servas gatherings produce more than travel tales. For example, when a host receives a traveler's request for a visit at an inconvenient time, the host knows a nearby Servas member to whom that request can be forwarded.

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN INDIA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Issue
of 1980

PEN PAL IN ESTONIA NOW SERVAS DAYTIME HOST

Ahti. Tihkan, P.O. Box 647, 200 026 Tallinn, Estonia, USSR, wants to meet Servas members by mail and in person. He is a 24-year-old art teacher, interested in martial arts and motor sports and exchanging LP recordings. He knows English, Russian, Finnish, and Estonian, and he asks us to publish this:

We nightclubs, jazz festivals and Finnish broadcasts, Estonians enjoy a lifestyle historically oriented to the West. Finnish in language and Lutheran in religious background, Estonians have the highest standard of living in the USSR, with an economy boosted by our highly computerized industry.

Our folk-music tradition is highlighted by coruses of as many as 30,000 members here at Tallinn, our capital.

Connection by ship is easy through Stockholm and Helsinki.

Send only registered letters, but write me!!

REPORT ON UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Dear Editor:

The status of Servas as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status before the UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) gives us an opportunity and responsibility to acquaint our members with UN activities. Here is my report [condensed] on one commission's recent work.

--Elyse White, Servas, New York

Thirty years after passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, opponents and proponents alike agree that the Commission on Human Rights has no mechanism for correcting violations. The body has been able only to categorize the most glaring infringements and spotlight the countries most unwilling to take action against well documented offenses. The base of the Commission has been broadened by 1) formation of certain subcommittees -for example, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination Against and Protection of Minorities; 2) recommendation and implementation of a committee against apartheid in South Africa; 3) recommendations from governments or statutes against torture and cruel and inhuman punishment and for the right of every person to live under international peace and security, the rights of women, the right to leave any country including one's own and the right to return, freedom of information [an idea interpreted quite differently in different countries--Editor], elimination of religious intolerance, protection against terrorism, protection of rights of trade unions, and the

The biennial governing conference of Servas International will meet in Rangpur, India, at the Anand Niketan Ashram of our Indian national secretary and co-ordinator for southern Asia, Harivallabh Parikh, the last five days of 1980.

Primarily for Servas national secretaries and members of the executive committee, the conference will also welcome other Servas members within the limits of accommodations available at the ashram.

A long-time Servas member offers this information and invitation:

I have hosted hundreds of travelers. Now, for the first time, I plan to travel--to go to the Servas congress in India.

To my great joy I found an offer from India Airlines to "Discover India" on an unlimited-mileage 14-day domestic circle-tour ticket for \$200. [Now \$300--Editor.]

I believe I can afford that in addition to the flight from here to Bombay and back.

Would some other Europeans or Americans like to extend their visit? I hope we can explore India together. Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

--Margery McIntire, Largo Bradano 4/14, Rome 00199, Italy.

Servas India has undertaken to meet the cost of transport between Bombay and Anand Niketan, a distance of about 400 miles, for the number of visitors they can accommodate.

Air India (international) expects fare increases of 8% to 10% by June 1. Tickets bought before the increase will be honored later.

"WOMEN 1980," WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UN DECADE FOR WOMEN, COPENHAGEN, JULY 1980

The UN conference will measure the present realities of women's conditions against the expectations and targets of the 1975 Mexico City conference of International Women's Year.

Reva King, former Servas International president and now representative of Servas as an NGO (non-governmental organization) at UN meetings in New York, has submitted to the conference planners a position paper urging UN encouragement of education for peace.

These are some of the gloomy conclusions from information submitted so far by NGO's, governments, and specialized agencies:

¶ Some conditions for women have worsened since 1975--illiteracy rates have increased in most developing countries, educational gains have not been followed by increased employment, and inadequate application of technology affects many women's health adversely.

¶ Traditional attitudes--women considering themselves second-class citizens, men considering themselves superior (greater strength being erroneously equated with greater wisdom)--are a main obstacle to advancement of women.

¶ Cultural antagonism to education of girls in many cultures means that--despite legally equal access to education--many girls complete only two or three years of school. Two out of three illiterate persons world-wide are women.

about twice a year by nonprofit Servas International. President: Graham Thomas, 80 Bushwood, London E11 3BW, England. Editor: Don Fawcett, 13,000 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA.

The variety of opinions expressed in this issue obviously do not reflect the opinions of the editor or any other individual alone. The same is true of past and future issues of this publication. Consider all views!

Contributions of material for this magazine (narratives, photographs, news of other peace organizations, opinions, drawings, complaints, congratulations) are not merely invited but eagerly sought. The editor does ask that material submitted be relevant to Servas directly, and not just of a general travel nature.

FOR NON-MEMBERS: WHAT IS SERVAS?

"With every true friendship 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, goodwill, and understanding by providing opportunities for contacts with persons of different cultures and backgrounds.

Hosts (mostly individuals and families, plus some community groups) provide information about themselves for listing in a national directory. Approved Servas travelers choose the hosts they wish to write 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 an NGO with ECOSOC of the United Nations.

SUBSCRIBE. OR JOIN, OR BOTH,

Join the Servas hosts and travelers whose friendships can perhaps help to hold the fragile world together. Please check one or more of the boxes below; enclose a donation if possible, and a large envelope addressed to yourself; and mail this 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 here in this part of the world.

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

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

SERVAS THANKS YOU. PLEASE PRINT NAME & ADDRESS:

But we knew we would have something in common with other Servas members."

A SERVAS COUPLE'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

--from Esko Newhill, Indiana, PA, USA:

Having a long-standing interest in South Africa, my wife and I needed only a spark of encouragement to plan a journey to that country. The spark came when four couples from South Africa, at the end of a tour out of London in 1978, invited us to visit them.

We made the trip the following year in August--still winter in South Africa. Nights were quite chilly in the interior. September, the beginning of Spring, would have been a better choice.

We chose not the longer, perhaps more restful route to London and then to Johannesburg, but the more direct, somewhat less expensive flight directly from New York in 15 hours.

In Johannesburg, the largest city and major industrial center, we spent several days with Servas and non-Servas friends. Franz and Noreen Auerbach and Neville and Felicity Armstrong were enormously helpful.

Johannesburg, like other South African cities, is clean and well planned. Racial segregation, or "apartheid," is a fact one becomes aware of immediately. Public toilets at the airport are marked for either "Whites" or "Non-Whites." Throughout the country we found public waiting rooms, bars, railroads, and such all segregated. Some of the more petty forms of separation, such as separate benches in the park, seem to have become less common.

In Soweto, a vast ghetto of almost one million black Africans, poverty and squalor were not extreme. I have seen far worse conditions elsewhere in Africa. It is the racism these conditions reflect that is the greater blight. Racism results not only in segregation, but in imprisonment of non-whites without trial, harsh enforcement of laws about carrying passes, property seizures, and other humiliations.

(White South Africans found my use of the word "ghetto" very offensive, but I was not convinced it was inappropriate.)

But segregation is not the total picture.

We found extraordinary hospitality, generosity, and kindness, not only toward us but in other people's interracial contacts.

Betsy Myburgh, a Coloured member of Servas, drove us long distances despite the very high cost of gasoline, about \$2.50 per gallon then. (The term "Coloured" is applied by everyone in South Africa to persons of mixed race.) An Indian family in Cape Town, Rutton and Perviz Mancherje, also was generous and hospitable.

Many Servas members we met are doing all they can to further racial justice. Servas National Secretary Gwen McLaren is an example. She works as a volunteer at a day-care center for retarded black children.

At a non-Servas home in Durban, the son and his fellow students, half of them non-white, ate together, shared sleeping quarters, and provided a totally heartwarming experience.

One must not make simplistic generalizations about South Africa. Its problem is not a simple case of a white minority oppressing a black majority. There are more than a score of ethnic groups, with many hostile to each other. But if a multiracial democracy can gradually emerge, South Africa can become the great stabilizing force for the continent of Africa and a major nation in the world.

Rights of children. Some consensus was reached in 1978 that commitments of violations against human rights should be received confidentially, and first efforts should be made without publicity to suade the offending governments to cease the practices. Suggestions were made to apply economic sanctions against persistent violators. A case in point was application of sanctions against Rhodesia. The USA and some other countries have not infield the universal convention against genocide, but the necessary number of votes has protected its passage.

PAX CHRISTI-USA OPPOSES SIGNING OF SALT II

The international Catholic peace movement Pax Christi was founded in France in the aftermath of the second world war. It has spread through Western Europe and to Australia and United States. The president of Pax Christi-USA, Bishop Thomas Cumbleton of Detroit, explained in the organization's quarterly bulletin his opposition to the proposed SALT II treaty. These are excerpts from his article: When I was invited to a briefing session for religious leaders at the State Department in October 1978, I went readily. I had assumed I held support the signing. I was pleased to learn more about the treaty and to join with her religious leaders to build a base of support for it.

But at the end of the morning session, as facts had been carefully laid out about incredibly large arsenals that the Soviets as the US would have under SALT II, one of the participants asked, "Do you mean that you project us to support the kind of arsenal you are describing? That we should offer religious legitimacy for the weapons outlined in your presentation?"

The government representative responded that understood we had to be concerned with more questions, but the Arms Control Agency and State Department could not be.

And here we were--the same religious leadership; we should have been raising other calling questions--already devising a strategy form a Religious Committee of Support. began to think again about Hiroshima. And in the pastoral letter of the American bishops "To Live in Christ Jesus," which said: "The right of legitimate defense is not a justification for unleashing every form of destruction... Not only is it wrong to attack civilian populations but it is also wrong to threaten to attack them as part of a strategy of deterrence." The religious community should [educate others to] the moral judgment of the Vatican statement to the UN that "the arms race itself is an act of aggression against the poor"...

Second... promote conversion from arms industry to peace production... thirdly... take the lead positively building peace. The argument has been raised that at least SALT II puts a "cap" on the permissible number of nuclear weapons. Yet as I thought about it, it seemed that supporting such an agreement would be like supporting a "cap" on the number of torture chambers permitted... We must stop the arms race NOW... because the fish line is not peace but holocaust.

men, but paradoxically their health status remains lower.

9 The World Health Organization acknowledges the failure of Western-style medical care to provide adequately for the health needs of women now or in prospect for the year 2000, and is now looking for ways to combine traditional grass-roots health-care systems with modern health techniques.

Most countries' economies rely on the presence of large numbers of women in the work force, but little consideration is given to the medical and social effects on women and their families. "The developing countries are likely to reproduce the health crisis of the Industrial Revolution in 19th Century England, with women as the most vulnerable."

4 Increases in time women spend in paid employment are reflected not in declines in time spent in unpaid household work, but in declines in women's leisure time.

¶ Women's effectiveness in influencing political decisions and in drawing attention to specific needs of women remains extremely small in most countries.

We wish the UN success with a plan of action!

GLOBETROTTERS CLUB--LOW-COST TRAVEL

"We can travel for ten days or more on what the average tourist spends in a day. The less you spend on travel, the more you get out of it," says the founder of the Globetrotters.

The club, now 35 years old, is still a small and informal association of travelers all over the world, linked by an interest in low-cost travel and a desire to study the customs and cultures of other lands and peoples. It is a club for the non-tourist, it says--for those eager to share experiences with others.

A California member of both organizations, Barbara Mueller, says, "I have been told that Servas is the snobbish Globetrotters. I deny that Servas is snobbish, but our average host does seem to be more affluent than most Globe-trotters. In Globetrotters we do try to promote peace, but not under that banner. We do it by meeting people, talking to them, sharing ideas, exchanging opinions and offering hospitality. "The US handbook for travel interviewers says, "Foreign hosts have a right to expect meaningful, not merely pleasant, experiences. We should restrict Servas travel to those people who show that the objectives of their trips correspond to Servas ideals. In those instances requiring rejection, suggest other resources for inexpensive travel." An excellent resource is Globetrotters. For £4 in Europe or \$12 outside Europe, a member of Globetrotters receives Globe, the club newsletter; invitations to meetings in London, California, Toronto, western Australia, and New Zealand; and a directory of the names and addresses of all club members world-wide, with offers of advice and accommodation.

Address: Globetrotters Club, BCM/Roving, London WC1V 6XX, England.

After other wars, it has been possible for nations to dig themselves out of the rubble. But after a nuclear war, even the rubble will contain the seeds of death.

--US Senator John C. Culver of Iowa

TRANSLATION SERVICE FOR US VISITORS

Many visitors to the US (and most US hosts!) not know that a free telephone call can be made from an office where operators answer questions in French, German, Spanish, or Japanese. Most of the questions are about homeward and charter flights, how to find missing members of travel groups, and booking accommodations, "says the supervisor of the service. It once we had to interpret for a police officer and the driver he had arrested--a German said he didn't realize there were speed traps on US highways."

The service is available between 8am and 5pm Central Time, Monday through Friday, and from 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. Toll-free telephone number of the service is 303-35-3050. (To make a long-distance call without an operator's assistance in most localities in the US, the caller must dial "1" before the area code [800, in this case].) The free service is provided by the national Travelodge Reservation Center in Kansas.

(Incidentally, maximum legal speed on highways in the US is 55 miles per hour.)

"CYCLISTS' MUTUAL PUT-U-UP PLAN"

A name like that would have to come from Great Britain. And it does. This very new organization is adding to its original list of homes and addresses of 25 people in Britain willing to have cyclists stay with them for a night or two, free or for no more than £1. "All that is required of the host is somewhere for the visitor to put the bike, and a place to sleep. Intending guests should bring their own bedding and food," writes one of the organizers to Danish Servas National Secretary Birgitte Damsgaard.

"We are expecting a lot more new members," writes another of the administrators. All that is necessary for a bicycling traveler to get on the latest membership list is an envelope addressed to himself or herself, and an international postage coupon or (in Britain) 20P stamps. Address:

Lorna Ford, Cyclists' Mutual Put-U-Up,
1 New Cottages, Huntham, Stoke Street,
Gregory, TAUNTON, Somerset, England.

SERVAS AND NON-SERVAS TRAVEL IN ISRAEL

--from the Servas Israel Committee:

Israel has only a small number of Servas Hosts. They are not always able to look after all the many travelers who come. We recommend do organizations which may be helpful for weeks or days when no Servas host can be found. The easiest way is to combine "Servas-ing" with camping. On arrival at Ben Gurion Airport phone 944524 and Haim, manager of Mishmar Ha-hiva Reception Camping Site, will fetch you with his minibus within about 15 minutes. At the Reception Camping Site, 10 km from the airport, you can purchase a booklet of

GREETINGS TO THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR PEACE

When the Women's Movement for Peace held a February conference in South Africa, Servas National Secretary Gwen McLaren of Cape Town volunteered to represent Servas.

Graham Thomas of London, Servas International president, sent greetings to the conference, saying this in part:

"One does not have to look very far to find examples of 'Man's Inhumanity to Man' (the theme of your first conference), but equally, amongst all the suffering and misery in the world, small acts of friendship and kindness are to be found that shine out as beacons of hope. Throughout its thirty years or so of existence Servas has been attempting to bring together people of good will and understanding so that they may share their hopes and fears and gain strength through friendship with people of other cultures and backgrounds."

SERVAS AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE RUTH KAUFMAN

As an unofficial, volunteer "ambassador without portfolio," Ruth Kaufman--from New York, but of the world--has attended a seminar at the University of Peace in Belgium; offered her services to the World Council for Curriculum and Instruction, which works to make teachers aware of peace themes; and investigated what is being done toward peace education by groups in the USA. Back in that country, she has attended a training program for organizers of protests against nuclear weapons facilities at the Resource Center for Non-violence in California; met with nuclear power plant workers who point to radiation as the reason their children have birth defects; taught nutrition in camps of migrant farm workers; and more--all since writing the much longer account from which the editor has chosen the excerpts below. Always, she has tried to share, to explain, and to personify the goals of Servas. From Ruth Kaufman:

There were 24 Norwegians on the host list when I arrived in September 1978, after the Servas conference in Denmark, at the home of Inger Amundsen, Norwegian Servas secretary.

She gave me the assignment of getting more. Talking with Ulf Christiansen of Servas and the organization Future in Your Hands, I decided to set out to the north, to make Servas members out of Future members.

I met an idealistic young teacher who was about to take his class to Bangladesh and then tour Norway speaking of his experiences.

I arrived at one railroad station as they were about to lock it for the night, and was allowed to sleep on a wooden bench until my train left at six o'clock the next morning.

I gave out literature about both groups. I entered innumerable homes as a friend, sang and played with the children, helped with meal preparation, and talked.

I spoke to English classes in schools, telling about anything from the American educational system to analyzing your handwriting.

LONG-TIME WORKER FOR PEACE,
SHORT-TIME MEMBER OF SERVAS

Dear Editor:

As a brand-new Servas host and traveller, I want to thank you most warmly for Servas International News Number 10, which your president Graham Thomas sent to me. It has given me excellent insight into the work that is making Servas a living organization of the sort I care about.

I went with Trygve Lie to New York in March 1946 (after five years' service with the Norwegian government in exile) with the aim of helping to establish the United Nations. The ideals I then cherished were identical with those I hold 33 years on. I have never ceased to hope that the UN will begin to achieve some of the ideals enshrined in its charter.

Janine Hall, a French Servas member whom I visited, remarked to me, "On hearing the aims and ideals of Servas and how it works, a person knows instantly whether the group is right for him or her." Its global mutuality, directed towards a harmonious society, is apparently recognized by all those who participate.

So I am delighted to have come, even so belatedly, among you all. My first two Servas encounters were wholly successful, for besides meeting Janine Hall, I also spent a wonderful night with the Forget family high on a French mountainside above Annecy, after accompanying Raymond Forget on a tour of the gipsy camps he supervises as a social worker.

Having paid one visit to India at the invitation of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, I shall aim to be there at the worldwide Servas conference and there to meet many fellow-members.

Greenpeaceful greetings,
Rosalind Schama, Yeovil, Somerset, England

HOW HAS TRAVEL IN AFRICA CHANGED?

Barbara Whitehead, originator and first editor of Servas International News, reported in issue Number 9 on her own Servas travels in West Africa. More recently she forwarded to the present editor this account of a 1975 adventure. It and the report that follows it point out some of the problems to anticipate.

--from Mary Geddes, London:

We have enjoyed a marvellous trip round West Africa. Lack of money and problems in crossing African borders prevented us from getting across to Kenya and Tanzania.

Africa as a whole, especially Nigeria, was much more expensive than we had expected. And rumours abounded as to whether one could drive through Zaire and Angola. Problems we encountered in Algiers when trying to get a visa for Zaire made us feel we might be refused entry, even with a visa. Problems were also reported with regard to crossing the Central African Republic, Sudan, and Uganda. So we limited our trip to West Africa.

On the way down we stayed in Malaga, Spain,

THROUGH EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

--from Clinton and Muriel Jencks, San Diego, California. (Clinton Jencks played the role of himself, a union organizer, in the well-known film Salt of the Earth. For the past decade he has been a professor of economics at San Diego State University. Muriel is a community activist.)

Nine months of adventure, with a Volkswagen camping vehicle as our home on wheels, taught us a lot about budget traveling:

Where to find fresh local fruits and vegetables for sale; how to sample the pulse and pace of local communities; where to find quiet, restful places to park our camper for the night, when campgrounds were not available; and especially how to make friends.

In 13 countries from England to Spain to Bulgaria to Israel, we were exposed to at least 13 languages and cultures. (We were pleased to discover that Muriel's Yiddish enabled us to communicate with German-speaking and Dutch-speaking individuals in several countries.)

Fifty friends and Servas families shared their lives with us during brief visits. As a result, we learned a lot about local politics, economics, family life, folklore, music, and dance. But the concern and caring of our sisters and brothers world-wide meant more to us than anything else. We reach out to you with special thanks and appreciation.

There are travelers and tourists.

Tourists see the sights and miss the country. Travelers see the country and the sights, too. Travelers are received with hospitality because they come with a special interest, tourists with condescension because they come only with curiosity.

Travel with design, and you broaden your knowledge. Tour with idle curiosity, and you flatten your arches [feet].

--J.P. McEvoy, USA

IS THIS WHAT CAMPING IN EUROPE IS LIKE?

A resident of Guadalajara, Mexico, wrote this account to a newspaper:

For the visiting foreigner, the campground idea is a miserable way to see Europe.

Campgrounds are remotely located away from the castles, the galleries, and the monuments one wants to see. Public transport to those places is poor, with few exceptions. One has to use the camper vehicle--and then try to find a place to park!

The campgrounds are grubby to the point of pathos or disgust. No paved drives, only mud or dust. No such thing as a little terrace on which to set up a table. No water or sewer connections and almost never an electric plug-in (no matter the vehicle lack them).

In Casablanca we stayed with Daniel and Marlién Gaultier, who were very helpful in advising us on places to visit in Morocco, though the Moroccan host they put us in touch with was not available.

If only there were more Servas hosts in Algeria! We found this most interesting country --and especially its women--difficult to understand.

In Nigeria, we failed to reach the host in Kano, but were luckier in Lagos. I say "lucky" with some emphasis; without this cheap and friendly base, Lagos would have been unbearable--the most chaotic, traffic-jammed city I have ever visited.

We stayed two nights with Akingboyega Ojuluwayo and his father, and then several days with his sister Christie Akinlolu and her family. We contributed to the cost of food, etc., for this long stay, and learnt a lot about Nigerian affairs. The husband's native village, which we visited one afternoon, was a haven of tranquility compared to Lagos, where everyone is involved in a desperate battle to acquire refrigerators, television, cars, etc.--a most depressing place to us.

In Ghana we were unable to contact Servas hosts and so missed that valuable perspective of Ghanaian life.

It we were extremely pleased to have joined Servas before our bussing-hitchhiking-and-hiking African adventure.

ACROSS AFRICA BY LORRY

--from Alan Haynes, England:

On a 10,000-mile camping trip in Africa, I spent only one night in a bed, and the rest in a tent on hard ground...or without a tent on hard ground!

Before leaving London, I wrote to Servas hosts in Fez, Morocco; Moshi, Tanzania; Nairobi, Kenya; Lusaka, Zambia; and Cape Town, South Africa. My including a warning that my day of arrival would be subject to change proved to be a wise precaution. We took six months to get to Nairobi, instead of the five months scheduled to Johannesburg!

...versions [detours], mechanical breakdowns, waiting for licenses and visas, customs and immigration formalities, waiting for replacement from London of stolen lorry papers--they all took time.

I had to write again to Najig Laraki in Fez to explain that our four-wheel-drive vehicle had not been allowed into Morocco, and we had had to enter Algeria by crossing the Mediterranean from Alicante, Spain, to Oran.

After a visit to Mt. Kilimanjaro Park, I was unable to interest members of our group in visiting Himatlal Shah's leather factory in Moshi. In Nairobi, my phone calls did not get through to Titus Mugavana or Rev. George Wanjau. James Maiweki was away in Mombasa for the weekend. But between the post office and a travel agent's office, I came across the United Touring Company. "Aha," I said, "Zulifikar Dhanji, Servas guide, is listed as working here." And there he was. So I was delighted finally to meet one Servas host in Africa.

In order to meet more Servas hosts there, be prepared to make time and space your slaves, and not your masters.

soap. The office people refused to cash dollars or travelers checks, or to furnish local maps.

I speak particularly of France and Spain. I speak the languages well enough, so that was not the barrier.

There are only two good ways to see Europe: 1) by conducted our, if you can stand the regimentation, and 2) have money--travel at leisure by public transportation and stay in good hotels near the center of the cities.)

[We in Servas might suggest a third way.]

THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY & THE DARIEN GAP

Traveler, imagine being able to drive--if you and your vehicle were rugged enough--from Anchorage, Alaska, to Santiago, Chile, and eastward to Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

It can almost be done. But not quite.

The route is that of the Pan American Highway. Throughout the 1970's, one portion remained incomplete: a 250-mile stretch in the wild frontier regions of Panama and Colombia where North (Central) and South America meet. This is the Darien Gap.

Darien was immortalized by Keats in his poem "On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer":

Then I felt like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken;
Or like stout Cortez, when with eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific--and all his men
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise--
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

(Yes, Keats confused Cortez with Balboa.)

Even today, one looks at Darien's trackless jungles and impenetrable swamps "with a wild surmise," wondering how a road can ever be built through such terrain. But engineers feel sure the closing of the Darien Gap is possible --and in fact construction is under way on the Panamanian segment, scheduled for completion in 1982. On the Colombian side, though, the highway is still in the study and design stage. Just when it seemed the engineering difficulties had been surmounted, a formidable roadblock loomed ahead:

Aftosa. Foot-and-mouth disease.

The disease, highly contagious and very costly, is endemic to certain areas of South America. The cattle and other hoofed animals of Panama and Central America are free of it.

Health authorities fear the highway will provide access for the disease from infected areas into Panama and Central America. That development could be disastrous. All six countries have thriving livestock industries. Their meat exports now enter all major meat market countries free of restrictions.

Colombia is conducting an extensive program to rid the country of aftosa. But officials say "control has not yet been achieved." Until that happens, the last segment of the Pan American Highway probably will not be completed.

A motorist traveling from Alaska to Chile will still have to board an ocean-going ferry to bypass the wilderness of the Darien Gap.

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oket and start your "mixed tour." Accommodations are in permanent tents, in galsows (cabins), or what is called "Super-nping," in caravans (trailers) with toilets and showers.

The Israel Camping Union operates 17 sites.

Israel Youth Hostel Association has 30 sites. For information, contact the youth hostel organization in your own country before leaving. You must book in advance.

Whether you plan to travel "all Servas" or fixed camping and Servas" in Israel, please send a copy of your Letter of Introduction to: Servas Israel Committee, P.O.B. 163, Ramat Hashikma 22100, Israel. Shalom!

From the poet Piet Hein ("in spite of his Dutch name, very Danish," says Servas Danish Secretary Birgitte Damsgaard):

That Is the Question (Hamlet Anno Domini)

Co-existence
Or no existence.

A Maxim for Vikings

Here is a fact that should help you to fight
A bit longer:
Things that don't actually kill you outright
Make you stronger.

3E MORE CONSIDERATE OF HOSTS THAN THIS

--from Iris and John Bladon, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, Wales:
As Servas hosts of one year, we wonder if experiences are typical.
Of 11 requests from would-be Servas visitors, only two enclosed a postal coupon for re-postage, and only four gave enough notice to be sure of receiving an air mail reply before they left home. Three telephoned the same day they wanted to stay with us. But... The only travellers we were able to receive our first year were absolute models of everything Servas seeks to further. We talked them into the night like lifelong friends.

logy movement to industry, gardening, burning wood instead of fuel oil, and recycling soap and paper products.

A woman in Narvik has spoken on television to get train service to communities farther north.

Adoption of foster children to sponsor in various countries is a usual practice.

One man has established in his isolated town a thrift shop; proceeds go to help Third World causes.

A family took me to their church, where proceeds are donated to flood victims in India.

But people get discouraged because they work so hard for a cause, and don't get enough help. How can I tell you all--you are not alone!

And finally it happened: the Future member was not at the address I had, and I found myself in a home where there was no sympathy for my organizations. "I took you in because I felt sorry for you late at night, not because of your Servas. You could be a spy, for all I know. You are a stranger; why should I trust you? You sound like a missionary for peace!" the man said in an accusing tone. "Go to the USSR. Talk your peace language there!"

My only response was, I should like to do it. And yet, before I left, he handed me the name and address of another Future member in the area. Through her I made two good friends and signed up two more Servas members. Even my worst experience in two months of travel came to a good end.

On the tiny island of Karlsdy, where only 50 people live, 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle, I fought my way through hip-deep snow to the home of Svein Egil Haugen and Crete. I tested whale meat for dinner.

In a town where the only Servas host had moved away, I sat wondering where I would sleep that night. Then a teacher in the local hospital took me home. The next morning she said, "Sign me up for that Servas organization of yours. Maybe some more nice people will come to visit me."

A World Passport has been issued to me. I want to feel like a citizen of the world, who can help make frontiers between countries vanish, and help some people feel like one people, regardless of differences in languages they speak or foods they eat.

Where people open their door for you, welcome you, accept you as a member of their family--there is your home.

ne dichos, Mexican-American folk sayings reprinted in the magazine Westways:

os nos hizo todos iguales, otros aun peor.
od made us all alike, and some even worse.)

s habladores no viajarian y lejos.

wo talkers will not travel very far [together].)

pidas a Dios que te de', dale te ponga donde hay.

on't ask God to give it you; ask Him to put you where there is some.)

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