

The Observer & Eccentric

travel

Mike Reguleki coordinator/591-2300

Bandied-about bargains intended to entice you away from the slush

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

The mailbag is overflowing with inside news from the travel industry. Somebody swallowed the toe in the Sour Toe Cocktail. Cruise lines are offering special rates and announcing new schedules.

Canada has launched a program to welcome Americans who drive across the bridge or through the tunnel. Students are planning exotic travel for the summer of 1981.

Lots of goodies to warm an armchair traveler on a cold winter's night.

There are bargains in the cruise industry, which is feeling the pinch of the recession like everybody else. The Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, for example, is discounting its fare by \$100 on the Sun Viking and the Nordic Prince from Jan. 24 through Feb. 14 sailings. The discount is \$175 per person Feb. 23 through March 7.

Free round-trip air transporta-

tion is included in the Royal Caribbean package. Special fares are also available for third and fourth person in a cabin on all 14-day sailings from Jan. 24 through March 7.

Royal Caribbean is also offering its SunVenture program year-round in 1981, allowing passengers to choose either the first half or the second half of a regular 14-day cruise on the Nordic Prince.

As of April 5, 1981, the line will introduce two new seven-day cruise itineraries on the Sun Viking, which will sail one week into the West Caribbean and alternate weeks into the East Caribbean.

THE ODESSA has also released a new sailing schedule. The ship sails every Saturday through May 1981 from New Orleans on itineraries that include Cozumel and Playa del Carmen in Mexico, Grand Cayman Island and Jamaica.

A special cruise leaving March 28 will also visit Havana, Cuba. They are offering rates from \$545 to \$1,095 per person, double occupancy, and they have a no tipping policy.

A single Trans-Panama cruise will leave New Orleans May 17 for Vancouver, British Columbia, where the Odessa will run seven-day cruises to Alaska through Sept. 13.

On Sept. 26, the Odessa will start a Mexican Riviera run out of Los Angeles. The seven-day cruise stops at Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas, ports made popular on the television series "The Love Boat." (The boat in the show is the Pacific Princess, which also does both the Alaska and the Mexican run.)

IF YOU'D RATHER cross the Detroit River than the ocean, you should know about the "Welcome to Canada" program started in the fall of 1980 by the Canadian Government Office of Tourism along with Canada's customs bureau. The program is designed to ease the way for Americans who travel into Canada by car.

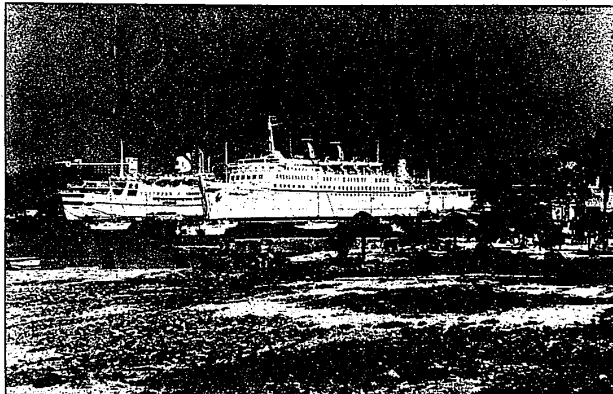
If you cross at either the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel or the Ambassador Bridge and you are planning to stay at least one night in Canada, the customs officer will hand you an envelope full of information specifically coordinated for this part of Canada.

Separate color-coordinated information slips give you motoring information, shopping tips, metric conversion charts, customs information, notes on where to change your money and how to fill up with gas and lots of other small but important points that can bug a traveler even in a friendly foreign country.

J.A. Carman, known to his friends as Alex, is coordinating this little border-crossing gift as a test run. If it works as well as he thinks it will, government will also design a program for travelers arriving by air and sea.

Just an example: Consult Page 1 of any telephone directory in Canada, under the word HELP! or dial 0 and you'll get the police anytime. And post cards and letters need 17 cents postage in Canada.

ADULT TRAVELERS are finally getting in on the study programs so popular among young people. The American Institute for Foreign Study, traditionally aimed at high school and college students, is offering adult level learning programs that include African safaris



and house-and-garden tours of the British Isles.

Their regular programs, which range from one-week minitrips to Europe and Mexico through two-, three- and four-week traveling programs to three-, four- and five-week overseas campus programs, are still designed for high school and college students.

Send for their new brochure: American Institute for Foreign Study, 102 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, Conn. 06830, or ask specifically for a brochure on the Continuing Education Programs for adults.

You can also begin your 1981 student travel plans with information from the Council on International Educational Exchange, 205 R. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Ask for the student travel catalog.

Two other sources of such student information are in the mailbag this week: Flying Inter Collegiate Holidays Inc., the official representative of the U.S. National Student Travel Bureau, will send information on its around-the-world trips. Write 501 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

And British Airways offers a camping travel program for young people, with trips ranging from 20-60 days in Europe. See your travel agent.

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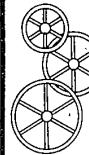


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Wanted: Unique swizzle stick

Dawson City will never be the same. Somebody swallowed the toe in the Sour Toe Cocktail.

I reported on the Sour Toe Cocktail, an important tourist inducement to the Klondike. When I visited the Yukon last summer, I was there for the longest day of the year, June 21, when the sun shines about 22 hours.

Dawson City isn't quite far enough north to be in the Arctic Circle and can't technically celebrate the midnight sun, yet you could read a book outside practically all night in June.

In January, the sun comes up mid-morning and goes down mid-afternoon. People talk rapturously about the crisp and silent dark that awaits them when they go walking for pleasure at 60 degrees below zero during the winter solstice.

The dark days of winter are darker than ever this year, because Capt. Dick Stevenson, who has two diamonds embedded in his two front teeth, can no longer serve the Sour Toe Cocktail.

To refresh your memory:

THE STORY GOES that a grizzled old prospector, isolated in his cabin for the winter, froze his toe one night. He was afraid that gangrene would set in so he cut the toe off with an ax.



travel log
Iris Jones
contributing travel editor

He didn't want to part with the toe, however, so he picked it in a jar of high-proof rum. When the grizzled old prospector died, his friend, Capt. Dick Stevenson, laid all his bones to rest except for his toe bone. He took the toe bone back to Dawson City and invented the Sour Toe Cocktail.

You could have it any night by invitation at the Sluice Box Lounge in the Eldorado Hotel. Captain Dick would take the toe out of its bed of salt, wash it off and place it in a champagne glass. He filled the glass with champagne. You, the victim, drank the champagne down until the top of the glass touched your nose.

Young folks did it, old blue-haired ladies did it, everybody did it, especially if they fortified themselves with three strong dry martinis first. Afterwards, they received a certificate saying they were real Sourdoughs.

IN THE NORMAL run of things, you can't be a Sourdough until you've spent a winter in the Klondike and shot a Grizzly bear. Anyone who drank the Sour Toe Cocktail became an instant Sourdough and could buy a T-shirt to prove it.

All that was before the dastardly deed that darkened the already pitch-black days of winter. A construction worker from Ladner, British Columbia, drank a Sour Toe Cocktail and swallowed the toe.

Before the startled onlookers realized what had happened, the construction worker had slipped shame-facedly out the door and disappeared in them tar hills.

Capt. Dick was distraught. He's looking for another toe, but it'll never be the same in Dawson City again. Robert Service would have loved it.

A Sour Toe Cocktail was yours for the asking any night at the Sluice Box Lounge in the Eldorado Hotel. Captain Dick would take the toe out of its bed of salt, wash it off and place it in a champagne glass that would be filled with champagne.

Hey, Kid! Go into business for yourself!

If you're between the ages of 11 and 14 and would like to earn money for some things that you want by managing your own business, just call our Circulation Department and ask how you can get an Observer or Eccentric carrier route. Then you'll really be in business.



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