

Through customs, on to Belfast: security, security and security

HE SHUTTLE plane to Belfast leaves from Gate 49 in Terminal 1, but we have flown into London's Heathrow Airport two terminal saws.

It is easy enough to go through British customs. Most of us follow the green signs, which means we have nothing to declare, and walk right out with only a nod from the customs officers.

The baggage cart has four wheels, but of course only three of them work. I've never seen a baggage cart anywhere in the world that didn't have one wheel spinning it stops you from getting bored because you can't go anywhere in a straight line.

cause you can't go anywhere in a straight line.

WE FOLLOW the signs to Terminal 1, pushing our carts uplil, racing downlill, racing downlill, racing corners and otherwise winding through what seem like miles of tunnels. We could take the bus, but when we will be good for us after sitting on a plane all night, and we've got a full hour before the 10:30 a.m. shuttle." Parmous Last Words.

I swore that I would not forget to mail the letters I wrote on the plane, but I need British stamps, and of course you can't put U.S. coins in an English stamps machine. The bank is in the far corner, the stamps in the machine are the wrong denomination, but that's just Murphy's Law "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong." In down emust move forward to the shuttle plane. It's upstairs and down a long series of walkways, and one of our group keeps saying. "Has anybody seen a ladies" joint? 'Of course, we had passed Iz in the previous half-hour. We arrived at the shuttle gate. Gate 49, at 10:16. "West shuttle at 12:30." "Wert scheduled at 10:30." "Wert scheduled at 10:30."

YOU CAN SCREAM and rage and stamp your

People Power

feet, but it would do you more good to read the brochure that came with the ticket. We check into the lounge and begin the security precautions that go with the shuttle flight to Belarked by friendly but thorough agents. No hand lugage, except a regular-aized woman's purse, is allowed aboard. We nearly have cardiac arrest when our cameras are taken from us, even though we had long ago been warned that they would have to be checked: but they assure us that they will not be X-rayed and that small hand lugage, individually ted in plastic bags, is tenderly carried in containers separate from the regular suitcases.

That done, my purse is searched, and I am given a light but thorough body check by a woman who somehow makes it seem like an everyday affair.

As soon as I get into the lounge, with an hour to

APART FROM this security check, the flight to Belfast is just like any other part of the regular shutle system that British Airways runs from Lon-don to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester. Each shuttle runs regularly through the day from a spe-cific gate, always the same gate.

one gair, aways ure same gave.
You can board without a ticket and pay your fare
aboard, just like a bus. This means that a regular
commuter can go into the terminal, go to a known
gate, be sure of a plane within a reasonable time
and buy his ticket about
in the U.S., Eastern Airlines offers similar shut.

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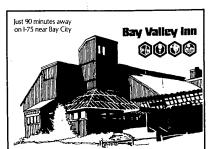
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