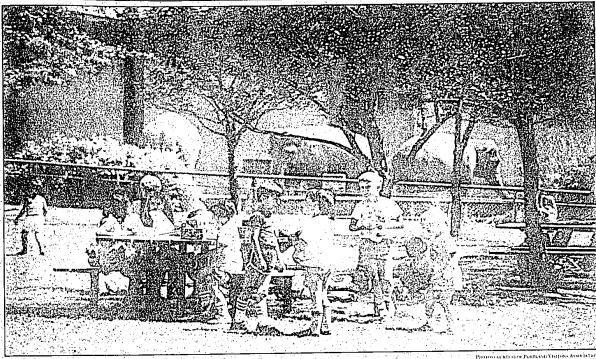
TRAVEL



Eat with the animals: Hundreds of people bring picnic dinners to a grassy hillside at the Metro Washington Park Zoo for special summer events such as Rhythm and

By Thomas J. Meyer New York Times Syndicate

oesn't it rain all the time?" is the first thing visitors usually ask about Portland,

Ore. In response residents are accus-tomed to proffering statistics prov-ing that, it fact, one is likely to find considerably more precipitation classifiers, say, New York or Lan-dan or — using the prayer set of calculations. — Los Angeles.

calculations.—Los adigetes. From now through September, in any case, the outlook is good; most-ing the continual gloomy after-mon. The end of the winter and spring rains brings a feeling of relief combined with celebration.

The city's leafy neighborhoods overflow with residents out walking dogs; playing catch or sipping cappuccino at the growing number of sidewalk espresso bars:

Only one Portland phenomeno is capable of transforming the city' mood and outlook as much as the namal arrival of sunshine; the Na tional Basketball Association

For the third year in a row the Trail Blazers, who play at Memoris al Coliscum, have been contenders for the title and seemingly the topic

every conversation.
The conventional wisdom used to

Blazing Oregon's trail

be that the Blazers' huge popularity resulted from a dearth of other night life,

Now, however, the city bonsts a theising theater community, a fine range of restaurants, an explosion of musical venues and an army of brew pubs, which serve beer and ale brewed on the premises.

Details on most of these places and events are available from the Portland/Oregon Visitors Associa-tion, at 26 Southwest Salmon St., Portland, Ore, 97204. For more in-formation call (503) 222-2223.

On June 28, more than 6,000 participants will take part in the 15-kilometer (9.3-mile) Cascade Runfa. The course starts just cast of the Burnside Bridge, turns south on Southwest Broadway and makes its way up into the West Hills on Southwest Tervilliger Boulevard, affording participants tand onlookers! sweeping views of the city and the Willamette Vulley beyond, and finishes on Front Street.



brightens Portland's outlook



Cityscapes: Portland's stunning skyline is a good indication of how much the city prides itself on progressive urban planning and forward-looking architecture.

a basketball competition running from June 27 to July 5 in which

men's teams from North, Central and South America will seek slots in the Summer Olympics in Bar-celona.

The United States team, including Michael Jordan, Charles Bark-ley and Patrick Ewing, is heavily favored. Tickets, sold in packages of four, for \$50, \$75 and \$100, are scarce, especially for games involving the United States team. For more information call 18001 347, 8722.

Fair summer evenings in Portland offer good opportunities to bear music. Hundreds of people bring picule dinners to a grassy hill-side at the Metro Washington Park Zoo for Your Zoo and All that Juzz (Westnesdays) and the Rhythm and Zoo Concerts (Thursdays). Admis-

This year performers include the Persuasions, Livingston Taylor, Pancho Sanchez and Kenny Ran-kin. The 200 is at 4001 Southwest

Canyon Road. For more informa-tion call (503) 226-1561. The Chamber Music Northwest

series offers concerts five nights a week from June 22 to July 25 at, Reed College and the Caffin Gabel School, Tickets are \$9 to \$22. For more information call (503) 223-3202.

3202.

Every weekend from March through September the Saturday Market — open Sunday too — run an open-air cards and food fair under the west end of the Burnside Bridge, at First Street. More than 300 booths feature works of local weekers, potters and patographers and a variety of ethnic foods. There's also as strong contingent of wandering jugglers and magicians. At really-its me undifferent in in

Art galleries are proliferating in the city, many of them in the Pearl District, a neighborhood of warehouse lofts just northwest of down-

On the first Thursday of each

On the first Thursday of each month nearly every gallery in the city extends its hours until 9 p.m. The exent has become a sort of wandering, open-air cocktail party. Good starting points for a round of gallery hopping are the Butters Gollery, at 312 Northwest 10th Ave., or the Jamison/Thomas Gallery, at 1313 Northwest Glisan St. Exentin information of the caller. For more information on the galler-ies call (503) 248-9378 or (503) 222-0063, respectively.

Rail adventure: Seeing Europe by train



the Norwegian arctic, the train system that connects Europe still as unishes many American visitors. On a continent where gosoline can cost \$5 n gallon, roud tolls can be exubitant and air travel between countries is often more expensive than a trans-Atlantic flight, traintravel is still the most economical means of getting around.

For those who plan to visit a number of European countries an their vacation, a Euralipass remains the best value for rail travel. It must be bought in the United

It must be bought in the United States before departure and allows unlimited first-class rail travel for a unumeer instrument in the same of the railway systems of 17 member countries — Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy,

Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

A 15-day Eurailpass costs \$430 and a 21-day pass is \$550. A Eurail Resipass, which allows five days of travel within 15 days, is \$290 and a pass allowing nine days of travel within 21 days is \$450.

The basic Eurail Youthpass, for those under age 26, is \$470 for one mouth of second-class travel. There is also a Youth Flexinoss at \$420 for

is also a Youth Flexipuss at \$420 for 15 days of travel within two months.

But the travel patterns of Amerion the traver patterns a raiser cans in Europe are changing, seconding to Andy Lazurus, a spokesman for both Euralpass and Rail Europe, which represents the rail networks of 23 European countries.

networks of 23 European countries.
"The days of the kids with their backpacks trying to hit all 17 countries are largely gone," said Largus, "Ameleans who went as youths now return as mere sophisticated travelers. They concentrate on one or two countries rather that trying to see it all at once."

For those travelers, it makes little-sense to buy a Euralipass. A more economical choice is to buy a rail pass in the country or countries where they intend to travel.

In the past, these rail passes have been available only through a coun-try's tourist board, the U.S. office of the country's rail company or through a designated tour operator.

through a designated tour operator.
But trying to find out who sold
what was time-concuming for consumers and travel agents.
So Rall Europe was created in
January 1901, yet another aspect of
the transformation of European in
dustries as part of the move toward
a Common Market.

a Common Market.
While it is by no means complete
— countries such as Ireland and Itisly that are members of Eurili are
not members or Itall Europe — it
does offer "one-stop shapping" for
rail passes for member countries.
It also sillows travelers to choise
between first and second-class
travel, which the Eurailpass, does

While the "Chunnel" linking Britain and France will not be fin-ished until late 1993 at the earliest, Rail Europe is anticipating its com-pletion by offering the BritFrance Railpass.

For more information write to Rail Europe and Euralipass at 230 Westchester Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 19604 or call (800) 4-EURAIL.

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