

Mark Mullinax: Around the World

An Experience in 'Peopleology'

Editors' Note:

Marc Mullinax, a senior history major from Raleigh, is traveling around the world by air and bus September 9--December 13. In addition to keeping his own journal, Marc is sending students at Mars Hill a record of his travels, hoping that more of them will see the exciting possibilities for gaining credit through independent study projects and travel.

After months of waiting and planning, I am finally in Europe, but by the time you read this I shall be in Turkey. I am going around the world by bus and plane with economy in mind. Ninety-four days is the projected length. Because Europe is so expensive, we drive for about eight hours a day in order to see more exotic and less expensive places. When Asia (western) comes around, our itinerary slows down considerably. And since Europe is so western and like the U.S., I do not mind.

We travel in comfort on a Ford bus that holds thirty-six and all the camping equipment and food we need. Our camping equipment is very modern. "Force 10" tents are standard. We have divided into three cooking groups: buying food locally each day and dividing up the chores so that every one has a "day off" every three days. Only four other Americans grace this England-based tour that is comprised of Britons, Aussies, and Kiwis (New Zealand).

Highlights--few since we travel most of the day. London. We arrived in a rain that broke the six-month drought you've probably heard about. Just our luck to arrive at this time. The traffic was the worst I've seen.

The Dover to Ostende, Belgium ferry featured some Dutch who danced and sang to their drunken heart's content on the boat.

Brussels at 8:00am Sunday is a very peaceful place. The large cathedrals reign the skyline.

Germany is a very expensive place but with beautiful towns that do not seem to age. A shopkeeper ripped me off for three marks when I bought his grapes. Heidelberg was the best stop in Germany.

I toured it by night with a couple of New Zealanders, taking time exposures of the castle that overlooks the hill. Salzburg, Austria is also an ageless city--and wet. Mozart's birthplace and the Speerbogen Castle were the best highlights of our short visit. Everything costs to get in, so much remained unseen by me. By far the best part of the trip was the afternoon drive through the Austrian Alps. I can't describe their beauty and those who have

seen them will suffer in silence with me. The roads through these seemingly impassible mountains put the U.S. roads to shame. New four-lanes are available that leave the surroundings untouched. Four-mile tunnels cut under the highest ones. Unbelievable! Mountain streams are light green from the high-oxygen content and ski slopes are as common as towns. Each would challenge the best that the Boone area offers.

Yugoslavia, I was warned, is just a sore spot on the trip to be endured in quest of points east. In one day we drove from the Austrian border to Belgrade--twelve hours--and the boarder guards were the only ones in Europe to check our baggage. The two-lane road (first for us) was unbelievably busy. Passing was the name of the game...cars passed us, trucks passed us and we did some of our own in order to make our

way through the traffic. Often there was feet to spare, or less, when passing. Very harrowing. Many near misses. In fact we lost our right mirror when we couldn't stop fast enough for a truck broken down in the middle of the road, with an oncoming truck in the other lane. It was quite a squeeze and thanks to skillful driving, we only got shaved. Drivers in Europe are very skillful, though offensive; I've yet to see a crash or even a dented fender.

That brings me up to date--somewhat. Next letter will include Greece and Turkey (Istanbul, Troy, etc.). The scenery is just part of the trip--the people on board are so nice and easy to get to know. There are problems and decisions to make every day that affect the operation of the trip. Thus, this is a learning experience in "peopleology". We have a great time though.



Room Inspection Termed "Significant Success"

The new Health and Safety Standards for residence halls have resulted in what the Housing Office can only term a "significant success". Mary Jo Byrd, Director of Housing was amazed and pleased with student cooperation. According to that office, residence hall rooms not only meet the standards set, but truly reflect the pride of the occupants. The Housing Office is receiving positive comments from various officials on campus, reinforcing the opinion that both time and money will be

saved if halls remain this clean. The money saved, of course, means more dollars for needed repairs and "extras", instead of funds being spent for malicious damages, fumigations, pesticides, and heavy cleaning. Ms. Byrd thus wishes to personally thank all students for accepting this responsibility as adults "Collectively", she says, "we can be proud of the initiative exhibited concerning health and safety conditions in residence halls".