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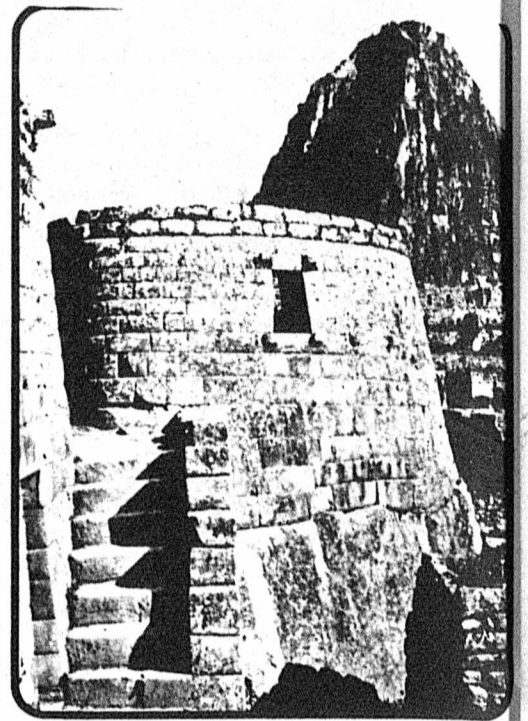
Travel in a land

Non comprehendo espanol. Manana. These are the two expressions you must live with as a English-speaking traveller in South America. One is to tell the people you don't understand their language, the other will be repeated constantly whenever you want a job to be done: "tomorrow, tomorrow".

"But if you don't know Spanish or Portuguese, just grab your handy little booklet, make sure you know how to wave your arms wildly and take off. If you have to communicate, you will."

That's the way Al Ronneseth sees it, and he ought to know. He's been a traveller on five continents. He's spent five years of his life working the overland routes of Africa, Asia and Europe. He's been a travel writer, a driver on expeditions, a guide, and a sometimes-translator.

When you hear Al tell about his South American adventures, there is just a touch of wistfulness in his voice. "Santiago, Chile; that's where I contracted hepatitis." That limits Al in terms of expeditions. Hepatitis, similar to yellow jaundice, is a recurring disease after first contraction. That means Ronneseth can't make the long hauls of three months or more because of the real danger of contracting hepatitis once



again. So he works as an expedition travel agent, in a hole-in-the-wall office in HUB and talks to visitors about his experiences.

"South America has virtually

The foreign job rip-off

from the Martlet
Students who want to go to Europe should read the letter 18-year old Julie Driver sent to the *Vancouver Sun* before they get involved with companies that promise to get them a job and a place to stay overseas.

Julie wanted to go to Europe and made arrangements to get a job and a place to live through a company called Youth Exchange Services in Belgium. She made arrangements through a prof at Queens University who says he was as taken as Julie and the other students were.

Julie sent a cheque for \$135 and according to her mother, the Mr. Effrittis who runs the company tried to get another cheque from Julie when she got to Belgium by claiming the first cheque had not arrived. The cheque had in fact, been cashed, cancelled and sent to Julie's home in Cranbrook.

Julie wrote home that not only did she have to find her own job, but that Effrittis had placed them in really shabby accommodation. Some of the girls had money and jewellery stolen. Effrittis would only meet them on the street and when a number of the people got together to confront him, he told them he would simply go bankrupt.

Eventually Julie wrote a letter to the editor of the *Vancouver Sun*. Following is that letter:

"I'm an 18-year old Canadian girl from Kimberley who has had a bad experience in Europe. I want to warn other young innocents.

"I decided to take a year off before going to university to search a bit of adventure in Europe. And adventure I found..."

"I worked through an overseas student job-finding service which called itself "non-profit." This non-profit organization sent me a nice little booklet of propaganda. "Over 10,000 students have been happily placed, etc."

"I wrote with many questions and told them I wanted to join. The only replies I ever received were vaguely general and completely non-binding.

"But I was too excited to notice (Me! In Europe!). I eagerly mailed off my cheque for \$135 and awaited my promised preparation material.

I was phoned one morning by the Canadian correspondent and told that I was two weeks late for work, to take the next plane. He assured me that the "preparation material" had been in the mail for days. I have yet to receive it, four months later.

"This way nothing binding was ever signed by them. Me. I signed my life away!

"So, I arrived in Belgium, \$25 in my

pocket, not knowing anything about the money, customs, work-stay permits, etc. I was not met at the airport (I'd paid \$16 for a "reception") but received a curt telegram with a youth hostel address and an appointment time to be at the office the next day.

"I arrived as the "director" was leaving. He stopped just long enough to ask me what the hell I was doing there two weeks early and left for more pressing business.

"I found out later that his pressing business included avoiding a great variety of other "customers" including eight Canadian university students who had paid \$1,500 each.

"The bureau did not have a job for me, not in two weeks, not even in six. I finally smartened up and looked for myself. Now, I'm an au pair with a really nice French family and quite happy.

Interchange

Interchange, a nonprofit Foundation located in Amsterdam, Holland, has opened its doors to students and teachers from North American who want to see Europe on a low budget. As a result of years of research and planning, and further years of trials and observing young Europeans, exciting new opportunities are now available in Europe.

Back-packing itineraries, 50% off on train tickets, free travel on river barges through Europe, how to bicycle independently through Europe, living with European families in cities and on farms, and a new Travelling Companion Service are only a few of the Foundation's independent activities.

Another interesting innovation is a destination and identity board for hitchhikers. The I.D. board helps keep the traveller moving while other thumbs are left standing because a destination card is shown to traffic, and both parties are covered with insurance.

Foundation subscribers are entitled to low cost flights to Europe and a wide scope of other benefits in Europe that until now have been available only to European students. As a nonprofit structure the Foundation is able to advise travellers and provide services for its subscribers either free or at a much lower cost than normal.

Students and teachers interested in further information may obtain the Foundation's subscription form, their newsletter and a detailed information sheet by sending their name, address, the name of their school and one dollar or the equivalent in stamps to cover postage and handling to Interchange, Box 5579, Amsterdam, Holland.