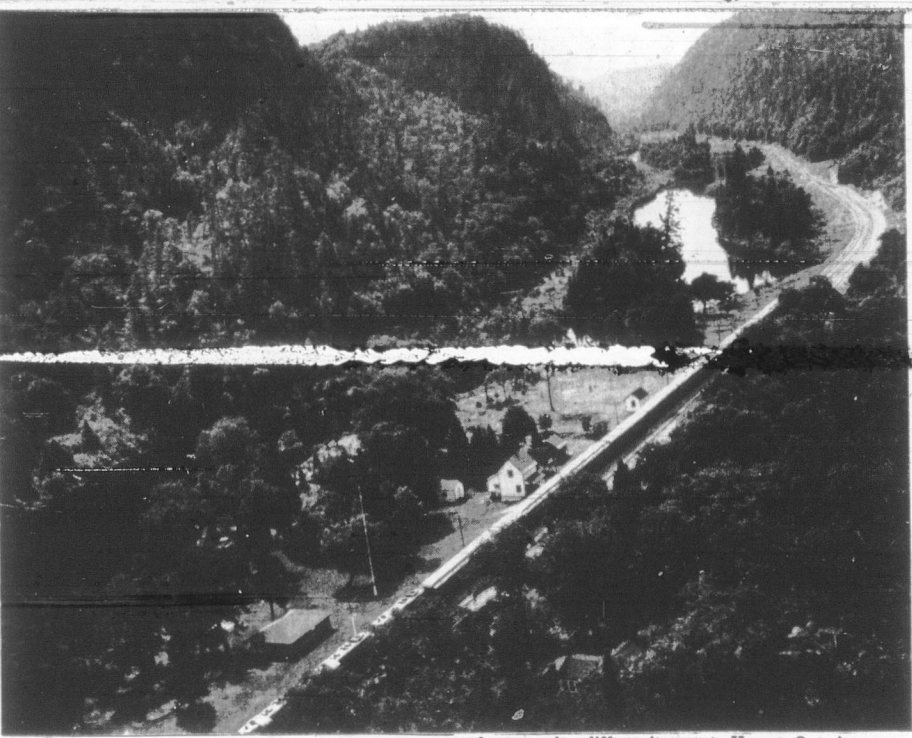


Travel



Winding its way through the remote, undeveloped regions of northern Ontario near Sault Ste. Marie, the Algoma Central Railway's excursion train to Agawa Canyon (above) cruises beside rivers, lakes, forest and

Scenery, wildlife abundant on Agawa train excursion

By DICK SINGER
Nothing is quite as beautiful to Canadians as the forests and canyons of our own land in summer. For the most part we revel in the rugged beauty of an unspoiled landscape, taking pleasure in viewing sparkling waters and cascading rivers as they wind their way through granite walls. No one forces us to do these things, but it seems necessary, almost therapeutic, that we escape the confines of urban living and find room to stretch once summer has arrived. A few miles away from developed areas the air clears and becomes a heady treat for city dwellers. For all these reasons and more, our cities are less populated on summer weekends and our quieter, undeveloped Northern lakes and wooded areas become centres of activity. While the majority of us seek out these havens by automobile, others have found another way and head for the Algoma Central Railway offices in Sault Ste. Marie. Each morning at 8 the railway's Wilderness Tour

to Agawa Canyon pulls out of the city's downtown depot on its way to Hearst, and into Ontario's past. The scenery on the 228-mile round trip challenges the magnificence of the Rocky Mountains. The train twists and climbs its way through a vast expanse of forest, past countless lakes and rivers. During the nine-hour excursion, the train stops at the canyon in the heart of Algoma country before proceeding to Hearst. Passengers are encouraged to explore the natural park created by the railway, picnic, hike, climb to the top of a lookout point and fish. For camera buffs waterfalls, scenery and wildlife are abundant. Excursions such as this can certainly create a hunger and the train is equipped with dining cars which serve hot and cold lunches as well as snacks and box lunches. The train returns to Sault Ste. Marie at 5 p.m. Scheduled to operate daily to Oct. 10, the Wilderness Tour does not accept reservations. However, tickets may be purchased one day in advance.

Cost for the round-trip is \$15 for adult and \$8 for students. Children under five years ride free. The excursion is particularly beautiful in September when the leaves are turning color. The railway also operates the ride during the winter months. But in winter, the train does not stop at the canyon and passengers are advised to reserve two days for the trip to the town of Hearst

— the line's northern terminus. The added time is worth it. Winter converts the forests, lakes and rivers into a wonderland of ice and snow. Regardless of when you go — if you enjoy unlimited scenery, unpolluted air, and a chance to explore a virtually inaccessible area of Ontario, the Agawa Canyon trip will be a must the next time you are in Sault Ste. Marie.

Exec cabin planned

Travelling business executives whose companies frequently pay the extra premium for first class travel on long haul flights may soon be flying economy class. British Airways has added an extra touch of class to its 747 jumbo flights on almost all its scheduled flights between Canada and Britain and other world centres. For the cost of a normal economy ticket travellers are offered the opportunity of a seat in the executive cabin, situated immediately behind the first class area. Designed chiefly for the business traveller who wants to work in peace or

just relax in a tranquil atmosphere, the executive cabins will be curtained off from the rest of the economy area and the usual movie showing will not be offered. The 48-seat executive cabin will have smoking and non-smoking areas, and the airline says it will be stocked with more than the usual number of newspapers and magazines.

New guide to London

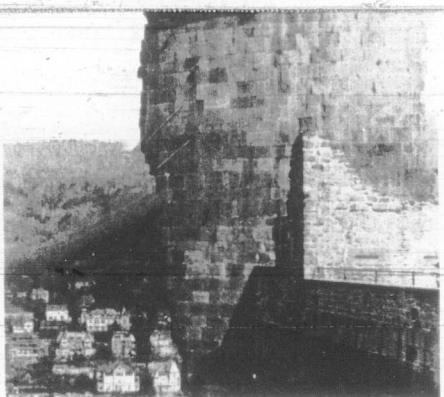
A good book to take along to London, England, is the Milstone Pocket Guide and Planner. Written and published by Toronto businessman Max Milstone, the new guide packs years of travel and business experience into a tight, 100 page, pocket size format. It tells you how to find your way through the airport, how the phones work, how to get a taxi, where to eat, where to shop, even how to find a babysitter, brass rubbings or rental bikes. Available at major retail book chains the pocket guide is \$3.95.

Come to Heidelberg for history, beauty

By ANNE WANSTALL
So many hearts have been left in Heidelberg, it's a wonder the Neckar river isn't swirling with blood. This ancient German city, as famed for Sigmund Romberg's operetta The Student Prince as for the many poets, writers and artists who lost their literary hearts because of its beauty, is a gem that shouldn't be missed during a tour of Germany. The old and new divided by the River Neckar, Heidelberg is a relatively small city surrounded by forested hillsides and dominated by one of the most attractive old castles in Europe.

Heidelberg is history and a great deal of it is tied up in the huge castle that's part ruin, part museum and totally fascinating. Originally a fortress presented to Count Ludwig von Wittelsbach in 1225, the present castle has been knocked down and rebuilt to the point where there's still a bit of everything from previous generations, including an original frontage (leading to nowhere) that is a sterling example of Italian baroque. Under the castle, in cellars still reeking with wines poured centuries ago, stands the largest barrel in all Europe —

large enough to house a small family. Multi-lingual guides gather the various touring nationalities together, so nothing is lost by not understanding the language (just remember to give your guide a small tip after the tour is through). From the battlement walls, Heidelberg castle gives the best view of the old city streets meandering down to the big river below. If you don't linger too long to take in the sights, a walk around the old town takes about two hours and the city tourist office can provide a detailed map of where to go.



Heidelberg Castle dominates the old and new parts of the gracious city and the River Neckar. A small city, Heidelberg is ideal for people who like to walk and absorb all the beauty. During term time, university students sing the evening away in the open air beer gardens.

Because of its size and the river, Heidelberg is an easy place to find your way around if you enter by car. The wise will follow the signs directly to the old city (alte stadt) and castle (schloss) for a magnificent view of the romantic city. Those who go by train would be wise to begin with a city bus tour from the Bismarck-Platz (leaves at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and takes two hours for 10 Marks, or a little less than \$5).

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