

# Local Girl Finds Travel Abroad Is Very Exciting

By Alice Morgan

To the casual observer it would seem that Pat Stanford of Birmingham, and Sally Ware of Grosse Pointe set out for Europe with the one aim of equalling, if not surpassing, Cornelia Otis Skinner's trip made famous through her book "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay."

The girls left New York on June 12, after a delay in sailing due to the shipping strike. They, like the famed Miss Skinner, made many shipboard friends before their arrival in England. Then, to further follow her trend toward trouble, Pat had one of her suitcases go astray and start back to New York on the "Marine Tiger,"

verity of Michigan. Through the university they made arrangements to go to France and study at the University of Grenoble, improving their French there, and getting full credit for the course at their home university.

They sailed from New York to Plymouth, England, where they were met by Pat's uncle, and spent several days with him and his family. While there they saw many of the famous places of that little country, including Windsor Castle and Westminster Abbey.

**Visit Relatives**

In her letters to her parents Sally said, "In spite of the war, and large sections of the cities being completely leveled, there's a feeling of quiet and security about England. We saw many of the historic places, and historic things, including old battle fields of generations ago. The English do love and cherish their traditions. Maybe that's what makes it seem so solid, and the quietness that prevails there."

**Find Fellow Students**

Pat's young cousins took them

to their hearts and really outdid themselves showing the two American girls the sights. The clothing of the two girls proved fascinating, and almost stopped traffic whenever they appeared in public. Everywhere they went they would hear whispers, "Look! Americans—look at the dresses!"

Pat left for France minus one dress which she gave to one of her cousins, and with the thought in mind that, when they visited the family on their way home she would leave more of her clothes than they had.

**On to France**, where they finally reached Grenoble and found fellow students from the States. The attitude of the university came as a complete surprise to them. It was all so completely different to them about three days to find out what they were supposed to do.

One was permitted to attend classes, or not, with little or no reaction noted. If a person enrolled for one course, he attended whatever other lectures appealed to him and caused no comment from the members or other students. After the routines of their own university, this attitude had both girls baffled for some time.

**People Helpful**

One thing which impressed them greatly was the way everyone helped in any way possible. Noting that when together in the dining room the two spoke English, their landlady promptly put them at separate tables, seeing to it that they were with people who spoke no English. Through this they discovered a keen desire on the part of the French people to learn English, and made many "deals" in exchange for French lessons.

Two wine dealers in a nearby shop made a similar trade, and the girls were fortunate enough to find themselves with two instructors who had perfect accents and a marvelous command of grammar.

Later, in appreciation for what the girls had done for them, the two young men prepared a treat for them—real coffee. To their parents who deeply appreciated that was, Pat's description of what the coffee said it tasted like "boiled cigaret butts."

**Visit Switzerland**

They made frequent trips to Switzerland to visit Sally's friend, Anne Guinan of Larchmont, N. Y., who was studying at Lusianne. Through Anne Guinan, the girls made in France, the girls fit easily into the week end habit which prevails there of long hikes and picnics. They spent practically every week end hiking through the foothills of the mountains of Switzerland, marveling at the lightness of the air and the majesty of the scenery, and Pat, in getting muscles like Amazons.

After their purchase of an electric hot plate, the way to Switzerland greatly improved their diet, for here they were able to say better quality of food and plenty of them. The highlights of their trips would come when they went down to the cities of orange juice and milk shakes, neither of which were available in Grenoble.

In September, with their course at the University nearing completion, the girls began planning a visit to Major and Mrs. Thomas Rice in Livorno, Italy. From this hub, by bicycle and train, they visited many of the famous cities of Italy.

**Even Go Back**

Both carried away the impression of how these three war-torn nations, England, France and Italy, are facing the struggle of re-building cities and properties, and at the same time striving to feed and clothe themselves in an attempt to retain some of the civilization they had known and enjoyed before the war began.

They saw huge areas leveled; sections of cities containing buildings which had been built centuries ago, were completely shattered. They saw the people of the countries, the marks of war

plainly on their faces and in their actions, striving to regain the ability to laugh and have fun, and to walk about like ordinary human beings, as we know them, forgetting the curtain of the immediate past.

They learned the ways of the natives toward the foreigner. They learned of the kindness with which they will help, and the shrewdness some will use to "gyp" the visitor.

They had the experience of going broke and sitting in a railroad station waiting for money and baggage. They lived with the people—not in tourist hotels—able to live as one of the masses, aware of the many shortages and discomforts they are having to accept for the time being.

**Birthday Party**

While in France, Pat celebrated her birthday. In a letter to Dr. and Mrs. Ware, Sally told them, "The landlady is trying to help me arrange a birthday party for Pat, but it's difficult. We are together constantly, and I can't do a great deal of planning. We are going to have a cake, made with real flour and eggs and have real coffee."

A letter to the Stanfords, dated a few days later told them, "Last night I had the most wonderful surprise I've ever had in my life. Sally had a birthday party for me, complete with a cake and real coffee! There were eight or ten of us there, just Sally and myself and the men who sat here. We sat around waiting for money and sang until morning. You should have heard those Frenchmen trying to sing 'Happy Birthday' in English. It was really something. But the whole thing was the grandest surprise and the nicest party I have ever had or ever will have."

Through the whole series of letters it was quite apparent that in spite of the difference in food (both spoke of learning to like things they had never eaten at home) in transportation, and commodities like soap and cosmetics, the greatest lack in their lives was hot water. It was not until after they purchased their small hot plate, in the middle of July, that they were able to do any washing. A whole month with no facilities to get clean clothing was a real hardship to two girls brought up in the comparative luxury of this country.

**Returning Soon**

Recent letters have told the Stanfords and Wares that their wandering daughters have obtained passage on the SS America, and will be sailing for the States early next month.

In speaking of their trip Mrs. Stanford said, "We thought that letting them go was very simple. We expected them to go to Grenoble, and from the train to the school, and get into no difficulties. Instead, they arrive in France on Bastille Day, and the great lack in their lives was hot water, and find themselves with no money and no way to get any. Then, instead of attending

strictly to classes, they wander over as much of the continent, as time and money would let them, and get themselves into all kinds of scrapes.

"We worried, terribly, when we read about the threatened strikes there, but apparently had no real reason to. The French do not seem to take their strikes very seriously, because none of them ever happened, not even the civil employes' strike which threatened to cut off all mail services.

"We are as glad as the girls that they were able to go, for it has been a marvelous experience for them, and one they will never forget."

"It will be awfully good to have them back home, though," she added somewhat wistfully.

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Oliver H. Kirk, Atty., Webeck Bldg., Birmingham, Mich.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, said County, on the 13th day of October, D. 1947.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Daisy C. Kirk, Deceased.

Betty B. Matlock, administratrix of said estate, having filed in said Court her Final Account and petition praying for the confirmation and discharge of said determination of the heirs of said deceased, assignment of her share of said estate; and the discharge of said administratrix.

It is Ordered, that the 17th day of November, A. D. 1947, be and the same is, set aside for the purpose of a hearing on the foregoing, at said Probate Office, by and before the said Judge of Probate.

It is further ordered, that notice thereof be given by publication of copy of this order, in the Birmingham Post-Herald, a newspaper published in Birmingham, Michigan, for three successive weeks previous to the date of the hearing hereinbefore recited in said petition, and that a copy of this order be mailed to the said administratrix.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,  
Judge of Probate.

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