

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



HOWDY from PARIS, FRANCE

By J. DONALD DELIZ
The other day I was sitting on the terrace of my favorite Paris sidewalk cafe with a few French students from the Sorbonne. We were commenting about the frilly feminine passersby who looked mighty prize winning, when I felt the ground trembling beneath us.

For a moment, shades of Judgment Day began to cloud my thoughts, so I asked my friends if they had felt it too. They assured me that it was nothing to worry about for this happened all the time. Then I felt better since I knew they had gotten the same feeling.

They went on to tell me that the ground under Paris has taken the appearance of a Swiss cheese throughout the centuries.

Catacombs Built
The early Christians started first by building the catacombs underground in which to bury the dead and hold secret church services. A tour through these with a lighted candle in your hand will make even the most beautiful date look like Halloween Incorporated, so it's best not to take her there.

You only get to see old tombs and the line keeps moving very fast through the narrow passage anyway. Each church in the city has a huge network of catacombs under it.

There are also the many tunnels for the subways called the Metro and the many underground stations. When the trains go through, the ground above vibrates and the automotive traffic on the surface answers with its own peculiar vibration.

Famed Sewers
Then there are the famous sewers of Paris which are a vast subsurface labyrinth too. I had read about these in Les Miserables, by Victor Hugo. In this book the much wronged hero, Jean Val Jean, is pursued and hides out in the sewers. Soon armies of policemen follow him there and they have an interesting time splashing around until he gets caught.

I thought that this was only another ugly invention from the mind of Mr. Hugo, who also gave us the charming Hunchback of Notre Dame, but I was wrong. I found this out when I took the very famous trip that is offered by the Paris Sewer Department called "A Tour of the Paris Sewers."

This excursion is scheduled for certain days, the first and last Saturdays and the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. You go to the Place de la Concord and meet behind the statue of the City of Lille. It costs 30 centimes (ten cents) for this cultural experience.

Dim View
There you enter a narrow flight of stairs and get into a large, long boat. You sit on the seats which line the sides of the boat. Four men wading in black hip boots tow the boat, using four chains attached to the sides, through a half mile of the sewer.

There is only a half-light which comes in through the street apertures of the sewage system, and you can dimly distinguish the signs which mark the various water pipes on the wall. There are also street and "arrondissements" signs. The arrondissements are the zones of the city.

The water is not filthy because each city zone has a center which treats the sewage before it comes into the system. However, the smell down there isn't exactly treated, and I would liken underground Paris more to Roquefort than to Swiss cheese. But my curiosity about Jean Val Jean's plight was satisfied and Victor Hugo was exonerated.

When it begins to rain, or if it's threatening, the tour is cancelled because the street sewers lead directly into the tunnels and they get flooded. I wondered what would have happened if it had begun to rain while we were down there.

I guess I would not have been able to say "Howdy from Paris, France" for awhile.

Paris At Night
The gathering that evening was very illustrious, but more interesting to me was the view of Paris at night. The important public buildings are all illuminated. With this artificial device, one thing stands out more than anything else. That is that Paris is a city that is very akin to the country. The buildings are low and there are trees jutting out all over the skyline.

There are many trees and a great number of parks with trees and flowers right in the heart of the city. They say that people in large concentrated areas miss the country, but this is not so in Paris. There are huge chestnut trees which give off a sweet musty smell after a rainfall and at times, it doesn't seem like a big capital city at all.

One of the guests at the gathering was an architect who contended that the immense stones of the Place de la Concord glorified the human beings that walked there.

"It makes them look important," he said. "It is not like this modern stuff that is so functional that it belittles man."

This concept sounded a little farfetched to me, but I did try to see his point. The next day I tried to concentrate on this theory. I saw some people crossing one of the streets, their outline against the big stone statues which represent the important port cities of France, and I began to get a glimmer of what he meant.

However, it will take a lot of practice. Every time I return there, I see more grandeur in the people who look very important among those gigantic stone statues. I guess one can try for the same feeling in front of the Academic Building. But this is Paris.



"... it's gotta be here somewhere—you just don't lose an electric fan in a room this size!"

Wives' Clubs To Combine

The number of wives' clubs on the campus will be decreased this fall as arrangements for combining the Wildlife Management and the Range and Forestry Wives' Clubs were made this week.

Wildlife and range and forestry are closely related fields, and the consolidation of these two wives' clubs will add varied interests, make a larger membership, and enable the group to plan a more active program of work.

Shirley Sullivan, president elect of the Range and Forestry Wives' Club, and Sharon Henson, president elect of the Wildlife Management Wives' Club, will be co-presidents of the newly organized group.

Other officers include Marilyn Schulle, vice president; Beverly Brummel, secretary-treasurer; and Alice Wilson, Aggie Wives Council representative.

Mrs. W. B. Davis and Mrs. R. J. Baldauf are sponsors of the club. One other sponsor is to be elected.

A get-acquainted tea is planned for early fall to introduce the members of the two clubs, faculty wives, and wives of students majoring in wildlife or range and forestry who are not yet members of the new organization.

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16.8 C. Y.—Concrete for pipe embedment
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Plans, Specifications, and Bidding Documents may be secured from the office of the City Manager, City Hall, College Station, Texas, on deposit of twenty (\$20.00) dollars per set, which sum so deposited will be refunded provided the provisions of the Specifications regarding the return of such Documents are complied with.

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By: S/Ernest Langford Mayor

Attest: S/K. A. Manning City Secretary

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ROBBIE D. GODWIN Managing Editor
T. S. Harover