

# Nannie Drake reports on trip

Nannie Drake returned recently from a vacation trip to Canada. The trip was won as a prize by City Building Supplies. A group of 130 men and women left from DFW Airport June 12 on American Airlines.

Following is a report of that trip by Mrs. Drake.

"The trip began the moment I arrived at DFW Airport. The group went directly to a special check-in counter where special representatives of the Airline and TeleTravel were on hand to assist. The group was treated in a private hospitality room hosted by Cameron, sponsors of the trip. We were served juice, coffee and Danish pastries.

"We boarded the plane to relax and enjoy all the pleasantries of deluxe jet service. Arriving at Montreal's Dorval Airport we went through Canadian immigration where proof of citizenship was required. A passport (current or expired) or a birth certificate, Texas voter registration combined with a drivers license as proof of identification. We had to claim our baggage individually and take it through Canadian customs. We were taken by private bus to the Hotel Meridion. Dinner was set for 7 p.m.

"Fine dining is a tradition in Montreal and our first dinner supported the tradition. Most of the beef served was so rare that I thought with a little tender, loving care the animal could have been still living. The vegetables, however, were my dish.

"Thursday, our first full day in Montreal, was full of interesting activities. A bus tour took us to places of interesting history. We saw the Notre Dame Church, completed in 1751 and graced with the works of Bourglass, Hiebert and Ledem. Beautiful wooden sculptures from artists of the 18th and 19th century were found in the Marie-Reime-du-Mondo Cathedral, the Notre Dame-de-Bonse Cours Church in Vieux, Montreal, the Madonna Della Difesa Church (a fine example of Roman style) Saint Patricks Church (with its Celtic Crosses) Saint Joseph's Shrine and the Church of The Visitation de Sault-au-Recollect which was completed in 1751.

"Fine arts flourish in Montreal with dozens of galleries and studios exhibiting local, national and international works of art. Museums, as well as some banks exhibit wide arrays of works by Canadian artists.

"The Montreal Symphony Orchestra and its guest artists give superb concerts.

"Following the bus tour the group went underground to ride the subway. This proved to be quite exciting as one only had 10 seconds to get on or off the subway. Thousands ride these day and night with much pushing and shoving to get on and off. The underground pedestrian network was finished in 1962. Linking several major downtown buildings, a unique underground network of shops, restaurants and cinemas

offer pedestrians a sheltered environment away from rain, cold and traffic.

"Montreal's Metro rolls on tires for a better ride. Each of the downtown stations was designed by a different architect. The city is a Mosaic of little "villages". One can wander from one country, generation or way of life into another. There is a Chinatown on La Gauchetiere Street, the Greek and Jewish neighborhoods of Park Avenue and Oeetermont and the Italian neighborhoods in the city's north end. Just off the Portuguese neighborhood one finds delightfully Bohemian Prince Arthur Street, Carre' Saint-Louis and Saint Denis Streets. Throughout the neighbors is an array of boutiques, bookstores, restaurants, cafes and grocery stores reflecting local color. I was reminded of my trip to New York several years ago as each of the countries are viewed in Montreal.

"It is an exciting experience as one views the skyline of Montreal by day and even more awe-inspiring by night. There is an ordinance that no building can be any higher than Mount Royal Mountain so as not to mar the beauty of the Montreal.

"I must not forget to tell you about the sidewalk cafes, picturesque views of out-door terraces in Old Montreal. Going from Old Montreal into the new is rather like leaving stately pine trees to the lowly mesquite. Greater Montreal has almost 2,500,000 people and is the second largest French speaking city in the world. It ranks among the largest seaports and is the largest inland seaport in the world. It is situated on an island and is connected to the mainland by 11 vehicular bridges and five railroad bridges.

"One of the most exciting buildings on the tour was the Olympic Stadium and the fabulous Olympic Basin along with the imposing structure of Montreal Olympic Village.

"Old Montreal is crammed with history. Building of the city started in 1642. The old city hall was built in 1878, the court house in 1855, Market Bonsecours was built in 1845, Theald Sulpician Seminary in 1685, Sailone Chapel from 1659 to 1775 and the Governor's residence in 1705.

"It is interesting to note that most streets in Montreal are laid at right angles. The east-west streets run more or less parallel to the St. Laurence River while North and south streets are right angles to the river. If anyone here thinks their town numbering is complicated, just visit Montreal. There are taxis all over the place. It was my lot to be with a group that hailed down a taxi with a driver that did not know where our hotel was located. We were given another grand tour that night at midnight. When we finally arrived the poor man was so embarrassed he did not want to be paid. He was paid surprisingly well and was very happy.

"My trip to Montreal was fun and it is so good to be back in the USA and my own state of Texas."

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