REPORT FROM EUROPE

Dining in Paris expensive but food marketing good

By OLLIE STEWART

PARIS — Last summer, when Marguerite and Carl Cartwright were in town, went to a market and these two were very much interested in French food and food prices.

More recently, a reader has written to ask when foods were most plentiful—and what about prices?

I'm happy to oblige because there seems to be a general feeling among American visitors to Paris that eating in the French capital is a most expensive bit of business, and I'm often asked the question, "How can the average man afford more than a sandwich?"

Well, the answer is that the average man in Paris doesn't do his eating on the tourist circuit. He goes to the market—the same as I do.

* * *

LAST SUNDAY I brought a big fat chicken. The cost was one dollar. Roasted or fried, it was enough for two people—with some left over for chicken salad, the next day. How this compares with prices in the States, I can't say. But I doubt if you can buy a better Sunday dinner for a buck.

Two weeks ago I bought half a rabbit—and got the surprise of my life. Half that rabbit cost more than the chicken. But this was no wild, skinny animal. It was fat and clean from a rabbit farm. And two people would really have to eat to do away with it.

While buying the rabbit, I also saw pheasant, deer and quail at reasonable prices. Beef is high, but lamb and fish are within the reach of everybody.

And France being an agricultural country, it goes without saying that vegetables are plentiful and cheap. The French have a saying: "Don't go to the market hungry, or you won't be able to bring it all home."

* * *

THIS IS the season when eating is best—and cheapest. Ready-cooked beets, ten cents. Big lettuce, about the same. Potatoes, five cents a pound. Onions, ten cents a pound. Big cauliflower, twenty cents. String beans, fifteen cents.

And fruits. Lord, what fruits you see on the French market. Apples of many kinds, juicy pears, tangerines, oranges, fresh pineapples, grapes, six ripe bananas for twenty cents.

Then there are fresh dates from North Africa, and nuts from everywhere. I don't even mention canned stuff which you can get, because the French will only eat out of a can as a last resort.

And after all the things listed above, there's always pastry. You stop on the way home and stuck up with fresh-baked cookies you can't resist. And bread. None of your dry, sliced and wrapped up glue.

* * *

FRENCH BREAD is in a class by itself. People nibbling on it before they get out of the store. You break it instead of cutting it, and you even eat the crumbs.

In short, the average man eats real good in Paris—and all over France. Food is so so plentiful it has to be cheap. It would spoil if the merchants tried to hold onto it.

On a visit, you eat in restaurants. But you won't know France until you put your feet under somebody's table.

COOKING IS FUN

Lemon baubles and bon bons brighten Yule cookie box

A box of Christmas cookies from your kitchen can be the most welcome and thoughtful type of remembrance at Christmas time.

Here are two tempting and festive cooky recipes which add a colorful touch to a gift package. The Bright Lemon Baubles require no cooking at all and are similar to Rum Balls, but with a lemony tang. The Bon Bons are baked on pecan halves, then prettily frosted.

Both are made with convenient bottled lemon juice, a favorite flavoring any time of the year.

BRIGHT LEMON BAUBLES

A box of Christmas cookcrumbs
1½ cups sifted confectioners' sugar
1½ cups vanilla wafer
2 tablespoons cocoa
2 tablespoons light corn syrup
¼ cup ReaLemon bottled lemon juice
½ cup finely chopped pecans

Combine all ingredients except tinted sugar; let stand 20 minutes. Form into small balls, adding more corn syrup if mixture seems dry. Roll balls in tinted sugar or confectioners' sugar. Chill. Yield—2½ dozen.

LEMONY BONS BONS

1 cup butter
¾ cup sifted confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons ReaLemon bottled lemon juice
1½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
¾ cup sifted corn starch
Pecan halves
2½ cups sifted confectioners' sugar
1 tablespoon softened butter
3 tablespoons ReaLemon bottled lemon juice
Red or green food coloring.

Cream together 1 cup butter, ¾ cup sugar and 2 tablespoons bottled lemon juice. Stir in flour and cornstarch. Chill. Form dough into 48 small balls. For each cookie, place 3 pecan halves on an ungreased cookie sheet; press a ball of dough to 1/3 to ¼-inch thickness over pecan cluster. Bake in moderate oven (350 degrees F.) 12 to 14 minutes. (These cookies will not brown.) Blend remaining sugar, butter and bottled lemon juice until smooth. Add food coloring to make desired color. Spread on top of cooled cookies. Yield: 4 dozen.

DEC. 6

Johns Hopkins University's Levering Hall YMCA will present a concert appearance by pianist Richard Fagan at 8:30 p.m. in Shriver Hall.

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Plenty turkeys for holiday

RALEIGH, N.C. — Turkeys, peanuts and peanut products top the U.S. Department of Agricultures List of Plentiful Foods for December.

Add to these apples, red tart cherries, cranberries, canned ripe olives, broiler-fryers and beef and you have a wide assortment of foods from which to plan your holiday menus.

IT'S ALWAYS good news to know that turkeys will be in plentiful supply for Christmas and New Year's dinners. And this year, you can also get turkey pieces and (at many places) turkey rolls.

The rolls are all meat and no bone—for easy carving and neat slices for buffet suppers, snacks and sandwiches. The pieces, of course, appeal to selective eaters—those who like that drumstick or that wishbone.

CHICAGO NAACP SEEKS 40,000 NEW MEMBERS

The Chicago NAACP Branch, the largest unit in the NAACP, with a membership in 1963 in excess of 34,000, has set a 1964 goal of 40,000 members. Willis A. Thomas is membership campaign chairman. Albert Brooks is president the Rev. Carl A. Fuqua is executive secretary.

26 seniors get Bennett awards

GREENSBORO, N.C. — "It is better to have excellence as yet unrecognized as to have competence that fears to dream," Miss Marilyn Fardig told honorees at the fall honors convocation at Bennett College, Friday.

Certificates for academic excellence were presented by President Willa B. Player to 26 of the 35 seniors, juniors and sophomores chosen. The nine others were away either in student teaching assignments or in exchange programs.

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