



Here are some cruise passengers, both long and short haul. Maximo Rodriguez, above, of Panama City was on his way home from the west side of the Canal with some fine fish. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Ross, at right, from Kent, England, were aboard the Captain Cook, en route to Auckland. The three children are Jaime, Ian and Mandy.

*There are long-haul
and short-haul*

CRUISE PASSENGERS

CRUISE PASSENGERS at the Panama Canal are not restricted to millionaires aboard swank liners like the "Caronia" and the "Nieuw Amsterdam." They are not all bound on pleasurable jaunts around the world or on luxurious voyages to South America.

Typical of some of the other cruise passengers are two groups selected last month by THE PANAMA CANAL REVIEW. One was making the shortest of all Panama Canal cruises, the four-minute crossing from one bank of the Canal to the other. The second was bound on a 33-day sea voyage to new homes more than



*This is a wonderful
way to spend
a sunny day*



The big ferry Presidente Porras, above, is the favorite cruise ship for hundreds of short-haul passengers, like those at right.



half way around the world.

The 3,470,492 passengers who crossed the Canal by Thatcher Ferry during the past fiscal year do not all qualify as cruise passengers. Far from it. The cruisers are a special group.

They are families, or couples, or boys and girls who will soon be permanent couples. They are, occasionally, single men, and much less occasionally, single women.

They are fussy about their accommodations. They prefer the double-decked 155-foot diesel electric ferry *Presidente Porras* to the less commodious *President Roosevelt*. On pleasant days, they board the ferry, simply to ride back and forth. They bring their lunches, their portable radios, and, once in a while, their liquid cheer. One man, the other day, had a plastic bucket for ice cubes to cool the drinks he was pouring for himself and his friends.

Over 95 out of every hundred of them are Panamanians, families or individuals from Panama City seeking a different way to spend a few hours.

The older youngsters hang bug-eyed to the railings, watching the ferry going in the opposite direction, the midget dredge *Mandinga* at work on the bridge channel, the ships which ply in and

out of the Canal. When they are tired of looking, they stretch out on the long wooden benches which line the *Porras'* deck and go to sleep.

Mothers nurse their babies as they ride along, then lay them down on the benches for a diaper change or a nap. Fathers sit and smoke, or just sit.

When the cruise passengers are hungry they open up their paper bags and munch on *michas* and cheese, bananas and, in season, rosy-cheeked mangoes.

The wind blows their hair and they bask in the coolness, many degrees more comfortable than the courts or front steps of their Panama City homes.

Sometimes the couples are courting. They ride back and forth, oblivious to all around them, holding hands and, once in a while, exchanging a brief kiss. The couples are not all Panamanians. The other day, two of the *Porras'* Sunday afternoon cruise passengers were a serviceman and his girl. They were sharing a bag of apples. She held an apple in her left hand, he held one in his right. Their other hands were clasped together.

The single passengers are a bit harder to define. One recent Sunday, a short-cruise passenger made six round trips,

stretched out flat on his back on the deck benches. At first the *Porras'* crew thought he might be ill, but he reassured them; he was just tired and hot, he said, and the ferry was a fine place for a nap. So sleep he did, or dozed, more likely, paying not the least bit of attention to anyone else aboard.

And some cruise passengers are out-and-out tourists, visitors to the Isthmus for a few days, possibly. Loaded with cameras, they travel across the Canal and back again, taking pictures.

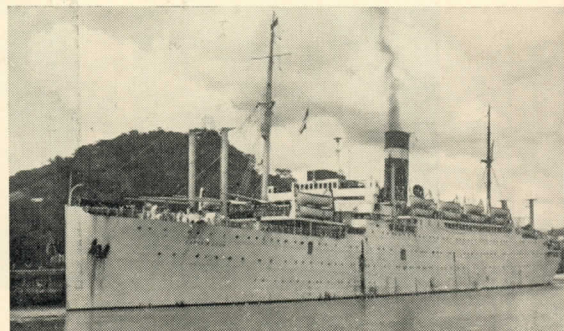
OCTOBER'S OTHER cruise passengers, those on the 33-day voyage, were family folks, too, most of them, but their situation was entirely different.

Over a thousand strong, they were aboard the British emigrant ship, *Captain Cook*, en route from England to new homes in New Zealand. Unlike the *Porras'* cruise passengers (who come in all ages) they were all under 45, but the number of children per family was as high if not higher than that for the ferry cruisers.

The 1,050 men, women and children aboard the *Captain Cook* on her twenty-fifth, and last, emigrant trip through the Panama Canal, were as appreciative of the view as the passengers on the *Porras*



*The Canal transit is
a pleasant break
on a long trip*



On her last voyage as an emigrant ship, the Captain Cook carried 1,050 passengers, some of whom appear in the picture, left.

but were suffering much more from the heat.

"It isn't like this in England," said a rosy cheeked lass from Surrey, as she delicately wiped her dripping forehead.

All of the *Captain Cook's* passengers were settlers, and most of the men were craftsmen or professionals of one sort or another. They were going to New Zealand, their travel expenses paid in full by the New Zealand Government, under that commonwealth's plan to bring new skills into the ruggedly beautiful country.

They came from all over England—Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, the Isle of Man—and they were going to be scattered all over both of New Zealand's two major islands. Jobs were waiting for all of the men; some said they hoped, if opportunities were better in another field, to switch after a year or so.

Typical of the *Captain Cook's* passengers were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Quayle, and their two sons, Ffinolo, 2, and Geoffrey, 3. They came from the Isle of Man and did not know exactly where they would be sent in New Zealand. Unlike many of the others aboard, they had no relatives in New Zealand.

Mr. Quayle described himself as a

"painter-decorator." He had been trying to arrange his family's emigration for two years before they were finally accepted. Work had been "quiet" at home, he said, and emigration seemed far better than "staying at home and hoping."

Victor Weber, 41, came from Mil-denhall, in Suffolk. He was a hairdresser by profession. With him were his pretty blond wife, whose trim coiffure was a testament to her husband's skill, and his two bright-eyed sons, Harry, 12, and Brian, 10. Harry was a bit shy with strangers, but Brian warmed up under compliments on his fancy space patrol hat.

Like many others aboard, the Webers said that they thought the younger generation had a much better opportunity in the commonwealth than at home. They had been considering their move for a long time; the enthusiastic reports they received from Mrs. Weber's sister, in Christchurch, had tipped the scales in favor of New Zealand.

"We think this by far the best thing for us to do," said Mrs. R. W. Bill, from Rumford, Essex. Her husband, 30, is a painter-decorator, like Mr. Quayle. The Bills will go to Wellington, where they have relatives, and a job, waiting.

Looking down the deck toward a

red-headed eight-year-old she identified as her son, Mrs. Bill added, "We have made our choice. Sometimes children don't understand. When he grows up, he can make his choice. Maybe he'll want to go back."

In the nine years the *Captain Cook* has been running through the Canal as an emigrant ship, she has carried more than 25,000 colonists from England to New Zealand. She is named for Captain James Cook, famed British navigator who discovered the Hawaiian Islands, New Georgia, Cook and other island groups; at one time the ship's master was named James Cook, but he was not a descendent of his ship's namesake.

Her October voyage was her last as a passenger cruise ship for the colonists. From New Zealand she will ferry troops to Malaya and then return to New Zealand with other troops. After that comes the long trip back home to England, via the Panama Canal, and possibly the boneyard.

What will replace her? Her purser, James Muir, who has been aboard for 11 years, does not know. All he knows is that he will miss the regular runs through the Canal, with his thousands of long-cruise passengers aboard.