

NÓS FALAMOS PORTUGUESE.

A curious change came over some foreign residents this August. They didn't exactly go native, but many who normally never utter a word in Portuguese began to order "bicas" and "torradas". This was to avoid being taken for a tourist... which can lead to being taken like a tourist.

EAB AND THE FORTY THIEVES.

Every resort area has its share of opportunists, and the Algarve is no exception.

"Correio da Manhã" reported that in a sweep through the Faro area, teams from the Economic Activities Brigade arrested the owners of forty restaurants and bars for overcharging some of their customers — mostly tourists.

KEEP THE CHANGE.

The tourist is also the prime target for another type of opportunist — the "carteirista" or pickpocket.

As soon as the high season begins, professional pickpockets from all over Portugal start heading for the Algarve. Sometimes the victim is not a tourist. An Algarvean gentleman was relieved of 25 contos as he boarded a bus.

PICKING OUT THE POCKET PICKERS.

Last month the Polícia Judiciária in Faro were joined by special anti-theft squads sent down from Lisbon to help in the crackdown on carteiristas.

These squads were deployed all along the coast, working around the clock in shifts. And the Polícia Judiciária kept a covert watch on traffic, hoping to catch sight of some of the better-known pickpockets as they made their way to their August hunting grounds.

SHORTAGE AT THE CHEMIST'S

A disagreement between pharmacists, the government and drug manufacturers and importers led to a shortage during August of insulin, antibiotics and other pharmaceutical products in Algarve pharmacies.

At issue in the dispute were new taxes. The pharmacists felt that these should be borne by the manufacturers and importers, not by the pharmacists and — ultimately — the consumer. The controversy was resolved when all sides agreed to a government study of the economic status and

structure of the wholesale and retail drug industry.

Meanwhile some tourists had a hard time getting the medicines they needed.

MORE POWER TO BETTER TELLY.

In spite of the sizeable increase in tourism, there seemed to be fewer power and water cuts than in summers past. The relative reliability of the power system was all the more welcome because RTP had put together the best summer television schedule in recent memory. There were series such as "I, Claudius", "The Mayor of Casterbridge" and "Behind Closed Doors", and any number of old but enjoyable films (most of them starring Edward G. Robinson, Humphrey Bogart or Bette Davis).

GRIN AND BEAR IT.

August was a poor time to be ill. Especially if you were just slightly ill. There was a nationwide doctor's strike, and only emergency cases were treated. Behind the strike was an attempt on the part of the Ordem dos Medicos to secure better wages and working conditions for its members. Tourists who were suffering from nothing more serious than "traveller's disease" had to grin and bear it.

GRIN AND BARE IT.

Nudism, still officially frowned on, has been more widespread this year. All along the coast there are certain beaches that have been "taken over" by the naturists. Boca de Rio is one, Carrapateira another.

One young German lady, told "you can't do that there 'ere", said that since every souvenir shop sells postcards showing nudes on Algarve beaches, she thought it would be acceptable if she took off her own clothes.

Bare breasts were two a penny during August, even on some "family" beaches.

IT'S MAGIC

All things considered, it seems obvious that, where tourism is concerned, counting heads is not enough. The Algarve deserves a better sort of tourism than the kind we had last month.

But the Algarve magic is still as strong as ever. Foreign residents who suffered the inconveniences and shortages of August have no intention of leaving. And all the tourists we questioned said they certainly hoped to come back.



"I think you two may find you've something in common."

A.N.

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The Carob Bean

A country restaurant in a converted farmhouse. Super home-cooked foods — quiches, cold meats, pies — served with freshly picked salads. Between Faro and Almansil, on the Ludo side road. Open 11 am to 9 pm every day except Monday. Attractively served meals at very reasonable prices.

**YOUR COUNTRY RESTAURANT
LUDO, ALMANSIL**

A.N.

How to sell your property without really trying

- 1 Price your property at today's market ... if you want to sell to today's buyer.
- 2 Put your documents in order before you sell ... you will avoid delays later.
- 3 Don't leave painting and repairing to the buyer ... you won't save money and you may lose the sale.
- 4 Make sufficient copies of floor plans, property maps and photos... you are selling a high priced commodity.
- 5 Let the buyer wander at will... your house may be a better salesman than you are.
- 6 Include basic furniture and equipment in the selling price... it helps to make a house a home.
- 7 Engage an experienced and energetic real estate agent with access to multi-language legal and banking assistance ... it costs no more.

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