Pleasure and professional observation were combined last summer in travel which included the countries of Portugal, Spain, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Turkey, Greece, Italy, the Scandinavian countries, Finland and the iron curtain countries of Russia, Czechoslavakia and Poland.

Like any American tourist, I was interested in seeing the places I had read about in school. And like a typical tourist, I was interested in the people, the shops, the handicrafts, the transportation systems, the agriculture and industry.

Professional Interest, Too
As a Home Economist in the study area of child development, I was particularly — and professionally — interested in the schools, education, child care, family life, sanitation and recreational facilities.

This report, however, will be limited to my observations in Russia, especially as regards the children.

It is difficult for an American tourist to learn much about the Russian people unofficially and informally. The Russians are chary about talking to a foreigner, although we guess that they are eager to be informed about us.

For example, it is difficult to get an individual Russian to discuss his life and family and anything else to an American visitor, but if one does he is surely quickly surrounded by his compatriots who listen eagerly, and offer to bridge the difficulties of translation. They like to listen, but they seem defensive and fearsome at actual conversational participation.

A Long School Day
For school-aged children, during the winter months, the school has a planned program where the child may stay in the classroom with the teacher, do his homework, take a long walk, eat supper, and be prepared to go home when his mother calls for him after her work day is finished at six or seven p.m.

Since the family apartment is fairly small, this helps to lessen the space tension at home. In the apartment houses I was able to visit, I saw families living in one-room apartments and sharing a kitchen and bath with seven, or even 10, other families. Our Intourist guide considered herself lucky because she shared the kitchen and the bath facilities with only five other families. Of course, in the smaller towns and villages, the people still seem to live much as they did prior to communism, as many of the families occupy one small house alone. I was assured that the housing

(Continued on next page)
Why Not Go Native When Landscaping?

It’s no longer difficult to find out which native trees and shrubs are good for landscape use in Southern Arizona. When they bloom. How tall they grow.

All you have to do is ask your local county extension office for Bulletin A-29.

The bulletin is entitled “Native Trees and Shrubs for Landscape Use in Southern Arizona.” It was written by Joseph S. Folkner, assistant horticulturist at the University of Arizona, and Robert F. Charles Jr., former research associate in horticulture.

The authors point to the growing interest in native trees and shrubs for landscape use.

Native growth, they say, has many advantages over many imported plants. Little supplemental care of native desert species is necessary, and pruning is done only to shape the plant.

“In recent years an increasing interest in native species for landscape use has been expressed in Arizona. An inclusion of native plants will add a phase of southwestern vegetation to the landscape, in addition to reducing water usage,” said Folkner.

Many impressions flood my mind as I think of the large country and strong people that make up Russia. Ivan to orbit around the world a couple of times!

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A slip of paper with the price from the salesgirl, goes to another line to pay the money to a cashier and get a receipt, then back to another line to give the receipt to the salesgirl and to collect the object. The popular joke is that it takes longer for Mrs. Ivan to buy groceries than for Mr. Ivan to orbit around the world a couple of times!

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He noted that the soils in which many of the native species grow are similar to those around residential and other urban areas.

“The plants included in this bulletin have been growing in this southwestern climate for hundreds of years under conditions of relatively low water supply. They have become adapted to our desert,” Folkner added.

He points out that, in addition to surviving the southwestern climate, these species have resisted insects and diseases for years.

Then the Rains Came!

Until the wind blew, this Homecoming display at the front entrance of the Aggie Building, home of this college, was quite elaborate.

Ribbons trailing from a map of the world were attached to plants, photos and other symbols of agricultural activity and productivity. This showed how the men, research and products of this college contributed to the agricultural and human welfare of distant parts of the globe.

“But then,” said Tony Mellor disconsolately, “the wind began to blow, and a lot of men and products began to circulate around the world in a manner we hadn’t planned on.”

Tony was concerned, because he was one of the Aggie students who — representing the Agricultural Council of the college — conceived and built the display.

Other members of the committee are Rusty Beek and Tom O’Kane. Their theme, despite a vagrant breeze or two, is still a sound one.

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