by FELICITY MUNN **CP Travel Writer**

unemployment, Recession, poverty, Constitution, politicians

yammering. Forget it. Hop on a plane. Get away for a couple of weeks.

. . . Never mind. Can't afford to. Recession.

Depression. OK, so grab a book. Escape

mentally. Better yet, grab a humorous travel book. Travel mentally with a

few chuckles. Let's try All in the Same Boat - The Humorists' Guide to the Ocean Cruise.

'Do not know what fo'c'sle is, or what it has done to deserve more than its fair share of apostrophes. Do not know difference between starboard and portside. Do not know aft from elbow." Keith Waterhouse.

Know what he means. Was on a cruise once.

There are three more books in the Humorists' Guide series (Catbird Press, \$12.95 each) - anthologies of travel pieces by writers past and present, from Charles Dickens to Art Buchwald:

Savoir Rire, about France. Mon dieu, think of the possibili-

"It is essential to know the names of a few French politicians when you are in France, if only to hold your own in the repartee and invective of the street. . . . All you have to do is shout back at your heckler the names of whatever politicians spring to mind: 'Laval! Daladier! Flandin! Cheron!' Since all French party leaders are unpopular, even with their own followers, the names of any of them will serve very handily as epithets." — James Thurber.

 In a Fog, about England. "Rumor has it that Ascot is so exclusive that it is the only race course in the world where the horses own the people." Buchwald.

When in Rome, about Italy. Will Rogers on Rome:

"It's the oldest uncivilized town in the world. New York is just as uncivilized, but it's not as old as Rome. Rome has been held by every nation in the world at one time or another for no reason at all. Between you and I, I think some of them give it up without much of a struggle." What else?

Holidays in Hell (Atlantic Monthly Press, \$22.95), a collection of pieces by Rolling Stone foreign editor P. J. O'Rourke.

Black humor. Well, no wonder. The guy went to the worst places on Earth. Like Lebanon, South Africa, the America's Cup race.

"Rich people are nuts for boats. The first thing that a yo-yo like Simon LeBon or Ted Turner does when he gets rich is buy a boat. . . . I don't know about you, but if I got rich I'd buy something warm and weatherproof that held still, like a bar.'

And Epcot at Walt Disney World: "Walt is dead. And, after a couple of hours at Epcot, you'll wish you were, too." Alone worth the price of the book.

Travels with Alice (Ticknor and Fields, \$27.95), by Calvin Trillin of The New Yorker. Alice is his wife. Two teenage daughters also along for a summer in France and other travels.

Trillin believes in the hangingaround style of travel. Pleasurable, smile-rather-than-guffaw kind of

"I am staring down at my drink in the significant way French intellectuals stare down at their drinks in cafes — either because they have just thought of something profoundly ironic or because they are wondering why they drink things that taste like cough medi-

Emphasis on eating. Funny chapter on best "fastefoude" in Paris; also on trying to learn Spanish.

More emphasis on eating in The Obsessive Traveller (Imprint-Harper Collins, \$12.95), by David Dale, a writer for Australia's Sydney Morning Herald: "For me, shopping creates excess baggage and is a waste of good eating time." Doubles as entertaining dining guide.

And this. Baghdad Without a Map - and Other Misadventures in Arabia (Dutton, \$25.95), by Tony Horwitz, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal.

Hmmm. Most of it written before Iraq invaded Kuwait. Some parts wrenching, like the chapter on Khartoum. Other parts a howl,

like the chapter on Yemen. Horwitz chews qat, the narcotic leaf Yemenis use all the time, and ends up reciting aloud snatches of poetry like: "The fog crept in on little qat feet . . . ", or "In the room the women come and go, chewing Michelangelo. . . . '

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