



JOURNEY OF NOTE. Gustave Raitz, left, of the East Meadow School Board, checks a map of Venezuela recently and the invitation to the East Meadow High School Band to visit that country. With him are William Katz, director of music for the East Meadow School District and Dr. John Brierly, director of the East Meadow High School Band.

Band Plays New Version Of 'Come Fly With Me'

East Meadow—The East Meadow High School Band has played Buffalo, Salisbury Park and Yankee Stadium, but next month the band will take the most exotic trip in its history, to Venezuela.

The band has accepted an invitation for an expenses-paid trip to perform at the annual festival in Barquisimeto, the third largest city in the-South American republic. Sixty-five members of the band are scheduled to fly to Barquisimeto Jan. 3 and return to New York Jan. 14. They will perform a series of concerts in the Feria Divina Pastore, an annual event in honor of the city's patron saint. John Barbour, the high school principal, and several faculty members who will instruct the pupils on the trip will accompany the group.

The invitation to East Meadow came through Abe Ladar, a New York businessman who lived in Barquisimeto for 13 years and represents that city in business affairs in this country. Ladar said recently that he thought a college or high school band would be a good representative for the U.S. at the festival. Luis Gallardo, mayor of the Venezuelan city of about 200,000 persons, extended the invitation in a telegram received here Friday.

The mayor said that Barquisimeto would pay for

airplane tickets and food and lodging for the band. An additional \$3,000 to defray expenses will be allotted from the high schools general organization fund, which collects revenue from concerts and other student affairs. The trip will cost the Venezuelan city an estimated \$20,000, Barbour said.

Tours and Concerts

Barbour said that he called a meeting of the band members last Friday morning and notified them of the telegram. "The reaction was more than exuberant," he said. Henry Heilbrunn, a student at the school, said the group would tour the Barquisimeto area in the mornings and then play at concerts in the early evening. School officials have begun to rush processing of the students making the trip, taking care of inoculations and passports. The board of education granted permission for the trip at Tuesday night's regular meeting.

The band, given a top rating for the last six years in state contests, has 125 members. Only 65 will make the trip, for reasons of economy. The band has played throughout the state and between the halves of professional football games in New York City. This, however, is its longest concert trip.