

Belgian Immigrant Student Tells of Experiences in Europe

By John Rooney

Memories of life in free and occupied Europe, and thoughts of friends that returned from Dachau, and Buchenwald, have not yet left the mind of Harry Donkers, 19 year-old Belgian immigrant.

Donkers, a Peruvian by birth, but a resident of the Low Countries for 16 years, enrolled at the university Sept. 16, and took residence in McChesney hall, four days after his arrival in the United States.

"I consider myself very happy and very, very lucky to be here," the freshman pre-med student said. "I saw one of my friends, a member of the same Boy Scout troop as myself, arrested and taken to Buchenwald, simply for delivering underground newspapers. Three years later he was released. He had changed from a very gay and spirited person, into a shattered, seemingly old man. There was no humor or vitality left in him at all."

Worked For Underground

During the war, Donkers and his mother worked for the European underground. "Most of the time," he went on, "I would follow orders that my mother would give to me."

However, practically all of the students distributed the underground newspapers. It was simple, not too dangerous work, to pick up papers and deliver them after dark to groups of people. Of course if you were caught, you would disappear and perhaps never be seen again.

Each Job Important

"Each job was important, and each one had its end," the black haired Belgian with the engaging personality commented. "Mother was in a group whose sole purpose was to hide refugees and allied air men from the Nazis."

One day she brought a man in the German Luftwaffe, to the house. He looked like a very high-ranking officer. Later I found out that he was, but that he was also an American agent that was trying to get out of the country very fast. I understand that he went to Spain, and then to America.

Underground Permanent

No one was forced to go into the underground," pointed out the new campus resident. "However, once you were in, it was awfully hard to get out."

According to Donker, his mother got into the underground through a complete faux pas on the part of the underground. A group of Dutch nurses in a clinic near the Donkers home in Brussels learned that she too, was Dutch. Going to her house to find out if she was of the underground, they introduced themselves and gave the password, "are you Dutch?" Unwittingly she gave back the correct answer, "yes, 100%." Whereupon they immediately told her what she was supposed to do.

When she realized what they had really meant, she readily assented and soon was presented with forged papers and other material which let her transport refugees out of her district.

Speaks Six Languages

Speaking six languages, including English, fluently, Donkers has had little trouble adapting himself to the campus language. However, coming to school here after going to school in Europe proved a new and exciting venture for him.

"Here the students all seem like one big family. Over there it's like a fraternity but no family. European schools are so old fashioned," Donkers reminisced. "There aren't any student union buildings, no recreation rooms, just classes."

Everybody goes to classes here. Only about 50% of the students in Europe attend classes. And then

they get together afterwards for social affairs," he remarked.

Contrast Between Girls

Donkers also found a marked contrast between American and European girls. Not wishing to express himself wholeheartedly, the fellow that can say "I love you," in six languages, did say that "it seemed that American girls seemed more eager to get a date, and that they made an awful fuss over whether they did or they didn't."

Bringing out the difference, he pointed out that in Europe the girls all go around with each other, and the boys all stick together. A girl will never go out with a boy until she is at least 18, and then the boy she goes with she usually marries.

Prefers American Way

Donkers, with a quick grin, said that he thought he preferred the American way better. "That way you don't get stuck with someone you might not care for after awhile," he laughed.

Donkers, a three time crosser of the Atlantic, offered a word of caution to people planning on going to Europe. "If you go there, don't fly around taking pictures and buying a lot of unnecessary trinkets. American tourists are very unpopular because they do this. "Instead," Donkers said, "visit the people in their houses, look at the fields, act normal. To the people of Europe, America is the promised land, and when someone comes along and destroys the illusion, it isn't appreciated. Americans should be as normal as they are at home."



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Even in hot weather you can't make friends by giving them the cold shoulder.

UO Student from Peru Finds Campus 'Different'

Inez Pozzi-Escot, exchange student from Peru, said when asked how she likes Oregon, "I know only the landscapes so far, but I really love it because it reminds me of the trip from Buenaventura to Cali, Colombia."

Here under a one-year scholarship from the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs and chosen by the Institute of International Education in New York, Miss Pozzi-Escot has already shown her interest in campus affairs by taking a beat on the Emerald, but her major studies will be in education and journalism.

Arrived in July

She arrived in the States in July via a free roundtrip airplane ticket from the Braniff Airways Company in Lima, which, she explained, was better than a scholarship because the rates of exchange would have made cash from the company unfavorable. After an orientation course at Mills College in Oakland, California, she arrived in Eugene on September 17.

Miss Pozzi-Escot finds colleges different in the U.S. In her own country there is no campus and the college is practically synonymous with studying. University life here is less formal and more gay, she decided.

"The American people have really taken the idea of the pursuit of happiness seriously," she remarked. "But they put too much emphasis on Doing instead of on Being," the vivacious brunette insisted. Ines believes that the two greatest things that the U.S. has given the world could very easily be Optimism and The Installment Plan!

Teacher in Peru

In Peru, Miss Pozzi-Escot who is the descendant of a Italian-French-Peruvian combination is a secondary teacher of education, Spanish grammar, and literature. But, because she loves writing so much, she was assistant editor for the New Educator and she also took a degree in music (piano) at the National Conservatory in order to teach.

She is a graduate of Lima High School, unique in her country because it is an American school where all subjects except courses about the country and Spanish grammar and literature are taught in English and where commercial subjects are taught. The combination brought the graduates of this high school into great demand for bi-lingual office work, and thus the school became an influence in freeing women for outside work.

She also was graduated from the University of San Marcos, one of two state universities and three

Catholic colleges in Lima, which is also the oldest university in America, North or South.

Graduated from San Marcos

Big plans are being made to celebrate San Marcos' four-hundredth anniversary next year. The buildings themselves are built with cloister-like corridors and pretty fountains in the patios where orators may sometimes address the students.

Chief differences between Peru and the United States, Miss Pozzi-Escot finds, are the contrast between sizes of family (she comes from a "small" family of 6) and the fact that most people down there have a few servants while here most families have electric equipment to help with the work. Meals are also later and four in number there, she reports.

Travel Difficult

Entertainment in Lima may consist of movies and theaters as we have here (Lima is a modern city of 1,000,000 with automobiles and airplanes) with the singular exception of bullfights, to which the month of October is dedicated. But, due to the varied topography of the country, travel in the mountains may be by car (in certain places), by llama, the Peruvian animal of all purposes, or on foot.

Miss Pozzi-Escot wants to go back to Peru to start a magazine for teachers. She is also interested in journalism for UNESCO (United Nations Economic, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) at some future date.

Journalism School Gets Research Funds

President H. K. Newburn announced this week that a fund for research on mass communications problems had been granted to the school of journalism.

This will enable the school of journalism to accept research assignments from newspapers, radio stations, and other media of public information. Work will be done primarily on a faculty and graduate student level in the stepped-up program for next year.

SU to Hold Annual Press Conference

On October 28 the Erb Memorial Union will be indoctrinated into another of its functions, when it opens its doors to the participants in the annual Oregon High School Press Conference. All meetings and meals will be held in the one building.

Five official delegates from each school, with their advisers, have been invited to attend the conference. Walter W. R. May, editor of the Oregon City Enterprise-Courier, will be the principal speaker. The program will include roundtable sessions about the major problems of producing yearbooks and newspapers, mimeographed publications, and the letter-press printed newspaper.

One designated "star reporter" from each school will participate in a mass press conference with the director of the SU, Richard C. Williams. A separate program will be provided for advisers.

Gordon B. Greb, instructor in the School of Journalism, and newly-named executive secretary of the Oregon Scholastic Press and the Oregon Association of Journalism Advisers, is in general charge of the program.

Morse to Speak To Kiwanis Club

Senator Wayne Morse makes his first public appearance in the state today when he addresses the Kiwanis club at the Osburn Hotel at noon.

Oregon's junior senator, home to open his campaign to retain his seat in the U. S. Senate, was reported to be in Eugene Saturday, but neither his Portland office, nor friends in Eugene could substantiate the report.

Morse will tour parts of Lane county today along with other county legislative candidates. He will make a major speech in Florence tonight.

The bathing gals of today doesn't look anything like she did 10 years ago—but that much time would tell on anyone.

Too many people are inclined to give credit where cash is needed.

ANOTHER EMERALD

SPECIAL

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