

ANN LANDERS

Ann Receives Warm Welcome Into Soviet Family Home

(This is another in a series of articles by the author of America's most popular humor relations column.)

MOSCOW—It's very late and I'm exhausted. But I must keep my eyes open long enough to get this story on paper tonight—while the details are fresh in my mind. I'm happy a companion shared the experience with me because this story needs a witness.

Before I left America all the "right" sources told—"You'll never get into a Russian home. The people have orders not to get chummy with Americans. They'll be friendly and polite, but they'll never ask you in."

Tonight I was virtually pulled into a Russian home. And the people were strangers. It was one of the most heartwarming experiences of my life. This is how it happened:

Dr. Thomas Nicholas of Buffalo, Wyo., and I, over a bowl of borscht, were comparing notes on a recent tour of a medical clinic.

About 9 o'clock, Dr. Nicholas and I decided, on an impulse, to test the theory that Russians may appear friendly, but are leary of Americans.

"How do we do this?" he asked. "By going to any apartment building, knocking on a door, and saying, 'Z-dros-voy-tyeh-American-sky nyet pomeh-mysh horrashaw Parosky.'" Then wait for a reaction.

APPROACH APARTMENT

We agreed that approach might get us in trouble with the police and that it could result in having several doors slammed in our faces. After all, if a couple of Russians appeared at your front door one evening and announced, "Good evening. We are Russians and we don't speak good English."

We realized it was an impulsive experiment, but it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn first hand how the average Russian family would react to an unannounced visit from a pair of Americans.

The doctor had noticed a row of apartment houses about a block from the hotel. That was our objective. As we walked toward the building, the second floor was well lighted so we decided to try there. My heart pounded as we climbed to the second floor of the eight-story brick building.

We chose apartment No. 29. The doctor rapped on the door. An agreeable-looking woman of about 35 appeared. She had a frizzled permanent wave, and displayed two shimmering stainless steel teeth as she smiled her greeting. It was almost as if she were expecting us.

I blurted out the planned phrase, "Z-dros-voy-tyeh-American-sky nyet pomeh-mysh horrashaw Parosky!"—"Good evening. We are Americans who cannot speak good Russian."

At that moment a man we assumed to be her husband appeared. He was square-jawed, husky and had a wealth of black curly hair. He flung the door open wider, burst into smiles and shouted "Americansky—drog droog-vy-deetsyeh, pajaloosta." (Americans are friends. Come in, please.)

FRIENDLY WELCOME The woman extended her hand to the doctor. Her husband reached for mine. Together we four stood in the doorway—shaking hands in friendship. It was as if we were old friends who had come to visit. In that handshake I felt a heart. It was a warm, honest clasp that said "We like you. Welcome to our home."

Arm in arm we walked into the dining room, to meet the others. "Americansky," they shouted "Get the vodka. Be our guests!" We had interrupted their supper. Three men, four women and a teen-age girl were seated around

a square table. The housewife brought two additional plates—silverware, cloth napkins (although they were using paper ones) and two wine glasses. Her husband opened a bottle of vodka. The babushka (grandmother) left the table and returned with a newly opened can of sardines.

One of the younger women took the flowers from the window sill and placed them on the table. Both the doctor and I had just finished enormous bowls of borscht, but I was determined to accept their offering even if I had to put those sardines in my ear.

When I managed to finish the sardines, the Russian wife saw my empty plate and insisted I take a piece of saami. I pleaded with the doctor to help me.

He came to my rescue. When the grandmother saw this she scolded, "Nyet, nyet," and placed two larger pieces of saami on both his plate and mine.

I asked the men what kind of work they did. The husband was a courtroom recorder. The youngest of the group (his brother) was an accountant. The third man worked for the telephone company.

One woman was a typist, another a kindergarten teacher and the housewife was an inspector in a dress factory. The 13-year-old girl was the daughter of the woman who had answered the door. She had come home early from summer camp because she missed her family.

I looked around the apartment. Although it was a new building, there were cracks in the ceiling and plaster walls. It was neat and modestly furnished. Linoleum with a red floral pattern covered the dining room and living room floors. The furniture was the overstuffed, shapeless, brocade velvet one sees in the Russian hotel lobbies.

ROOM VISITED

I asked if I could be excused for a moment. I wanted to see the "jenskyka cawnitaw" (ladies' room) and also see how many other rooms were in the unit. The small "jenskyka cawnitaw" had a bathtub, toilet, and a wash basin. Several pairs of men's socks hung over the towel rack. Ten towels hung on hooks. It was apparent several persons were using this bathroom.

There was only one other room—the kitchen. It was large, with an ice box (not refrigerator), stove, food cabinet and an oilcloth covered table, around which were eight chairs.

When I returned to the dining room they asked if I had pictures of my family (the doctor had shown his). I showed them a picture of my "mooj" (husband) and "adeen dautch" (one daughter). They asked if my daughter was in the movies. I told them she was a student.

They wanted to know what my husband did for a living. I told them he was president of a factory that makes pens.

"Oh... big money," they said. "No, just big responsibility," I told them.

"His father owned the factory?" "No. He started sweeping the floors in a store when he was 16 years old."

"How did he get to be a boss?" "Under capitalism anybody who has 'tah-loni' and is willing to work hard, can be a boss. There are no limits in America."

They asked what the doctor did for a living. When I told them he was a doctor of medicine, they wanted to know if he was a heart specialist, and seemed disappointed when he said "nyet."

We visited for about 45 minutes, then decided it was time to say good night. As we stood to say "arewell," our friends filled their glasses with the special vodka they had opened for the American-sky who couldn't speak very good

LOCAL EVENTS

Blue Mountain Gem Club will meet Monday at 8 p.m. in the Women's Clubhouse at Union. Luck at 7 p.m. Bring own table service and rock for auction.

Neighborhood Club will hold a regular meeting, Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the clubhouse. Mrs. Lou's Samson will have the program, "Keeping Old Traditions," also musical numbers.

Eagles Auxiliary drill team and officers will hold a practice in their hall, Tuesday evening at 7:30.

A Drivers License Examiner will be on duty in La Grande on Tuesday at 106 Depot Street between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file the applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license test.

M/Sgt. W. F. Lillis, United States Army Recruiter, will be in La Grande two days a week, Tuesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. He will be in the Selective Service office located in the Post Office building.

Lebler Ladies Aid will meet in the home of Harold Bingaman, Lebler, Thursday at 2 p.m. Gift exchange and potluck dessert.

Chapter CO of PEO will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Raymond Gray.

Blue Mountain Jrs. Extension unit will meet in the home of Mrs. Howard (Mary Lou) Wilson, Fruidade, Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. Christmas party with homemade gift exchange. Those having favorite holiday recipes bring to exchange.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wiles, Elain, have a daughter born Nov. 25, in the Grande Ronde Hospital. They have named her Kristy Ray-one and she weighs six pounds, four and a half ounces.

YWEA will hold their first monthly meeting Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the First Methodist church.

Crystal Rebekah Lodge will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in Russian.

A hush fell over the room as the husband, with tears in his eyes, solemnly said "Mer-i-dronbah"—(peace and friendship), and in broken English: "I would like to drink this toast to your great country. Take the message home to America that the Russians are your friends."

ANN LANDERS

'Lemon' Calls Ham Operator Very Often, Yaks For Hours

Dear Ann: My husband is a ham radio operator. I don't have a license but I've always enjoyed the social activities of the local radio club.

There are a few women operators and most of them are educated and charming. But, as in every group, there's always a lemon.

The lemon calls my husband on the radio almost every night and the Odd Fellows temple.

Neighbors of Woodcraft will hold a business meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Odd Fellows temple.

St. Peter's Episcopal Guild will meet Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Parish hall.

Celebrating birthdays today will be Gilah Dickenson and Albert Hamann.

First Methodist Woman's Society of Christian Service will meet in the home of Mrs. Harry Trimble, 501 Washington Avenue, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

VFW Auxiliary will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. in their hall. All members reminded to bring the gifts for the Gift table at Camp White, and also for the adopted vet.

UNION (Special) — The Union Home Extension Unit will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Wilma McCrae. The project will be "Consumer Buying."

yaks for hours. If I answer, she coldly tells me to "get a license." Why never there's a club party she latches on to my husband for the entire evening. Others have noticed her brazen behavior and raised their eyebrows.

This woman can't cause any real trouble—we're too old for that, but I wonder if I should tell her it's—Ham's Wife.

Dear Ham's Wife: Why get down to the fishwife level? A woman who is secure in her marriage has no need to fall off a hobby. She's calm, cool and amused at the whole ridiculous performance. Be pleasant and friendly. It would be enormously flattering to the lemon to know you're worried that she might get squeezed.

Dear Ann: As faithful readers of your column we can't forgive you for being a bragger without a sense of proportion. Re your answer to Flo. You said you had ironed enough sheets to reach from Utica, N.Y. to Chicago.

Utica is 645 air miles from Chicago. If three sheets were placed end to end, measuring 8 1/2 feet diagonally without tying, a total of 40,000 sheets would be used.

This means you'd have ironed 4 sheets every day for 10 years and 20 days. When do you write your column?—L.L.G.'s.

Dear G's: O.K.—so I'm a bragger without proportion! Will you settle for 10 lashes with a knitted bedsheet?

WBA Members Hold Birthday Dinner

Honoring members whose birthdays are in November and an address by Mrs. E. P. Shrock, a member of the Neighborhood Club, was an event of the social meeting of the Woman's Benefit Association, when they met in the Odd Fellows dining room Monday evening. Tables were artistically decorated with a copper bowl of poinsettias and cedar greenery centering the officers' table. At each side were candle holders with a gold and green group of three candles each.

The serving table displayed two cakes, one a white confetti angel food and a chocolate cake in honor of those having birthdays in November.

The meeting was presided over by Lois Livingston, vice-president, in the absence of Stella Garrett, president who was ill. Mrs. Livingston opened with a prayer and asked for committee reports; a letter was read concerning a White House Conference on Children, and Youth from the Union County committee finance chairman, Mrs. Robert McPhetridge.

Another was a bond from the Union County Tuberculosis and Health Association.

Mrs. Livingston named the nominating committee as Mrs. Elmer Locken, Mrs. Herbert Miller and Mrs. Leo Hansen. They will report on new officers Dec. 7.

Mrs. Shrock was presented and talked briefly on the Neighborhood Club, and then expressed the program of each organization or club sending two members to each meeting of the City Commissioners when that committee meets. She said the meetings were of interest to each and everyone as to what comes up and what happens at those meetings.

Mrs. Atha Miller paid tribute to Myrtle Hansen, state field director, and read a poem, "There Might Have Been Others" in honor of her birthday. Mrs. Hansen acknowledged the honor and in turn, thanked Jessie Damerell, welfare supervisor, for her acts and deeds and then read a poem in her honor. Mrs. Damerell was awarded an appreciation gift and Mrs. Hansen received a birthday gift from the members. Mrs. Hansen then paid tribute to Mrs. Wetzel, who has filled all the offices of the Association and then she presented her with her 50-year pin. Mrs. Ethel May, Mrs. French and Mrs. Wetzel are charter members.

Games were played with Mrs. Leo Hansen, Mrs. Bill Livingston, Mrs. Herbert Miller, Mrs. James Ingerson, Mrs. Claud Damerell and Mrs. Roscoe Furman each being awarded prizes.

Cake and coffee were served by a committee, Mrs. Floy Wetzel, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Bill Livingston, Mrs. John Engle and Mrs. Roscoe Furman.

Union Students Make Honor Roll

UNION (Special)—High School Honor Roll for the First nine weeks:

- 4.0 Sara Jane White, Bob Cockrell, Kathy Edvalson, Rita Gibbs, Claudia Herman, and Bill Cockrell.

- 3.8 Don Baxter, Deanna Straight, Carolyn Vickers, Janice Hibbeln and Henry Miller.

- 3.6 Leese Taylor, Peggy Jacob, and ?

- 3.5 La Verne Briggs.

Union OES Chapter 49 Sets Christmas Party

UNION (Special)—Grande Ronde Valley chapter 49 OES held their regular meeting Wednesday evening. Mrs. Emma Bell, worthy matron and Nele Morrison, worthy patron presided.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Johnson of Wallowa were escorted and introduced. Johnson is worthy patron of the Wallowa chapter. Mrs. Johnson is a grand committee member.

A committee was appointed to check over the chapter books and report at the next meeting. Next meeting will be a Christmas party, Dec. 9.



"Let's talk dry cleaning"

By Ed Craig

In women's fashions, this is a season of sparkle. Dresses, blouses and evening wraps are resplendent with metallic fabrics. Some dresses and wraps are made entirely of lame. Other fabrics that are favorites are silks, satins, velvets, even wools shot through with metallic threads. These fabrics are fascinating but they also present cleaning difficulties. Fabrics containing metal threads are extremely susceptible to severe creasing and wrinkling.

Most metal threads consist of a cotton inner thread which serves as a base around which a thin metallic ribbon is rolled spirally. The base metal is usually copper which, when the lacquer wears off, tarnishes badly and tarnish is almost impossible to remove by any method of cleaning. Synthetic metal-like threads do not present this tarnish problem. Before he can safely clean cloth with metal threads woven through it, your cleaner must test to find out if the metal has a copper base or is a synthetic thread. We always make sure of the fabric content of every article you send us. You can count on our taking a little more painstaking care with the cleaning and finishing of your finest, most delicate fabrics. That's why the best dressed people in town send their dry cleaning to us!

REMEMBER

Inspect

The garment after wearing—if it is too soiled for the next wearing, it is too soiled to hang back in the closet!

CRAIG'S NU-WAY CLEANERS 1708 Sixth Phone WO 3-2311



Advertisement for Don Dempsey's Funeral Chapel. Text: "Serving as we would be served". "FINEST OF FACILITIES... We are proud of our beautiful chapel, our luxurious limousines, all our modern equipment and facilities that mean so much at time of sorrow!" "DON DEMPSEY'S FUNERAL CHAPEL" "WO 3-5022"

Advertisement for Esther's Apparel. Text: "20% OFF on ALL DRESSES, ROBES and Sports Coats (ONLY 4 LEFT) at Esther's Apparel SAC ANNEX EFFECTIVE NOW UNTIL CHRISTMAS! —Will Hold Layaways Until Dec. 21st— ALL SALES FINAL NO RETURNS, EXCHANGES OR REFUNDS"

Advertisement for Payless Drug Store. Text: "M-T-W SALE! SALE DATES—Monday, November 30 Through December 2. ROCKET DOWNTOWN FOR THESE OUT-OF-THIS WORLD VALUES! 3 BIG ROLLS Joy GIFT WRAP 360" LONG By 20" WIDE Reg. 98c Box 49c At Pay-Less MTW TOY SPECIAL SUPER DELUXE Unbreakable Soft PLASTIC BOWLING SET SHUFFLEBOARD SET, DART GAME With Reg. 15.95 99c Ft. Long Linoleum Bowling Alley Shuffleboard Court And Dart Game. 3 GIFTS IN 1! RONSON CFL SHAVER-TOILETRIES SET 1. RONSON CFL ELECTRIC SHAVER— REG. 17.95 For This Sale 12.88 2. & 3. RONSON PRE-SHAVE LOTION AND RONSON AFTER-SHAVE LOTION. PAYLESS DRUG STORE MONDAY-TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY Sale!*

Advertisement for Melvilles Toys. Text: "MELVILLES TOYS Opening Special RIDING TANK Reg. \$9.98 \$8.49 FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY! Atomic Submarine Game Microscope Kits Chemistry Sets Opening Special 'YELLOW JACKET' GAS ENGED AIRPLANE COMPLETE Reg. \$9.95 \$7.95 Doll Luggage and Trunks TRAINS AMERICAN FLYER Electric Trains Sets complete With Transformer 24.95 UP COMPLETE LINE OF ACCESSORIES Opening Special WESTERN SMOKING RIFLE Reg. 2.98... 2.49 Doll Buggies and Strollers ERECTOR 100 TOYS IN ONE Opening Special Child's Desk Set 2 drawers and chair Reg. 16.95... 10.95 MELVILLES 1431 Adams Ave. Gifts of Distinction"