

ANN LANDERS

Soviet Workers Look To A Better Tomorrow

(This is the last of a series of twelve articles by the author of America's most popular human relations column.)

The day I left the United States for Russia I promised myself: 1. I would not engage in political argument with citizens of the Soviet Union.

2. I would not express in writing political opinions on Russia. The third day in Moscow, when I visited with Mr. Nickotin, editor of the Moscow News, I broke the first promise. I am about to break the second.

It is impossible to separate observations on Russian life from the political system. Russian life is the system. Soviet citizens depend on the government for employment, housing, education, medical care, food and clothing. If a Soviet citizen wants his apartment he must write a letter to the government. If he wants to change jobs he must write a letter to the government. If he wants to visit relatives in Kiev or Sochi he must carry the first passport, notify the police that he is leaving town and tell them where he can be reached.

CHANGE UNDERWAY Russia is between the old and the new. The old is communism as administered by Stalin. I didn't see a single picture of Stalin so I asked why. Everyone said the same thing: "Stalin did some good but he lived too long. In his last years he was hopelessly insane—a raving maniac."

Under Stalin communism was inflexible and ruthless. The people suffered indescribable deprivation. There was a shortage of everything—housing, food, fuel. Even the Soviet brass was paralyzed by fear of the mad man at the top. I was told, "When that lunatic was running things you never knew who would disappear next."

But Stalin is dead and Russia has a new look. Khrushchev is "Papa"—and Papa is good. He has made promises and he is keeping some of them. Apartment buildings are going up. They may collapse in a few years, however. Even some of the newest buildings have wire-net canopies to protect pedestrians from falling bricks. But housing was promised and apartments are going up where people can see them.

There seems to be enough food for everyone. It's expensive, but it's available. The stores have shoes, coats, gloves, hats, and yard goods. Almost every family has a TV set. There is no unemployment among the able-bodied.

I found more freedom in Russia than I expected—perhaps because I expected so little. The first day I arrived in Moscow I heard the usual rumors that circulate in foreign hotel lobbies. I was tipped off by two American tourists who were already authorities on Russian life (they had been there three days). "Every hotel room is bugged," they warned. "If you visit in your room turn the radio up loud to loose turn the transistor. Don't say things over the telephone. Hide your typewriter under the bed. If they find out

'African Health' Study Of Chapter Mrs. Everett Rhoten was hostess to the Galloway Chapter of the Nazarene Foreign Missionary Society, recently.

Devotions were given by Mrs. Ed Alexander. She urged all to give sacrificially to the cause of missions.

Mrs. Bette Blakeney presented prayer requests, which included the Spanish Radio Broadcast and visas for several missionaries. Prayer was requested for Rev. and Mrs. Spurgeon Hendrix, former pastors of the local congregation, now in Cuba.

"Bring Health to the African" was the chapter of study given by Mrs. Bill Bacon. A recent survey revealed that only 50 per cent of the children live to the age of 5 years.

Some work was done on baby clothes being made for a hospital in Africa. It was decided that next meeting would be spent making Christmas costumes for the Sunday school Christmas program on Dec. 20.

After the meeting was dismissed, Mrs. Rhoten served refreshments to Mesdames Bill Bacon, Bill Blakeney, Joe Stercks, Don Hase, Lawrence Abba, Phil Martin, Orval Willcox, Ed Alexander, and Don Hanson.

You're writing, your papers will disappear. I neither locked up nor hid anything—and nothing disappeared. One of the most stimulating and revealing conversations I had in Russia was with Mr. Nickotin, editor of the Moscow News. Five years ago such a conversation would not have been possible.

ADVANTAGES TOLD He spilled out what he claimed to be the advantages of the Communist system over capitalism. He concluded his argument with "communism will win in the end because it makes a good life possible for more people. America is going down the hill. We are coming up. You are a self-satisfied, rich, comfort-loving country. Your children are rocking and rolling and riding around in cars without tops. America is sure to lose."

"You are wrong, too, Mr. Nickotin," I continued. "We won our freedom in a bloody fight and we have proven to the world twice in the past 50 years what freedom means to us. Americans are courageous, industrious and vigorous. You've been printing lies about us so long that you're beginning to believe them yourself!"

When I left Mr. Nickotin's office he shook my hand warmly. There was no feeling of hostility between us, although the argument had been heated and the differences in viewpoint sharp.

"You are a warm-hearted and charming lady," he smiled. "A little skinny, but quite attractive. Do come back."

And I DO want to go back. I want to go back in five years to see for myself how much of the pie in the sky has been delivered. Although I have been home a short time, I've been asked the same question countless times. "Is the average Russian happy?"

"The man on the street—is he content?"

"To this question I can only reply: I don't know if the average Russian is happy, because I don't know who the average Russian is—and even if I could find him, I'm not at all sure we could agree on what happiness is."

If Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev, during his recent visit had asked the "average man" in Pittsburgh if he was happy, the man might well have said no because he was caught in the steel strike and was worried about the grocery bill and the payments on his car.

No man, or 10 men, can speak for a nation. Every man must speak for himself.

GRATEFUL FOR TRIP I'm grateful to have been able to travel 14,000 miles to meet the Russian people. A great many of them did speak for themselves. They spoke with sincerity and conviction. No one with the hope to meet that America would "liberate them." They are well aware that our standard of living is higher than theirs, but they are not crying in their berscht. They are working hard and hoping that tomorrow will be better than today—because today is better than yesterday.

Since visiting the Soviet Union I am no longer worried about war. Millions of Russian soldiers and civilians died in battle, died in bombings, or froze to death in the last war and the people want no part of another one.



MR. AND MRS. ERNEST HOUSTON Honored On Anniversary

Ernest Houstons Honored By Golden Wedding Reception

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Houston were honored recently on their Golden Wedding anniversary, at an open house held in the home of their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Romine. Mr. and Mrs. Houston were married Nov. 17, 1909, here in La Grande. They have lived here since that time. There are seven of their 10 children living. They are Howard Houston, Portland; Mrs. Dorothy Brown, Coos Bay; Mrs. Nina Reed, Eugene; Mrs. Bessie Pellett, Mrs. Carrie Romine and Delbert Houston, all of La Grande. Chester Houston is still living at home with his parents, at 1616 Z Avenue.

The honored couple have 15 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Friends, neighbors and relatives called to wish them well. A three tiered anniversary cake was made and decorated by their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Delbert Houston. It was frosted in white with yellow roses decorating the various tiers. A gold 50 was placed on the top in an arch. Those attending were served cake and coffee or punch.

PTA Sponsors Achievement Award Party

UNION (Special)—Over 175 persons attended the 4-H achievement party sponsored by the Union PTA. Vern White, manager of the Union Branch First National Bank, presented the achievement pins and cards. James Huber, county extension agent, showed colored slides of 4-H activities.

Leaders who were recognized included Mrs. Ed Johnson, Mrs. George Puls, Mrs. Frank Schroeder, Mrs. Elton Berry, Mrs. Virgil Sudbrook, Mrs. Walter A. Tarter, Mrs. Rodney Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Randall Black, Morry Pyatt and Mr. and Mrs. Vance Humphrey.

First year pins were awarded to: Arna Busby, Norma Collins, Cathleen Carman, Wayne Cockrell, Vicky Droke, Roger Evans, Judy Fuller, Sherry Greenwood, Dianne Gipson, Dennis Mahood, Cathy Miller, Barbara Orthon, Johnnie Moe Park, Barbara Peterson, Bill Ritzer, Kathleen Sheehy, Joyce Sudbrook, Beverly Shukle, Annie Tarter, Chela Titus, Kay Whittig, Sonja Wheeler, and Brenda Yeounce.

Second year cards were awarded: Rose Maria Ash, Leah Rae Barnhart, Donna Erwin, Donna Fuller, Joy Horton, Janice Hughes, Priscilla Morrison, Beverly Moulton, Linda McCrae, Keith Orton, James Parks, Barbara Park, Keith Humphrey, Sandy Sanders, Cindy Seale, Candace Stewart, Mike Stitzel, Mike Votaw, Terri Lou Votaw, Margie Welch, and Janet Watts.

Third year pins: Sharon Bauer, Randy Black, Wanda Cox, Billy Hill, Anna Hughes, Barbara Hutchinson and Joseph LaVerdure. Fourth year cards: Jackie Berry, Judy Edvalson, Colene Elliott, Cheryl Hasler, Joyce Nagy, Frances Schroeder, Jay Potter, and Connie Witherrite.

Five year pins: Donna Berry, Hazel Sudbrook, Sharron Stanford, Rita Tarter and Sara Jane White. Six year yards John LaVerdure, and seventh year card: Maureen Miller.

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ANN LANDERS

'Playing Cards Right' Means More Than Companion's Love

Dear Ann Landers: I've been pending a great deal of time with a gentleman, 41. He has never been married. I am 30 and not my husband three years ago and an accident. Phil lives with a maiden aunt who seems to rule his life. He has old me she's domineering, selfish and "half-baked." Yet he brings me along on most of our dates (he has a lovely car) and he asks her advice on everything.

Last night he broke a date (at his last moment) because Auntie didn't feel well and he wanted to see her company. I was annoyed and said so. Today we had a talk. He said he plays his cards right (he'll inherit everything which is considerable), that he's put years into this "project" and if I'm too "shortsighted" to see it, I should forget about him. What do you think?

Dear Alice: He gave you good advice. Forget about him. A man who would make a career out of buttering up a rich relative in hopes of cashing in on her death, is third-rate. He told you how he really feels about the old girl, and it doesn't square with the attention he lavishes on her, which means, he's a phony.

Sometimes these maiden aunts surprise everyone and leave their million bucks to the cat. I don't wish Phil any bad luck, but it would serve him right.

Dear Ann: I wouldn't dare sign my name to this or even mail it from my home town, so I'm driving a distance to drop it in an out-of-town mailbox. We have a darling 16-year-old daughter. For the past year, whenever my husband comes from work the first words out of his mouth are "Where's Patsy?" When he leaves in the morning, he kisses her goodbye first. I suspect she thoroughly enjoys being Number One. I'm hurt and embarrassed when he puts me second. Shall I speak to him?

Displaced Person: Your signature tells me more than your letter. Say nothing. Be content that there is a good relationship between your husband and daughter, and don't create a problem where none exists. Every young girl's first beau is her Daddy. And there's always two cents worth of competitiveness, in a variety of areas between a mother and daughter. Daddy is often the unnamed battlefield on which they fight a subconscious war.

As Patsy becomes more interested in boy friends, she'll be less "Daddy's girl." You must live through this 16-year-old stage as you've lived through the others.

Dear Ann: My wife drives me nuts. Our 10-year-old son is going to grow to be a sissy if something isn't done. Maybe you can help me before it's too late. We live nine blocks from the school. She insists on getting up an hour early so she can drive me to work, take the car and

haul this healthy kid to school. How about this?—Mad Dad. Dear Mad: You have a right to insist she stop this nonsense. When he's 15 he'll probably refuse to walk from the parking lot to the high school. Then what will she do?

(Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

William H. Worley Services Thursday

William H. Worley, 75, a retired laborer, died Saturday in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held in the Don Dempsey Funeral Chapel Thursday at 2 p.m. The Rev. Keith Mills will officiate. Burial to be in the Hillcrest cemetery.

Mr. Worley was born Jan. 1, 1884 in Missouri. He had been a resident of La Grande for the past five years. Survivors include many friends.

La Grande High School ski club will have a movie shown Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the audio visual aids room, "Ski Time U.S.A."

Three Links of Jewel Rebekah Lodge, club hold a bazaar Friday, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Odd Fellows hall at Summerville.

Child, Hamburger Feed, will be held Friday in the Hendrix Methodist church, beginning at 8 p.m. This will be a free will offering feed, sponsored by the church basketball team.

Celebrating birthdays today will be Georganna Chadwick, and Mrs. Era French, Cove; Dale Richards, Union; and Kathryn Strong, La Grande.

Seropitist Club will hold a business meeting, Thursday at 12 noon in the Sacajawea. Associated Women of the First Presbyterian Church will hold luncheon at 1 p.m. Thursday.

Imbler Ladies Aid will meet in the home of Mrs. Leona Bingham, Thursday for their annual Christmas program. Gift exchange, potluck luncheon. Eagles Auxiliary will hold their regular meeting in the hall, Thursday at 8 p.m.

LOCAL EVENTS

WVEA 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 the Odd Fellows temple.

Neighbors of Woodcraft will hold a business meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Odd Fellows temple. St. Peters Episcopal Guild will meet Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Parish hall.

First Methodist Women'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." 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 applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license test.

M/Sgt. W. F. Willis, 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.

Imbler Ladies Aid will meet in the home of Harold Bingham, Imbler, 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, Fruitdale, Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. Christmas party with homemade gift exchange. Those having favorite holiday recipes bring to exchange.

Local 2051 Lumber and Saw Mill workers will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the IOOF hall. All requested to attend. Ladies Auxiliary to Union Local 2051 will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Odd Fellows hall.

Mt. Glenn Homemakers, 4-H club met Nov. 27, in the Hoxie home, for an all day meeting to make breads for their food sale. A short business meeting was followed by a game. They will meet Wednesday in the Speckhart home.

County Council PTA Executive board will hold a potluck meeting Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the home of Velda Klein. Bring own table service. All PTA presidents or representatives are to attend.

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