

Our Austrian Penfriend'

ool Kids
Letters
m Europe

letters on a mass pro-
cess are being exchanged
between Roosevelt Junior
High and their counter-
parts in Austria.
When Otto Zund-
ritsch, a student going
to Oregon school
last year, paid a visit to the
school, he was
told by the local young-
sters that they had
been about 13 years
in the school. Antici-
pating a great response to his
letter, he had already asked
the students at home if they

Now, several letters a month
come to Eugene from Vienna, ad-
dressed to Roosevelt Junior
Highers.

Because the English grammar
of the Vienna students isn't too
good yet, the first letters were but
stereotyped copies of one written
by a good English student. In
fact, the letters were almost car-
bons. Almost every one of the
first one said "I have two sisters,"
when actually some of the writers
didn't have any.

BUT NOW, when each child
writes his own, there is a great
deal of individuality. On both
sides of the ocean, the letters are
written in English.

One 12-year-old Austrian boy,
Gerhard Habarta, sent a map with
each of the nine Austrian pro-
vinces drawn on a flap. When the
flap was lifted, a postage stamp
symbolizing the costume and type
of person within each area was
pasted beneath.

In a later letter, the boy de-
scribed the Christmas customs and
asked for descriptions of Ameri-
can Christmas.

He signed it "Your penfriend,"
and enclosed more stamps, some
of them dating back to the mon-
archy.

Almost without exception, the
letters from Europe held dozens
of Austrian stamps, which went
over big with the youngsters here.
About 40 students here are writ-
ing. Twenty from Vienna, in an
all-boy school with an enrollment
of about 350, are replying.

THE AMERICAN replies tell
of home life here, favorite sports
(a frequent question from the
European children), and school
activities. Zundritsch cautioned
Roosevelt writers not to ask about
the Russians for fear of causing
trouble for his Austrian students.
His school is in the Russian zone
of Vienna, and all mail and tele-
phone calls are censored, Zund-
ritsch said.

The Austrian youngsters have
become so enthused they have
built a scale model replica of the
West Coast, he said.

Here, the letters are used as
exercises in English with a letter-
writing chapter in the English
text as a guide.

The Vienna youngsters go to
school from 8 a. m. to 1 p. m.,
Zundritsch said, to study 11 sub-
jects. They attend six days a
week.



LETTERS FROM EUROPE decorate the walls of one classroom at Roosevelt Junior High. In return for the mail from overseas, several Roosevelt students are replying to the Vienna youngsters. Included in the letters are everything from postage stamps to questions about favorite sports and Christmas in each country. Holding one recent letter in the above photo is Nick Cerkoney, a Roosevelt student.

Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore.,
Sun., Jan. 27, 1952 Page 3

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major move on the
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all come at the regular
meeting Monday
the local administration

the board and bud-
get will hear a report
of Hufaker on district
Hufaker, of the
of Oregon Bureau of
Research, undertook the
request of the school

BEEN studying the
budget for possible econ-
omy. The general fiscal
district with a view
to recommendations for
according to Superin-
tendence Hines.

he will make a
to another given the
recently in which he
led additional junior
high facilities.

get committee is ex-
pect the policy Hines will
making up the prelimi-
nary, the superintendent
committee also sets the
the budget hearings and
action to exceed the six
limitation if needed.

ESTIMATES that at
\$115,000 addition-
for 1952-53 for the dis-
trict available because of
money to be received
basic school fund, county
and, irreducible school
receipt of more defin-

Scout
Named

committee to review
for the rank of
has been set up in

will review both ap-
plications for the
highest in Scouting.
copy, chairman of the
Council advance-
committee, named the fol-
lowing to compose the
committee: J. P.
Dr. Robin Overstreet,
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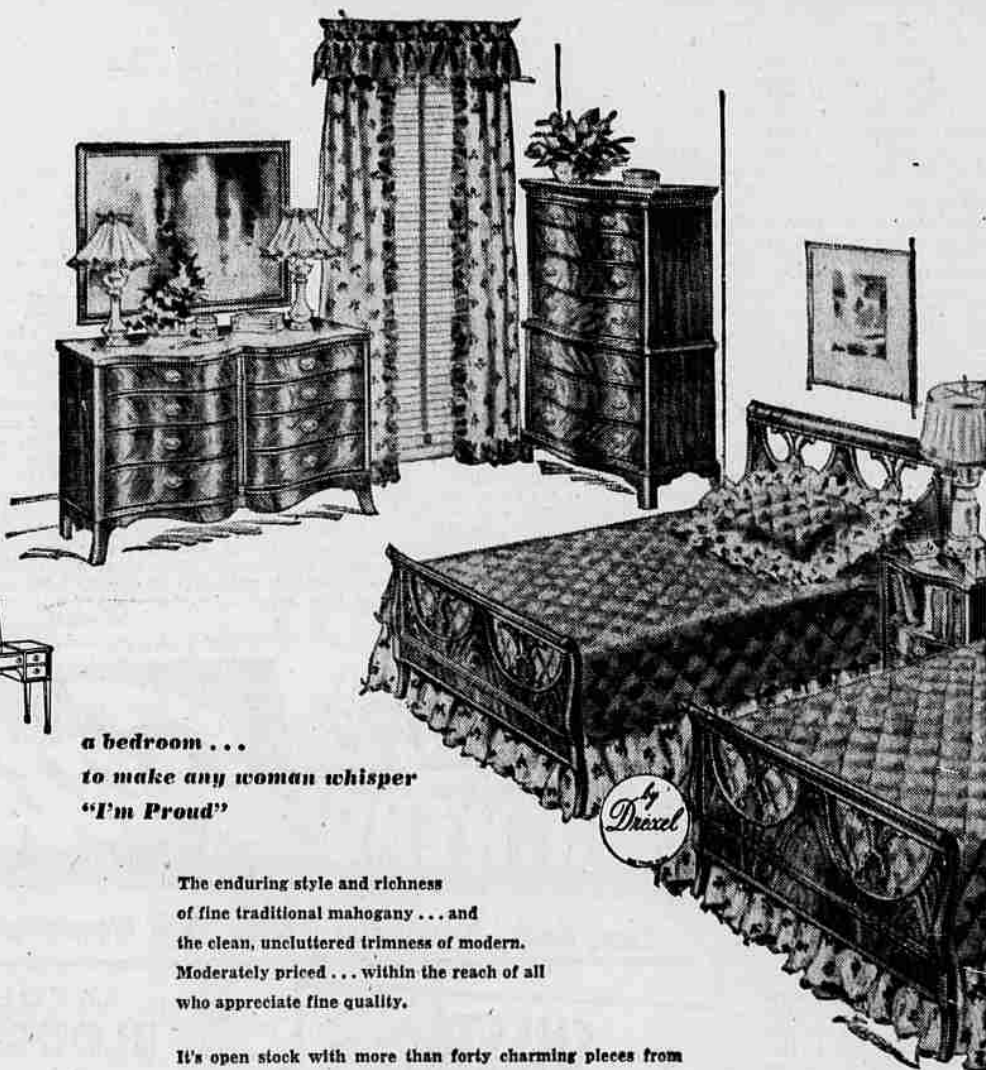
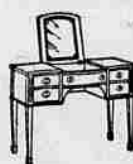
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