

GOOD OR BAD, IT'S WORTH SEEING

Germany Offers Visitors Sober Study in Contrasts

Third of four stories.
By BILL BECKER
Of The Associated Press

MUNICH, Germany (AP)—Nine years after war's havoc, West Germany is a sobering study in contrasts. The land's beauty and the people's industry are gaining on the ravages, but it may take another decade before life returns to normal.

Yet, good and bad, Germany is worth seeing.

Lake other Americans, we were struck by 'round-the-clock activity. From Hamburg to Munich the jackhammer and riveter's gun sound the dominant note. Construction crews are out from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and later.

But, except in Bavaria, where easy-going friendliness is a way of life, the tourist shouldn't count on an enthusiastic reception. Cordial, efficient and cool sums up most of the hotelmen, restaurateurs and tradesmen we met north of Munich.

While most cafes will be good, there may be others like the one in Pforzheim where the waitress

brought us stale bread. When we asked for fresh, she insisted it was fresh and she had no other. But the smirk she shot a German gentleman at the next table gave her away.

Storekeepers were generally friendly but not too tolerant of our awkward stabs at their language. Finally, the man behind the counter would ask, "Do you speak English?" putting a quick end to our linguistic fling. After all, we had to eat.

Prices are reasonable. Some of the best cherries we've ever tasted were bought by the roadside, 60 pfennings (14 cents) for a huge bag. The best wurst dinner we've had, plus beer for Papa, came to only \$4 for five in Munich.

GOOD ROADS, NEW CARS

And roads are good. The splendid system of autobahns is being steadily improved. Roadside tree trunks are painted white to guide night drivers. A typical example of Teutonic thoroughness: four men painting one tree.

The good life is on its way back. On a Saturday night, our first in Germany, we walked along Hamburg's beautiful Lake Alster, watched gaily lighted excursion launches, and stumbled over spooning couples on the bank, much to the delight of our three girls. "Sure are a lot of lovers in Germany," snickered Marilyn, 7.

The nation's recovery was visible in the heavy Sunday traffic between Hamburg and Hamelin. That was the day we found out about German competitiveness. Four out of five times we tried to pass a German car, the driver would spot our British license plates and speed up.

"Most German drivers have just gotten their first cars," an American friend explained later.

MARZIPAN RATS

Hamelin, the Pied Piper's town, afforded a nice picnic place by the Wester. The only rats we found were made of bread or marzipan. We bought one of each, ate the marzipan and saved the baked rodent for a rainy day.

That evening in Wuppertal we ate at an outdoor cafe. Ruins gaped across the street, but the cafe was crowded with well-fed customers. Overhead sailed Wuppertal's famed monorail system.

We took a ride on the eight-mile-long hanging trolley over the Wupper River and found it fast and pleasant.

The Rhine, with its ancient towns and castles, retains storybook quality despite the grim mementoes left at Remagen and Koblenz. The girls named the lofty castle spires "Rapunzel Towers" after the fairy tale lass who let down her long golden hair for the prince to ascend.

The first half of our trip had been through the British zone. War's devastation was apparent in whole blocks lying cleared in Hamburg and Cologne. But the worst ruins had been removed.

The French zone was something else. Stopping at Mainz, we chose a hotel on the river. It was one of three buildings standing in a block the rest were in ruins. The view was equally appalling for several blocks.

Mainz families are still living in cellars and first floors of bombed-out buildings. Faces are not happy, yet we heard a boy whistling in a rubble-strewn alley and radio music coming out of cellars. That night a jazz band kept us awake playing for dancers in the battered auditorium behind the hotel.

In the American zone, Frankfurt and Munich are abuzz with construction. Modern glass and concrete buildings are replacing bombed-out Gothic. But enough old landmarks and cathedrals survive to keep the ancient flavor.



FLIES AWAY WITH ITS HANGAR—A Marine Corps HRS Sikorsky troop-carrying helicopter flies away a structure which had been its hangar a few minutes earlier, in a demonstration at the Quantico Marine Base.

Attire Order Draws Wrath

Army Wives Told To Change Dress

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—A battle-scarred U.S. Army colonel ducked behind his combat ribbons Friday as the wrath of a thousand American women poured down on him.

"I had no idea it would cause such a fuss," smiled Col. John H. Dilley, commander of the Frankfurt detachment, who issued an order advising Army wives and daughters here to spruce up and tone down their dress.

His directive said "The attire being worn in public by some American women is not in good taste," and warned that if they didn't do something about it "positive action" would be taken.

Outlined were: Bare-back, halter-type sunsuits worn without a jacket or wrap. Bare midriff costumes. Strapless, low-cut dresses except in clubs or at social functions.

Shorts on teen-agers or women. Blue jeans on "mature women."

Pin curlers, unless neatly covered.

The colonel, a West Point graduate who distinguished himself in the African campaign in World War II, said some women were going to and from the post exchange looking awful.

One of the women who likes her levis said:

"I used to wear blue jeans to the commissary to buy groceries. Now I can't. I have two kids and keep house. I can't change clothes every time I want to go out of the house."

Another said stoutly:

"Our freedom is being threatened."

Klamath Falls Student Gets Chemistry Award

The \$400 Orin Fletcher Stafford Scholarship in Chemistry for 1954-55 for a junior major has been awarded to Bruno Morosin, Klamath Falls.

Gerald H. Ohlsen, Springfield, who held the junior award for the past year, has been named for the senior year award.

The scholarship, given in memory of the late Orin Fletcher Stafford, a member of the faculty of the department of chemistry from 1902 until his death in 1941, is based on a superior scholastic record and aptitude for advanced work in chemistry.

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Commission Denies Plea On Pipeline

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Power Commission this week refused to budge from its decision authorizing the Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp. to build a natural gas pipeline to the Pacific Northwest, setting the stage for possible court action.

The commission denied a stay and a rehearing sought by West-coast Transmission Co., Inc., Wilmington, Del., and Trans-west Gas, Inc., Spokane, Wash., which also had filed applications to serve the Northwest, and a number of intervenors.

After a hearing lasting more than a year, the commission last June 18 issued its order authorizing the Houston, Tex., corporation build a 160 million dollar pipeline from the Southwest to the Northwest.

In Wednesday's ruling, the agency said rival companies and intervenors requesting a rehearing offered up no new facts nor any new principles of law not previously considered.

The ruling was regarded as opening the way for a possible court test. Westcoast said earlier it would seek a court review if the commission refused a rehearing.

Couple Wins \$1 Damages

SALEM (AP)—A Yamhill County couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ersel L. Gubser, won \$1 damages and title to some more land because the Willamette River changed its course.

The State Supreme Court, in awarding the Gubers the victory, decided that David C. Town and others had to fork over the \$1 for trespassing on the Gubser's new land.

The area in question used to be on the east bank of the Willamette River, but the channel changed, creating dry land on the west bank next to the Gubser property.

The decision, by Justice George Rossman, upheld Circuit Judge Charles W. Redding of Portland, who heard the case in Yamhill County.

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Tax Bill Favors Retired Persons

By CHARLES F. BARRETT
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most elderly retired persons probably won't have to pay any federal income tax from now on.

That is one of the far-reaching effects of the giant tax revision bill just passed by Congress. Some of its biggest benefits will go to retired persons.

When you're 65 or over, the law already permits you to exempt \$1,200 of your income from taxes. If you're married and file a joint return, the exemption is \$2,400.

From now on, in many cases, retired persons will be permitted in effect to deduct an additional \$1,200 of retirement income. That would be a tax cut of \$240. If both husband and wife have retirement income, they can get an additional \$2,400 deduction, or a \$480 tax cut.

Retirement income is defined as income from pensions, annuities, interest, rent and dividends.

CUTOFF FIGURES

With other standard deductions to this:

If you and your wife both have retirement income, you can get up to \$5,333 a year without paying taxes; if only one of you has income, you can get \$4,000 tax free; if you're a retired single person, you can get \$2,666 without paying any tax.

Experts believe these cutoff figures will cover most retired persons, except a few in upper income brackets.

They estimate the new bill will give tax cuts to almost two million taxpayers, totaling about 141 million dollars the first year. The number to benefit, and the revenue reduction, will increase later as millions more retire.

HOW IT WORKS

Technically, the new provision works like this, if you qualify: You figure your tax bill just as in the past, taking all regular exemptions and deductions. Then you apply the first bracket tax rate (now 20 per cent) to your retirement income, up to \$1,200. Next you subtract that figure, say \$240, directly from the tax payment you otherwise would make.

But there's one important limitation. If you get income that is already tax-free—as from social security, railroad retirement, military or veterans' pensions—you must subtract this from your \$1,200 retirement income before you figure your tax credit. In other words, you can't exclude the same income twice. For example, if you get \$700 a year from social security, you could count only \$500 of other retirement income; and you would get a new tax cut of only \$100. However, you don't have to subtract

military or veterans' disability payments from your retirement income.

REQUIREMENTS

And there are four important requirements to meet before you qualify for the new benefits:

First, most persons must be 65 or over. But if you retire under a public pension system—if you're a retired schoolteacher, policeman or other federal, state or local government worker—you can subtract 20 per cent of your income from that system even before you are 65. But you can't count other retirement income until you are 65 or over.

Second, to be counted as a retired person and get the full benefit, you must make \$900 or less from work. Any earned income above \$900 must be subtracted from your \$1,200 retirement income before figuring your tax credit. So if you make \$2,100 or more from work, you are not considered to have retired and you get no benefit. But at age 75 or over, you can get the full benefit regardless of your earnings.

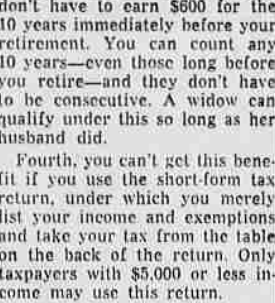
ANY 10 YEARS

Third, to qualify, you also must have made as much as \$600 a year in earned income, for any 10 years before you retire. The theory is that the benefit should go only to persons retiring from active work. But note that you don't have to earn \$600 for the 10 years immediately before your retirement. You can count any 10 years—even those long before you retire—and they don't have to be consecutive. A widow can qualify under this so long as her husband did.

Fourth, you can't get this benefit if you use the short-form tax return, under which you merely list your income and exemptions and take your tax from the table on the back of the return. Only taxpayers with \$5,000 or less income may use this return.

GASOLINE "GOSSIP"

BY TED



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Fishing Boat Tows Raft To Catalina

AVALON, Santa Catalina Island, Calif. (AP)—That raft finally made it—though not under its own power—and souvenir hunters are taking the 70 inner tubes of which it was built.

The poor man's Kon Tiki, out of Ventura, Calif., 71 miles away, was towed into port Wednesday night with its crew of five. Its outboard motor had conked out 14 miles from here. An island supply boat took the raft in tow; then, five miles from Avalon, a fishing boat took over the job.

The Avalon harbor master said raft Skipper John W. Strobel III, 22, and his crewmen were in good physical condition but "darn glad to get ashore."

Assistant Harbor Master Ed Ducker said "about 5,000 kids" converged on the raft shouting, "Hey, give us a souvenir!" He said the mariners consented and "about half the inner tubes are gone."

Two weeks ago the raft of inner tubes lashed to dock planking tried the voyage. The adventurers had to be rescued when the gasoline supply ran out.

The present venture started last Monday.

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