

Lowdown on the Inside

What's It Like to Be A Big-Shot in Red Russia?

(Editor's Note: How does it feel to be a big-shot in Russia? How does the "other half" live? (Edmund Stevens, staff correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, just back from a three-year tour of duty in Moscow, has found that soviet intellectuals live a good life, if their stomachs are strong. (This is the third of four articles digesting material written by Stevens about present-day Russia and published in the Christian Science Monitor in 40 installments.)

New York, Feb. 9 (AP)—Soviet writers, musicians, artists and scientists live well, so long as they consent to wear an intellectual strait jacket, an American reporter has found.

These intellectuals share the top rung of the social ladder with the leading politicians, says Edmund Stevens, who covered Moscow for the past three years for the Christian Science Monitor.

Stevens found that Soviet morality is predicated on the idea that anything promoting communism is moral. Thus, he observes, the cultural strait jacket and intellectual turn-about are no more startling than the assumed right of the government to distort or withhold the truth, break agreements, subdue alien peoples and outstrip the czars in imperialism.

The artists, writers and scientists have cars—like Stalin they seem to prefer the American to the Soviet models. They have town flats in addition to country homes, despite the critical housing situation. They are the pampered social lions of the Soviet scene.

They do much better than doctors, lawyers or other professional men, who earn the ruble equivalent of \$194 to \$358 monthly. They soar above the white collar people who earn the equivalent of \$97 to \$194 a month, enough for a sufficient but monotonous living. They are miles above the lowest layer of the social scale, mostly unskilled workers who barely get by.

But, Stevens reports, the pitfalls are many and the road is treacherous. The intellectual must be nimble enough to catch and ride the current party drift.

Stevens describes the scene something like this: Denouncing Americans is the surest key to literary success, even for a writer of children's books, and "no Soviet play or novel nowadays is complete without American diplomats, newspapermen, engineers or businessmen who are at the same time spies and provocateurs."

Stevens adds in passing that the Soviet case against Americans is helped along greatly "by the irresponsible statements of certain United States public figures, including members of congress, urging immediate armed action against the Soviet union, including use of atom bombs. To the Soviet public, this sounds like corroboration of Pravda."

Konstantin Simonov, the author whose dramas belabor the United States incessantly, has an open bank account on which he can draw at will, and other anti-American, and thus successful, writers do almost as well.

But as an example of what can happen, last March Tamara Motylova, leading Soviet female literary critic, was fired from Gorky Institute's faculty and had her doctor's degree revoked. Her offense: She urged Soviet literature to be critical of Soviet surroundings, and she referred favorably to the German-Jewish author Lion Feuchtwanger. This branded her a "bourgeois cosmopolite."

Soviet writers once celebrated now are in oblivion. The usual reason: too much realism.

A Stalin prize book by no less a figure than Alexander Fadeyev, head of the writers union, was found two years after its publication to have pictured a Soviet general as a bit of a stuff shirt. The Agitprop (propaganda and agitation) ordered Fadeyev to revise the book, and he openly confessed the "justice" of the criticism.

Newspaper writers lead a monotonous life. Pravda is the nationwide model and other papers seem like carbon copies, echoing and re-echoing through the country.

The cardinal rule for newspapers, says Stevens, is "never print anything that reflects the slightest credit on the west, particularly the United States. . . . Play up everything unfavorable to the west."

The story is the same in the Soviet film industry, which Stevens says has been in the strait jacket since 1936. It frequently stumbles despite efforts to toe the party line. As for American films, Charlie Chaplin, almost alone, commands Soviet approval, but Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" never was released publicly in Russia.

And the story is the same in science. Scientific isolation is the order of the day. The natural sciences are enmeshed in the party line.

Tomorrow—Production and trade in the U.S.S.R.

Amity Keeps Marshal

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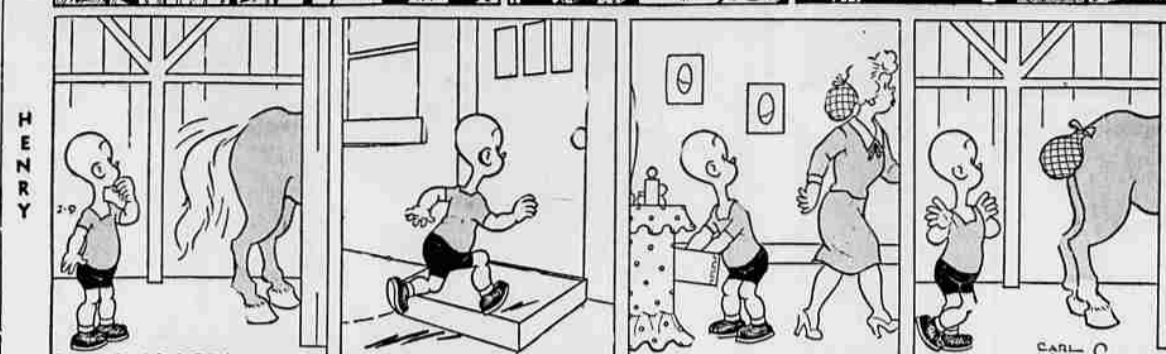
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RADIO PROGRAMS

Table with columns for radio stations (KGW, KOIN, KEX, KSLM, KOCO) and their respective programs for Thursday, Feb 9, 1950.

FRIDAY—6 A. M. TO 4:45 P. M.

Table with columns for radio stations and their respective programs for Friday, Feb 10, 1950.

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Thursday P.M. - 5:00, Children's Theater; 8:15, On the Upbeat; 8:30, 550 Sports Club; 9:00, 11:15, Noon Farm Hour; 1:00, Mid 'em Cowboy; 1:15, School of Air; 1:30, Public Health; 1:45, Melody Lane; 2:00, Clubwomen's Hour; 2:30, 3:00, News; 3:15, Music of the Masters; 4:00, Oregon Reporter; 4:15, Favorite; 9:45, Evening Meditations; 10:00, Sign Off, Hyman.

Silverton Library Circulation Gains

Silverton—Circulation at the Silverton public library was higher for January than it has been for several months, according to the report submitted to the city council. Total was 1318. During the month 33 new readers were registered and a total of 168 reference questions were answered. Books added by purchase and donation numbered 25 and 59 books were removed from circulation. Donors during the month were Mr. and Mrs. Scott McPike, Dr. and Mrs. A. J. McCannell, Mr. and Mrs. Clay Allen, Mrs. Earl Dedrick, C. L. Estes, Mrs. Mrs. Glenn Birdwell, Mrs. C. G. Rustad, Miss Mae Service, Mrs. Lewis Wavra, Mrs. Anna Hausen, Mrs. William H. Woodard, Jr., Mrs. George Christenson, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. Heber Allen, Mrs. E. L. Starr, Mrs. G. W. Keene and Mrs. Mark Hunzate.

Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for yesterday's puzzle.

ROOM AND BOARD

Humorous cartoon strip about a room and board situation, featuring a character named Gene Ahern.



The Jacket-Dress—The dress with two lives! The cap sleeve charmer will, soft, surplus closing is smart on its own . . . and a go-everywhere ensemble when teamed with its colored and cuffed bolero. No. 2085 is cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48. Size 18 dress, 3 1/2 yds. 39-in.; bolero, 2 yds. 39-in. Would you like to see a collection of more than 150 other pattern styles that includes designs for all members of the family—from tiny tots and growing girls to juniors and misses, mature and larger-size women? Just include the WINTER FASHION BOOK in your pattern order. It's a big aid to every home sewer. Price per copy 20c. Send 25c for PATTERN with name, address and style number. (Date Size desired. Address Capital Journal 214 Mission St., San Francisco 5 Calif.



R2888 Knitted Flattery—Here is a beret you'll knit in a variety of colors. For it's becoming to wear, easy and inexpensive to make. Simple stitches and heavy yarn make for fast work. Pattern Envelope No. R2888 contains complete knitting instructions, stitch illustrations and material requirements. To obtain this pattern, send 20c in COINS, giving pattern number, your name, address and zone number to Peggy Roberts Capital Journal, 828 Mission Street San Francisco 3, Calif.