

# Peterson Writes of Travels In South American Countries

Oscar Peterson, who is due to return this week from his tour through South America with members of the Oregon Wheat League, has written from Ecuador, Peru and Chile to tell friends of his experiences.

The first letter, written January 21 from Quito, Ecuador, told of travels in Colombia.

"We had a drive into the country Sunday forenoon and saw some of the beautiful country near Bogota," he wrote. "Everything is so green and pretty and looks prosperous. Saw the many lush pastures with herds of dairy cattle, mostly Holstein. Some promising looking barley fields and corn fields. Seems land is too expensive for the growing of wheat but wheat is grown."

"This is a rich valley and land sells for from 500 to 600 dollars per acre. Farms are well improved and said to be privately owned. We visited Salt Mine hill and even visited the Cathedral three miles within the hill.

"Bogota is in one of upper valleys about 8500 feet elevation and has a pretty uniform climate, averaging around 57 degrees the year around. Rain-fall from 130 to 140 inches per year! Bogota is a most modern metropolis. Said to be the Athens of South America. In a tour of the city we are fascinated by the many beautiful homes and stately public buildings. Excellent climate and productive soil of the valley suitable for cash crops has given the support for the growth of this city of 1,800,000 people. A great textile industry is located here, some steel mills, Bavarian brewery and many others. Much unemployment, however, and mostly a two-class system, the well-to-do and the poor."

"Simon Bolivar is spoken of as the George Washington of Colombia. He is somewhat of a patron saint though his career was short-lived."

**Spanish Spoken**  
"The Spanish language is spoken almost exclusively in all the independent Republics. Political forces in Colombia have been developing and modified over the years into what are now the Liberal and Conservative parties. A system has been worked out that divides into four years of Liberal and four years of Conservatives and a senate and a house divided 50-50 the same way. Just now there seems to be a great deal of discontent with the party in power, the Liberals. The communist party has had a lot of power lately and its membership is increasing every day."

"We visited the Tihattata Agricultural Research Station, some 20 miles outside Bogota. This is the main agricultural experiment station. It is financed by the Colombian government and the Rockefeller Foundation of the United States. We were impressed by the work done here; 1200 acres and almost dwarfed some of our own experiment farms."

"We are now in Quito, Ecuador right at the equator. At six o'clock the sun is down here and by six again it is up. A very good climate also but a little higher than Bogota. Much surprised to see snow-capped peaks as we drive out of the city. Mt. Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano in the world, can be seen and is snow-capped."

**Quito Clean City**  
From Lima, Peru, Peterson wrote on January 26:

"We liked Quito very much. It seemed like such a clean city and surrounded by high picturesque mountains. We took a 130-mile drive passing through beautiful valleys, rolling meadows and majestic mountains to Sequilli and the Indian market there, passing at the foot of Mt. Cotopaxi. The Andes Mountains really are picturesque."

"At the Indian market no end of products of the soil being bartered and sold. Just a beehive of activity and mostly Indians."

"An interesting stop was made at a Hacienda, one of the so-called farm units in this area. A hacienda can be from a few hundred acres up to many thousands. Many times family units are handed down from generation to generation with the owner living in town and an engineer in charge. Natives do the work. Each native or worker has a small acreage, often only one acre, his own, living in a cottage often with a thatched roof. Principal crops grown are potatoes, beans, corn, etc. Wheat is badly susceptible to rust and land is more valuable for other crops."

"Peru seems a bit different from other countries visited so far. Almost down to sea level here at Lima. It is an almost arid region with rainfall less than one inch here. Still there is a population of almost 2 mil-



OSCAR E. PETERSON  
Tours South America

lion. Support comes from farms at higher elevations, fishing and some industry. Most American firms are located here in connection with the fishing industry. The anchovy fishing is a fertilizer economy. Production last year from this industry was practically 250,000 tons and 25% of all the income."

**Peru Land of Gold**  
"Peru is the classic land of gold and silver. At the present time mining ranks next to agriculture in importance. Petroleum is one of the most important mineral products and is exported in crude and refined forms."

"Our group paid a visit to Carl Allam, director for the Great Plains Wheat in Lima. He succeeds Jack Smith who opened the office here a few years ago. Purpose is to bolster sales of wheat in South America as our own Oregon Wheat Growers League has been doing in Japan and the Far East. Jack is well remembered here and highly spoken of. Allam tells us there is a sort of common market trade relations between all South American countries. Industries from the United States are represented here—General Motors, Ford, and others. People in the country seem satisfied and growth development slow. Population is 70% Indian and any changes that come about are forced."

"This is the land of the Incas. The dry sands of Peru's coastal desert was the burial grounds of the Incas. It is usually true that the dead don't tell tales but had it not been for the custom of the Incas of burying their dead in mummy bundles in the dry sands of this coastal desert, we would know far less about South Americans. Civilizations are traced back as far as 2000 years. In the weaving of tapestries and in the use of bronze, copper, silver and gold they were as skillful as any workers of the old world. Pottery making was one of the skills of the Inca craftsmen. Their clay pottery was both durable and useful."

**Incas' Wealth Fabulous**  
"The wealth of the Incas in gold and silver was fabulous, and the conquest of their empire became the burning ambition of the Spaniards who discovered it in the 1520's shortly after Columbus discovered America. Francisco Pizarro with less than 400 men conquered the fabulous Inca empire in 1533."

"The city of Cuzco at an elevation of 11,000 feet, some 600 miles south and east of Lima was the Inca capital and sacred city."

From Santiago, Chile, Peterson wrote:  
"Came here by jet plane two days ago from Lima. Santiago is a beautiful city, modern and surrounded by snow-capped mountains. Chile is not a large country, but they say 2600 miles

long, all the way from Peru to the Straits of Magellan, and from the Andes Mts. to the sea, averaging just a little more than 100 miles wide. Has been a republic since 1810 when General O'Higgins declared Chile independent from Spain."

"There is an undercurrent of restlessness here. There is a poverty class, mostly the Indians and a few others underprivileged. Minor uprising constantly and the military ever ready to retain order or take over. It seems that communism thrives on this, the lower underprivileged classes."

**Santiago 65% Spanish**  
"Santiago, the capital, has a different atmosphere than most South American countries. Less Latin, 65% perhaps of Spanish descent, 30% white (English, Irish, German), 5% pure Indian. Chile is a republic with a president and national congress. There is a common acceptance of democracy and beliefs, as with many Latin American countries, in a close association with the United States. The economy of the little country depends mostly on the copper and nitrate trades. While the nitrate trade with all nations was the principal source of income until World War I, this has now dwindled to smaller significance. Now agricultural products, copper and some industry are the principal sources of income. Fully 90% of the Chilean population, some 9 million, lives in the central fertile agricultural region."

"Earthquakes and tidal waves have been numerous in this coastal region. Otherwise, the wonderful soil, the tremendous mineral resources and ideal climate makes Chile, small as it is, a nation of great potential."

"As is natural on any of these planned tours, none is acquainted to begin with, but before many days, become as one great family. There are 17 of us on this tour of South America. After about 10 days we are getting somewhat acquainted and feel that we are friends among friends."

**Japan Projects Boost U. S. Wheat**

Increased activities in the realm of foreign market development by Western Wheat Associates, the right arm of the Oregon Wheat Growers League in Japan, has resulted in numerous new projects to promote Pacific Northwest white wheat and U. S. wheat in that area."

New projects are Chinese noodle promotion, macaroni-spaghetti promotion, research and education on diets, bringing a Japanese cereal chemist to the U. S. for training, and the development of a new test mill at the Japanese Institute of Baking."

Last fall a Japanese government wheat mission visited the U. S. and now have returned home with a deeper understanding of an interest in U. S. wheat. A very successful sandwich promotion is in effect to promote this item in their diet. The promotion of pancakes in retail stores has been very successful as well as ready-mix cake flours being available to the housewives."

These activities and many more, promoted by the league, have been very influential in the record cash wheat sales to Japan. For the first time the Japanese are now importing hard red spring and durum wheats."

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Stubblefield of Walla Walla visited the past week-end with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam McDaniel, at their home in Hardman.

# Council Discusses Park

By MARY LEE MARLOW

**BOARDMAN**—The city council voted last week to investigate the formation of a park and recreational district in the Boardman area. This is necessary for a full waterfront park and recreational development by the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

In other action the decision was made for a blanket of gravel to be put in front of the new city hall.

The Urban Renewal Agency voted to sell residential lots to Mel Allen, Carroll Donovan, Dewey West, Joe Tate, Hazel Miller and Verla Mathewson. This makes a total of 45 residential lots sold to date. There are still more available.

George Fleschman, assistant district manager of the Social Security Administration office in La Grande, will be at the Greenfield Grange hall February 19 at 5:30 to sign up any persons age 65 and above who are still eligible for Medicare, and have not previously signed. Following a potluck supper at the hall Fleschman will speak at 7:30 p.m. on the subject of Medicare. The public is invited to attend.

Four tables of pinocle were in play Friday night at the party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Allen. Co-hostess was Mrs. Guy Ferguson. Present from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Links of Madras, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thorpe of Hermiston and their daughter, Mrs. Eddie Boothman of Grand Forks, B. C.

High prizes were won by Mitch Boone and Mrs. Boothman, low went to Mr. and Mrs. Links, and Boone and Mrs. Boothman also won the pinocle prizes.

The next party will be February 18, place to be announced later.

Mr. and Mrs. Darold LaChance and daughter Tammy, who have been spending the past several weeks in Coos Bay where LaChance is employed, spent the week-end here at the home of

his aunt, Mrs. Glen Carpenter. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Russell and children Danny, Steve and Dalene of The Dalles were week-end visitors at the home of Russell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Seth Russell, and also at the homes of Mrs. Russell's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Donovan, and her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey West.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Getz of The Dalles spent the week-end here visiting Mrs. Getz's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rash, and Getz's mother, Mrs. Carol Getz.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Houston and children Leo, Arlene, Donald and Sharon Kae of La Grande were week-end visitors at the home of Mrs. Houston's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Potts.

Mrs. Chet Ethridge of Spokane, Wash., visited last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bedford. The Bedford's took her to Condon to visit her son, Kerry Daniels.

Mr. and Mrs. Walton Young of Enterprise were Saturday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey West. Sunday guests were Mrs. West's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Beeks of Arlington.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Madsen and daughter visited relatives in The Dalles during the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. James Atkins and daughter Joanne of The Dalles were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Donovan.

College students home for the week-end included Sharon Donovan and Dennis Gronquist from E.O.C., La Grande, and Dewena West, Pat Miller, Jim and Steve Partlow, Blue Mountain College, Pendleton.

Cafeteria menus for Riverside High school and Boardman Grade school for the week of February 14-18 are as follows: Monday—hamburgers, lettuce, pickles, green beans, vegetable sticks and pudding; Tuesday—turkey and noodles, French bread, mixed vegetables and cobbler; Wednesday—chillburgers, vegetable salad, cake and fruit; Thursday—roast beef, po-

# Africa Calling

A REPORT FROM THE NEAR EAST  
By KIT ANDERSON

(Writing from Ibadan, Nigeria) My New Year didn't start too well. School started on January 7 here, but I didn't get back till the 13th. I sure enjoyed the holidays with my folks and Rick. He was glad to see us, too. My plane connections didn't work out very well so that's why I was late.

From Niamey I went to Abidjan, capital of Ivory Coast. That was the 9th. Then I got to see Abidjan for six hours before my flight for Lagos took off. Although I didn't have a visa for Ivory Coast, the customs officials allowed me to go into the city. Abidjan is the center of French-speaking West Africa and is quite modern. I arrived in Lagos Saturday night and because of trouble in Western Region everyone was traveling by plane so I couldn't get reservations. I finally went by car on the 13th.

Well, I suppose you've heard

tatoes and gravy, tomatoes, rolls and fruit; Friday—macaroni and cheese, beets, vegetable sticks and cookies. Bread, butter and milk are served with all meals.

The Busy Bakers 4-H cooking club met last Thursday at the home of their leader, Mrs. Arnold Hoffman. Diane Rash and Karen Phillips made muffins, and Winifred Kihs and Cindy Duncan prepared potato soup. The next meeting will be February 10 at which time Cindy and Glenda Moore will make biscuits, and Helen Cook and Winifred will prepare a tossed green salad.

Mrs. Frank Marlow spent the week-end in Walla Walla, Wash. visiting her aunts, Mrs. Ernest Zerba and Mrs. A. C. Knudson.

all the news about Nigeria. We're right in the middle of it here, but so far we have been very lucky. The trouble is very subdued with the new military government, although an attempt was made on Gen. Ironsi's life. There shouldn't be any trouble for a while.

We're not even allowed off the school campus to the University campus except for special things. Right now is an exception as I'm playing trombone in "Die Fledermaus." I've been up till 1 a.m. for two nights and we still have three more performances. All travel is banned for Americans here, but we played to a full house last night. The opera is quite a big production.

I'm afraid to say too much about the crisis here now, but I'll write another letter as soon as possible. I heard from David and Doug. I got a postcard from Athens and they were just leaving for Rome so I guess they are in Italy now.

Have there been any coups in the U. S. lately?

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