

Small Island in Baltic Visited By Carpenters; Life Described

(Editor's note: The following is another article written by Leonard Carpenter, Veritas orchards, Medford, who with Mrs. Carpenter is now in Europe.)

By LEONARD CARPENTER

Oslo, Norway—While it is true that Sweden maintained her neutrality in the last war and so saved destruction of people and property, it is also a fact to be remembered that many refugees were welcomed by her citizens.

But now there is no real thought that any part of the world will be allowed to have neutrality should a third World War come. One does not know what any of the Scandinavian

countries and Finland could do but fight against a foregone defeat. There is here a well-drilled army with some good equipment, but Sweden, unlike Denmark and Norway, is not part of the Atlantic union and so has not been supplied directly with the US armament. However, they are skilled workers and inspired engineers.

To Cross Baltic

As our small ship pulled away from the dock at Visby (on the island of Gotland) for the overnight trip across the Baltic to Stockholm, the crowd of perhaps 500 children and their parents began to shout goodbyes and wave to the 300 or 400 school children, eighth to tenth graders, who had just spent a couple of days visiting their old, old city. It was a stirring few minutes made the more so by the singing of the departing children, the new moon, the red sunset, the blue water of the Baltic, whose waters wash the shores of Russia as well as those of Sweden and Denmark.

Visby was once one of the richest cities in the world with an almost impregnable wall, much of which is still standing, and rich churches and much fine and valuable art. But some 800 years or so ago envy and greed brought a Danish king to the island with his troops, and when he had conquered, destroyed and gone, all the wealth and glory departed with him. The great surrounding walls and the tall skeleton walls of several cathedrals are the color of a bone left out in the sun of a desert. There they have stood—occasionally robbed of building blocks to build laborer's houses—all of these centuries until our times when people have discovered their beauty and come to gaze and marvel.

Flowers, Clean Streets

Visby's streets are narrow and winding and clean as everything in this country is clean. Flowers are used to brighten any small patch of ground, fountains and botanical parks are used also to very great advantage. It is now become a prosperous town due to the rich agricultural island upon which it is the only big place, and the tourist business. Although usually there are three round trips made by plane each day in an hour's long jump across the Baltic, now due to the oil strike in America, there is only one round trip per day.

We leaned against the rail of our vessel and next to me leaned a general of the Swedish army. Soon we were in conversation and we learned that he had come over the previous day to lecture to the post at Visby on the "American GI." We found that he is the greatest authority in Sweden on the US Army and is constantly lecturing on the subject. He was very complimentary concerning morale of the GIs; their courage, resourcefulness and he said, "No other soldier would fight so hard for a cause as the Americans."

We should have enjoyed talking to him further but his next remark prevented. "The ship will dock at 5 a.m. and I must be off immediately. I must go to my home which is outside Stockholm and be in my office in Stockholm at nine o'clock. So goodnight and I enjoyed talking to you. Although I read two or three hundred pages of English each day at the American library, I cannot talk very well."

Housing Is Problem
One of the great problems in every part of the world is housing. Here for instance in spite of hundreds and hundreds of co-op apartment buildings as well as privately financed and factory-owned houses and apartments, it is impossible for a young married couple to get a place to call their own in less than four years.

That makes couples postpone marriage until they are in their late twenties and that brings many problems. One of the most

serious of these is the unmarried mother and her child. Planned parenthood clinics with medical supervision, nurse aid and education are doing a very fine job in helping ameliorate this and similar problems. The government helps in all possible ways but the Planned Parenthood clinics are self-supporting and do not accept state money.

Debate About Seats

The first intimation we had that anything was wrong was when we heard an American voice say, "I have seat Number 12. Please get out of it." "You must be wrong—see my ticket for seat Number 12," said the nice American whom we had been talking to on the platform and who comes from Minneapolis and whose wife had given us an exciting detective story she had just finished. "We shall see about that," and there an angry man in a blue tweed suit with an extra pair of trousers in his bag, came and sat on an unoccupied but reserved seat, next to us. "We shall see, the United Nations engaged that seat for me long ago."

Well, well, we thought, "What is the United Nations up to now?" "We are getting off in six hours and then you can have this seat. In the meantime perhaps the passenger who reserved the seat you are in missed the train or decided not to come."

We talked, or rather once started, our "squatter" talked most interestingly for the next six hours. He is the head of the UNESCO Paris office and was going from a heavy conference at Stockholm to another one in Oslo. "I suppose you got into your present job by being a college professor or even a college president?" "Why yes, I did. How do you know?" "Oh, I read detective books. You can't really fool me."

Gives Facts, Opinions

Here are some of his interesting items. Russia cannot figure out how to win with the number of A-bombs she has now compared to what the U. S. has. If no war is started in (not by) March, 1953, there probably won't be a war. At least in the foreseeable future. "Why March?" "That is the earliest the army of Russia could move on account of winter, mud, etc., and it is the beginning of new planting and it gives the most number of days until the rains and mud of the autumn."

"Only recently, and not wholly even now, does the immense difference between American production in everything and the very meagre per man production of Russia; very recently, I say, has this been brought home to the Kremlin and the beginning of an understanding of what this means in the possibility of a victory. Hundreds of refugees pass the iron curtain every week and many of them bring vital, secret and up-to-the-minute information with them. The veil of secrecy on all sides is a very flimsy veil which probably hides nothing of value."

Travels Light

"I have been in every part of the world. Now I travel light. All nylon, two shirts, this suit with extra pants, four socks, two underclothes, this pair of shoes, toilet articles. I can handle that myself and it is difficult now to find porters. Oh but when my wife or my young daughter travel with me then I must take much more. This trip my wife thought I was foolish not to bring an overcoat or a raincoat. I wonder what would have happened to his blue tweed suit if he had been caught in the rain as we were!"

Swedes are not as hard working as I had supposed. In fact it was noticeable that in gangs they were very wasteful of their employer's time. Perhaps they are too well secured by their social legislation to make effort a necessity. Farmers on their own

Spaur Slates Return As State Forester

Salem — (U.P.) — Col. George Spaur, who has been on military leave since October, 1950, is expected back at his desk as Oregon state forester next week, the forestry department said Saturday.

Col. Spaur now is at Desert Rock Springs, Nev., as chief of staff of an engineer regiment on duty at atomic bomb tests. During the absence of Spaur his assistant, Dwight Phipps, has been acting state forester.

acres, clerks and hotel employees all seem to work long hours. Here is the schedule of a restaurant: breakfast from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; lunch from 11 to 3; dinner, 3 to 8:30; supper, 8:30 to after midnight. One head waiter who was in his tails and white shirt at 9 a.m. breakfast had gone to bed at 4 a.m.

Hard to Understand

But labor is another hard-to-understand problem. One boss who hires much skilled and unskilled labor was very discouraged about the outlook. Costs are rising, labor demands are constant, labor efficiency is falling all the time but there are plenty of jobs upon which to bid. BUT — a big but — those who have the big jobs to give are all trying to get more and more for less and less.

When we arrived at Visby we were given rooms in the annex where there was no heat and it was necessary to go out of doors in order to reach the dining room. So in the morning we interviewed the hotel porter. "No," he said, "I can do nothing for you." Pause. We continued to gaze at him. "Well, perhaps!" Pause. We do not blink an eyelid. "Let us see if this would suit you better." We went up to the second floor down a long corridor and into a beautiful room with windows overlooking the interesting square with its 12th century houses. We gasped and then looked around and saw a boot tree and other evidences of occupancy. "But its occupied," we said in consternation. "Ah, yes," said the hall porter — than whom no one is more Olympian. "But by a very good-natured general who will not mind a bit if he is moved to another room!" We wonder if we met that good-natured general the following evening on our ship.

Feel Like Important

Everyone with whom I have talked feels that it is of European and even world importance that Eisenhower be our next president. I do not see how they think otherwise since they all know like, they all admire him and they all know that the whole safety of their and our world depends upon the United States.

One cannot decide an American election upon the basis of European wishes but these people are in the front line trenches and bomb-proof shelters, and they know far more about conditions and what is needed than do we.

For what it is worth, all of the people of the world are more conscious than we are of the tremendous implications of the coming election.

Parity Price Plan Given Approval of Republicans

Des Moines — (U.P.) — Republican farm leaders of 10 states adopted a farm program calling for "actual parity prices" Saturday which they hope will be written into the party's 1952 platform.

The farm program, adopted after lively debate, will be presented at the Republican national convention in Chicago. It was signed by representatives of North and South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Nebraska.

Parity prices had been the

Fast-Rising Hospital Costs Noted in Story

Patients' costs per day in hospitals of some of the nation's largest cities have increased from more than 13 to almost 29 percent in recent years, according to a release from the Reserve Life Insurance company. The figures were revealed here by W. L. Green, local manager of the company.

The figures indicate that hospitalization costs have increased at a rate of almost three times that of the cost of living. The rapidly increasing cost of operating hospitals is the largest contributing factor, the release states.

It estimates that 19,000,000 persons, including 190,168 in Oregon, became hospital patients in 1951, setting a new record. In addition, 67,000,000 persons were enrolled in various health insurance plans of all kinds, also a new high.

The figures are taken from the current issue of Accident and Health Review, national insurance trade publication.

Two Sergeants Arrive At Air Force Office

Two additional non-commissioned officers have been assigned to the U. S. Air Force liaison office in the Federal building, it was reported Saturday. They are under the command of Capt. Robert Roman, liaison officer with Air Force reservists here.

They are M. Sgt. Lawrence Moulton, recalled to service from the reserves recently, who reported here from Hamilton Air Force base, California, and T. Sgt. Lawrence R. Patterson, who arrived recently from Camp Stoneman, California.

Dead line Sunday Classifieds is at 5:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; noon Saturday for Sunday a.m.

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Air Force Reservist 'Inventory' Slated

Hamilton, Calif. — Headquarters of the 4th Air Force here has announced that it will take an inventory of the 48,987 Air Force reservists now in civilian life on the west coast within the next 12 months.

The work will be done through personal interviews with reservists living in California, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Arizona and Nevada. Purpose of the work is to bring individual records up to date, and to

establish the military potential of reservists. Many of the current records are outdated, and sometimes "leads to injustices both to the individual and to the government," the announcement said.

Dead line Sunday Classifieds is at noon Saturdays.

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