

Rugged, Beautiful Norway Described; Festival Footnotes

(Editor's note. The following is an article by Leonard Carpenter, Veritas orchards, Medford, who, with Mrs. Carpenter, has been touring Europe)

BY LEONARD CARPENTER

Oslo, Norway—It has been a cold spring over here, and so we are enjoying the blossoms of Medford at mid-April. Tulips, apples, lilacs, etc., in gorgeous bloom. In Oslo the lilacs are as tall as trees and supply purple bouquets 20 feet tall. The Norwegians are like the Danes in their use of flowers, and it certainly makes the visitor happy to see so much beauty.

We are now on our final round of sightseeing, and during these eight days we will visit— or have already visited—the fjord country. Until relatively a few years ago the western half of Norway was cut off from the rest of the world by its mountain barriers and the fjords which penetrated the mountains very deeply. Now a railroad and a highway make overland travel possible, and of course, the plane has annihilated distance.

Land Pressed Down
I cannot get the picture myself, but a geologist told me that millions of years ago an ice cap covered all of Norway to such a great depth that its weight pressed down the land to below sea level. Then as the ice melted, the huge volume of water released, together with the action of the sea, carved the steep sided, almost perpendicular, rock slopes. Even today there is some indication that the rise of the land mass is still slowly going on. The result has been a country of hard, solid rock mountains on whose summits snow falls to a great depth only to be rapidly melted by the hot sun of the long 20 to 24 hour days of these latitudes. On the north slopes, huge glaciers are still present.

Ye Editor wants to know about labor-management relations. "I have always been interested in a Supreme Court to take care of these disputes and some one told me recently that Norway and Sweden had successfully achieved this goal." The Trade Union Federation of about half a million members and the Norwegian Employers Federation are recognized as spokesmen for the two sides.

Board Set Up
Since a law passed in 1945 a wage board has been set up with seven members, three from government and two each from labor and capital. Strikes and lockouts are legal, but a decision from the wage board is binding on both parties with no appeal. There is the law, and the result has been very little industrial strife.

To carry the investigation a little further, let me quote a financial man whose business is confined to selling bonds and stocks: "There is a permanent chairman of the wage board appointed by the government, and since 1946 he has been excellent, unbiased, and a first rate lawyer. Now he is quitting to go back to his private practice. The other

six members usually serve in one or two disputes only, and the two employer members are for their own federation naturally, and the two labor members ditto. The two government members as well as the chairman are appointed by the existing government which is now and for some time past has been labor socialist." I think Ye Editor has his answer.

Drinking Hours Limited
It is practically impossible to buy a drink stronger than sherry in Norway before 3 p.m. You can go to the government owned spirits store and buy all the bottled goods you can afford in Oslo, and as far as I know in only two other cities, of which Bergen is now one. Even with meals, no cocktails and no highballs. Just why this is the law no one knows. But, oh boy, don't drink drive in Norway! Three weeks in the city jail is the penalty with no alternative.

"When I have taken this one glass of beer with you then I am through, because if I had two glasses and then in driving my car some one should run into me, or I should have an accident, I would have to go to the police station, and a little drop of blood would be taken from my ear, and the test would show I am drunk. No matter whose fault it was, I would go to jail for three weeks."

"Careful Driver"
"I have a good friend," continued my host, "who drove out along one of our steep, twisting country roads to make a visit. He had one glass of beer and he thought—I will drive home very carefully. And then he thought one more glass of beer would be good this warm evening and I will drive home very carefully. And so after a while he said good-bye and he got in his car and he said, I will be a very careful driver so the police won't blow their breath in my face, and so he drove back up the steep, narrow, winding road very carefully, and when he reached Oslo there was a line of three hundred cars following him and the police wondered why there should be such a long line of cars. So they asked, and when they found how careful my friend had been, they took a drop of blood from his ear and put him in jail for three weeks."

Housing problems are acute here, and perhaps with more reason than in many other places. Never, during the five years of German occupation, did the Norwegians cease their underground resistance to the invaders, and they were met by ruthless methods of suppression. Men, women, and children were killed or sent into exile. Whole towns were destroyed, warships sailed far up the fjords shelling every building on both sides, churches, homes, hospitals, hotels and schools were knocked to pieces and dynamite was placed in tunnels, on bridges and under public buildings, ready for a vast destruction. So many war prisoners were used on preparations for wholesale wrecking that

when the time came to do the deed, the underground was so well informed that much of the destruction was avoided.

New Transportation
Until very recently the only method of visiting the fjords was by boats, but during the last five or six years old hotels have been modernized and means of transportation have been supplied. A typical day's travel might find us leaving our hotel by bus at 7:15 a.m. to catch a 9 o'clock boat upon which we crossed a fjord in three hours, and then another short bus trip and a train for an hour or two.

You can get some idea of the country if you can imagine each of our coastal rivers like the Klamath, Rogue, Umpqua, Eel, etc., being arms of the ocean. Boats would then sail up to Medford, but to travel north and south ferries would be needed. There would be no through north and south roads, and very few east and west highways. Sweden, Denmark and even eastern Norway do not have this problem, nor can they be compared in sheer, rugged beauty with western Norway.

Must Reduce Luggage
In taking a trip such as this it is important to reduce baggage to the minimum and that means laundry work every evening, and the greatest gift to the present day traveler is nylon. Cotton and wool will not dry quickly enough and when dry your shirt must be ironed, but an Orlon shirt, having dried on a coat hanger, looks as fair and smooth as the best ironed shirts.

Beds in Scandinavia are very hard and instead of sheets and blankets, a puffy comforter inserted into an envelope made of linen is supplied. These "puffies" are so short that it is impossible to tuck them in at the bottom, and so narrow that the same is true at the sides. Every night before going to bed I have taken the comforter out of its case, and since I find it too warm to sleep under, I have used bath towels, bed spreads, and my coat.

In rural Norway breakfasts and often lunch are smorgasbord. Hot coffee, boiled eggs, usually hard, and oatmeal are the hot dishes. Half a dozen kinds of pickled fish, ham, beef, lamb and veal, four or five cheeses, eight or nine big bowls of marmalade and jams, a platter of mixed vegetables, six different kinds of bread and an equal number of crackers, pitchers of milk, mounds of butter, and undoubtedly many more things which I have forgotten, but no fruit. That is the great lack.

Teacher and Stone Mason
The man who told me this story said that he knew the teacher. "This teacher and the stone mason live in the same apartment building on opposite sides of the hall, and they often have a glass of beer together. One evening the teacher said, 'Tell me what you actually make a year.' The stone mason answered, 'I have a seasonal job and so can only work about eight months each year, but I average about 24,000 kroner—what do

you make?' "By working in the evenings and giving some private lessons I make about 13,000 kroner," answered the teacher. "Do you really? I call that very good for a teacher," said the stone mason.

I have yet to meet a Scandinavian who has been in the United States who does not wish and long to return here. From the contractor who says—"Sure you have labor troubles, but when the dispute is settled the American man will do a far better job than the majority of our labor in this socialistic country where everything is done for them." To the chauffeur who worked in a restaurant in New York and as a waiter on a cruise ship who says—"Sure I get lots of security, but when I was in these other jobs I could save enough to have a six months holiday back in Sweden every two years, while I don't save a cent and I and my family can't afford a holiday except right near Stockholm."

All aboard—the clock is 7:30 p.m. Oslo time. At 8:30 tomorrow morning I'll be in Old New York.

Rogue River

Rogue River — Mrs. Lois Jones, (nee Simer) who is making her home with her parents on Foothills creek while her husband is in service, was in town Thursday trying to locate a former classmate, Barbara Brown, from Salmon, Idaho. Mrs. Jones had learned through her home town newspaper that Miss Brown is visiting her grandmother at Rogue River while her mother, Mrs. Mildred Brown attends college.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hamley from San Fernando Valley, Calif., are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nelson, who have taken them to Oregon scenic points during the past few days. Herman Kurt, a prominent rancher at Hornbrook, Calif. visited Mr. and Mrs. Herman Holzhauser last week.

Member of Live Oak Grange H.E.C. have begun collecting for a rummage sale which they plan to hold August 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hutchins, Santa Monica, Calif., spent the past week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. White on West Evans road. Mr. and Mrs. William Hubbard, Baker, Mont., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Strietz of Highway 99 the past week end. Other guests at the Strietz home were their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lewis of Ashland, Lewis, a graduate of S.O.C., was one of four honor students of the 1952 class. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mack of Los Angeles stopped here Thurs-

day, to visit Mrs. Mack's uncle and family, the Garfield Laws. They were enroute to Washington. Mrs. Joyce Casper arrived last week from Albuquerque, N.M., to make her home with Mr. and Mrs. U. U. Casey of East Evans road, while her husband, a marine, is in service.

The night shift at the Carlson mill at Wimer was taken off last Monday because of a shortage of logs.

With the beginning of summer, rehearsals for the annual Oregon Shakespearean Festival have also begun in the Elizabethan shell above Lithia park in Ashland. In addition to the sound of voices, a great deal of hammering and sawing may be heard as workmen labor to finish the benches, which will replace the metal chairs provided for festival audiences in past summers.

In order to speed construction of these benches, and to insure peace and quiet during rehearsals, Bill Ball organized a work party of festival actors to aid the workmen one morning. According to Bill, the group completed approximately one-sixth of the benches Thursday morning before rehearsal.

Instead of beginning immediately to block out the action of the plays, each director devotes one rehearsal to reading his play through to acquaint the actors with the content, and explains the areas of the large Elizabethan stage to actors unfamiliar with it.

Among the new faces seen at the theater this week are those of Marjorie Lovberg, who will be seen as Hero in "Much Ado About Nothing"; Eleanor Prosser, who will play Beatrice in the same show; Patrick Hines, who has been cast as Leonato another character in "Much Ado"; and Rick Rizzo, who has the title role in "Henry V" and will be seen as Ferdinand in "The Tempest."

Some of those returning are Jack Taylor, who appeared in festival productions two years ago; Bill Oyler, who will repeat as Pistol in "Henry V" and will portray Brutus in "Julius Caesar"; H. Paul Kliss, who will play Prospero in "The Tempest"; Bill Ball, who will play the contrasting parts of Ariel in "The Tempest" and Marcus Antonius in "Caesar"; and Clara Daniels, a long-time festival veteran who will be seen as Margaret in "Much Ado."

Glimpses of Oregon's Shakespearean Festival

who was unable to return because of the business responsibilities he assumed on the death of his father; and Brad and Barbara Curtis who are touring the nightclub circuit this summer.

Another actor new to the festival, Tom Brennan of Ohio, had a strange experience as he hitchhiked his way to Ashland. Tom was given a ride by a man who informed him that he had traveled 5,400 miles trying to escape a woman who was waiting for him in each town he passed through.

Something new has been added to the appearance of the costuming director, Doug Russell. Doug is now sporting a moustache.

At last the costume department has been moved down to the theater, which means that actors no longer have to walk or drive the distance out to the college, the former costume headquarters, for fittings. The new costume room is the former girls' dressing room next to the prop room.

One of the livelier cast members, John Bethencourt of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has already provided the company with many laughs. One of these came before "Henry" rehearsal the other night when John remarked that his mother had admonished him when he left home two years ago to never become an actor. John's accent lends itself very well to the part of Harfleur in "Henry," which he was assigned by director Philip Hanson.

Another bit of horseplay brought laughs before rehearsal Friday evening when Jack Taylor, Paul Reinhardt and Pat Hines decided to substitute a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" for "The Tempest," and began singing parts of the light opera to an audience of three other company members.

A large investment has been made in new equipment for lighting control, according to Bill Patton, lighting director, and the new switchboard has been installed. New effects were achieved the other night when lights with different colored gels were played on the trees around the theater. —R.S.

St. Peter's Church To Honor Missions

St. Peter's Lutheran church of Medford will celebrate its annual Mission Sunday today, according to the pastor, the Rev. Kenneth F. Korby.

Two services will mark the celebration, one at 11 a.m. and the other at 3 p.m. At the afternoon service, the Rev. Richard Graef, Zion Lutheran church, Klamath Falls, will speak.

Special collections for foreign missions will be taken at both services and sent to the Lutheran church Missouri synod. The synod has missionaries in 26 countries. Most recent missions include those in Cuba, Japan, New Guinea, the Philippine Islands, Hawaii and Central America and to the Moslems in India.

Some of the missions have begun as a direct result of the Lutheran Hour radio program sponsored by the laymen of the synod, the pastor stated. Anyone not having a church connection is invited to attend both services today, he said.

Tokyo—(U.P.)—Japan plans to let its wartime pilots, grounded since the surrender seven years ago, take refresher courses, it was learned Friday.

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