

Medford Attorney Describes Trip; Interviews Swedish Prime Minister

Impressions of conditions in the British Isles, in the Scandinavian countries and on the European continent have been reviewed in an article by O. H. Bengtson, Medford attorney, who returned home last week from a business trip abroad. One of the most interesting episodes of the trip was an interview with Toga Erlander, prime minister of Sweden, and the attorney also endeavored to interest a Swedish firm in establishing a factory in southern Oregon.

When I first agreed to attend to certain legal matters in England and Sweden, I had no idea that my mission would take me on such an extended journey. Although my mother, Anna G. Bengtson, has made some four visits to Sweden since she originally became a United States citizen, nevertheless some 20 years had elapsed since her last visit, and we determined that I should plan my business so that she might accompany me directly to Sweden, where she might visit relatives while I attended to business.

After flying to New York and crossing the Atlantic on the Swedish liner Kungsholm, we arrived at Stockholm, Sweden, and then went on to mother's former home. I left by plane for Copenhagen, Denmark, and then on to London, from whence I journeyed to Exeter and Derby, England.

Weather Good
When we left New York, the temperature was some 100 degrees and from that moment on until we reached Stockholm we were just a day to a day and a half in advance of the raging Atlantic storm, so our weather was perfect at all times.

Traveling conditions were good in spite of the terrific amount of tourist travel to Europe, and the occasional unhappiness of not being able to obtain hotel reservations promptly.

After a day in London, I spent almost six hours on my feet standing on a crowded railroad train which took me to Exeter. Exeter was one of the cities so badly blitzed during the war. We ran into some difficulty on the legal affairs I was handling in Exeter for the reason that their office had been blitzed and some records destroyed. From Exeter I traveled northerly to Derby, England, where I attended to the last business in England. I then returned to London, where I had time to see the vast amount of rebuilding necessitated by the blitz.

When I was able to return to Stockholm to finish my business and rejoin mother, I found that I was only an hour or an hour and a half by plane from Paris, and since the experience of flying back by way of Paris would be rather novel, I therefore took off for that city.

I had several days in Paris, Versailles and Mon Desir, after which I flew to Amsterdam, Brussels and Belgium; Hamburg, Germany, and on back to Copenhagen, Denmark, and Sweden. **Hamburg Rebuilds**

I noticed extensive rebuilding in Hamburg, a city which received considerable bombing by the English Royal Air Force. I was quite encouraged to observe that almost everyone in the aforementioned countries was working and living reasonably well. Holland, next to the Scandinavian countries, was the cleanest country, and appeared to be the most orderly. The trip through the Holland canals, which gives one a birdseye view of the old city, would indicate

of the second World war.

Having more time perhaps to study the cities in the Scandinavian countries might account for my feeling that these countries were enjoying a higher standard of living. There are no slums in Sweden, and old properties have been demolished and are being replaced by modern apartments and dwellings. Everyone in Sweden at the age of 64 years receives a pension which is sufficient to take care of ordinary living and necessities. This pension comes to rich and poor alike, regardless of need or other employment. Those who cannot afford medical and hospitalization may receive the same from the state.

Employment is so plentiful that many pensioners without other income or funds find lighter work with which to supplement their living, and which keeps them active and happy.

Some Grumble
In talking with the men of capital, there is a slight grumbling that it is very difficult to earn sufficient money to become wealthy in Scandinavia, but all of the employers with whom I conversed were pleased with the fact that their employees were contented and were enjoying a high standard of living, and that fact that their employees were enjoying a reasonable prosperity.

Business in Stockholm required that I contact the prime minister, which ordinarily, I was informed, would take from two to three weeks to obtain an appointment for an interview.

By persistence and insistence, I was able to obtain an interview with him the first day in Stockholm, which was scheduled to last for 10 minutes to 20 minutes.

I found Mr. Toga Erlander, the prime minister, a most gracious person, and after I met him and we both determined that my Swedish was as good, or better than his English, we continued to converse in Swedish, and the visit extended into almost an hour.

The prime minister was particularly pleased when he learned that I was returning via the North Pole route in that he had been one of the VIPs who had been taken over the North Pole by the Scandinavian Airlines system on its initial flight.

It further developed that the prime minister had attended the same schools as my father, all of which caused him to become more mellow and easy to talk to.

Minister Liked

This prime minister, who was elected by the masses, is well-liked by the ordinary citizens, and is highly respected by management.

Upon completing our mission in Sweden, we journeyed to Copenhagen and boarded the Scandinavian Airline System plane and continued over the Polar route via Greenland, Winnipeg, Canada and Los Angeles.

In Los Angeles, I discovered that the person I wanted to contact was in the Hawaiian Islands, so I had arranged passage to Honolulu, where, business completed, I had several day to enjoy the islands. I was accompanied on the island trip by Mrs. Bengtson, who already had booked passage for herself.

I am still pulling for Medford and hoping that a Swedish factory for manufacture of screens used in paper mills might be established here, in spite of the firm insisting that it could be

Rebekahs To Plan For Homecoming

Plans for a homecoming and other fall activities will be discussed by Olive Rebekah lodge women when they meet Monday, October 3 at 8 p.m., in the IOOF building, 221 West Sixth street. Mrs. Frank Chapman, noble grand, has requested that all officers and as many members as possible attend as other business of importance to the lodge will be transacted.

Mrs. J. D. Brummond is refreshment chairman and members of her committee are Mrs. O. S. Walden, Mrs. Homer Vincent, Miss Caroline Leaders, Mrs. Edith Baker and Mrs. Gertrude Martin.

Community Ambassadors Organized To Promote Tour, World Understanding

By ELIZABETH TOOMEY
United Press Correspondent
New York (U.P.)—A week in Manhattan:

Your next door neighbor may be going around the world next year. Mission: Come back home and tell the townspeople what it's really like in 22 countries.

One woman from each of the 48 states will get the assignment, though at this point no one has any idea who the 48 women will be. They will be chosen from letters written by high school seniors recommending women in their own communities for the honor.

The project—called Community Ambassadors for World Understanding, Inc.—got its formal launching here this week.

"I got the idea last November," explained Mrs. David G. Huenergardt, a San Francisco woman who started getting interested in civic matters 25 years ago with her first volunteer job

—Girl Scout leader for her 10-year-old daughter's troop.

Soon you can buy your kitchen and build the house around it.

By the end of 1956 complete kitchens, walls, plumbing, lighting and all, will be produced by the Frigidaire Division of General Motors. They can be modified to fit various types of homes and room sizes. The design is based on the company's kitchen of tomorrow which has been shown in scores of cities this year.

The best way to relieve tension around the house when there is a crisis in a man's job is to plan something relaxing for evenings to take his mind off his problems, Mrs. Walt Alston, wife of the manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, said as her husband faced his first World Series.

Mrs. Alston doesn't question

Sunday, October 2, 1963

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

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As seen in the October issues of Vogue and Harpers magazines.

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