

Two Travelers Describe Audience With Pope Pius

An audience with Pope Pius XII in Rome was the highlight of a several-weeks tour of Europe and North Africa, for two Medford travelers expected home this week. The two young women, Miss Noreen Kelly and Miss Cathy Clabby, both wrote home concerning the audience with the Roman Catholic Holy Father. Miss Clabby is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Clabby, 109 Laurel street, and Miss Kelly's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Kelly, 906 West Fourth street.

Miss Clabby wrote "It was an inspiration to see the Holy Father and something we'll never forget—this kind, saintly man, who implores for peace and love in the world. The audience was at his summer residence—he is truly close to a saint. He glows goodness and as he spoke in his quiet way, the square was hushed."

Of the experience Miss Kelly wrote "The highlight of our whole trip, of course, was our audience with the Holy Father. It took place at the Castel Gandolfo. You can just imagine what a thrill it was to be milling around with others from all nations—then after what seemed an interminable wait, finally to see the familiar, sweet face and slender figure dressed in white, emerge onto the balcony, radiating warmth and peace and love and with his characteristically wonderful smile for all of us."

"He remained out for more than a half hour, greeting each nationally and large group, each in its own language, and with a little message of welcome. Then he finally gave his blessing to all. The people, particularly the Italian, went wild and kept cheering and clapping and shouting 'vive il Pape' with such vigor that the Holy Father returned twice, after the audience was over, and the last time he gave his blessing again. It really was an unforgettable experience and worth the whole trip in itself. I couldn't help but feel that this man was a living saint, and I am sure most of those there that day felt the same way."

Enjoy, Italy
Both young women wrote that they enjoyed their stay in Italy very much. Miss Clabby wrote of the magnificent churches and said "the warm, carefree attitude of the people seems a reflection of the important place which the religion occupies in their lives. Beauty seems to spring from everywhere—small wonder that many of the greatest masters came from Italy when they had such inspiration to draw from."

Both travelers wrote of Venice, telling how the wooden piling on which the city was built are beginning to deteriorate and the buildings to sink. They wrote that some think the city is "doomed" since it would take impossible sums of money to restore and preserve it.

The young women also visited Padua, Florence, Milan, Siena and Assisi, arriving in the latter city on October 4, feast day of St. Francis. Miss Kelly wrote of visiting Naples, Pompeii, Sorrento and Capri, and after having been in Rome for 10 days wrote "Rome constantly reminds me of the fact that it cradled Christianity" and "of the staunch fight of the Christians, treated as criminals and outlaws, had to put up to hold onto their faith."

"But Rome is much, much more than this. In the speed of its traffic and the intensity and quality of its commerce... you get the feeling that the city is constantly forging ahead."

"The Italian women are very attractive and beautifully dressed—particularly in Rome. We have yet to visit France, but so far, the Italian women have been far more lovely and appealing than any other European women we've seen. It is entirely beyond me why the Italian men, who are very flirtatious, would ever bother to look at a foreigner."

Prices High
"Italy is not a cheap country to live in as I had expected, and there are still a great number of poor who live in quite grim conditions. Apparently there is not a very good social security

system, if any, for I have seen a large number of old people begging in the streets and it is the Italians, not the foreigners, who contribute to the beggars, just as it is the Italians who tip for a cup of coffee at coffee bars.

"There are a great number of extra charges that tax one's patience in Italy. To get food in a restaurant one must figure on a great amount extra, as it is required to pay caperto, (cover charge) plus a tip of 12 to 15 per cent. For lunch today I had to pay over twice the amount of the dish I'd ordered (ministrone). The ministrone was 60 lire, but I was charged 60 lire caperto and 30 lire service. This was considered very cheap—usually it is much more, and this is true in all restaurants."

Miss Clabby wrote particularly of the traffic saying "There seems to be no regulations of any kind—the traffic speeds into intersections, circular with about six streets intersecting—at one time. Every car, motorcycle, horse and buggy seems to be traveling as fast as possible and it becomes a nightmare to go from just one corner to another."

Rome is a colossal city—ruins, churches, lovely fountains. Italy is so completely different it is hard to sum it up. The people are extremely perceptive and seem to anticipate your needs before you are aware of them yourself. They seem so very close to life—people are of supreme importance.

"Their approach to life seems to be with an emphasis always on the artistic—clothes are extremely important to the Italian, and are comparatively cheap. Hence their limited circumstances are not apparent to one passing by—you see well dressed smart looking people. Poverty exists more in the back streets where you find people struggling for existence."

The two young women attended services in many famous churches during the tour and Miss Kelly wrote after arriving in Milan, that "we attended Mass again in a magnificent Gothic cathedral. This was a great experience since there is much more of a completely devotional atmosphere there than we had felt in other churches in Europe. I was almost not allowed to enter the church because my brown blouse sleeves, which are practically to my elbows, were not considered long enough."

They found no opera available in Milan, but attended a concert given by the New York Philharmonic which was touring Europe. Miss Kelly wrote "It was great fun up in the galleries with the Italian students, who are very emotionally appreciative of good music, yelling, stomping and clapping heartily at the end of each number." She wrote that Italy was quite a contrast to the "tremendous discipline of the Nordic countries" but that the people were delightful.

In one letter she wrote "We are now trying to pick up as much Italian as we can by studying a grammar and dictionary and talking to people. I even got an Italian hair cut today for 500 lira (75 cents) to get into the



NAMES REDS — Herbert Fuchs, 50, of Washington, D. C., an admitted Communist testified before a House un-American activities subcommittee that he was a leader of Communist cell of 17 attorneys on the staff of the National Labor Relations Board from 1937 to 1942. He named other party members he knew in other cities, many of them in government agencies but added he didn't think any of them were disloyal to the United States. He said he quit the party in 1946.

HEC Plans Party In Butte Falls

Butte Falls — Butte Falls Grange Home Economics club will hold its regular monthly meeting and a Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Everett Moore Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. Each one attending is asked to take gift for exchange. All members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

spirit of things. I've been averaging slightly less than \$3 a day on expenses throughout this trip, including food, gas for the car, rooms, etc.

Writes of Visit
Earlier in the tour Miss Clabby wrote to Mrs. Bernice Kunzman of Medford concerning a visit with Herr and Frau Gabler in Vienna. The Gabler's daughter, Pauline, is the wife of Mrs. Kunzman's son, Stanley.

"We enjoyed meeting the Gablers," she wrote. "What charming people. The picture of you and your mother had a choice place on their piano. We were lucky to meet a boy who spoke German and he acted as interpreter. Frau Gabler had baked some delicious goodies. She is a very wonderful person and in a way reminded me of you—an interesting and vital person, very intelligent and a keen sense of humor."

"On the wall there is a big map of the United States and they trace the travels of Pauline and Stan. Their apartment is very pleasant and shows their appreciation of culture. Vienna felt the war a great deal... 15 years of occupation. Herr Gabler spent two years in a Russian concentration camp and had quite a rough time."

(Later Frau Gabler wrote to Mrs. Kunzman that they had never enjoyed any visit so much as this of the three "fine American young people.")

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