

New Horizons in a New Country



Twenty-year-old Josef Toth (at right) shows his enthusiasm for life in Oregon with a big smile. The young man fled from Budapest last winter during the revolution against the Communists and was re-settled in this state through Medford First Presbyterian church. A job was created for him through the kindness of the management of the Double Dee Lumber company and even though he knows only a few words of English, he gets along well. He poses here with Eugene Arice, Gold Hill, second-generation Hungarian who works at the same plant.



From the front porch of their new home in Eagle Point Mr. and Mrs. J. A. M. "Jim" Leeuwenburgh and children look out on the green countryside and to a future which promises to be better than if they had remained in Holland, land of their ancestors. The Leeuwenburghs, brought to this country by Medford Church of the Brethren, were driven from Indonesia in 1951 by the tide of events in that country. They found The Netherlands badly overcrowded and job opportunities scarce. Mr. Leeuwenburgh, assistant manager of a plantation before World War II, was employed by the government in The Hague until leaving for the United States. Since his arrival here he has been working as a laborer. Tina is now a sophomore in Eagle Point High school, Walter, 9, and Josca, 8, are in grade school.



Mrs. Bernice Kunzman, Medford teacher, is helping 10-year-old Sonja Verneulen (at left) with English lessons in order that she may not fall behind in her lessons. Mrs. Kunzman holds Lucia, 5, who is learning the new language too.

By Olive Starcher

In recent months a number of Medford churches and individuals have given tangible proof of their belief in Christian brotherhood by sponsoring immigrants from foreign lands. Working through the World Council of Churches and other church agencies, families and individuals seeking the freedom and opportunities of this nation have been brought to the Rogue valley. Homes and jobs have been found for them, they are being welcomed into local congregations and the children are studying in the public schools.

One of the newcomers is a youth who was in Budapest last October when the uprising against the Communists began. He lived through the shooting and bloodshed, saw his young comrades questioned, arrested, shot down. He fled the city, was captured, escaped and fled again and after great hardships and fear, finally crossed the Austrian border to safety. Now, five months later, he works hard in a mill in Oregon as a free man, safe from oppression and persecution. He wonders what may have happened to his parents, left behind and from whom he has not heard.

Three families have come from Holland, two of these having left Indonesia a few years ago for the home of their ancestors only to find that over-burdened country unable to care for the flood of refugees. In Jackson county they will begin a new life believing that if they work hard, and are good and useful citizens, they will find peace and happiness.



Latest arrivals in the Rogue valley are Mr. and Mrs. Lambertus Triep and daughter, Rita, whose sponsor is Mrs. Julie Tummers (standing). The three newcomers arrived Tuesday from Rotterdam where Mr. Triep had worked for the city. The Trieps, who lost their home in Rotterdam during World War II, will work for Mrs. Tummers and their daughter will enter Crater High school. The three were brought here by First Presbyterian church and World Council of Churches.



Leonard Verneulen, his wife Poppi and their five attractive daughters are comfortably settled in a new home at 8 North Orange street through the effort of Medford First Methodist church. The Verneulens, among the Dutch who were forced to leave Indonesia, lived in Helmond in The Netherlands for seven years before coming to this country. Mr. Verneulen, working as a laborer here, paints as a hobby. Jeanette, 16, and Eugenie, 14, attend McLaughlin Junior High school. Baby Leonie is nine months old.