

Foreign Families Express Gratitude For Chance to Start New Life Here

Newly-arrived immigrants in the Rogue valley seem to have one thing in common—they all appear happy and the adults all express their deep appreciation for the opportunity to come to the United States. Interviews with the newcomers last week produced an impression that they are grateful, and that they are only too anxious to work hard to earn their way in their adopted country.

Twenty-year-old Josef Toth, one of the thousands of Hungarians who escaped from the Communist during the revolution in his country last winter, speaks almost no English but nevertheless manages to convey his meanings. Joe, who now makes his home with Mrs. Larry Jones, 1220 North Riverside avenue, is aided in the interview by Eugene Aris, second generation Hungarian living in Gold Hill. The young man, using his few words and eloquent gestures, told how he walked and hitched rides on trains to make his way the 80 miles from Budapest to the Austrian border.

Joe said he decided he must leave Budapest when one of his comrades, a brilliant young man who spoke five languages, was arrested and executed for his part in the revolution. He escaped from the city but after a time was picked up by the Russians and taken back. He described how the group he was with made its way through deep snow and cold and of the brutal treatment of the Russian soldiers.

One soldier casually ran a bayonet through the arm of a young woman when she failed to move quickly enough; another companion, a young man already ill with tuberculosis, was stabbed twice through the chest and thrown down to die, which he did in a few hours.

Young Toth was brought to this country through the efforts of the World Council of Churches and he now works at odd jobs credited for him at the Double D Lumber company. He is described as very intelligent. A machinist by trade, he "catches on quickly" and works hard to be useful. He has purchased a Hungarian-English dictionary, and one of his friends at the lumber plant will help to find him a tutor later.

Josef's father was a former pilot in the Hungarian Air Force. His family lived near Budapest, Josef does not know what their fate was.

Recent Arrivals
Newest arrivals in the valley are Mr. and Mrs. Lambertus Triep and their 13-year-old

daughter, Rita. The Trieps were brought here by First Presbyterian church and are sponsored by Mrs. Julie Tummers. Mr. Triep, who knows some English, was a soldier in the last World War and was a prisoner of the Germans. He returned to his home city after liberation by American troops to find his home destroyed and living conditions hard. He worked for the city of Rotterdam, but at length decided to try his fortune in a land less crowded and with more opportunities than his native Holland.

The Trieps, coming across the United States from New York City by the northern route, were impressed by the vastness of the nation, by the hundreds of miles of unsettled land and by the fact that so many homes are surrounded by much land and gardens instead of being crowded together as they are in Holland.

To explain what the picture-taking and interview were about, Mrs. Tummers showed them a copy of the Sunday Mail-Tribune, one which happened to have a page of dance pictures. The three examined it and at length Mr. Triep inquired with a big smile "Rock and Roll?" He said his young daughter had listened to American dance records during the trip over on the ocean liner and had been much impressed by one singer. He couldn't remember the name, but when Mrs. Tummers asked "was it Elvis Presley?" teen-age Rita nodded vigorously and beamed. Mrs. Tummers and the reporter decided that Rita, who will enter Crater High school, will probably fit right in.

Mr. Triep had but one request to make of the reporter. "Please, he said with great earnestness, 'tell everyone how grateful we are to be in this country and how kind Mrs. Tummers is to help us.'" Mrs. Tummers then told how Mr. Triep, after a long ocean voyage, and a trip across country by train, five days and nights without being in bed, had arrived at her restaurant at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and asked to be put to work at once.

From Indonesia
Two other families have come to the Rogue valley from Indonesia by way of Holland. Forced to leave Indonesia by the wave of nationalism in that country, people of Dutch ancestry scarcely knew what to do. Born and reared in Indonesia, they were not Indonesian, and Dutch only by tradition and blood ties.

Jacobus Leeuwenburgh, his wife and three children went to Holland but after living for more than two years in one

room, realized that there was little for them in that country. In Indonesia Mr. Leeuwenburgh had worked with his family on their plantation, had served in the Dutch Army during World War II, had been a prisoner of the Japanese. After release and recuperation, he worked first for the Allied Information Service and then with the Red Cross both before and after demobilization. During his stay in Holland he worked with the government in the import-export service.

Everything Wonderful
Asked if everything was well with the family he said "Everything is wonderful here — simply wonderful." This was echoed by his attractive wife, True, Mr. Leeuwenburgh's hands were covered with blisters, the results of cleaning ditches for the irrigation company, but this he did not mention. He did say "Most Americans don't know how lucky they are."

The Leeuwenburgh's three children are enrolled in Eagle Point schools, and they will attend Medford Church of the Brethren, the congregation which is sponsoring their move to the United States.

The story of the Leonard Verneulen family, brought here by First Methodist church, is much the same. Mr. Verneulen, Dutch by ancestry and Indonesian by birth, served in the Army during the last war and was a prisoner of the Japanese. Badly wounded, he still suffers from the aftermath of his injuries and grueling hours he spent working on the Burma railway as a prisoner. Artistic by nature, he is already at work putting on canvas his impression of the Oregon scenery, which he says is much like that of Indonesia.

The Verneulen's have five pretty daughters, the youngest an appealing infant only 9 months old. They attended the Protestant church during their 7-year stay in Holland after leaving Indonesia, and will attend First Methodist church here. Like the others they expressed their appreciation and said that they had been shown nothing but kindness since arriving in this wonderful new land. —O.S.

Reception Honors Former Residents

Santa Cruz — The Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Burch formerly of Medford, were honored on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, March 17, with a supper and reception by members of the congregation of the First Church of God, Santa Cruz.

Mr. Burch, until his retirement in 1942, was pastor of the First Church of God, Medford, for 12 years. They have made their home in Santa Cruz for the past 15 years.

The Burcnes were married in Spokane, W. a. h., in 1907. The following year he was ordained as a minister of the Church of God and served churches in Washington until 1918 when they moved to California. They also spent several years in Dinuba, Sacramento, and Klamath Falls.

They have one son, Glen Burch of Oakland, and one granddaughter, Mrs. Barbara Muse of Trail.

Hedrick Parents To Meet Advisors

A discussion with faculty advisors and teachers will feature a meeting of Hedrick Parent-Teacher association to be held Monday, March 25, at 8 p. m. in the school cafeteria.

Mrs. Maxine Smith and William Ruck, faculty members from Medford High school, will meet with parents of students who will enter high school next year. Advisors for parents of prospective freshmen will be Miss June Wheaton, dean of girls, and Bruce Nelson, dean of boys of Hedrick school.

Completing the advisory group will be Raymond Graves and Don Ferguson, eighth grade, and Barney Riggs and Mrs. Mary Ann Athanas for entering seventh graders.

Election of officers will be held during the business meeting. Refreshments will be served by parents of children in the eighth grade.

James McDonald To Give Program For Crater PTA

Visual aids on the high school level will be discussed by James McDonald of Southern Oregon college at a meeting of Crater High school Parent-Teacher association, Monday, March 25. Mr. McDonald is president of the Oregon Future Teachers' association, and vice-president of National PTA. He supervises visual aids in the office of the Jackson county school superintendent, and is completing work for his teaching credentials on the Ashland campus.

The freshman homemaking class will present a style review. New PTA officers will be elected.

The meeting will be held in the cafeteria at 8 p. m. Refreshments will be prepared by the mothers of seniors.



A cast of about 100 actors, musicians and dancers is busy rehearsing for the "Salute To Bob Stedman" show planned for March 28-29 at Medford High school auditorium. Pictured here planning a dance number, to be entitled "McNamara's Band" are (left to right) Miss Coleen Barr, Miss Kathleen Barr and Miss Sue Hall. The show will be a tribute to Robert Stedman, high school drama instructor who is in a Portland hospital recovering from a serious illness. It is sponsored by Medford Footlighters, with the cooperation of the Medford school system.



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