

Former German War Prisoner On Way to Getting Citizenship

Many roads lead to Medford but the longest, the strangest and in all likelihood, the most inspiring, was taken after the close of World War II by Heinz Bertram of 1298 Sunset ave.

Bertram was a German prisoner of war at Camp White during the closing days of the war and since then, with the Rogue valley in his mind, he has returned to his native land, has married, has escaped the Communist domination of East Germany, and has returned here.

He is now on his way to acquiring American citizenship. Speaking Monday at the roundtable luncheon at the Jackson hotel, Bertram explained that as a prisoner of war he had found the local surroundings pleasant and the climate healthy and that in the year he spent at Camp White he made up his mind to return.

Seven Years
It took him seven years to make it back. But he and his wife, Edith, have been here for five years now and both hope soon to become naturalized citizens of the United States.

Bertram is the proprietor of Lindenpark Upholstery at 917 West McAndrews rd. He was born in central Germany, he explained, and joined the German Air Force at the age of 17. He was taken prisoner in North Africa and sent to England as a prisoner of war.

From England he was brought to this country and spent time at camps in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Washington, in addition to Camp White.

After the war he returned to Germany—reluctantly, he said—and began the long process of coming back to the United States.

His home, where his parents still live, was in Russian-occupied Germany. It was necessary to cross the guarded border into Western Germany to apply for a visa to this country.

30-Mile Walk
Crossing from the Russian area entailed a 30-mile walk, by night, while he hid in the daytime. After making the trip once, Bertram had to re-cross into the Russian zone when his fiancée became ill.

Afterwards they both crossed again, this time as man and wife. Bertram was caught once by the Russians, but he said he was only detained a couple of hours.

One of the hardships he was put through as a result of the time he had spent in the United States was a "volunteer" six-month stint in a

uranium mine. Bertram said that when he returned home government officials, fearing he had become democracy-oriented, asked him to prove he was a "good citizen" of the new society. A half-year of mining followed.

Waits Two Years
Bertram said he had to wait two years for a visa to the United States while he was thoroughly investigated.

The main difference between this country and his previous home, he said, is the standard of living of the average citizen.

In Germany, he said, only the "very rich" have such things as cars, refrigerators and deep freezers. When he writes to his friends who

have remained in Germany, they don't believe him, he said.

They accused him of borrowing a rich man's car to pose in front of for the picture.

San Francisco Firm At Antique Show

Corinthian Studio of San Francisco has been added to the list of antique dealers from Washington, Oregon and California which will display their wares at the Chin Up club's antique show at the Medford armory Sept. 2 and 3. The show and sale will be open from noon to 9 p.m. both days.

The bay area firm plans to display art glass, Victorian furniture and a representation of the collection of King Farouk, according to word received by the show sponsors.

Profit derived from the show will be used by the club to purchase equipment for loan without charge to temporarily disabled persons, whether or not they are members of the organization.

Stadium Committee Schedules Meeting

A group which calls themselves the Jackson county stadium committee will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. at the home of Harry Chipman, 1808 Roxy Ann pl.

The committee will be shown drawings of a multipurpose stadium, which the group hopes can be erected at the county fairgrounds site on the South Pacific highway, where the present baseball park is now located.

The drawings, prepared by William Seibert, architect, calls for 3,000 seats, dressing rooms, offices, concession stand and other facilities. An estimate of construction costs also will be given the group.

A committee is expected to be appointed to present the plans to the Jackson county court for consideration of construction if they are approved at the meeting.

BIG TITLE-SMALL BOOK

Washington—UPI—The Smithsonian Institute has just released a small booklet with a big title: "Early tertiary apes and phenacodaptes as pantolestid insectivores." In plain language: A study of the teeth of prehistoric insect-eating animals that once roamed the western United States.

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