



PREFAB APARTMENT — A wall section as the world's biggest building boom. Floors containing a window is raised into place on one of the prefabricated apartment buildings being erected in Moscow. Such "instant" prefabricated apartment houses are sprouting up all over Moscow in what is billed as the world's biggest building boom. —(UPI Telephoto)

Prefabricated Apartment Houses Spring Up in Moscow

By **ALINE MOSSBY**
Moscow—(UPI)—"Instant" prefabricated apartment houses are sprouting up all over Moscow in what is billed as the world's biggest building boom.

To ease a critical housing shortage, the Soviets are pushing a crash housing program. The fastest way to get roofs over heads, they discovered this year, is via almost-ready apartments rolled off factory assembly lines.

Now one of Moscow's more astonishing sights is forests of building cranes, looking like wiry animals with entire walls dangling from their "mouths."

The cranes gently nudge into place walls complete with doors and windows—even glass in the frames. You see floors giddily sailing through the air with bathtub, sink and toilet already attached.

Suburb Blossoms
It's like watching a doll's house being pieced together.

Wave after wave of these new apartments march monotonously over the flatlands of Moscow. Gregory Dukelsky, one of Moscow's chief architects, led me to one new suburb that blossomed from a vacant field.

Trucks lurched over the mud to dump stacks of walls, floors and ceilings. The six-inch thick panels were made of porous clay filler and concrete at 12 factories near Moscow.

In Leningrad, some apartments have been built of entire prefabricated rooms.

Those eight workmen will take one month to put up this 50-apartment building," said Dukelsky, pointing to the Russians helping the crane drop a third-story wall.

Two more months are needed to paint the entryways and install gas, electricity, water, wallpaper, people and furniture.

Some prefabricated concrete panels, I noticed, were chipped or cracked as they were unloaded from the trucks.

Many Needed
"When Gov Collins of Florida was here he asked why we didn't build fewer and better buildings," Dukelsky said. "But many people need apartments. We must build quickly."

Because of war damage and concentration on other industries, old apartments are crowded. Izvestia noted recently that two or three families live in many apartments.

To adequately house the citizenry, Dukelsky and other housing authorities face a goal said to be unique in housing history: 100,000 apartments a year for each year of the seven-year plan.

This year's quota was pared to 91,000 because they "aren't being built as fast as we hoped," another housing official admitted to me.

Even then that means 250 new apartments, or three five-story buildings, opened daily.

Airline Pilots Observe Order

By **United Press International**

Pilots at three of the nation's major airlines observed a no-strike injunction Wednesday but Eastern Airlines still was paralyzed by a wildcat walkout.

A fifth airline, Northwest, faced a strike deadline of a minute before midnight set by the Air Line Pilots association.

Federal Judge Julius H. Miner in Chicago issued an order prohibiting a work stoppage by pilots protesting the placing of a federal aviation administrator inspector in the third pilot's seat of jet airliners.

C. N. Sayen, ALPA president, said pilots were being advised to accept the order and not go through with the threatened boycotts of American, Trans-World and Pan-American Airlines.

Illinois Group Visits in Oregon

Salem—(UPI)—A legislative group from Illinois was here Wednesday conferring with officials of the Oregon Department of Agriculture on marketing programs in the western states.

Illinois State Rep. John Morris said the cost-price squeeze is pushing farmers in Illinois "against the wall" and the group is touring the west coast because it feels this area is ahead of the Midwest in government assistance to farm marketing.

Members of the Oregon Legislative Committee on Agriculture attended the conference.

Boston—First ironworks in the U.S. was established at Saugus, Mass., 300 years ago.

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in this capital of approximately 5.5 million.

This shower of figures, repeated to the Russian people in the press practically every day, becomes meaningful when you visit some new tenants. Dukelsky and I barged in on one couple, their son, 19, and the wife's mother. They had moved into a new two-room apartment, although Dukelsky said three persons were scheduled for that size apartment.

It consisted of what Russians call two "dwelling rooms"—each of necessity furnished as a living-dining-bedroom—plus bathroom, toilet room (always separate here), kitchen and hallway.

Although the small apartments were modern in design, the tenants clung to their traditional Russian decor. The rug was hung on the wall. Two beds in each of the rooms were made up as beds, not sofas, with traditional Russian big pillows draped with lace.

I visited two other apartments with similar furnishings. All three had two-burner stoves with ovens, but no broilers. Two had new refrigerators, one did not.

The rent is approximately 35 rubles a month, or \$3.50 (at the tourist exchange rate), including gas and electricity. Citizens are assigned to new apartments as they become available. If you turn yours down, it means a long wait for another one.

Although these prefabs may seem modest to some westerners, they appear to be adequate low-cost housing.

"Over there we're building a school, food store, restaurant, kindergarten, movie theater," exclaimed Dukelsky. "Come back in a year and see the grass and trees."



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