

Medford's Sister City Described As Picturesque Town

Editor's note: Interest has been evoked about Medford's sister city, Alba, Italy, due to the historic telephone conversation July 26 between the mayors of the two cities. This release tells something of what the city is like.

Alba, home of Rogue valley visitor Pino Dutto, is a picturesque small town in Piedmont, in the northwestern province of Cuneo, Italy. It lies in the hilly country immediately beyond the Tanaro river, and boasts a population of over 20,000 persons. To the visitor the old Alba Pompeja presents a medieval profile, with its square towers rising above the rooftops of its clustered houses.

Even today, through its monuments, one can get a idea of what the free commune of Alba was like until the year 1179, with its trade and agricultural and artisan activities.

The narrow and winding streets of the city offer at every turn a continually changing and interesting scene. The Via Maestra, which cuts across the town, is a succession of elegant shop windows, modern buildings, and ancient houses in characteristic Gothic style.

The climate of the Italian town is mild. Because of its geographical location, Alba is the commercial center of the surrounding area.

Many Vineyards

There are many vineyards in the area, and the town has developed extensive trade in all kinds of wines, such as Dolcetto, Barbera, Zonca, Zbarbresco, and the most famous of all, Barolo which is considered to be the king of wines.

The youth of Alba are actively engaged in all kinds of sport, but the greatest local attraction is the game of "pallone elastico" (elastic ball). Games are played incessantly afternoons and evenings and the attending fans are numerous. On the field, towering above the various advertising signboards, the audience can see in large letters the tribute which Giuseppe Carducci, an Italian poet, paid to this sport: "The game of Pallone Elastico is the most classical of all games."

The town of Alba is famous not only in Italy but also abroad for its characteristic white truffles. According to a popular legend this tuber grows only at the foot of oak, chestnut, or beech trees that have been struck by lightning. Even though it might seem absurd in our day, the best truffles are invariably to be found at the foot of trees that bear clear signs of the passage of lightning.

Praised in the old days by Pliny for its exceptional taste and fragrance, modern science confines itself to including the truffles of Alba in the family of tubers in view of the fact that its seed is unknown.

Birth Defects Pose Medical Problem For National Foundation

New York (UPI)—Crippling and death due to birth defects are now the most pressing medical problems of infancy, reports the publication "Statistical Review," published by the National Foundation-March of Dimes.

The publication said that the proportion of malformed children receiving medical care under the federal-state crippled children's program has increased dramatically. In the past decade (1950-1960), the number of such children rose by 125 per cent as compared with a 50 per cent increase in the remainder of the case load.

Text of Mayor Cagnasso's Telstar Talk Received; Broadcast Noted

Editor's note: The full text of the message spoken by Mayor Osvaldo Cagnasso, Alba, Italy, via the Telstar communications satellite telephone conversation with Medford Mayor John Snider has been received.

The conversation took place Thursday, July 26. In addition, a copy of a radio broadcast about the event, aired over a northern Italy radio program, was received. Medford and Alba are sister cities.

I have heard with great emotion your kind words, with which you have renewed the history of our affiliation. Kind words that pleased so much the citizens of Alba.

And it is with the same emotion that in this historical moment, I exchange your greetings and send to you Mr. Mayor and to your and our dear twin city Medford, the most enthusiastic and warm salute from Alba.

My city is happy and proud to have been chosen for that wonderful experiment, which is the result and accomplishment of the studies started 60 years ago by my great compatriot Guglielmo Marconi, perfected and fulfilled by the wonderful scientists of your great country.

And, thanks to these studies, our two sister cities are united at this moment by that wonderful accomplishment which will open new roads in the history of human relations, will cut all the barriers, and will make the earth a single great country!

At that moment, Mr. Snider, I would like to tell you many things.

I have here, on my desk, a great number of telegrams and letters, which were sent to me from all over Italy, giving me many suggestions, first of all the one to thank the great American people for all the help given to us, with so much kindness and generosity, to help us to come out from the depth where we were cast by 20 years of dictatorship and a disastrous war.

Surroundings

My fellow citizens would like too that I tell you about the beauty of our surroundings, our hills, or unmatched products, our truffles, our excellent wines, the Barolo and the Dolcetto, they would like that I tell you about our schools, beginning from the one of "Enologia" (grape culture and wine production), one of the most famous in Italy, about our flourishing industries, among them, allow me to remind you only those which had the pleasure to entertain the group of Medford citizens, last year, namely the Ferrero Chocolate company, the Cinzano company, the Miroglio Textile company, the Cento Torri Spaghetti factory, the San Paolo Paper mill.

They even would like that I tell you about the "gioco del pallone elastico" (rubber ball game) of which Alba claims to be the cradle and the capital.

Administration Problems
As, for myself, I would like to discuss with you, Mr. Mayor, about the problems which our Administrations have in common. But I cannot do that in the short time available to me, and I am sorry I am unable to slow down the very fast pace of the satellite Telstar.

Visitors Noted

Our young Ambassador Pino Dutto will have more time to do that. To him, please, give the best wishes of his mother, his relatives, and of all the citizens of Alba. Also of the Dr. Donald Wott—founder of the International Experiment—well deserving organization which made possible his trip to the United States. Dr. Wott is here, in my office, together with many authorities, among them our Bishop Monsieur Stappa, the

Honorable Falco, President of the Province, the U.S. Consul from Turin, the science expert from the U.S. Embassy in Rome.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mayor, allow me that, taking advantage of this experiment, which fulfills one of the boldest con-

quest of science, which shortens the distance that divides us, and almost join us in a cordial embrace, I send again the salute of Alba and our warmest greetings for Medford and its first citizen.

The following radio broadcast was made in Italy July 27.

"I was in the office of the Mayor of Alba during the phone call to Medford and I was deeply impressed. Telstar has used only one of its 600 channels. Maybe this is not too exceptional, thinking of the time in which we live, but it was the first private phone call through outer space.

"This is the matter that makes the experience of tonight more than extraordinary and will make us look forward to a future of unbelievable realizations. All of us, around an emerald green telephone, have lived on of the main event of the world history of communications.

"And now the Honorable Cagnasso has an exhibition in his office the historical instrument which has made possible for him to send his greetings from the Capital of the "Laughe" (Alba) to its American sister City of Medford. The Communal Secretaries have been called in extraordinary session for next August, to ratify the decision to name a street and a square after the City of Medford and Telstar. Next October, a bronze plaque with the emblems of the two sister cities will be mounted in the lobby of the City Hall.

"According of which has declared the Honorable Cagnasso, it is probable that a delegation from Medford, headed by the Mayor, Mr. Snider, will take part at the ceremony. This will conclude the beautiful adventure of the twin sisters, united by an imaginary wire 10,000 kilometers long. And each one of us who have had the fortune to attend the event, will remember it forever.

"We wish that the "Pronto" and the "Hello" spoken July 27 will start an era of peace and prosperity for all humanity."



SKILL RECALLED—Libby Allen won the admiration of six-year-old Janice Joyner as she tried to recall her skill in finger painting at the Guardian Angel Settlement in St. Louis, Mo. Miss Allen, as a child, attended the Guardian Angel's day care program in 1945. She revisited the center on a tour, sponsored by the United Fund, of health and welfare agencies in St. Louis. (UPI)

Polio Reduced As Major Health Menace

New York (UPI)—Polio no longer ranks as a major health problem in the United States, reports "Statistical Review," a publication of the National Foundation-March of Dimes.

The publication states that the six years following introduction of the Salk vaccine in 1955 have "witnessed the virtual eradication of poliomyelitis as a major public health problem." By 1961, the case total had declined to 1,327, or seven cases per million population—the lowest annual incidence of thecrippler ever recorded in the U. S. A.

Florists Give Tips On Keeping Plants

New York (UPI)—Here's a tip on how to keep house plants in good condition while you're in a quickie vacation.

The Society of American Florists said plants will remain healthy for four or five days if they're placed on thoroughly soaked bath towels in the bath, kitchen sink or laundry tub exposed to some light but not to direct sunlight. Then, set the water faucet so that one drop of water will fall every few seconds on the towels. The towels will carry the moisture to the soil.

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