

East Germans Appear Hungry for Western Ideas, Conversation

(Editor's note: What is it really like behind the wall, electrified fence and mine-planted strip which separates Communist East Germany from the West? United Press International's

Geneva correspondent, John D. Parry, spent two weeks traveling through off-the-beaten-path East Germany, talking with its people and making comparisons with the West. Germany he

knows intimately from his experience as UPI bureau manager in Frankfurt.)

By JOHN D. PARRY
United Press International
The piano player in a Leipzig bar leaned across the key-

board and spoke in halting English.

"Your Dave Brubeck, he is the greatest. Every night I listen to his records on the Voice of America," he said.

I suggested he play something of Brubeck's, but the piano player shrugged his shoulders.

"Ach," he said. "Here we must play at least 60 per cent of our program within the limits set down by the interior ministry. I have already played too many western tunes tonight."

"If I play any more I will be fined 500 marks (\$125). I only get 800 marks (\$200) a month and I just can't afford it."

The piano player turned back to the keyboard and launched into a tune called "I Found My Sweetheart in the Free German Youth." A Communist official at a nearby table nodded approvingly.

East Germans are hungry for western ideas, and they are hungry for western clothes, food, books — and for just plain conversation. It was obvious to me, after two weeks of travel in East Germany, that the Communists are not interested in letting in any of these.

An Italian water polo player was offered \$50 for a nylon raincoat not long ago when he came to East Germany for a game. Leipzig's largest state-owned department store there are no private stores any more — has stocked raincoats for six months.

A Frenchman recently drove a Jaguar to East Germany to visit a friend. He parked the car on a Leipzig street and within five minutes was besieged by a curious, three-deep crowd. Police had to disperse the gathering.

A cab driver told this correspondent: "My brother is using an American car as a taxi here. Here he comes."

He pointed out the window. Sure enough, the brother drove up in an American car — a 1934 Packard with springs creaking and upholstery bulging out of the seats.

Western automobiles are seen here when foreigners come to sports events or the Leipzig fair. Occasionally, a Communist party official obtains one. But an American or British car is a rarity.

Non-Communist East Germans are eager to talk to westerners to learn what things are like on the other side of the Iron Curtain. But they are ever cautious. A British, married to an East German girl, went to visit her family last year. In an East German bar, he struck up a conversation with a man he had never met.

Later, the Briton learned the man had been picked up

by Communist police and questioned for a week about his conversation with the "western spy."

For a country with very little automobile traffic, East Germany is literally crawling with police. In front of Leipzig's main railroad station recently, only 10 automobiles passed in as many minutes but there were 12 policemen in the square to direct the traffic.

At Warts, the first station across the border on one of the three rail lines linking East and West Germany, 30 Communist police with sub-machineguns stood about watching the trains, the platform and even the tracks on the opposite side of the train. Other armed police stood on the station roof watching from above.

A large poster in the station proclaims: "Welcome to East Germany."

In a Leipzig suburb, a long line of women stood patiently outside a butcher shop. They were reminiscent of similar queues in Europe during World War II.

"They say there's going to be a deal here today. I got here at 5:30 a.m. to be sure of getting some," one said. "There hasn't been any for a fortnight and we've had to buy stringy beef with our ration coupons."

"I'd like some decent meat for a change," she said.

East Germans are not starving. But meat is rationed and foodstuffs which westerners take for granted are in remarkably short supply outside East Berlin. The Communist "showplace," and a few "foreigners' restaurants, to which western visitors are carefully steered.

Two westerners recently visited a working class restaurant outside Leipzig. The proprietor said to them: "But this place isn't for foreigners."

The restauranters glanced furtively at his two other customers — old men staring into their beer — and then told the westerners they could come in. Such visits, he said, were "not encouraged."

The westerners sat down and ordered a sausage and a roll.

"Only half a roll per sausage and a roll," said the owner. "Bread is in short supply, you know. I've got 10 rolls here to feed something like 50 customers for the next two days."

On the other hand, in the "foreigners' restaurants," waiters carry large, succulent steaks to the customers while Communist functionaries ask: "Not bad, the food in our peoples' state, eh?"

Bread, potatoes and meat — staples of any German diet — are in short supply. A group of housewives recently fought a pitched battle outside a butcher shop in an East German town because one accused another of getting more than her share of rationed meat.

In East Germany, the beer is watery by comparison with that in the West. If you're well up in the Communist hierarchy, though, you can get pilsen beer from Czechoslovakia. And, of course, it's available at the foreigners' restaurants.

Bottles of good Soviet champagne line the shelves of grocery stores and the prices are comparatively reasonable. Vodka is plentiful, too, and the East Germans drink plenty of it.

As an elderly waiter told this correspondent: "It is the best way of getting drunk quickly and cheaply."

Like Funeral Parlor

The East German "night-bars" — the western term "nightclub" is forbidden — are stocked with good quality Communist wine and liquor, but the atmosphere is like a funeral parlor.

Little groups of people sit hunched over their tables. Some dance in a fashion which went out of style in the West before World War II. Everyone speaks quietly, virtually no one laughs, and when someone enters the room — especially a westerner — all conversation stops.

The streets of East German towns resemble those of West

Germany 14 years ago. The rubble of World War II is everywhere. An occasional new apartment house or public building rises incongruously from surroundings of drab and dismal 19th century streets.

A western visitor told an East German acquaintance that Leipzig would look better with a coat of paint.

"Not much chance of that," said the East German. "You can't buy paint without a government license."

Anyone overheard making even the most innocuous anti-Russian remark is jailed for anything up to 10 years. But sometimes the Germans manage to get across the idea they don't care much for the Soviets.

East Germans use devious means to refer to Russians. When Soviet infantry and tanks appeared in East Berlin while the wall was going up, an East German remarked to a western friend: "I see the friends are out in force today."

Always As 'Friends'

Russians are always referred to as "friends." That's a much bandied word in East Germany. For example, by government decree, visiting athletes always are referred to as "sports friends."

Recently, when a western athlete drank too much vodka one night, he was told by a Leipzig policeman at 3 a.m.: "If you don't go back to your hotel, I'll run you in, sports friend."



SHOPPING 'SPREE' — Apparently on a summer dress while attending the closing sale of an East German department store in Leipzig, East Germany. (UPI)



AT BUS STOP—East German citizens wait at a bus stop in Karl Marx Square in Leipzig, East Germany. The wording at left on the building in the background, barely visible, freely translated, is: "Germany should blossom not bleed." (UPI)

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*
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Size of American Families

The best discussion I have seen of the size of the average American family is in an article in "Population Bulletin" written by Robert Cook, of the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D. C. As Cook says, most of our families now are planned. Often when a woman marries, she says she is going to have four or even six children, but after she has had two or three, and she sees that if these youngsters are to have a college education, she may even have to go out and take a job in order to help her husband, she may decide to stop child-bearing.

A while ago R. F. Freedman, P. K. Whelpton and A. A. Campbell made a nationwide survey in which they questioned 2,713 white wives, 18 to 39 years of age. Nearly all of them gave detailed information as to their pregnancies, their contraceptive practices, and their plans for future child-bearing.

Most of the women said they had planned to have three children. Only 7 per cent thought of having six or more. The highest number of children were expected by Roman Catholic college-trained wives. They wanted an average of 3.9 children. High school graduate wives expected 3.3 children, and grade school wives 3.7 children. Obviously, the education of the parents and their religion have less to do with the size of the family than some students used to think. The farmer's wife tends to have a slightly larger family than does her city cousin.

Work Important Factor

A factor of some importance is a mother's having to work outside of the home. Mothers

who had worked for five years — both Catholics and Protestants — expected to have only 2.5 children. The longer a woman works, the fewer children she is likely to have.

The average woman stops child-bearing by the time she is 30. In 1910, middle-aged married white women averaged 4.6 children each. By 1940 this figure had fallen to 3.0 children, and by 1955 to 2.4 children. Since 1940, college graduates have somewhat increased the size of their families.

Eighty-three per cent of women said they practiced contraception; and 7 per cent more expected to practice it as soon as they had all the children they felt they could feed and educate. Among couples with two children, 89 per cent practiced contraception. A number of the few women who did not practice contraception did not need to because of infertility (theirs or the husband's). To see how many children an American woman can have if she does not practice contraception, one need only look at the Hutterites, a deeply religious sect. Among them, the average family consists of nine children.

As the geneticists say, it would seem obvious that for the good of the country, the more intelligent parents and those who can and will see to it that their able children have a college education ought to have the largest families. Actually today we Americans permit, and sometimes encourage, a feeble-minded and uneducated woman to have a big family. We give her extra money for every child, often a stupid and illegitimate child, that she bears. Recently, as I discussed this matter with one of America's leading experts on genetics, much concerned as he is with the future of our country and our race, I found him distressed over our willingness to help half-witted people to have a large family.

Use of Computer Of Real Value In Advertising

New York — (UPI) — Uses of the computer by advertising agencies today might seem to extend into almost every phase of the work except taking a prospect to lunch.

The ability of an up-to-date and properly programmed system to absorb and report on vast amount of information for the benefit of the advertiser and the agency alike, with savings of time and effort, has been noted by many leaders in the industry.

"One of the most challenging features of an operation of this kind," said Philip W. Wenig, president of SRDS-Data, Inc., "is ability to program into your computer operation all the information needed to satisfy your wants and those of the client."

Demands Real Skill

"This preparation, and keeping the material up to date, demands real skill—and the proper information to be given with. But it is worth it."

Wenig's company, a subsidiary of Standard Rate & Data Service, Inc., recently inaugurated an advertising impact measurement service. Wenig said that it provides both qualitative and quantitative information to advertisers.

On the basis of interviews obtained during monthly studies, three readership scores can be obtained on up to 125 advertisements in each of three mass-circulated consumer magazines which were studied.

Wenig's organization also has been assembling data on the nation's counties for use in portraying to an advertiser a complete report, for any geographic area, of two things: The buying habits of the people in the area, and the reading, viewing and listening habits.

Escapee Surrenders After Five Years

St. Helens, Ore. — (UPI) — A 22-year-old woman who pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter in 1957 and then escaped was being held in the Columbia County jail today.

Sheriff Spencer L. Younce said Mrs. Delores Shawver gave herself up at St. Helens Tuesday night after five years of freedom.

Younce said Mrs. Shawver entered the plea to the charge in connection with the fatal shooting of her father, Robert H. Burns, at Rainier in 1936.

Mrs. Shawver was 16 at the time of the shooting and her maiden name was Dorothy Laverne Burns, the sheriff said. Younce said the woman gave herself up to her court-appointed attorney, Odell Bennett of St. Helens.

She escape from the Multnomah County juvenile home in Portland while awaiting sentencing.

Younce said Mrs. Shawver probably will be sentenced next Monday by Circuit Judge J. S. Bohannon.

He said the woman did not tell him where she was living and did not reveal why she turned herself in.

Staff Expansion Not Supported

Portland — (UPI) — Oregon does not support an expansion of the staff of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee (CBAC), the organization was told Wednesday.

Dan P. Allen, Oregon director of natural resources, said he was expressing the views of the administration of Gov. Mark Hatfield. Allen is a CBAC member.

Roy Scheufele, executive secretary of the CBAC, said that if some of the proposed subcommittee work dealing with regional problems is accomplished his staff would have to be expanded. Federal agencies generally indicated they would support the expansion which would be paid for out of pro-rated funds from member agencies.

Allen said Oregon did not go along with expansion on grounds it was not warranted in light of past accomplishments and present goals. Idaho also did not support the expansion and Washington and Wyoming delayed in a decision.

Scheufele said it might be possible to expand the committee without aid from Idaho and Oregon.

The CBAC discussed several regional problems, including fisheries, power lines, water management, pollution and mosquito control, and recreation.

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