

Russian Cities Impressive, But Howard Morgan Notes Drabness

(Editor's note: Howard Morgan, former Oregon public utilities commissioner and now on the Federal Power commission, recently accompanied Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and other members of the Federal Power commission on a trip into Russia. This is the third in a series of articles in which Morgan discusses some of his impressions of Russia.)

By HOWARD MORGAN
For the remainder of these articles I shall, instead of tracing our path through Russia and Siberia by air and automobile, break the material down into general headings likely to be of most interest to a casual reader or to an intended visitor.

The things which interested me the most, after the actual purposes of our tour which were to examine the hydroelectric plants, power stations and extra-high-voltage transmission lines, were the cities, the people, the transportation facilities and the land.

The cities are impressive, but they take a bit of getting accustomed to. Moscow is a truly beautiful city, but it is so different from anything I have ever seen in either North or South America or in Western Europe that it was not until we returned there toward the end of our tour that I really appreciate it.

First Impression
One's first impression, just as in some of our older cities,

is of drabness. The favorite colors for buildings seem to be a dull mustard yellow or faded off-green. Many are of unpainted dun-colored sandstone. Most of those which are ten enough, there being too many more important things to be done first, and many are extremely old.

The weatherbeaten appearance of these old buildings is carried on by the newer ones, which tend to be of a ponderous old-fashioned architecture. Somehow the Russians have a talent for building new structures which look old even before they are finished, and the visitor is constantly confused by being told that a row of apartment houses which look twenty or more years old were finished only a year or two ago.

There is an enormous amount of building going on. Apartment construction seems to be the greatest urban shortage and to have the top priority from the government (top priority for quantity, that is, but not necessarily for quality).

Everywhere one looks across the skyline of Moscow, and every other city we saw, he sees tower cranes at work erecting buildings, and in nine cases out of ten they are building apartments. I think I am being quite conservative and realistic when I estimate that there are probably between two and three thousand of these tower

cranes working in Moscow alone.

Counts 50 Cranes
It is almost impossible to find a section of skyline without a tower crane prominently in view and in the intermediate and outlying areas of the city I have counted as many as 50 from a single viewpoint. We were free to wander about as we pleased, incidentally, with guides if we wanted them or unaccompanied, and in the time available to us we did so.

Moscow is a very large city with a population of about 7.5 million, but it is not as large in area as you would expect. The population lives almost entirely in apartments and there are no suburbs as we know them. One drives directly from farming country through a surrounding open belt, which will eventually surround the city with parks, into the most concentrated areas of apartment construction I have ever seen.

The city is constantly growing outward so that the apartments are now approaching the park belt, and I suppose that they will shortly leapfrog over that to resume their march into the country.

Large Boulevards
There are several large boulevards leading into the center of the city, of which we saw only two - those leading to the Scheremetievo and Vnuukovo airports - the latter serving flights southward and eastward. These are handsome thoroughfares, broad and spacious and lined with trees and parkways almost all the way downtown, and they pass numerous monuments, parks, stadia, swimming pools, schools, training institutes and libraries along the way.

The main streets and sidewalks everywhere, especially in the small towns, are scrupulously, even miraculously, clean.

There is far more traffic than I had been led to expect, quite enough to produce traf-

fic jams during the rush hours. Traffic moves on the right, as ours does, so it is not as hair-raising to an American as the British and Swedish left-hand traffic, but it moves at a terrific pace and since horn-blowing is illegal it pays to keep one's eyelids up.

Have Right of Way
Pedestrians have the right-of-way even when jaywalking but you would never guess it while riding with a Russian chauffeur. Most people in Moscow travel by the magnificent fast, efficient and beautiful subways (about 3.5 million passengers a day) which deserve a whole article by themselves. The fare is 5 kopeks - about a nickel - the trains are long, fast, modern and comfortable, and run as often as every 45 seconds in rush hours.

Each station is uniquely different and each is a breathtaking work of art. We were told that even at a fare of 5 kopeks the annual profit of the subways is very large. I would say that trucks and buses still comprise a slight majority of the street traffic but there are a surprising number and, we were told, a rapidly growing number of small cars and panel delivery types of vehicles resembling Volkswagens, Nashes, Volvos and Corvairs along with the older cars resembling Packards and Buicks.

All are Russian-made and appear to be well-built. Among the limousines we usually rode in I preferred the old ZIS, which I am told stands for "Automobile Factory Named for Stalin."

Beautiful Built Car
It looks like a 1949 Packard, is high, roomy, very comfortable and is a beautifully built car. The newer limousines look like a cross between a Lincoln and a Cadillac, and seem to be as well constructed but not as roomy and comfortable.

The fact that Russians are highly conscious of their his-

tory is borne out strikingly by the way they care for old museums, the genuinely historic cathedrals (ordinary ones are apparently left to the small congregations to maintain and they are rapidly falling apart) and the palaces of

the Czars, both in and out of the Kremlin.

We were fortunate enough to be offered a rare trip through the great palace of the Kremlin. It is composed of wings built in the 15th, 17th and 19th centuries and each

room or hall literally stuns the visitor with what seems to be unmatched opulence and magnificence, only to be surpassed by the next one.

While going through the palace and the Kremlin cathedrals one of our party asked

one of our hosts, a high Russian official who speaks English, why a communist government would go to obviously great expense in order to maintain and repair these remnants of the old order.

He said, "Well, those people

were not of our class, but they were of our people. They represent something we Russians went through, and thus they are part of us. We wouldn't think of wiping out these things. They are our history."

They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo

LOOK... WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE THESE PICTURES DEVELOPED? WE NEVER DID GET THE ONES YOU TOOK OF JUNIOR'S PARTY WHEN HE WAS SEVEN...

HE NEVER FINISHES A ROLL... HE TAKES A FEW AND THEN SWITCHES TO ANOTHER CAMERA...

JUNIOR WON'T KNOW HIS SEVENTH BIRTHDAY PICTURES... HE'S NINE AND A HALF NOW!!

YEAH-YEAH! I'LL HAVE 'EM DEVELOPED SOON AS I FINISH OUT THE ROLL... REMIND ME TO TAKE SOME NEXT SUNDAY...

AND WHEN HE DOES TAKE 'EM TO THE DRUGSTORE HE LEAVES THEM THERE FOR SIX MONTHS OR SO...

IT MAKES NO NEVER MIND... ALL HIS PICTURES COME OUT FUZZY, LIKE ST. VITUS TOOK 'EM....

FINDING OUT WHY YOU NEVER SEE THE PICS POP TAKES...
THAT'S A TIP OF THE HATLO JAT TO CLARENCE ABRAMS, 7603 ROSE ANN LA., CINCINNATI 39, OHIO

Medford Man Hurt In Jacksonville

A man was reported in good condition at Sacred Heart hospital yesterday following an automobile accident in Jacksonville early Thursday.

Admitted to the hospital was Robert DeVore, 25, of 403 West Clark st., Medford, driver of the vehicle. The vehicle left Highway 238 and traveled on the shoulder of the road, knocked down a fence, and stopped when it struck the foundation of the house at 404 North Fifth st., Jacksonville. The old house, built in 1859 by Benjamin Franklin Dowell, formerly of Virginia, is now occupied by the Hartman brothers. There was no visible damage to the structure, it was reported.

The accident was investigated by Jacksonville Chief of Police Frank Carter assisted by sheriff's deputies.

Estes Associates Sentenced To Terms

El Paso, Tex. - (UPI) - Federal Judge R. E. Thomason today sentenced three former associates of Billie Sol Estes to long prison terms and said they were guilty of "one of the most premeditated, fantastic and ruthless frauds ever to come before any court in the Southwest."

Thomason handed down 10-year prison terms to Coleman D. McSpadden, Lubbock, and Harold E. Orr, Amarillo, and gave a six-year term to Ruel Alexander, Amarillo.

PROBES BOMBER CRASH

Washington - (UPI) - The Air Force has suspended super-sonic training in the B58 "Hustler" bomber pending investigation of a crash that killed three men last week near Peru, Ind. The Air Force has two wings of B58s, with 40 bombers each. One is at Peru and the other at Fort Worth, Tex.

GADDIS APPOINTED

Portland - (UPI) - Thomas E. Gaddis, author of "Birdman of Alcatraz" will become assistant professor of education at Reed College in November.

The Family Council

(Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Benny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Emanuel G. - She's too serious about her music. Her time belongs to the home.
Shirley G. - I've been told I have enough talent for a career in music. He should be glad.

Emanuel G. - My wife has let a lot of careless flattery go to her head. She's convinced that she's another Lily Pons and that nothing must stand in her way toward the Metropolitan Opera House.

Well, the first thing in her way is me. And next comes our three children. Only two of them are in school. The baby is three years old. But suddenly Shirley is all wound up about a career. Up to now her singing was just a pastime, a hobby. But now she has a singing teacher coming to the house twice a week. He's a character from right out of the comic page, one of those Latin-lover types.

The truth is, her voice is nothing special. Also, I don't need the money she says she can earn performing. And meanwhile I don't want her throwing out my good money on all those lessons. She has all she can do now taking care of the children and our home.

Shirley G. - I think I have a right to follow through on a chance for a career. Manny knew I had a deep interest in singing when he married me. I used to entertain at our friends' homes and at amateur contests. As long as I regarded it as a hobby, he took the whole matter lightly. He let me attend concerts and take a few seasons of lessons at a music school. But now that I'm serious, he keeps thinking up new objections.

If I'm as good as I've been told I am by people whose opinion I respect, then I'd like to train for a recital and get some professional criticism - not just the squelches and cold water my husband hands out.

In our ten years of marriage I've been patient and a good wife and mother. But now that two of the children are in school, I see nothing wrong with having my teacher come to the house. The lessons take place during the baby's nap.

The Council: Evidently what gets one member of this family irritated (we mean Emanuel), lulls another member into hours of peaceful slumber (we mean the baby). So there must be more to this debate about Shirley's singing than meets the ear.

There's no doubt that certain fears are now assailing Emanuel, else he'd be glad that his wife was keeping alive an "outside" interest. All good wives are being constantly advised to do this very thing as a hedge against becoming too child-centered and having nothing challenging to do when the children are grown and the home releases her. So what's really worrying this husband?

Can it be that he's afraid Shirley may actually be very gifted and may some day no longer "need" him as her provider? Does he require a wife he can dominate? And do the singing lessons represent the loosening of his hold on Shirley?

His arguments are ridiculous. In one breath he says money is no problem to him, he doesn't need what she

Jackson Cuts Ribbon At Emigrant Park

La Grande - (UPI) - Highway Commission Chairman Glenn L. Jackson of Medford presided today over ribbon-cutting ceremonies at Emigrant State Park opening a new four-lane stretch of highway which cost \$14.7 million.

The 33-mile stretch shortens the distance between Emigrant Hill and La Grande from 56 to 52 miles.

reach out for the "plusses" beyond.

To make her venture smoother for Emanuel, Shirley must ally his fears of losing her, and of losing out to her in their present competitive relationship. She must remember he didn't marry her to make a coloratura out of her. He married her to have a lover and a partner. It may pay her to switch the lessons to the evening so Emanuel can keep an eye on that "Latin-lover type" teacher. That may reduce his gripes by one.

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