

Non-Beatnik Coffee Houses Said Successful

By EDWARD FLATTAU
Albany, N. Y. — (UPI) — In the very non-Beatnik atmosphere of Saratoga Springs and Schenectady, N. Y., the proprietors of two local cafes have embarked on a very Bohemian, if not bold, project: "To stimulate contemporary culture through the continental mood of the coffee house."

Quick to assert that their establishments are not "Beatnik" places but rather "familiar" of what one might find in Paris or Greenwich Village, N. Y., are the owners of the Cafe Lena in Saratoga Springs and the San Remo Coffee House in Schenectady.

There is usually resistance to the introduction of new things, the owners point out, and coffee houses — though not uncommon — are no exception. Their cafes have been lowly labeled as Beatnik "joints" and unattractive "slum spots."

But after two years of trying to prove that the coffee house can become a success in "the provinces," the owners have succeeded where others before them have failed. They have in fact succeeded to such an extent that the towns' influential citizens have been won over and local newspapers have found space for praise.

Lena Spencer, whose cafe is situated above a laundry near the center of Saratoga Springs, has a stage in her place where dramas have been presented that for her several playwrights from a nearby summer artists' colony. She and her husband, a professional sculptor, profess to furnish a haven for experimental theater and professional folk singers and for those who just like to "sit, relax and exchange ideas."

Bob Massaro's San Remo coffee house is located on the fringe of Schenectady's oldest district in a neighborhood of rich historical tradition.

The owners of the two businesses had the same basic motives for opening their places. They had traveled in Europe, admired and partaken of the informal "home away from home" atmosphere of the coffee houses there and wanted to give their American neighbors a reasonable likeness.

Lena and Massaro describe the majority of their clientele as students or professional persons living in a 30 mile radius. But surprisingly, middle-age patrons usually outnumber the youngsters.

Lena disclosed that individuals occasionally enter her place to go "slumming" but usually leave disappointed or change their opinion and stay on. Massaro said some local teenagers bedecked in bizarre getups visited his premises "to be cool" but rarely return when they find it is a coffee house and not a beatnik hang out.

Lena and Massaro agree an upstate coffee house owner must love what he is trying to popularize. In addition, he must possess the patience and determination to outlast indifference and even hostility while facing economic uncertainty.

Infant Mortality Rate Shows Decline

Chicago — (UPI) — Over 300,000 babies born last year are alive today as a result of advances in medical care since the turn of the century. The Health Information foundation, making this point noted that these infants represent the number of additional lives saved in a single year because the infant mortality rate has declined so sharply.

"Measured by any yardstick, this is wonderful progress," the foundation said. "Yet no matter how satisfying, an analysis of infant deaths shows that much remains to be accomplished. If the level of survival attained in Utah — the state with the best record — had been achieved throughout the country last year, for instance, some 27,000 more infants would have lived."

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Peace Corps Trainees Work With Social Agencies in New York

By FREDERICK H. TREESH and GERALD SNYDER
United Press International

New York — (UPI) — A young man—blond, good-looking and six-feet plus—sat on the edge of a tiny nursery school cot, reading to a group of attentive five-year-olds gathered about his feet.

Henry Hof III, 25, had just resigned from a promising administrative job with a New York bank. Now he was reading "The Brave Fireman and the Firehouse Cat" to children at a Harlem day care center.

"Gay is a big fluffy cat that lives in a firehouse," began Hof, a neatly-tailored Dartmouth man. "Gay loves the firehouse. Gay is a cat who loves excitement..."

Reads To Another Group
In a nearby hallway, pretty, platinum blond Marianna Osborne, 20, sat on a bench reading to another group of children.

"This is George," she read, turning the book so the children, Negro and Puerto Rican, could see the picture of a funny, little brown monkey. "He lives in Africa. He is very happy."

"But George has one fault. He's too curious..."

Down the hall in another classroom, crewcut Carl Stephani, a slender 20-year-old Southern Californian, squatted on a six-inch high chair, helping a group of three-year-olds spoon down the last of their applesauce and prepare for their afternoon naps.

Peace Corps Trainees
Henry, Marianna and Carl are Peace Corps trainees, among 80 who are working this October with social agencies in New York's slum neighborhoods during the final stages of their training. It is the first time the Peace Corps has used the dingy side of America to train its members to combat the dingy elements of society overseas.

On Nov. 13, the 80 Peace Corpsmen will fly to Columbia where they will serve among low-income, city-dwelling families whose flight is not dissimilar to inhabitants of this city's disadvantaged areas.

At the University of New Mexico the personnel of Peace Corps "Project Columbia III"—the oldest 54, the youngest 18, the average 23—learned construction skills, techniques of dealing with the poorly educated and poverty stricken, how to handle public health, housing, education and recreation problems, the Columbian culture and history and practiced communicating in Spanish.

Later their training at the Peace Corps Puerto Rican camp (long swims fully clothed, army-type confidence courses, long runs, calisthenics) made them physically tough and used to working under strain.

Now, in New York's tough neighborhood and under the guidance of Columbia University's New York school of social work, they are relating to the city's slum areas.

Foremen Found to Have Frequent Peptic Ulcers
Pittsburgh, Pa. — (UPI) — Foremen ranked well ahead of executives and craftsmen in the relative frequency and severity of peptic ulcer, according to a study by Drs. James P. Dunn and Sidney Cobb, of Pittsburgh.

There was no evidence to support the notion that executives have an unusual prevalence of ulcer disease. Included in the study were 377 men, classified as middle management, 34 foremen and 273 craftsmen.

Convention theory holds that the ocean bottom is the crust of the earth and the continents are only outcroppings of this crust. The steady cooling and shrinking of the earth caused the crust to buckle, forming these outcroppings.

Move Away
Dietz believes the North and South American continents were moved away from each other along with the ocean floor by forces in the earth's mantle. He predicted that because the sea floor is therefore relatively young, drillers in "Project Mohole" will not find much in the way of fossil history of the earth in the drill cores from the ocean bottom.

In Project Mohole, the U.S. plans to drill three miles into the ocean bottom and take core samples from below the earth's crust.

Dietz said there is scientific evidence that the earth's continents have not always been fixed in their present positions. Part of this evidence he said is that the African coastline fits that of North and South America.

Further, he said, researchers have discovered that the magnetic orientation of rocks in Australia, Antarctica and the southern regions of South America and Africa indicate these land masses were once much closer together.



LEARN BY DOING—Henry Hof III, 25, of Forest Hills, N.Y., teaches Robert Coltoff and Gabriella Holmes, both five, how to use a hammer and nails. Hof, one of 80 Peace Corps trainees leaving next month to work in urban area in Colombia, is learning how to work with children at Grant Day Care Center in New York City. (UPI)

their previous experiences and training to people.

Carl Stephani, three years at the University of California behind him but not certain where his life was heading, stood in the fenced-in playground of the Grant day care center, rolling a red ball back and forth with an excited Negro boy, aged 3.

"In school we worked so many years with theoretical, academic problems. I also had done some youth work program ('technical help on the intermediate level along with social work'), himself ('I can fix cars; I'm a mediocre plumber and a halfway carpenter') and previous U. S. overseas aid programs ('We on the outside decided what they needed and sent it. It was hard to accept... dignity-destroying...')."

Hof, son of a real estate man from Forest Hills, N.Y., spent part of the morning teaching a couple five-year-olds with the YMCA with fairly good results," Carl said. "I thought working with people might be my field."

Stephani of El Cajon, Calif., talked the Peace Corps into some technical skills, I.E. how to nail two small boards together.

School Uniforms Favored by Girls

New York — (UPI) — Girls enrolled in Roman Catholic high schools overwhelmingly favor the wearing of school uniforms instead of attire of their own choosing, according to a survey made by a nun.

Sister Marie William, writing in the January issue of The Catholic Educator, reported on a survey of student expenditures in diocesan high schools in Indianapolis and Vincennes, Ind.; Chicago and Joliet, Ill.; Chelsea and Malden, Mass., and Washington, D.C.

In the article, entitled "Ask the Lass Who Wears One," Sister Marie William said the girls found that uniforms were more economical, saved the time and trouble of deciding what to wear each day, lessened the inequalities of family economics, provided apparel both attractive and easy to maintain and made both the individual and the group appear well groomed.

The minority who did not like uniforms were bored with wearing the same thing every day and felt they were prevented from self-expression through clothes.

Studies of the effects of unpleasant noise on human behavior conducted at England's National Physical Laboratory disclose that the most irritating sound is heard in the kitchen — the scraping of a knife against a saucepan.

By year's end, the total is expected to pass the million mark, said the C. I. T. Credit corporation. The firm says working wives and the "captive" wives who dislike being left without cars when their husbands drive to work are a major factor in the increase.

When the day's field work was done, Carl, Henry and Marianna along with the 77 other participants in Project

"This beats working in a bank," he said as he advised Gabby and Robert, both 5, which nail to use and where to pound it.

Cares for Guinea Pig

Marianna, a 20-year-old former student at Scripps college who lives in Fresno, Calif., helped another group of five-year-olds care for their pet guinea pig. The youngsters, 88 pre-school and 30 primary graders, spend their days at the child care center because their mothers are working, incapacitated or overburdened.

Clarence Lawrence, director of the center, said the Peace Corps trainees are enthusiastic about their work with the children. "You might say they're like sponges—soaking up as much as they can for deposit some where else," she said.

Carl, Marianna and Henry spent the afternoon helping a staff member of Neighborhood Conservation, a social agency which inspects housing conditions in rundown neighborhoods and tries to improve them. En route to the Neighborhood Conservation office, the three talked about their fellow Peace Corpsmen.

Escapers from Society

Alcoholics, the mentally deficient, the neurotic, the social outcasts—all escapers from society—picked up plates of chicken and dressing and gloomily ate with spoons.

"This is a distasteful and unpleasant place, but these trainees can learn a lot here. And they can help. They have a zest for life, a fresh approach... they have no use for the notion that these men are washed up," according to Isadore Reiter, assistant supervisor of the shelter, just east of the Bowery.

One trainee walked over to a balding-red-faced man in a khaki shirt.

The man, in his mid-30s was an alcoholic. A graduate of a fine university, he had been through two marriages, numerous jobs and finally "flunked out" of several institutions which tried to help him onto the wagon.

Asks Him to Write

The trainee was asking him to write another such institution in upstate New York, asking for re-admittance.

"He's a nice guy," the 22-year-old prospective Peace Corpsman said. "I think he'll write the letter."

Nearby, trainee Ernesto Orona of Los Lunas, N.M., and the Colombian social worker, Amparo Alvarez, 24, tried to get a group of disheveled men to take some small white pills, prescribed for persons with arrested tuberculosis. A number of the tablets were scattered on the floor.

Some of the men think the pills will make them sick, to turn them from the bottle. Reiter said. Others don't want to get well, they want to suffer, he said.

"I didn't think a shelter like this even existed," Orona, 22, said. "I'm glad someone takes care of them."

Dark-eyed Ampara, who speaks no English, glanced away from her stubble-beard-

ed charges for a moment and talked about Colombia where the Peace Corps personnel soon will go.

Very Poor Country

"Columbia es un pais muy pobre y economicamente debil. Ahora mismo hay ostrus coas mas importantes—educacion, vivienda, desempleo," she said.

"Columbia is a very poor country and right now there are other, more important things (than a shelter for homeless men) such as basic education and unemployment (relief)."

Today New York; in a few weeks, Bogota and Cali.

In Colombia, Ampara explained, 40 per cent of the people cannot read or write. Families of eight or 10 sometimes live on \$15 a month in shacks around the cities.

At the shelter for men and in other social agencies, she said, the Peace Corps trainees were learning to get along with people who need help—and that's what is important.

"That's why we are in the Peace Corps," Orona said. "To give everything we have."

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