

Oregonian Finds England Changing, But Still Has Its Vitality

(Editor's note: J. Wesley Sullivan, news editor of the Oregon Statesman, Salem, is spending two months in the British Isles, accompanied by his wife, under the sponsorship of the Oregon branch of the English-Speaking Union. During World War II he was stationed in England as a U. S. serviceman. In the following articles, he tells his impressions of Britain two decades after the war.)

By J. WESLEY SULLIVAN
London—I had my hair cut in a West End London shop this morning by a barber (gentlemen's hairdresser over here) who used a pair of hand clippers. I asked him why he wasn't using electric clippers and he replied, "Oh, they are using them now in the provinces and even in the suburbs, but my clientele here in the West End expect me to use hand clippers—that's the way I was trained."

This is the story of Britain today. Efficiency, modernization and power tools are closing in on gentle archaic life, which was born of the fruits of the once-great British Empire.

A generation ago, millions of American servicemen used these islands as a jumping off place for war. They came away scoffing at the British

old fashioned way of doing things. If they were to visit England again today, as I am doing, their first impression likely would be one of amazement at the amount of construction since the war. Skyscrapers are rising in London where none existed 20 years ago. Every city, even the tiniest of hamlets, has areas of new homes. Satellite cities, each with over 60,000 people, have sprung up around London, each with its own industrial complex.

Less Than Startling

Britishers, who have lived amidst this change, find it less than startling, however. They complain it hasn't gone fast enough. Nine million people still have outside toilets, they are fond of repeating. The cry for central heating is just now becoming a general uproar. The returning American is just as impressed by the public demand for such things as he is in their progress towards achieving them.

Britishers aren't just calling for material things, either. The younger generation is calling for more education and questioning a system which shunts the vast majority of the population away from a pre-university training on the basis of tests taken at age 11. There aren't nearly enough university places for

those qualified. In a somewhat unfair comparison, young people here note that more Negroes are attending universities in the U.S. than all Britishers here.

No Outstretched Hands Ignored By Rep. Powell

Washington — (UPI) — Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-N.Y.) has made it clear that when he travels abroad, no outstretched palm is ignored. In one of the most detailed reports of "counterpart" fund spending yet submitted to the House, the veteran congressman listed \$348 in tips and other miscellaneous expenses on his highly publicized 35-day European trip during the 1962 congressional session.

Two women members of the House Education and Labor committee staff accompanied him. Powell is chairman of the committee.

Detailed Breakdown

The Negro legislator said the trip was for the purpose of studying the European Common Market. He gave a detailed breakdown of his spending of the U.S.-owned foreign currencies.

Altogether, Powell spent \$1,543 on his trip to England, France, Italy, Greece and Spain, he said. Mrs. Tamara Wall, former associate counsel of the committee, spent \$1,653, traveling to seven countries. Corrine Huff, a committee secretary, spent \$1,775 in six countries.

Tips Described

Some of Powell's biggest tips were \$15 to his ship's cabin steward, \$30 to the maitre d'hotel in his French hotel, \$36 to the capo cameriere portinatio in the Italian hotel where he stayed, and \$24 to the major domo portero at his Spanish hotel. The tips in each country averaged about 30 per cent of his spending for meals.

But Powell was not the champion of his committee, which spent a total of \$18,963. Former Rep. Carroll D. Kearns (R-Pa.), who traveled to eight countries in Europe, spent \$2,666 in counterpart funds. Kearns took the trip after the end of the congressional session and after he had been defeated for reelection.

The same wonderful British people who put up with so many privations and with Hitler's bombs during the war are now sick and tired of being the poor relations in the Atlantic alliance. They are even poking fun at their own wartime record. The biggest musical hit on the London stage is "Blitz" which lives the wartime bombing raids in a musical comedy situation. The most popular revue is "Beyond the Fringe" which pokes fun at every-

thing which once was a sacred in Britain—the church, royalty and even the wartime RAF.

Visits People Knew

I soon found it was far more interesting for a serviceman to revisit the people he knew than the places he was stationed. A reunion with a family which befriended me was most pleasant. This was in sharp contrast to a pilgrimage I made to the airfield from which I flew as a bomber pilot with the 8th

Air Force. It was near a small railroad stop named Elmswell in East Anglia. There has been snow on the ground here constantly for the five weeks we have been in Britain. My wife and I plodded through the mud and slush of farm fields to get to the old squadron housing area. We found the concrete buildings half destroyed, the wooden ones reduced to their foundations.

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 Denny. Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Mrs. J. Y. — They're just shutting me out of their lives. Molly Y. — She insists on moving in and living with us.

Mrs. J. Y. — I'm a practical nurse in my 50s. At 17 I was married to a drinking man. Early in our marriage we adopted a 2-month-old son. I thought that would improve things. But my husband deserted us, and I supported myself and the boy until a few months ago when he got married. He was 27 then, and working on his first job.

The marriage delighted me, for Molly was the girl I'd picked for him. But she changed like night to day. During the engagement she said she'd like me to live with them, she'd stop smoking, she'd change her religion. Well, already she's back to smoking, she talks about returning to her church, and she doesn't want me to live with them, just near them. Well, for all the attention they pay to me, I might as well move back to Omaha where I come from.

Molly Y. — My husband confided in me that he can't handle his mother and anything I can do to get her to leave us alone is all right with him. I don't want to be mean to her, but she takes the position that we are in heavy debt to her, that she put 25 years into Allen, bought him a car, and so we dare not draw a single breath without including her, thinking of her, showing our gratitude to her.

Before we were married, she broke up her home and took an apartment near the small house we bought. She hated the house, said it was too old but that she'd move in if we fixed it up that we wanted her to keep her own place. She does nothing but complain. If she hears we've had company, she asks why she wasn't invited. She wants several phone calls a day. Above all, she wants to move in.

The Council: By now our seasoned readers know that we can never present all the rounds in these family bouts, but must select a sampling of the jabs. Mrs. Y.'s list of the blows she has suffered from the son she calls "weak" and from Molly whom she calls a liar, includes everything from financial fraud to physical assault. And Molly is getting deep into the snarl of trying to please her husband, herself, his mother, and her own mother who, we learned, put up the money for their house. In order to give this marriage a chance, our words must be aimed at Mrs. Y. She had no normal marriage experience herself. Her mothering of this son was of the



WOULD ADVANCE INTEREST—Secretary of State Dean Rusk testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington at which time he said that despite the risks involved, a ban on "nuclear weapons would advance the interest of the foreign policy of the United States." Rusk said when the pros and cons "are placed on the scale, it will be tipped decisively in favor of our present proposals for a ban on the further testing of nuclear weapons." (UPI)



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

Yams Not Sweet Potatoes. Morning Glories Not Lilies
A fat opossum, cooked and served with sweet potatoes, was a traditional "one-dish meal" of the pre-20th Century Deep South. Even without 'possum, sweet potatoes were—and are—very popular.

These tubers could almost be said to be step-children, for really they are not even distantly related to the so-called Irish potato. Neither are they related to the yams; botanically they are dissimilar. Besides, they are just a little queer in their habits and characteristics.

What we call sweet potatoes grow, of course, on vines. But the vines never bear seeds, in fact, seldom blossom. The real sweet potato's nearest relative is the morning glory which knocks itself silly by blossoming. But the morning glory never produces any fruit, although it yields generous amounts of seeds.

One thing both vines have in common; they both like to climb. The morning glory and the sweet potato have at least 300 close relatives scattered over the entire globe. They all climb, so much so they are referred to as twines or climbers.

Grown for Centuries

Sweet potatoes were cultivated for centuries in tropical countries for their food value. The South American Indians, particularly in Brazil, subsisted almost entirely on this food. The large underground tubers are very rich in starch.

The actual origin of the sweet potato is uncertain. Plant explorers and botanists have argued about it for years, and as new evidence comes to light they have to change their theories and revise their thinking. They have agreed, however, that the vine was grown in Spain in the early 1500's, and spread from there into many European countries.

Some tubers were probably brought by settlers and planted in the warmer parts of America. The fondness of the early sweet potato growers for this tuber were deep seated and constant. No written records seem to have been preserved, but a good guess would be that about 300 years ago the yellow tuber with the sweet taste became a standard article of diet on the dinner table.

There is some confusion between the sweet potato and the yam. Some say a yam is the same thing as a sweet potato. But, there is a great difference.

Both Are Climbers

Both plants are climbers, but the yam is a native of the East Indies and strangely claims relationship with the lily. A variety of yam grows

in Java, and is known there as the "winged yam." It reaches tremendous size, and may weigh as much as 30 pounds and measure three feet in length. There is even a "wild yam" which grows in some sections of the United States.

Most of the so-called "sweet potatoes" on sale in the grocery store are really yams, characterized by a deep orange color just under the skin. This color becomes particularly bright after the tuber is cooked.

The genuine sweet potato is usually smooth skinned and elongated, with both ends more or less pointed. When cooked, it is a very light yellow in color.

Very few genuine sweet potatoes are found nowadays on the market. The cooked sweet potato is very dry in direct contrast to the brightly colored flesh of the yam, which is exceedingly moist.

Conditions being what they are, you will probably get yams when you order sweet potatoes. You'll get yams, too, if you ask for yams. Either, of course, is good unless you are afraid of generous amounts of starch. Either is "yammy."

Domiciliary Writers Prepare for Contest

White City-Writers living at the Veterans Administration Domiciliary here are preparing entries for the annual Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project which closes April 15, according to Miss Enid Holmes, chief librarian and sponsor of the Readers' and Writers' club.

The contest is sponsored nationwide by the group of volunteers with headquarters at 333 East Huron St., Chicago, Ill. More than \$5,000 in cash and other prizes are offered for some 20 different types of writing. Submissions range from short stories and plays to outlines for novels, newspaper columns, poetry, book reviews, and songs to greeting cards.

Last year, 1,327 hospitalized veterans contributed 3,400 entries. Through the years the local domiciliary has more than held its own in competition with the VA's 171 installations.

Many famous people in the writing fields will serve as judges in the various classifications of the project. They include Ogden Nash, Pearl S. Buck, Ellery Queen, Bennett Cerf, Samuel Raphaelson, Richard Armour, Bob Considine and editors of publishing companies, national magazines and large newspapers.

Dennis the Menace



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flow of Jeep traffic around the big field.

One runway of the airstrip has been bulldozed into a heap. The other probably will go soon. If any Oregon serviceman has a latent nostalgia to return to his old wartime base in England, forget it.

Rent An Apartment

Far more interesting to us has been our life in London, where we have rented an apartment to try to live like the British for a bit. We have a large room with beds at one end, living room facility at the other, with central

heat and an electric fireplace. We have a private bath. The steam radiator pushes the thermometer up to 80. The fireplace keeps us warm.

To operate the fireplace, as well as the refrigerator, the hotplate and the electric teakettle, we must deposit a shilling in a meter every few hours. The apartment costs \$40 per week. Rents, except for the public housing in which the rate varies with the tenant's income, are high. Food costs are high, too. The supermarket hasn't arrived full-scale as yet. My wife complains that at the biggest food store near here she has to pay for each item of groceries as she buys it. The grocery stores sell only food. Paper table napkins must be bought at a Woolworth's. Beer and wines at a separate store.

Public transportation is cheap. We can get to central London for 8 cents by bus or by underground. Theaters are cheap. We can see the best on the London stage for \$2.50 seat, or stall, as they are called here. Tickets to a similar show in New York would be \$9. Restaurant's meals are inexpensive. A three-course lunch (Britishers eat their big meal at noon) at a pub costs 75 cents.

History Catching Up
Summing up the present situation in Britain, a me-

ber of Parliament told me, "History is catching up with us. For generations we enjoyed a virtual monopoly of trade within the Commonwealth. Because of this our economic system grew lazy. We expended great stores of our national wealth in two titanic war efforts. We have allowed our educational system to develop along class lines. History is presenting the bills for all these things at one time."

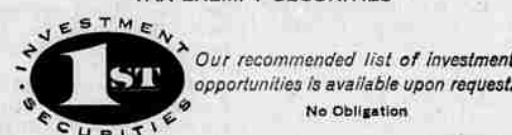
With virtually no natural resources, England must, as her government leaders say, "Export or die." Somehow, this hasn't reached through to the general public as something they, as individuals, must help promote.

On the other hand, the success of their national medical plan and other welfare benefits has reached to the working classes and they are demanding more of these.

The whole nation is going through a period of asking what its role in the world is, where it is going economically and how it will get there. To the Britishers themselves, their nation appears to be in a muddle. To an American, however, returning after nearly two decades, the overwhelming signs of progress in the face of adversity are clear indication that England still has the vitality which made her great.

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