

Dean Allen Writes About Germany

(Editor's Note) This is one of several articles written for this newspaper by Eric W. Allen, dean of the University of Oregon school of Journalism who is now traveling in Europe on a fellowship granted by the Oberlander Trust of the Karl Shurz memorial foundation.

By Eric W. Allen

Dean of the University of Oregon School of Journalism

MUNICH, Germany.— If this home letter develops into a series, they will not become political until the end. After all, there is much in any country besides politics and Munich is the heart of the Hitler region where political and social questions are to be handled (if at all) with some degree of discretion for very good and sufficient reasons.

Hitler was born on the Austrian border, which we have crossed twice in the last few days. His father was one of those comfortable, easy going Austrian frontier guards who stamp your passport, take a look at your baggage, decide not to examine it too closely, and send you comfortably on your way with a "gruss gott" salutation. Hitler himself we saw some weeks ago in Berlin. But no more of this until later.

Yesterday was our second entry into Germany. We first crossed the entire country from Belgium to Czechoslovakia by the admirably paved, somewhat narrow and crooked ancient roads, that wind their tortuous way through another village about every four miles. Pedestrians and bicyclists (and there are unnumbered thousands of bicycles), school children and geese, oxteams and small carts drawn by human hands or by dogs hitched between the wheels, pay not the slightest attention to the autoist.

This time we entered by one of the first of the new Reichsautobahn to be completed. These extremely modern roads are largely the work of an organization that corresponds to our CCC. They are planned to cross Germany with a network like the wires of a flyscreen, and they are coming into use very rapidly.

The new highways are very wide—they might be called eight-lane roads, but at the high speeds used they operate more as six lane—three lanes going and three lanes coming with ten or twelve feet of grass and landscaped shrubbery in between. There are no grade crossings from end to end, no service stations, no signs, nothing to distract and there is no speed limit. They avoid all towns and villages. Every scar made by cuts or fills has been carefully grassed and landscaped with trees and shrubbery. The latter applies to all European roads. By ancient habit of plant-

ing a double row of trees as part of every construction job and every tree that dies or becomes ripe and is cut for lumber or firewood has to be immediately replaced with a sapling.

Travel in Europe is quite different from travel at home—at least from the viewpoint of one who has just driven from Eugene to New York and thence across Europe through France, Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria and the Austrian Alps, and Germany again. Here I sit in my private sitting room facing a row of windows from which I can see nothing except the five or six acre palace garden of the former kings of Bavaria and the spires of a cathedral rising above the elms, oaks and lilacs.

It is raining cats and dogs and is what we would call a December day in Oregon and that is why this letter is being written. Within there is comfortable steam heat in our three very large rooms, with altogether fourteen electric lights that can be turned on if the day becomes darker. In the sitting room are a big club-style leather couch, another couch covered with a big fur robe and an aggregation of sofa pillows, this well appointed polished desk, two large rugs on the polished oak floor, two very large and comfortable easy chairs, three tables, a book case and set of drawers besides the drawers in the desk, flower pots with flowers in them, and, outside, a thirty-three foot balcony (exclusively our) which cannot be seen into and from which nothing unlovely can be seen—an immense awning is ready to be lowered if the sun comes out and gets too bright—and all this, together with our nine excellent meals, costs the three of us just two dollars a day apiece—just about what the meals alone would cost in large American cities.

The European ideal of housing, both as we experience it, and as we observe the vast amount of newer rehousing and resettlement work carried out in the seventeen years since the war, largely by governmental initiative, appears to us to be high. A vast amount of rehousing both urban and rural, was carried out by the democratic and socialist governments after the war, and now under the dictatorships in the various countries the subject is still a matter of wide public interest.

The social democrats built large community dwellings; the present idea makes for the de-

centralization of industry—spreading factories in to the country—and erecting separate cottages for workers where each can have a garden. They all seem very clean and neat and well kept. We have seen hundreds of developments of both kinds. But of this, more later. It is a complicated story; one should not jump to the conclusion that the general economic condition is good; the contrary is the fact.

Treharne

Miss Margaret Smith and brother Fred Smith who have been visiting their sister Mrs. T. Fulton returned to their home in Burns.

Mr. and Mrs. Carrick and family from Vernonia have bought the Andreason place.

Mr. and Mrs. John Glassner and son James motored to Portland on Thursday and Mrs. H. A. Hayden returned home with them.

Virginia Dooley, who has been

LODGES

A. F. & A. M.

Vernonia Lodge No. 184 A. F. & A. M. meets at Masonic Temple, Stated Communication First Thursday of each month. Special called meetings on all other Thursday nights, 7:30 p. m. Visitors most cordially welcome. George Plumb, W. M. Glenn F. Hawkins, Sec.

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visiting with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Crawford, returned to her home at Vine Maple.

Dan Dolan made a business trip to Portland over the week end.

A. Webb motored to Portland on Thursday where he took Mrs. Webb from the hospital to her mother's at Garden Home.

Margie Harris has returned to her home and will attend high school here.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Sehorn from Alsea, Oregon visited friends here.

Mrs. H. A. Hayden and daughter Betty Joan from Wyoming are visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Glassner.

LOCALS

Mrs. Paul Thompson and son Bill returned from the beach last Friday.

Mrs. Chas. E. Tatro left Saturday for a visit with relatives in San Francisco.

Sigvard Bagfeldt and Harold Ridenour made a business trip to Portland Saturday.

Mrs. John Ross, June, Laura and Kenneth Ross returned to Vernonia Wednesday after spending two weeks with Mrs. Ross' mother in Corvallis.

Mrs. Helen Jackson and children spent Monday with Mrs. Ellen Doyle.

Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Cobat motored to Eugene for the week end.

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