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Looking Ahead

By DR. GEORGE S. BENSON

(Continued from Page 2C)

was extremely shoddy.

Primitive Conditions

On a grass plot in the center of Alexander square three women worked pulling lawn mowers, with improvised harness. Like draft mares—men following behind, guiding the machines. On the other side of the square a section of the street was being paved. The workers were on their knees spreading the hot asphalt with hand tools. I sneaked shots of all this with my movie camera, then began worrying when I'd ever get out with it.

Further on we reached Stalin-Allee where the Communists have built their tall, gleaming-white apartment buildings with shops on the ground floors—"an example of what the new Communist world will be like."

One of the shop windows displayed a cheaply-built settee which would sell in America for perhaps \$75. The price, in East German marks, was displayed—the equivalent of six months' wages for the average East German industrial worker! Stalin-Allee is a sham. The cheaply constructed buildings are cracking, the shops have very little merchandise, very little business. Communist Party functionaries live in the flats. The whole project is surrounded by slums, where the wage earners (who are supposed to be the chief beneficiaries of Communism) live in relative poverty.

People Enslaved

From West Berlin next week, my dispatch will report on my interviews with three families who live and work in the Soviet Sector of Germany, behind the Iron Curtain. I have had rendezvous with them at different points in Germany. Several millions of their fellow countrymen in East Germany have fled to the West. Now the stream of escapees has about dried up. The older people, and the people with loved ones who won't take the chance, are remaining behind the Curtain. And the Reds have managed, with many special favors, to keep some of the young generation pacified.

West Berlin is a small island of freedom completely surrounded by the Soviet Zone. East Germans who manage to get to West Berlin still are prisoners, for Soviet uniformed police stand guard and have charge of passports at every transportation terminal in West Berlin. To slip out of West Berlin in a northern or southern or western direction would merely mean slipping into Soviet Territory. Thus several hundred thousand Germans still live here in Soviet East Berlin, their lives completely directed by the Red Masters. In 12 years the Masters' have made scarcely any genuine improvement in their city of rubble heaps and silent streets. It remains a chilling graveyard for human hopes.

—G.G.

The are of living is the art of living experience—your own and other people's.

—Sir Herbert Louis Samuel

Farmington High News

Material for this column is prepared by
Members of the Farmington High School Journalism Class

Exchange Program Feature

Pam Chapman Gains Better Understanding of Germans

The summer moon cast strange shadows over the old German courtyard. The stucco farmhouse stood quietly in the background like a castle slumbering in the depths of night. The cadent chirping of the crickets blended with the soft sounds of restless animals to give natural music to all those who choose to listen.

The weary American girl, her dress creased and dirty from travel, gazed at the dimly-lighted house with anxious and frightened eyes. Time would make this strange dwelling a familiar home and give to Pam Chapman an undying abundance of memories—memories that she would bring back to the United States as an American Field Service exchange student.

Situated in the picturesque Ruhr valley of Europe, the farm was typically north German. In walks a distance from the large acreage was a Hennen ufer, Schwege, a village with a population of 200.

Each day brought new found amenities for the eager-eyed exchange. The pleasant atmosphere of the day by day work on the farm provided Pam with many unforgettable experiences. Warm summer mornings found her helping in the garden, taking the two mile walk to town or learning to cook German delicacies. Desserts of curried milk pudding, flavored with fruit, and bowls of sour milk sweetened by sugar spartan and dinner meal and Pam's cooking.

During the afternoons there was always a possibility of a twenty minute bike ride to the Ruhr, ending in a refreshing swim or other activities with the German teenagers. Contrary to what Pam had heard about the arrogance and unfriendliness of modern Germans, she found everyone kind and amiable, particularly her own adopted family.

During the war the Russians executed the father of her family in one of the fields near his home. This left his wife, son and daughter to continue operating the farm alone. Barbel, Pam's "sister," is now 19, and her "brother" 17. Together, the family made Pam's stay a most enjoyable one.

Although a trip to Europe is a delightful experience for the selected, the A.F.S. has another purpose in sponsoring these students. Knowledge and understanding between peoples is gained by all countries participating in the program. Modern Germany has become a reality to many of us at home—through Pam.

Cleanliness is a prevalent factor in Germany's landscape. The last war leveled her towns and cities, resulting in the construction of new and better communities. Asked

—Alumni News—

Steve Phillips, Class of '56, in the United States Coast Guard. He is a yeoman—specialized office worker.

Bill Rickhardt, class of '57, is taking an engineering corporation course at Henry Ford Junior College.

Bill is presently on a moon watch committee of the Detroit Astronomical Society. Recently the committee made observations in the Greenfield to observe both Sputnik 1 and II.

John Hohwart, Class of '56, is studying industrial management at Michigan State.

Jim Stiepling, a '57 graduate, has a part in the Farmington player's production of "The Bay is Green." He is playing Herbie about whom the play revolves. The play was presented at the Player's Barn on 12 mile at Power Road on November 15 and 16. It will be presented again November 22 and 23.

Donald Wolfe, Class of '56, is stationed in the army for two years at Dugway, Utah. His work is in the chemical weapons battalion.

Carol Davis, Class of '56, is attending Mercy School of Nursing and is in the Mount Carmel Unit.

Jr. High News

Students at Farmington Junior High voted November 11 to choose colors and a name for their athletic teams. Henceforth, they shall be known as the Farmington Spartans, with red and white as the school colors.

Farmington and Dunkle Junior Highs are trying to start a traditional football game to give possession of a trophy. The trophy, donated by Mr. Byron Oliver, is a small brown jug which will be painted white with green and red stripes to represent the colors of both schools. At present, Dunkle Jr. High has the jug.

According to a generally reliable source, the jug was dug up in Mr. Oliver's basement.

describe Germany's slum area, she replied: "Germany has not rebuilt her slum districts."

The frugal Germans do not approve of the spending habits of the American people, according to Pam. The average German family does not own a car because of the great expense. Coffee, tea, and shoes are also very expensive in Germany. However in direct contrast to this, ice cream, chocolate, and other tempting goodies can be purchased for a much lower price than here. Pam, a typical female, could not resist the bargains.

Amidst these tribulations of constant struggle between countries to assume superior positions in world affairs, we wonder in what direction the individual is directing his patriotism. Pam observed the patriotic leanings of the Germans from a different standpoint than most tourists. She feels that the people of Germany do not commit to a patriotism for their country on a whole, but rather for the city which they are a part of. She calls it a "sectional patriotism." Yet she also states that Germany's one overwhelming desire is to reunify herself, which includes the part of Germany now possessed by the Communists.

Pam believes that in living with the people and becoming a part of them, she has gained much. The character of a country is not formed by the beauty of its landmarks but by the spirit of the people who are a part of it," she said.

Pam's two months in Germany proved profitable to her adopted family also. They learned that all American teenagers were not suicidal "rebels" or emancipated "free-willers."

The day the A.F.S. train pulled out of picturesque Hennen was the most difficult one of Pam's life. The train chugged across the northern part of Germany, stopping every few miles to pick up another sobbing American student, their last weekend to be spent together in Bremen, Germany.

After that, homeward bound.

Juniors' 'Ivy Hop' Set For Friday

Committees are rolling to make the first junior dance of the year a gala affair. The "Ivy Hop" will be November 22, 8:30 at the Senior High Gym.

The dress for the evening is germane to the times—ivy league. Couples are to don clothes which make them look alike in as many respects as possible. The best twins will receive a door prize—two tickets to the "Ivy Hop." So if anyone is short on money, take a chance. You might save a few dollars.

F.T.A. Members
To Help Others

The Future Teachers of America, Farmington group, have inaugurated a new program that will enable students to receive extra help in a subject.

The project is arranged so that there will be a file in the office listing the free hours of student teachers, and the subjects they are qualified to assist in.

The principal function of the program is to help students who have fallen behind in a subject, or for those who have been out of school. The program is scheduled to go into effect next week.

Band Members Hear
Symphony Orchestra

A group of 40 band students, 20 from F.H.S., and 10 each from Farmington and O.E. Dunkle Junior Highs heard the Detroit Symphony Orchestra yesterday at the Ford Auditorium.

The concert, which ran from 12 a.m., was put on especially for students. Another group of 40 to attend the same concert January 8.

Mr. Robert Zimmerman and Mr. Harold Karl acted as sponsors for the group.

Varsity Debate Squad Picked

The four members of the Farmington Varsity Debate squad were chosen November 11 by Mr. Lloyd Smith, advisor.

They are: Marlene Dowding and Margaret Hanson, affirmative; Terry Davis and Mike Hamilton, negative.

A practice debate was held at Hamtramck November 14. Since Hamtramck had only four debaters, Farmington sent just its new

Varsity squad. Although there were no judges, the Hamtramck coach said that the F.H.S. team won it.

Tonight at 6:30 p.m. another practice session will be held at Ypsilanti.

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