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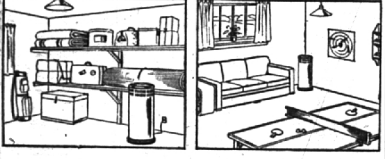
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German Family Lives on \$45 a Month

By Robert Ball
Special Correspondent for The Eccentric

GAIENHOFEN, Germany — American housewives might envy Mrs. Emil Buck the house she and her family live in—a picturesque, half-timbered, South German farmhouse.

They would likely not envy her the housework; she's used to that. But in the last few years, like all European housewives, she has had difficulties nourishing and clothing a family on what her husband earned. For well-to-do families, these difficulties are now over, but for low-income families like the Bucks, they will remain. In the cities such families simply tighten their belts and their pocketbooks.



GERMAN HOUSEWIFE COOKS ON WOOD RANGE
House contains no modern 'luxuries'

IN THE COUNTRY, like the Bucks, they try to produce more and buy less of the food and clothing they need.

For delivering the mail in the village of Gaienhofen, Mr. Buck earns \$20 a month. As caretaker of a summer cottage on the nearby Lake of Constance he adds \$25 more.

That is all there is to feed and clothe the family: Johanna, 15, who has finished the public school and wants to become a seamstress; Hildegard, 14, who will be through school in June; Walter, 11, and Josef, who will be 10 in August.

I sat at the table in the pine-paneled, lace-curtained "garden room." The table is the center of the household. There meals are eaten.

There, under the only electric light in the room, the children do their homework, the father reads the paper and the mother knits. There, evening visitors like me are invited to sit.

"WE CAN'T AFFORD to buy much in the way of food," Mrs. Buck began. "In the summer we depend almost entirely on vegetables from our garden—spinach, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, beans and turnips."

"Lots of the women here put the beans up in salt," she said, "but I don't like that. By the time you've soaked them out, all the strength has gone out of them."

Besides the vegetables, the Bucks dry fruit every year, and Mrs. Buck puts up about 100 quarts of fruit for the winter.

At 15 cents a pound, sugar for these preserves takes a large bite from the food budget.

MRS. BUCK bakes bread in the huge green tile stove that warms the living room. Bakery bread is too expensive.

The Buck family diet might seem monotonous to Americans. Breakfast is the usual European bread and coffee.

American mothers may be shocked to know that the Buck youngsters always get their morning milk mixed with coffee. But in any case the milk is fresh. It comes from the Bucks' goat.

The room meal is the big one: soup, fried potatoes or corn grits, a vegetable and a salad.

At night, warmed-up leftovers or simply potatoes and salad with coffee or tea to drink. The coffee is a peasant "spatz" of roasted barley and chicory.

EGGS FROM THE six chickens provide occasional protein.

Not all the fruit goes into preserves. Part of the apples and pears are reserved for making Mr. Buck's annual keg of cider, which is allowed to ferment to rock-like strength.

"My husband likes a glass to start the day and another in the evening," Mrs. Buck explained. Sunday is the big day in the weekly diet, the only day when meat is on the table.

Ordinarily it is two pounds of beef for the six Bucks, the meat serving first as base for a noodle soup and then as a course in its own right.

"WHAT A DIETICIAN would say about the Bucks' diet, I don't know, but the children are chunky and pink-cheeked. They have good teeth, and the two boys look as if they could lick anybody their age in the village. Mrs. Buck's own dietetic theory rests on a little extra cooking fat.

"I think it's better to splurge a little in that direction when I have food money left over," she said.

Most of the extra pennies she has been able to splurge on cooking fat she feels she owes to the "Hoover Meals" (a once-a-day hot snack provided to West German school children through the gift of ex-President Hoover).

"When the children get cocoa or hot soup at 10 o'clock on school days, I can cut corners a little on breakfast and dinner," she explained.

Mrs. Buck is grateful too for clothing received from America, part of a shipment sent by the Owosso, Michigan, Zonta Club.

AT MENTION of this, the youngest Buck grinned and pointed at his shirt. His mother smiled. "The cotton things were very welcome," she said. "Jackets, sweaters and socks I can knit, but—"

Just then Johanna Buck demanded her mother's assistance in mending a sock. Mrs. Buck slipped the thread deftly through the eye.

"Knitting and sewing are my pastimes," she said. "I don't suppose I get to the city (eight miles away) once in a while, but then, what we have to buy for the house, we buy from peddlers, so there's really no need for me to go."

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On Training Cruise

MADISON, Wis.—Rolland S. McGinnis, 114 Linden road is among 44 midshipmen from the NROTC at the University of Wisconsin who will take part in a six-week training cruise on the Atlantic this summer.

Ports of call for the cruise, from July 23 to Sept. 5, will include Halifax, Nova Scotia; New York City and Guantanamo, Cuba.

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Five Traffic Regulations Made Permanent

Five new police regulations, tried out for the past 30 days by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley, became permanent Monday night after being approved by the city commission.

They are:

- No parking on the north side of E. Maple between Hunter and Adams;
- A 25-MPH SPEED limit on Adams from Woodward to the city limits;
- No parking on the west side of Adams, from Oakland to Madison;
- A new bus stop on the east side of Chester from Martin to a point 50 feet north; and
- No parking on north side of Oak street from Woodward to Lake-side.

Builder Agrees to 35-Ft. Setback on 14 Mile Road

The builder now constructing homes along the north side of 14 Mile road west of Woodward has agreed to keep a 35-foot setback, according to City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

Birmingham and Royal Oak will need another 10 feet on both sides of 14 Mile between Woodward and Grant in the event the highway is widened by the state highway department.

Egbert said only a 25-foot setback would, in the event of widening, bring houses too close to the street.

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