

Have You Met . . .
Mr. and Mrs. George Omelianoff and their children Michael, Suzanne and Gregory. They live at Co. 16960 Birwood, Farmington was their former home. Mr. Omelianoff, an expert in the repair of electrical and mechanical equipment, is now an engineer with Progressive Welder.

Travel in Europe Not Exactly Easy

By ALICE E. MORGAN

"Traveling in Europe today brings up some odd experiences," was one of the remarks of Mrs. Hans Schjolin who has recently returned from three months on the continent. "My advice to anyone visiting the continent is to travel only during the day. Trying to get any sleep is really an experience. I boarded a sleeper and got settled for the night, only to wake up and find the conductor standing beside me. The fact that I'd locked my door made no difference.

"HE WANTED to see the military permit travelers must carry. I had one, of course, but it was in my suitcase. Half-asleep I fished around and got it for him. With a charming smile, he told me to keep it handy and left. I re-locked my door and went back to sleep.

"The next visitor was an American soldier. He wanted to see my military permit this time located handy under my pillow. Once more I locked my door and went back to sleep.

"The third time it was a big, curly-haired Russian. I couldn't understand a word he said, but figured he wanted the military permit. I handed it out, showed it to him, and put it back under the pillow. I just went back to sleep. This time, and despite the door, no one else came near me all night."

Mrs. Schjolin said that various persons wanting to examine various permits and border inspectors were making travel miserable for tourists.

"Sometimes it seems there's one every 15 feet," she said. "They check you out of a country and before you know it another group is checking you into the neighboring country. The tediousness created by this constant checking can be felt everywhere.

"In Vienna, where I visited relatives, it's like sitting on a powder keg. Everyone is tense and uneasy. They have been through two wars and are wondering what day and hour the third one will explode about their ears."

MRS. SCHJOLIN visited Vienna in 1938, just before the outbreak of World War II, and said the reaction of the people today is about the same. They are eaten with fear. They don't want to go to the future, yet the future drives them to it. They don't want to see the destruction around them and still are afraid to try to build up again if they must watch it all destroyed once more.

She spoke of the difference between the conditions in the British and American zones with those in the Russian zone.

"The people in our zones," she said, "are digging out. They are rebuilding a great many places. Including St. Stephen's cathedral which was the heart of Vienna. They are forming their opera again and having their musical festivals as ballets.

"IN THE RUSSIAN zone there is nothing but decay around you. Nothing is being done. The Russians are still stealing anything of value and are still storing food supplies from reaching the people.

"When the Russians first came into Vienna they stole jewelry and wrist watches—just snatched them off their owners. They would take alarm clocks and if one happened to ring while a Russian was carrying it, it would be dropped on the sidewalk and shot at.

"In my aunt's home every lock is broken off the doors. The mirrors have bullet holes in them and chests and dressers have been shot up in case someone was hiding in them."

Italy, she said, seemed to be recovering better than any other country. The people are happy, well fed and well dressed. They are building up their cities and life is going on very much as it did before the war.

"THE THING that impressed me the most in Italy was the American fleet," Mrs. Schjolin said. "No matter where you turned, there was American naval men. It seemed as though they had a fleet for every tourist.

"I felt sorry for most of our men over there. They get paid leave and have no idea what to do with themselves. They visit the shops which are run by tourists and pay outrageous prices for souvenirs and never learn about the really interesting parts of the cities they visit.

"We prepare guides for tourists, telling them where the most beautiful sections of cities may be found, but we send our servicemen ashore without guidance and nothing but commercial values waiting for them. These boys would have some instructions on how to get around the old cities and see their duty tours in foreign countries would be more interesting and certainly more educational for them."

IN VIENNA, where Mrs. Schjolin spent most of her time, mail is still censored as it leaves or enters the country. Letters written in German are processed much quicker than other languages. Telephone calls are also censored and a word or two, not approved by the listening censor, will bring an immediate fading away of the speaker's voice.

"It was a joy to see places I was familiar with," she said, "and at the same time heart-breaking. To see those beautiful old buildings in rubble heaps brings tears to one's eyes. They were bombed just for the sake of destroying something, for none of them were even close to any military target."

"The only sight of destruction I saw which didn't make me feel I had lost an old friend was Hitler's home. We saw that and were amazed at the expense it must have been to the country.

"THE BUNKER, built into the Bavarian mountains, went down and down and was a complete, self-sustaining city, even to a

huge electric-power plant. All of it, now, is going to rack and ruin.

Asked what Europeans thought of Americans, Mrs. Schjolin said they were all grateful to this country for the help, but there was some resentment toward us.

In Vienna, the people do not see why the Russians were allowed to take over as they did. They looted the city and destroyed so much.

"Also in Vienna, they are wondering why we handled the war criminal trials as we did. They are not objecting to the execution of those convicted, but to the method used. I heard ever so many say those soldiers should have been shot in a hangar. The people seem to feel that to hang a military man is to disgrace him needlessly."

SHE SAID she saw a great deal which made her sad and a number of things which were wonderful in that they represented a united effort to rebuild and re-live. Whole cities are being restored. Transportation systems and depots are being repaired and put back in service. Everywhere the century-old landmarks are being put back.

St. Stephens, in Vienna, is rapidly nearing completion. Workers are putting new roofs on and artists are restoring the statues and beautiful pictures. School children are contributing their pennies to buy what they can for the restoration of this beautiful cathedral.

"IT WAS WONDERFUL—but it was more wonderful to come home. How good an American city with its hustle and bustle and whole, fresh look! How wonderful to see people moving about from place to place without fear and with complete freedom."

"I should like to return to Europe before too long, but I shall be very happy to turn my face toward the United States again should I be able to go."

Birmingham to Invest \$350,000 in Series 'A' Treasury Savings Notes

During the next 11 months the city of Birmingham will invest \$350,000 of its cash surplus funds in Series "A" U. S. Treasury Savings Notes.

City commissioners Monday evening approved this suggestion of City Treasurer Russell T. Berger.

These notes may be redeemed when needed and, according to an investment schedule figured out by Berger, will result to the city approximately \$2,318 in interest during the year.

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Mrs. Schjolin with famed Vienna flock

Have You Met . . .
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Eschberger of 5341 Sunnycrest drive? They have one daughter, Patricia, age 12. Mr. Eschberger is a sub-farmer at Burroughs-Adding Machine Co., Plymouth Plant. He is affiliated with the Masons, West Gate Lodge, 520 F. & A. M.

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Told to Initiate Condemnation Suit
City Attorney Forrest S. Haskins has been instructed by city commissioners to initiate condemnation proceedings against the property owner at the southeast corner of W. Maple and Southfield. The city needs a rectangular portion about 25 by 50 feet in connection with the widening of Maple at that point. City assessors said the city wants as high as \$4,000 for the piece, but the property owner wants \$6,000.

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