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Six Solid Weeks Touring Europe

By MRS. THOMAS A. OWENS SR.
 This is one of a series of articles covering a recent trip to Europe by Mrs. Tom Owens Sr., John J. Haluska, covering ten countries, sponsored by the National Editorial Association.

No. 27 BELGIUM

On Saturday, April 30th, we left The Hague, Holland, enroute to Brussels, Belgium. This marked the date that we had been away from home a solid month. It was, it seemed a much longer time—and the International Airport at New York seemed a bit remote from whence we in not too many hours found ourselves in Portugal. And before we were to return home we still had two weeks of travel remaining, before we were finally to end our tour at Edinburgh, Scotland. Every country had differences in living conditions and in manners of living. We had long since adapted ourselves to meeting conditions as they existed.

Belgium had its very own mannerisms. In this article it will not be the intent to relate just what we visited and experienced in the way of sightseeing, but will leave that for next week. However, there was so much on the side-light remembrances that we think is interesting.

We left The Hague at about 10:00 a. m. and arrived in Brussels, Belgium at around the middle of the afternoon, after a bus ride through interesting scenery. And we found Brussels one of the very busiest of all the cities we visited. The traffic was simply terrific. Our Hotel, The Grand, was located in the heart of the city, quite near their famed market square, of which we'll write about later. Here, indeed, were beautiful and ancient buildings. And here, too, we found a population that wasn't quite as contented with their government as was the case in Holland, where the Queen was popular. In fact, some of the natives weren't the least bit hesitant in criticizing their King, and in expressing a desire for a Republic such as we have here at home.

People Sleeping in Church
 Here we found the Guild (or Union) practice still remaining at its height. To be a tradesman a youth is apprenticed for six years before he or she is accepted as a journeyman, and this rests with all the trades and crafts. Here, too, we found a political interest in competitive politics, and more especially because, on Monday, May 2, they observed "Labor Day" in Belgium.

Perhaps it was because of the holiday time that the streets of Brussels were so crowded, but we were told it was customary on every week end. In fact, some of the scenes were a bit amazing to us. We stepped into a small church close to Market Square, somewhat for curiosity, and also for a short devotion period, and we found quite a large number of people within the edifice, but believe it or not, they were not devotionally inclined, but rather sought the confines of the church for a rest haven, as the most of them were sleeping.

Labor Day Parade Quite Unique
 Another big highlight of our Brussels visit was the annual Labor Day Parade, on Monday evening, which we witnessed in full, from our Hotel veranda, and which took about an hour and a half to pass a given point. There are three major political parties in Belgium, the Catholic, the Socialist-Democrats and the Communists. It was pointed out to us rather explicitly that the Socialists are not Reds. The Communist Party has a registration of around 35,000 people in a nation of millions, so that they presently do not present any great menace.

This parade, however, was staged by the Socialists and for variety of participants, it was quite unique. Apparently from what we could interpret from the placards they were carrying it was a demonstration for a shorter-hour work-week, a reduction of four hours from 48 to 44. Thousands of people of all walks and stations of life took part in the parade, and most of them carried banners. There were old men, young men, women, children, cripples in wheel chairs—some of them being pushed, and others guiding and manipulating their own vehicles. Some of the placards insisted on receiving more substantial pensions. To what purpose the parade was intended, I wouldn't know, but that's the way of European politics.

Market Square Was Huge
 And the Market Square—

was something huge in dimensions, and surrounded by historic and beautiful buildings of which I will elaborate upon later, the name of the Square stems from the fact that a great public market is evidenced there every Sunday morning. Markets, too, are held in many parts of the city. Here come the vendors with movable carts and carriages and tents, etc., of every description, and announcers go through the streets ringing a bell announcing that the market is open. In like manner, about noon, the bell-ringers again are about, which signified that market time was over.

Principal market items were poultry, rabbits, geese, etc. Feathers were off the poultry, hanging on hooks, but the heads of the birds remained on them. Poultry, vegetables, etc., also were included, as were meats. Of course there was no refrigeration. Despite the fact that there had been so much confusion, so many stands on the square all morning, after the Market closed, all of it was taken away, and the Square was as clean as a whistle.

"As I See It"

By . . . STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

Last week we informed our readers about the proposed tax program that may become effective here in Pennsylvania.

Since that time such a measure has passed the House of Representatives and is now awaiting approval from the members of the State Senate.

As our readers realize, we have been in session since January and a number of tax proposals have been submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly, but after they would pass the House they met snags within the Republican-controlled State Senate.

If our readers recall, this writer advocated a sales tax at the source, which means that all taxes will be paid by the manufacturer or the wholesaler on all goods manufactured or purchased.

This would eliminate many thousands of political hacks who would go from office to office, store to store, etc., checking books, harassing merchants and professional men, and eating up in expenses and salaries a great portion of this revenue.

At that time I had little or no support for my program but now it is quite apparent that the wise guys at Harrisburg are beginning to face reality and are going to adopt such a program.

In fact, the program in itself is not entirely new here in Pennsylvania.

Our gasoline is taxed at the source; liquor, beer and cigarettes. And every cent of this tax is turned over to the government without making it necessary to make private collections. Governor Leader's new excise tax is just the same thing and really and truly it is the most sensible tax yet proposed by his administration.

But, lo and behold, the old guard of the Republican Party,

after the Market closed, all of it was taken away, and the Square was as clean as a whistle.

Just as unique was the scenes that existed on the streets in front of the stores on Saturdays in the business sections. Here, too, the merchants conducted individual markets in front of their business establishments. These stands displayed the different special sales items they had for sale on the particular day noted. Just about everything was offered for sale, ranging from clothing of all kinds, to food and hardware, and the attendants also were barkers to sell their wares. Each and every stand attempted to attract all pedestrians.

Here one of our group bought the largest strawberries I have ever seen, and presented me with three of them. Without exaggeration they were two plus inches in diameter, and were delicious.

Next week I'll write something of what we saw in our interesting two days' Brussels visit.

out of the clear sky, has just announced through Harrisburg, Sen. Harvey Taylor of Dauphin County, that they will stand fast and refuse to give us any Republican votes for this most important program.

The picture in the Senate shows that we have 27 Republicans and 23 Democrats, and it takes 25 votes to pass a new piece of legislation, including a tax program.

So, unless the Republican Party gives us three votes, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will find itself in a state of confusion and possibly on the brink of bankruptcy and, if ever the people had a right to rise in arms to protest the Republican action, it is now.

Please remember, we are now at the end of our string and the entire school system is on the verge of breaking down. Hospitals are not receiving any help; relief, old age assistance, and various state institutions will just be compelled to curtail their activities because of lack of funds.

It will be a sad day for Pennsylvania if we go past the Christmas season without enacting some type of a tax program.

No doubt the voters now realize how important it is to go to the polls and elect men to the State Senate who are sane and liberal, and who, above all, have some independence, because only last week two of the Republican leaders, Sens. Mahany and Pechan, both informed the press that they would support the present tax program, but only to find the pressure of the Republican leadership now more or less compelling them to change their minds.

My, oh my, can we now recall Patrick Henry's words: "Give me liberty, or give me death." Sens. Mahany and Pechan must now be haunted by these words.

I sincerely call upon every schoolteacher, labor leader, heads of universities, and, in fact, every citizen to write to their newspapers, write to their Assemblymen and Senators, write to the Governor, and insist that a pro-

gram be enacted to save our people and our Commonwealth from a complete breakdown.

SEN. JOHN J. HALUSKA

BAKERTON
 By MRS. DES LAMONT
 Phone Barnesboro 356-M
 (Too late for last week)

Mr. and Mrs. James Hurly and children of DuBois were recent visitors at the homes of Mrs. Sue Regan and Mr. and Mrs. August Busanis.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cruise of Conemaugh were Sunday visitors at the Richard Lawrence residence.

Mrs. Agnes Jones spent several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Lehmer in Schellburg.

Mrs. Ray McCombie spent the past week in Washington, D. C., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Taranto.

The Bakerton Park Auxiliary held a cinch party Monday, Nov. 28, at Bakerton Athletic Club.

All those who helped make the event a success are given a very sincere thank you.

A large number of football fans from this area attended the championship game between John Carroll and Williamsburg at Bellwood Friday, Nov. 18, to help cheer the Mountaineers to victory. The entire community is overjoyed that the team came through the past season unbeaten and untied.

WATER WASTE
 If a water faucet drips sixty times a minute, 200 gallons of water a month will go down the drain, says Doris L. Snook, Penn State extension home management specialist.

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"Personalities" Nearing 7th Year

For nearly seven years, week in and week out, the Union Press-Courier has published a "Personality" picture and story of residents of the area. It is a feature that now probably isn't equaled by any other weekly in the nation. It has proven popular with our readers, and while in the beginning it sometimes was difficult to have some folks agree to such publication, as the years have gone by that feeling has been broken down and every acceptance we receive is greatly appreciated by our staff.

There's still much material to work on—and there always will be. There's no reason that this "Personality" feature cannot continue indefinitely, and we are sure that children of many of the subjects, and even their children's children, will find pleasure in reading the scrap books handed down to them pertaining to Mam or Pop, or Granddad, or Grandma.

Christmas Seals Save Lives

The 49th annual Christmas Seal sale being conducted at present in many ways marks a special, and perhaps critical, change in the nature of the problem of controlling tuberculosis. The death rate from tuberculosis has fallen tremendously, but the number of new cases has continued to spiral upward. What the newer wonder drugs have succeeded in doing is to relieve the pressure upon the hospitals while failing to remove the sources of infection.

In fact, as some doctors have warned, increasing "home treatment" of TB patients may be providing an entirely new public health hazard. For the most part the bulk of new TB victims come from areas where standards of living are below par. And now to these sources are added new victims who remain during illness in their homes. Thus, far from being removed, the tuberculosis menace is still with us, and the task of those fighting it is more complicated. Buying Christmas Seals is a way all of us can safeguard people from this vicious disease. They should be used liberally by all persons of good-will.

A Thought for Next Summer

Recommendations by the Commission of Highways in New Hampshire that more picnic grounds and roadside rest areas be provided in that state as well as on all American highways makes sound sense. Up in New Hampshire the highways have an average of three picnic areas a mile. Here in Pennsylvania we now have very, very few, and everyone will agree that we have far from enough. They really are needed on all our through highways such as the William Penn, and certainly on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Stops at service stations, where parking at a diner may be found, are not enough for the comfort or safety of travelers, especially on the high-speed thoroughfare. The need is for spots where drivers and their passengers can refresh themselves by walking or resting in an outdoor setting, and, of course, at times enjoying an outdoor meal. It is a good policy—Pennsylvania should fall in line.

Observations . . .

The year of 1955 now is entering its final stage. With this week's issue the date of publication now is December 1. That means in another month a new year will be on the scene. Yet it seems only such a short time ago that we had entered 1955. Only to the youthful does time seem to be extended. But December always is a joyous month—in fact, the most enjoyable of all the year, and it ever appeals to folks of all ages. It is the holiday season—always one of anticipation, always a season of good-will.

And while we're on the subject of commenting on the passing of years, we failed to note some weeks ago that the Union Press-Courier had rounded out 62 years of continuous publication, and that we now are operating in Volume 63. Of these 63 years, 56 of them have been identified with the writer. The present plant, circulation and business in a far cry from the small plant, business and circulation back in late 1918. Any business to what its management makes it. Business is established on honesty and fair-dealing, and we constantly endeavor to follow the golden rule.

For several days last week, as well as on Monday of this week, the County Commissioners have sat as a board of appeals from assessments et on property values in various sections of the county. There's quite a bit of contemplation as to why some folks will appeal assessments on items so small as to be almost infinitesimal, and even a trip to the county seat in some instances amounts to much more than the additional tax would amount to.

There's been quite an uproar in the coal industry from both operators and miners alike over the fact that while operators have orders to sell coal, there's been a scarcity of railroad cars in which to transport the fuel. The result has been that many area mines have not been working full time because of the lack of facilities to ship coal. The industry had been in the doldrums for so long for lack of market, that now that there is a demand for coal this car-shortage feature is depressing.

Seems as though the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is mainly the transport line that's falling down. However, better transportation facilities are promised, both by reason of many cars to be released elsewhere and by virtue of announcement that many new coal hoppers are now under order.

Most all of the towns in Northern Cambria County now either have or are making preparations for installation of their annual holiday lighting displays. This hot only is happening in our own communities, but throughout the nation. Each year these displays are extended and expanded. Also the private home displays annually become more elaborate. It's always a pleasure to take a motor trip over the north of the county after darkness falls during the Christmas holidays.

The deer hunters are not in great numbers this week. And Pennsylvania annually has a large deer kill. There was a time not so many decades ago when deer were few and far between in the Keystone State, and for that matter, so also were rabbits. It has been through the policies of an understanding game commission bolstered by many thousands of sportsmanlike hunters that the game situation today even exists. Pennsylvania now offers far greater hunting facilities than do many of the western states, where by all rights of nature, a much-later civilization should have kept game in a more natural environment. Fortunately, politics never was the theme in the Pennsylvania setup.

One of the pleasing features of this day and age is the interest that young men and women of Northern Cambria's farm population take in most all events for progressive advancement. This takes place in so many of the activities of a number of youth groups, such as 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers and Future Homemakers, and several other organizations. It is an outlet in which these young people can meet socially, vie in friendly competition in stock-raising, handwork and many other matters. Farmers, too, are progressive, and are just as completely organized for farm advancement in several organizations. It is a pleasing and healthy condition.



Sen. Haluska



A BIG CHECK FOR CHRISTMAS . . .
 YOURS FOR EASIER GIVING IN 1956

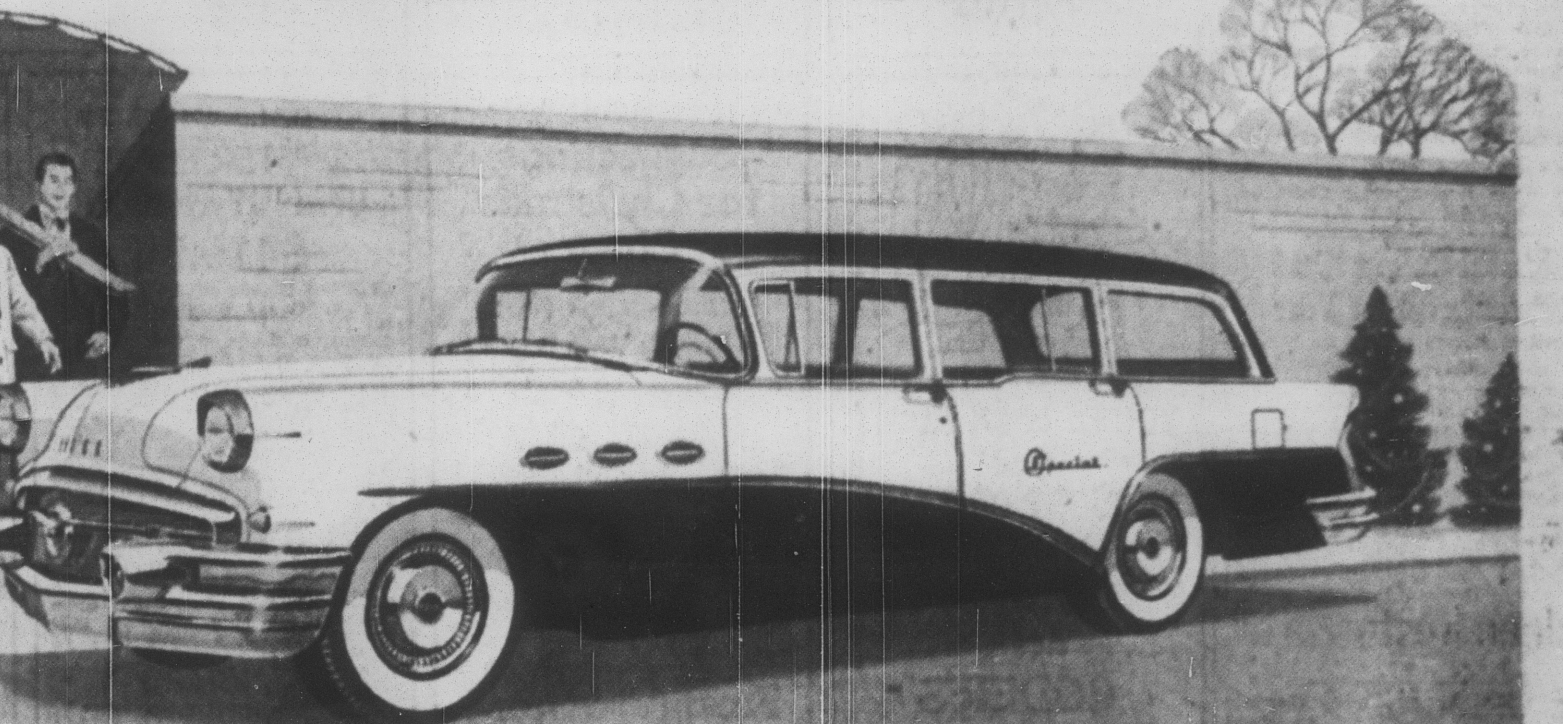
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figure—you have a car with all the suavity and comfort of a smart sedan plus the all-duty handiness of a suburban vehicle. You have a car completely steel-bodied, so its exterior upkeep stays simple and inexpensive—and a car more than roomy enough to carry six and their gear. You have a covered platform that's wonderful for a host of things. It can take an inflated air mattress for sleeping. It can freight a small rowboat and camp equipment. It can hold vacation luggage, or golf clubs and such—or the results of a mad shopping spree, even if you go in for antique furniture.

You can even have the folding rear seat come, at your option, in a handy split-section arrangement that lets you carry both rear-seat passengers and extra-long loads like skis, or fishing rods, or young trees, or two-by-fours.

So what more can we say, except come see it. The Estate Wagon is available in Buick's two lowest-priced Series—the budget-tagged SPECIAL, and the great CENTURY. And, we repeat, both newly lowered in price for 1956.

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