

SABBATICAL LEAVE SPRING 1965

May I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees, the President and the Administration of Mount San Antonio College, for having created this opportunity to achieve a more liberal education and to broaden my experience in such a manner that it shall reflect in better and more versatile teaching and methods of teaching.

Sincerely

Bernard J. Conrad
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*Received
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EJH*

After touring to the various points of interest in Barcelona, we went up to Mount Tibedabo, where it is said the Devil tempted Jesus Christ. The city of Barcelona has a great deal of beauty and one does not see any evidence of poverty, probably because, if a person approaches a tourist to either beg or to sell some article, two policemen at a time appear suddenly and escort him away.

Arriving in Naples, Italy, we found that shopping was very profitable and interesting, as one could buy almost any thing you could think about. Since we were warned to watch our purses, we did not permit sidewalk peddlers to crowd us too closely. We overheard the vendors speaking among themselves and cursing because Mrs. Conrad held her purse too tightly. We did some shopping and were amazed at the good values we obtained. In the afternoon we decided to go back for more purchases. To our surprise, the merchandise in the store where we had shopped early was completely changed as were also the personnel. We came to the conclusion that we must have shopped at a thief's market. We were told that many persons often go there to purchase back their own clothing and cameras. On inquiring why so many deeply religious persons steal, we were told; "It is better to steal than to starve."

We then went to Palermo, Sicily, where one can still see a great deal of of the damage and destruction caused by the last war. In Patras, Greece we found that very few spoke English, whereas every where else English was understood by quite a few people. The Cathedral of St. Paul has the most magnificent architectural structure and stained glass windows of any we saw in all our travels. Then we went back to Italy, landing at Venice. To my surprise I found that I could do considerable walking and that one could go most anywhere on foot in Venice, due to the network of bridges. Of course one could save considerable time if one went by gondola. I was fortunate to be there during a funeral carried on in a series of beautiful shining black gondolas. It was an impressive sight.

Trieste is a freeport, which is known for being a place where one can purchase most any commodity available in the world. But little know to the average person it is the center where refugees from the iron curtain countries wait for their relatives, sometimes as long as a year, to obtain visas to come to visit them. These refugees come from France, Germany, and Austria and wait in Trieste, Italy. Also many who have migrated to the United States find Trieste the haven where they can wait to meet their loved ones. With a little knowledge of the Italian language we arranged through an Italian Railroad Inspector to obtain first class passage into Yugoslavia with a complete heated compartment to ourselves. We were able to keep all our luggage completely with us. It consisted of seven steamer trunks and two suitcases, which we considered a blessing, because we found that luggage shipped separately takes about two weeks to arrive.

When we arrived in Zagreb, Yugoslavia we were very happy that we had all our luggage with us. There is no service for carrying the luggage. We had to toss everything out of the window to our friends who arranged for transportation. We were relieved that we finally had made it to Yugoslavia. But then the fun began. We picked up our car in Ljubljana, where it was serviced and delivered to us. Not foreseeing the difficulties we would face, we did not register the car in Ljubljana, but accepted the kind offer of the use of the transport companies license plates and their suggestion that it would be easier to register the car in Zagreb since we expected to reside there. However, the Customs Officials had a different idea. As you are not allowed to sell or even leave the car as a gift to anyone, unless you pay \$1,030. (one thousand thirty dollars) duty in American money, fortunately Mrs. Conrad speaks the Yugoslav language very well, after three days of negotiations and pleading, then getting angry we were able to get the help from the Mother Root of the Croation Emmigrants we were able to get the car cleared through customs, registered, insured and get the license plates.

However, it was necessary for us to sign affidavits agreeing that we would notify them when we were leaving the country and that we were taking the car with us. After all arrangements were made I was invited to study in their cultural libraries. I also was told that I could do any study or research I wished at their highest technical institute, "RUDE BOSKOVICH" under the direction of Dr. R. Paich. In my investigations I found that the students were accumulating a great deal of book learning, but were getting very little practical experience with which to make this learning applicable to their future vocations. This later was born out in my discussions with Dr. Popic of the Nuclear Science Institute in Belgrade. He stated that if he reworded the problem material of the texts in a slightly different manner all of his students who were making A, would receive lower grades or fail, because all they were doing was regurgitating the information of the texts. Dr. Popic apologized for the lack of practical experience for his students and those at the University of Belgrade, because there were not sufficient funds to provide the necessary laboratory equipment. The most pleasant part of my interviews with Dr. Popic were when he stated that the United States was always close to his heart and that he attributed most of his success in his research on the lighter neutrons to the experience and privilege he had of studying at the Argonne laboratories in the United States.

In traveling through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Macedonia, and the Dalmatian Adriatic Coast we found in the Piazzas framed pictures, side by side, of John Kennedy and President Tito. We also found that the most appreciated gift one could bring to the Yugoslavs was a platter with the pictures of President Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy on it. The average persons all had kind words for the U.S.A.

Arriving in Vienna I immediately went to the University of Vienna, where I expected to meet Dr. Adler and Dr. Nossam. However, I found that they had both left on a geological survey in Egypt. We visited the SchonBrun Castle. The guard pointed out to us the room where the late President Kennedy and Kruschev held their meeting. Also we visited the carriage house where the magnificent carriages of the Hapsburgs are still kept in good repair. While enjoying the training of the White Lippitza horses at the Spanish Riding School I talked to an official who told me that the horses were bred near Kofflach in a town called Bieber. It was a great pleasure to see these baby colts all jet black, while their mothers were pure white. They say that the colts turn white in one year.

We then traveled through Bavaria to Munich, Nurnberg, Heidleberg, and Frankfort. We then went through Alsace-Lorraine to Paris. We left Paris to go to southern France by way of Orleans, Tours, Beloux, and Bordeaux. Where I purchased a package of Half and Half pipe tobacco for 80 cents which would cost me 16 cents in this country. The store was right across the street from a U.S. Air Force Base. We went through the Basque country of France, which was very beautiful. This was where we found the French people the most cheerfull and prosperous. We then visited the Grotto in Lourdes at the foothill of the Pyrennees.

Returning to Germany we arrived at Hanover at the time Queen Elizabeth was visiting. We then went to BremeHaven and boarded our ship for the United States. My happiest moment was when the customs officials from the United States boarded our ship and one of them said to me "Welcome Home". And I said "Thank God I am an American".

CONCLUSION:

Since it was my privilege to travel through Europe, I can speak from personal experience and knowledge concerning various Engineering and Educational aspects of Europeans as compared to that of Americans. Having compared their buildings and roads as well as a few of their educational facilities I feel that I am better prepared to teach our students of engineering and mathematics, since I was able to see clearly what is lacking in Europe, especially in the countries held by communists.