

November 3, 1965
1405 Ashland Ave.
Claremont, Calif.

Board of Trustees
Mt. San Antonio College
Walnut, California

Gentlemen:

Attached is a report of my 1964-1965 sabbatical leave.

I would like to express my thanks to you and Dr. Edinger for the opportunity, I sincerely appreciate the privilege that was given me.

Although I did not achieve all that I planned, other values perhaps more rewarding were accomplished. My experiences in Europe, like most things in education, cannot be measured in a few words, it is an adventure that I will use and value for my lifetime.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard M. Korff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "R" and "K".

Richard M. Korff

SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

Richard M. Korff

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

Submitted by Richard M. Korff

1. A Summary of the travel completed while on sabbatical leave.

We, my wife, my two children, and I, left Long Beach California July 11th 1964 by ship stopping first for one day at Acapulco, Mexico. Our next stops were at Panama city and then Cristobal, both ends of the canal. I don't think I will forget the misery and poverty the people suffer there. Our next shore leave was a day in Kingston, Jamaica, then on to Bermuda, a sparkling isle with a real water shortage problem. Most homes provide their own supply by catching the rain water from the roof.

After several days at sea, we arrived in Le Havre, France, then traveled North East of Paris, stopping in small towns along the way towards Zurich, Switzerland, where we would start looking for a boarding school for the children. We continued our search over the Alps and through the central valley, finally finding one to meet our needs near Lusanne in a town called Villars, which was to serve as headquarters for our stay in Europe.

We had approximately two months before school started so we headed for Scandanavia while we still had summer weather, which we found meant steady rain. We stopped in Bern, then Frankfurt and Hamburg, Germany, and Copenhagen, Denmark. We spent more time in Copenhagen than planned, as explained later. Finally we departed for Halsingborg, Sweden and headed for Stockholm where we spent about ten days, then we curved North and West eventually arriving in Oslo, Norway.

After a few sorties out of Oslo we headed back to Goteborg, Sweden and South across the Juntland penninsula, Denmark and into Germany again: to Hannover, Kronberg, Rothanburg, and Munchen, about a week in all.

Salzburg, Austria was our next stop for a few days, then on to Kitzbuhel, Innsbruck, and St. Anton. Switzerland and school for the children was our next destination.

Once the kids were settled in school we were off again for the white cliffs of Dover and to London. It was a relief to be able to speak our native tongue again----- at least they were easier to understand than the Swedes, Germans, or French. Along with the galleries and museums we visited in most cities of Europe, we also enjoyed several plays here, an advantage of the language. After a weeks stay we headed for Stratford and stopped over to see a Shakespearean play during the festeval; from there we headed towards Edinburgh, stopping at several places of interest on the way. After a few days in Edinburgh we headed North towards Inverness, I played a round of golf at St. Andrews on the way. We headed Southwest from Inverness along Loch Ness (no monster!) and Loch Lomond to Glasgow, then to Stranraer and the ferry to North Ireland. We followed the coast most of the time curving Southward to the Republic of Ireland and to places such as Cork, Limerick, Kilkenny, and Dublin. We stopped by Blarney Castle but didn't kiss the stone, a teacher is gabby enough anyway. After several days in Dublin headed for North Ireland again, passing through Belfast towards the ferry and England again. We planned to go through Wales but the English fog hit and we could see nothing, even at high-noon, so we headed towards the ferry back to Boulogne, France, passing through Oxford and spending a little time there.

We then headed for Villars, Switzerland to see the children, pick up our mail and generally rest up, for we had been on the road for about six weeks. We followed a route from the coast of France sweeping South of Paris this time; the country side was very similar to that to the North, beautiful but not unique.

After a weeks rest we took off again, this time towards Italy, through the St. Bernard pass to Torino, Genova and along the Riviera, then back inland to Firenz, where se spent several days seeing the art treasures. Next was Roma for a week, seeing museums, churches, Roman remains, and generally soaking up Italian culture. We had beautiful weather until the last day in Rome, then the rains came.

We headed North again to Bologna and Milano; we had planned to see Venezia also, but were advised that with fog and rain it would be impossible to enjoy the city. Since it was almost Christmas we could not wait out the storm, so we headed back to Switzerland for the vacation with the children. We had planned to travel with the children during the month vacation period, but a medical problem stopped this.

With the children back in school our plans were to head for Holland and Belgum, particularly the Haag, but unusurally severe winter weather caused us to cancel this, so we watched the snow pile higher and higher, wondering if we would make our reservations in Spain.

Finally forecasts improved, so we set out for Spain through Geneve and into the South of France and its likeness to our high desert.

The walled city of Avignon provided an interesting stopping point on the way to Barcelona, where we spent several days adjusting to Spanish customs and hours. As we neared Valencia we started to feel at home among the orange groves that lined the roads. We spent several days here, watching a fiesta that was in progress, including the first bull fight of the season, and our first! We then headed across the vastness of Spain towards Madrid, marveling at the unexpected amount of cultivated land we saw. While in Madrid seeing the sights, including the justly famous Prado, we also made excursions to many of the interesting surrounding towns. Reluctantly we started back, heading towards Zaragoza, noting the reforestation projects along the way. After a short stay there, we headed back towards Switzerland. The second term of school was about to end and we had return trip reservations on the ship before the third term ended.

After the job of loading our VW with a years worth of clothing for four, we headed for Paris where we spent about a week enjoying the city to the utmost. It became evident that more time was needed to see as much of the city as we wanted, but we didn't want to cut the time too close towards making our ship, with still more in England to see. After landing in England we stopped in Canterbury to see the historical church, then on to London again for a short stay, and finally on to South Hampton via the Stonehenge.

We boarded ship at South Hampton, car and all, for Montreal through the St. Lawrence waterway, stopping briefly at Quebec. The passage was not as beautiful as we expected, a late thaw was blamed, the ice flows were interesting though. After disenbarking

in Montreal, we headed for Niagra Falls, across the way we had our first look at the United States in more than ten months.

It took us about two more weeks to cross Canada using the Trans-Canadian-Highway, passing through or stopping in such places as Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, Calgary, and wiewing the Canadian Rockies, which more than rival the Alps. We reached the West Coast and crossed into the U. S. A. at Lynden Washington after traveling some 21,000 miles in Europe and Canada. We arrived in Southern California in the last part of May, satisfied with our experiences of the last year and relieved to be home at last.

2. A statement indicating how the sabbatical leave will help the certificated employee to render more effective service to Mt. San Antonio College.

The following projects were attempted during my travels in Europe:

1. To study the industrial and social structure of Sweden as it applies to industrial human relations and compare it with the United States and England.
2. To observe and compare the justice systems of several Western European countries by such techniques as attending court and interviewing attorneys etc. (The countries to be included will depend upon the cooperation I can get from the courts etc. involved.)
3. To observe the customs of people in various countries of Western Europe as they affect buying habits and therefore foreign trade.

I did not spend the time in Sweden that I had planned. We lost ten days in Zurich while my daughter recovered from mumps and another eight days in Copenhagen with my son's case of mumps. The result of these delays was that appointments that I was counting on to "know the Swedes" were missed. We patronized socialized establishments where possible and found them on a par with privately owned businesses.

I visited a socialized or "cooperative" match factory and a stainless fabricating plant; the management of both assured me that employee relations were outstanding! (which would be management's viewpoint) I tried to talk to employees at both places, however, none either could or would speak English. It is almost impossible for one to judge a Swedish person's feelings from observation. They are very unresponsive people, a fact born by the Swedish government's program to improve the personalities of their people because it is hurting tourist trade. The Danish people are very outgoing and extremely friendly, since we

traveled from Denmark to Sweden, the contrast in personalities was even more vivid.

The economy of Sweden is healthy and many people point to their system of socialism as the reason, others say that they have a high standard of living in spite of the system. The land mass is greater than California, the population much less, and immigration standards very restrictive, so they do not burden themselves with other countries social problems; part of the "neutral policy" which again helped the country during the past European wars. Sweden's economy profited rather than suffered during war periods, so the fact that they have one of the strongest economies in Europe is not too surprising. The social system has one of the highest rates of suicide and divorce in Europe. It is interesting to note that its rival in these is another neutral, Switzerland. Alcoholism is another problem, blame is placed on customs and prosperity; crime rates are increasing also. In general we found life in Sweden somber.

I suppose that one of the real purposes of the trip was to examine Sweden as the utopia towards which the U. S. should move if one accepts that we are moving towards a form of socialism; to say that I was disappointed is an understatement.

The Swedish personality seems better suited to socialized enterprises than the English. The Swede seems to do about the same job regardless of the circumstances; products and services were as good socialized as privately managed. In England, particularly in transportation, there was a marked lower quality of service and condition of socially managed enterprises.

To observe the justice systems in several countries I used a basic question: How would an American businessman enforce a contract upon one of your countrymen?

I missed my contacts in Scandanavia due to the delays I mentioned , however, I did talk to attorneys in France, Italy, England, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland.

I attended court in Munich, Germany and Bern, Switzerland and found the language problem too great to comprehend what was going on, so I made appointments in Rome and Paris with people from the universities to explain and interpret for me, the court action. (in one case a student, and the other an instructor) The latin trait for not keeping appointments prevailed, in one case he promised the next day, but that was Saturday and the courts were closed and we were leaving Monday. English procedure in Old Baily was the only court action that really had meaning; I could not follow the whole case for it lasted more than a week, but the dramatics of the attorneys, complete with the wigs, were even more outstanding than any moving picture plot.

My discussions with attorneys in various countries were more fruitful, the answers to my question in summary were: In France and Italy, where Roman law is used, they felt that an American businessman might find prejudice against him and therefore should use the International court at the Haag. For justice in West Germany where a combination of Roman law and U. S. law is essentially used, the feeling is strong against U. S. Business competition, and again the International Court was recommended. In Switzerland and England (whose legal system was the pattern for ours) the advise was to use local courts and that

justice would prevail. In Spain, local magistrates, although under the Roman law custom, have fewer statutes and greater autonomy, so the advice again was to use the International Court. After several people had mentioned the Haag we made plans to go there in February, we already had March reservations in Spain, however, Europe had one of its worst winters and heavy snows caused us to cancel our plans, so I missed this vital link.

One Roman law principal helped me, however, since everything is in statute form as opposed to the decision system used under common law, they have a statutory maximum in auto damage claims of \$5,000. This keeps insurance costs down to U.S. costs; the odds in favor of having an accident each year is about 50-50, if unlimited claims such as in the U.S. were allowed, auto insurance would be prohibitive.

I was interested in the customs and buying habits of the people and in the competition of the local products in the various countries we visited with American products. I was interested also in the merchandising methods they used.

Generally, most countries were very prosperous, the Republic of Ireland the greatest exception, and therefore there was a pretty good demand for most consumer products. American products were well accepted, where available, and were usually of higher quality than local products. Export quality was better than most products sold at home in most countries. U.S. quality control is an outstanding feature. In agriculture our products are many times better in quality and usually in price! The U.S. is missing a good market by

not selling more of our products to the European market. U.S. subsidiaries located in Europe are resented whereas products produced in the U.S. generally are not.

Supermarkets and department stores are common to all of the larger cities we visited, the methods of display and paying much the same as here. Smaller exclusive shops are more abundant than in most parts of America. Displays are generally not as well done as in American stores, most of the window displays were too cluttered, the exceptions to this were in France, Switzerland, and Spain, there, many were very artistic. The English, in particular, show generally a lack of taste in color and design.

I attended trade fairs wherever they were available, to compare products. Switzerland was having their Exposition (once every ten years) which emphasized automation to overcome the labor shortage they are suffering, education and training for these technical jobs was encouraged. West Germany also had a labor shortage.

The most outstanding shortage throughout Europe was in housing and no relief was in sight.

Everyone has preconceived ideas about what he will see and what people will be like, I was no exception. I can only say that one of the great values to me and to my effectiveness as a teacher at Mt. San Antonio College is that my concepts of the countries I visited are now more accurate. Much of the "factual" information that we read of these countries is very misleading, my view, although not complete, will for a time at least, be more reliable and accurate.

I feel that I learned more of the laws of the countries I visited from the attitudes of the people towards the laws, than from what the laws were supposed to be.

I can be helpful to many of my colleagues by passing on bits of information I collected that will apply more specifically to their field.

Just as professional growth in our inservice program is not limited to meetings in our subject area field, I feel that my growth in background in such areas as art, history geography, economics, etc. will be of immeasurable value, not only in the classroom, but in other contacts with students, faculty, and the community.

