

# Swiss Boy Here Studying English, His 4th Language

By BOB CONWAY

Americans—many of whom have trouble trying to master only one language—English—usually regard anyone who speaks three or four languages as a 24-carat genius.

However, in one country of the world—Switzerland—a person who can't speak at least three languages is regarded in some circles as "not too bright".

Now visiting in this country is a native of Basel, Switzerland—Peter Brik, who has been speaking three different languages for years and is now seeking to improve his knowledge of a fourth tongue, English, which he began studying two years ago.

Peter, a recent college graduate, is the guest of Stephen Woody on Country Club Drive, and plans to be in town until November. Stephen plans a return visit next summer with Peter in Switzerland.

In his country, Peter points out, learning to speak three languages is a necessity if a native of Switzerland wants to make himself understood throughout the nation.

He explains that Swiss in the northern and eastern portions of the country speak a form of German, those in the west speak French, and those in the southern portion speak Italian. There is no Swiss language, as such, although the German spoken in Switzerland differs considerably from the "high German" spoken in Germany itself.

Actually, there is a fourth language to be encountered in the mountainous republic, called Romansch (similar to Latin), but only a small portion of the population speaks this tongue.

Peter has completed a course in business at the Institute Rosenberg at nearby St. Gallen, and plans to go into the firm headed by his father, who is director of sales organization of Austrian and German mining enterprises.

It was a friend of his father, Leo Weill of Waynesville, who arranged Peter's visit here with the Woodys. Similar arrangements for exchange students' visits are made in Waynesville by the Rotary Club.

Peter explained that his home city of Basel is the second largest city in Switzerland, with a population of some 200,000. Largest in the country is Zurich, with a population of more than 400,000. Both cities are in the German-speaking



VISITOR FROM SWITZERLAND at the home of Stephen Woody is Peter Brik of Basel, who will be here until November. At some time in the future, Stephen plans to visit Peter in Switzerland. (Mountaineer Photo.)

portion of the nation.

Like most Swiss, Peter says he enjoys skiing on the slopes of the country's many mountains, the highest in all of Europe, and also likes to scale some of the prominent peaks—including the well-known Junfrau "Young Woman". Switzerland has two more of Europe's highest mountains—Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn.

Asked to comment on the differences between Swiss and American life, Peter remarked that "life in the U. S. seems more informal... you have so many freedoms."

He added that Americans seem to have more social activities, and explained that most of the parties given in Switzerland are held in the wintertime.

In his country, Peter pointed out, lunch is the biggest meal of the day. As to food available over there, he said that Swiss have no corn or cornbread, and seem to

drink more milk and less coffee than Americans. He added that wine often is drunk with meals as is customary in France and Italy.

As to transportation, Peter related that Swiss have some American cars as well as German, Italian, and French makes, but explained that small cars are the rule in Switzerland because of the rather narrow mountain roads.

Switzerland's system of currency is based on the Swiss franc, second in popularity on the continent only to the American dollar. The current exchange rate of the Swiss franc is four for one dollar.

In standard of living, Switzerland exceeds even the United States, and is believed to be the highest in all the world.

Because of this high standard of living, Communists have never been able to win any major support in Switzerland, Peter said. Swiss also highly value their in-

# Methodist Board Missions Opens 4-Day Session; Will Discuss World-Wide Plans

New officers of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church and of its four divisions will be elected at a four-day series of meetings opening today at Lake Junaluska.

The board, which supports mission work in 44 countries overseas, the United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska, will be reorganizing for the 1956-60 quadrennium and the officers elected will serve until 1960. About 250 persons from across the United States are expected to attend, including Board members and the headquarters staff from New York and Philadelphia.

Officers to be chosen include a new Board president and four vice-presidents, each of whom will be president of one of the four divisions, the Woman's Division of Christian Service, the Division of World Missions, the Division of National Missions and the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation.

The Board president for the last eight years has been Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Atlanta, Ga.

The retiring president of the Woman's Division is Mrs. Frank G. Brooks, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. The



BISHOP ARTHUR J. MOORE

new president will represent 1,300,000 Methodist women in 30,000 Woman's Societies of Christian Service across the country, since the Woman's Division is the national organization of the Women's Societies. All missionary work supported financially by Methodist women is administered through the Division.

Retiring presidents of the three other divisions are: Bishop Richard C. Raines, Indianapolis, Ind., World division; Bishop A. Frank Smith, Houston, Tex., National division; and Bishop W. Angie Smith, Oklahoma City, Okla., joint section, which is the board's promotional arm.

The Woman's Division will elect a vice-president, a recording secretary, a treasurer and chairmen of its three major departments, Foreign Work, Home Work and Christian Social Relations. The department chairmen also will be vice-presidents of the division by virtue of their office. The retiring officers are: Mrs. Paul Arrington, Jackson, Miss., vice-president; Mrs. J. Ernest Wilkins, Washington, D. C., recording secretary; Miss Marguerite Harris, New York, treasurer; Mrs. Charles E. Wegner, St. Paul, Minn., Foreign Work chairman; Mrs. J. N. Rodeheaver, Winona Lake, Ind., Home Work chairman; and Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Lewisburg, Tenn., Christian Social

# J. B. Ferguson, Haywood Native, Dies In Georgia

Word has been received here of the death of Joseph Benner Ferguson, 81, at his home near Marietta, Georgia.

Funeral services were held in the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church at Marietta, Friday, Aug. 31, with the Rev. Hugh M. Grubb officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Ferguson was the son of the late Judge Garland S. and Sarah Norwood Ferguson. He lived

Relations chairman.

The other divisions also will elect vice-presidents in varying numbers, recording secretaries and treasurers. Each division also will elect certain full-time executive officers.

Board members have been elected this summer by each of Methodism's six jurisdictional conferences, by the Council of Bishops and by the Board itself. Before electing officers, the members will choose which of the four divisions they will serve on during the coming four years. After all elections have been completed, the executive committees of the divisions and of the board will meet briefly, the last of those sessions ending September 18.

The reorganizational meeting of the board is held once each four years, after the quadrennial session of the Methodist General Conference has met. The board holds an annual meeting each year to conduct the ongoing work of Methodist missions.



A/2C THOMAS F. CLARK, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ullis F. Clark of Fines Creek, has arrived home after spending a year at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. He has a 30-day leave, after which he will take up his duties as a weather observer at Donaldson Air Force Base at Greenville, S. C.

in Waynesville until 1912 when he moved to Georgia. He was married in Georgia and made his home in the Sandy Plains District, near Marietta, where he engaged in farming.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Susan Huff Ferguson; one daughter, Miss Sadie Ferguson; one sister, Mrs. J. C. Blanchard of Hertford; and two brothers, Garland S. Ferguson, Jr., of Washington, D. C. and Captain John Norwood Ferguson, USN, retired, of Coronada, Calif.

# Deadline Nears For Farm-Used Gas Tax Refund

The North Carolina Farm Bureau reminded farmers this week to file their federal tax refunds on farm-used gasoline. The deadline is October 1.

Farm Bureau Executive Vice President R. Flake Shaw said many farmers eligible for this refund have not made application for it.

A charge of three cents in federal tax is made on each gallon of gasoline. This is the first year that farmers who use gasoline in farm machinery have been exempt from it.

Farmers should file for the refund through the office of P. K. Sanders, Greensboro, director of internal revenue for the North Carolina district.

The exemption of non-highway used gasoline from federal tax came after extended debates in Congress over whether to increase the gasoline tax to finance a new nationwide highway construction program.

But the Farm Bureau has for several years urged exemption for farmers from the tax, maintaining that gasoline used on the farm is a source of production supply, much as is electricity in mining, aluminum or as is diesel fuel in other types of manufacture.

The exemption means savings of \$2½ million annually to North Carolina farmers. "Since it means so much to the average farmer, refund applications should be filed immediately," said Shaw.

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