

Lynne Hamrick And Ruth Bennett Tell About Norway And Continental Tour

It is rare that a Salemite can boast a trip to Prague, but both Lynn Hamrick and Ruth Bennett can! This summer, following their summer session as Oslo scholars, Ruth and Lynn went with five other Americans behind the Communist barrier.

Ruth described it as an interesting experience to have had, but it was certainly not filled with pleasure.

A Communist sentry even put them under the command of a machine gun. Interestingly enough, the sentry was a young Czech, only about 17 years old. This terrorizing episode occurred after one of their companions took pictures of a military fortification. Naturally, the film in the camera was removed by the military police; however, the boy was allowed to keep his camera.

Lynn was amazed by the modern hotel in Prague. The bath tub was luxuriously large; the carpets, thick; and the furniture, modern. In fact, it was, perhaps, the plushiest of their entire trip. And all of this plus three meals per day was only about \$5.00.

Ruth could not help feeling depressed while she was in Prague. She particularly noticed the emptiness of the streets. There were but a few stores open and very few people on the streets. The villages would have seemed deserted had there not been an occasional head peering out of a doorway.

Both of the girls felt a huge relief when they returned to the German border. Though they knew that they had been safe in Czechoslovakia, they had still felt quite apprehensive.

The first of their summer certainly warrants the most attention.

Take note at the rules the Oslo scholars had! There really were none. Both girls had keys to their

dorm and used them, too. (That would be a good way for Salem to economize; there would be no need for a Mr. Wright.)

Actually, both girls adored Norway. The abundant rainfall did not seem to hinder them at all. They went sight-seeing; they shopped; and they partied.

Apparently, Ruth and Lynn were mighty efficient with their studies for they seem to have skipped nothing.

Lynn was quite fascinated by a Norwegian party. Here she was with the "nicest person I knew all summer" — a Norwegian chemist who, incidentally, is coming to the States. He has been described as Mr. Sandresky's twin.

Another Oslo party was held by the U. S. Ambassador to Norway, Miss Willis. She entertained the American students at a tea. Ruth admitted having alternated between buffet tables, in order that no one would notice her "gluttony". The tea was quite different from what we think as normal. There were a variety of pastries, cokes, and beer.

In fact, Lynn was surprised by the Norwegian diet. While she was visiting her relatives in the northern part of the country, she spent almost an entire Sunday eating. From ten-thirty until twelve, they had breakfast. Immediately they went to visit, where they were served tea from 12:30 until three. At 3:30 they began their main meal, not finishing this until five. At eight, there were guests who had

to be entertained with a coffee.

The ladies Lynn visited smoked cigars. This is customary throughout northern Europe. Most of these cigars come in a feminine size, similar to our cigarettes.

Next to Norway, both liked Germany and England best. They were especially impressed with Heidelberg air; there was no language friends, and were entertained royally by German acquaintances. In fact, there is even a rumor that Ruth received a proposal from a dashing young German.

In Heidelberg, the girls visited the Red Bull, the beer hall made famous by "The Student Prince".

England was their last stop before returning to Copenhagen to board ship. In London, as do all tourists, they went to see the changing of the guard and Westminster Abbey, among other things. They also attended a Spanish ballet which they termed excellent.

Ruth felt England a special ending to their summer of foreign travels. For them, there was a relaxed air; there was no language barrier as there had been so often in the other countries.

When they left London, they boarded their ship in Copenhagen. The voyage home was a good way to get a little rest before returning to school. However, it wasn't too peaceful as there were plenty of American and Scandinavian students aboard, and that combination always results in a wonderful party.

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