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# Browns Find Lots To See In Rome

BY BETTY MOORE BROWN  
16 May, 1956

We stayed at Hotel San Pietro in Vatican City, about 3 blocks from where the Pope lives.

I've always wanted to go to Rome, but it was hard to believe I was actually there. It was very hot, but so nice after all our cold weather. After breakfast we started out to see as much as possible in the short time we had.

First we went over to St. Peter's Square. There is a huge obelisk in the center and on either side a fountain.

At the head of the Square is St. Peter's Church, the largest in the world, I believe. The design, for the most part is the work of Michelangelo. On either side of the Church embracing it are tall concrete columns.

The Architect, Bernini, made the plan of the square this way, to convey the idea of embracing all Catholics in the world.

We saw the Pope's escorts, the Swiss guards. Their uniforms, navy blue with red and yellow sashes are still made as designed by Michelangelo.

I'm getting to be as much of a photo fiend as Bud, and want to take pictures of everything I see.

Next we visited all the old Roman ruins, the Forum (The Arch of Septimus, the Temple of Saturn, and Trajan's Columns) to name a few. It was here that the large public meeting and games were held.

It is hard to explain what the Colosseum looks like. It was an oval amphitheater seating 50,000. Part of the two upper walls are gone. The only seats of white marble left are the ones in the small section where the emperor and high officials sat. The floor on which the gladiators and lions fought has been decayed and you can see the catacomblike places underneath where the animals were kept, and the barred rooms where the men were kept. The Colosseum is more out-standing at night, with the lights shining on it.

The Catacombs, on the outskirts of Rome, were originally used by the early Romans for burial places but during the Christian's persecution they were used as meeting places as well as for burials. There are bones, skulls, etc. still visible in some parts of them - a rather gruesome but interesting place.

We saw the Temple of Venus or what's left of it; the Baths of Caracalla; and the Pantheon, where all the Roman gods were worshipped. It has been used continuously as a church for more than 200 years, and is considered a symbol of the religious life of Rome before the change from pagan worship to Christianity.

The Arch of Constantine, seen from the Colosseum, was built as a sign of the arrival of Christianity.

We saw many more ruins too numerous to name.

On our way back, we stopped at the Piza Venezia, considered the ideal center of Rome.

In the background is a monument of Victoria Emanuele II. The building behind it, of white marble is breathtaking, a marvelous piece of architecture. At each end of the roof, are bronze angels. From high up a colonnade of 16 all Rome. At the foot of the monument is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier's guarded at all times by two soldiers.

We really used the film in Rome. The whole time we were in Italy, we just ate Spaghetti, Piza Pie and Lasonga as that's all the Italian we knew, and we never did find anyone who knew English.

We decided American Spaghetti was better than Italian. We thought the German coffee was awful, but the Italian coffee, to us, was undrinkable.

European breakfasts must consist of very hard rolls, butter and marmalade, because that's all we got. Poor Debby had a time, but she manages to bite into the rolls better than Bud and I.

17 May, 1956

After breakfast, we regretfully left Rome. We'd covered 1300 miles so far.

We went through Capranica, a very old town, there isn't much left of it. It overlooked beautiful Lake Bolsena, smooth as glass.

We were back in the mountains again. Bud said they reminded him of Wyoming - big barren pieces of land, and wide gullies. It's so hot and high nothing much can grow.

Just outside Florence we stopped for a while at one of our Military Cemeteries. The Italians were building a monument there.

Bud had on a khaki uniform and somewhere along the way, Debby threw away the only cap he had with him. Thank goodness, no M. P.'s were around.

We spent the night in Verona at the San Lorenzo again.

18 May, 1956

After leaving Verona, we crossed the Po River and drove through the beautiful Po Valley. The hill sides are dotted with grape vineyards, it's no wonder the Italians have so much wine.

After going through Trento, we could see snow on the mountains again, and the air got cooler.

The Italians near the border speak German, and it was so nice to be able to order something besides spaghetti again.

We started through Brenner Pass and the Alps and nearly froze as we had on summer clothes.

We were checked through the Italian and Austrian borders on the other side of Brenner.

We drove through Innsbruck and started on over to Salzburg. We were in the Alps nearly all the time in Austria and they were all snow capped and it was mighty cold and raining too.

The highways were much better than in Italy.

We ate that night at a little Gasthaus in the mountains, (many German restaurants are called Gasthauses).

We went through the Austrian

and do things out of the ordinary. There isn't much to see inside as it was built for a day-time villa. There are 3 huge paintings in the perspective so that the figures seem to follow you wherever you go.

Debby had a grand time touring the grounds. First we visited the Theatrum, a high, rounded structure, with a tapestry of many colored pebbles. In the foreground is a banquet table. On either side are seats for the guests. Here the Archbishop wined and dined them, and when he thought they were getting bored, he would touch a hidden button and water squirted from 87 small pipes hidden in the gravel, up through the seats and around the table, to the guests horror.

There are lovely ponds everywhere. There are grottoes and niches, all containing some mythical figure, and in each place, water drenches us. There is a city run by water, and when it is turned on 12 Spuppets move about and an organ plays.

In one grotto, there is a clown, and when a cavity in his mouth fills with water, his eyes roll, a huge ears flap. We had to drag long red tongue sticks out, and Debby away from there.

There were many more sights, different and unusual (and wet). It's amazing what one can do with water.

After leaving there, we crossed the Austrian and German borders again. We had 12 border crossings on our trip.

We went through Berchtesgaden, another GI recreational center. We'd planned to spend a few days there, but it was so cold and rainy, we decided to come on home, anyway we hated to face one more night of unpacking.

We got home late that night, tired, but very happy about all we'd seen.

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**Andrews Personals**

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Sheldy and children, Mike, Becky and Scott have returned after a visit of several days last week in Old Fort as guests of the Rev. and Mrs. John C. Neville who resided in Andrews during his pastorate at the Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Truett and children of Asheville and Miss Lena Truett of Oak Ridge, Tenn. spent Father's Day as guest of their father, J. L. Truett.

Next we visited the courtroom and the Rainier Museum, which contains copies of all the old army uniforms, books, maps and numerous other articles, dating from the early days of Salzburg.

Salzburg is very old and has gone through the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and the Iron Age. The Celts were the first settlers.

The Catacombs in the rocks at the Monchs Berg are the oldest part of the town. The early Christians worshipped here and hid from the Romans.

There was a small church deep in the Catacombs that was built in the 3rd century and it is very well preserved. It is believed that here was the first Christian worship on Austrian soil.

Next we visited St. Peter's Abbey Church, erected in the 12th Century. The inside is very lovely and ethereal.

From there we went to Mozart Platz (since this was Mozart's birthplace, a large monument has been erected for the composer).

At his home, his first violin, musical compositions, souvenirs, etc. are on display.

Last of all we visited Mirabell Gardens. The gardens contain flowers of all colors and kinds, and also numerous statues depicting various classical subjects.

We left Salzburg and went out to Hellbrunn Castle, built by an eccentric Archbishop. This really is a castle for children, and it's very hard to explain.

The owner loved to play jokes

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