

Leo Weill Returns From Abroad, Says Conditions In Europe Depressing; Too Much Red Tape; Ill-Feeling

"What is necessary is that the people overseas forget their reciprocal ill-feeling toward each other... they have too much red tape, too much borders, and what they should try to make is one big United States of Europe with mutual assistance and no customs."



LEO WEILL

That was the way Leo Weill, retired industrialist from Waynesville, summarized his impressions of a recent European tour before the Rotary club Friday afternoon. Mr. Weill went back to his native country of Austria for a visit. On the way he noted many changes in the continental nations and peoples, which he passed on to the Rotary members.

He left New York by plane to Switzerland, and after two stops in Newfoundland and Scotland, reached that county twenty-four hours after his departure.

"Arriving in Switzerland," Mr. Weill told, "I was very much impressed by the beauty of this country. Nothing was changed since I saw it eleven years ago. No food shortage, no material shortage, and the people were happy and satisfied. Switzerland is very much like Western North Carolina, rich in mountains."

"Leaving Switzerland for Austria, there came three different nations into the train to examine the passport and your baggage. First, The French, then the American, then finally the Russian."

"... my first stop was Salzburg, the famous Austrian town for festivals. There I saw people looking like frightened dogs, nothing on their body but an old suit, and their baggage was an old sack containing their belongings. Children looked like they had not been washed in weeks and like frightened animals. I wanted to eat something in the station, but believe me, all the food I could get—it wasn't much—I gave to these poor children."

"Next morning I arrived in Vienna... there you could see what an American bombing can do to a town. In the city, every second house is a ruin, and as far as you can see only rubble and fragments of houses. Despite this, life is going on in this town."

"... you cannot prevent going through the Russian zone if you want to visit the American zone. There is one street where the right side is United States zone, the left side is French, and the beginning of the street is English. The end of it is Russian."

"I just went along where I pleased, and to tell you the truth, there is nobody who bothers you either in the American, French, or Russian zones. They all live together in peace. In the evening you can see the police force on a jeep—American boys sitting with Russian, French, and English boys, chatting together and having fun."

"The population does not take notice of anybody any more and try to do their work. You have no idea what it means for a country to be occupied by foreign powers. They have to pay for food and equipment for the occupation forces, and only the Americans pay their own expenses."

Mr. Weill was in Vienna when that city was cut off by a new Soviet control order. The Russian zone was closed and passengers could not go to the airport because of the block. Mr. Weill states that it was simply a matter of red tape and as soon as the "Russians issued these papers, the whole thing was over."

"There is not enough cooperation between big powers," Weill told the Rotary meeting, "or things like

that would never happen." "I talked to people coming from Hungary and Poland. As you know, all these countries have Communistic regimes. I can tell you that the population of these countries would be as Democratic as we are if they had free elections. Russia dominates these countries politically, and under their influence and the force of police, they are Communistic."

"From Austria I went to France. Paris is still the loveliest city on earth... prices are sky-high. As long as people don't respect their own money, they will not be able to export. England was the last country I visited, and I was favorably impressed with the quality of their goods, but unfavorably impressed when I saw their high prices, food is scarce and bad... what struck me most was that I didn't see people, especially children, smiling like we see them here—mostly pale and serious faces."

"I can tell you that the European Recovery Plan will do a lot of good to its beneficiaries. This money is spent for buying new machines to make the factories going for food and for raw materials."

Mr. Weill closed by telling the Rotarians that he was convinced that this was "God's country, and, especially, Waynesville is a good place to live."

Disabled Veterans Win Praise As Artists

LONG BEACH, Calif. (UP) — Paintings produced by disabled veterans taking art therapy at Birmingham Veterans Administration hospital here are arousing enthusiastic comments from southern California art lovers.

"Each of the paintings produced represents the courage of a veteran to overcome a disability," said Dr. C. C. Troensegaard, chief of the rehabilitation program. "Their painters are the boys who took the gaff and weren't content to stay on the salvage heap."

Among the pictures arousing comment are three water colors by Eugene Luff, who is paralyzed from the neck down. So he can paint a brush is tied to his paralyzed fingers. His landscapes are painted entirely from memory.

THIEF REPENTS

LINCOLN, Neb. (UP) — There was a penitent prowler here, or maybe he just didn't want the stuff reported taken from the Hobart Layer home. The Layers said their house was looted of personal papers, \$14.50 in cash and a .32 caliber revolver. The next day they found the items in a paper sack on their doorstep.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Leonard Messer and Jacklyn Ge-min, both of Waynesville.

DOCTOR AT LAST

CORNISH, N. H. (UP) — After getting along for 40 years without a physician, this town of 800 population now has its own one—Dr. Carl Comstock, Jr., a World War II veteran.

FREEDOM FROM METERS

MINOT, N. Dak (UP)—Parking was free here the day the Freedom Train visited Minot. The city council voted not to enforce the parking meter ordinance that day.

ANOTHER LEANING TOWER

HAMMOND, Ind. (UP) — Hammond is a rival of Pisa, Italy. The city has a leaning clock tower. It slipped out of line during a heavy windstorm.

SOUNDS CAPITALISTIC

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UP) — Bonds Stocks was listed in the Memphis Press-Scimitar's church section. He came here from Jackson, Mich. Mountaineer Ads bring results.

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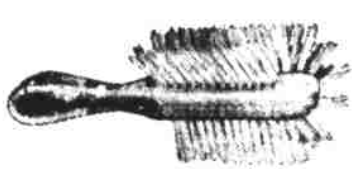
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LAFF-A-DAY



Bob Brown

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