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Rome's Wonderful City Next Step, Switzerland

In letters Mr. S. Mrs. John Caydore who, with her husband is visiting various European capitals while attending assemblies of Jehovah's Witnesses, describe their tour of Rome. Most words, we shall hear about their experiences in Switzerland.

Second day — This is a day of sightseeing. We bought tickets for morning and afternoon tours by bus. Our first stop was an old pagan temple. It's dome was 149 feet from the street level, and 148 feet across. It is open in the centre because the pagans used to burn their sacrifices and the smoke rose to the sky in appeasement to their Gods. The floor is marble and raised in the centre to allow the rains to run off. The dome is the largest in the world. It was built on a high hill, first the wooden blocks bearing a pattern something like the pattern that the ladies use when making log cabin quilts, then the mixture of cement was poured over the blocks. When all was completed and dry the earth was dug out from under and the blocks removed, leaving the finished dome.

It is not a thing of beauty from the outside today but it huge in size. Even the massive bronze doors are 25 feet high. The pillars remind me of the ones I have seen in books on the death of Samson, when he pulled down the pillars, and destroyed the temple, and all those that were in it.

Next we visited the oldest church in Rome. It is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and in it is the tomb of the first King Victor, also the bones of the famous painter, Raphael. Both these places have many altars and beautiful elaborate ceilings, but one thing seemed strangely lacking — no chairs for the worshippers. They seemed to me more like show places since there were at least 3 or 4 groups of eight-seers at the same time. I was very glad of the opportunity to rest on one of the benches while our guides explained the origin and purpose of the different statues. It was utterly unlike anything I had pictured in my mind.

From there we were taken around the city to see very beautiful sculpture figures, many of them with fountains. We took plenty of pictures, but none of St. Peter's and other churches inside. Our guide told us that they always take away the cameras of visitors but since there was such an unusual amount of sightseers most of whom were Witnesses, he had begged permission for us to keep them providing we did not take any pictures. We of course respected that order, but I must admit that it would have been nice take some pictures of the museum which we visited also.

Next we went to St. Peter's. It is not nearly so large as I thought. Inside again one is impressed with the magnificence of the rich and very beautiful paintings, but here again the lack of chairs. Only in one small side chapel was it filled with chairs. In the main part of the church was a huge bronze statue of St. Peter sitting in an armchair. One of the big toes has almost completely worn away by repeated kissing and touching of hands.

We watched the many pilgrims as they passed along in front of the statue. One devout mother kissed it herself, then raised a small child to do likewise. However, the child, like many others had made up its mind not to and refused to kiss the toe. The mother was so angry she banged the child's head against the image. I was quite surprised the child did not even cry.

After lunch we again gathered at Ercatra Piazza for a trip to the Catacombs. This was truly what I wanted to see. Here the Apostles met for meetings . . . here they buried their dead. The Church of Rome has renovated it to some extent and put in stairs which make it convenient for the thousands who visit there every day. In a little building near the entrance they have a place where one can buy rosaries and souvenirs of every description. We showed our ticket to a priest at the entrance and slowly followed the long line of people into the Catacombs. The early Christians had made use of it as a hiding place but it was really a family burial ground. All along the tunnelled walls which rose about 35 to 40 feet high were tombs hollowed out of the soft shale rock. They rose high above our heads as we went deeper into the tunnels. Our guide explained that the Christians had to dig down deeper as the tombs were filled with bodies.

In lighted niches in the walls were human skulls and mummies. Also the remains of much broken pottery. They said that relatives could identify their own pottery since each was a little different from the other. As we passed along the tunnel there were dozens of others leading away in different directions. We were warned to stay close together as we could easily be lost and never found and I'm quite sure it would be very easy to be lost. I thought of those early Christians down in those dark tunnels, with perhaps just a candle. How strong their faith must have been in the Christ to endure and die for the truth. And I wondered how many of us today would stand that test.

At last we climbed the steep stairs and found ourselves once again near the entrance. There were many sober faces as we all piled into our respective buses and headed for home. I wanted so much to see the Coliseum also but time would not permit. Our purpose for this visit was a meeting together in worship to the Eternal Father, our great and Glorious God.

Many Local Exhibitors At CNE Holstein Show

There is an exceptionally large entry for the Holstein class at the CNE this year, with 328 head entered by 113 exhibitors. This compares with 256 head shown by 87 exhibitors at the 1964 show.

Judging will take place Thursday and Friday, September 1st and 2nd with Wm. K. Hapburn, of Dakon, Pa., placing the awards.

While operated as an open show, the CNE is designated as the Holstein championship show for West Central Ontario, and all but seven of the exhibitors are from the ten counties in this district. Waterloo has sixteen exhibitors, Halton seventeen, Peel fifteen, Hamilton eleven, Brant and Westworth eight each, Lincoln and Wellington seven each, Walloway five and Grey four.

Holstein fieldman George Drennan of Guelph, states that this will be a very strong show from the standpoint of quality. He is looking for particularly keen competition in the county herd class, where each of the above ten counties will have a first class entry.

Prize money for Holsteins total \$7,318.00 which is believed to be the largest amount ever offered in Canada.

Local exhibitors include: Brock Harris, Milton; A. G. Hunter, Burlington; Ashville Farm, Milton; Gordon Sinclair, Freeman; Morley Watson, Burlington; Lloyd Pickard, Oakville; James W. Carney, Georgetown; Wilfred Leslie, Georgetown; Robert C. Alexander, Georgetown; Jack R. Taylor, Oakville; Tovell Bros., Halton; E. Ross Segsworth, Burlington; Barbara Y. Royle, Oakville; H. C. Cooper, Oakville; J. F. Trimble, Streetsville; Martyn Haslop, Burlington; Hays Farms, Oakville.

And while we do have a little time to see the sights we his ourselves back to our convention to feed once again of the Bread of Life, our Spiritual food. Tomorrow we leave for 2 days holiday in Switzerland.

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