

Moscow nights kept getting better

Clear blue skies and sunshine greeted us for the second day in a row when we rose Sunday morning and boarded a bus for a sight-seeing tour inside the Kremlin. Sunday, we discovered, is a popular day for Kremlin visits. The long walkway leading up to it was jammed with people, some Soviets, many more guided groups from European countries.

For a period of two hours we strolled about, viewing and photographing the many government buildings, old churches, and tulip gardens there. We were shown the Palace of Congress Ballet Theatre, a beautiful new building similar to the O'Keefe Centre, which is also situated within the Kremlin walls. We were careful to walk only in the areas marked for same and not to wander off the beaten track where police were already blowing their whistles to send sightseers back to the walkways. Otherwise, we were free to photograph anything with the exception of the church interiors which contain valuable icons.

Following lunch at the Hotel Leningrad, we travelled by bus to the Soviet Exposition of Economic Achievement where many of the Russian space and aeronautics exhibits are located. The Exposition grounds are similar to the C.N.E. in Toronto. The huge gates at the entrance reminded me of the Princes Gates, except for the letters CCCP inscribed on them. Buildings on the grounds housed exhibits in the fields of communications, education, agriculture, aeronautics and space etc. The space exhibit includes many of the spacecraft used in early Russian flights and photographs of all the famous cosmonauts.

A Ukrainian choir performed for spectators on an open-air bandstand, children enjoyed rides in an adjoining amusement park and mothers and fathers guided their tots around, enjoying the day the same as they do in Toronto every August. Daddy would like to see this, but no, mommy wants to go this way and the kids always seem to be headed for ice cream stands. The Exposition even had its huge fountains and a little motor train on which visitors can ride around the entire grounds for about a nickel.

Our visit to the Exposition was most interesting, but at the same time left us

physically fatigued. After a roast steak dinner at the Leningrad, it was back to the Hotel Neptune to relax and get some rest. Monday evening was also a good night to take it easy after an afternoon visit to the impressive Central Army Sports Club, whose excellent facilities my friend Bruce Andrews will describe in a future edition.

A personal highlight of our three week stay in Moscow was the Tuesday evening reception given for our group of 100 students at the Canadian Embassy. Besides a free bar (beer, rye or whatever we wanted), mini-hamburgers and miniature slices of pizza were served buffet style. A late afternoon rainstorm destroyed plans to have the reception in the beautiful gardens, but the taste of good old Canadian hamburgers more than made up for this minor disappointment. The ambassador and his staff made all of us feel quite at home and our Russian professors, who were invited as guests also enjoyed their first visit to the Canadian Embassy.

The evenings kept getting better and even those in our group, who found the lectures at the Institute boring for one reason or another were at least beginning to count their blessings from a cultural point of view. Wednesday night, for instance, found us in a 102 year old theatre listening to the Moscow Symphony Orchestra under the direction of a young German conductor named Nelson. The theatre was like you would see in the "Sound of Music" movie, a great balcony with ornate decorations and paintings of the world's great composers high along each wall. The Moscow Symphony, we were told, is probably the second best orchestra in the Soviet Union, second only to the National Symphony (yes, they have a national group, just like hockey). I could believe they were excellent musicians when their first piece sent a shiver down my spine. I'd never heard music like that before.

"What a rich experience, just for us to be here," commented Dr. John Vooley of Dalhousie University.

The evenings indeed were rich in experience for us, yet easy on the wallet, thanks to our Soviet hosts who provided tickets for all of these events absolutely free. Each of us paid \$895 for the three week study tour, including two way flight, ac-



DOMES OF the Kremlin churches behind the Palace of Congress theatre.

commodation, meals etc., but when all the cultural events and the first rate physical education instruction we benefited from were thrown in, we realized we had the steal of the century. In fact, a cost study done by Loyola University came up with a figure of not less than \$2,500 per person. The Soviet government, anxious to make a good impression on this first exchange study tour apparently subsidized the three week stay to that extent.

The traditional dancing bears didn't show up for some unexplained reason, but with a trainer taming 10 tigers at once, expertly trained horses, high wire and trapeze acts like I had never before seen, the Moscow Circus made Thursday evening another highlight of our stay. The circus is held in a modern, glass-enclosed circular building which has only one ring, but

several floors which all of a sudden rise up from beneath depending upon the type needed for the next act. Clowns horse about battling each other with sticks between acts to keep the audience in a happy mood. Happy is the only word that could be used to describe the mood on the bus back to our hotel. It had never been that noisy before. We tempered our excitement with the realization that we were being shown the best side of Moscow and that although we were being treated royally, living in Moscow or anywhere in the Soviet Union is probably no picnic for the average \$50 a week laborer. In future weeks I'll have more to say about our visit to the American Embassy, the Ballet and the Moscow Cup track meet, along with some not so favorable impressions of other things we saw.

This week Denis Gibbons reports on more cultural events and sightseeing trips during his three week visit to Moscow

Bantam girls are in first

Acton bantam girls moved into first place in the Halton Rural Minor Softball League, when they whipped Lowville 20-6 last Wednesday night.

Susan Lehn paced the Acton hitting attack with four base hits. Gayle Deforest and Karen Van Der Eyken had three each, Marg Slingerland, Debbie Brown, Kim McCristall and Carol Jordan two apiece and Laurel Murchison one. Both Kim McCristall and Carol Jordan clouted home runs to aid the Acton cause.



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Titans take lead

Titans moved into sole possession of first place in the Acton Recreational softball league by edging Blazers 8-7 at the park Sunday night. Arrows clobbered Avengers 13-2 in the other game.

A two run homer by Ted Hagan and two hit performances by Ron Moore, Joe Richard and Don Rogers helped Titans to their big win. Hagan was the winning pitcher.

Don Richard and Wes Jones had three hits apiece for the Blazers, who scored four times in the first inning, but relinquished the lead and lost the game in the bottom of the seventh.

Arrows built up a 13-1 lead in the first three innings of their game, then just coasted the rest of the way. Jim Whitmill carried a big bat for the winners with four base hits. Ray Graham, Rodger McEachern, and Duncan Belfountain had three apiece.

Brent MacEachern hit a bases-empty homer for the Avengers and Bill Boyd scored the other run after hitting a single.

Standings (June 30 / 74)

	W	L	F	A	P
Titans	4	1	52	33	8
Avengers	3	2	46	39	6
Arrows	2	3	49	53	4
Blazers	1	4	45	57	2

Minor soccer dates

Games for week July 3-10
HOUSE LEAGUE

Squirrels
July 3 Tigers vs. Angels—M. Z. Bennett
July 4 Tornados vs. Falcons—M.Z. Bennett
Atom
July 3 Bombers vs. Centennials—Acton Park
July 4 Rangers vs. Rockwood—Acton Park
July 9 Rovers vs. Rangers—Acton Park
Mosquito-Pee Wee
July 5 Raiders vs. Hornets—High School
July 8 Rockets vs. Raiders—High School
July 9 Hornets vs. A. J. Dynamos—High School
July 9 Spiffires vs. Raiders—R.L. School
Halton, Peel
Mosquito July 3 Acton at Burlington Burlington
Mosquito July 10 Acton vs. Ching—Acton High School
Pee Wee July 4 Acton at Burlington—Burlington
Bantam July 8—Acton at Dixie—Dixie

Falcons tame squirt Tigers

By John Toebes
Falcons scored a 4-1 victory over the Tigers in Acton Minor Soccer squirt division house league play last week. Both sides played well.

Rangers came up with a 1-0 win over the improving Centennials in atom league action and Rockwood edged the Bombers 2-1 in the same group. Daniel Guest and Craig Yarmey scored for Rockwood. Greg Near replied for the Bombers.

In the mosquito-pee-wee division Rockwood Spiffires battled to a 2-2 draw against Rockwood Rockets. Bob Hudson and Kevin Murdoch scored

for the Spiffires. Greg Mets and Matthew Wilson were the Rockets' goalkeepers. Raiders dropped an 11-1 decision to the A.J. Dynamos.



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