

Local Girl in Europe

Liz Finds Austrians Friendly, Fun Loving

By Lorne Gundlack
Austrians, particularly Viennese, know how to live better than Canadians. At least, they do in the opinion of Elizabeth Dreger, R.R. 1, Milton. Liz recently spent nine days at her home just west of Milton in between a 20-month stay in Italy and Austria and a one-year visit to Puerto Rico.

The majority of Austrians don't save any money, Liz relates. They live to the full extent of their means. Few own their houses and many don't have cars. An example of their way of life is two-month period preceding Ash Wednesday, called "fasching". This period somewhat resembles a two-month Mardi Gras with costume parties, dancing in the street and gaiety in general marking it. Little work is done and few could care less.

Left in 1960
Liz graduated from Milton High in 1959. In September of 1960 she left for Austria via Italy to learn German in Vienna. From Milton, she went to New York, then to Venice on the Italian Line. She spent a month there at her cousin's. Liz reports that Venice is one of the worst cities she has ever visited for getting lost. Its narrow, winding streets and many canals can easily confuse even an experienced traveller.

Once in Austria, she immediately ran into a pack of trouble. Work permits are very difficult to obtain and it took four months for Liz to get her permit. Having obtained it, her troubles were still not over, as a foreigner has

a tough time getting work in Vienna. She once was hired as a stewardess but her employment lasted about five minutes. As soon as the airline discovered she was Canadian, they said "no job". Liz could have been a spy and might have been very busy, espionage-wise, while flying over Iron Curtain countries. From 20,000 feet yet!

When she did finally find a job, it was almost worth the wait. Liz went to work as a receptionist and switchboard operator in one of the largest hotels in Vienna (110 rooms). While working there, she saw the Jelineks, Otto and Maria, as the world-champion pairs figure skaters from Oakville were staying in the hotel. "I felt like going up to them and saying hello," relates Liz, "but whenever I saw them, they were surrounded by reporters and photographers."

Many Visitors
Vienna is the cultural hub for Austria and for many of the surrounding countries. Thus many well-known people may be found there at virtually any time of the year. The Kennedys and the Khrushchevs visited during Liz's stay and she reports that the city was crawling with bodyguards and security men watching for possible assassins.

As soon as the grapes ripen in the many vineyards surrounding Vienna, the farmers who grow the grapes and make the wine have benches for people to sit and bask in the sun while enjoy-

ing some conversation, wine and the music of violin. This goes on all day and most of the night.

No Alcoholism
Speaking of wine, Liz points out that the people drink wine almost as we drink tea or coffee, that there is no minimum age and yet there is a much smaller percentage of alcoholism than there is in Canada. "I think our liquor laws are ridiculous. Because it is forbidden, youngsters think it is a big thing to drink." Just as Eve and the forbidden fruit, it seems alcohol is a bigger temptation when you can't have it legally.

One of the souvenirs Liz brought back with her was an orange belt in judo, obtained at a judo school in Vienna. "I only had to use it once, smack in the centre of Vienna. I'll never forget the surprised look on the guy's face as he looked up at me from the sidewalk."

As anyone who knows Liz realizes, she is very athletic. She spent Christmas and New Year's skiing. She recalls climbing a mountain for five hours with a full pack on her back but the trip down "was worth it." On her holidays the previous summer, she had stayed with a fishing family and learned much about the life of this type of people.

Skating Holiday
The last three months of her stay in Austria were spent skiing in the beautiful mountains of the Austrian countryside. Her

brother Jeff took a holiday from his job with P. L. Robertson Co. Ltd. in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and joined her for three weeks to do some skiing himself.

Liz left Austria in early April. She went through Germany and Holland on her trip back to Milton. While crossing the Atlantic, on the Dutch liner Rydam, Liz and all the other passengers received a large shock when the ship scraped an iceberg. Fortunately there was no serious damage and they proceeded without further difficulty.

While on the trip home, Liz won the ship table tennis championship and the talent contest (she plays the guitar). She says of the talent contest, "There wasn't much competition. Nearly everyone else was seasick."

Contrast
On her arrival back in Canada Liz noticed marked differences between this country and Austria. "The people seem friendlier there, somehow. When they say "come back and visit us," they mean it." One of the chief differences is the number of people driving cars here compared to Austria. Many more Austrians like to hike and ride bicycles than Canadians. Hiking trails and hostels have been established there for many years. These are rapidly gaining popularity in Canada, with the Bruce Trail, presently under construction, being the best example.

Another common sight in Vienna which has only recently be-

gun to be seen here is the coffee house. Vienna is famous for its coffee houses in which it is common to see people talk for hours over a cup of coffee. In Canada, most people associate coffee houses with bearded beatniks, mad poetry and espresso.

The springs are longer and see many more flowers than in Canada. However, the short, comparatively drab Austrian autumns cannot compare with our beautiful Canadian fall. One of the Canadian features Liz missed most was the appearance of the multi-hued autumn leaves.

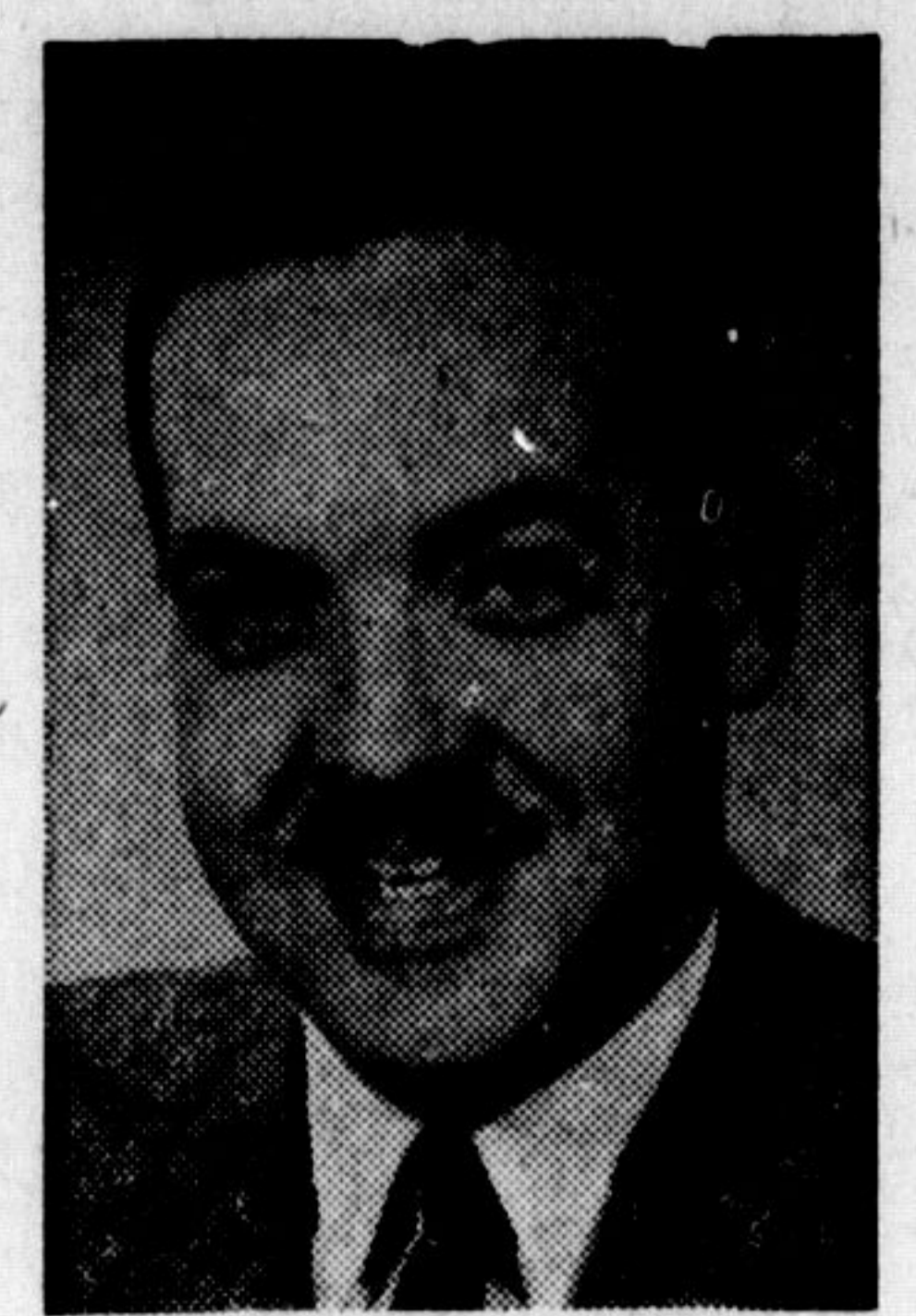
Many Souvenirs
Naturally, Liz brought souvenirs home with her — a tapestry

showing Vienna's largest and most beautiful cathedrals; a set of bells for use on a door, made from cow bells (all Austrian farmers have bells on their lead cows) and producing a sweet chime when the wooden clapper is pulled; a dress worn by Austrian women called a "dirndl"; a beautiful thin crystal bowl which she brought all the way home with her in the centre of her largest trunk in a hat wrapped in paper and surrounded by clothes; mats, candle holders, dolls, figurines and many others. However she says that "my most treasured souvenirs are the songs I learned and the friends I made. I'm going back someday."

One interesting sidelight of her Austrian visit was the recovery of a Bible which had been in the Dreger family from 1707 to 1950. The Dregers lived in Czechoslovakia prior to the war. When their home was seized they fled to Vienna. Luck was still against them as their home there was bombed. Before leaving the country, Mrs. Dreger left the Bible with a farmer and his wife in the country some miles from Vienna. Shortly after arriving in Vienna, Liz went to the farmhouse, recovered it and brought it home with her. The Bible is very large and is the most highly valued of all the mementos Liz brought back.

Off Again
Although she hardly had time to unpack before it was time to pack again to go to Puerto Rico, Liz found time to tour Milton. She found a big difference in the Main St. with many businesses having been replaced by new ones since her departure. She also took time to see places such as Kelso Dam, Glen Eden, the county building and the School for the Deaf.

This Milton girl hopes to work in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for a year or so while she is learning Spanish. Where to after that? She doesn't know, but chances are she won't be staying in one place too long.



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KILBRIDE

Guides to Attend May Rally Good Neighbors Hold Euchre

By Mrs. William Watson
The local association of Girl Guides met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Robertson Thursday afternoon with 15 members present. Vice-president, Mrs. Allie Sunstrum presided. The monthly reports were given by Mrs. Norman Smith, Mrs. Ken Warner and Mrs. Joseph Odorico. Mrs. William Allison and Mrs. Harold Jackson, committee in charge of collections for the rummage sale being held in Milton, reported that there had been a large amount turned in.

Plans for the banquet to be held in the Sunday school room May 14 were completed. Lieutenant, Mrs. Roy Lewis attended the meeting and reported that there would be a guide rally in Lowville park, May 26 at which time the Kilbride company would go and take part and all parents were welcome. A social period followed with a contest conducted by Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Don Ferrier and won by Mrs. Allison. Lunch was served by the hostess.

U.C.W. Meet
The United Church Women's organization met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coverdale, Cedar Springs Road on Thursday evening with 16 members present. President Mrs. Austin Hiscock presided and opened the meeting with the singing of the hymn What A Friend We Have in Jesus. Devotional was conducted by Mrs. Mel Davies. The secretary's report was read by Mrs. Eric McArthur. Mrs. Matt Howard gave the monthly card report and reported she sent out 18 Easter cards to the senior residents.

The group is going to cater to the Girl Guide banquet on May 14, so a committee was selected and they are Mrs. Hiscock, Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. Cliff Fretz and Mrs. Joseph Pickett. The group was entertained with vocal selection sung by the Cedar Springs girls of the junior choir. Readings were given by Mrs. Stan Corman and Mrs. Wilbert Ford. A social period followed with Mrs. Fretz conducting two contests which were won by Mrs. Carman and Mrs. Henry Gorter. Lunch was served by the hostess.

assisted by Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Fretz. The next committee is Mrs. Gorter and Mrs. Joseph Henry.

Village Socials
Miss Margaret Dunseith has joined the teaching staff at Kilbride school and is teaching grade one.

Bert Fletcher of Thomas St., arrived home Tuesday after spending two months in Florida with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fletcher.

Sympathy is extended to the Jackson families on the passing of their mother, the late Mrs. Evvie Jackson of Cobocok.

Alfred Cassali of Arula is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Odorico of Baker St.

Peggy Ann Smith spent Easter week in Toronto with her cousin Helen Smith.

The village welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Svsiam and family who moved here recently.

Diane Pegg spent Easter holidays with her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Clark Pegg at Nelson.

Easter Holiday
Bruce and Ronnie Carman spent Easter holidays with their grandmother, Mrs. Irene Jarvis of Milton.

Anniversary greetings and best wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. Don Barrett on May 2 and to Mr. and Mrs. Cam Watson.

Birthday greetings and best wishes go to Mrs. Andy Wetherelt and Charlie Hepburn Jr. on May 3 and Doug Watson on May 6.

Kenneth and Jimmy Gorter spent a few days with their cousin Cathy Grant at Owen Sound.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lepard on the birth of their daughter on April 28 at the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Agnew and

family have moved to Acton. They will be missed in the village.

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Edith Hollingsworth and family in their recent bereavement.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Real and family of Hamilton were dinner guests with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Inglis on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Munro and family of Mount Bridges spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Angus McLain and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Fretz of Thomas St. hosted the Good Neighbor Club on Monday evening. Euchre was played and prizes went to Mrs. Joan Coulson, ladies' high; Mrs. Ron Mason, ladies' second high; Mrs. Albert McCartney, ladies' consolation; Melford Colling, men's high; James Wetherelt, men's second high; Douglas Potter, men's consolation. Lunch was served by the hostess assisted by Mrs. Basic Potter, Mrs. Andy Wetherelt and Mrs. McCartney.

Mrs. Allie Sunstrum, Donnie and Beverley attended the Kelly-Sunstrum wedding at St. Joseph's church at Demers Centre, Quebec, on Monday.

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