

**MR. & MRS. BUCK RETURN FROM OVERSEAS TRIP**

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Buck have recently returned from a trip overseas, where they visited Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, along with other members of the Fort William Male Choir, their wives and associate members. Leaving by plane at the Thunder Bay air port, they transferred to a larger plane at Toronto and the first stop was Oslo, Norway.

They presented an outdoor concert first at Frogner Park, the next at the Figeland Museum, and again at the Munch Museum. The Figeland Museum is famous for its beautiful gardens and huge statues.

While in Oslo, they viewed the Holmenkollen Ski Jump, the highest in the world and which is used by invitation only. They saw the Windjammer, one of the few remaining sailing ships, which is used by the Norwegian navy as a training ship. They travelled to Boda, for a look at the Land of the Midnight Sun. Boda had been partially destroyed during the second World War and has been rebuilt. In Oslo they also saw the Apollo 10 on display, the Kon Tiki Raft and the Fram, a ship used by Amundsen when he made the historic expedition to the South Pole. They were taken on a tour of the City Hall where the walls are decorated with murals depicting the days before, during and after the Second War. At their concerts in Oslo, they sang the Norwegian National Anthem, in the native tongue, which proved a delight to the audience.

On their last night in Oslo, they dined at the famous Frascati Restaurant, where the menu offered reindeer meat and Cloudberry for dessert.

Leaving Oslo by boat, called the King Olaf, carrying 1,000 passengers, they sailed to Copenhagen where they had five days of free time, to visit the city, and do as they pleased. In Copenhagen, they saw the Tivoli Gardens, whose beauty beggars description.

Here too, they saw the Changing of the Guard and guided tours were arranged for them, to points of interest. One trip was to Sweden, which was enjoyed by all. Here the bus broke down, but with an excellent guide who spoke perfect English, it turned into an adventure and soon an impromptu sing song took place until repairs were made and the journey continued.

A most impressive part of the whole trip for the Buck's was a three day visit to Lourdes, France, where Pat attended

an open air Mass, sitting under the trees outside the Basilica. Here people with crutches and wheelchairs are brought for the Blessing of the Sick. Every evening, thousands of fellow visitors carrying candles form a Torchlight parade. The Pyrenees Mountains served as a background for the magnificent setting and the Stations of the Cross are life size statues cast in gleaming bronze and set in the slopes of the mountain. They visited the Grotto where Saint Bernadette saw the Vision of the Blessed Virgin. Here a living testimony to faith is seen in the abandoned crutches left behind from those who have been healed and returned to their homes.

From Lourdes, they flew via Paris and Amsterdam to rejoin the the choir at Hamburg. After a concert presented in the Concert Hall at the Zoo Gardens, the choir and their wives were invited by one of the concessionaires for free beer at one of the Beer Gardens. At their second concert in Hamburg, a little man in a wheelchair was seen with tears streaming down his face, so moved was he by their music.

Each concert started off with the singing of O Canada and Hail Friends of Music, and then went on to songs sung in German. Also part of their concerts contained such lively tunes as Step to the Rear, If I were A Rich Man, and Seventy-six Trombones. Here there was no language barrier, because one could hear the tapping of feet, and the applause at the end expressed the appreciation of the audience.

An exciting part of the trip was into East Berlin, at Checkpoint Charlie. They were each given a number as they left the bus, and before boarding the bus again, each number was carefully checked and passports studied, no pictures were allowed to be taken near the border crossing. West Berlin was a bustling, clean, beautiful city, with high rise apartments springing up and everything had a clean well cared for look. East Berlin was quiet, with very few people moving around.

From Berlin, the choir toured to Potsdam, a trip which should have taken three hours, and took six, being held up for three hours at the border. In Potsdam, they saw the Sans Souci Summer Palace, built by Frederic the Second, of Prussia. Here the vineyards were all under glass. They also saw the Crown Prince's Hunting Lodge where the Potsdam Agreement was signed.

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**KNOW YOUR NATURE**

WHY IS THE TAIL FIN OF A WHALE HORIZONTAL WHILE FISH HAVE VERTICAL TAILS ?

THE WHALE (A MAMMAL) REQUIRES A HORIZONTAL TAIL FOR SUBMERGING. AEROPLANE ELEVATORS (2) AND SUBMARINE DIVING CONTROLS (3) SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE. A FISH USES HIS VERTICAL TAIL CHIEFLY FOR PROPULSION.