

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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Freedom Frustrated

Inmates of a refugee camp in West Germany scrawled these words on their barracks: "We chose freedom—Come in and see what we got!"

An American journalist recently accepted their wry invitation. Inside the barracks he found a crowd of wretched men, women and children wasting their lives in squalor, stench and disease, provided with barely enough food for survival. In talking to them he learned that they were bitter, despairing, hopeless.

Unhappily that camp is not an exception. It is typical of about 200 in Europe and the Near East, where tens of thousands who "chose freedom"—often at the risk of death—have received only misery compounded by the passing of bleak years. Some of the unfortunate have been in camps for as long as nine years.

Hundreds of thousands of other fugitives from Communism, outside of the official camps, are no better off. They live in ruined buildings, abandoned railway cars and rudely converted crates.

Perhaps the most tragic among the unadjusted escapees to our side are the younger men and women, including defectors from the Red Army occupation forces. They looked forward not only to personal freedom but to a choice of active participation in a genuine movement to liberate their native lands. With few exceptions they have been deeply wounded by disillusionment.

It was inevitable that sooner or later the Soviets would take advantage of this situation.

Ever since the end of the war, Moscow has spared no energy to abuse, terrorize and demoralize its run-away citizens. . . . There have been enough shocking instances of kidnaping and even murder, to rob the life of the refugee of a sense of safety.

But within the last year Moscow moved to supplement terror with doses of honey. It has launched an intensive campaign of re-education, geared to lure fugitives to return home. The Soviet government—so the story runs—has been moved to pity by the condition of its prodigal sons and daughters. Let them come home and they will be welcomed with open arms.

In East Germany, a "Committee for Return to the Homeland" has announced itself, allegedly composed of refugees who had changed their minds and redefected.

A newspaper put out by the Committee is reaching former Soviet citizens all over the world, the United States included. "Brothers and sisters", it says, "return and the motherland will welcome you. Even those who are guilty before the motherland will be forgiven."

Many exiles have been receiving letters from relatives — self-evidently dictated by the Secret Police—urging them to retrace their steps. "We miss you and yearn for you," the missives declare. "Please come back quickly to those who love you." The process of softening-up by propaganda is often followed by personal visits from Soviet agents, who play on the victim's homesickness and make rosy promises.

Cynical and transparent though the re-education drive may seem, it is becoming increasingly effective. Hundreds have already returned behind the Iron Curtain, thousands seem of a mind to do the same. In the refugee camps, the aforementioned journalist estimated, about 25 per cent seem prepared to go back. They still hate the Communist system and are full of foreboding as to what will happen to them. But their misery and hopelessness make them reckless and breed hopes in defiance of logic. They are easy targets for the Soviet manipulators.

Every fugitive who returns to the Soviet prisonland is a resounding moral and political victory for Communism and, by the same token, a great defeat for the free world. The growing success of the Kremlin's re-education campaign is the measure of Western bungling in this area. The free world has been politically shortsighted and humanly callous. It has not lived up to the duty and the opportunity represented by those who chose freedom, confident of our humane feelings and political common sense.

The United States has spent, and continues to spend, millions of dollars in radio broadcasts and other activities intended to widen the gap between the Soviet regimes and their subjects. The effects of this investment are being canceled out by the flow of returning and repentant fugitives.

Each of the returners seems a living refutation of our claims, and the Soviets are past masters in making the most of this. . . . There have, of course, been some efforts by free governments and voluntary agencies to assist the hard-pressed fugitives from Communism. But they have been inadequate, frequently niggardly, and as frequently constricted with red tape.

It is late, but not too late, for massive counter-measures to offset the re-education campaign. Those concerned with what is called psychological warfare have no more excuse for ignoring the challenge. Voluntary agencies such as the American Friends of Russian Freedom, must be given larger means to conduct work among the escapees that, within the narrow limits as yet possible, has proved effective. . . . This is at once a call to humanity and a call to political wisdom.

Eisenhower Missed

Leading members of the Eisenhower Cabinet are so busily engaged in stressing "business as usual" and talking about how smoothly everything is going that they are creating a false impression in another direction.

The false impression they are creating, however much unwittingly, is that one would hardly notice the absence of the President from his post at the center of the administration.

It isn't true, and even in the worthy cause of assuring everyone that things are not falling apart in Washington—and nothing is falling apart—this distorted picture should not be allowed to spread uncorrected.

The fact is that the absence of Mr. Eisenhower from Washington and his continued isolation from the duties of his job are visible policywise, politically, and journalistically.

The President is not merely the helmsman of the executive arm of the government. That is important enough, but more important is the fact that he is the motor power and the motive power of the administration. When the motor power is turned off—or even turned down—things slow up.

No useful purpose is served to pretend that things are not slowing up in the administration. They are.

If Mr. Eisenhower were ever to be sidelined, it happened at the most supportable time.

It happened when the President had already arranged affairs so that he could be away on a part-work-part-rest vacation of 2½ months. It happened while Congress was not in session.

It happened during a period when all the executive departments are preparing next year's budget and program, but before final decisions have to be made.

Because of this combination of circumstances the enforced isolation of Mr. Eisenhower from active command of the presidency has caused the least harm, the least disruption.

But it is inaccurate to say there has been no disruption. Every Cabinet member with whom I have talked admits that he has personally felt the disadvantage of the President's absence and that there has been loss of initiative, impetus, and leadership.

The inactivity of Mr. Eisenhower has been most acutely felt not in the day-to-day operation of the government—far too much of which still tends to flow over the President's desk—but in the extraconstitutional aspects of the many-sided role of the President.

News From Around Nebraska

Dakota County Sheriff Tony Goodsell, irritated because the payment of personal taxes was lagging, has issued a special invitation to the public to look over his books and see who the slackers are.

His invitation was directed toward individuals and groups alike. He even went so far as to list his office hours which, incidentally, included a half day Saturday. According to the Dakota County Herald, there are 699 who are delinquent in Dakota county. The total owed is in excess of \$56,000.

At Lyons, last week, the city water department dug up a pipe which was giving trouble and found that what had been a six-inch pipe had limed up to provide a hole only an inch in diameter. Lime has been bothering the Lyons system for quite a time and it is feared many pipes will have to be replaced.

A housewife at Seward was thankful last week that she had closed the door between the kitchen and the other rooms of the house.

Upon returning after a short absence she found oily tracks on the floor of the kitchen and the adjoining porch. An investigation revealed that a squirrel had come down the chimney, gathering a good amount of soot enroute. It had gone to the porch where it had upset a small can of oil, had dragged its tail through the fluid and then proceeded to romp about the kitchen.

A couple of trips across the living room rug would have probably taken place had the door between the rooms not been closed.

The new Motter Memorial Bridge across the Platte river at Fremont, will be officially opened Monday, November 7th, according to the Wahoo newspaper.

The City of Ord announced last week that residents may have bonfires of their fallen leaves for a two week period ending November 3rd provided all fires are constantly attended, are not lighted before 10 A.M. or allowed to burn after 6 P.M.

Ord has had a lot of dry weather and bonfires have constituted quite a hazard there.

The Crete News, in its department on "Comments" last week revealed that a complaint had been received from one of the subscribers who thought the size of the newspaper's page should be changed so that the sheet would fit on her kitchen shelves better! After all, the News DID ask for comments!

The Oakland Independent revealed last week that two more business houses there are to get new store fronts. The idea of new fronts is catching on, several others having just finished similar projects.

At Pawnee City the county fair board is asking for donations to provide funds for roofing the grandstand. 4H clubs and FFA chapters are selling souvenir shingles at \$1.00 each in hopes of raising the needed \$2000. Each shingle bears a picture of the grandstand and a brief history of the fair.

Bowling News

Teams	Standings	Won	Lost
Aronson		15	6
Monty's Bodyshop		13½	7½
Rosen Novak		13	8
Rockets		12½	8½
Murnam Rug		11	10
North Side Laundry		10	11
Barrel House		9	12
Keglers		9	12
Allen's Bar		7	14
McGill's Bar		5	16

Schedule for October 29, 1955

North Side Laundry vs Aronson
 Alleys 23 - 24, 6:30 P.M.
 Rockets vs McGills,
 Alleys 25 - 26 6:30 P.M.
 Keglers vs Allen's Bar
 Alleys 27 - 28, 6:30 P.M.
 Barrel House vs Monty's
 Alleys 25 - 26, 8:30 P.M.
 Rosen Novak vs Murnam Rug
 Alleys 27 - 28, 8:30 P.M.

In team play Aronson took two games from Rosen Novak; North Side Laundry took three games from Allen's Bar; McGill's Bar lost three games to Murnam Rug; Keglers won two games from Monty's Bodyshop; and Barrel

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by 8 pins. We are still hoping that one of our male bowlers will make the show this season. Good Bowling. See you Saturday.

Organization Legion Part Of National

Theodore Roosevelt Post No. 30 American Legion is the active integral part of the National program of the National Organization to foster good will and better relations to everyone. This includes faithful service to its needy veterans, orphans and widows. This service is very well carried on by the local Post. As we are slowly but surely advancing and the local recognition of our great worth is apparent more and more each day. Yes, the American can and will grow stronger as time goes on.

Our Commander, J. L. Taylor, continues to improve. He is confined to his home. Theodore Roosevelt Post 30 keep sending up prayers for the recovery of our number one member the President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Let us not forget our local sick in V A Hospital. They are Ralph Underwood, other not reported. Those that are at home are reported as improving.

We are formulating plans for the complete rehabilitation of the Post premises and urge all veterans, old Legionnaires to join and pay your 1956-57 dues now.

May the spirit of service to all our comrades ever occupy a high place in our aims. Then this very service will help us serve our God our country and our fellowman.

J. L. Taylor, Commander
 H. L. Embry, Jr., Adjutant
 N. H. Comans, Pub. Officer.

Grace Davis

Mrs. Grace Davis, age 46 years, of 2220 Burdette St., expired Tuesday, October 18, 1955 at a local hospital.

She was an Omaha resident 20 years.

She is survived by her husband, William H. Davis, of the Davis Snack Shop, Omaha; sister, Mrs. Elvora Wilson of Los Angeles, California.

Funeral services were held Friday, October 21, 1955 at 8:00 p.m. from the Myers Brothers Funeral Chapel with Rev. A. Ralph Davis officiating assisted by Reverends J. C. Wade, F. C. Williams, R. W. Johnson and W. E. Fort.

Her remains were forwarded to the Conner & Johnson Mortuary, Los Angeles, California for further services and interment.
 Myers Brothers Funeral Service.

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Dinner Dance At Omaha U November 11

A Continental Dinner Dance will climax the University of Omaha's Homecoming celebration November 11.

This was announced today by Mrs. Marjory Mahoney Murphy, chairman of the Homecoming Committee.

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The dinner dance, to be held at the Fontanelle Hotel beginning at 7 p.m. will follow Omaha U's afternoon football game against Idaho State. Eddy Haddad's orchestra will play for the dance. Tickets for the combined dinner and dance are available through the Alumni Office at the university.

Results of the election of Alumni Association officers will be announced at the dinner dance. For the past month alumni in 34 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, England, Germany, Canada, England, Newfoundland and Korea have been balloting by mail for a new slate of officers. Balloting is for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and six members of the board of directors.

"This is the first time a Continental Dinner Dance has been a part of the university's Homecoming celebration," Mrs. Murphy said. "In the past a number of various Homecoming events have been held, such as a banquet, cocktail party and dance. This year it was decided to concentrate the activities into one event."

Mrs. Ralph Brown and Miss Jean Bressler are other members of the Homecoming Committee.

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