

"Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt" Newspaper Article, August 1, 1940

Refugees Days Full While in Greenbelt

"Gee, it's nice here" I'd like to stay In Green belt all summer", says Hanna Lore Freydberg, pretty refugee staying at Harry Bates' during her two-week vacation visit from New York. Hanna Lore was the object of much admiration at the Community Church last Sunday.

"I don't want to leave and if mother were well and could be here too I'd want to live in Greenbelt always", said Joanna Lehner, who became "homesick" early in the visit and was taken back to her mother, ill In New York. Joanna was never away from home before, and has been In the United States only four weeks. She was very loath to leave the Joe Long's at 3-B Gardenway, her foster-parents for the visit and the Longs regret her departure.

When asked about what he wanted to play, Walter Kulka, refugee staying with the Tom McNamara's, told his friends, "I want to play with these Americans and learn their games and play like they do."

Of the 14 children new here, three have been in this country only eight weeks, another, seven weeks, and another, three weeks. Of the remaining, at least nine have been in the United States less than one year.

They are, without exception, of exemplary behavior. All are polite, eager to meet other American children and adults and learn their ways and mannerisms, and neat as a pin in their dress. In the latter, a number of residents have commented how well the refugees keep the clothes they were permitted to bring with them from their native lands. Of fine quality, most articles retain an appearance of newness an appearance somewhat belated as to fit, however, as the children have outgrown their suits, shoes, coats, and dresses during the long months of military control in their own countries and their temporary respite in France, England, and in Cuba. As their parents were not allowed to leave their native territories with any more than a very small amount of cash (in many cases, only \$4.00) but were permitted to take all their personal belongings, they naturally loaded up with many good clothes. One youngster commented that he had enough coats for at least the next four years.

And a big help that will be too, as their parents have little or no income and must rely for the time being, until new careers can be established, on financial help from the various refugee organizations operating under the National Refugee Service.

The children have been very busy during their stay, what with expert instruction in baseball and swimming at hand, community party and girl scout festivity to attend, short hikes to take and many new games to learn. Not too busy to attend the various Greenbelt churches last Sunday, however. The major faiths were well represented among the children, with a number in each, Catholic, Protestant,

and Jewish. The youngsters have been invited also to be guests at the Red Cross Benefit show, August 2.

Up to Sunday when this was written, the weather made serious hikes and Washington visits out of the question. With cooler weather, the children will be taken on local and city excursions.