

"Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors" Newspaper Article, July 25, 1940

Greenbelt Greets Refugee Visitors

Fifteen refugee children of from 8 to 12 years of age, arrived in Greenbelt from New fork Monday, July 22. They represent all religious faiths and come from Prussia, Vienna, Nuremberg, Frankfort, and Breslau. The professional background of their parents, when they were living in their native countries in time of peace, included the positions of bank manager, real estate executive, owner of a wholesale underwear concern, professor of musicology, dentist, and dress store owner.

The children were welcomed in Washington by Mayor George Warner, Reverend Robert Kincheloe, Councilman Edward Gawthrop, Mrs. Thomas McNamara, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Chasanow and Manny Gerst. The children were photographed and interviewed by representatives of all the Washington papers as well as members of the Greenbelt Cooperator staff.

Anxious to Learn American Ways

The children were selected by representatives of the American Friends Service, Committee for Christian Refugees, Committee for Catholic Refugees, from Germany, and the National Refugee Service, all in New York City. The children were given physical examinations before leaving New York. They are all in good physical condition generally, although a few are still slightly underweight. They have a fairly good knowledge of the English language. They are all anxious to meet with other American children, see other parts of the nation, particularly the nation's capital. In Greenbelt, the refugees will be given tennis, baseball, and swimming lessons, and will be given the opportunity to qualify for Red Cross swimming certificates.

Parents' Background Varied

Most of these children came to this country with parents who were not permitted to leave their home lands with more than \$4.00 in their possession. While their parents' economical and professional background were at one time of very good level, in most cases, these people are now either unemployed or performing some menial work in order to keep themselves together until new careers can be worked out. The case of Walter Kulka, age 12, son of the pathologist, Dr. Wilhelm Kulka, is typical of the majority of the children and their families. Walter arrived in America on July 3. He had spent two years in Scotland where he attended a school in Dumfrie. The Bishop of Birmingham personally paid his passage to America enabling him to meet his brother Peter, who had been working and studying in England for the past two years. The parents had emigrated here during the past year. Walter's father is working full time in a hospital without pay to obtain American experience prior to launching into a revised career in a new land. The mother is now employed in a menial capacity in order to earn enough money with which to hold the little group together until the father can obtain paying employment.

The three Freyberg children from Prussia, whose father was a judge in the old country, stayed three months in England and a year in Cuba before they were allowed to enter America under the quota

laws. The father is now seeking a new career. William Freyberg, who is staying at the home of the George Warner's, expressed concern over the fact that his older sister, aged 13, was not able to come with the group of the age limits.

Will Enjoy Many Privileges

In addition to the regular summer recreational program, picnics, parties and sightseeing trips are being planned for the amusement of the visitors. The Prince Georges County Girl Scouts have invited the girls of the group to spend today at their camp near the Good Luck Road. The children of B Block are planning a "big" party and vaudeville show to entertain their young guests.

In addition to the services of the Greenbelt Health Association, which have been made available to the youngsters, Dr. McCarl has offered to take care of any emergency dental work which may be necessary.