

July 16, 1953

## Millers' Europe Trip Proves Fascinating

Erwin Miller and his father, Joe Miller, 910 East First, Austin have just returned from a visit with relatives in Europe.

Mr. Miller is a reader of the 'Star' and we feel his report about the trip might be of interest to many of the Star readers).

For Ervin it is a first trip to the old country, but for his father it was a return after 40 years absence.

Mr. Miller was a crew member on a German ship which docked in New York the day World War I broke out. The trip this summer was to see his three elder brothers, all past 70, for the first time since he left as a young man.

The brothers, George Miller, 74, lives in Munich; Johann, 79 lives in Roschach, Switzerland; and Adolph who is 80, still operates his own store in Ebenweiler, Germany.

George and his wife have a large garden that he tills himself, as well as doing some carpentry work. While the 79-year-old Johann makes a weekly climb into the famed Alps. He took his brother Joe, who is 17 years his junior on the six hour hike to Heiden one day, but the younger brother said it was too much for him.

Ervin was very well impressed with most of the countries they visited, saying that they were treated royally every where they went.

Of Holland he said. "Everyone rides bikes, coming around the corners by the thousands like our automobiles. I rode them too, while there, but I'll take our modern cars."

In Germany there were many motorcycles used for transportation, which were too fast for comfort, according to Ervin. In Austria he found the people were very easy going, and could not be rushed, while in France there was more hustle and bustle.

In France, too, Ervin said he felt that customs inspection was more strict, and the people were very tip-conscious, with even the ushers in the theaters expecting a tip for showing you to your seat.

"I think I like Germany and Switzerland best," commented Ervin, "maybe because they seem

more progressive and Americanized. In Germany the people were very friendly, and they are very hard working. "Their farm lands are beautifully cared for, and I judge that they have rebuilt about 70 per cent of the buildings ruined during the war."

"I found the great number of American-made cars in Germany and Switzerland a welcome sight. And, I was greatly impressed by the transportation systems in both countries. Nearly all of their trains being electrically run, I believe their railroads are equal to ours in comfort and service. They have automatic traffic stops at all railroad crossings which certainly increases the safety of drivers."

Though he would not like to make it his permanent home, Ervin did admit that he would enjoy living in Germany for a few years. He learned German from his mother, and spoke it pretty well, but after his visit there he thinks he speaks it fluently.

"I really enjoyed the boat voyage across and back, and heartily recommend this mode of transportation for anyone who has the time," advised Ervin.

"We left New York April 16, aboard the Maasdam, making her third voyage and docked at Rotterdam, April 24. We returned on the Veendam, which is scheduled to be pulled off the line after three more trips. It has made 191 trips to date. Both ships belong to the Holland American Line, and we found them wonderful."

"The food was excellent, and we had a room steward that would serve your breakfast in bed, if you just rang the bell—which I did. There was dancing every night, movies and all kinds of games as well as a swimming pool."

"On the return voyage we were the only Texans aboard ship, and soon all I had to do was just walk in where the orchestra was playing and everyone would stop and shout 'Ye, Texas,' and then they would start playing and singing Texas songs. It was all very flattering—though sometimes a bit embarrassing, too."

Sailing from LeHavre, France, June 6, the Millers reached New York June 16 and spent five days sight-seeing before returning to Austin.