

Photos from Silesia

Gnadenberg

By Mrs. Maria Witschel

East of Bunzlau you find the small Herrnhuter colony Gnadenberg. You would gladly walk the small path to this little spot where you find peace from the rushing in the city. There is a train station and you can take the train from Bunzlau to Gnadenberg. The countryside is hilly and covered with bushes, runners of the mountain range. You enjoy a great view into the Bunzlau heath and a view back on the city with its industries. You pass the wellness clinic surrounded by beautiful woods and nestled at the edge of town.

This small place with 5 to 600 inhabitants carries the friendly and quiet character of all Herrnhut settlements. The houses are built against one another. The church is built in the center of all of them. The peace that you feel and the cleanliness of the streets reflect that there is little traffic. All houses have an appearance of welcome, roofs in the style of the empire period and surrounded by beds of blooming flowers. Snowdrops, violets, daffodils and tulips decorate the flower garden in the front of the house, during the summer the roses blossom and in the fall dahlia and mums. The houses are overgrown with creepers.

When you enter a store the bell rings and you enter into a room to buy the Gnadenberger ham or a sausage or the well-known "Schwesterküssen" and "Bröderherzen" in all of Silesia. You see Bunzlauer pottery pieces. Another store offers gifts for 13-year old girls called "Backfische". You can buy small gifts for girlfriends and *eau de cologne*, letterhead and postcards. The salesperson is very friendly and helpful.

There are plenty of young girls in Gnadenberg because there is a boarding school for young girls from all over the world. Attached is a large garden. You have to plan to come here during the summer on a Sunday when everybody goes to church. All the girls and women wear a cap with a ribbon attached the color of which distinguishes girls from women. Brothers and sisters greet one another with "You" as they all feel like Herrnhuter. After church services the calm of town will return. The guests of this town can feel it, there is peace.

Translated by Margot Hendricks