









## Helps Rebuild German School

SUI Student Worked with Church Group; Trip Sponsored by Local Church

For Harlan Ranshaw, A3, a nine-week vacation in Europe meant plenty of brick chipping, ditch digging, and rubble moving.

Ranshaw, son of S. R. Ranshaw, 528 south Van Buren, was one of nine American students who spent the summer helping rebuild Das Raupes Haus, a bombed-out school for delinquent and homeless boys in Hamburg, Germany.

Ranshaw was sent to Europe on June 23 by the congregation of the First English Lutheran church, 129 N. Dubuque. He and the other American students from Princeton, University of Minnesota, St. Olaf, University of Nebraska, University of Kansas, and the University of Wisconsin worked there from July 3 to August 28.

**Bombed in 1943**  
"Back in 1943 when the 100-year-old school was bombed, 25 of its 29 buildings were destroyed," Ranshaw said. "Our goal this summer under the Lutheran World Federation was to start rebuilding the chapel and one dormitory."

During the summer the chapel was nearly completed and a great deal of work was done on the dormitory, Ranshaw said.

Two bricks from the steeple of Iowa City's First English Lutheran church were used in building the chapel.

**Europeans Included**  
The student group included nine Germans from the British Zone and two displaced persons from the Baltic states. They studied in the mornings, "generally along theological lines." In the afternoons they helped the craftsmen do manual work for four and one-half hours.

"No, the girls didn't chip bricks," Ranshaw said. "They helped us at the lighter tasks and did all the household duties. You see, we all lived in a bombed-out dormitory with the people at the school."

**German Appreciation**  
Ranshaw noted much evidence of appreciation among the German people for the work they were doing. "Of course I perhaps got a one-sided view," he adds, "since I had little contact with those outside the church group."

"We ate German rations with a small British supplement since we couldn't stand the big drop from our American diet," he said. "I really can't say how the Ger-



HARLAN RANSHAW

mans feel toward the American occupation forces," Ranshaw said. "Being in the British zone we were conspicuously American. In fact, we couldn't even go into the American zone."

Ranshaw celebrated what he termed the "grandest birthday ever" while in Europe. His congregation here in Iowa City had sent him food and Ranshaw spent his birthday giving it to needy families.

During the summer, Das Raupes Haus housed 35' deacons in addition to the students and workmen. They were training to work with the delinquent and homeless boys. The school will re-open for boys some time in October.

Ranshaw laughed when he translated the schools name. "Literally it means the rough house. The school was named after an individual but when changing from low to high German it got twisted somehow," he said.

When the work in Hamburg was completed, Ranshaw bicycled alone through Holland—"the only way to see it"—and toured Denmark, Belgium, France and England for 12 days.

## Movie Review— Calls Picture 'Great'

By BOB SENNISH

"The Best Years of Our Lives," a movie which certainly deserves, and very nearly compels, the word "great" to be used in connection with it, moved into the Englert yesterday. It has been literally laved, gushed over and knocked silly by superlatives from every critical source ranging from the most professional of dignitaries to the nice lady next door who thinks Alan Ladd is strictly the nuts.

For this column to take up the refrain would be, at best, a fitting gesture—and, at bottom, a little foolish.

### One Conclusion

But the very fact that this movie has been swamped with every laudatory adjective known to Roget—and that these adjectives have failed as quixotically as adjectives often do—points very unalarmingly to one safe conclusion:

"The Best Years of Our Lives" is a great motion picture achievement and, as such, cannot be fairly reviewed without disfiguring the artistic workmanship which it embodies. Like all good art, it must be seen in order to be felt and understood—and no hand-me-down review can hope to convey even the smallest amount of its total impact.

### Minor Flaws

Perhaps the most generally true test of good art lies in its impact. Upon reflection, many minor flaws may frequently be cited. This film is no exception. But the flaws merely lessen and do not destroy its overall strength and integrity.

Its most disturbing shortcoming is in the treatment of the PFC—that is, Poor "Foolish" Civilian. In order to illustrate the state of flux which underlies the convictions of the returning serviceman, the film employs the civilian as a sort of muckle-headed fall guy.

The blundering civilian—who unwittingly sets off the fury of pride in the veteran and also awakes in him the cynicism, self-reproach and cheapening contempt that make a monkey of himself before himself—is somewhat of an over-constructed bogey man. Defacing the civilian with all but a handlebar moustache adds little to what is generally an understanding treatment of this very recent and very real situation.

### More Adroit

Curiously enough, the film handles the same matter with considerable adroitness in another case. Frederic March, as Al, is alternately sympathetic and outraged towards Dana Andrews (Fred), with whom March is glad to string along as fellow-veteran but hardly as father-in-law.

By way of wind-up, let it be said that Robert Sherwood's script is good and authentic, that space prohibits the attention that each member of the cast deserves, and, by the way, that the road show prices have been reduced to the popular level.

### AFRICAN EXPLOSION

ALGIERS (AP)—Nineteen persons were killed and 100 injured, 20 seriously, in southern Algeria yesterday when two French army trucks loaded with explosives collided, the French news agency said.

## F. R. Baltzer, Swiss Zoology Professor, To Instruct at SU

Prof. Friedrich R. Baltzer, noted Swiss zoologist, and Mrs. Baltzer have arrived in Iowa City to make their home for this year.

Baltzer will serve as visiting professor in the zoology department in place of Prof. Emil Witschi, on leave of absence at the University of Tuebingen in the French zone of Germany.

The couple will occupy the Witschi home at 311 Woolf avenue.

Baltzer is head of the Zoological Institute of the University of Bern in Switzerland, and is internationally known for his work in amphibian embryology and sex-determination in invertebrates.

He will teach vertebrate embryology, experimental embryology and sex of invertebrates here.

In 1935-36, Baltzer was in the United States as a Rockefeller Traveling Fellow. While he was associated with the University of Chicago, he gave lectures at various universities, including

SUI. Baltzer is a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural History, the American Society of

Zoologists and the Genetics Society of America, and many European scientific societies. Prof. and Mrs. Baltzer have two

married daughters and two sons who are university students in Switzerland. Mrs. Baltzer holds a doctorate in Romance languages.

## AAA Committeemen To Meet Tomorrow

Township AAA committeemen of Johnson county will meet tomorrow at 1 p.m. in the CSA hall, County AAA Chairman Ray E. Smalley said yesterday.

The committeemen will discuss plans to check on farmers' compliance with soil conservation practices.

Practices for which farmers receive AAA benefits include terracing, liming, contouring, tile drainage, application of fertilizer when used, with a legume and plowing under green manure crops.

"If the farmer has complied with these practices, we want it on record so we can start working to get out the benefit checks," Smalley said.

## Give Iowa's Total Draft Registration

DES MOINES (AP)— Selective Service headquarters said yesterday that 145,642 Iowans registered for the nation's first peacetime draft.

Of this number 37,009 were non-veteran, single men subject to being called up for military duty.

The figures were announced by Brig. Gen. Charles A. Grahl, who is adjutant general and state selective service director.

The Iowans, all men between the ages of 18 and 25, were registered through the period from Aug. 30 to Sept. 18.

Hereafter youths becoming 18 must register within five days of their birthdays.

The first call in the draft is expected to come early in November with indications that about 175 Iowans "will be called up."

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