

... Or Try Europe on a Bicycle ...

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — What began as a belated 700-mile honeymoon tour on bicycle wound up as a fascinating 25-year venture in traveling for Dr. Werner F. Striedieck, of The Pennsylvania State University.

"It was back in 1932," recalls the still vigorous, 65-year-old professor of German, who is retiring June 1 with the rank of professor emeritus. "We were in Germany to meet my parents, and ended up taking a bicycle tour of Germany, Switzerland and upper Italy, staying overnight at youth hostels along the way."

So inspiring was the trip, Striedieck decided to make a hobby out of it, and between 1933 and 1958, conducted 22 European summer tours by bike, bus and car for students and teachers throughout the United States.

Billed as "Auto Trails in Europe," Striedieck advertised his tours in the New York Times and Saturday Review, and even sent over American automobiles by boat for use in the popular excursions.

The tours, which covered England, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, France, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, included extensive lecturing at the various stop-offs along the way, round-table discussions with natives of the villages, and visits to points of historical and cultural interest.

"It was a first-hand look at history," explains Striedieck. "Everyone knows what the Rhine meant in European history and that the tower at Pisa leans, but to see it is something else. It's quite a visual experience for the first time."

Only during the war years and those preceding and following the war was Striedieck un-

able to arrange his summer trips. They were resumed in 1950 with an all-faculty group from Penn State.

Born in Westphalia, Germany, in 1902, Striedieck came to the United States in 1932, received his citizenship in 1932, and has been a member of the Penn State faculty since 1947.

He earned his bachelor of arts, master of arts, and doctor of philosophy degrees all from the University of Michigan in the field of Germanic languages and literatures.

In Germany he attended public school, trade school and took University extension courses. He received his high school education at the Detroit Institute of Technology.

A member of the American



"You want to be sure to visit here," says Dr. Werner F. Striedieck pointing to a favorite spot on the map of Europe.

Association of Teachers of German, the Modern Language Association of America, and the American Association of University Professors, Striedieck pioneered efforts to bring back the teaching of German in State College area high schools following the war. While at the University of Michigan, he also worked with the Bureau of Cooperation with

Educational Institutions and was translator for the department of aeronautical engineering, translating classified documents in guided missile research.

His publications include two books on German science reading and a selected scientific vocabulary and a number of articles in the Germanic Review, and the German Quarterly.

"Don't forget to write in there I have three grandchildren," he beamed with pride during a recent interview, noting that three of his four sons are married. The oldest is a commercial airlines pilot and avid glider enthusiast.

"I've been up several times with him, but I don't fly myself," he replied.

Music is another favorite pastime of the affable, wavy, grey-haired professor. During his 20 years at Penn State, he has been a member of the State College Choral Society, and has been active in the University's annual German Christmas Sing.

"Wherever I've been, I've always sung," is the way Dr. Striedieck puts it.

What are his plans now that retirement is nearing? More travel for one thing.

"I'd like a chance to see more of the world I'd like to explore other places on this globe that I have never seen; lands like the Orient and other non-European points of interest."

He also hopes to continue teaching, possibly in the South in an integrated or Negro college where professors in the languages are in constant demand.

"I feel I would enjoy the challenge of working in a less established school, helping build up its academic curriculum."

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