



Exit Doldrums Not even Dad, worried over work, or the boys, puzzled by English, can stay in the doldrums long with Mom proclaiming wonders of American foods. From left, Mrs. Heinz Sonntag, Ruediger, 11; Gunther, 17; Volker, 12, and Dr. Sonntag.—(Republic Photo, Al Cirou)

**'I'll Do Anything**

## Phoenix Has Everything Except Job, Says East German Refugee

"I am going slowly weak in the knees."

That's the American expression used by Dr. Heinz Sonntag, German dental surgeon, to describe his dilemma.

It seems Phoenix has every-

thing to offer Dr. Sonntag, except a job.

"And that is most important, I think," said his wife.

"We have explored almost every possible avenue for employment for the doctor," said the Rev. Robert F. Meineke, pastor of the Messiah Lutheran Church, "but so far without luck."

DR. SONNTAG, his wife, and three sons escaped what is now the eastern sector of Germany in 1945 just before the Russians arrived. He had an "excellent" practice there, and his wife was his assistant.

"It was impossible to stay in East Germany," said the doctor, "because of my sons. They would have had to join the organization, and they couldn't go to high school in East Germany."

When the family made their escape, they were forced to leave their home, their furnishings, everything they owned and had worked for.

WEST GERMANY, where they had lived until coming to America, was crowded with immigrants from the East.

"There was not much business," he said of his practice in West Germany, "for there were many, many professional men there."

Dr. Sonntag has only two problems in America. Neither he nor his family speaks English fluently. And Dr. Sonntag cannot win a license to practice dentistry here until he has become a citizen. That will take five years, he said.

In the meantime, he had hoped to find related work.

"A hospital attendant's job

would do nicely until I master the English language," the doctor said.

WHILE he searches, the family has no immediate problems.

"If we had in Germany what we have here," said his wife, "we would be classed as rich people."

"This house, television, water cooling, refrigerator, and canned goods—Ahhhhh."

Their home at 5130 N. 19th Ave., completely furnished, new, and modern is owned by George Buechel, a member of the Messiah Lutheran Church. Buechel, their co-sponsor with the church, has provided them with all that a family can desire.

The children, Ruediger, 11; Volker, 12; and Gunther, 17, have had fun in the American schools where since their arrival in April they have been "visiting" students. Next fall, the boys will become full-fledged students. By that time, they hope to have a better understanding of our language.

MRS. SONNTAG, an attractive woman with a broad education like her husband, said if she had it to do over, despite their problems, "I would come here."

"Home life is easier here; hot and cold water, washing machine. And the people are more friendly here. The people in the hospitals where the doctor has gone for work, they have all the time for us. Never too busy."

Mrs. Sonntag said she is considering work here. A dental assistant to her husband for many years, she said, "I pick up quickly."

Her husband added, "I've had lots of assistants and my wife is the best one."

As for Dr. Sonntag, "I will do anything. I have worked in Scotland in the herring trade, and East Africa in the bricks."

## Mrs. Thayer Re-Named To National Post

Mrs. Dean H. Thayer, of Mesa this week was re-elected recording secretary of the National Council of American Baptist Women in Philadelphia, Pa.

The national council, composed of women in 6,000 churches, held its annual meeting preceding the yearly sessions of the American Baptist Convention now in progress.



Mrs. Thayer is a member of the First Baptist Church in Mesa where she has been active in various phases of church work. She is a Sunday school teacher and president of the Women's Mission Society.

She was for five years president of the Arizona Baptist Women, and has served in the Arizona Council of Church Women. In addition, she has been active in the Mesa Woman's Club, Eastern Star, Farm Bureau, and PEO.

In 1952, Mrs. Thayer was one of 20 persons honored at the mid-century convocation of the University of Redlands, Redlands, Calif., as an outstanding Christian laywoman and for leadership in the home and community.

## Beth El To Install

Affiliate organizations of the Beth El Congregation, 302 W. McDowell, will hold joint installation of officers at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the sanctuary. The event will be followed by a dance in the auditorium.

Rabbi Carol Klein and retiring presidents will install officers including the new presidents: Robert Schubert, Beth El Congregation; Mrs. Milton Hersh, Sisterhood; Sidney Stein, Men's Club;

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7:30 P.M.  
Communion and Message

Wed. 7:30—Prayer meeting

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Sunday Sch. 9:45 A.M.—T. Union 6:30 P.M.—Worship 11 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

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