

1948 - 1960

THE MOUNT VERNON, IOWA HAWKEYE-RECORD AND THE LISBON HERALD

A) Préliminaires

1. Le présent document est une compilation d'articles de presse publiés entre 1948 et 1960 à Mount Vernon, Iowa (USA) traitant des relations entre Mount Vernon et Diekirch au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg après la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale.
2. Merci à Mary Evans (board member of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission) et Carine Welter (directrice du Musée d'Histoire[s] Diekirch) de la communication des références.
3. Les textes originaux sont issus des "Digital Archives of the Mount Vernon Public Library"¹.
4. Le dossier complet (pdf, 7,4MB) des 24 articles originaux peut être consulté et téléchargé à l'adresse renseignée en bas de page².
5. Les articles sont classés par ordre chronologique.
6. La transcription respecte l'orthographe originale.
7. Pour une meilleure lisibilité, la disposition originale en colonnes n'est pas reprise pour la transcription.
8. Les parties de texte en gras dans le texte original figurent également en gras dans la transcription.
9. Les remarques ou ajouts du transcripateur sont placés entre crochets.
10. Des détails ou explications complémentaires concernant des termes ou abréviations figurant au texte original peuvent être obtenues aux adresses figurant en bas de page.
11. Des parties de texte sans aucun rapport avec la Ville de Diekirch ne sont pas transcrites.
12. La conversion des unités s'est faite suivant le tableau ci-dessous³.

1lb =	0,454kg	1kg =	2,2026lb
1ft =	30,48cm	1cm =	0,03281ft
1in =	2,54cm	1cm =	0,39370in
1\$ =	43flux	1flux =	0,02325\$

¹ <https://mountvernon.advantage-preservation.com>

² <https://dikrich.csv.lu/files/2020/04/Mount-Vernon-Hawkeye-Record-Lisbon-Herald-Binder-1948-1960-Outlined-Reduced.pdf>

³ <https://www.calculator.net/conversion-calculator.html>

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1) 1948-10-28_01 — Thursday, October 28th, 1948 - Page 01

Propose adopting European town

A proposal to "adopt" a town in Luxembourg will be discussed at a meeting of representatives of a number of Mt. Vernon organizations in the city hall Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

The project, if adopted, will be worked out in co-operation with "Operation Democracy," an organization for overseas relief which has been approved by the U.S. state department.

The town proposed for "adoption" is Diekirch in the Duch [sic] of Luxembourg. It has a population of about 4,000 and is the site of oldest college in Luxembourg, an institution with about 500 students. Diekirch was almost destroyed during the Battle of the Bulge.

The proposal is to affiliate various groups directly with similar groups in Diekirch, where English is widely understood. Grammer [sic] and high school pupils, women's groups, church congregations, service clubs, Cornell⁴ college students, city officials - all would be encouraged to correspond with similar groups and persons in Diekirch[.]

2) 1948-11-11_08 — Thursday, November 11th, 1948 - Page 08

Will help town in Luxembourg

More than an ordinary plan for European relief, the actual sharing of ideas and general cultural outlook underlies the plan that Mt. Vernon adopt the town of Diekirch in the Duchy [sic] of Luxembourg.

A representative group of Mt. Vernon citizens will hold their third meeting to forward this plan in the city hall Tuesday evening.

"Adoption," is not an "official" matter. Rather it will be the establishment of contracts between individuals and typical groups in Mt. Vernon and in Diekirch.

The Mt. Vernon schools at several age levels, service clubs, loges, churches, women's organizations and students and faculty of Cornell are expected to have a part in the enterprise.

The central group will act as "liaison," or connection for the enterprise between the co-operating individuals and groups.

Mrs. Robert V. Smith has been elected chairman of the central committee. Temporary secretary is Mrs. Charles D. Starr, representing the A.A.U.W.⁵

Miron A. Morrill, journalism teacher at Cornell, was named publicity chairman.

⁴ <https://www.cornellcollege.edu>

⁵ [American Association of University Women.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Association_of_University_Women)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Association_of_University_Women

Other members of the group are, Mrs. C. H. Ford representing the Women's Industrial society, Carrie Oates of Sorosis⁶, Virginia Anderson of Kappa Psi Omega⁷; Larry Ringer of the sixth grade.

Larry Nutt the M.V.H.S. [Mount Vernon High School] Student Council, John H[.] Taylor of the Cornell student central fund committee; Annalee Banks, fifth grade teacher; Barbara Jo Spence fifth grade; Helen McGiveney, Ward teacher.

Mary Dunn, Ward [elementary school] teacher, Pearl Mirich from the Ward P.T.A. [Parents-Teacher Association of elementary school]; Mrs. Edit Tenney High school PTA; Mrs. Mae P[.] Hutchinson, W.S.C.S.[?]

Alice C. Bigger from the AAUW⁴, Paul J[.] McKeen, M.V.H.S. [Mount Vernon High School] Student Council, Richard B. Wolfe the Lions, Dean Albion R. King, the Lions⁸ club and the Cornell faculty and Dr Eric Kollmann the Cornell [Dr Eric Kollmann the Cornell, repetition], faculty and Rotary⁹ club.

A number of the women's groups, and other Cornell student groups are being invited to join the movement.

"We do not wish to interfere with what Mt. Vernon people are now doing in European relief," Mrs. Smith explained. There are many who wish to do something definite and do not know just where to take hold. The "adoption" of Diekirch will give them a good handle.

"Diekirch has about 4,000 persons. It was destroyed in the center of the Battle of the Bulge. It is the oldest college town in Luxembourg, having a Lyc[é]e with about 500 students.

The people of Luxembourg are re-building as rapidly as they can. But they need clothing, soap, and many other items as books, music scores, and, perhaps most of all, encouragement."

Although a tiny country, Luxembourg fought with the anti-Nazi coalition in the recent war. The plans for adoption is being engineered through Operation Democracy, an organization approved by the U.S. State department.

3) 1948-11-18_01 — Thursday, November 18th, 1948 - Page 01

Will collect clothing for town of Diekirch

"Everything from the skin out," is the phrase adopted by Mt. Vernon committee on the adoption of Diekirch to describe its needs in the drive for clothing to be conducted Saturday. Diekirch is the town in Luxembourg which is being "adopted" by Mt. Vernon organizations.

The committee met Tuesday evening in the Red Cross rooms at the City Hall to complete plans for the drive. Pickups will be made Saturday by Cornell college students, high school students and general citizen volunteers. Persons having contributions should call Mrs. Robert V. Smith at 4272.

"We will need adults to help us sort and pack," explained Mrs. Smith, chairman of the committee. "Sorting, mending and packing will be done Monday and Tuesday afternoons and evenings in the Red Cross room. Every woman will do well to bring her button box and needle and thread.

"We can use underwear, scarves, mittens, shoes, overcoats, - every imaginable item of clothing." said Mrs. Smith. "Money contributions will be applied to the Diekirch cause. Funds can be given to the collectors Saturday."

⁶ Sorosis (est. March 1868) was the first professional women's club in the United States.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorosis>

⁷ Kappa Psi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha is an African American Greek-lettered sorority with membership for college-educated women.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alpha_Kappa_Alpha

⁸ Lions Clubs International is a non-political service organization established originally in 1917

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lions_Clubs_International

⁹ Rotary International is an international non-political and non-religious open to all service organization.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotary_International

4) 1948-12-02_01 — Thursday, December 2nd, 1948 - Page 01

Collect clothing

Seventeen boxes of used clothing for Diekirch, Luxembourg, were contributed by Mt. Vernon people on the Saturday, before Thanksgiving.

The Red Cross room in the city hall will be open from 2:30 p.m. through Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Mt. Vernon women are asked to volunteer to repair, sort and pack clothing for Diekirch. The men can help by tying up the boxes.

The Diekirch committee will hold another meeting in the city hall at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7.

5) 1948-12-09_04 — Thursday, December 9th, 1948 - Page 04

Mount Vernon Social

Sorosis⁵ club will meet for a picnic supper in the home of Dr and Mrs. H. H. Palmer Monday, Dec 13 at 6:45. Members please bring gifts of soap or fats to pack a box for Diekirch. Mrs. Boyd Horton and Mrs. John Colon are in charge of the program.

Council to direct work for Diekirch

An Executive Council of eight persons was elected Tuesday evening by the Mt. Vernon-Lisbon committee for the adoption of Diekirch, a town in Luxembourg.

Some members of the council are officers of the general committee. Others represent various groups or organization on the general committee and are being invited to join the executive group.

The Executive Council will conduct the business of the Diekirch enterprise in the intervals between monthly meetings of the larger committee. Its members are:

Mrs. Robert V. Smith, chairman; Larry Nutt, secretary with an assistant to be named by him; Richard B. Wolfe, treasurer; Miron A. Morrill, publicity; Victor Furnish, representing the Cornell college students, Mrs. W[.] C. Tenney and the Rev[.] Father John W. Goodman.

Various plans were discussed for taking the Diekirch matter to the churches, schools, and other organizations in Mt. Vernon and Lisbon. The next meeting of the general committee will be held Tuesday evening, Jan. 11.

Thi[s] report was made by Mrs. Robert V. Smith, chairman of the committee on the "adoption" of this town in little Luxembourg at its meeting in the City Hall, Tuesday evening.

Many other garments are still being sorted and cleaned. Coin boxes are out in many Mt. Vernon places of business to defray cost of freight to Luxembourg.

The committee expressed its thanks to Larry Nutt and Walt Crow for organizing the clothing drive. Fred Baldwin, Leo Kaliban and Jack Morgan lent pick-up trucks. Resolutions of thanks were also adopted to the Red Cross and to City Clerk H. C. Dilley for the use of the Red Cross room, and to Albert's and Stoltz's dry cleaning firms for work done free.

Seven war orphans have been assigned to Mt. Vernon, Mrs. Smith explained. These children will receive the New Year's presents from Mt. Vernon. Their parents were all killed either as a result of enemy action or because they took part in the resistance movement.

They are: Colette Weyland¹⁰, born July 26, 1935 and Jacqueline Weyland⁹, born June 3, 1938, Place d'Armes; René Noesen, born May 26, 1939 and Pierre Noesen, born Jan. 6, 1942, 23 rue de l'Hospital; Nicole Lemmer, a girl, born May 12, 1940, Grand 'rue; and Henri and Pierre Matgen, 2, rue du Cur[é], all addresses in Diekirch, Luxembourg.

Persons wishing to ship gift packages to these orphans should note that the maximum weight is 44 pounds [±20kg] and the parcel post rate is 14 cents a pound.

Gifts may be held until they fill a carton, 36 inches [91,44cm] by 16 inches[40,64cm], which may be tied securely and shipped by prepaid freight, prepaid express or parcel post to Church World Service, 2014 E. 21st street, New York, N. Y[.] Mark each box, "For Friends of Luxembourg, from Mt. Vernon, Iowa."

At the same time send a letter to the same address telling the exact contents of each box[.] Church World Service will pack your gifts for ocean shipment[.] Friends of Luxembourg, a relief organization approved by the U.S. State Department, will pay ocean freights on relief packages.

Josyane Greisch, daughter of the Mayor of Diekirch and an AAUW⁴ scholarship student at the University of Illinois, wrote, "I have just received the wonderful news about the adoption of my home town by Mt. Vernon. I just can't express all my happiness about it, although my father wants me to do it for me and for him at the same time.

"I just can't get over this marvellous deed and to me it once again is the proof of the splendid American open-heartedness and extraordinary helping spirit, which I have encountered such many a time since I have been in this wonderful country. I think it is the most wonderful thing that my home-town people as well as my father and I could ever expect to become true. And I am sure that by saying that I express the unanimous idea of all the Diekirch people."

6) 1948-12-16_04 — Thursday, December 16th, 1948 - Page 04

Damaged Luxembourg town lacks the necessities of life

[Image]

The following story of Diekirch has been written by Miss Shirley Griffith, a junior at Cornell college.

Miss Griffith is the elder daughter of Major Paul E. Griffith and Mrs Griffith of Maywood, Ill[inois].

With her mother and sister Betty, she spent five weeks with Major Griffith in Berlin and most of a year in Nuernberg, Bavaria. Her father was chief communications officer for the AMG [Allied Military Government] in Bavaria[.]

Miss Griffith worked from January to June of 1948 in the editorial offices of the "Nuernberg Military Post" an 8-page weekly newspaper published by the American army. She performed a variety of editorial duties.

Diekirch Luxembourg (pictured above) is the [illisible] village which was recently adopted by [illisible] of Mt. Vernon [illisible] improve the [illisible] that has appeared beneath the settling smoke of ruins.

In addition to relief packages, it is the plan of Mt. Vernon workers to actually establish individual contacts with citizens of Diekirch through the sharing of ideas and cultures, as well as clothes, food and money.

In Mt. Vernon people live easily and are smugly wrapped in their own security. Local people dwell in warm comfortable homes, own ice boxes filled with wholesome and tasty food, worship at two churches and find recreation at a local theatre. They have everything in our orderly, snug, typically American village.

The town of Diekirch was occupied by enemy forces during the war and was in the direct line of fire, bombardment and shellings. The Battle of the Bulge, to these people, is more than a vague war term. Today, not one house in the town is undamaged. The church is an eery design of bricks and mortar with empty gapping spaces where stained glass windows once stood.

¹⁰ Also called Weiland.

Half of the homes are completely demolished. Much of the town is gone - it simply no longer exists - or worse, pock marked skeleton outlines are left as reminders of the past. The city hospital of course, was bombed. It has since been partially repaired with bricks remade from rubble, but all surgical instruments and supplies are gone.

The ladies of Diekirch can not walk around the corner from their comfortable homes to purchase food for the [illisible]. Shopping for them [illisible].

The [illisible] army camouflage [illisible] , can be [illisible]. Otherwise, the people of Diekirch are wearing just what they had six years ago, before the occupation began.

Try to recall, what you were wearing in 1942. Are you still wearing it today - the same shoes, underwear, pajamas [sic], socks and stockings? When did you last buy a comb or a tube of lipstick? Was it six years ago?

Such items in Diekirch have become fantastically valuable. A tooth brush and paste, or soap - it doesn't take much to help make life a little easier for these people who unfortunately were born in Luxemburg instead of America.

The school in Diekirch is the Lyc[é]e, an outstanding secondary institution for students from 14 to 20 years. It was bombed and many buildings partially destroyed, there is no laboratory equipment, no library, no study room, all school apparatus is badly needed. How would Cornell look after an air raid?

We in Mt. Vernon can help to fight the results of this destruction by sharing some of what we have. Imagine the bleak desolation of existence in Diekirch and help to ease it by your individual donations. You need not wait for an organized drive. Imagine the situation reversed, your children dressed in camouflage and begging on the streets in order to live.

If you are unable to spare clothing, then give such articles as toys for the children, make-up for the girls, shampoo, underwear, books even letters of encouragement. You need not wonder whether or not your donations will be received or appreciated. They will, and such thinking is an indication of lethargic, selfish rationalization. Donate as much as you can to Diekirch, Luxembourg. The situation there has not been exaggerated.

7) 1948-12-23_01 — Thursday, December 23rd, 1948 - Page 01

Christmas party

Friendly Birthday Club held their annual Christmas party Thursday, Dec. 16, at the home of Mrs. Esther Wooff. One feature of the afternoon was a Christmas tree with an exchange of gifts. Election of officers was held with the following results: president, Mrs. Harold Moore; vice president, Mrs. Belle Thompson; secretary, Mrs. Mable Hartung; treasurer, Mrs. Minnie Manning. The club donated \$3 [129flux] for the town of Diekirch. The luncheon was served from the beautiful decorated table with Christmas favors. Assisting hostesses were Mrs. Lois Mitchell and Mrs. Mable Hartung. Guest was Mrs. Clara Hayden of Marseilles, Ill[inois].

8) 1949-01-06_05 — Thursday, January 6th, 1949 - Page 05

Committee hears report on Diekirch

Further needs of the Diekirch community in Luxembourg were discussed Monday night at a meeting of the executive council of the Diekirch committee held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Smith, 419 N. Second street west. A thousand pounds [454kg] of clothing have been shipped to date.

An immediate goal of the committee probably will be the purchase of a small projector for colored slides with film strip attachment. Clothing that is still on hand or that may come in also will be forwarded.

Richard Wolfe, treasurer, reported receipts of \$32.98 [± 1.418 flux]. One of the largest single receipts was an item of \$11.05 [± 475 flux] from New Century club. Major expenditures have been for freight, and shoe repairs. W[.] J. Kent did \$8.50 [± 365 flux] worth of shoe repairing for \$5.00 [± 15 flux], contributing the difference.

The next meeting of the total committee will be Tuesday evening Jan. 11 in the Red Cross rooms of the city hall. Present Monday night were: Mrs. Smith, chairman, Larry Nutt and Mary Palmer, secretaries, Gaillard Beranek, Mrs. W. C. Tenney, Victor Furnish, R. B. Wolfe and Marion A[.] Morrill.

9) 1949-01-06_08 — Thursday, January 6th, 1949 - Page 08

Receive first hand report on Diekirch

First-hand report of conditions in Diekirch, Mt. Vernon's "adopted" town in Luxembourg, is contained in a letter received by Mrs. Robert V. Smith, chairman of the local Diekirch committee from Charles L. Todd, executive secretary of Operation Democracy, Inc.

"Everywhere in Luxembourg one feels the presence of General Patton and his army" writes Todd. "Hardly a house or barn exists that doesn't bear the mark of Patton or Von Run[d]stedt.

"There are long shaded roads whose every tree bears an axe mark. The Germans tried to fell them across the roads to stop Patton, but the axmen were forced to flee before the job was finished. The hills are still rutted with the tread of Patton's tanks.

"There is a vast American cemetery and the underground hospitals where Americans died by the score. In some cases the German SS simply hid out in the forests and when the Americans had passed by the SS came back. Their behavior the second time was a tribute to even Nazi bestiality.

"In the center of Diekirch stands a 14th century Cathedral badly battered but still solid and indestructible. Near it, a bomb burst tore up yards of pavement and uncovered a beautiful Roman courtyard of inlaid Mosaic. It is safe to say there is not a single building in Diekirch which isn't scarred by artillery fire. Another startling fact is that nearly every roof is new by necessity."

Todd's long report gives interesting data about Mayor Greisch of Diekirch and about conditions in the College of Diekirch and the city's elementary school that will be related in a later report.

Mrs. Smith has reported to the Executive Council of the Diekirch committee that 32 large cartons of clothing have been forwarded to New York to be relayed on to Diekirch. The clothing was collected during recent drives in Mt. Vernon.

10) 1949-01-13_05 — Thursday, January 13th, 1949 - Page 05

Mount Vernon Social

The Friendly Birthday Club will have an all day meeting with Mrs. Samuel Knoer, Thursday, Jan. 20 with a covered dish dinner. The lesson on Youth Needs will be presented by the leaders. Bring your donations for the food drive for Diekirch.

11) 1949-01-20_01 — Thursday, January 20th, 1949 - Page 01

Expect Dietrich [sic] visitor soon

Miss Jos[ya]ne Greisch, daughter of the mayor of Diekirch, Luxembourg, and his wife, the Hon. and Mrs. Alphonse Greisch, is expected in Mt. Vernon at the end of the month.

This announcement was made last week at a meeting of the Mt. Vernon committee for the adoption of Diekirch.

Miss Greisch will be brought to the city by the American Association of University Women. A schedule of her activities here will be announced later.

Mrs. Robert V. Smith, chairman, said that 42 boxes of clothing weight 1260 pounds [±572kg] have been sent to Diekirch. The committee confirmed the purchase of a Kodascope¹¹ projector for the Luxembourg schools. The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 7.

12) 1949-01-27_01 — Thursday, January 27th, 1949 - Page 01

A.A.U.W. sponsors Diekirch visitor

Miss Jo[sy]ane Greisch, daughter of the mayor of Diekirch, Luxembourg, the Hon. Alphonse Greisch, will visit Mount Vernon Jan. 30 through Feb. 1.

Her visit is sponsored by the local chapter of the American Association of University Women which has scheduled the following meetings. Monday evening, Jan. 31 at 8:00 she will talk in the high school auditorium about Diekirch, the town Mt. Vernon has adopted[.] Everyone is invited. Tuesday morning she will speak in King Memorial Chapel at 10:00. In addition she will meet informally with college, high school and grade school groups.

Miss Greisch, graduate student in biology and bio-chemistry at the university of Illinois, is studying in this country on an AAUW international fellowship, granted "to gifted women seeking knowledge and truth." These international grants are a practical expression of a wish for friendship with other nations and a concern for women of countries that have suffered from the war.

13) 1949-01-27_05 — Thursday, January 27th, 1949 - Page 05

Mount Vernon Social

Ingleside club will not meet Monday, Jan. 31 as scheduled, but will attend the meeting on Diekirch at the High School that evening.

The Friendly Birthday Club met at the home of Mrs. Samuel Knoer last Thursday, Jan. 20 with an all day meeting. There were 20 members present. A quilt was tied in the morning and a covered dish dinner served at noon. Leaders, Mrs.

¹¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kodascope>

Harold Moore and Mrs. Mabel Hartung, presented the lesson on Youth Needs. The Club donated \$2 [86flux] for the drive for Diekirch. A collection of \$3 [129flux] for the March of Dimes was sent to Dean Landfear at WMT. Next meeting will be held Feb. 24 with Mrs. Albert Stoneking. Members please notice change in date.

14) 1949-02-03_03 — Thursday, February 3rd, 1949 - Page 03

Mount Vernon Locals

Mrs. L. E. Bigger and Mrs. Watson Davis entertained at a dinner party Tuesday evening in the home of Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Bigger, honoring Miss Jo[sy]ane Greisch of Diekirch, Luxembourg. Covers were laid for eight.

15) 1949-02-03_05 — Thursday, February 3rd, 1949 - Page 05

Daughter of Diekirch Mayor speaks here

First-hand information about Diekirch, the "adopted" town of Mt. Vernon in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was brought to the city this week by Miss Jos[ya]ne Greisch, daughter of the mayor of Diekirch.

This energetic young blond, age 23, a candidate for the master of science degree in bacteriology at the University of Illinois, gave a number of Mt. Vernon groups an insight into the war-time sufferings of her native city. She was brought to Mt. Vernon by the A.A.U.W.⁴

Monday morning Miss Greisch talked to history and sociology classes in the high school. She attended the midyear commencement at Cornell and in the evening, spoke to about 80 citizens - in the high school study hall.

Tuesday her day began with a brief talk to the college chapel. At 2 p.m. she visited all the rooms in the Ward school and answered questions of pupils. She was entertained at tea Tuesday by Mrs. Wesley Ward and at dinner Tuesday evening by Mrs. L. E. Bigger[.] She returned to Champagne-Urbana¹² [336km from Mt. Vernon] Wednesday morning.

Monday evening Miss Greisch traced the history of Luxembourg and of her native Diekirch from pre-Christian times when it was a Celtic center of pagan worship, through the Roman occupation, to the coming of Nazis prior to the last world war[.]

"If one listened to the Nazis," she continued, "one drew the conclusion that their enterprise was just a nice community club for singing of the old German folk songs. But it was not. The gestapo [Geheime Staatspolizei] moved in. My father compiled [compiled ?] some of the figures of our casualties.

"Out of the population of 3,781 in early 1938, 93 were deported - the majority professors from France, doctors, and professional men - 69 were dragged into concentration camp, 52 thrown into prison, 86 drafted into German army, 19 were killed in street fighting, and seven more died in concentration camp.

¹² Urbana is a city in the county of Champaign, Illinois, United States. It is notable for sharing the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with its sister city of Champaign.
[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urbana_\(Illinois\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urbana_(Illinois))

"As the fighting between the Germans and the British and the Americans went on, especially during the Battle of the Bulge, the town was shelled alternately by the Germans and the Allies. Not a house was left undamaged.

"The population was evicted. They had to go out on foot, could not even use the roads because they were needed by the troops. In the bitter cold of December, the women and children walked along the railroad tracks, 50 miles to the south, carrying just what they could."

Considerable progress is being made toward reconstruction, the young woman pointed out. Marshall plan tractors have been received and are at work.

16) 1949-05-19_01 — Thursday, May 19th, 1949 - Page 01

Dr. Young speaks at PTA¹³ meeting

At the business meeting it was voted to donate \$5 [215flux] to the Diekirch project to be used in a fund for the purchase of a slide projector for the school there.

17) 1949-09-29_04 — Thursday, September 29th, 1949 - Page 04

Diekirch Mayor sends thanks for projector

"I thank you most heartily for the magnificent present people of Mt. Vernon made us "

Those are the words of Alphonse Greisch, Mayor of Diekirch, expressing his appreciation for the slide projector sent from Mt. Vernon this summer[.] In his letter dated Aug. 15 he lists the books and other school supplies purchased with \$200 [8.600flux] from last years's Cornell Fund Drive. Among them are a dictionary, Walter Scott - "Der Talisman," Charles Dickens - "Oliver Twist", and Mark Twain - "Les aventures de Huckleberry Finn."

The Mayor's daughter, Josyane, who visited Mt. Vernon last January, received her Master of science degree at the University of Illinois in June. She left New York for Luxembourg Sept. 7[.] A Letter from Lois Bigger aboard the Washington reports that she is sailing on the same ship. Josyane writes , "On coming home I will be able to give my home town people such a wonderful memory about Mt. Vernon I certainly liked the town, the college, but mostly the people best."

18) 1949-11-10_08 — Thursday, November 10th, 1949 - Page 08

UNESCO acknowledges gifts to Diekirch

Mrs. Robert V. Smith has received a letter from Mrs. Ethel B. Gilbert, reconstruction liaison officer for UNESCO at New York City, thanking her for the gifts of much needed educational, scientific and cultural tools for Diekirch, Luxembourg,

¹³ Parents Teacher Association

sent from Mt. Vernon[.] "It is comparatively simple to get groups to send food and clothing to hungry, cold people ... It takes real imagination and Yankee ingenuity to strike out and secure interest in projectors, laboratory equipment, pianos and sewing machines." There is a great need for additional educational equipment, Mrs. Gilbert said.

It has been just a year since Mt. Vernon organized to adopt the town of Diekirch[.] Contacts were established between individuals and typical groups in the two communities.

Quoting from a year ago: "Diekirch has about 4,000 persons. It was destroyed in the center of the Battle of the Bulge. It is the oldest college town in Luxembourg, having a Lyc[é]e with about 500 students."

19) 1950-01-19_02 — Thursday, January 19th, 1950 - Page 02

Way back when

Items of interest in Mount Vernon and Lisbon of years ago

One year ago

January 20, 1949

Miss Jos[ya]ne Greisch, daughter of Alphonse Greisch, the mayor of Diekirch, Luxembourg, is expected in Mt. Vernon at the end of the month.

20) 1950-01-19_03 — Thursday, January 19th, 1950 - Page 03

Diekirch sends painting to people of Mt. Vernon

Mrs. Robert Smith, chairman of the Diekirch [sic]-Mt. Vernon committee, has received the following letter from Mayor Alphonse Greisch.

"The town of Diekirch is sending you her most heartiest Christmas Greetings and best Wishes for a happy New Year.

"I join my best wishes, and hope that the coming Year 1950 will fulfill our chief desire to see you among us.

"Please, give my best wishes the sympathetic population of Mt. Vernon.

"To mark our grateful acknowledgement for your generous adoption and help you have given us, I send a painting to the town of Mt. Vernon. This painting, done by an artist of Diekirch, Roger Gerson, represents a big part of our town, and I hope you like it."

When the painting arrives it will be displayed in Stoltz's window.

The mayor also sends thanks for the slide projector and \$200 [8.600flux] which were sent to the Luxembourg town last summer[.] He reports purchase of books and supplies for the grade school, totaling 10.507 Luxembourg francs (exchange rate 43 francs to a dollar) [±244\$].

In order to decide about sending remaining funds, to determine where to hang the new painting, and to plan future activities in the town affiliation program, a meeting of the entire Diekirch committee was called for tonight, Jan 19, Mrs. Smith's home at 8 p.m[.]

NEEDS HELP

Operation Democracy, Inc., which helped Mt. Vernon initiate relations with Diekirch, has become such a large and successful enterprise that the three individuals who originally financed it must have help. The executive secretary writes "Unless Operation Democracy can find some measure of support from people it is attempting to serve, it must soon cease to exist ... If your committee, and your town, feel that O.D. has proved itself these two years; if you believe with the State Department, that we have given the people of this country a chance to speak for themselves, then, please, take this letter to your fellow citizens and see if they can find a way to help keep O.D. alive throughout the coming year. One community, or one individual, cannot do this alone. Two hundred communities and a hundred thousand people could, however, go a long way toward helping Operation Democracy achieve those objectives which all of us agree are vital to the building of a well-grounded and durable peace."

21) 1950-03-30_09 — Thursday, March 30th, 1950 - Page 09

Diekirch expresses appreciation for gift

Mrs. Robert Smith has received the following letter from Diekirch: "I thank you heartily for the check sent my husband for Diekirch help in January 1950 ... He was very proud and showed the check to the American ambassador, Mrs. Pearle Mesta¹⁴, who showed a great interest. The money will be spent for a dental school office, and if any amount remains, Mr. Greisch intends to buy school books.

"I am glad to tell you the promised painting has been sent ... I think you'll have it in a month."

The letter was signed by Mrs. Greisch, wife of the mayor of Diekirch. The check mentioned above was one for \$202.20 [8.694,6flux], contributed mostly by student groups on the Cornell campus, augmented by gifts from some town organizations.

22) 1950-04-27_03 — Thursday, April 27th, 1950 - Page 03

Display Diekirch painting

A painting which presents a panoramic view of part of the town of Diekirch, is on display in the windows at Stoltz Cleaners. The painting, which is two and a half feet [76,20cm] by four feet [121,92cm], is the work of a Diekirch artist, Roger Gerson[.] It was sent to Mt. Vernon by the Mayor of Diekirch in appreciation of help the local community has extended its overseas neighbor[.] A plaque at the bottom reads "The Town of Diekirch To The Adopting Town of Mount Vernon, December 1949."

23) 1950-10-12_01 — Thursday, October 12th, 1950 - Page 01

Mt. Vernon school news, present Diekirch picture

At a called assembly Monday morning M.V.H.S. [Mount Vernon High School] was presented with the oil painting of Diekirch, Luxembourg, sent to Mt. Vernon in appreciation of the gifts and friendship extended from this community.

¹⁴ https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perle_Mesta

The picture was on display in the window of Stoltz Cleaners for some time. Presentation was made by Mrs. Robert Smith.

24) 1960-10-20_02 — Thursday, October 20th, 1960 - Page 02

Way back when

[Items of interest in Mount Vernon and Lisbon of years ago]

Ten years ago

Oct. 19, 1950

High school receives painting of Diekirch, Luxembourg, sent to it in appreciation of gifts and friendship extended[.]

Paul BONERT

2020-04-27