

For the Moslems, the second-largest religious group in Sofia, the Banya-Bashi mosque is still open but the number of faithful has dwindled. The majestic, huge-domed synagogue on George Washington Street is like a museum now, living in the glory of its past. With only a remnant of the Jewish community left, the temple has had to give up part of its space for secular use.

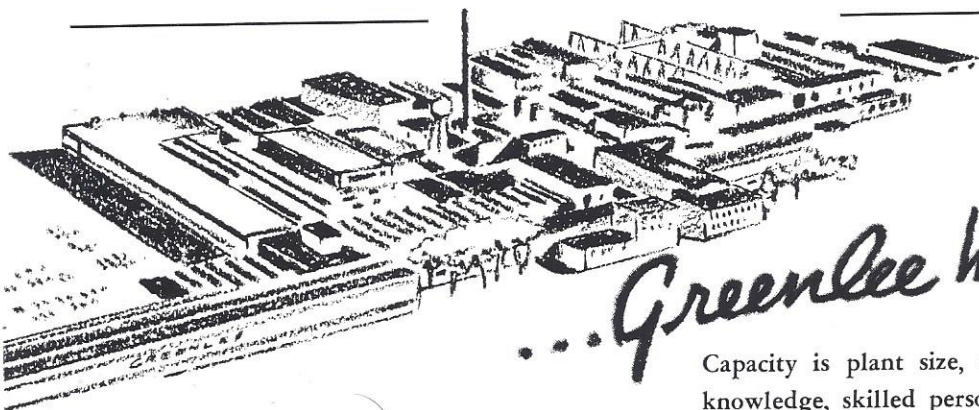
The staid Sofians manage to divert themselves with a variety of recreational pleasures. The cultural joys appeal to some—with opera, concerts, theatres, and museums in abundance. For the sports fans there is participating and spectating galore—with a plethora of sports halls, playgrounds, and stadia. For the children there are amusement parks for grand-scale romping. For the older folk there is the customary evening and holiday promenading under the chestnut trees along the broad Boulevard Rouski. For those who like to pick winners—by instinct or system—there is the “Toto” play, which gives away an 8000 leva (\$8000) tax-free prize each week on sports results.

But for all Sofians the lure of Mount Vitocha as a playground and relaxation retreat is the strongest. By bus, tram, lift, and on foot, on their day-and-a-half week ends and on holidays they make for the invigorating mountain en masse. Vitocha is sprinkled with hotels, restaurants, chalets, and rest houses in the midst of its pine forests, thickets, and meadows. One of the most striking sights on the mountainside are the “stone rivers”—streams of huge boulders from under which is heard the murmur of running water. Hikers, skiers, campers, and picnickers revel in the clean mountain breezes wafting the scent of resin.

Honeycombed with goat paths, lanes, and spiraling roads rimmed with wildflowers and berries, Vitocha's primitive woods stretch to a dominating height that forms a spectacular and inseparable part of Sofia's landscape.

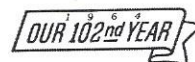
The city motto of Sofia, emblazoned on its banners, says “Ever Growing, Never Old.” Plainly evident is the widespread reconstruction and development, the numbers of new buildings and dwellings replacing the heavy damage of Allied bombings during the war. But to those who remember the distinct individuality of the Sofia of two decades ago, its character today has assimilated itself into that of a standard Soviet-style metropolis.

Departing Sofia toward Asia Minor aboard the Orient Express one travels almost the whole length of the country. The Paris-Istanbul limited rolls down the Maritsa Valley, the towering Balkan Mountains to the North and the rugged Rhodope range to the South, past fertile countryside scented with the aroma of the famed Bulgarian roses. Following the Aegean-bound course of the Maritsa River, the coaches eventually arrive at the frontier. The border check is exacting and thorough. The Bulgarian engineer and trainmen retire, and a Greek crew takes over. After a protracted wait the locomotive shrieks and the train edges slowly toward the actual demarcation line. From gaunt wooden towers guards with high-powered binoculars watch closely as the train makes its way through barbed wire terrain. The last Bulgarian policeman jumps from the coach and salutes self-consciously. A few minutes later we arrive at an outlying Greek village, where a crowd of smiling and shouting Greek children greet us effusively.



...Greenlee has Capacity

Capacity is plant size, manufacturing facilities, technical knowledge, skilled personnel, and Greenlee has them all. But Greenlee adds something more . . . a creative and co-operative approach that assures success when solving machine design problems. This kind of capacity has earned exceptional recognition for Greenlee in the fields of metal-working, die casting, woodworking and high-pressure hydraulics. It can help you, too. Call capable Greenlee whenever you have a machine design problem.



DETROIT OFFICE—Rooms 1608-1609, Fisher Bldg. Phone 313 872-3938

TOOLS • DIE CASTING MACHINES • TRIM PRESSES • HYDRAULIC AND HAND TOOLS • COMMERCIAL CASTINGS