

## Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

RUSHVILLE, Ind., July 20.—For weeks I've been trying to think of some way to horn in on this Willkie thing.

And then this morning it came to me. It's a bond that can't help but make us inseparable. The bond consists of farm land. It's like this:

Willkie owns farms. I don't own farms.

Willkie loves farms. I hate farms.

With such a harmony of interest as that, I don't see how I can wind up as anything less than Secretary of Agriculture.

In an effort to knit more closely these ties between us, I came over here to tramp around over Mr. Willkie's farms. He owns five big ones here in Rush County, about 40 miles west of Indianapolis.

They're neither a hobby nor a plaything. You won't find any polo fields or racing stables. They're real farms, run to make money—and they do.

They total 1407 acres, and it's said Rush County is the only place in the world where Willkie owns real estate. He bought the first farm about six years ago and has been buying one a year ever since.

He is doing it for investment, and because he loves to make things grow. The 1407 acres are assessed at \$68,000. However, land is averaging about \$115 an acre here right now. Which means that Willkie is worth around \$160,000 in farm land. Not bad for a clopper.

## Run on 50-50 Basis

Willkie's farms aren't run on a chain basis. Each has its own tenant, and its own bookkeeping. The only thing that ties them together is Willkie's farm manager—a lifelong friend named Miss Mary Sleeth.

All the farms have a definite crop-rotation schedule—corn, wheat, clover, in successive years. That builds up the soil. Very little grain is sold. It is fed to cattle, hogs, sheep and chickens. All the farmers use tractors, and each has at least four horses.

There are six families on the five farms, since one of them is tenanted by two families in partnership—a father and son. The farms are run on a 50-50 basis. Willkie furnishes the land and the buildings.

## Our Town

ONE OF THE WORST scares Indianapolis ever had occurred on Sept. 23, 1902. On that day Theodore Roosevelt was in town. The Circle was jampacked with people, word having got around that the President would leave the Columbia Club at 2 p.m. to continue his trip through the West.

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## It's a Small World

The cavalcade swung around the Circle and down S. Meridian St. By this time the procession had the appearance of going to a fire. People along the line of march said it was because the President had to catch a train. Everybody guessed wrong. The parade didn't stop at the depot at all. It kept right on, crossed the tracks, and turned east on South St. It stopped in front of St. Vincent's Hospital.

Drs. Cook and Richardson escorted President Roosevelt to an operating room. When they got there, they found Drs. John H. Oliver, Henry Jamison and George A. Lung waiting for them. At 4:15 Dr. Oliver performed an operation. Sister Mary Joseph stood by. After the operation, the President was taken upstairs to a private room where he met Sister Regina. The President recognized her rightaway. The two, it appears, had met at Montauk Point. Sister Regina was one of the nurses who attended the fever stricken

men of Col. Roosevelt's regiment of Rough Riders. Bewildered as he was, the President remarked that it was a small world after all.

Sometime around 8 o'clock that evening, the President was wrapped in a warm blanket and placed on a hospital stretcher. Escorted by a company of infantry, the patient was carried to a Pullman car a block away, by four Negro porters on the train. That same night, the train was on its way to Washington, D. C. The President had to cancel his Western trip.

Next morning Indianapolis learned what all the excitement was about. The swelling of the President's leg which made an operation necessary was the result of a bruise he received at the time of a trolley accident at Pittsfield, Mass., when the President's carriage was run into and demolished by the car. Secret Service Agent Craig who was sitting beside the President at the time was killed.

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