

## Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

ABOARD S. S. WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Our first and only stop between Los Angeles and Panama was at Acapulco, Mexico. We got there at midafternoon, and stayed only three hours.

Acapulco is lovely from the harbor. The ship sails between high hills, and somehow, even if you've never been there before, you'd know from the hillside vegetation that you were somewhere in Mexico.

The ship drops anchor out in the harbor, and passengers are taken ashore in funny old launches. Brown-skinned diving boys in dugout canoes row madly out to meet the ship, and dive for coins that passengers throw over.

I was standing at the rail as we came in. A girl standing beside me wanted to throw a coin, but couldn't get one of the boys to look up. So I, being an old Latin from way back, leaned way over, yelled, "Oyga," which means "Look" or "Hey" in Spanish.

Whereupon the man on my other side leaned over and yelled, "Oyga," except he put about a yard of honest-to-goodness Spanish on the end of it. And I feel cheap, for all the Spanish I know outside of "Oyga"—and I'm not sure of that—is how to count up to 10.

Anyhow, That Girl and I didn't go ashore, because we had been there before, and I wanted to impress all the other passengers with what a sophisticated and travel-weary man I am. But everybody else went ashore, so there was nobody left to impress.

I think this is as good a point as any to reveal that, at long last, I've had a chance to wear my new tuxedo.

## A Romantic Looking Group

All the passengers dressed for dinner the night before we got to Acapulco, and they certainly made a romantic looking spectacle in the dining room, and certainly not the least impressive of them was . . . well, I kinda hate to say it right out in print like this, but certain people were heard to remark that I never looked better. Such a remark has its limitations of course, but still . . .

As a matter of fact, this business of "dressing" isn't half bad. I've always been a sort of belligerent con-

scientious objector to evening clothes. But on this trip, dressing for dinner gets to be sort of exciting. Everybody else does it, so you don't feel self-conscious. And the women all look so wildly hued and tropical in their evening gowns, and somehow it produces about the same feeling that you get standing on the sidewalk in wartime and listening to the band play "Stars and Stripes Forever." In other words, a fellow kind of overshoots himself.

I think I'll take to wearing my tux all day long, even after we're back on shore.

Another thing that has surprised me about traveling on this luxury trip—all the people aren't rich at all. I've found Government workers, and ordinary clerks, and people retired on small incomes.

The ship is about half filled—between 200 and 300 first-class. There isn't a single one you'd pick as filthy rich. Most of them are fairly quiet people and nobody puts on any extra dog.

## The Help Is First Class

You never know who your fellow-passenger may turn out to be. Already I've discovered three of us, all traveling first class, who once worked on ships ourselves, as everything from oilers to wine stewards. And speaking of people who work on ships, the United States Lines, I must tell you, has achieved the ultimate in honesty, high-class service on this boat. It's a kind of service that too many snooty hotels don't know enough to strive for.

What I mean is this—the help from bellboy to purser's clerk are not only amazingly quick and efficient and thoughtful, but they are also human and pleasant and delightful personally. There is no fawning over you, as if you were so much better than they are. And there is no lording it over you, as the help does in some fancy hotels. And there is no air of hating you because they're serving you, as there is in too many restaurants.

Jimmy Hanlon is our dining-room steward, and he's the kind of fellow I can whisper to and ask what I should wear tonight—and he tells me. And Charles Crantz, the captain's steward, who serves us too sometimes, is one of our good friends.

Practically my favorite people on this boat are the four smoking-room stewards. They are men you would like to have as friends. They are four perfect gentlemen, and their names are William Inselmann, Bernhard Wilmes, Jo Jared and Sammy Boyd.

## Inside Indianapolis (And "Our Town")

BET YOU DIDN'T know that DePauw University got its start a little more than 100 years ago because of liquor. It did, though. The college scene in Indiana a century ago was hardly as bright and serene as it is today. Not by a long shot.

They say that DePauw is actually the result of first-class care of pique and we can well understand it. Indiana University was already in existence, and the Methodists asked if they couldn't have a little representation on the board of trustees and the faculty. Governor Sam Bigger blew up at this and raised all sorts of commotion with the Methodists. It was sort of bad politics and the ministers retorted that they didn't like his tone and what's more they'd build a college that would make the State University look like a peanut and would, to boot, beat him if he ran for Governor again.

Well, Sam Bigger did run again and, sure enough, he was trounced by James Whitcomb, a leading Methodist. Then the ministers went ahead with their plans for their college and entertained bids from various towns. They finally accepted Greencastle and then asked the Legislature to charter it.

That's when the fun started. The State Senate was split wide open on the issue and day after day the wrangling continued. The No. 1 opponent of the church, though, happened to like his little nipp and left his seat pretty frequently to bolster up the inner front for the debates to follow.

The backers of the college just kept their eye on this gentleman and bided their time. One day he was feeling particularly low about affairs and needed considerable spiritual aid. The Methodists called the matter up for vote while he was ensconced at the bar and scored their big victory. As a result, Asbury College opened its doors in 1840.

## Washington

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—In another week Wendell Willkie will be out on the road making his real campaign. It will be his test, because unless he makes a fast recovery the election is likely to freeze against him without delay.

No Presidential candidate ever had a more difficult task. This simply is not a situation that can easily be turned to the advantage of any out party. International events play directly into Roosevelt's hands. He stands for action, and the Republicans essentially stand for inaction.

Right now the Administration is trying to get Congress to put up 500 million dollars for export-import bank operations in Latin America, to strengthen the economies of those countries. The entire Republican membership of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee signed a minority report opposing the measure. Roosevelt has through his deal with the British bases, and the Republicans say they are glad he got the bases out there should have been a lot of argument over it.

Years of argument occurred about putting a canal across the isthmus but we never got the canal until Theodore Roosevelt took Panama, without, as the late Philander Knox said, any taint of constitutionality. Most people are now glad he did it, without caring much how he did it. If the end is justified, it is difficult to get up much of an argument over the means in times like these. That may not be good ethics but it is the way of politics.

## Defense Spending a Life-Saver

Willkie is therefore up against a hard argument in the face of a fait accompli. He must base his case not on the results but on the methods used. People just aren't interested now in talk that delays things they want done.

Neither will attacks on Roosevelt spending arouse much concern except among the minority which has always been against him for it. It is more difficult to feel that we are drifting into war.

HYDE PARK, Monday.—The service yesterday was an impressive one. All the hymns stressed the fact that this was a day when we were praying for peace. After his sermon, our minister, the Rev. Frank Wilson, explained that the President had asked us all to join in a prayer for peace. Mr. Wilson told us that prayer does not mean something that you say only on one occasion. It is a continuing thing, something you carry in your heart and mind all the time and it moulds much of your active life.

I have seen several articles lately in which people have seemed to feel that we are drifting into war. One after the other has said that this or that individual action, or Government action, brought us nearer to participation in the European cataclysm. I

look at it entirely differently. It seems to me that a firm, strong attitude is more apt to keep us out of war. War is a mass movement, but masses are made up of individuals. An individual is much more apt to be bullied and badgered until he finally turns upon his assailant and finds himself in a fight. If he is weak and indecisive in character and allows his opponent to take the offensive. An individual, however, who feels strong and full of self-

confidence does not invite the aggressor. I feel that as a nation we should be that kind of individual, not wanting to bully anyone, not wanting to take anything away from anyone, but feeling so self-confident and strong that no one desires to oppose us.

After lunch yesterday, I went down to Poughkeepsie to say a few words at the unveiling of a monument to General Pulaski. The General did much to help us gain freedom, and it is only right that we should honor him and remember him among our heroes, particularly at this time when freedom everywhere is threatened again. Quite a crowd gathered at the monument and one interesting incident occurred.

A few years ago, the women's division of the Democratic State Committee held some essay contests and we had a boy who represented Dutchess County as one of the winners. He was an interesting young boy who has now grown to be a young man and is practicing law in Poughkeepsie and managing the campaign for the Democratic candidate for Congress. He was to be my escort at this Polish celebration. I think he is a good boy and I am glad to know that it gave me great pleasure to see him again. I am wishing him success in all his undertakings.

Our Norwegian friends left us today, so we all had a picnic supper last night out by the big fireplace on the picnic grounds. The children played all kinds of games afterwards to keep warm. I fear I must acknowledge that autumn has come to stay.

By Eleanor Roosevelt

TECUMSEH, Neb., Sept. 10 (U.P.).—The turnout to hear Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate Henry A. Wallace yesterday was advertised as held "in co-operation with the Johnson County Republican organization. I think he is to be my escort at this Polish celebration. I think he is a good boy and I am glad to know that it gave me great pleasure to see him again. I am wishing him success in all his undertakings.

William A. Schall, chairman of the Nebraska State Democratic Central Committee, said the county Republican organization aided in advertising the meeting and in bringing out about 1500 farmers, as well as a luncheon meeting for Wallace. Republican comment was lacking.

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