

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

ALBUQUERQUE, Jan. 7.—During those recent three months of vegetating I did manage to get in a couple of trips. In September I flew with some friends out to Los Angeles, stayed four days, saw the "Ice Follies," spent all my money, and had a wonderful time.

Then in November I took a flying trip to Washington to arrange for the winter's Orient trip which never came off. Washington was hectic, and almost killed me.

On the way back I stopped off in Indiana to see my Dad and Aunt Mary. My Aunt Mary cried and said she was so glad I came; she said she'd had a feeling that since my mother was gone I would never come home again. I don't know what made her think that. My father is well, but he had a bitter year. His two remaining brothers died within a month of each other.

But he is going on about his days, and he grieves only to himself. He takes little trips, and despite his 74 years gets out and helps the neighbors now and then.

Home for the Duration

MY FATHER kept putting off his big trip all summer, but he didn't give it up. We discussed it at great length when I was home, and finally got it all arranged.

The plan was that in January (just about now) he would get on that airplane he's wanted to ride on for so long, fly out here to Albuquerque, and then on to California.

We discussed Aunt Mary's trip too. She sort of leaned toward staying at home this winter and taking her big trip next summer. She was fretting about closing the house, and draining the pipes, and letting the fruit freeze, and lending out the cow, and selling the chickens, and getting somebody to keep the dog. It all seemed too gigantic to her.

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

GETTING READY for black-outs—practice or otherwise—is no small problem for the Power & Light Co. In order to be ready, "when and if," company officials have prepared a manual telling all employees just what to do in an emergency.

The simplest way to effect a blackout would be simply to pull all the switches in the power plants and cut off the power at its source. That would do the trick all right, but it also would halt a lot of other services necessary to the public welfare. For instance, hospitals, water pumpage, ventilation units, elevators, etc.

The utility's job boils down primarily to extinguishing street lights and the lights at its plants and substations. Some street light circuits can be operated from the power plants. Others are operated by time clock controls mounted on poles.

The utility's linemen will carry their pole climbers home with them henceforth and as soon as they hear the blackout signal, it will be their duty to turn off certain circuits in their own neighborhoods. Some of them will dash to nearby substations, turn off the floodlights, and remain on guard until the all clear signal is sounded.

The big problem facing the utility and others working on civil defense is: "Who will sound the blackout alarm?" There are no laws definitely settling this question. To avoid complications, the utility tentatively plans to accept blackout orders only from the police department, and all orders will be checked back. That will eliminate the possibility of cranks or saboteurs issuing false orders by phone.

Wanted: An Idea

AN AUTO SALESMAN who a few months ago sold a car to Miss Catherine Bailey, reading advisor at the Library, dropped in yesterday and asked Miss

Washington

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—One glaring, almost unforgivable fact tells the whole story of our trouble with war production.

That unfortunate fact is that we have no opposite number who can do business with Lord Beaverbrook, the British minister of supply.

Beaverbrook came here with Churchill to sit down and try to coddle British production with ours. But nobody in the American Government can talk with Beaverbrook on a footing of equal authority except President Roosevelt.

The heavily burdened President of the United States should not have to take time out to settle production details that Churchill delegates to one of his cabinet ministers. Yet that is the situation in Washington. When Beaverbrook tries to deal with anybody except Mr. Roosevelt, he has to clutch in a toe for shadowy figures. When he gets hold of one of them, they can't reach a decision because no American official, whoever he may be, has the authority to act.

Donald Nelson, executive of SPAB, is regarded by many as the top man in war production. That is not correct. In fact, Nelson was in Cuba, taking a few days' rest, when the automobile industry assembled here to discuss with OPM the gigantic task of converting this enormous industry over to war work. I was under the impression that Nelson would have something to do with that. But I understand not. That is OPM's baby—Knudsen and Hillman.

Hold Your Hats—

YOU GO DIZZY trying to understand this complicated setup, and when you follow it through you seem to have nothing left to get hold of.

My Day

BOSTON, Tuesday.—After writing my column yesterday afternoon, I went over at 6:30 to the opening of the American Women's Voluntary Service Club house. They have been given the use of Mrs. Sumner Welles' stable, and they are to use it for their activities. I hope that the attendance at the opening means that they will have a large number of workers, because I feel sure that there is plenty for them to do.

There are too few places in this city for the newcomers who are department workers, or for the influx of sightseers from the camps, etc., to meet in a congenial atmosphere.

After dinner, I went up to the Library of Congress to the opening of an exhibition of South American posters. A few of our own are also shown, but I do not think we have yet learned to use our best artists, so our posters do not seem to be quite as vivid and colorful as some of those from the South American countries.

I was struck by the fact that so many of them dealt with questions of social security, housing and

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U. S. Delaying Action Pays Debt to Britain for Holding Hitler.

By GEORGE WELLER

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Manila's agony has protected their East Indies colonies and Australia from the annihilating blow which could have been delivered had the forces of Gen. Douglas MacArthur been unable to interpose resistance to the death.

Had the American and Filipino soldiers collapsed before the Japanese blitz, it is certain that many troop transports and aircraft, whose concentration upon the Singapore and Borneo fronts may soon be expected, would already be here where pressure is already great.

Strangers will open juke-joints; prices will skyrocket; farmers for the first time will have to lock their horses against the 3000 "foreigners" who will swoon in and devour the community.

Our farm home, in the nearly 40 years of my memory, has never had a lock of any kind on it. I know of no house in our neighborhood that has a lock. But now the farmers will put locks on their houses and their cribs.

To me that one little gesture is the symbol of a tragedy—the planned and necessary execution of an old community.

An Era Draws to a Close

FOR A GREAT defense plant anywhere near us means the end of the close-knit, kindly, simple, honest community that I and my father and my grandfather knew. It means that people like my father will have to sell and move off the land they have tred a lifetime.

The Government finally decided to build the plant north of Dana, which means that our own farm has escaped. But the community has not escaped. The whole country will be changed for miles around. Little old Dana will suddenly become a boom town, roaring, crowded, strange.

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Debt to Britain Cleared

Although the Philippine defeat makes part of America suffer what little countries like Norway, Belgium and Poland already have known, it is considered here that this sacrifice has at least accomplished one thing. America in sacrificing the Philippines has fully cleared her debt to Great Britain for delaying Hitler's plans of world conquest.

The American Philippines has been the price of the delaying action which has saved India, Burma, Malaya and Dutch Indonesia. Hongkong could not help Manila and Singapore has been too occupied saving herself to venture across the south China Sea.

Permanent Pacific Problem

It is felt here among American political observers that the time is at hand for overhauling the Pacific political situation complementary to war strategy. The first step in such a plan would be the immediate creation of American air and naval bases from Singapore southward under a permanent American flag and administration.

Even the most unregenerate isolationist will admit from Japan's behavior and ideology that the United States is faced in the Pacific with a permanent and not a temporary problem. Japan's defeat by Germany's will probably be the signal for the same period of cyclic abnegation and national renascence as Germany has demonstrated under Hitler.

U. S. Needs Total Victory

The United States, which dodged long-term political commitments in Europe after World War I, cannot escape them in the Pacific this time.

Security will demand far stronger insular footholds than before Japan dropped her mask.

Some bases will be provided by slow reconquest from Japan but not enough. Japan will be difficult to down and if Britain and Holland want her held down—being patently unable to do this and handle Germany in Europe, too—they will look to the United States to do it.

And the Japanese bombers and fighters shuttle un molested back and forth upon this road, contentedly humming to themselves and destroying everything as they go.

They do not drop poison gas bombs

but they are piloted by German aviators, but their placid purpose is to destroy all which is not useful to the Mikado's empire and to cut away the channel along which flows tin and rubber via Singapore to the democracies.

When Benito Mussolini conquered Ethiopia critical comment from the Anglo-American side made the country a wasteland. Nothing like that can be said of Malaya. Aside from its tin and rubber, which will fall into Japan's hands if her advance remains unchecked, the rich soil would make any farmer's hands tingle.

Europeans are uniformly healthy here, cholera and yellow fever being unknown and malaria driven away from the towns, despite the swamps, by an anti-mosquito belt of oil-surfaced moats.

From Kuala Lumpur in Selangor, capital of the Federated Malay States, which is about as far north from Singapore as Boston is from Philadelphia, to Ipoh, about 150 miles northward, is a line of bright green, yellow and pink villages once built and now shuttered and silent with military police keeping order.

Recommendations, to be acted upon, include:

1. Abandonment of vests and two-pants suits.

2. No cuffs on trousers.

3. Shorter topcoats and overcoats.

4. An end to the pocket flap.

5. Less buttons.

6. Brighter colors.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 7 (U.P.)

—The International Association of Clothing Designers today con-

sidered recommendations for changes in men's clothing styles to conserve materials.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 7 (UPI)—

—The Teamsters & Chauffeurs Union has protested formally the dismissal of 56 union members from county highway department jobs by the new Republican majority on the Board of County Commissioners.

The union, in a statement issued last night, charged that the Commissioners ignored an agreement signed by the Board last September, agreeing to recognize seniority rights.

Commissioners William Boson and William T. Ayres, who took control of the Board on Jan. 1, replaced all Democratic workers at the Highway Department with Republicans.

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Dr. Goethe Link was installed to succeed Dr. Ritchey.

It was reported that the society has the largest enrollment in its history, 609 active members, including 40 in military service. The total membership, including honorary and inactive members, is 672.

Dr. Larue Carter, chairman of the military affairs committee and medical liaison member of the 8th Corps Area Procurement Board, and Dr. William M. Dugan, secretary-treasurer of the group, also spoke.

WELFARE GROUP TO MEET

The Family Welfare Society will hold its annual luncheon meeting at noon next Wednesday in the Indianapolis Athletic Club. The society will hear a report of work accomplished during the past year by Herbert S. King, president.

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