

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

GOLD HILL, Ore., Feb. 14.—For several years travelers have been writing me that the next time I passed through southern Oregon I must stop and see the "House of Mystery," in which everything leans to the north. So this time I did. I explored it. I sniffed, peeked, measured, balanced and sighted—and everything does lean to the north, including people.

This "House of Mystery" is about halfway between Grant's Pass and Medford, and four miles off U. S. Highway 99. It is operated as a tourist attraction. They charge 30 cents a person.

John Listner, a chemical engineer, retired 12 years ago because of ill health, moved up here and devoted his talents to getting this spooky phenomenon in shape for public presentation.

Listner now lives a few miles farther up the creek. He keeps a guide and caretaker here beside the House of Mystery—an unimpressive cabin of his own to guide tourists.

The House of Mystery is an old frame building that was once an assay office. Some 30 years ago it sort of leaned over and slid part way down the hillside.

The building sits in the center of a 125-foot circle, and anywhere within this circle everything acts funny. Trees lean north, bubble-levels won't work, plumb-lines don't hang straight, people's heights aren't the same. It's enough to drive a man nuts.

It's Hard to Believe

THEY NEVER DID get it over to me exactly what caused it all. You'd assume there was a body of ore directly underneath that exerted a strong magnetic pull; but they say that isn't it.

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

PROFILE OF THE WEEK: Howard Scott Morse, head man at the Water Company, all round sports enthusiast and, appropriately enough, "a water wiz." It was just about a year ago that he walked into his office carrying a forked stick and, in the presence of numerous skeptics, proceeded to give a demonstration.

The stick never wavered until it was over the drinking fountain where it twisted so violently it nearly got away from him. It did the same thing above a fire plug. That established his reputation. At least to his own satisfaction.

Howard Morse's close friends call him Scotty. He's 60, stands 5 feet, 7, and weighs probably 160. He has well-developed shoulders from canoe paddling. His dark, bushy eyebrows contrast markedly with his almost white hair—what there is of it. His complexion is fair. Born in the East, he still retains an eastern twang; says "ideal" and "Cincinnati."

At his desk he wears glasses which he takes off and puts on a dozen times during a conversation. When he's thinking, he sometimes takes one of those bushy, black eyebrows between thumb and forefinger and wrestles it around his forehead. He follows a statement with an inquiring: "Eh?"

Just an Average Golfer

Ordinarily he's rather serious but he has a sly sense of humor. He often kids in such a serious vein that the person being kidded doesn't know it. He's even tempered, as a rule. When his indignation is aroused he gets quiet and analytical, rather than noisy and demonstrative.

It would be difficult to name a sport in which he isn't interested. He likes hunting, fishing, football, basketball, hockey, often takes the family to baseball games. He's still proud of the fact he and his son, Dan, now a young engineer at Allison's, once won the father and son tennis tourney at Culver. He manages an occasional nine holes of golf of an evening, with his wife as his partner. Usually he breaks 100.

One of his favorite sports is canoeing, at which he excelled in his youth. He keeps a canoe on White River and loves to paddle up the river before breakfast Sunday mornings and other times when the motor boats aren't too thick. His other prime favorite is "roughing it" on camping trips with his Scien-

Washington

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—As an academic statement of the theoretical possibilities, it is accurate, I suppose, to say that we can lose the war.

But the realistic fact is that we won't lose the war. First, I know we won't lose the war when I see something like the Chrysler tank arsenal and know that the same miracle of war production is being wrought over and over again in many parts of the country. I know it is a mathematical certainty that we shall far outdo the Axis.

Second, do you know any American who is ready to give up until the war is won? Everything I hear is the other way.

Third, MacArthur and his men, and the men at Wake Island, have set an example of courage and skillful fighting that will be the pattern of American fighting and its inspiration throughout this war. All American fighting forces will make it their business to live up to the heroic level which has been set in these opening engagements.

The Longer the War

YOU CAN RING all the changes on the disaster that has reached its climax at Singapore. You can paint a black picture, without exaggeration, of the failures which made that possible. You can point to the train of blows likely still to follow as a result of it. Nobody can be blind to them. Our run of bad news is not over yet.

But this war is going on. It is going on until the

My Day

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Friday.—One of my old friends remarked yesterday that it was a curious thing how willing we are to ask artists to contribute their time, their money and their talents for charitable and civic purposes, and yet we will not concede that they have a right to take part in a broad effort of preparation for war on a paid, or an unpaid basis.

It doesn't seem exactly a generous attitude on the part of the public, does it?

This is, of course, merely a prelude to saying that I am delighted that Mr. Melvyn Douglas is to make it possible for many people in the artistic professions who have offered their services in the war effort, actually to do things which will contribute to the morale of the nation.

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By Eleanor Roosevelt

California. I wonder how many of them can match the generosity to good causes which these two people have shown.

Sometimes I wonder whether harsh words or ignorance will not some day be paid for in bitterness of spirit. It seems to me that there is somewhere in the Bible a statement, which runs: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I spent more than half an hour with Franklin Jr., in the hospital Wednesday morning and found him extraordinarily well.

I lunched with some friends on Wednesday and at 6:00 o'clock went down to the opening of the Carnival for Democracy, where many organizations have joined together to give information about their work. Interesting booths were put up for this purpose.

This being the annual Negro history week I found two booths at the carnival, which gave information illustrative of the things which we should know about the Negro's contribution to our nation.

Mrs. Morgenthau, Miss Thompson and I dined together and went to see and hear "Porgy and Bess."

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