

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16.—Well what do you know about this! Here we are in San Francisco again. If I'm not careful I'll get to calling San Francisco home instead of Albuquerque or Indiana or Washington.

In addition to torrents of rain and the key to the city, I was welcomed here by a large batch of mail. On the whole the mail was nice and the writers wished me much health, happiness and wealth. However, there were a few letters which made me feel bad. It seems some people are being wracked by an indignant concern over the apparent disintegration of this noted author's moral fiber. So perhaps a little explanation is due them.

You know that cooking column I wrote from Albuquerque a few months ago? The one in which we took up a collection from the guests to buy flowers for the delivery boy who broke his leg (although there wasn't any delivery boy and he didn't break his leg). And I said that instead of buying flowers I took the money and bought whisky with it.

Well, that seems to have upset several people. That I could be such a rat as to buy whisky with that money!

Now Here's What Happened

WHAT ASTOUNDS ME is that people apparently have taken to believing everything they see in this column. Why, I've been writing fantasies like that for seven years, and nobody ever got so serious about it before.

So I'll draw those disgruntled readers a picture of that nasty whisky-buying episode.

No collection was ever taken to buy flowers for the delivery boy who didn't exist. And I did not buy whisky with the money that wasn't collected. All the world knows that I don't buy whisky. What I actually bought was a trainload of burros, all named Pete.

Now, everybody happy?

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

LEONARD SOLOMON, who went to Washington Dec. 7 as a "nothing a year" man, has been promoted. Home over the weekend to look after his other duties as head of the Victor Furniture Co., he reported he'd been upped to a "dollar a year" job with a resounding important title. The title: Acting Assistant Chief of the Wholesale and Retail Policy Sections and Regional Policy Analysis Unit of the Division of Civilian Supply of the War Production Board. That's all of it we can remember. . . . Twenty-three girls in the Bell Telephone Company's Indianapolis commercial department have a birthday defense stamp club. Whenever one of them has a birthday, the other 22 each give her a 25-cent defense stamp. Everybody comes out even by the end of the year, except Uncle Sam, and he's ahead.

Here and There

IN CASE YOU'VE been wondering why the United States flag flies from the court house roof both day and night, rain or shine, we've got the answer. We asked County Commissioner Bud Bossom about it. "Well," he told us, "the boys pretty nearly broke their necks getting up there when they first put it up, and it's too dangerous to have someone climb up twice a day." It looks as though somebody was going to have to make a trip up there pretty soon to put up a new flag. The old one's getting pretty tattered. . . . The war is playing hob with some long standing pinocchio, rhum, etc., associations at our fire stations. As a precaution, the Fire Department has issued strict regulations barring loafing by outsiders in fire stations. That means some of the outsider-regulars no longer can drop in on an evening for a friendly game. Sherman was right, wasn't he, boys? . . . The boys and girls in the office of Secretary of State Jim Tucker

are smashed. Some have been

fearful that after the succession of defeat which is now going on and which probably will continue for some time until we are fully in action, certain groups would try to use the Republican Party as the vehicle for a "what's-the-use-of-going-on-with-all-this?" campaign.

If you took seriously the line which some of our people were handing out before Pearl Harbor that would be logical. Some of them thought Germany was going to win the war and that we might

as well adjust ourselves to it. They were for a negotiated peace. They thought we ought to get out of the Far East and let Japan have her own way there. If advocates of such views had intended to fifth-column their way into the Republican Party and use it as their vehicle, they can scarcely hope now to do that.

All along it has been clear that Wendell Willkie would employ all his power to prevent any such use of the G. O. P.

Shutting the Door

NOW THOMAS E. DEWEY, who is getting ready to run for Governor of New York, makes himself clear to the same effect. He says the issue of appeasement and compromise will surely rise. He warns that appeasers may attempt to sneak into the Republican

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

NEW YORK CITY, Sunday.—Lincoln's birthday is a day I always like especially to celebrate in spirit, for to me Lincoln was not only one of our great Presidents, but a very great man. It seemed very fitting to be, for that day, in Cornell at Farm and Home Week, for Lincoln was of the earth, earthy, close to the soil and his spirit was akin to that of the rural people of our nation.

I am always interested in the exhibits at farm and home week and found, as usual, ingenuity and initiative displayed in various ways. The black-out room for the farm home was very well arranged, but that is one thing the farmers can keep fairly sure will not often be used by them, for it is too costly to waste a bomb on isolated farms.

The thing which appealed to me was the converted truck, equipped in a way for which any farm family could provide. They had large milk cans placed in barrels, one surrounded by excelsior, and the other surrounded by newspapers. I was told they could keep food hot in the can surrounded by newspapers for 17 hours in zero weather.

They had also arranged compartments on the fireless cooker principle, in which they could put large cans, drawers which could pull out and hold supplies, Monday.

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cooking and eating utensils, and a portable canned gas stove which could heat a large quantity of food. This truck could feed 150 people at an emergency meal in a very short time.

The book fair, the art exhibit by Ithaca artists, and the craft work done primarily by women, were all interesting exhibits. I could have spent much more time seeing them than I was able to give to any one thing.

We drove to Syracuse in the afternoon, and were grateful for the clear weather.

We met with the defense council in the morning, and saw the volunteer bureau, established under the local defense council. They are getting on very well with their work and Mrs. Pennock, who heads the voluntary participation part of the civilian defense program for the state, has done a very fine job.

The same difficulties arise in every community, of course. Some volunteers do not take their duties seriously enough and fall in meeting professional standards. Some agencies are hesitant about taking on the training and placing of volunteers. By large it seemed to me that if Syracuse and Schenectady, which I visited in the afternoon, are good examples of what is happening in the state, then we can be proud of the organization here.

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