

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—On this trip I had a traveling companion, and a very pleasant one. There's a slight difference in our ages, but he's one of the best friends I have. A few of you with elephant-like memories may remember a column I wrote about him one summer from Alaska.

His name is Johnnie Palm. He has lived in Alaska for 45 years. For most of that time he has carried the mail—by dog team, by horse sled, on snowshoes, on skis, and by tricke. He has lived the toughest, hardest life of anyone in my acquaintance.

Yet today he is so tiny, and so timid and so courteous, and he dresses so meticulously and conducts himself so quietly, that you'd never know he'd ever seen a malamute dog in his life. He is 76.

During most of his years in Alaska he seldom came "outside," as Alaskans say of coming to the U. S. But three or four years ago he came out to get a set of teeth, and he liked it so well he's been coming out every winter since.

Perfect Travel Companion

MR. AND MRS. PALM are spending the winter at a hotel in Seattle. I ran onto them there, and coaxed Johnnie into riding down with me. He came to Portland by bus, and we started out.

Johnnie is the perfect traveling companion. He talks just enough to break the monotony, but doesn't keep you talking.

Johnnie was up every morning at 5. He'd just sit around in the hotel lobby waiting till I showed up around 7 (which practically killed me). In those two hours he had found out from the night clerk, in his quiet way, everything about the town.

We had a lot of fun. One morning Johnnie was

in such a hurry to get down to the lobby to sit that he shaved only one side of his face. Johnnie is really a phenomenon. Although he is 76, he doesn't look or act much older than I do. His health is perfect.

Like most Alaskans, Johnnie was practically raised on the bottle—the whisky bottle, I mean. In all those years behind the dog teams he never went on trail without a quart of whisky on his sled. A quart a day, that's what he used. Of course he can't go that strong nowadays, but, as he says, he sure keeps trying.

Johnnie's home in Fairbanks is rented out for the winter. He was already in the States when Pearl Harbor happened, and he's been fretting ever since about getting back to see about his business.

His Closest Call

HE RUNS A SMALL trucking line, and holds several mail contracts. Things are pretty modern now in Alaska. Hardly anybody ever takes a long winter trip by dog team any more. They go by airplane.

Most of the winter mail is now carried by air. Johnnie made his last winter mail trip six years ago—and he was 76 then. It was a run of 180 miles, and his schedule was six days—30 miles a day.

Johnnie has had a lot of close shaves, but he had his closest one that winter. He was breaking trail and somehow he got himself caught. He worked all day through the snow; finally was so weak he could barely keep going; when at last he reached a trail-side cabin they said he could not have lasted another 15 minutes. As it was his hands were frozen and he lost his fingernails. But his hands are all right now.

If there has ever been a kinder, nicer-minded man than Johnnie Palm, I have never met him. I admire him so much that I almost have a notion to get me a team of huskies and a quart of whisky for developing my own character. (Note to belligerent readers: Now don't write me dirty letters about that. You know I'm joking. What would I do with a team of huskies?)

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

SOME TAVERNS and soft drink fountains are doing a little quiet profiteering in the matter of hiking Coca-Cola prices since rationing started. Although the wholesale price of "cokes" hasn't increased, some dispensers have hiked the price 10¢ a cent—from a nickel to a dime a bottle.

The wholesalers are especially irked over the matter because they have been advertising Coca-Cola at the old price in recent weeks. The customers don't complain, as a rule, although they have good reason to complain against what many term an "out and out chisel."

Washington, incidentally, has asked consumers to watch for excessive price rises in products where no shortage exists and where little or no increase can be justified on any basis.

Rules Are Rules

WHEN NAVY BOOSTER DAY (next Sunday) rolls around, you'll find not the Navy, but the Army, instead, heading the parade. Some of the boys were making arrangements at a conference the other day. Military regulations provide that in any land procession, the Army precedes the Navy, but Capt. Crockett, of Ft. Harrison, agreed to let the Navy boys precede his 600 Army troops. "No you don't," interrupted Lieut. C. F. Brozo, commandant of the Third Naval Area. "I've been busy teaching our boys the importance of always following regulations, and I'm not going to spoil it all by making an exception right away. Your soldiers are going to have to go first, even if it is Navy Booster Day." And that was that.

Remember Me, Clarence?

CLARENCE A. JACKSON, State defense director and also State C. of C. executive head, used to be

head of the Indiana Gross Income Tax and Unemployment Compensation divisions, as well as a couple of lesser divisions. In those days, he was the boss of many hundred employees. Now, many of these one-time employees are trying to get Army or Navy commissions, Civil Service jobs, or jobs in defense industries. And when they need references, the first person they think of is good old Clarence. The result is that he's flooded with scores of reference requests. It's gotten to be almost standard procedure for him to tell reference requesters: "Write your own letter and give 'em to Miss Campbell. If they're not too strong, she'll type the letter and I'll sign it."

Where Your Money Goes

SINCE THE DISPUTE over federalization of the State Unemployment Compensation Division got started, many persons have become curious over what happens to the money paid into the fund. At present, we're told, there's something like 66 million dollars in the fund. It's handled just like Social Security payments. The money all is deposited in the Federal Treasury and the State is given U. S. bonds in return. Thus the idle cash is doing its bit to turn out tanks, planes, guns for our military forces.

Around the Town

THE DUPONT paint store at 249 W. Washington is offering, in its windows, "blackout paint." . . . A store at 38th and Central, we're told, advertises its windows: "Defense gum 1 cent" . . . Which reminds us that one of our poolrooms has a most patriotic sounding name. It's the "Old Glory Liberty Billiard Parlors," at Washington and East Sts. And while we're about it, the City Directory lists a "Clear Head" living at 2702 Park Ave. . . . And yesterday's item bringing you up to the date on the Zyxwithe group, we neglected to name the two latest members of the "family." They're Kay Gowdy and Walter Van Nuy.

ICE INDUSTRIES OPEN SESSION TOMORROW

The shifting of labor supply that one plant alone will involve. Free supply and demand breaks down under such dislocations.

Labor supply and Army and Navy drafting and recruiting are all tangled into one complicated problem of manpower, as the British found when they took men out of industry for the Army and had to return some of them to their former jobs later when production fell down. They placed labor supply and military manpower under one management in Bevin's labor ministry.

Here several agencies have a finger in the pie in addition to the Army, Navy and the Selective Service system. There are the WFB's labor division, the U. S. Employment Service, Vocational Education, the Department of Labor's activities, and C. C. C.

Battle Has Been on for Weeks

ALL AGREE THAT some centralized administration is necessary. But everybody wants to run it. Paul McNutt, head of Social Security, feels he has prior claims because the unemployment service, which would be the core of the labor supply machinery, is in his agency. He has developed a basic plan which, when it gets it, will probably be adopted.

But Hillman balks. His friends say that his former co-head of OPM, William S. Knudsen, was recognized by being made a lieutenant general in charge of Army procurement. They think labor's representative on the old OPM should have recognition. Labor representatives generally feel that manpower is their job and that labor should be recognized by placing one of its own in charge as the British did in giving that job to Bevin.

This inside battle has been going on for weeks, with the Army, Navy and Selective Service objecting to having their manpower supply included in the industrial labor supply scheme.

This week President Roosevelt is expected to try further to get an agreement with his new "war labor council" composed of A. F. of L. and C. I. O. representatives who meet with him from time to time.

As soon as everybody can be pacified the President can go ahead with this most urgent step.

Washington

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Government can't deal properly with creation of an adequate supply of industrial labor for war work until it can appease those whose personal pride and prestige are involved. That mainly is what is holding up this most necessary move.

Nobody in the whole show doubts for an instant that the Government must steer our labor supply if war production is to have enough hands to do the work.

Sidney Hillman, labor director of the War Production Board, says that to provide the manpower for the President's production program this year, we must add 10 million workers to the five million already in war production. Probably another five million will have to be added next year. To do that while at the same time supplying men for the Army and Navy will put the heaviest kind of a strain on our manpower.

It can't be done if left to haphazard supply and demand.

Because of new mass production methods in plane building, an almost unbearable burden will be placed on the making. But when you try to get the makers, you bump into the union rules which forbid the using of additional apprentice helpers unless the Government guarantees that they will not be allowed to continue at that trade after the war. That's one illustration of many.

Many Have Finger in Pie

HUNDREDS OF thousands of men and women must be trained and placed in special kinds of war work. Workers must be trained up to do work of a higher grade than before.

The dislocations and shifting of workers from one locality to another will be tremendous. President Roosevelt says that the Ford Willow Run bomber plant will require 75,000 to 100,000 workers. Imagine

I did a number of errands, saw a great many people and, among other things, looked at quite a number of apartments, because some day I expect my husband to tell me that the houses in New York are sold before I have a place in which to move. I have now, however, fairly well made up my mind as to an available spot, so that one thing is off my mind.

There still remains the dividing up, packing and shipping of all the things in the house, which my mother-in-law and my husband have owned for so many years. There are moments when I wish we had always lived like birds, made our own nests and needed no furnishings!

Saturday evening I took two people, whom I have long wanted to enjoy "Claudia," to see this play. There

The War and You—

REPAIR PARTS ASSURED FOR HOME RADIOS

Gas for Heating Ruled Out In 17 States; Hurry

Sugar Ration Books.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (U. P.)—Home owners of radios and mechanical refrigerators were assured by the War Production Board today that they will be able to buy spare parts to keep these household articles operating after they are unable to buy "new" ones.

Manufacturers have been directed to turn all their facilities to war work in the next few months, except for production of spare parts.

Refrigerator production will stop after April 30 so that the industry can be converted to all-war production.

GAS—Thinking about installing a gas heater? Well, forget it, if you live in one of the 17 states including Indiana where, on March 1, the Government has ordered a curtailment in the consumption of natural and mixed natural-manufactured gas. The eliminations will go into effect in other states when and if necessary. Consumers now using gas to cook or heat water will not be affected, regardless of where they live.

RATION BOOKS—The OPA not only asked the Government Printing Office to get out 150,000,000 ration books, but OPA wanted them right away. The job, the largest single rush job ever undertaken in the United States, will begin this week. Sugar rationing will start around March 1.

SOAP—Buy in quantities with neighbors for current needs only; take wrappers off soap to make it last longer in storage; save small pieces and make a soap jelly; use a water softener if yours is hard, advised the consumer's counsel of the Agriculture Department.

LEGS—There'll still be as many different shapes and sizes, but the war will make a big difference in the colors of the hosiery over them. There probably will be only four shades of women's hose from now on. There has been as many as 75.

MILK—Are dairy companies passing on delivery savings to consumers? The Agriculture Department is investigating in 33 cities because it believes consumers should benefit by such sacrifices as milk delivery every other day.

HEELS—Rubber ones are on the Government's restricted list if made from crude. But U. S. Rubber Co. says new ones made of reclaimed rubber are on the way that will be serviceable but not equal to the old ones.

Inspectors will tour the grounds regularly to check on violations and report them to the City Health Board.

Health Hazard Charged

The action followed hearings before the Works Board last week when large delegations of South Side residents complained that the dumps had become a serious health hazard and that rats and insects were overrunning their homes from the trash holes.

Several residents also said they had been forced to flee from their homes because of dense smoke and odors from the dumps.

The Works Board and Health officials have ordered garbage and other insanitary matter cleaned from the dumps. Recent investigations reveal that some poultry and fish markets have been dumping refuse into some of the trash lots.

Inspectors Issue Warning

"Health Board inspectors will visit every poultry house and fish market on the South Side to determine where they are dumping their refuse and all will be ordered to dump far away from the city," Mr. Brandt said.

"If the dumps can't be kept within the sanitary laws of the city some of them will have to be closed and filled in."

BUTLER SPEAKERS TO RECEIVE AWARDS

Cash prizes will be awarded Butler University student winners of eight minute addresses on "Democracy at War" March 11 at a meeting in conjunction with the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Cash prizes of \$25, \$15, \$10 and two prizes of \$5 each will go to first, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners. Preliminary eliminations for the final group will be held Wednesday at Butler.

OPTOMETRISTS MEET

Dr. Raymond Sawyer of Columbus will speak at the monthly meeting of the Central Zone, Indiana Association of Optometrists, at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday at the Hotel Severin. Dr. T. H. Cochrane, president, will preside.

The Rising Sun To Outlast Japs

RISING SUN, Ind., Feb. 17 (U. P.)—Because the American will far outlast the Japanese, the shrewd folks of this 144-year-old Ohio River town today lined up almost unanimously in opposition to any change in their Japanese-sounding town name.

Mayor Albert E. Cooper said the results of an unofficial poll among the townspersons and former residents showed an overwhelming opposition to any change in name.

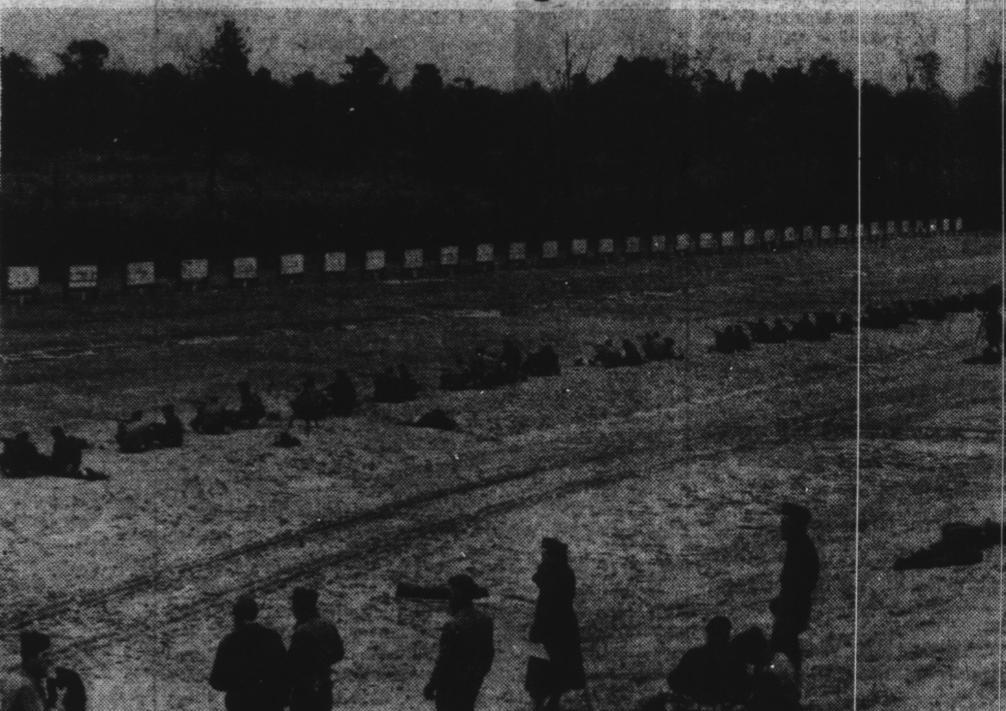
A Danville, Ill., woman and former resident, wrote that she "never liked the name anyway" and proposed that it be changed to "McArthur, Ind." in honor of the Philippine commander.

But the mail from the nation continues to pour in, carrying not so many protest asseme but requests for the Rising Sun postmark for stamp collectors.

One request from a Brooklyn, N. Y., stamp collector inclosed 50 letters and asked that they be postmarked Dec. 7, 1941, at 2:30 p. m.—the exact day and hour of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

THETA CLASS TO MEET Theta Beta Class of the West Side Christian Church will hold a class party at 7:30 p. m. tomorrow at 282 N. Addison St. Mrs. Fern Morris will speak on "Americanism."

Hoosiers on Firing Line at Shelby



On the firing line, men of Indiana's 152d Infantry Regiment are squinting down rifle barrels and going all out for the bull's-eye at Camp Shelby. Many of the men are from Indianapolis. Shown here is a part of the regiment engaged in one of its daily practices on the 38th Division's range. Maj. Gen. Dan I. Sultan, commander of the 38th has called for a division of men who can hit what they aim at.

Gin Rummy—No. 1

130 Million Are Playing It Or Hoping to—Here's How

Board of Works and City Health Officials Watch On South Side.

The Board of Works and the City Health Board today launched a joint enforcement campaign to clean up the South Side dumping situation.

Louis Brandt, Works Board president, said all holders of permits for dumping grounds will be warned that any violations of sanitary laws will result in arrests.

Inspectors will tour the grounds regularly to check on violations and report them to the City Health Board.

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