

## Hoosier Vagabond

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 truck. 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 he'd never seen a mulemute 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

HE 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

By Ernie Pyle

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 this 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?)

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 that.

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 hoseley 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 melted rubber are on the way that will be serviceable but not equal to the old ones.

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 five 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 dawn will far outlast the Japanese, the shrewd folks of this 14-year-old Ohio River town today lined up almost unanimously in opposition to any change in their Japanese-sounding town name.

Mayor Albert B. Cooper said the results of an unofficial poll among the townspeople 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 "MacArthur, Ind." in honor of the Philippine commander.

But the mail from the nation continues to pour in, carrying not so many protests anymore 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 362 N. Addison St. Mrs. Fern Norris will speak on "Americanism."

## 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-out war production.

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## Hoosiers on Firing Line at Shelby



## URGES EXCESS PROFIT TAX ON WAR INCOMES

## Vandenberg Aims Proposal At Both Investments And Salaries.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (U. P.)—Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg (R. Mich.) today proposed that excess profits tax be levied on individual incomes—whether from salaries or investments—that have increased directly as a result of the war.

"I have always favored an excess profits tax on individual earnings which are greater during the war period than they were during the pre-war period," he said in an interview. "After all, the question should be whether a man is profiting from the war."

He declined to reveal details of his proposal or whether he would introduce such a bill. But he said such a tax program should "take in everyone—the man who lives from investments, the farmer and the wage earner."

## Would Tax Pay Raise

Presumably, such a plan, if it followed the excess profits tax on corporations, would, for example, tax a wage increase received during the war at a higher rate than the balance of income.

A Supreme Court decision yesterday permitting the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. to retain huge profits it made during the first World War increased Senate demands for drastic limitations on income from armament contracts.

Chairman David I. Walsh (D. Mass.) of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee said his group had requested the Treasury and the Navy for recommendations on profits limitation legislation.

## Urge Profit Ceiling

The Government was directed by the decision to pay a balance of \$5,572,000 still owing to the company out of total profits of \$24,000,000. The Court said Congress had powers to set profits ceilings and to tax excess profits and that these powers had not been exercised at the time the contract was made.

Senator Pat McCarran (D. Nev.) a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, suggested that every future appropriation bill for armaments should contain a profits limitation clause.

Chairman Walter F. George (D. Ga.) of the Senate Finance Committee said there should be especially steep excess profits taxes on income from war contracts.

Senator Ralph E. Brewster (R. Me.) renewed a demand for a flat tax of 80 per cent on all war profits.

## FREEDOM DENIED TO EX-DRAFT BOARD AID

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Feb. 17 (U. P.)—Joseph Nosek, 51, former Chicago lawyer and a local draft board chairman serving a three-year term in Terre Haute Federal Prison for accepting a draft bribe, yesterday lost a plea for freedom yesterday when Federal Judge Robert Balfell dismissed Nosek's writ of habeas corpus on the grounds it should have been filed in the court which passed sentence.

In his petition, Nosek contended that \$35 he accepted from draftee Walter Kukovec was a fee in connection with his securing the release on parole of the draftee's mother from the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, and was not connected with Kukovec's deferment from service.

The Chicago draft board chairman was sentenced Aug. 4, 1941, by the Illinois northern district of federal court.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1—Who was nicknamed the "wizard of Menlo Park"?

2—A Kanka is a Japanese stew, a section of the Australian bush or a native Hawaiian?

3—What was formerly the name of Istanbul, Turkey?

4—What is the missing word (name of a color) in the following title: "Where the — Begins"?

5—With what mercantile establishment was Donald M. Nelson formerly affiliated?

6—"The Star-Spangled Banner" was declared to be the national anthem by Act of Congress; true or false?

7—Name the parents of Esau and Jacob.

8—In what country did the "Dreyfus Affair" occur?

Answers

1—Thomas A. Edison.

2—Native Hawaiian.

3—Constantinople.

4—Blue.

5—Sears, Roebuck & Co.

6—True.

7—Isaac and Rebekah.

8—France.

## ASK