

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—I know of a man who had a rather odd experience the other day.

He was driving from Portland to Seattle, and on the way he picked up a tramp. The fellow was not one of your modern hitchhikers, but a plain old-fashioned tramp. However, he was pleasant and courteous, and thanked the driver when he got out. As he left the car he said mysteriously, "You'll be carrying a corpse before you get to Seattle."

And sure enough, a little farther on the fellow came upon an ambulance stalled by the roadside, so he took the sick passenger into his car and sped on toward Seattle with him. And the man died on the way.

And the main point of this strange occurrence is another prediction made by this authenticated seer. He stated flatly to this same motorist that the war would be over by July.

Well, he may be a mystic, and maybe he can predict corpses, but about the war I'll betcha.

Shucks, No Fun at All!

THE GIRLS IN the coffee shop here at the Hotel California had read about me paying \$1.94 for bacon and eggs in Tacoma, so they organized a joke to play on me when I came back to San Francisco.

All the girls know what I eat for breakfast, for I never vary. So whoever got me on my first morning back was going to make out my bill for \$3 or more. Well, I got wind of it, so I was all set. I was just

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

FABIEN SEVITZKY pitched into the rough-and-tumble of the Butler University Forum the other night. Gave a good account of himself, too. . . . The Rotary's guests at Tuesday's luncheon were city councilmen, county commissioners, etc., and when

Thomas Reed hauled off with his vigorous demand for a single-unit county government, you could almost hear the moans of anguish from the various tables . . . Todd Stoops of the Hoosier Motor Club just called up to spike a rumor.

Todd says a lot of people have the idea that you can drive down to Mexico and get all the new tires you want. "I have a wire from Mexico City now," said Todd, "and that rumor is just whole cloth. The only way you can get

a tire in Mexico is to break down and be stranded. They'll let you buy a tire then to get you off their hands. But that's the limit." Well, there goes our last chance. Shucks.

Stars for the Mayors

STAR LICENSE plates (the kind some people would give their right arms to possess) are being distributed by Secretary of State Jim Tucker to Indiana's mayors. The reason, it's explained, is that the mayors usually serve as civilian defense directors for their home towns, and the star license plates are supposed to facilitate their movements in "case of emergency." And besides, it's good politics, since about 70 per cent of the mayors are Republicans. Personally, it's hard to imagine a mayor needing star license plates to make his home town police treat him respectfully.

The Fishing's Fine

FROM FLORIDA writes Oscar Wunsch, of 4022 N. Illinois st., with the news that the fishing's fine. The speckled trout are plentiful, he reports, with the sheepshead running as large as 12 pounds . . . Bob Loring, of the secretary of state's office, is back from

Washington

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—He's done it. Donald Nelson has used his new power as chairman of the War Production Board to shake airplanes loose from the cramping clutches of hide-bound brass hats.

He has just ordered all materials needed for military aircraft put into the same top priority rating as tanks and naval vessels. After Pearl Harbor the Navy shoved in higher priorities for ships and the Army for other equipment. This left airplanes with lower ratings as compared with ships and tanks. Nelson is moving in now to overhaul the whole situation so that the most urgent equipment will come first in the light of what he can get.

The picture is driving particularly for airplanes. England is using 92 per cent of her aluminum for planes. We are using only 65 per cent. The remainder being diverted by the Army and Navy for other uses. Nelson is attempting to break that up.

Nelson explains that as a matter of fact the W.P.B. has been taking care of the situation by arbitrarily allocating materials for plane production regardless of whether they had top priority rating officially. So that his formal action now is taken, as it is explained, largely for psychological reasons—to rescue the Air Corps from a feeling that it was being pushed out of the picture by not being able to get top priority rating.

It's Hardly Reassuring

THAT EXPLANATION, intended to be reassuring, is actually anything but reassuring. It is alarming to be told that at this late date the Air Corps feels it is being pushed around by the brass hats. Now, if ever, the air corps ought to be favored.

Is it possible that the Army and Navy still haven't awakened to the primary place the airplane has taken in this war?

The evidence would fill books. Pearl Harbor.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Wednesday.—Yesterday, because of lack of space, I could not go more fully into the question of the bill for congressional pensions.

It seems to me fairly obvious that the principle of this bill is good. The timing may be bad, so perhaps it should wait until this war is over. There may be amendments which are necessary in order to prevent people from getting a pension except on an insurance basis.

It may be embarrassing to vote yourself a pension, but who else else can do it? And you are voting for the future as well as the present. I think it is important to have the principle of insurance for old age established for every group of citizens, and doubly important for the public servant to be secure and, therefore, beyond temptation or threat.

I want to add this to clarify the whole situation; so much that the people are discussing today is obscured for them by the press and radio, instead of being made simple and clear.

We had a most interesting dinner here last night at which Dr. Jerome Davis and Dr. Dri Davis spoke for the Y. M. C. A. work among the prisoners of war the world over. Harper Sibley presided admirably.



I may judge from my own feeling, everyone must have gone away inspired by a realization of the work which is being done, even though it may not cover the whole range of need.

The number of prisoners behind barbed wire all over the world today is quite appalling. It does not surprise me to have both Dr. Jerome Davis and Dr. Dri Davis emphasize the fact there is such a thing called "barbed wire sickness."

To have nothing to do mentally or physically, to know that those you love are anxious about you, to be anxious about them, and yet have no way of working towards your release, must be a horrible situation.

Anything that we can do for our enemy prisoners seems to me to justify itself. We have a double incentive when our permission to help the allied prisoners of war depends upon the work done with the enemy prisoners.

A morning of work at the office of civilian defense and a most interesting talk with a young doctor in the District of Columbia, who is thinking along the lines of preventive medicine. By that I mean that he believes that healthy people should have a health examination and check up every so often, so that they need not be treated as medical cases. By doing this we might easily prevent serious illness and find better habits of living will keep us in good health.

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