

FLORENCE, PISA, ROME AGAIN AS CORDAROS TOUR ITALY

Mr. and Mrs. John Cordaro continue their tour of Italy, and later Mr. 13 tells of their experiences in Florence, Pisa and Rome, with a short return visit to Rome as well.

Florence, Italy.

Well here we are at Florence, at Hotel Roma. A beautiful room opposite the station, overlooking the square.

Today we went for a sight seeing tour by chair, complete with fringed umbrella. Our guide took us first to one of the most important churches. We entered a very narrow street and on our right was a "Golden Door." Our guide told us it was called "the Golden Door of the Miracle of the Angels" because of the many miracles of healing that had taken place before it. On our left was another imposing structure, I believe he called it Santa Maria of the Flowers. Then on to yet another square where there were some very lovely statues all around

the square. We asked him to take us to other beauty spots but apparently the only other beauty spots were all churches and since we had visited so many of them we decided to go home for a long night's sleep, and be on our way to Pisa next day.

We went to Pisa by bus, and once again the route wound over mountains till we were 3000 feet up in the mountains once again. It seems Italy is all mountains. Every time you go from one city to another you pass through those mountains. Sometimes the tunnels are 30 minutes' ride. By road it is very pretty but the roads take you high over the mountains and they are so narrow our bus had to back up several times to let other traffic through.

There are hundreds of acres of grape vines and fruit trees all along the way, also sugar cane and some very pretty tall fern like fronds that curled over like huge feathers. John asked one of the passengers what they were and was told they were

Sage and were used for making brooms. At last we came to Pisa and were lucky to get a nice room once again close to the station.

After lunch we took a tram down to the leaning tower and church. We took some pictures and as we noticed many people atop the tower we decided to go up but it was too late so we settled for a walk around the shops. Pisa is noted for its marble and glass statues. We visited many of the shops and looked around the town.

Next morning we moved on once again for another short visit to Rome. We missed the Coliseum on our last visit and I did want to see the place where the early Christians had been put to death for their faith. In Rome we were not quite so fortunate as far as our room went, the best we could do was a pension house, but we visited the Coliseum and took another look at St. Peter's. Here we were stopped by the uniformed guard who demanded that we check our camera. We had been allowed to take it with us the last time when we toured with the "Witnesses" but not this time. They also stop every woman from entering unless she had her arms covered, so we did not check our camera but came away.

We saw the old Roman walls, some of them built 2,000 years before Christ, then as it was very hot we stopped at the huge monument to King

Victor Emmanuel for a drink from a sidewalk vendor. A little further on we saw the same vendor and wondered why he had moved so quickly. He told us he had been fined 1,000 lire for stopping at that spot. I have wondered many times why there were so many beggars in Italy and so much graft and poverty. Now I know! Every time you rent a room you are charged a government tax. The storekeepers have to have a different licence for everything they sell. We wanted bacon and eggs at the restaurant but they told us they had to beg an extra licence for bacon and eggs. The workers here work for about 50c a day depending mostly on tips to make a living.

We left Rome today for Naples. Here they are starting their firsts. Everywhere you go you see parents with little children all dressed up in fancy dresses. There are stalls all along the streets selling paper hats and horns with long streamers, jewelry, fruit, etc., etc. The streets are crowded with people who stare at us as we pass, they know by our dress I don't think I like Napoli.

Tomorrow we go on another excursion to the "Isle of Capri." I know it will be very interesting for we visit what is known as the Blue Grotto. We go by bus and boat, so till next letter. *Cheerio*

K. CORDARO

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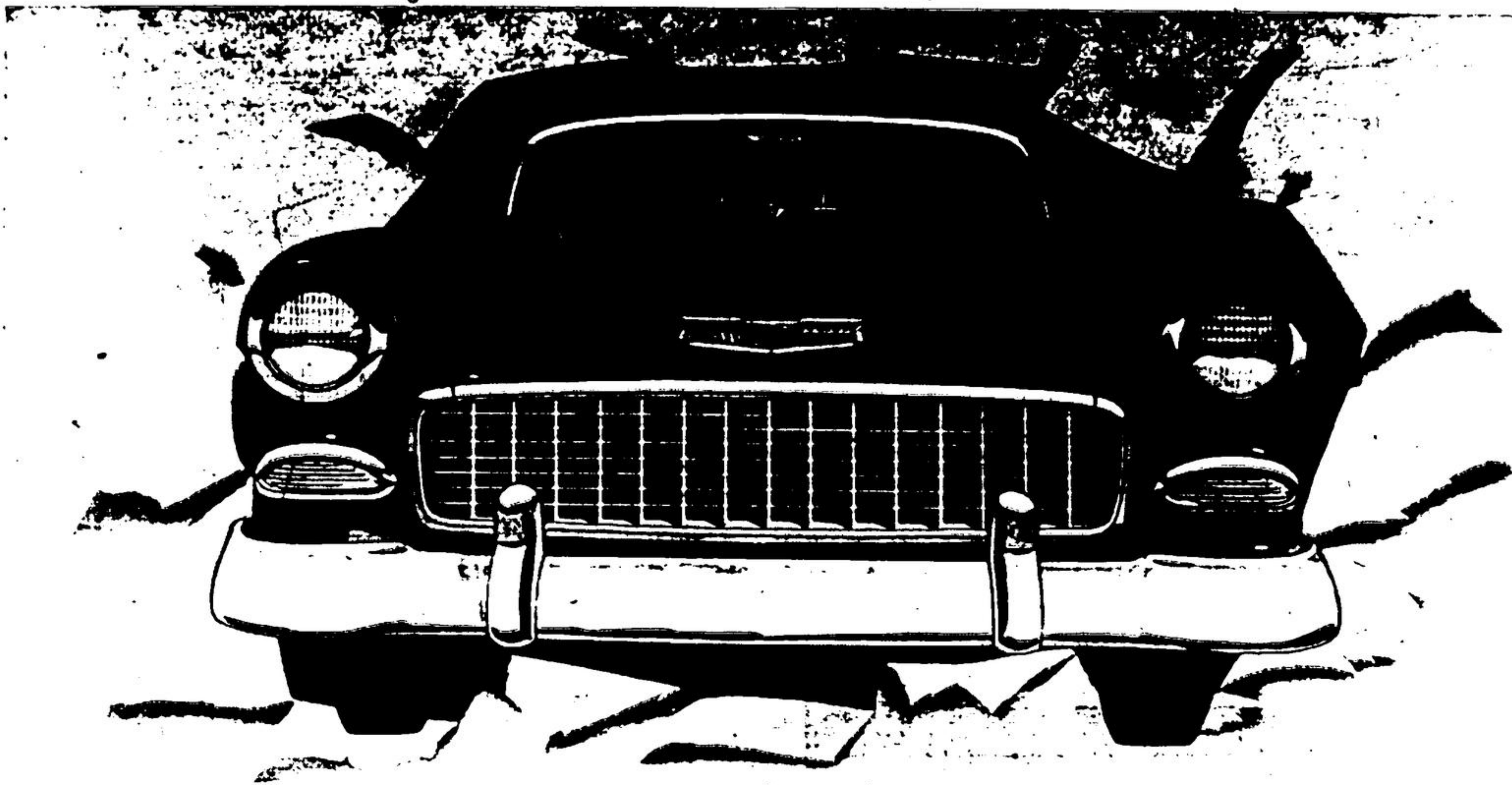


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