

REPORTER GREETED ITALIAN OFFICERS

(Continued from page 1)

tended to General Italo Balbo and his dashing young devils of the sky.

It was tremendous. Thousands were clinging to Navy Pier and were swarming over the place from the water level to the high turrets of the towers, and from Michigan Avenue, to the very tip of the pier in the lake. The old reception ship, the S. S. Wilmette, was moored to the end of the pier and held the reception committee made up of the most important Italians in the city, officials of the Fair, the Italian ambassador, Governor Henry Horner, and other notables.

As time drew near for the approach of the fliers the reporters cast off in the special ships chartered for their use. Thank goodness for a calm day, otherwise our sea legs might not have held up. The harbor was cleared after some difficulty by the Coast Guard, and all boats were herded into a small area.

Here, while waiting the fliers, we enjoyed a wonderful view of the jammed pier, the marvelous color of the Fair, and the staunchness of the downtown buildings. We tossed around among water craft of all kinds ranging from a canoe paddled by two ragged boys to large steam yachts with beautiful women frisking gaily about on them.

It was a thrilling sight when the planes first came into view. They flew over the city once, then the first three landed. It took quite a time to get all of the twenty-four planes in, but every pilot made a perfect landing.

Once the planes were bouyed down, press boats were allowed to approach the landing area. Here the Italian-speaking members of our party quizzed the pilots about their trip. The pilots and crew were taken from their planes by speedy motor boats and went to the S. S. Wilmette.

Now the men were loaded into lagoon boats, and taken to the Fair. We got a wonderful chance to see the fliers at close range because the press boats wandered up and down the line of parade approaching many of the boats carrying fliers for the benefit of the photographers. All the men are young, clean-cut gentlemen, and also are quite good looking.

Truly this was a thrilling sight. This water caravan carrying men who had flown from across the seas proceeded very slowly down the lake shore in the glorious sunset. As the sun hid the city good night and gradually sunk below the line of the tall buildings, many of us stopped to think whether in all this age of fast traveling there was anything that could surpass old Mother Na-

ture's most glorious act, the sunset on water.

The boats, headed by their flagship, slowly paraded up the lagoon with gondolas representing a more picturesque phase of travel, mixing with the boats bearing the birds of the sky. Up the lagoon we went to the Court of Honor. Here the fliers decked and were greeted by Italian school children and members of the Black Shirts.

At this point your reporter was very lucky. Being rather insignificant he managed to get a seat in one of the many cars carrying the official party on the parade through the Fair grounds.

A very enthusiastic throng greeted the fliers and pressed upon the cars in the street. Slowly, hoping to hit none of the mob, we drove through the island twice. Then through the cheering throng we were driven to Soldier Field. Here the official reception was tendered.

These young men of Italy remain unspooled even through their tremendous greeting. Not once did they push back an anxious hand asking for autographs. They exchanged greetings with hundreds of unknown people, in their foreign tongue.

After the speeches in the Stadium we entered our cars once more, and then proceeded up the outer drive to the Drake Hotel. It was at this time that I had the privilege of getting to know some of these men.

The journalists may call them young warriors, dare devils, sky hawks, and such other picturesque names, but really they were only human beings. They muttered to each other about when they could eat, and when questioned only said they felt tired, hungry and dirty. Their one wish was for food and sleep. Yes, even the "Columbus of the Air" sometimes gets tired.

But the evening was still young in socially-minded Chicago. They were assigned to their rooms at the Drake, asked to clean up, and then

had to report for a reception given them by the Danti Alighieri Society.

What a reception it was. Tons of sandwiches piled high on the tables, fancy pastries of all descriptions, and many cups of tea and coffee. The main decorations consisted of models of the Italian planes by the Charles Fiere Nurseries. These planes were made of red, green and white flowers.

Ah me, these people in the big city never sleep. At a late hour the fliers were again tempted from their beds. They were rushed to the Saddle and Cycle Club. Here they dined with Chicago's loveliest debutantes. I bet those he-men made quite a hit with the debs. They all are young, speak several languages, and are wonderful dancers. Quite the thing, eh what?

Well, thank goodness, and the reception committee, the Italian fliers headed by their glorious chief marched away to their beds! Your tired reporter wended his way homeward, and all was serene on the lake front until dawn.

Mr. Hickey Injured

John Hickey, of 327 North St. Johns Avenue, was struck by a car at the corner of Vine and Green Bay last Saturday evening. He was taken to his home, and is recovering from his injuries.

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A box social, cards and other attractions will be given on Monday, July 24, at Witten Hall at 8:45 p.m. in aid of the Women of the Moose. A prize will be given for the best decorated box. Each lady is asked to bring lunch for two. "Girls, bring your sweethearts, and wives, bring your husbands. And let's have a rollicking good time. The public is cordially invited. No admission charge," says the sponsors.

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PLAYGROUND SPECIAL

Have you seen the new raft built by the East Park Board at the Central Avenue beach? Not bad, at all. Miss Carr's tennis classes Monday afternoons are proving quite popular. Instruction in swimming for men and women is now being given at Ravinia beach, by lifeguard Jimmy Nugent. Take a day off and watch the boys under eight play one of their baseball games. They play five innings only, so perhaps you may be able to get away in time to see a movie at night; but boy — it's baseball, just ask the umpire. Howard Copp, director of the Highland Park playgrounds, has not been using his right arm very much of late. Maybe a few lessons from the boys in sliding into bases might help.

Young Men's Club Will Give A Benefit Dance

The Young Men's Club of Highland Park will give a benefit dance at Sky Harbor, on Dundee Road, next Saturday night. Dancing will be from 9 o'clock to 11. The public is invited.

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