

Deep and Shallows

Our Vacation

(A Trip To Panama)

We had been told that being aboard a freighter would give us a very restful vacation, but that we must make reservations far in advance. At an agency for freighter passenger service we stopped to inquire how soon we would get passage, and the next day were informed the Temarairi, a 472 foot freighter, would reach Wilmington, (Los Angeles Harbor) August 17th, 1949, and had room for two passengers. That would give us two weeks to get ready. A few days later we were called by phone and told the Temarairi would be in Wilmington on the 15th and the next day it was changed to the 13th. The next message told us to be on board at 9 A.M., and later the hour was changed to 3 P.M. That's what the "time table" of a freighter is like. It all depends how long it takes the longshoremen to load or unload the cargo. The crew of the ship don't touch the cargo, but they do open the hatches and have everything ready for the longshore men. They don't even exchange a word, and are at liberty while the cargo is being taken off or on. We were detained 45 minutes because one of the crew was missing and others were sent ashore to find him, bringing him back in a staggering condition.

The Captain

The Temarairi is a Norwegian ship, and the Captain, Hoff-Christensen, was born in Oslo, Norway. When he introduced himself I told him my husband was born in Oslo. Of course we became, then and there, related. I received a telegram from him on my birthday and my daughter received a letter.

No freighter comes into a harbor without a special pilot. This pilot is brought out to the ship by a tug, which comes thru the water like a flash.

Ship's Passengers

The other passengers on this ship were Mr. and Mrs. Willets and son Billy, 14 years old. Billy, a shark at cards, couldn't do mathematics, he couldn't add eight and ten together. They were from Hong Kong, on a nine months vacation, going to their home in Long Island. Hans Hoeflein was from Manila, going to Cambridge to college at M. I. T. I received a letter from him on my birthday. A woman from Peru was taking a child to Philadelphia. I never found out her name. She spoke several languages and told me that after she had delivered this child to its mother she was going to Columbia College for a certain course. There was a Mrs. Makowsky, with the worst brought up youngster I have ever seen. The mother was of Russian parents, but born in China, living there until thirteen years of age. Spoke a perfect English, was married to a Panamanian, and was going back to her home in Cristobal, Panama.

Sea Voyage

It took nine days to get to the Panama Canal. We were never nearer than sixty miles to shore. Went thru many schools of big fish—and how they could cavort thru the wake the ship made. They would stand on their tails

and dash thru the next wave. We passed five sharks swimming one after the other. At night, in the wake of the ship, could be seen what looked like the brilliant colored balls we use for Christmas trees ornaments, some small and others large, continually changing colors.

A Storm

One of my hobbies is to make pictures in the clouds. They passed by in every shape and size, from white to black. One storm came right over us and the ship was struck by lightning three times. But they were ready for it, and quickly repaired the blown out wires. All we passengers heard was a terrific bang.

Night Scene

I shall always remember one night scene. We were on the pilot's deck. There were no clouds, and everywhere, in all directions, sky and water seemed to meet. In the sky I'm sure there were a million stars from zenith right down to the water's edge. If one watched a certain star long enough it would appear to drop into the water. Of course one could never see such a picture on land.

Somewhere in the rigging of the ship a wild canary hid and every so often would fly around the passenger's deck, and one day sat down on Mrs. Willets' knee. We also had a butterfly for several days.

Ship's Fare

The meals on the Temarairi were just one huge feed after the other, with a tea at 4 P.M. Every kind of cheese, every kind of fish, and always plenty of fruit. The little old lady who waited on the passenger and the Captain, who ate with us, (except when he had a pilot on board), was 67 years old, and everything had to be served just so. She was retiring at the end of this trip.

Reach Panama

The motion of the Temarairi was no more than would be felt on any train going from Highland Park to Chicago. We began to see land a couple of days before we came to the Panama Canal, and we passed a few boats. It costs ninety cents a ton to take a ship thru the Canal. A pilot and his crew come out to meet the ship quite a way from the Canal. The pilot takes over, and the crew, some ten or twelve of them, go to their special location on the ship. Not a word is said. Ropes are thrown out to the little electric engines, which run on the tracks along side the canal and they pull the ship along thru the locks. There are two locks along side of each other, one for east bound ships and the other for west bound. If I remember rightly there are four sets of locks, with open water between. In open water the ship goes under its own steam. Balboa is the first stop on the Pacific end and Cristobal the first on the Atlantic. Our ship had no cargo for Balboa, and the Captain said he would take us, as guests, to Cristobal.

Change Of Route

Several days before we reached the Canal we heard about the awful storms raging on the Atlantic Ocean. The Dona Aurora, on which we had passage back to Los Angeles, was in Savannah, Geor-

gia, waiting for the storms to subside. That would make her about ten days late in reaching Balboa, where we were supposed to board her. Our Captain made arrangements to get back our money for return trip to Los Angeles, and also got passage for us on a Philippine ship, the M/S Dona Nati, to go to New York and then by rail or plane back to California. By going on to New York we could stop in New Jersey and see my son's new home, and also stop in Chicago.

Farewell Parties

We arrived at Cristobal near midnight, after a special dinner (with three sizes of wine glasses) given by the Captain, and another farewell party on deck about nine o'clock given by the Willets family. Then, to our astonishment, we were met by the agent of the Dona Nati Line, who rushed us thru inspection of baggage etc. to a limousine, and off we went to the Tivoli Hotel at Ancon, where we had made reservations. The next day the same auto took us to see all the sights. Because the President of Panama had died, there was a three day mourning, and no stores, except food stores, were open. So we couldn't buy a cent's worth. It is a great place for lottery sales and one could buy a lottery ticket almost anywhere. There has been much building since my husband and I went thru the Canal, quite a few years ago, on our way from New York to Los Angeles. At 4:15 the next morning we were called to get ready for the auto call, as we were to be taken by tug out in the bay to the Dona Nati. As she was not stopping in the canal we had to board her from a tug while both were in motion.

(to be continued later)

—A.C.O.

Music Scholarship Honors Memory Of The Joseph Michaels

A memorial scholarship fund in Music has been established in memory of Joseph and Belle Michaels, who lived at 280 Marshman road, Highland Park, and who lost their lives in a plane crash last February 19, over Coventry, England. Gifts sent in by friends served to establish the fund for this purpose, and it will be handled by Ralph Michaels, brother of the deceased. The memorial takes this form because friends wanted "something living, not just brick and stone," to commemorate their friends.

Joseph Michaels was vice president and secretary-treasurer of Hyman-Michaels Company, Chicago, manufacturers of iron and steel products. Ralph Michaels is vice-president and secretary of the firm, and another brother, Everett, is president.

The fund provides a yearly scholarship of \$1000, to be awarded to some outstanding musician, for one year's study in music at the school of his or her choice, subject to the approval of the committee. The winner may be either a vocalist or an instrumentalist, capable of taking a solo part, and must be recommended by his music school or instructor. The year's study will be

maxed by a solo performance in Ravinia Park.

Lincoln P. T. A. Sponsors Square Dance At School

Lincoln school P.T.A. is sponsoring its first get-together of the fall season in the form of a Square Dance to be held at the school this evening, September 22 at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Robert Clarkson is chairman of the party and Mrs. Allan Joyce is assisting her with the refreshments. Marshall Lovett will be the caller for the dance. Lincoln school urges its parents and their friends to come and join in the fun.

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Dr. Walter A. Maier Lutheran Hour Speaker Begins Radio Series

On Sunday, September 25th, Dr. Walter A. Maier, regular Lutheran Hour speaker, returns to the air to inaugurate his seventeenth season of Lutheran Hour broadcasting. The broadcast will take place over radio station WGN on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. The following Sunday, October 2nd, will witness the Lutheran Hour Rally in the Chicago Stadium with Dr. Maier as speaker at 3 p.m. Two choirs will be featured, one a 5,000 voice mammoth choir, and also the Chicagoland Lutheran Children's choir. A part of the rally will be devoted to the 'Drama of the Cross', a special feature. Lutherans from the North Shore area will attend the rally with their friends.

Emblem Club No. 113 Will Meet On Wednesday, Sept. 28

The regular monthly social meeting of the Highland Park Emblem club will be held Wednesday, September 28 in the Elks club at 1:30 p.m. It will be a dessert-bridge with Mrs. A. Franenhofer in charge. Serving on her committee are Mrs. Ben Shifflett, Mrs. George Schwalbach and Mrs. E. Clavey.

Senior Welfare Group To Meet With Mrs. Howard Detmer

The senior group of Infant Welfare will meet on Monday, September 26th, at the home of Mrs. Howard Detmer, 555 Bob O'Link road at 11 o'clock. There will be sewing and finishing of garments to keep members busy at this first fall meeting.

Co-hostesses for the day will be Mesdames Ellsworth Mills, John Morrissey, Morgan Weed and Robert Sanders.

The Board will meet at 1 o'clock with the president, Mrs. James Davis, presiding.

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