

Notes of a Tourist

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S. S. Nieuw Amsterdam
Off the Coast of Florida.
February 14, 1939.

We looked out a few moments ago and saw the palm lined beach of Florida, with launches coming out to see the common sight of the passage of a big ship. It has been warm today. Writing in our room we have the air conditioners working and also have the electric fan running full tilt. Without coat or vest it is still too warm.

Yesterday was February 12, the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. There were two religious services aboard, 8 o'clock mass, and Protestant services at 11 o'clock. The speaker at the latter service was Dr. Bryn Jones, professor of International Relations at Carleton College, in Northfield, Minn.

Years ago we heard J. Willis Glead deliver his famed lecture on Lincoln, which was considered a masterpiece, yet we enjoyed the address yesterday with equal interest.

We attended the afternoon tea at the Ritz Carlton room, and among those we met was Mrs. W. H. Hartsough, of Columbus, O., who is a member of a literary club with Mrs. H. W. Arant, whom she greatly admires. True to Lawrence memories she is said to be immaculate in her attire and an ideal homemaker and hostess.

Getting deck chairs proved interesting. When we asked the deck steward about chairs near the center of the boat, to avoid pitching in case of rough weather, we were told they had all been taken and no good locations were left. However, the steward said he would keep his eyes open and try to care for us in the morning. We assured him we would show proper appreciation and in the morning we had two choice seats.

It makes us wonder if it is not a habit with deck stewards to mark choice seats with fictitious names, in order to secure extra tips. Our chairs are on the glassed-in promenade deck, and are immediately in front of the etched windows of Grand Hall. This room is beautifully decorated. On the ceiling in base relief are mythological figures and aft of the orchestra is a large wall painting, perhaps 30 feet long, depicting six horses with magnificent tails and manes, and with wide open mouths. Mounted are fair maidens a la Godiva and men armed with short Macedonian blades. It looked like it might be Valhalla, that enchanting setting of German mythology, wherein the men fought all day and then had their wounds effaced in time for an evening frolic with the goddesses. More likely the subject is of still more ancient origin.

At the right of our deck chairs we have interesting neighbors in Mrs. Arthur L. Bates and her daughter, Miss Josephine, who has been an art student at Wellesley. They live at Meadville, Pa., wherein is located Allegheny college the first college founded west of the Alleghenies, of which Mr. Bates is a trustee.

There was a boat drill in the afternoon, followed by the presentation of "Test Pilot," featuring Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and Myrna Loy.

After dinner a fine concert was given in Grand Hall. Two men from the orchestra sang a duet, and one had an exceedingly good and well modulated baritone voice. Following the concert there was a "brief period for identification" in which everyone spoke to his neighbor on his right. Then many of those in charge of the care and entertainment of passengers were introduced.

We have read many of the interesting steamer letters and cards sent us by friends in the church at home, and others. It seems so good to read their kindly expressions of interest. Some letters have not yet been opened as they are marked for later dates.

We now have for our tablemates Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rath, of Waterloo, Ia., who have builded a great packing plant in that city. They are good christian people and members of the Presbyterian church.

From the number of queries we have had, there must be a great deal of interest in what Landon intends doing in the next presidential election. Others have inquired after William Allen White, but not as a presidential candidate.

This morning we heard an interesting lecture, about an hour and ten minutes long, in regard to Cuba. The speaker had his work well organized, but unless he shortens his talks he will later be addressing empty seats.

One may take lessons in health

exercises, in golf, Spanish, bridge, and in various sports, if he is so minded, without leaving the boat. There are also tailors, cleaners, beauty parlors, barbers, masseurs and shops.

With three regular hearty meals a day, with tea and cakes served between times, and with drinks and various foods available in many parts of the ship, one could eat or drink all of the time, or as long as he could stand it, if he chose to do so. However, one can find more enjoyment in conducting himself more abstemiously.

W.C.S.