

On The Side

By E. V. DURLING
(Distributed by King Features
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It was a beautiful fall day as the good ship Nieuw Amsterdam shoved off from Hoboken with my girl friend and myself among the passengers. Up the river could be seen that magnificent liner, the United States, also starting for Europe. These two vessels are generally conceded by experienced travelers to be among the best liners on the transatlantic run.

That Island

Manhattan island never looked more beautiful. I always get a thrill out of the Manhattan skyline as seen from a ship. It was in 1623 that the eminent Hollander, Peter Minuit, is said to have bought Manhattan from the Indians for 60 guilders, which then equalled \$24. At the present rate of exchange, 28 cents to the guilder, it would be \$15.60. According to some historians, the first Indians who "sold" Manhattan to Minuit didn't own it. They were some slickers from Brooklyn, members of the tribe of Carnase Indians. Minuit, it has been alleged, therefore had to make a second deal with the Manhattan Indians, the real owners of the property.

Tugboats

Hovering about the pier I noticed a tugboat named the "Doris Moran." Also one named "Diana Moran." Only girl named Moran I know is Lois Moran. Whether or not there is a tugboat named after her I can't say. However, I wouldn't be surprised. The Moran company owners of the aforementioned craft, has 50 tugboats operating in and around New York harbor. Incidentally, the company is building a super-duper tugboat to be called the "Cynthia Moran."

Memories

New York harbor has many memories for me. As we passed the Battery I recalled the day when as a boy I stood there with my mother looking out toward the Statue of Liberty and she said to me: "Edgar, you are a lucky boy. You live in the greatest city in the greatest country in the world."

Ferry Boats

Saw several Staten Island ferry boats speeding by. That ferry line is the wonder of the transportation world. The fare is still five cents, just as it was a half a century ago. How do they do it? What can you name that is currently priced the same as it was 50 years ago? When I asked that question once before some of the clients answered that there had been no increase in 50 years in a package of chewing gum. Quite right. But do you get as much as before? Patrons of the Staten Island ferry get just as long a ride as was given 50 years ago.

Status

We could see the Statue of Liberty from the windows of our flat in Bay Ridge. With other kids in the neighborhood I often went near the statue in a row-boat. But that's the closest I have been to it. Have never been on the island. That qualifies me as a native New Yorker.

Other Scenes

Passed many other scenes of my boyhood, including the dock at 69th st., where at the age of eight I learned to swim. Lucky thing it was for me, too. At the age of nine I fell through the ice on New York harbor about a mile from shore, managed to swim to safety but never thought I would make it.

Choppy Sea

Sea is very choppy today. A condition likely to make those subject to seasickness somewhat uncomfortable. Incidentally, sea sickness is not confined to those who seldom sail the seas. I knew a ship captain who became sea sick on every voyage. I have been seasick only once. That was off Cape Hatteras on a ship bound for California via the Panama canal. Nevertheless, always take the preventive measures advised by Lord Byron. That is to eat beefsteak before embarking and for the first part of the voyage. However, the number of persons who become seasick has decreased considerably since the introduction of the remedy referred to as "motion pills." In fact, it has been said these pills are so effective they cut into steamship company profits. That is because passengers not having their appetites handicapped by the aforementioned affliction eat much more during a voyage than previously.

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