

“Diary of Trip to New Orleans

December 20th 1937 Monday

Leaving La Grand for New Orleans - 4:55 PM on Pacific Limited Train # 44

Will change cars at Green River Terminal Train #66

Will turn our watches back 1 hr. at Hummington this evening.

Tuesday 21st

Breakfast at 9:30. Now entering Wyoming. Reached Kemmerer 10:33

Green River at 12:30

Rawlins at 4:30

Quite cold with breeze. Some snow all through Wyoming.

Reached Laramie - 7:45

We have been traveling through Wyoming all day. We ate breakfast, lunch and dinner in Wyoming. Didn't change cars at Green River. But will change soon after leaving Cheyenne., Reached Cheyenne 9:30. Have to wait here for another train to take us on.

Wednesday 22

Found ourselves traveling in Kansas this morning. Still level county but farm instead of sagebrush. We ate breakfast while stopped at Ellis. No snow in Kansas but cold enough for stream of water to be frozen over. We have had sunshine all the way so far. We turned our watches back another hour at Ellis. We were due in Topeka at 2:15 and arrived in Kansas City at 5:30. Ate lunch in Depot. Clyde got a hair cut and we were ready to go again. Took the Frisco line out of Kansas City to Memphis Tenn. Will change cars there for New Orleans. If on time will arrive at 7:30 tomorrow eve.

Thursday Morning 23rd

Got off the train at Memphis at 7:30. We found green leaves. Weather warmer but rather foggy. As we travel along the clouds seem to be breaking which promises another day of sunshine. We changed cars here and took a Ill Central Expect to reach New Orleans about 7:30. We found cars crowded from here but found a seat “thanks to the red cap”. The water in streams in clay color. Just crossed a corner of Tenn. Are now traveling in Miss. 7:45 and we are on the last stretch to New Orleans. It has been a long day - not much to see. The country all looks so much alike. It has been dark since five o'clock and could not see some of the towns. It is going to be a relief to get off. Have been on the train for three days and nights. Reached New Orleans Thursday evening at 7:45. Asahel, Lelah and Sally were at the train to meet us. It was a happy meeting. Could hardly realize we had really found them. Visited until midnight. Went to bed and had a good sleep.

Friday Dec. 24th

Went over to the Hospital about one o'clock to see the Christmas tree given for employees children. Packages containing one article of clothing, one a toy and a stocking filled with orange, apple, candy and nuts was given to over a hundred children. Santa was there and gave them plenty of amusement. Later in afternoon Asahel drove us up through the main part of town to see the crowd. Decided it was to much of a jam to try

to do any shopping. So got what we could find at the Drugstore across street from Hospital. The same eve. (which was Xmas Eve.) we had our Christmas dinner with Sally – which was a very exciting time. So many many lovely gifts – enough for several children.

Christmas Day Dec 25 1937 (*on front of diary is penciled 1936*)

We spent the morning visiting. Had turkey dinner about three o'clock. About 4:30 we went out to see the horse race. Got there just in time to see the D---- race. Asahel said if I would make a choice he would place a bet for me, which I did and my horse came in first – winning \$8.20. I then loaned the \$2 of it which Asahel had placed on my bet to Dad and his horse came in third – winning \$3.50. This closed our betting and came home to spend the evening visiting again until midnight.

Sunday 26th

Dad and Asahel got up at 5:30 AM and went deep sea fishing on Bayou (or a canal). Returned about 5PM with a lot of fish of several kinds – also a lot of crabs which we cooked and ate that eve. Lelah and I didn't get up until near noon. After having breakfast and lunch (together) we took a ride around the city to see the houses. The city is built so different from most cities. So many old fashioned houses – all being two story or more. Basement being built above the ground. Lots of palm and coconut palm trees but do not bear coconuts. Also banana trees. They bear fruit but not of good quality. They sew a winter grass which provide green grass through the winter. When summer comes it dies out and other grass that has formed a sod previously, comes up again. Flowers of different variety bloom the year around. Sweet peas being one of the varieties at Christmas time along with Po--- Catho----- etc. Po--- grow as high as 10 to 15 feet high.

Monday 27th

Dad went to the hospital this morning but not much doing. Saw some tonsil operations & a few minor cases. In the afternoon Asahel & Lelah took us on a site seeing trip. Drove across Huey Long's Bridge. Asahel had to return to hospital. Lelah then took us to see the airport which is a wonderful place – costing
It was near five o'clock when we returned. We were again glad to remain home in the eve and resume our visiting.

Tuesday 28th

We had planned to take in the French quarters this day but Lelah was ill with sore throat so I remained home all day. Dad went to hospital and saw some operations at hospital in the morning and Asahel took him on a site seeing trip to the French quarters and other places.

Wednesday 29th

Clyde attended the clinic at hospital as usual in the morning and I remained home until afternoon. Went to beauty parlor at 1 PM to have a permanent and didn't get away until 6 o'clock. Remained home in evening.

Thursday 30th

Afternoon today we went shopping. Bought a pair of shoes for \$3.00 which would have cost \$5 or 6 at home. Many sales on just now, cleaning out for Spring goods.

I find lovely dresses can be bought for 5 & 6 dollars. This eve. (Thursday) Lelah and Asahel are entertaining friends from out of town. Miss. Tippe took me over entire hospital. It is a "big" institution.

Friday Dec. 31st 1937

This is the last day of 1937. Suppose there will be a lot of noise again tonight as they celebrate with fireworks. We are told they get pretty rough down on Canal St. We plan to take in a show tonight while Lelah and Asahel attend a very swell party to be given by a very wealthy people. This noon Lelah and I will have lunch with Miss. Tippe down town and then go to the French quarters and antique shops etc. We returned from our site seeing trip to the French quarters about five o'clock. I found myself feeling quite tired and my eyes aching from trying to see so much. I can't imagine anyone collecting such quantity of old furniture. Silverware, dishes, vases, everything imaginable - beautiful things. They tell me many of them have been collected in France and other places. Saw many old buildings which were built in the 17 century still in use and not so well kept up inside. They seem to prefer leaving them in their original state for tourists to see. The first apartments to be built in the U.S. are of unique size and have been well preserved. Being made of brick and balcony of fancy iron railings. Two buildings (perhaps covering a block?) face each other with a block between made into a park. Another interesting place of paintings called The Cabildo Bldg. Which contained also the photo plate of Napoleon at time of death (could see no resemblance of his pictures). It was given to the city by his last physician. Went through the St. Lewis Cathedral which was built in the 17th Century. Many Saints being buried beneath its floors. A place called Poutalba. Saw a dungeon where slaves had been kept during slavery when they were being shipped over from Africa. In one part of this place was an old kitchen where two darky mammals were making pralines (candy made of maple sugar and pecans). There are many nuts raised here. The peanuts are smaller than the ones we get at home. They call these "goobers". I think I forgot to mention that we took a trip to see the cemeteries the day we went to the airport. I think it the most spectacular place we have seen. It is often called "City of the Dead" which really describes it. Each family have a house of granite or marble and vaults are put into these houses. When buried underground, mounds are built and caskets placed in these mounds of earth. Can not dig graves below the surface on account of water being so close to the surface.

Asahel and Lelah went to a New Year's party about 60 min. away. Peoples' name was Shushon. They have a regular mansion and entertained 400 guests. They are the people who built the Airport too. He was Huey Long's right hand man and through him got aid thro the Government to build both places. We went to a show this New Year Eve. Saw Nelson Eddy and Eleanor Powell in the show "Rosalie". Very Good. We could hear firecrackers being set off all during the show. When we came out of the show the entrance was filled with smoke and the fire works sounded like a bombardment. You can't imagine what it was like without seeing it. The firecrackers were of the largest size and set off in bunches. They seemed to be exploding everywhere. People ran in all directions to escape from being burned. Many didn't escape. Paper stated next morning that 149 had been treated for burns - some seriously. We didn't venture out on the street. We waited until we saw a taxi drive up in front of the theater to let someone out and we ran out and jumped in. We were glad to get home. This bombardment continued all night. One would think the supply would run out by morning but there seemed to be more left.

Sat. Jan 1st

New Years Day and it had to rain for the first time since we came. The big football game called "the Sugar Bowl Game" was played here between Louisiana State and Santa Clara. Santa Clara (of Cal.) winning 6 to 0. Clyde, Asahel & Lelah attended. I remained home with Sally and listened to it over radio. In the evening we went with Lelah and Asahel to a party at Dr. and Mrs. ? We came home early as Clyde and Asahel expected to go fishing again at 5 o'clock Sunday morning.

Sunday Jan 2nd

Lelah and I had planned to go to Church this morn. But failed to get up in time. We found the temperature much colder this morning and turned on the heat. Some houses here do not have furnaces and the only heat they have is from fireplaces. I imagine many people hovered around fireplaces today as it has been real chilly. Lelah and I attend a show this afternoon. Walter Wi—dull and Ben Bernie in "Love and Kisses". It was good, enjoyed it a lot. Got home about five o'clock and found Asahel and his Dad home and asleep. They didn't have such good luck fishing today. They went to a different beach. The water was very rough and a cold wind blowing. A hard trip with no luck. Only that it didn't rain today.

Monday Jan. 3rd

About ten o'clock we went down town to do a little shopping and see the stores. Lelah and I had lunch down town and we had a famous dish of the South called "Gumbo". It is sort of a stew consisting of corn beef, crabs, oysters (fresh of course) and "what not" - served over rice. The rice being stewed and highly seasoned. Very good. After lunch we drove to the docks. Were in hopes of seeing a banana boat unloading - but a little late. They had just finished. We then drove around where the French Markets used to be, and found the old ones torn down and saw modern ones in their place. Giving a much cleaner and sanitary appearance.

New Orleans has been a very dirty place. But the open gutters are being covered and a more modern city is being developed in many parts. Altho many of the old landmarks will probably be kept to attract tourists. Spent the eve. home. Miss Topping had dinner with us.

Tuesday Jan 4th

At 8:30 AM our train was due to pull out of New Orleans. We are now on our way to Madison Wis. For a visit of 10 days with Wayfe. We are passing through the same country we traveled thro going down. After leaving Memphis, we will continue on to Chicago on a different road. But will not see much as it will be dark by the time we get there. Will reach Chicago tomorrow morning at 8:30 - if on time.

The weather is bright and sunny. Have only had 1 day of rain since we have been on this trip and that was Saturday (New Years Day)

Wednesday Jan 5th

Found ourselves in Chicago this morning. Got off the train at 8:30 AM and just had half an hour to catch a train to Madison. We had to take a P--- buss to Station on other side of Chicago to get our train North. We find these roads much rougher then those coming from Oregon. (Equal to the branch line to Enterprise). Much better looking country around here. Large farms and well improved houses. All dairy farms. Holstein

cattle seem to be the kind raised. We found the weather colder. Frost on the buildings early this morn. Ice on ponds and rivers as we go along. But bright and sunny. Can see where they have had a little snow. A little can be seen on north forks and on north side of buildings. But no snow anywhere else. Evidently melted after falling as there is considerable ice everywhere. We are due in Madison at 12:55

Jan 13

We have had a very pleasant visit in Madison visiting Wayfe and Roger & Susan. The country around Madison looks very well improved. Mostly large dairy farms . We visited the State Agriculture College farms - saw some fine Belgium horses, cows, pigs. Also went through the Capital Building which is very beautiful - displaying every kind of marble there is to be had. We had dinner with Mr. and Mrs Stebbins on Sunday. They have a lovely house on the back of Lake Mindota. Were invited to Dr. and Mrs. Burke's for dinner on Wed. but Dr. was ill so didn't go. Had lunch one day at the Union. A place for University students to eat. Also recreation ---- etc. We had a lovely dinner down town last evening.

We are now on our way back to Chicago where we are to visit with Dr. and Mrs. Smith for a day or so.

Thursday Jan 14th

Arrived in Chicago last evening half an hour late. Found Mrs. Smith at Depot and much to our surprise we recognized each other at once. We had a lovely dinner waiting for us. Dr. Smith and their little daughter, Betty, met us at the street car. Dr. Smith looked the same. The little girl a very pretty child. After visiting until midnight, we retired. Had a fine bed and a good rest. This morn. Dr. Smith went with us to see Belgium horses at the Sugar Cane Farm ? near Aurora. We saw some wonderful horses of all ages. We found more snow this morning but not deep - neither very cold. Roads were slick and icy . So took the train to Aurora and the manager of the farm met us at the station. He took us to lunch. We are now on our return to Chicago by electric car.

Sat. 15th 9AM

We are now on our way to train. Headed for Wyoming., Will reach there Sunday eve. As we travel through Iowa, we find wonderful farms. Well improved. Large houses and farms and all painted. Fields of corn as far as you can see. Lots of oak trees around the houses. In the Western part it doesn't look quite as prosperous. Smaller house to smaller tracks of cultivated farms. Night approaches and we do not know what we passed through.

Sunday morn Jan 16th

We found our watches an hour fast this morning so had to turn them back. We are now entering Wyoming. This train travels farther North than the one we took going. This part looks more productive. Some corn raised in Eastern part. More cattle seen grazing. No snow to speak of. What little has fallen is drifted along banks of fences. It is a beautiful sunshining day altho there seems to be a breeze. Guy (*Clyde Toney's brother*) will meet us at Rock Spring this eve. at 6:20. We arrived in Cheyenne 10:45. Will leave at 11:40. We got off and thought we would take a walk up town but found such a cold wind blowing. Remained in Depot. Now leaving at 12 o'clock. Arrived at Rocksprings 1/2 hour late. Found Guy, Rosalee and little Clyde at Depot to meet us. Didn't get away

from Rock S. until 8:45. Reached Pine Dale around eleven o'clock. Roads were rather slick from ice and snow so had to drive slowly. Aurel Lynette & Gail were still sitting up waiting for us. After visiting for a while, retired about midnight.

Monday Jan. 17th

Snowed all day today but fortunately no wind. Weather seemed milder than in Madison and Chicago. We had a nice visit with the folks. The town is built mostly of log houses. Much prettier town than Big P-icy as they have trees growing and only a short distance to timber of pines. Folks live in small house so got rooms for us in a cabin, which was furnished better than many houses. Lovely bedroom set. Kitchen contour built in cubbords, electric refrigerator, electric oven and plates. Shower bath and living room with bed davenport. Adjustable dining table, chairs & mirror.

Tuesday Jan 18th

We made ready to start for the train to Kemmerer about 2 PM. Stopped at several towns on way and didn't reach Kemmerer until 5:45. Found sun all the way but not so much at Kemmerer. We were fortunate we didn't get snowed in. Weather has been grand on whole trip. Found a little different opinion of Wyoming. Saw some very fine fields dotted with numerous haystacks and herds of cattle being fed. This hay grows wild and does not need to be planted altho some is irrigated.

Wed. Jan 19th 1938

Now on our home stretch. When we wake this morn found ourselves in Idaho. Will reach La Grand at noon. Expect boys to meet us. Glad to be getting home. Have had a grand trip!