

My Day In The Sun

By WILBORNE HARRELL

Richard Halliburton never pursued the Royal Road To Romance more ardently than I, with this notable exception: He did something about it, I have not. I take my adventure in dreams; Halliburton took his in action. But maybe I'm the gainer, for Halliburton's Royal Road led to his death, when the sampan he was sailing across the Pacific disappeared into the mystery of the sea. Nevertheless, Halliburton had lived, had known a deep satisfaction in dreams achieved that few of us ever attain.

It requires a realistic courage I do not possess to do the things one really wants to do. Who has not dreamed of far places, seas breaking on a palm-girt shore, the strange exotic sights and smells of the far corners of the earth? But how few of us ever see them. We read about them in books and magazines and see them in the movies, and that is usually the extent of our travels. We peruse travel folders and read literature from the travel agencies—but seldom are customers of the steamship companies.

Given that inspired spark of initiative and derring-do, I would have long since followed Halliburton down the Royal Road To Romance. And no luxury travel for me, for half the fun would be "sea-tramping"—your own little schooner or shipping before the mast. Or lacking these, signing on a tramp steamer, that disreputable old lady of the sea who pokes her nose into more interesting places than liners or yachts ever do—and sees more sights and has more fun. A tramp steamer sailing at random from port to port may be likened to an inebriate who goes from bar to bar, enjoying the conviviality of friends and the cheering effects of whatever it is that bars dispense. The tramp steamer is the happy vagabond of the sea, and he who travels thereon a care-free wanderer of the ports of the world.

When one's mind begins to dwell with an almost nostalgic intensity on palm-fringed islands and faroff seas, it is a sure bet you are mentally roaming the South Seas or the Caribbean.

Spread before me is a large map of the Caribbean Sea, that vast inland ocean that has been the cross-roads of so many conflicts and struggles, and the focal point of discoveries and explorers who gave to man an expanding horizon and an exciting "new world to conquer." It is thumbed and well-worn and bears the marks of much conning, for it is the map of a dream—a dream that may some day, come true.

The voyages of Christopher Columbus are the first recorded dates these islands were visited by white men, or by residents of the then known world, who found there an almost idyllic state of existence. Here indeed was paradise found. But legend has it that the ancient Greeks sailed the Caribbean in their long, multi-oared craft. If that is true, then it may be here among these islands that the story of Ulysses' hauntingly beautiful sirens' song was born. For it is easy to imagine that having once heard the luring call of the Caribbean, one would never wish to leave it.

There is even a flavor of romance about the names of these islands, whose every inflection conjure up promise of adventure and delight. Nassau, Martinique, Barbados; slaves, rum, canefields; buccaneers, voodoo, hurricanes—all these run thread-like through the history of the Caribbean, from enchantment to violence, and weave their spell over the imagination. No less enchanting are the far-off islands of the South Seas, with their blue lagoons, their coral reefs, their velvety moon-haunted nights and rolling breakers on palm-studded shores. They have a siren's call all their own, a music that beckons and calls. They, too, have their romance and have been a source of solace and inspiration to many men. Robert Louis Stevenson, Herman Melville, Nordhoff and Hall, James Michener and many, many others have all sought and found in these far places peace and rest—and home. Many, like Robert Louis Stevenson, have found a final eternal peace and haven, overlooking these waters and

islands they loved so well.

Many years ago I read a story in the National Geographic Magazine, a story that later appeared in book form. I have forgotten the name of the author and much of the incident of the story, but its title, "The Cruise of the Dream Ship", lingers with me. In this story the author tells of the fulfillment of his dream to own and sail his own vessel to the distant seas and ports and lands that spelled romance and adventure to him. And in the reading of this story I too launched a dream ship, a ship that sailed away to the port of never return.

But some day, I know, my dream ship will return, and sail away again with me aboard to some far exotic island tucked away somewhere in the wide expanse of the seven seas. There, far from the madding crowd life will assume the tranquil proportions that God intended it to have. All men dream of, but few attain, this ultimate of tranquility, this release from the bondage of progress and civilization and the commitments of society, because they lack what I lack—the courage to grasp and have and hold what one desires.

The life of a beachcomber on some far-away shore may be frowned upon by a critical and disapproving society, but it may have its philosophical compensations. There is more to be read in the book of life than one can read in the pages of a checkbook; for, after all, in the final analysis, all one has, or owns, or may be, is contained in the mind. All tangible and intangible possessions, land or fortune or fame or riches or love and esteem of his fellowmen, can be, and often is, lost. In the end we stand stripped of earthly raiment and habiliment, and all we own is the riches or paucity of the mind, and the compassion and love or fear and hate we hold in the heart.

The lure of the tropic island, the call of the distant land have ever been

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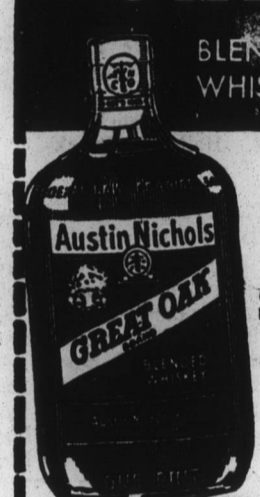
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Read Garment Labels—Look for an informative label stating that the fabric has passed washing tests. Look for these labels or tags when you shop. Check for washing test and color fast statements.

Did you know that while most fibers are washable, washability in a finished fabric or garment depends on other factors? It depends on how the fabric has been constructed, dyed, and finished, and on the construction of the garment. Poorly made garments with skimpy seams will not stand up in washing. Heavily-trimmed garments will be difficult to handle in washing or ironing, regardless of how well the fabric might wash.

Summertime Washing Hints—Per- spiration tends to weaken all lingerie fabrics. Wash undergarments in very

mild soap. Garments with lace or embroidery trimmings, dainty buttons, etc., should always be handled carefully. Squeeze carefully, roll garments in Turkish towel, and hang to dry.

Wash foundation garments often. Never soak them. Use a small hand-brush on soiled parts. Lay the garment flat on a drainboard or table and brush. Don't wring it. To remove excess moisture, roll lengthwise in a Turkish towel so that hose supporters and metal fastenings cannot cut the fabric. Dry flat on a towel, or hang over a clothesline. Press only the fabric or lace sections of a girdle or brassiere. Never dry in direct heat or sunlight—both tend to cause rubber deterioration and will shorten the life of your foundation garment.

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