

Romans Have Two Favorite Pastimes (Hal Boyle's column today is in the form of a letter to his readers.)

ROME—(AP)—Dear Frances: I will, here I am in this place where you are supposed to do as the Romans do. I don't know whether to build a statue or try to get something on the black market. But that's the way the Romans seem to be doing mostly.

There is a wonderful place this would be to start a black market. I never saw so many statues and monuments in my life. They must have a strong sculptor union to get so many carvings. There is a statue of a man in a tunic and the street-sweepers.

The clothing shortage is reflected in the statues. All over the black market, the men and women are wearing old coats and hats from ladies' closets, with water through their teeth, and the women are holding up stone porches. After walking around among these uncleanly people you get the dirty insane feeling you ought to step up and help shoulder a porch.

THINKS UP DESIGN I have thought up a design in case they ever build a monument to Italy's newest national industry—the black market. It would consist of a number of men of heroic stature standing in a circle, each with his own hand in the next man's pocket.

There is no end or beginning to the black market here. It affects the classic monuments. I feel a little about it. We ran into it as soon as we arrived by air from the States. The black market is here before we left the airfield several weeks ago. You want to ask Joe or want some money changed, Joe?

These curstons characters crawl over the streets all over. Some are neatly dressed, but most appear to be small side-walk operators who are just used to be put to work instead of wasting their time being naughty in the black market.

These petty chiselers will buy and sell anything from a derby hat to a leaky fountain pen, but most of the business is done in food and cigarettes. American troops can dispose of their surplus goods for a dollar per pack. So the soldier who doesn't smoke, but draws his extra ration in cigarettes, then and add about 50 bucks to his monthly income.

Rome is almost as good a city as any in the world. The shopping, the food, the people, the architecture, the beautiful piazzas and the people are all first class. LUXURY FOODS PLENTIFUL

Luxury foods are plentiful and food stores look well stocked. At least in the better neighborhoods. But high prices bear heavily on the low income classes and their teeth-picks from over eating.

Street beggars are numerous. One little unfortunated girl in a tattered dress shipped a typewriter note in my hand reading, "Gentle sir, I am in want and need of a father or mother. Will you succor a helpless orphan."

I started to give her some money but she wouldn't take it. She ran off with it from her step and belted my carter "orphan" on her ear. My phone little girl started a very nice race at the lady and she skipped away looking for another "gentle" husband. Harold Vreiningtonex Boyle.

Obeyes Fortune Teller And Stays In Forest WEST CALDWELL, N. J.—(AP)—Police today gave a man a drink who spent four days and nights in the forest and had become a fortune teller told her that was the way to cure her.

The Newark woman said she had given the fortune teller, a woman, \$1 for the advice on the supposed cure of an ailment, the nature of which she wasn't sure. Police are looking for the fortune teller.

He Didn't Come Back His mother, a daughter of the South, fell in love with a man in the service. Her parents objected to marriage, because of religious differences. She wanted a son of his, "for fear he would come back and be dead."

But let the mother tell the story, as she did in a letter left with three-week-old Johnnie in St. Mary's Catholic Church. The letter, in an envelope marked "To Whom It May Concern," follows:

"I hope that some day I will be forgiven for this act I am doing now. But I will try to explain it to you so you will know why I am doing this.

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Will Start At Midnight On Saturday

Plants Process Bulk Of Sugar

U. S. Bins Run Low Bread And Flour Rationing Caled Out Of Question

Case Against Red Officer Is Belittled U. S. Unlikely To Comply

Gromyko Walks Back Council Boycott Ended By Russia

Delay Draft Decision

Match Combine Is Broken Up

Meat Men Blast OPA

Money Found In Mailboxes

Missing War Bride Found

Even Loses Pocket Money

Kisses Prove Costly To Former Professor

\$20 Fee Returned To Doris Duke

Mother Sadly Leaves Baby Son Of Dead Serviceman In Church

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WASHINGTON—(AP)—Government officials told a bakers' and millers' conference today that bread and flour rationing is out of the question, despite current wheat shortages.

C. C. Farrington, director of the Agriculture Department's grain branch, said it would be impossible to print ration books and reassemble local boards in time to help meet the emergency.

Industry spokesmen declared the nation's flour bins may be virtually empty within 60 days. They advocated raising the price of wheat upwards of 35 cents a bushel.

Undersecretary of Agriculture Gold and Farrington both disagreed. "I feel confident," Dodd said, "that we will get the wheat off the farms if it is there. But I don't know whether there is enough remaining to meet both domestic requirements and export commitments."

WASHINGTON—(AP)—CIO and AFL unions today called a strike effective at midnight Saturday at seven East Coast refineries which process 70 per cent of the nation's cane sugar.

The unions said in a statement they had reached an impasse in negotiations with refining companies. They said the companies had refused to accept as binding recommendations of a fact-finding panel appointed by Secretary of Labor Schweitzerbach.

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