DIARY OF OUR VOYAGE TO SPAIN, ITALY, GREECE
MAY 18 to JUNE 15, 1960

Arrived at airport at 5:30 P.M. Thanks to brother, Morris' help. Checked in and just made weight of 80 lbs. for baggage. I was really sorry I hadn't much time to be with the kids. - I was so busy getting insurance and checking baggage etc.

We boarded plane at 6:30 P.M. and obtained two very good window seats in forward section of "economy" class. At 7:13 P.M. plane begins to move. It is a tremendous and comfortable jet. We got quite a thrill when we waved to the gang (and they waved back) from the ramp just before our departure.

At the beginning of the take off Dotty says she is very thrilled. I'm happy for her because its part of the fun for her. I have been on so many flights, I just couldn't raise a thrill, but I enjoyed the anticipation of our "grand vacation" (?) Plane begins to depart at 7:45 P.M. Take off smooth - At 8:15 P.M. we are both served a scotch and soda and are charged 50¢ each because we are in the "economy" section. We drank a toast to a joyful vacation and health for all at home. The ride is really smooth and am I glad I paid the difference for the jet. About 15 minutes after take off we looked out and cannot see a thing. The atmosphere seems so heavy - it is like a thick fog. It is time to relax and sip our drink. I have almost finished with my magazine. The flight is really smooth. It is as smooth as sitting in my own living room. I received my cigarettes (6 cartons) from "World Tobacco Co." delivered by hostess @ $1.60 a carton. At 8:50 P.M. Dotty and I ordered another scotch and soda so now I feel mellow and hungry. I hope they feed us already. It is now 9:15 P.M. and they are beginning to serve us. A very tempting dish of cold Roast Beef and Turkey is being served. It is now 9:45 P.M.; I feel contented,

full and relaxed. It is now 10 o'clock. Reclining chair and pillow are very comfortable. Trying to sleep. We rested comfortably and at 12:30 A.M. (N. Y. time) we saw the sun rise. At 1:15 A.M. (N. Y. time) it was daylight (6:20 A.M. Portugal time). The ride was so smooth that it is unbelievable to those who are used to Piston Planes. At 1:25 A.M. (N. Y. time) we fasten belts and land in Lisbon, Portugal after 6 hours of flight. As we approach the clouds, in order to land, it is an astounding sight. Dotty says it looks like the "Lost Horizon".

We are wondering if we will see Pres. Eisenhower who is supposed to land in Lisbon after leaving the Summit Conference same morning. We landed at 2:05 P.M. - with a bump - a large delegation is on hand at Airport to welcome the first jet flight between U.S. and Portugal. We walked about the airport and then boarded plane at 2:45 (N. Y. time) weather - clear - sunny and cool. We even got diplomas and the crew received medals. We prepare to leave at 3:00 P.M. so that Pres. Eisenhower's plane may land. Left Lisbon at 3:30 P.M. (N. Y. time). We had breakfast at 3:45 A.M. consisting of coffee, juice and danish.

We arrived at Madrid at 4:30 A.M. or 10:30 A.M. Madrid Time. What a reception! As we left plane the band was playing and we received Red Gardinas and Champagne to celebrate the first Jet flight to Madrid. Customs was very simple. They hardly looked into the bags. We boarded the bus and came into the City after a ½ hour ride. We checked our next flight with the "Atitalia" and checked into the San Francisco Hotel. Not being used to hotels in Madrid and even though the TWA had recommended this place because I insisted that I did not want to go to a hotel filled with American Tourists and even though the Spanish Tourist Bureau stated that it was a 1st class hotel, it appeared to us like a "Bowery Flop House" when we first got in. We have a beautiful large twin bedded room with private bath overlooking a very picturesque square for 175 pestas ($3.00). The service seems

to be very good and they have a cute little restaurant on the premises. We walked to the Capital Hotel, a few blocks away to determine why we couldn't get accommodations when we wrote to them from N.Y., but after seeing the hotel, we realized that it was similar to ours. Of all the hotels we saw in Madrid, we would recommend the "Hotel Menphis" located on San Antonio Street. At Seymour's recommendation, we went shopping at "Marianas" for souvenirs. We found this place to be most reasonable. Unfortunately, they did not have any of the money clips that Seymour wanted me to get for him.

It rained for the first hour, and then stopped but it is cold and windy. So this is where Seymour wanted us to wear Tropical Clothing! We are dressed actually for a winter day in N. Y. The most horrible thing that could happen to tourists, happened to us. We slept until 3 o'clock, we then got dressed and decided to eat a very big dinner. We were both very hungry. We did not know the restaurants are closed from 3 o'clock when lunch ends, until 9:00 P.M. at night when they begin to serve dinner. We walked around the streets after being thrown out of 2 or 3 restaurants and finally begged a Cop in broken Spanish to direct us to a place to eat before we collapsed. He looked at us pitifully and sent us to a Bar where after 15 minutes Jesse finally made himself understood; we ate a De Luxe Dinner - Fried egg on toast and 2 miserable cups of coffee. Sitting at a bar amongst a group of Spaniards who were drinking Cocktails and who regarded us as 2 Freaks from out of space. So this is touring Europe. Boy they can shove it. Then Jesse got into a conversation with a young boy and with his broken Spanish learned that many of the points of interest were too far to walk to. So we immediately went back to the hotel and rested while awaiting the dinner hour of 9:30 P.M. Tonight we plan to eat a real Spanish meal in a very quaint little dining room in our hotel and perhaps see a Flamenco Show. If Jesse

feels rested, we may take an excursion to Toledo, tomorrow. (I think I hear him snoring). At 8:30 P.M. we got up and dressed and went into the dining room for dinner. We had the most delightful dinner served to us in a real continental (slow) manner looking out on a most beautiful and delightful view. When we learned that the Nite Club Flamenca show will last until 4 in the morning and in as much as we had bought a day's outing to Toledo for 500 ($9.00) Pesatos, we had decided that we had better hit the sack when we realized how tired we really were. Luckily we heard a knock at the door and in came the chamber maid with two extra blankets which we appreciated very much. That guy, Seymour, he and his hot weather! He must be nuts! Next time we go to Spain at the end of May, we will bring our overcoats. At 10:15 P.M., we go to bed and even though we have twin beds, we are cuddling up together to beat the cold.

Friday - 5/20/60

We finally had for the first time in 2 days a decent night's sleep. Owing to the fact, that we put the alarm clock under the pillow because Jesse could not sleep with the loud ticking and because the telephone operator forgot to call us at 8 o'clock in the morning, we awoke at 8:30 A.M. (late as usual) and hurriedly dressed and rushed into the dining room for a hurried breakfast of rolls, butter, marmalade, and coffee. We then took a cab to the bus for a full day tour of Toledo. It was a <u>most</u> glorious day. The sun shone brightly all day but it was cool enough so that with all the walking during our sight seeing we felt cool and did not perspire. Thank God, for Seymour's advice for the special walking shoes that he insisted that I buy. They are so heavenly, that after the entire day of walking my feet feel as fresh as when I woke this morning. These special walking shoes with ripple soles and foam rubber cushion insets are a <u>must</u> for sightseeing!

At the present time, I am relaxing in bed (7:30 P.M.), with a

scotch and bottled water (as you know we cannot drink tap water in Europe) and dictating this memo to Dotty who has just stepped out of a very pleasant hot bath. Concerning the tour of Toledo, I cannot go into detail because I would have to write an entire book, but all I can say that the painting of El Greco; his home; the Cathedrals; the most picturesque city of Toledo with its Moorish remnants of the saracen culture; the Sphardic Synagogue of the Jews who were driven out of Spain; the wonderful people we met on the tour; made this day a most glorious one. Our only hope is that the rest of our stay in Europe is as wonderful as this one.

We also bought many gifts at one of the most famous Cathedrals in Toledo. We had dinner with a gentleman from Copenhagen who was so thrilled with our company that he insisted on us being his guest when and if we ever get to Copenhagen.

On the way back, the bus stopped at the various hotels in order to drop the passengers off, and now that I am getting used to Madrid, I wish to take everything back I said concerning my first impression of our hotel. It is just what the TWA had said. - "Located centrally, very inexpensive (175 Pesatos) - $3.00 per night for a tremendous room with two very comfortable twin beds, a beautiful antique chandelier, with a writing room, a very large bathroom, and telephone service and very clean. One must realize that the hotels in Spain, as compared to the ones in New York, are really antiquated.

There are 50% Foreigners and 50% Spaniards in this hotel which definitely does not give you the feeling of bumping into tourists carrying cameras and binoculars all over the lobby. But I must warn every tourist in Spain that what is considered 1st class in Spain (this is 1st class) would be 3rd class in New York. I wish to close this thought with the statement that anyone visiting Madrid must make the tour to Toledo - a must. It is almost worth coming to Spain. Jesse is

now planning to take a bath, half drunk with the scotch and then we plan to go out for dinner and try to take in a Spanish night club.

Saturday - 5/21/60

We left the Hotel about 9:00 P.M. Firday nite, and asked one of the boys in the hotel that we wished to eat in a truly native restaurant that was clean but frequented by the natives. The boy walked us through some back streets, one block off the Main Avenue but to an American it looked like we were being taken through the dark alleys for the slaughter. I must say that it takes a certain amount of nerve to do things off-beat. (Jesse gives me a pain in the neck because he is always trying to act like a native even though he keeps reassuring me not to worry. -Dotty) We finally arrived at the Restaurant Olimpo-Antonio Gullo 12, Madrid. A very clean looking restaurant with the various foods displayed in the window on ice just like they do in a high class New York restaurant. They never get American tourists in this place and everyone had a good laugh at Jesse's broken Spanish. (I am really amazed at how wonderfully he gets around with his Spanish. To me who doesn't understand a word, he sounds like a native.) We first ordered a fish dinner with about 101 various sea food concoctions. It was very tasty but suddenly we remembered that certain native sea food might make us sick, so we just ate the broth and some of the sea food we recognized. Jesse like the soup very much, but I didn't. Then we continued to eat a full course meal with the main dish being broiled veal and lemon which was delicious, in addition to the full course meal, Jesse ordered several a la carte dishes and to our amazement including the 10% tip for the waiter, the entire bill for the 2 of us was $1.50 in American money. This even included a bottle of wine. This same meal in Lundy's for 2 would be about $13 plus. We walked out feeling that now we are really natives. We then decided to see a Flamenco Show. Jesse inquired from some men in the street and we learned that the best

show in Madrid was at the night club known as the "Torres Bermejas"- very expensive on the basis of Spanish currency. It cost us exactly 600 Pesatas or $10 in American money, for just three rounds of drinks. But the show was continuous from 11:30 P.M. when we entered until 3 in the morning. A Flamenco show is sung and danced by the Spanish gypsies who have their homeland in Southern Spain. To describe it briefly we might say that it is like the singing and dancing of Carmen during the "Habanera". They bang with their feet so much that we expected the floor to collapse. The show had a cast of about 30 people and it was quite exciting at times, but the only fault we found was that instead of an orchestra they used two guitiarists. It would have been much more thrilling and exciting if they had used the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. However, it was true, native gypsy entertainment with real Gypsy costumes. After this show, we can more readily understand the character and attitude of "Carmen" in the opera that we heard so many times at the Metropolitan Opera House. We walked back to our hotel at 3 A.M. and found the streets quite lively. One of the features in Madrid is the sidewalk cafes which has not yet come to life because of the cold weather. (That guy Seymour with his tropical suits!) Jesse is still wearing an undershirt, top coat, and hat and I am very glad that I have my warm clothing. This night club is also a must.

We fell asleep immediately because The tour of Toledo starting at 9 o'clock A.M. to 3 A.M. (the end of the night club show) tired us very much. We awoke Saturday morning at 11:30 A.M. and ordered a very tasty breakfast in the room. Today we plan to visit the Prado Museum and other points of interest in Madrid. We also expect to meet Seymour's friend, John, who is going to advise us what to see and do in Madrid but somehow or other we feel as if we have been here for months, and are beginning to feel very much like real natives.

Saturday - May 21, 1960

After breakfast in the room we decided to see Madrid proper. We walked to the Alitalia Air Lines office about 10 minutes away to check on our flight Monday to Italy - After getting the information, we walked across the street to see the Plaza Oriente where we found the statue of Don Quioxte on his horse and his aide Sancho on a donkey. Naturally Dotty insisted on taking pictures - so again we looked like visiting boobs to the natives sitting in the park. Jesse had his shoes shined for one American cigarette. Boy! What a bargain! Then we had a coke at a nearby stand and held a conversation in broken Spanish with the proprietor who was most friendly. These Spaniards seem to appreciate much more your sincere expression of "muchas gracias" rather than any tips of money. I know they would be insulted if we offered them money. When you thank them, they tip their hat in a very gracious manner. There are no beggars and no one is trying to put anything over on you. I am really learning to love this place and these people.

As we walked to the avenue we noticed the "Metro" their subway system. I was interested enough to compare it with the New York system and we went below. It was the same to my disgust. Long, dirty, ugly looking passages and trains that looked like the old I.R.T. cars. I really felt at home for the moment. We would have taken a ride but I didn't think I would appreciate doing what we have to do in New York daily.

At the stand in the park where we drank Coke, Dotty decided to have a sandwich but when we saw how he hung up the meats in the open and how he kept the food on an open counter we decided that it would be safer to be hungry for a while. After walking about the city, we entered another little park (very picturesque) where we found a little pool and a statue of Queen Isabella who helped Columbus with ships and money to reach America.

After taking pictures (What again!) we had an unexpected pleasure. We met some women who had been on the bus with us to Toledo. We had a pleasant conversation and we learned just what to expect in Italy. Boy! oh Boy! I feel like giving Italy back to the Italians. After what they told me, I don't think I would give 2 pesatas (3¢) for the whole of Italy. They said that they were mistreated, insulted, and had one lousy miserable time. Everyone seemed to enjoy insulting the Americans and taking their money. No matter what they tipped, they were frowned upon.

Another problem was the weather. It rained all week for them in Italy and when they took the Naples tour, they hardly saw anything. They said the guide rushed them through the sightseeing and then took the men in another section to show them lewd pictures and scenes. They said Spain was heavenly in comparison, both in costs and treatment. They did not like France either. They were overcharged for everything and they saw very little.

We then walked with the women back to our part of the town, said goodby to them (they were flying home to San Francisco, Calif.) and then entered a luncheonette called the "California" where they served delicious ice cream sodas. Honestly better than N.Y. I had two of them because I was very thirsty. Dotty had an egg sandwich and tea. At the counter, I got into a conversation with a Chinese gentleman from Hong Kong. He was really enjoying Madrid, but when he learned that we were going to Italy, he shook his head sadly and warned me to make sure that they didn't steal the teeth out of my mouth. He warned me of pick pockets and over charging and their attitude of dislike and hatred for foreigners. I thought this attitude was against Americans only but it seems even the Chinese get the same "Italian" treatment.

Well! Now I'm good and sore! I feel as if they can take the entire boot and "shove it somewhere" (Pardonez moi, si vous plez). Dotty and I

then and there decided to go to Italy, do as much sightseeing in a "group" for protection and then go to Greece sooner than we planned if conditions are as bad as they describe. Who knows! Maybe they are exaggerating - but I'm really curious and will report from Italy.

We then walked all afternoon sightseeing. We visited the "Puerta del Sol"; the "Plaza Mayor" which was like a Spanish Coney Island; then frightened Dotty by engaging into conversation with some tough-looking characters. I learned that the bull fight for Sunday was all sold out because the Matadors (Bullfighters) were very famous and that I would not be able to see it. My hotel couldn't get any tickets, and so I went to a tough-looking section of the city; inquired who had black market bull fight tickets; and began to bargain with a tough-looking character. Don't be alarmed! It was really safe; it was in the middle of the city on the street with many people walking around. Dotty got scared when several tough-looking characters surrounded me and asked $5 each for a ticket worth 40¢. When I offered them $1 and they refused I told them very nonchalantly to "shove the bull somewheres". Boy! would they have loved to slit my throat and even if I bought the tickets at my price, I didn't know if I would be sitting with that kind of group. By this time Dotty was urging me to leave them.

After this experience, I decided to be a good boy for Dotty's sake and for less than these black marketeers asked me ($3 each). We are going tomorrow afternoon on a regular "Bullfight and nightclub excursion" which I think should be very enjoyable inasmuch as we will be with a large group of sightseers. We then decided to see a famous restaurant at the Plaza Mayor called the "Den of Thieves" where the waiters dress like the bandits in "Carmen". We went down into a dungeon like room through winding steep stairs with chains on the wall. Boy! Dotty was scared. She thought the Spanish Pirates (that's how the waiters were dressed) were going to knife us. But I kept assuring her it was O'K.

After seeing the place we made a reservation for 10:00 P.M. but after taking a cab back to our hotel (By the way - when I said to him "San Francisco Hotel", he took us to the "San Francisco Church". Boy I must learn to talk louder) we took a bath and were so tired that we decided to eat in our hotel.

Boy! Oh Boy! What a dinner! I told the manager that I wanted a real Spanish dinner and we got after the soup, a large tray of Spanish rice enough for ten people mixed with tons of the most delicious sea food items. Shrimps, fish, clams on the shell (right in the rice) etc. with tomato sauce. Boy we ate like there was no tomorrow. Then we had spanish veal and potatoes etc. etc. etc. and a quart of wine. The bill was $4 in American money for both and the waiter thought we must be millionaires because he only earns $10 a week. After dinner, we walked on the avenue window shopping. It was too cool to sit at the sidewalk cafe. We went to sleep immediately at 12:00 P.M. and slept soundly.

Sunday - May 22

I don't know what happened to me but I awoke at 6:00 A.M. saw the sun rising and was so thrilled with the beautiful sight of the sun rise over the city of Madrid and also because I began to feel sorry to leave it. We are treated so well and the fact that this is the first time I really feel like a millionaire, (when I hand out cigars and cigarettes they bow to me like royalty. When I give them 8¢ tips they giggle with joy) and I ahte to go back to the high cost living in N.Y. But from what they tell me, I'll get used to the high costs immediately when I arrive in Italy. I wrote this while Dotty dressed. It is now 7:45 A.M. and the sun is shining beautifully. We are going to have breakfast; take a cab to the Prado museum and sightsee the city; come back for lunch and then catch the bullfight excursion at 4:30 P.M. We shall see, what we shall see! (Que sere, sera). Well, we really saw! We had breakfast in the dining room. We had cheese, ham, coffee, juice etc.

We left hotel at 8:30 A.M. and took the bus to Cibeles Plaza. This section covers the cultural aspects of Madrid. The Prado Museum did not open until 10:00 A.M. so we walked around for an hour looking at the beautiful buildings and admiring the beautiful landscape. At 10:00 A.M. we entered the Prado Museum and we were most impressed with the many Reubens Paintings. When we saw Reubens "St. George Slaying the Dragon" we were amazed at the similarity to our Reubens' "Fox and Wolf Hunt" at home. The horse, the man's face and woman's face were identical. The dragon's mouth with the spear stuck in it was identical to the Wolf's mouth with the spear in it.

Well! We could have remained all day but getting up at 5:30 A.M. and knowing that we were going on a bullfight and Flamenco excursion we decided to leave the museum and take a cab back to the hotel. We had two fried eggs and coffee in the room. I intend to catch a nap and rest because we are starting at 4:30 P.M. for the bullfight.

Today I found out why Americans who go to Europe rush back home. I had occasion to use the men's room and the toilette tissue was just like our wax paper. My! Aren't Europeans of the same (Homo Sapiens) group as the americans. How can they live with it! I am mailing back a sample with this memo so that you can understand what I am driving at.

Monday 5/23

Yesterday we slept until 3 o'clock. We rested well and we left for the Bullfight Excursion at 4:30 P.M. Fortunately we were well prepared and knew just what to expect. So we were not shocked at the gory spectacle. The show was very good and we enjoyed it immensely. It was really thrilling! We were glad that we went on a Tourist Excursion because the place was very crowded and we were glad that we were in the company of many American Tourists and a regular guide. After the Bullfight, they took us to a club called "The Caves" which looked like underground caves where we were served wine, hors D'ouves, and we saw a short but very delightful Flamenco show. We met a very lovely couple, a

Japanese girl and an Indian gentleman, who sat at the table with us. We finally reached our hotel at 10:30 P.M. and we found John Shrick (Seymour Menachem's friend) with whom we had dinner and a most wonderful and pleasant visit which lasted until 3:00 P.M. It was a most enjoyable conclusion to our stay in Spain.

Monday A.M. 5/23

We awake at 9 o'clock after a good night's sleep and we began to pack in order to leave for Italy. Jesse as usual had to show his annoyance at all the junk that I bought from the states. (Dotty speaking) "I really did bring too much but you know women".

Monday 4:00 P.M. Spanish Time 5/23

After packing I paid my bill and caught them (either purposely or accidentally) overcharging by $2.00. When I pointed it out to them, I think they had more respect for us.

We left the bags in the room and went to the street and sat for an hour at a shaded sidewalk cafe. This was very restful and relaxing. We then got our luggage and taxied to the Alatalia Air Terminal in the city. We had to get there 2 hours before plane take-off at airport. We are now on the plane and this "Viscount-7" is really almost as smooth (so far) as our jet on the TWA. It looks like a new plane and we are really enjoying the ride. We have not dropped up or down yet and I'm surprised because all the propellor planes that I used to ride many years ago used to bounce us about like a ballon in the wind. They are now beginning to serve tea and I find them pretty hospitable. From Madrid we took the bus to the airport. There, for an hour and one half until we boarded the plane it was just disgustingly hot and annoying. Both Dotty and I feel that anyone who flies all around Europe and changing cities every 3 or 4 days should have their head examined. Please note Max Menachem! Be smart and stick to your cruises. Airports are a pain in the neck!

We both admit now that Seymour's advice to cancel the boat trip home and fly around to different cities for another 12 days (instead of

the boat trip) worst advice one can get. He must remember that what he can do physically, not everyone else can. After this one experience of packing, checking out, go to the terminal and flight, going through customs and trying to keep watch over your things is really disgusting. Thank our lucky stars that I did not change my itinerary and cancel the boat trip back to N.Y. as he suggested.

If one goes to Europe let them work it out with the least amount of changing from city to city. One city is each country and as few of the countries as you really want to see. Just because of the "Stop-over" PRIVILEGES, don't be a hog and hop skip and jump all over Europe. If you want to do that take a "Package Deal" which is very tiring but at least you will not have to study for 2 months preparing your own itinerary.

It is now 4:45 P.M. European Time. We have just been served a very pleasant lunch of tea and sandwiches.

Concerning my statements between a jet and propeller plane, remember that we are flying in perfect weather. The sun is shining brightly and there is no wind. Maybe if it were windy, we would be bouncing. Therefore, I would recommend to play safe, jet all the way if possible.

We paid for Jet all the way to Greece, but I did not want to wait 3 extra days in Madrid for the jet flight to which I was entitled. If we land in Rome O'K and the trip is the same as it has been thus far, we will not mind this propeller flight. However, a must is a Jet flight across Atlantic. From the comments of those who few across the Atlantic by propellor plane, it must be just horribly tiring!

We asked for postal cards or letter paper and envelopes but they claimed they were out of them. Boy! What a cheap line. They know that we will ask them to mail them for us and they want to save stamps. Boy! Oh Boy! My first taste of Italy! This is the Alitalia Line (Italian Line) - No postal cards!

I suppose the Italians will not give a tourist the right time without charging. I emptied my pockets of the few Spanish coins I had, and filled my pockets with Italian money in order to be prepared for the innumerable tips that is necessary until you get to your hotel. Thank God for Seymour's advice about bringing some foreign currency.

Every traveler should take with him from the states at least $10 or $20 of each currency of the country he intends to visit, and practice with it before he leaves. Otherwise you feel like a real mixed-up tourist. It is now 5:00 P.M. and we have just crossed Spain from Madrid and are now flying over the Meditteranean towards Rome. The only real trouble with flying "economy" is that they cramp you into pretty narrow seats and you feel pretty cramped. I can't wait to board our boat so that we can stretch out from the bow to the stern. Dotty is now reading her magazine and relaxing. In computing my expenses for the 5 days spent in Spain, I find that even though we went on all of the important Tours, nightclubs and really lived it up without a care of the cost and even tipped lavishly that it only cost in American dollars (not counting the cost of the souvenirs) a little less than $22 a day for the two of us. This included everything but the transportation.

Boy! This is great! I figured about 40 to $50 daily. So now I am really ahead of the game. But let's see what happens in Italy. Here I'll be lucky to get away (from what they tell me) with $50 daily for two.

Only one thing we have not had time for and that is to write cards to all our friends. We expected to write the cards on the Airline (free postage) but they really <u>fooled</u> us. Please tell any friends that may call that we will try to write cards to them but we have been on such a "whirl-wind merry-go-round" that we hope they excuse us. This letter is for everybody and if they call read some parts to them.

So far, our health has been perfect and we did not have to use any of the "drug-store" we took along. I hope our health continues!.

We landed without even noticing it and we went through customs 1-2-3 and they did not even look in our bags. We got on the bus and rode into the city of Rome via the "appian Way" - the same way Caesar entered Rome after his conquests. They brought us to the terminal in Rome and our hearts sank when we saw a sign in the railway station reading "Hotel Continental", we thought we were coming into another dump of a hotel even though it is rated as a first class hotel. Luckily it was only an advertisement and it stated that the hotel was 300 yeards away from the station. When they tried to push us into a taxi with the luggage, I told them to hold their horses. By now I felt like an experience traveler and I wasn't going to be put in a taxi and taken for a ride when the hotel was just around the corner. I confirmed the flight with the Olympic Airways to Greece which is on the following Monday and I asked the Alitalia Line to call our hotel for a porter for our bags. I, thereby, saved the price of a taxi and when I gave the porter a 500 lire (80¢) tip, he thanked me profusely. When we entered the Hotel we were thrilled beyond compare; it was astoundly modern and beautiful. Our room and bath looks right over on a beautiful square. The conveniences and service and cleanliness can be compared to the best hotels in N.Y. The first thing that we did after going to our room was to obtain a safe deposit box where Jesse put all the important papers so that he feels quite relaxed in walking around with empty pockets and just a few dollars in Italian money. Now! who cares about the pickpockets! All we do is sign checks that we apply on our hotel bill. We washed up and had a very lovely dinner in the hotel restaurant where the service was excellent. The only embarrassing episode occurred was when Jesse and I sat at the table and Jesse put in front of him all the translations for the various foods and to his amazement and chagrin (he wanted to show me he prepared for Italy) we learned that the head waiter and waiters all spoke English. Even the menu was in Italian and English. After eating, we went upstairs

and bathed, fell asleep like two logs.

Tuesday - May 24

We awoke at 8:00 A.M. and really felt refreshed. We rushed out like hungry wolves for our "C.I.T." sightseeing. In the morning we went on Tour "B" - "Vatican Museums and Sixtone Chapel". We were so impressed and awed by the beautiful works by the Renaissance painters and sculptures (Raphael & Michael Angelo), and the Sixtine Chapel where the Popes are elected by the Cardinals.

We were so crazely impressed that we had lunch in a sidewalk cafe and rushed on another tour of "ancient Rome".

We were dumbstruck and awed by the "grandeur that was Rome". Everything that I studied for years suddenly came to life. The Colosseum and the statue of Moses by Michaelangelo impressed us so, I had a lump in my throat. It would be impossible to describe both Dotty's and my feelings. For anyone coming to Rome you must only use the "CIT" tours. (Government sponsored). Don't let them talk you into any others. "CIT Tours!"

We are now (6:30 P.M.) in the hotel which is really luxurious. Dotty took a bath and I am about to take one listening to the bells of the churches ringing outside and the radio in our room playing Italian music. Boy! I can't believe that Dotty and Jesse are in Europe. So far wonderful! I have recognized the sections of Rome which Dave Garroway of "Todays" program had on a few months ago. It really is something to see and talk about.

We are now dressing and going out to visit a real famous Italian restaurant called "Alfredo"-famous for their "fettucine" (spaghetti).

Well! Well! Well! What a grand evening! I am happy when Dotty told me she had the lovelist night of her life. I really thought it was grand! We took a cab to Alfredo's ($1) and it turned out to be a real "Old World" restaurant. We ate in the outdoor cafe in a garden. We ate their specialties of Fettucini (Egg noodle spaghetti), deliciously

spiced veal with asparagus and rice in special sauces fit for a king - a large bottle of wine - caramel custard and coffee - (with tip $10). Dotty was treated like a queen. She was given a special gold spoon and fork as a special welcome and because he liked her looks. Boy! wouldn't Nannykins and Rhodaboat love that meal! Gee! We sure miss them! but I hope they remember us when we get back. Honestly it feels like we are gone a year!

After the dinner, we took a horse and buggy and rode around to all the lighted fountains, castles, the Trevi fountain of "3 Coins in a Fountain", etc., etc. It was grand. We felt like a king and queen. The weather has been beautiful! We are now back in the room ready to sleep.

Boy, are we nuts! We did more in 2 days than most people do in a week. Tomorrow we are taking 2 city tours also, I hope, if our strength keeps up and then we plan to go to Naples.

Everthing is hard work and no play -- but who cares! Rome wasn't built in a day - it took a lot of sacrifice on the part of the slaves, so why not a little from us?

All I can say thus far! I have found the Italians very friendly and courteous. The prices are the same as N.Y. and I apologize for feeling the way I did about the Romans. I really love it and wish I have more time. Isn't it funny how different people react differently. I would urge people not to miss it.

Well good night, and will continue in the morning of Wednesday 5/25/60. I'm really surprised that I have been awakened by the ringing of the Church bells (6:30 A.M.) and I do not feel tired. After two tours and one night tour with the horse and buggy I still am eagerly awaiting todays two tours - one to St. Peters Church and one to the Catacombs (underground passages) where the early Christians hid from persecution and buried their dead. At one of the churches we bought some

more trinkets and I hope to find some real novelties in Greece. Both Dotty and I feel fine and have not yet had any ill effects, from the food etc. I am looking out on the square and it is another beautiful day. We have been very lucky about the weather.

Even though everything has been wonderful so far, I must thank all my friends whose advice I have followed carefully. Sometimes magazine articles make fun of people who want to give you advice but listen to them.

Well, I really feel sorry if anyone attempts to go through Europe without studying and preparing for several months. They should take the "package tours" so that they don't make a mess of their tour to Europe. Many people warned us to take only the "CIT" tours. As soon as I came to the hotel, the clerks tried to sell me other Company tours, and I had to show determination to get what I wanted. They don't get any commission from the gov't sponsered tours. Well, it is now 7:30 A.M. Wednesday! I am writing this in bed. If anyone calls, please tell them that we have been so busy that we have not had time to write even one postal card to anyone yet.

If I didn't love you kids so much I wouldn't have time for this diary either. Well - here goes - Another day in Rome!

As crowded as it is in Rome now there is plenty of room on the Tours. They just add extra buses to accommodate everyone. Don't take <u>any tours</u> from the U.S. because you do not know how tired you'll feel. On a planned trip just get hotel reservations only. On a package tour it may be different.

We got up about 8:00 A.M., had breakfast and rushed off for the last 2 tours of the City. The Borghese Galleries and St. Peter's Church and the afternoon Tour of the Catacombs and several other important churches. The highlight of the day was the fact that we were blessed by the Pope John. At St. Peter's Cathedral, Jesse bought some rosaries

which were also blessed by the Pope and which we intend to give to some Catholic friends who consider them most sacred. It was a very nice day, but we regretted that we had to take 2 Tours each day. The right way is to take 1 tour a day so that one is not rushed.

We had lunch in between tours at a sidewalk cafe, and Dotty went direct to the hotel. Jesse went to the Nord Hotel to check on it for Ed Meyers. He found it to be a very small but lovely and inexpensive.

At the end of the 2nd Tour, we had some sodas and Italian Ice Cream at a side-walk Cafe near the CIT office, where Jesse made arrangements for a 3 day Tour of Naples, Capri-Sorrento, Pompei, etc. We expect to come back to Rome Saturday night and then we will have 2 more days in this very beautiful city. We then walked to a placewhere Jesse tried to buy a Borsalino Hat that Murray Saltzman requested and could not find the store. Jesse needed a nat anyway so he bought an ordinary Italian hat in one of the stores for $5.00. We then walked several blocks to find a Pizza joint on Via Genova which had been recommended to Jesse for Pizza by one of the girls in the Opera House. We had a special Pizza with cheese, eggs, mushrooms, Tomato Sauce, etc. We had 5 small Pizzas and 2 bottles of wine and it was so delicious that we were saying to ourselves that if Rhoda and Nancy could be here, they would have a "ball". Jesse got so drunk that I had to practically carry him back to the hotel. On the way back, I chisled a straw bag for a present for me from Jesse. The more he yells "no shopping" the more we buy.

We got to the hotel room about 9 o'clock. Jesse took a bath and is so drunk from the Italian wine (Frascati), that he is lying in bed, smoking a cigar and dictating to me, half drunk. We forgot to mention that the traffic in Rome is like a bunch of crazy lunatics. Last night when we took a taxi to Alfredo's, we had to close our eyes otherwise we

would have gotten a heart attack. They rush around touching fenders in a manner that makes us happy that we took out ¼ million dollars of Insurance for the kids in case anything happens. We are listening to a concert on the radio and tomorrow (Thursday) 3 P.M. we expect to start out for Naples on a 3 day Tour and then come back to Rome. (Please continue to type this log or diary so that when we get home it will be all typed up. We won't have to describe our trip to everyone a hundred times. We will just let them read it. We will continue on this diary Thursday.)

THURSDAY A.M.

We got up at 9 o'clock after a good nights sleep and relaxed all morning after a late breakfast. We have written some cards and have packed one of the small grips for Naples. We intend to be back to the hotel Saturday night.

A representative of the CIT Service will escort us personally with other Americans throughout the tour. Jesse originally planned to do all this on his own but he was seriously advised by the hotel management not to go to Naples unless escorted by CIT throughout the tour because it is Naples where it is especially dangerous to go unescorted. We will write again!

NAPLES 6:00 P.M.

We are now in Naples in a beautiful hotel "The Nediterrareo" overlooking the "Blue Mediterranean". The train ride was wonderfully fast and pleasant because we met an English pair (Mother & Daughter) with a real cockney accent. (We could hardly understand them) and had such a wonderful conversation that time flew by.

It's a good thing we came on a gov't (CIT) Tour, because these natives are tough looking. We will spend 2 nights and 3 days in this area. Hope it will be as interesting as Rome. We will now bathe and go to the Roof-Top Restaurant overlooking the entire area. It is like eating on a garden roof top.

Boy! Oh Boy! What a dinner. I wish Rhoda and Nancy could have been here. We had an Italian dinner that was even better than Pauls. And the view! Whow ee! On the top of the hotel; all glass enclosed. The view is gorgeous. We then walked along the lighted streets to the San Carlo Opera house. Too bad! I could not hear an opera but I got into a wonderful conversation with the manager and he invited us to see the inside tomorrow night even though there is no opera. Que Sera Sera!

We are now (9:20 P.M.) back in the room. It is really beautiful and modern. We are going up to the roof garden for a drink and then to bed. Tomorrow, after breakfast our tour of Amalfi, Sorrento, Naples starts at 9:00 o'clock. The roof garden gave us a beautiful view of Naples with Mount Vesuvius lighted up. About 10:30 we went to sleep and really had a good nights sleep. The weather thus far has been gloriously cool.

We woke at 8:00 A.M. and breakfasted in the roof garden restaurant. It was delightful. We then got on the bus for the "The Pompei" and "Amalfi Drive" tour and had lunch in a beautiful hotel in Almalfi overlooking the beautiful blue mediterranean water. All that I can say is that the scenery is the most magnificent in the world and the drive alongside the curved and narrow edges of the cliffs for 30 miles can never be forgotten. It is tiring and very exciting, and dangerous. I wouldn't advise it for anyone with a weak heart. The ruins of Pompei were also very exciting. We are now back in the hotel and are ready to bathe and dress for dinner. Another memory an American will always carry is the horns on the buses. They are identical to the weird horns that we heard in the picture "Diary of Ann Frank". Remember, whenever they heard the strange horn, they thought that the police would stop and catch them. We first heard it in Spain going to Toledo and both Dotty and I remarked that it reminded us of the exciting moments of the picture.

It's a good thing we took a 3 day tour by train up and back to Naples. It would have been brutally tiring to make it in less time or to take the bus up and back to Rome. If anyone wants to make the Naples tours they must use the train and make it at least in 3 or still better 4 days.

As it is we are still on an enjoyable merry-go-round but fortunately we are not tired yet. The thought of resting for 12 days on the boat on the way home seems to give us added energy whenever we feel a little tired. Tell Seymour Menachem his advice that we cancel the boat trip and continue to fly around and sightsee some more is crazy - but crazy!

We are only half through and Dotty and I feel we have had enough sightseeing to last us a life-time. We had a lovely dinner and then sat in the roof garden. Boy! Do we miss the kids! It seems an eternity! Boy! Am I going to hug and kiss them for a whole day! Mommy said that she will let me start kissing them first and then she will take her turn.

Tomorrow, we will take a boat from Naples to the Isle of Capri and then take the train back to our hotel in Rome. This tour includes lunch in Capri and dinner on the train. Then we will have 2 days of leisure in Rome where we will revisit St. Peters Cathedral and eat some more of that wonderful Pizza and then fly to Greece.

We hope to find some mail when we get back to Rome because we miss hearing from you kids. We have been drinking bottled water up to now and boy do I miss our spring bottled water. When I get home, I expect to finish 2 bottles at one sitting. Tell Seymour that I'm sorry he didn't like Rome when Dotty and I found it so interesting.

In Spain, I felt at home because I knew the language, but in Italy I'm lost. It's a good thing that we are taking all "Tours" where they have English speaking guides. For that reason only, I can't wait to get to Greece so that I will feel at home again. We will continue to write

to you from Rome describing our last day in Capri. Mommy has bought presents for everyone and I hope you like them.

Nancy I wrote my assignment for Spain and Italy and when I get to Greece I will mail the 3 letters for your teacher describing conditions in each country. Love! Love! Love xxx x x x xx x x x

Saturday Night Midnight 12:00 P.M.

Well to continue! We got up Saturday morning at 7:00 A.M. full of pep. We were picked up by a bus and transported to a yacht steamer. We sailed for 2 hours to Sorrento and then to the Isle of Capri. How can I describe the beauty of this island. From the steamer, we were transported to a launch (about the size of the "Ella") and taken around the island and then transported by rowboat inside the mountain side called the "Blue Grotto" where the water was silver blud. It was astoundingly beautiful! Then, we were transported by bus to "Anacapri", the top of the Island. We had lunch in a hotel on the very peak higher than the Empire State building. I got dizzy looking down. This excursion is a must in Italy. We came back to Naples by steamer and were put on the train for Rome. We met a couple from Israel and had such an interesting conversation that we did not notice the 3 hours pass by. We are now back in the hotel, half starved because the employees of the dining car were on strike.

Boy! Did we laugh! I lost 5 pounds! Imagine, I had to go to Europe to starve! It is too late to go out to eat so we'll eat double tomorrow. We now have 2 more days in Rome and then we fly to Greece.

We got your letter and I had a lump in my throat. Even though we are having a grand time, we miss you kids so much that it hurts. Love Love Love Love Love Love.

SUNDAY A.M.

Dear Rhoda & Nancy

Daddy and I are very happy to hear that you had a nice time at "Kutchers Hotel". Rhoda, did Renato's do your hair the way you wanted

it? Nancy, Are you watching your diet? I miss you both very much! How is Aunt Ettie? I am sorry to hear Helen Menachem had that terrible accident with her finger! Dit it happen in her own car? Send her my best regards. How is Emma.

We got up at 10:30 A.M. feeling fine but Jesse is at last physcially tired. We are looking forward to boarding the boat next friday in order to relax completely on the voyage home. Tell Seymour Menachem again that his advice that when we get to Greece we should cancel the boat trip home and use the 12 days to continue flying to other countries is so absurdly wrong.

We have spoken to many people whom we have met and they are so tired of jumping around, meeting schedules that they tell us that they could never dream of doing it again without making some arrangements as we fortunately did to go home by boat and really rest.

However, we shall see what is the best thing to do. After we have been on the boat for several days we will discuss this subject again to determine which is the best way to see Europe.

SUNDAY NIGHT MAY 29, 1960 9:30 P.M.

We are now sitting on a side walk cafe near our hotel drinking beer and Coca-Cola - We really had a most relaxing and restful day.

After breakfast I took an Italian hair cut and went to the "Cit" office and got back $5.00 for the dinner we missed on the train last night owing to a strike in the dining car.

Then we took a cab to the Monastery to deliver the letter that Ira Sack's friend (a Catholic priest) gave me but unfortunately found it closed on Sunday. I asked someone to write in Italian that I was sorry I missed them and dropped it in their mailbox. Then we walked to St. Peter's Cathedral about 4 blocks away and found it closed also. We then met a wonderful Italian gentleman with whom we had a lovely conversation and he drove us back to our hotel. He really was very gracious. It was

about 2 o'clock and we couldn't decide whether to attend the Rome Opera and hear "Tosca" at 5 o'clock or take the tour to Hadrian's Villa and the Tivoli Gardens. We decided on the latter and after resting for an hour we took the tour. The gardens of Villa D'Este in Tivoli were very beautiful. It was like a park full of waterfalls and fountains. We came back to Rome about 6:30 P.M. and went to Ricci's Trottoria (Restaurant) opposite the pizza place and had such a sumptious and delicious Italian meal that we will not forget it for a long time to come. We had about five specialties of the house and the entire meal from soup to nuts cost $5 for both.

Then we walked back to the hotel and heard an outdoor free concert. We then went to the railraod station, a most beautiful building and saw the toilette that Seymour Menachem suggested where you pay according to what "you have to do". It was comical to us.

It is now almost 10:00 P.M. and we are writing this at an outdoor cafe. Tomorrow we fly to Athens.

We feel as if we really know Rome and the Naples area, as well as we know New York. We are leaving it with sadness because we have learned to love Italy. The stories we heard from all about the pickpockets, thieves, ill-treatment of Americans is a lot of boloney. The Italiens are very pleasant and gracious and we feel the same about Naples. If you mind your business and act like a gentleman they will respect you and treat you graciously. We are very happy we came to Italy and I wouldn't have missed it for anything. I'm glad we gave Italy 8 full days because it is the minimum amount of time to spend here. We feel as if we have seen everything in Rome and Naples area without <u>rushing</u> too much. Another few days would have been perfect.

We are now eagerly awaiting the morrow when we leave at 2 o'clock in the afternoon for Greece. We are really enjoying this trip but after Greece if we had to go to anymore countries we would collapse. As tired as we are from the constant sightseeing, somehow the thought of spending

12 days on the boat during the voyage back home keeps up our spirits and energy. Otherwise, we would have collapsed already. It is now 11:30 P.M. We bathed and packed for tomorrow's departure. Hoping Greece is as lovely and pleasant as Spain and Rome. Que Sera, Sera.

MONDAY MAY 30, 1960

We awoke at 8:00 A.M. and low and behold our 1st day of rain - a real downpour. It is now 10:00 A.M. We are packed and ready to go down for breakfast. We hope there is no delay in our flight schedule to Greece. We went to the dining room for breakfast and then checked our flight. It is O'K, they said.

It is now 10:45 A.M. and the weather is clearing. Thank God! I hated to leave in pouring rain. I am now going to pay my bill and at 12:30 P.M. go to the airport terminal. We hope that we will have as lovely a time in Greece and hope that we find some more mail from you darling kids there.

We were very happy to hear that you are enjoying yourselves and that you are good to Etty.

Dear Nancy:

I have written the 2 letters describing conditions in Spain and Italy. As soon as I get to Greece, I will complete my homework and mail it all together.

Love Love Love to our darlings. Please be good.

Mommy and Daddykins.

MONDAY - May 30, 1960 2:00 P.M.

We are now at the airport having a bite at the restaurant as guests of the Olympic Airways. In a half hour we will be in a jet plane on the way to Athens, Greece. We will mail this from Greece.

Checking out of the hotel was a pleasure. They treated us very courteously and I tipped everyone properly. We were escorted by the porter with our luggage to the air-terminal who checked thru our luggage and we went to the airport by bus. There we went thru customs without

opening our bags. Dotty and I sure don't look like smugglers. It was a pleasure. Now we are seated at a table sipping coffee awaiting our call to board the plane.

We now feel like experienced travelers.

We figured our cost for our stay in Italy and believe me it was reasonable. Even though we went on the Naples tour which cost $110.00; and even though we paid for the room in Rome while we were away, (otherwise we might have had to sleep in the park when we came back); and even though we took every city tour and really ate the best of foods and lived like a king and queen and tipped well, it cost (without considering purchases of gifts and souvenirs) only $42 per day. Inasmuch as I figured $50 per day I'm still ahead of the game. Spain cost $22 per day as I mentioned before and Italy about 2 times as much. But there is so much more to see in Italy that is where the cost goes up.

All in all, it was magnificent and don't believe all the stories that we heard about the thievery going on in Rome and Naples. If you are intelligent, and don't lose your belongings (like I left my rain hat on the bus) you will get along fine. The Italians of Rome and Naples area were very gracious and treated all with respect and courtesy. Well! We will see what we find in Greece.

It is now 3:10 P.M. We are on the plane and the jet motors are warming up. This flight by jet is 1 hr. and 40 min. from Rome to Athens. We have strapped our belts and are ready for the take off. We are keeping our fingers crossed, but feel quite safe. They just announced that we will fly 500 miles an hour and the fact that I understood the Greek announcement made me feel at home.

We have now been flying for almost an hour and this jet is really smooth, as good as the 707 TWA Jet. This jet is called the "Comet". We hope to land safely in about an hour and then we will be through with flying. It's true it is faster - but you must take the attitude to enjoy it no matter whatever happens! Que Sera, Sera! We were surprised at the

wonderful hospitality. We were served again a full course dinner of soup, veal cutlets, french fried potatoes, salad (as good as Nannykins and Rhodaboat makes for me) cheese, chocolate bar, and American coffee.

Today has been very restful and enjoyable and if we land safely in Athens, it will make the flying part of our trip perfect. The weather is excellent.

We are now in Greece. We landed beautifully but fast and hard on the second attempt. It made Dotty nervous for a while. When we hit the ground the engines screamed to slow it up and Dotty almost thought it was the end. Well! Anyway I'm glad the flying part of our trip is over. We were amazed to find Greece so beautiful. It is mountainous land amidst many peninsulas. We went through customs without a hitch. They did not even check our luggage. Well! We will continue this story when we get to the city of Athens from the Airport. The weather is beautiful. The sun is shining and a beautiful breeze is blowing. Owing to the fact that Greece is in a different time zone, we landed at Athens 5:30 P.M. Rome Time (11:30 A.M.) New York time but it is now 6:30 P.M. in Greece because the time is 1 hour later than Rome and 7 hrs. later than N.Y. We are now heading toward the city and boy! Oh boy! Am I proud of Greece.

It is so beautiful we can't believe it. It makes Spain and Italy look like 2nd rate cities. All the buildings are white; the streets are so clean, you can eat off them. With the mountains all around as a scenic background, I can say that our first view of the land of our parents is one of pride.

We checked into the Athena Palace Hotel and found it to be lovely. After bathing and changing into fresh clothes, I tried to contact my cousins and Ray Dalven's friend. After trying for an hour, I finally contacted another cousin (Sam Matzi of Eli's son) who is coming tonight to visit us at the hotel.

We then went into the dining room and ate one of the tastiest meals in our lifetime. I had a dish of "Yapraika" (they call it Dolmaides) and Dotty had Shish-Ko-Bob, Believe me! It was fit for a kinds taste. We then walked about the "Constitution Square" which is like our "Times Square" and sat in a side walk cafe where we enjoyed coffee and "Baclava". We conversed with a gentleman sitting next to us and Dotty was sure proud of my Greek. Well! It's good to know the language. In Italy, I felt lost! But here I feel like a native.

We are now having breakfast. It is 8:40 A.M. and at 9:00 o'clock we will be going out on our first tour to see the ruins of Ancient Greece.

It is now noon-time in Athens and the first tour of Athens has impressed us very much. The city has such a beautiful setting and color that we now understand and appreciate the meaning of the Classical Greek Architecture. We now have a 3 hour rest before the next tour begins of the Acropolis and other important ruins of ancient Greece.

The city is spotlessly clean and the people are well dressed and well mannered. They make you feel at home even if you cannot speak the language.

We are mailing this section of our diary with the completed assignment of the 3 countries we have visited for Nancy's class.

We have also just completed confirming our reservation on the boat for Friday night and believe us when we say that as wonderfully exciting as this tour has been we could not even think of continuing this tour to anymore countries. We hope that the voyage home will be just as lovely. We were disappointed when we arrived at this beautiful hotel located in a very picturesque part of the town because we did not receive any more mail from you people. We are eagerly awaiting for some mail to come.

5/31/60 7:45 P.M.

This afternoon after we mailed the last letter to you kids and went out for lunch and boy! Oh! boy! did we have a ball (especially Jesse), we found a small cafe where we went into the kitchen and we ordered about 8

different kind of dishes. Jesse and I tried every conceivable dish and everything was so tasty that Jesse could have remained there for a week just eating all the dishes that he has missed. We are really crazy about Greece.

Today is the first full day we have spent in Greece and it has been one of the best of our entire vacation. Jesse spoke to Dr. Karahali and made an appointment to see her before we leave. She is a dear friend of Ray Dalven.

It is now 8 P.M. and we are going down to the lobby to await Jesse's first cousin whom he has never seen. It should be a very interesting experience.

The 2 City Tours that we have completed today of Ancient Greece is indescribably beautiful that we shall only say that no one travelling through Europe should leave Greece out of their itinerary.

Boy! Oh Boy! What a night. It is now 1 o'clock in the morning. We were picked up at 8:30 P.M. at the hotel by my cousin's whom I had never met oddly enough both with the same name, Sam Matza. Their wives and a very lovely boy about 18 years of age. We went to a real Greek night club and ate and drank to our hearts content. The Greek music and the Greek singing and dancing was so wonderful that we couldn't believe our eyes. Then we went for a drive to Piraeus which is the seaport of Athens (15 minutes away) and saw our ship "Olympia" tied up at the dock. I was so tired I wanted to go aboard <u>already</u>. The way I feel now I am going to sleep and rest for the entire 12 days home. To give you an idea how tough it is to get reservations, a couple we met who had planned to go to Israel today decided to go tomorrow. They had to get out of the hotel room and look for another place for one night. Well, good night kiddies. Why haven't you written yet?

Tomorrow my cousins will pick us up at 12 o'clock noon and take us to spend the day with them.

Wednesday - June 1

We got up this morning at 10:00 A.M. and had breakfast. We are waiting to be picked up by relatives at 12:00 noon. Que Sera! Sera!

At 12:00 noon sharp, Sam Matza's son picked us up in a little jeep station wagon and were whisked to his home in the outskirts of the city. They have a lovely little home with a beautiful backyard. We relazed for an hour or so and when my cousin Sam came from business we sat down to one of the most luxurious Greek meals that could be planned. We had Bureka, Fasula, stuffed squash, baked leg of lamb and browned potatoes, Galatopta (custard), turkish coffee, and beer and finished off with nuts and fruit. After relaxing for an hour we took a drive about 20 miles out of the city to a beautiful spot with a reservoir and had soft drinks in a shady spot. The scenery was the most beautiful we have seen. They then drove to the home of Sam E. Matza, my other cousin, and visited for an hour. There we were served some more greek delicacies. Well! After that we were dropped off at the hotel (8:00 P.M.) where Dotty and I bathed, and took Milk of Magnesia and hope that we will be able to digest all that food. We called for room service and are now gulping plenty of tea to clean out our system.

This is the first time Dotty willingly skipped dinner. I feel as if I will not be able to eat for a week.

We are really tired and eagerly awaiting for Friday night to board the boat and rest on the way home. I don't think we could go on any further to any other countries and more sightseeing even if all the money spent were to be reimbursed. I am really perturbed because I have not yet heard from the kids at home. I hope everything is o'k. We have only received one letter from them in Italy and we hope to hear from them before we board the boat. I don't think they love us anymore.

It is now 10:00 P.M. I can visualize my kids cuddled up in bed and boy oh boy would I love to be there next to them. When I get home - * X/? these are hugs and kisses. Sam Matza has a little girl whose name is

"Xayia". She is 9 years old and she so resembles Rhoda and Nancy we practically adopted her.

Tomorrow Dotty and I invited the mother (Anna) and daughter to accompany us on an afternoon excursion to a beach called "Sounion" in order to show our appreciation for everything they have done for us. The weather today was perfect.

Well! we are hitting the sack early and tomorrow we will have a day of leisure until 4:30 P.M. when this tour begins. We will get back 9:30 P.M. after having dinner at the beach. Que Sera! Sera!

FRIDAY - 6/3/60

After breakfast, Thursday morning we went to the desk but there was no mail from you people, we were very much disappointed. If we do not get any mail from you on Friday before we board the boat, we assume everything is o'k.

In the morning we took the train to Paraeus like real natives and found it to be a very interesting seaport about 20 minutes ride from Athens. We then returned to our hotel and met Mrs. Matza and her lovely daughter, Haya, who is 9 years old and looks like Audrey Saltzman and had a lovely day at "Sounion" (a little seashore resort). We relaxed there, had dinner and came back to Athens at 9 P.M.

All the cousins came to the Hotel at 9:30 P.M. and they took us for a night drive of the city and for Greek Custard at a Greek"Howard Johnson". It was a very lovely ending to a very lovely stay in Greece.

Friday night they will come to the boat to see us off. It is now Friday noon (6:00 A.M. N.Y. time). We have completed our packing for the boat which leaves 9:00 P.M. Friday night. We plan to board the boat about 7:00 P.M. We saw the Queen Soyara formerly the Queen of Iran who is residing at our hotel. I was thrilled and Jesse didn't even turn around to look at her. She is very very attractive. We are really tired of jumping all over Europe, even though it was a very wonderful experience, our advice to all is once is enough. As Jesse has coined the expression "he

would not have missed it for a million dollars but would not give 2 cents to do it again". We are now saying good-bye to Europe and hope soon to rejoin our children and family.

As Jesse feels now he always had an urge to journey around the world, he is now cured! Tell Max Menachem that from now on, he will have us for company on the Carribean Cruises. We will continue this Diary on the boat.

In figuring our expenses in Greece it came out living very well $35 daily including Tours but excluding shopping. Europe is not as expensive as I was told it would be.

It is now 2:00 P.M. and we are having lunch at a lovely cafe where the radio is playing Greek music. We expect to leave the hotel at 6:00 P.M. for Piracus to board the boat.

I now have $500 left from the $1000 I took along. I am indeed surprised! Love Love - Mommy and Daddy.

We wish we had received some mail!

SATURDAY - June 4, 1960

We are now sailing serenely along the shores of Greece heading for Messina.

Yesterday afternoon we sat in a cafe for a couple of hours and really rested. At 5:30 P.M., we took a taxi to Piraeus which is the seaport of Athens.

When we finally walked up the gangplank of this beautiful ship, we felt as if our vacation had just begun.

The first few weeks of sightseeing and flying around Europe was wonderful but tiring; but I can truthfully say that this voyage home seems so far even more wonderful. The ship is lovely. It has everything anyone could wish for. A lovely pool, a very pleasant staff with games and amusements, a lovely theatre with movies twice a day, and good food.

It is now 9:30 A.M. and we have just finished our breakfast. Our cabin is delightful. We have 3 beds (bunks) and all are very comfortable.

A very large porthole and private shower and toilet. We have just paid for 2 deck chairs on the top deck and expect to go up soon to relax. We really intend to relax on the way home. Running around Europe is definitely not relaxing.

Tell Max Menachem that this room is much more comfortable than the one we had on the "Arosa Sky".

Dotty is really getting a kick out of this Greek boat. We go to one night club and they have an excellent American band with American dancing. We go to another night club and they have greek music and Turkish coffee. Boy! This is really fun. Our group at the table is really a fine high class group. We were given the 2nd sitting which was perfect for us.

The only regret we have is that we did not get any mail in Greece from you lovable brats. Now, I'm sure you forgot all about us.

I'm told that when the boat gets to the different ports we can get off and go ashore. So far everything is lovely and we will continue this story as we cruise along. The ship has absolutely no vibrations and it is sailing beautifully. Our lunch was very pleasant. We had a real Greek meal of Green Peppers stuffed with Rice.

Tonight after dinner we expect to see a movie and then dance in the night club.

SUNDAY - 6/5/60

We landed in Messina, Sicily at 8:30 P.M. Saturday night. It was a very colorful and interesting sight. We could not leave the ship because it only stopped for 1 hour, but was advised that we could get off at Naples and Genoa.

The boat sailed from Messina for Naples at 10 P.M. and instead of dancing we were both so tired that instead we went to the movies and saw a dopey adventure film about Pirates.

It is now 8:00 A.M. Sunday and the boat is tied up at the Naples dock. After breakfast we intend to go ashore and see if we could buy a Borsalino

hat for Murray Saltzman. We will continue! Hope everyone is fine at home. We miss you very much. Love.

We are just getting acquainted and we met some lovely Greek people who speak good English so Dotty can speak with them. My Greek has improved greatly and Dotty tells me that it seems to her that I speak as well as the native Greeks. QUE SERA, SERA! !

After breakfast the bags that we have sent from New York to the boat were delivered to us and we found that my binoculars, cigars, cigarettes, scotch, etc., etc. were stolen. Fortunately, I am well covered by insurance so I don't care.

We have had a very restful day, today. The ship expects to land in Sicily, Italy about 7:30 P.M. Compared to jet flying this voyage makes us think that we are Christopher Columbus. Our speed is that of the 15th century, but it is really fun comparing the speed of our Jet Flight from New York to Europe and the "snail like voyage" returning home. Jesse took a refreshing swim in the pool. (I was a little lazy) We are now sunning ourselves on our deckchairs.

It is now Sunday, June 5, 1960. We arrived in Naples in the morning and were given 5 hours to see the town where we had spent three days, two weeks ago.

We came back to the boat at 1:00 in the afternoon and as the boat left Naples, the bands were playing and the people were waving handkerchiefs.

It is funny, but both Dotty and I felt a lump in our throats as if we were Italians leaving Naples for good.

We had a pleasant lunch and swam in the pool while the boat leisurely sailed along the coast of Italy where we will disembark and spend several hours and see Genoa.

We are now sunning ourselves on our deck chairs. Tonight at 9:15 P.M. they are showing "Rigoletto" in the theater (movie version). I am eagerly awaiting to hear it.

Do not buy any straw bags because Mommy bought some for each of you ahd Etty also.

Monday - 6/6/60

We then boarded the boat, had lunch and both of us went swimming in the pool. We had a very pleasant conversation with a couple that sits next to us on the deck chairs. After dinner we watched the Greek dancing in the Greek night club which was very interesting. We then heard the Opera "Rigoletto" and then went to the American night club where we had drinks and danced until midnight. After that we really appreciated going to sleep.

After a good night sleep we awoke to find ourselves in the morning in Genoa, Italy. It is now Monday, June 6th - 8:30 A.M. We are dressing for breakfast and then we will go ashore and see Genoa, Italy before our next port of call which will be Halifax, Nova Scotia, From now until June 13th, we will be sailing without stopping through the Meditteranean and across the Atlantic. This is the last letter we can mail to you before arriving to New York.

Our routine on the ship will be about the same, and we hope to see you home on June 15th, well and happy. We have had a lovely time and our vacation will be perfect when we see you kids again. This completes our diary and we can say it has been one of the most exciting and enjoyable vacations that anyone can experience.

Love and kisses until we see you.

Mommy and Daddy.

The rest of the voyage was blissfully enjoyable - weather perfect - friends galore - really a heavenly end.

Jesse & Dotty

P.S. We came home to find Nancy with the measles -

Boy! Que Sera! Sera!