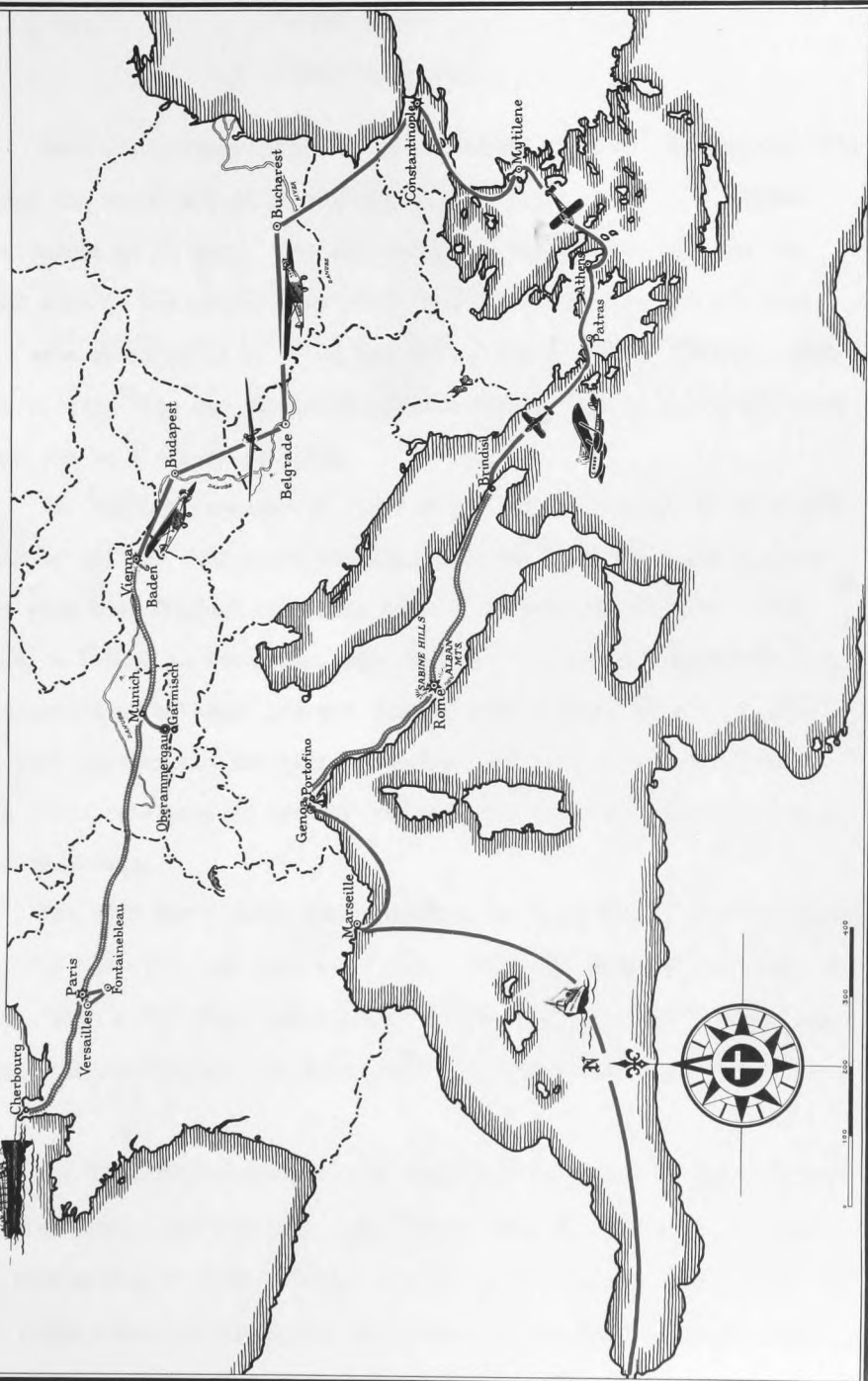


TO OBERAMMERGAU and ATHENS 1930



CHAPTER XXXVII

TO OBERAMMERGAU 1930

When Grandfather took a party to Europe in 1910, Grandmother felt sorry that she could not go to see the Passion Play, and it was planned that she should go in 1920. But the Great War interrupted the play in 1920, and when it was given a few years later, Grandmother did not feel just the same about going as if it had been given in 1920. However, when the 1930 Passion Play was announced and Grandmother was to go, Grandfather and Grace put in a bid to go along.

Mr. Edgcomb, manager of the Insular Lumber Company, which makes over half of all the Philippine mahogany imported into the United States, together with Mrs. Edgcomb and Erwin decided to join the Parlins. Miss Kavanaugh, a friend in Wisconsin, also decided to join the expedition and one of Grandfather's former patrons when he took a party to Europe, Miss Shield, asked whether she too might join the party. Miss Kavanaugh went ahead to visit relatives in Ireland and the rest took the Mauretania July 23rd for Cherbourg.

The trip was a quick one, although the Mauretania, once the speed queen of the Atlantic, had lost her crown. The rush eastward was over, and the party, with a few other passengers, enjoyed the luxurious lounges and the fine table service and the deck games and France came in sight all too soon.

The Edgcombs had crossed the Pacific - in fact, Mr. Edgcomb had crossed many times, but this was their first trip to Europe, so all was new and interesting to them. Three days in Paris looking at the usual sights - Notre Dame, St. Chapelle, the Pantheon, the Louvre, Versailles,

Fontainebleau, the Luxembourg Gardens, the view by night from Sacre Cour - were all new and interesting to them.

But thoughts were on Oberammergau, and we all felt pleased when we took the sleeper for Munich. At Munich we hired two private automobiles and it seemed that all would be happiest if the three photographers - Erwin, Grace and Grandfather, together with Miss Shields, who had enough good nature to humor them in their crazy desire for pictures, should ride in one car, and all the rest went on ahead in another car. It should be said in passing that Erwin had two movie cameras - one for color and one for black and white. Grandfather likewise had two movie cameras and Grace had a good still camera.

After driving about Munich and feeding deer in the Park, the photographers drove out through the beautiful scenery of the foothills of the Alps to Garmish where they embarked in a car hung by a wire to a trolley and swung up over the tree tops to Kreuzjock for lunch. The view from here was magnificent, and here too was a little garden of Edelweiss growing in its natural surroundings. As to the method of transportation, Grandfather thought he would much prefer an airplane, where he could feel that a real cushion of air supported the broad wings, to being suspended, so to speak, by a thread.

The photographers arrived late - important work taking pictures had detained them. The rest had eaten and gone ahead. The dilatory ones got a bite of lunch, their driver stepped on the gas and soon, hurrah! Oberammergau! the main objective of the trip. At this point Grandfather turns the pen over to Grandmother who will write you her impressions of the Passion Play of 1930.