

# Annexing a Pacific

## Seaport

BY WILL  
ROGERS

● WELL, ALL I KNOW is just what I read in the papers, or what I see as I prowl hither and thither. Did I ever tell you about the time we steamed right into the beautiful Pacific Ocean? Well, set down, mates, draw up a coil of ropes to set on, and I will tell you. We had sailed out of Los Angeles harbor.

Now, mind you, Los Angeles is a place that had no more harbor than Claremore, Oklahoma. But by golly they just went out and dug em a harbor. Houston, Texas, did the same thing. Amon Carter of Fort Worth has the most ambitious plan of any of the late harbor diggers. Fort Worth is several hundred miles from the nearest sea gull, but Amon wants to give Fort Worth the benefit of a tidal wave. They have had drouths, floods, boll weevils, cattle fever ticks, and were struck by two visits of Jim Ferguson, but they never have tasted salt water. Its the only thing they havent tasted in a bottle.

But to get back to the Los Angeles harbor. There was a town called San Pedro. That had what might in a pinch, or a bad storm, be called a kind of an amateur harbor. They had stole it away from Santa Monica many years before, in a bit of political skull-duggery, as Santa Monica was where it should have been located. So Los Angeles said to themselves one day, "We ought to have a harbor." Someone happened to think of this little place San Pedro having one, so they decided to take theirs. Now in most countries you would say as dear old Charlie Mack of the Two Black Crows used to say, "You cant do that." You cant just go out and take somebodys harbor away from em in broad daylight.

Well you dont know our town. They have a thing called "Annexation." They dont buy you, or borrow you, they just annex you. Well they just grabbed this San Pedro by the scruff of the neck one night, and when it woke up the next morning it had a big L. A. branded right on its left hip. And it was written on the minutes of the meeting as "We annex you for harbor purposes." And they commenced piling rocks out there, and the first thing you know they had quite a pile, but like everything in our fair land that wants to put over something, you show what a great thing it would be for the U. S. Government if Los Angeles had a harbor. Well the Government had never thought of that, but they had some Congressmen there reminding em of it. Thats what a Congressman or Senator is for, is to see that too much money dont accumuliate in the National Treasury. They said "We got a million people," (old time figures) "we want a harbor."

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### A Thing Which Looks Kinda Like a Port to Everybody Else but Folks From Frisco—

Now all the million had come in by land and was going out the same way, and a harbor had never entered their heads. In fact, if it hadent been for reading about San Franciscos we wouldnt have knowed what one was. But we showed the Government where they could anchor near the movie studios, where it would make it handy for the picture companies taking pictures and by golly the Government pitched in and helped em pile rocks. And you would be surprised, they got a rock corral built away out like a cattle chute, so you wont run past the harbor, like a wild steer will by the corral if the chute aint there. And you would be surprised at the amount of stray ships they catch in that trap.

They "Annexed" em a strip of land running down from the town of Los Angeles, so in going to their port they wouldnt have to be arrested for crossing some farmers barley fields. And by golly they got a thing there that looks kinder like a port to everybody but folks from Frisco. And its the thing we sailed out of, and its not a bad thing to sail out of at that.

We steamed by Santa Monica, where it should have been in the first place (I dont know if you have suspected the fact or not, but I live in Santa Monica). Mind you I am not prejudiced, I am just fair. There is where the rocks should have been piled, and I would have given em to em off my ranch to pile too. Everywhere I go to pile one there is already one there.

Well the big strike had been on, and it was just in the first throes of being settled. Wait a minute, I am wrong, I didnt sail out of this harbor at all. I got a little afraid of it. I was afraid we couldnt make it, so we drove down and when we found that the boat was going to go to San Francisco, why we just loaded the plunder on it and turned right around and beat it to Frisco, beat the boat, I mean. Ever since they so cruelly robbed Santa Monica from having it, I have never used it. I am on what you would call a port or harbor strike. I wont sail out of it till they move it to Santa Monica.

So I just drove 400 miles and used another harbor. That's the best way to take a boat trip anyhow, is to load your baggage on and then get in a car and go and meet it when it gets there. There would be fewer sea casualties if everybody did that.



WILL ROGERS