

At Sea – Thanksgiving - Day 59 Nov. 24:

The day started overcast with a calm sea. This was Thanksgiving Day but since we were on a cruise Barbara was celebrating the fact that she didn't have to do anything to prepare for a big feast. Instead of making food preparation Barbara went to the "Good Morning Amsterdam" show with Cruise Director Gene Young and Hostess, Adele.

The guest on the Good Morning Amsterdam show was Jimmy Tamley who is a ventriloquist with exceptional talent. Gene and Adele introduced Jimmy to the audience and they talked about how he prepared himself for a ventriloquist career, as shown on the right.



After some standard ventriloquist stunts Jimmy came up with a new twist on the act that we had not seen before. He had a plastic mask that could be placed over the lower face of a person and held in place with an elastic band. Then Jimmy could manipulate the mask so that the mouth opened and closed as if the person were talking and, of course, he would fill in whatever words he wanted the person to say. In effect the mask allowed him to turn a human subject into a ventriloquist's dummy. He had presented his show in the Queen's Lounge the night before and those who saw it were highly entertained.

Adele agreed to be his subject and put the mask on, as shown on the below. Jimmy then proceeded to have her appear to say ridiculous things that brought lots of laughs from the



audience. He kept his hand behind Adele so he could operate the device that made the mask mouth appear to talk. Then he just did his regular ventriloquist routine. It was a very funny and effective routine. We will probably see more of these ventriloquist dummy masks show up on the entertainment circuit in the future.

At noon we checked the ship's position and found that we had traveled about 300 miles since leaving Pago Pago yesterday. We are headed on a northeasterly course to arrive in Honolulu, Hawaii. We have fair weather and calm seas so all is well.

Before dinner there was a Mariner's Reception in the Queen's Lounge where awards were passed out for those with 100 days or more of cruising time on Holland America ships. We had received a silver medallion on a previous cruise and didn't get one this evening but we helped other folks celebrate their achievement. We sat with Larry and Trish who are shown on the right. They are fellow Cruise Specialists clients and we have gotten to know and enjoy them at Chat Time and on tours.



Another person in attendance tonight was friend Barbara, shown on the left, who is an enthusiastic supporter of our blog. She says that our blog allows her to know where she has been on this cruise. Let's hope she has more than that to guide her.

At dinner tonight we had recognition of Thanksgiving Day. Turkey and pumpkin pie were on the menu as well as some other good dishes. Barbara had the turkey dinner but claimed it wasn't as good as if she were eating it at home. Orlin tried a dish consisting of a collection of mushrooms and found it delicious. The Amsterdam staff decorated the dining room with patriotic red white and blue tinsel and the stewards all dressed in red white and blue vests for the event, as shown on the right with Danu on the left and Gede on the right. Since we recently celebrated the Canadian Thanksgiving it seemed appropriate for the patriotic US colors to be shown on our Thanksgiving Day.



The dress for dinner was formal and we were honored to have Barbara Haenni, Travel Guide join us at our table. She is the person who gives lectures about the upcoming ports of call. We have known her for several years and always enjoy her conversation and



travel experiences. A picture of Barbara and the rest of our table mates is shown on the left.

After all the festivities of the dinner our thoughts turned to home and the family we have there. Steve sent pictures of the

family Thanksgiving dinner. We appreciated that little touch of home way out here on the Pacific. We sure missed being there.

The Amsterdam sailed on through the night on calm seas. We expect to arrive in Honolulu, Hawaii after four more days at sea.