



ground. However, it doesn't take a real estate man to point out that the island is much bigger than that today and the records state that the ground has multiplied into what is presently described as a 21 acre homesite. Any and all who have ever walked the seawall watch from midnight to four will undoubtedly agree that even 21 acres is a gross underestimate.

Quite appropriately, some of the fill used to enlarge the island came from many foreign countries, being brought there as ballast in ships before water ballast tanks were adopted. During World War I, the government was interested in disposing of this material as speedily and economically as possible and hit upon the idea of using Ellis Island as a dumping grounds. For the sake of our memories, however, it is best not to think of our beautiful service home as a "city dump" for overloaded ships, but rather a mecca of the most famous ground gathered from many of the famous historical sites of the world and elsewhere.

As previously mentioned the present name of Ellis Island was acquired from a Mr. Ellis (and not named after Lt. Ehlers as many of the newcomers used to think). According to the papers of a Governor Tompkins, "arrangements were made with a Mr. Ellis, for the conveyance of said land," and it is assumed that because he was neither bank robber or pirate, his name was allowed to go down through the years associated with the island.

It was about January, 1892, that the island was first used for immigration purposes. However, a year later the

main buildings of frame construction, were destroyed and it took another year and a half before aliens could be directed to our scenic spot again.

Since that time, practically all arriving foreigners, other than first and second class, until inspection was inaugurated in European countries, have been brought to Ellis Island for examination.

As of April, 1940, which was the 50th birthday of Ellis Island at Ellis Island, there were 27 buildings in existence, including hospitals and power houses. The former is operated by the United States Public Health Service and is rated by the American Medical Ass'n as a Class A hospital.

On October, 1939, the U. S. Coast Guard obtained permission from the Department of Labor to use the middle portion of the island as a training station. The only other Coast Guard activity on Ellis Island, prior to the establishment of the training station, was the Customs Patrol, which later became known as the Boat Pool.

So, Hollywood, this is the bare story of some mighty exciting times at Ellis Island where history had a holiday in setting up the stage for the coming of the Coast Guard. Let's hope the day will someday come when we all will have the opportunity to watch this story unravel on the magic screen — rather than being a party of the first part in making more history. It seems to us that the daily doings of the oyster feasts and necktie parties are so much more glamorous than walking seawall watches and packing sea bags.