

Tuesday, November 12, 1957

City Homelike, Says Chilean Journalist

Manuel Rojas, Chilean journalist, novelist and lecturer, is finding Seattle a bit more homelike than other places he has visited in his State Department-sponsored tour of the United States.



Rojas said yesterday Seattle's landscape and autumn rains remind him of the Chilean seaport of Valparaiso.

"It might not be so cool in Chile," Rojas said through his interpreter, C. R. Villanueva of Chicago. "But Seattle, in some ways, reminds me of home."

By "home," Rojas referred to the whole string-bean-shaped country of Chile. He resides and does most of his work in Santiago, but the entire nation is his stomping ground.

Early in his career, Rojas worked as a printer, then wrote for a number of Santiago newspapers, including El Mercurio, South America's oldest newspaper. He still does editorial work for Ultima Hora, El Mercurio's companion newspaper.

Rojas' primary interest now, however, is the writing of novels. He recently was awarded Chile's National Award for Literature. One of his novels was translated into English in 1954 and received some acclaim in this country. The English title was "Born Guilty."

The purpose of Rojas' tour is to acquaint him with American life.

Rojas today left for Grand Coulee Dam. He expects to return to Seattle for a day or two more, then he will go to San Francisco.