

CONVICT

17-10. Fri. Dec. 18 - '53.

In a Mexican prison, there's a convict eligible for parole - but he makes no move to gain his freedom. Perhaps the strangest prisoner in the world, sinister, mysterious. The assassin who killed Leon Trotsky. Stalin's bitterest enemy.

The prisoner is on record as Jacques Mornard, but nobody can guess his real name. He is known to have used at least eleven aliases. Nobody knows what his nationality is. He came from France to Mexico thirteen years ago, and was able to win the confidence of Trotsky - who lived in a closely guarded villa, afraid of Stalin's assassins.

Mornard had the run of the house, and killed Leon Trotsky with an Alpenstock, the kind of pick-axe used by mountain climbers.

Before he died, Trotsky gave the opinion that the killer was a Stalin agent. Mornard, himself, never said anything - silent.

He was tried, was given a sentence of twenty years - and the mystery continued. Money sent to him - from an unknown source. No one ever knew who provided the funds, which enabled him to live in comparative luxury - in prison.

According to Mexican law, he was eligible for parole - after ~~xx~~ serving two thirds of the sentence. Which time is up - this coming Sunday. During the past six months, he could have ~~xxx~~ applied for parole. But he never made any such move.

Mexican authorities believe - he's afraid to go free. He might be killed. Followers of Trotsky might ~~ny~~ seek vengeance. Or - the Soviets might want to shut his mouth once and forever. He knows too much/

This weekend, he could ~~xxxx~~ walk out of prison - but, apparently, he prefers the "sanctuary" of a Mexican penitentiary. The mysterious assassin-who killed Leon Trotsky, one time companion of Lenin, commander of the Red Army, and Stalin's bitterest enemy.

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower and the Republican leaders in Congress, announce - that tax reductions, already scheduled, will take ~~effect~~ effect on January First. This applies to the ~~the~~ excess profits tax, due to expire, and a ten percent reduction of personal income taxes, which has been enacted. Both - due to take effect on the first of the year. And that will happen.

So agreed upon by the President and the congressional Republicans. Who have been holding conferences at the White House.

KOREA PRISONERS

At Pan Mun Jom, a zero hour campaign to persuade Americans who refuse repatriation to change their minds. Today, written appeals were sent into them - explanations on paper given to the Indian guards, who passed them along.

The period for explanations will end in five days and, if these written appeals don't work, the pro-Communists will have no other choice than to stay with the Reds. Which appears to be their ~~■~~ choice already - although several are said to be coerced.

PRISONERS

The State Department refuses a passport to Mrs. Myrtle Rogers of Alexandria, Louisiana, who wants to go to Korea - to plead with her brother, Corporal Aaron Wilson - one of the twenty-two American G.I.'s who chose to stay with Communism.

A spokesman for the Department states that the military authorities have barred relatives from visiting the twenty-two who have refused repatriation. So, it would be a waste of time and money for Mrs. Rogers to travel to the Far East.

The Reds might demand the same thing on their side. They might insist on similar privileges for the relatives of those 21,000 anti-Communist North Korean and Chinese captives.

GUIDED MISSILE

Stockholm gives us another flying saucer story - which, this time, has the sound of reality. The mysterious object - sighted by an airline pilot, who served with the British in the second World War, and is familiar with matters of military aviation. He thinks it was a guided missile - ~~re~~ probably from the Soviet side of the Baltic Sea.

Captain Christiernsson says he was flying along, when he saw a sort of disc. "It definitely looked like a guided object," he says. "Not a jet plane. It was faster, and the symmetrical ~~may~~ body had no wings!"

The location - some three-hundred miles north of bases where the Soviets are known to be conducting rocket and guided-missile experiments. All - suggesting a possible ~~may~~ explanation of this latest "saucer story."

BRITAIN

London says the Imperial General Staff has been directed to make a new study of British defenses in the Middle East. The reason - a revolt in Churchill's Conservative party against negotiations for a British withdrawal from the Suez Canal/

At least forty-one Conservative M P's are in rebellion. Insisting - that a British garrison must be kept in the Suez Canal zone. If it came to a showdown, the forty-one Conservatives might vote against the Churchill government. At the very least, they would abstain from voting. Which could make all the difference, because it would eliminate the churchill majority in the House of Commons.

That's the background for today's report - that the Imperial General Staff will make a new study of Middle Eastern defenses. Which would seem to mean the Churchill government might have to back out of any plan to evacuate the Suez Canal. Might have to insist - on retaining a

Garrison Here:

RESCUE

A thriller of rescue - in Iceland. Survivors of a U.S. Navy bomber - sighted on top of a lofty glacier. A lifesaving team - on a perilous job of scaling the frozen slopes.

The bomber, with a crew of nine, vanished yesterday, and planes were sent -- looking for it. A blizzard raging. But, in that blinding weather, a search-plane caught a glimpse of wreckage - and survivors.

Which now leaves the task up to a party of Icelandic mountaineers - ~~who~~ who, today, were flown to the base of the glacier. The climbing will be tough, but they're expected to bring out the survivors - in another success for the ~~the~~ Fifty-Third Air Rescue Squadron, stationed in Iceland.

NEW MEXICO

A senate sub-committee makes a recommendation which might result in the ~~overturn~~ overturn of the New Mexico Senate election last year. The contest at the polls was bitter, with Democratic Senator Chavez winning out over G O P candidate Patrick Hurley, by a narrow margin.

Frauds and irregularities were charged, and now an investigating sub-committee says that thirty thousand votes were invalid. Because -- the laws for secrecy in voting were violated.

Of the thirty thousand, a majority were for Senator Chavez - enough to wipe out his narrow lead, which was only five thousand. And - Republican ^{Pat} Hurley could be declared ~~election~~ elected.

However, this is all tentative. The sub-committee will investigate ~~up~~ further charges of irregularity and then the whole thing will go to the full Senate Committee on elections, the matter might then move on to the floor of the Senate - where the Democrats now have a ~~majority~~ majority of

one. The situation being such - that almost anything could happen. Undoubtedly, the line-up would be strictly partisan, Republicans on one side, Democrats on the other -in the dispute over the New Mexico Senate election.

KIDNAP

A Kansas City Grand Jury today indicted patrolman Elmer Dolan - in connection with the Greenlease kidnap money. He's the ~~pa~~ policeman who was with Lieutenant shoulders in the arrest of the murderer, Carl Austin Hall. Dolan - charged with perjury in testimony he gave before the Grand Jury. Today's action did not involve Lieutenant Shoulders. U.S. Attorney Edward Scheufler saying - that Shoulders was "not indicted at this time."

It all concerns, of course, the fact that six hundred thousand dollars of ransom was paid to the kidnaper - and it seems should have been in his possession. But only half of it was recovered. ~~lat~~ Last night, Hall and his woman accomplice were executed in the lethal gas chamber - after giving no further information about the missing three hundred thousand dollars.

The indictment of patrolman Dolan comes about because of a matter ~~off~~ of - time. He and Lieutenant Shoulders testified that, when they took the arrested kidnaper

to a police station, they also brought two suitcases containing ransom money. Other evidence is that the suitcases were not brought in until nearly an hour and a-half after the ~~arr~~ arrival of the kidnaper. Then, when they were opened, they contained - three hundred ~~thousand~~ instead of six hundred thousand.

There have been suppositions that members of the underworld may have got at the money while the kidnaper was travelling around before his arrest - but the discrepancy in the time ~~is~~ element remains. Patrolman Dolan - indicted by a ~~Western~~ Federal Grand Jury today.

OKLAHOMA

Down in Oklahoma, they have prohibition - liquor illegal. But, today, the breaking of the law was officially recognized by the state - as an established tradition.

Oklahoma Safety Commissioner Dixie ~~Jim~~ Gilmer issued a proclamation, saying: "Serving alcoholic beverages during the holiday season has become a tradition with many persons and business firms. Because the custom has become so widespread, we urge all who participate in such holiday parties, to refrain from ~~re~~ driving their automobiles after drinking!"

Liquor a tradition - in a prohibition state.

FIRE

Near Kingston, New York, today, there was a rain of children, a downpour of kids. A house caught fire, and two mothers were trapped upstairs - with ten youngsters, ranging from nine months to nine years. Mrs. Russell Rock and Mrs. Helen Berliner - threw the children out of a window.

On the ground below, two men caught them - as they came raining down. Then they put up a ladder for the mothers to descend - after ^{that} a shower of ~~them~~ little folks -

CRASH - UTAH

An Air Force B-twenty nine crashed at Ogden, Utah, today. The pilot, flying in heavy fog, seems to have become confused -- and came down by mistake at the Ogden municipal airport. One life lost - seven survivors. The plane - exploding and burning.

CRASH

The Air Force makes a statement in connection with the crash of a B-Thirty Six bomber near El Paso, Texas.

Saying - that "highly experienced, well qualified men" were in charge of the ground radar, when the big bomber ran into a hill while attempting a radar-guided landing.

This is in answer to reports in an El Paso newspaper that - "teenage enlisted men" were handling the ground control radar at the time of the crash."

MISTAKE - lead

As many of you no doubt know Henry J. Kaiser played a major role in the building of the famous Hoover Dam. Now look what some of Henry J's people have done. With the result that the Kaiser Motor Company in spreading a correction far and wide. Humorous advertisements in the newspapers of Boulder City, Nevada, and Boulder, Colorado. All the genial fun - of having a laugh at one's own expense. Surely seldom has a mistake been more handsomely corrected. Here's the story: It may be of special interest to the Mayor of Richmond, California who is sitting with me tonight - Mayor Ed McKeegan of Richmond.

In this matter of mistakes I feel myself an expert. I've had endless experience at making blunders, and then, apologizing for them. During my years on the air, I've committed some rare boners. But always with the feeling - well, maybe I can have some fun, kidding myself, in making a correction. That's why I'm now saluting Kaiser Motors.

They ran quite that ad -- did you see it? -
in nearly all the top magazines. With a picture of
Hoover Dam, which the caption placed -- in Colorado.
Hoover Dam, for a time wrongly called Boulder Dam, is
of course, on the Colorado River, but nowhere near the
State of Colorado. Somebody in the early days got that
all mixed up. Colorado River not in Colorado. Also near
Hoover Dam which is in Arizona and Nevada, is Boulder
City, which is in Nevada.

But there also is Boulder, a city in Colorado --
and all this adds to the confusion.

Well, that full page ad had a picture of yours truly, with the ~~aa~~ caption: "Ten Thousand mile tour astonishes Lowell Thomas.

Of one thing there is ~~no~~ doubt. I was astonished to find that my friends in the great Kaiser empire, ^{-- that is} those who write the ads -- had moved Hoover Dam all the way from ^{of Nev.} Arizona, to Colorado. Quite a miracle - even for the giant Kaiser industries, and what a ribbing I've been getting from folks in Arizona, and Nevada, and elsewhere - but especially in Colorado. To many I have replied by letter saying -- "hadn't you heard? Secretly, by using all that atomic power they've been so secret about out near Hoover Dam - just outside Las Vegas in Nevada - by atomic power they've diverted the Colorado River all the way up to the state of Colorado, where it should ~~have~~ have been in the first place. And ~~at~~ at the ~~same~~ same time they moved Hoover Dam to Colorado of course - had to. And now its

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in the San Juan Mountains, near Silverton, on the edge
of the Uncompaghre. If you don't believe it Harry, just
fly out there this weekend ~~and~~ and have a look. And while
you are there tell my ski friends in those parts that ~~we~~
I'll be out there with them right after the holidays.

RETAKE