

L.J. - Sunoco Friday, Sept. 5, 1957.

MELLON

Today word comes that the will of the late Andrew W. Mellon is involved in a strange perplexity. The last testament of the fabulous millionaire and former Secretary of the Treasury becomes entangled in an astonishing puzzle. How big a fortune did Andrew Mellon leave? That has been debated far and wide, with much confusion, the only certainty being - ~~that~~ enormous. And today it's the magnitude of the Mellon fortune that has brought about the singular dilemma.

Andrew Mellon's will is still waiting to be filed in Pittsburgh. There is talk of delay in putting it on record. Why? The law requires that the execut<sup>ors</sup>~~or~~ of a will shall put up a bond. Usually, the bond is equal to the value of the estate. When it is a case of out of town execut<sup>ors</sup>~~or~~, the custom is that the bond shall be twice the value of the estate. <sup>and</sup> Two of the execut<sup>ors</sup>~~or~~ of Andrew Mellon's will are not residents of Pittsburgh. <sup>TP</sup> Now, the Mellon fortune was never estimated at less than a hundred million dollars. And some estimates put it as high as five hundred million. So you can see - the magnitude of the bond - stupendously large, impossibly large,

Bonds ~~like that~~ are ~~wixx~~ written by surety companies,  
The greatest of the surety companies never write any single bond  
bigger than a million dollars. <sup>and</sup> There are only a handful of them  
able to go that high. ~~And~~ If ordinary custom were followed, the  
Mellon estate might require as much as five hundred of those  
million dollar bonds. So you can see the ~~almost~~ fantastic  
dilemma brought about by an almost fantastic fortune. Therefore,  
there is delay in filing the will. An attempt will be made to  
get the court to set a bond at a low amount, though not so low  
for you and me. Say - ten million dollars. ~~That would be about~~  
~~the maximum for the surety companies, and would cost the estate~~  
~~thirty-six thousand dollars a year in fees. For an impossible~~  
~~bond of five hundred million, the fees would come to a million,~~  
~~eight hundred thousand dollars a year.~~

It sounds like a wild dream of astronomical figures,  
but then the Andrew Mellon fortune includes more dollars than  
there are miles between the earth and the sun, maybe five times  
as many.

RACE

The Bendix Trophy race is over. Frank Fuller wins.

He flew across country, over Cleveland, and then here to the East Coast -- in nine hours and thirty-six minutes. That's a half an hour faster than the record for these Bendix races, the previous mark set by Roscoe Turner.

Speedster Fuller flew a Seversky monoplane, this makes up somewhat for the mishap the builder had when Major Seversky's plane burned and he narrowly escaped with his life.

MacMILLAN

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Today, there's more word from the MacMillan Arctic expedition, which is on its way back. "Mac~~Millan~~ has sent a dispatch ~~to the United Press~~ in which he tells of a visit to some remnants of brick and mortar, bits of pottery, foundations of houses - on the icy shore of far northern Baffin Bay:- Linger-  
ing remains of a colony that the great explorer, Martin Frobisher, tried to plant forty-five years before the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock. ~~The~~ <sup>¶</sup> MacMillan party even found an old abandoned mine. And this recalls the tragic folly of Frobisher, that mighty explorer of the north. He thought he had found Arctic gold, and took a shipload of ore with him back to England - thinking it was a treasure of precious metal. But they found it was "fool's gold," mere yellowish ~~pyrites~~ <sup>pyrites, not</sup> iron, ~~hardly~~ a pound sterling in the shipload. Now, three hundred and sixty-two years later, a modern expedition finds the relics of Frobisher's misadventure with fool's gold.

## MANVILLE

In five great New York papers today a full page advertisement appears. Yes, a full page on which are printed these few words in great black letters: WANTED, AN ATTORNEY ..... TOMMY MANVILLE. Those are the words.

Playboy Tommy, as you may know, is renowned as the heir to a great asbestos fortune, famous also for his lively misadventures in matrimony. Lighthearted Tommy's millions and Gay Tommy's wives have been the talk of the town many a time -- with legal difficulties and mix-ups in the courts. This time the asbestos heir needs inspired legal aid in divorce difficulties with Mrs. Tommy Number Four -- the blonde and beautiful Marcelle.

Today the Manville home at New Rochelle -- Bon Repos-- was deluged with responses to the full page ads. The Metropolis has about twenty thousand attorneys on record, and of these a sizeable portion put in their applications. Whereupon Tommy passed out a list of qualifications. His new attorney must be a man of action. He must know a thing or two about women and the ways of women. No bashful, innocent, ignorant of feminine wiles.

He must be born in April. Tommy himself was born with an April horoscope. He says it denotes men of warlike force -- because it is under the sign of Mars, the God of War. I took a look at an astrological book today and discovered that April is likewise under the sign of Aries, the Ram. Well, the ram is also forceful, always butting in.

Such is the type of lawyer wanted to solve Tommy's troubles with Mrs. Tommy Number Four -- the bewitching Marcelle. The complicated question is:-- How large a slice of the asbestos fortune will the fascinating Marcelle get? I've heard it said that she will take a million.

But Tommy has an idea. And it's apip. He has an inspiration that will make things easy for his April lawyer. He wants a jury to decide on the claims of Mrs. Tommy Number Four -- this jury to consist of the three previous Mrs. Manvilles -- his three former wives. There's Florence Huber, to whom he was wedded for six years and then divorced; and Lois McCain, who stuck around for two years; and Yvonne Taylor, who didn't last even a year. "They're sweet girls," says Tommy, "and they all still love me" says Tommy, "and

So he wants them to act as a jury of three and pass judgment on the dazzling blonde Marcelle and decide how big a slice of the Manville millions she shall get.

It's a great idea for the April Lawyer, but I wonder what Marcelle will say? She might exclaim -- April fool!

FLASH. Tommy hired a lawyer today, a former Commissioner of Public Safety of Yonkers. Public Safety! That's what's needed.

MUSSOLINI

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Today Rome was stirred by a sensational story - an air raid against Mussolini! The rumor spread that anti-Fascist warplanes were striking at the Black Shirt Dictator, out to get the Duce. For hours the Italian government has been issuing emphatic denials, trying to scotch the report. With these denials comes the statement of what really happened, an explanation of how the rumor began.

Mussolini lives in an old Roman palace, the Villa Torlonia. It happened that four Italian bombers were out on a routine flight, and they chanced to pass over the Duce's home. They were bound for bombing practice and had aboard cargoes of dummy target hitting bombs. The curious accident occurred when one of these dummy bombs got loose and fell, just as the plane was passing over the Duce's residence, and narrowly missed ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> - landed on top of a shed in the villa grounds. People saw the planes and the falling sky torpedo, and immediately the rumor spread - an attempt to sky-bomb Mussolini.



PRECEDE SPAIN

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There's one sinister phrase in the Spanish news tonight, an evil reminiscence of the World War. The phrase - "sink without trace." Twenty years ago, the ugly report was that German submarines were ordered to sink merchant vessels - without trace. Today we hear this expression applied to the sinking - of submarines, those pirate undersea boats which have been so much in the news. ~~French and British fleets and anti-submarine craft are on their way to the Mediterranean to guard against torpedo attacks, such as have been made on British vessels. And they've ~~ordered~~ been ordered to use their depth bombs and sink those pirate submarines.~~

~~One report says that~~ <sup>It</sup> It might not be wise to capture a pirate submarine, because it might turn out to belong to - a friendly power. So, sink without trace! - any trace that might be embarrassing, ~~by identifying a friendly power as the pirate.~~

What friendly power? That isn't mentioned, not in London or Paris. But in Moscow they are not so guarded. The Communists are naming names. The Soviet newspapers today were going frantic with journalistic rage. And mass meetings of fierce

denunciation were held ~~today~~ in Red Russia. ~~They denounced~~ the  
torpedoing of a Russian steamship off the coast of Greece. And,  
here are some of the phrases used. "The heinous crime of the  
Italian pirates," <sup>! writes</sup> ~~shouts~~ one Soviet journalist. "The mad  
Italian Fascist bandits," <sup>! shouts</sup> the official ~~Communist~~ newspaper, PRAVDA.  
And the daily journal of the Red Army caps the climax with this  
phrase - "the Fascist cannibals!" That anthropo<sup>phagus</sup> epithet  
seems like Red going purple.

With all this sound and fury, it <sup>is</sup> ~~has been~~ most curious  
that (a Spanish Left Wing submarine put into a French port today  
and asked for help - the sub damaged. Damaged by bombs, the  
Left Wing captain said. What kind of bombs would hit a submarine  
except depth charges? The British several days ago dropped depth  
charges - to destroy one of those pirate submarines. And the  
Italians have been charging that the torpedo-attacks have actually  
been made by the Spanish Left-Wingers, with the idea of stirring  
up international trouble.)

<sup>So here we have</sup> ~~So there might be~~ some highly significant logic,  
~~So there might be quite a significant logic connection~~  
if it weren't for the fact that the piracy and depth bombing ~~was~~

were done in the Mediterranean, while today's <sup>bombed and damaged</sup> submarine, ~~damaged~~  
~~by bombs~~, put into a French port in the Bay of Biscay, <sup>quite a</sup> ~~distance~~  
<sup>distance</sup> ~~long way~~ from the Mediterranean. So the whole episode is a puzzle.

SPAIN

Today the text was made public of the official declaration by the clergy of Spain concerning the Civil War. A pastoral letter supporting the Franco rebellion. It is signed by two cardinals, six archbishops and thirty-five bishops, and denounces the Government's anti-religious policy -- which provoked the military revolt.

"The Constitution and the Secularist laws as developed in Spain," says the pastoral letter, "were a violent and continuous attack upon the national conscience. The rights of God being abolished and the church being persecuted."

So -- the clergy of Spain justify the Franco rebellion as a reaction against religious persecution.

The case of the American aviator, said to be condemned to be shot in Spain, is causing perplexity in Washington. The State Department is trying to get a confirmation of a report that a Franco court martial has doomed Harold Dahl, an American aviator who fought with the Left Wingers. Dahl's mother has made an appeal to Secretary Hull. The state Department is described as reluctant to act even if the report is confirmed that the American flyer has

been condemned to be shot. It is pointed out that the United States government has again and again warned Americans about joining up with foreign armies at war -- especially in the Spanish Civil War. The Secretary of State has formally told them that they do so at their own risk, and that they renounce the right to appeal to the United States government -- when they get into a jam.

I heard a curious, moody story from Spain. I got it from Countess Nina Belmonte, of the Hidalgo aristocracy. The tale might be called a tragic version of the "three Little Pigs." "Three Pigs and a Hero."

Weeks ago, when the Rebels were driving against Bilbao, they captured a village, and there they saw a peasant and three pigs -- skinny pigs, just about the thinnest porkers you ever saw. The peasant told how the Left Wing Commissariat had seized his crops -- and he determined to save his three pigs. He dug a hidden underground cavern, and kept them there -- feeding them what little he could. Again and again the Left Wingers came looking

for provisions -- but they couldn't find the pigs.

Finally, the Rebel advance drove them away, and the peasant brought this beloved pigs to the light of day once more.

The Franco officers listened to this story with amusement. They, too, could have used some pork chops, but they not only let the simple fellow have his pigs but gave him grain to feed them. In a few days the prokers were becoming as fat and sleek as porkers should be.

The peasant was carried away with gratitude, so grateful that he joined the Rebel army and proceeded to perform prodigious exploits on the battlefield. Today He's the bright and particular hero of the Franco regiments in the northwest. A story of heroism and pigs!

CHINA

( The battle of Shanghai seems at its most ferocious tonight )  
savage hand-to-hand fighting, troops maddened with hate striking  
at close quarters, infantry charging machine guns, regiments  
clashing with bayonets. And the Chinese are said to be winning in  
today's struggle, driving the Japanese back.

( The news that comes across the cables tells of dense masses  
of Chinese troops, maddened with rage against the Japanese, hurling  
themselves on the enemy line. ) Reckless of their own lives, eager  
only to get at the hated men from Nippon. Under that wild mass-  
attack, the Japanese line bent and gave way. Fighting with grim  
bitterness, the Mikado's troops mowed down the rushing Chinese.  
But more and more of the soldiers of China poured forward in  
reckless charges. This evening the report is that in some places  
the Japanese have been driven back to the river - the Whangpoo,  
along which the Japanese concession in Shanghai extends. ~~This~~  
~~rather <sup>defies</sup> ~~contradicts~~ the announcement of the Japanese generals that~~  
~~announced~~  
~~they were making~~ a big push to drive the Chinese right out of  
Shanghai. <sup>But</sup> The vast man power of China is making a push of its own,  
~~and fought successfully today.~~

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During the battle and storm of artillery fire shells went whizzing into the International Settlement. The American concession was hit. One high explosive missile struck the roof of the barracks of our marines, but it didn't explode.

And now, I'm on my way to another China War assignment. Newsreel pictures have just come in of the bombardment of Shanghai, -- across the Pacific by Clipper Ship. Meaning my colleague Bonney Powell has been on the job in the thick of it out there. Also, that singular character, "Newsreel" Wong, the Chinaman who is the most famous cameraman in the Far East. So I'm off now -- "Shanghai bound" -- pictorially speaking, and SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.