

L.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1938.

CONVICT

6  
Today at the grim prison of Sing Sing a convict died --  
stabbed by other convicts. And with this comes a terrifying story of  
underworld vengeance. It? That's the question to be asked tonight

He was Matthew Kane, a long-time crook. He was involved  
in Brooklyn's Ice Company hold-up of ~~seven~~<sup>some</sup> years back, a four hundred  
and ten thousand dollar cash robbery, the biggest on record. The  
police got him. He ~~squawked~~ squealed. And that was how the giant  
hold-up case was solved.

Underworld vengeance pursued the squealer. He lived in an  
apartment in Queens. And then <sup>re</sup> one night two gunmen blazed away, and

at a man walking into the apartment building was murdered. Not  
Matthew Kane the squealer though. <sup>The victim</sup> ~~He~~ was a mere accountant employed

by a big business concern, harmless, innocent. But he looked like  
Kane the crook. The police picked up the squealer, and he told  
them that he had planned to go home about the time of the shooting,  
but some accidental reason had detained him. So the police inferred  
that underworld vengeance had made a mistake and killed an ~~innocent~~  
inofensive <sup>f</sup> young fellow -- instead of the squealer.

But <sup>ward</sup> Soon after <sup>ward</sup> Matthew Kane was sent back to Sing Sing for  
a violation of parole. It was said that he returned to prison gladly -

for his own safety. Within those grim gray walls of Sing Sing underworld vengeance could not reach the squealer.

But couldn't it? That's the question to be asked tonight with the story that the prison authorities today reveal. Day before yesterday the line of convicts was going down a long hall. Suddenly there was a commotion, a wild scramble. And the guards found Matthew Kane wounded. Some convict had stabbed him in the neck with a knife. Was it the long arm of the underworld reaching into New York's formidable prison? Anyway, he died today -- the squealer in the solution of the biggest cash hold-up case on record.



MEANS

Today, the authorities were saying they believe the last story about Gaston Means is just another hoax. The rumor is that, just before he died yesterday, he told his wife where he hid the hundred and four thousand dollars he got from the Washington society woman, Mrs. Evelyn Walsh McLean in the swindle connected with the Lindbergh case. They say he informed his wife that the Catholic chaplain at Leavenworth Prison knows where the money is.

Well, the whole life of Gaston Means was a flight of fancy, interspersed with tall stories and fabulous whoppers. He was tried for killing a woman and acquitted. He was a figure in the Department of Justice during the Harding administration, and created scandals. He achieved a climax <sup>of</sup> ~~in~~ misdoing when he got a hundred and four thousand dollars from Mrs. McLean of the Washington Social Register, with a wild tale of how he'd pay it as ransom to the Lindbergh kidnapers. I've heard J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the G-men, tell ~~how~~ how they tried to get Gaston Means to tell what he did with the hundred and four thousand ~~dollars.~~ <sup>All he did was, tell</sup> ~~And he told~~ them - one tall story after another; ~~and his~~ whoppers sent them on a series of wild goose

chases. And now the death of Gaston Means is attended by what the

authorities believe to be another yarn. <sup>The supposition that</sup> ~~He~~ he told his wife that the

Catholic Chaplain knows where ~~that~~ <sup>2</sup> much sought for bundle of cash

is hidden!



ARMY

An army trial in Washington today produced a sensation. A witness told of a man who got a lot of money which he claimed he was going to pay to the Secretary of War, the Assistant Secretary of War, and the Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

2-0  
This was related in the trial of a former Quartermaster General of the Army, who is accused of conspiring with a couple of New York dealers in surplus goods, conspiring with reference to army contracts.

Today's witness told of a sales manager of one of the great automobile companies, and said this sales manager over a period of years had got <sup>ten</sup> thousands of dollars. The sales manager claimed that the money was paid to the late Secretary of War Dern, the then Assistant Secretary of War Woodring, who is now Secretary of War, and General Douglas McArthur, then Chief of Staff and now Military Advisor to the Philippine government. The testimony went on ~~with~~ that the sales manager simply embezzled the cash. There was no suggestion that a dollar of it ever went to the three high ~~army~~ officials named. But it certainly looks as if some <sup>one</sup> ~~people~~ had funny ideas about army contracts. A ten million dollar contract

is named as having figured in the affair.

The President of the automobile company in question utterly denies the accusation against the sales manager, saying there is nothing to it. and as proof he recites the fact that the sales manager is still in the employ of the company.



DRUG FIRM

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There are warrants for arrest in the financial scandal revolving around the great <sup>re</sup>drug firm of McKesson & Robbins. Three officials are to be taken into custody - F. Donald Coster, President; George Dietrich, the Assistant Treasurer, and George Barnard, representative of the company's Canadian and English agents. They're involved in charges of an eighteen million dollar shortage.

It all concerns the company's crude drug department. The books show a vast stock of crud drugs marked down as assets. And the charge is that the books show too much, eighteen million dollars too much. Huge quantities of crude drugs are listed as being deposited in Canadian warehouses, and the authorities claim that these warehouses are non-existent.

One item in the charges tells of company officials depositing a fifteen thousand dollar check to the credit of the Canadian firm, and this firm, they say, is non-existent.

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This large financial scandal has been stewing for days - with the ~~directors~~ company directors demanding the resignation of accused officials. Today, the United States Commissioner put the whole thing in the hands of the law - by issuing orders for arrest. 5

TRIAL

Seattle's murder trial came to a tense emotional close today - the case of the seventy-three year old Mrs. Mary Eleanor Smith, charged with <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ murder of ~~a man~~ ten years ago. Accused with her was a man said to have been her son - Decasto Earl Mayer. Yesterday, he killed himself in his cell, and that unnerved the aged woman utterly. Today she was in a condition of breakdown, feebly and brokenly she pleaded - guilty.

A dominant point in the case has been - the absence of the body. The authorities were never able to find any trace of the murdered man. Today, the seventy-three year old woman, while pleading guilty, said she would take the police to the place where she and her son buried the body. ~~The charge against her is murder in the first degree, and~~ She'll undoubtedly get a life sentence <sup>(with only a)</sup> ~~little~~ little more of her life to live.



ETTING

The big Hollywood trial today painted a contrasting picture of violence and love, terror and affection. Ruth Etting the blonde torch singer took the stand and told of the doings of her former husband Colonel Martin Snyder, nicknamed "Moe the Gimp," who is on trial for shooting his successor to the connubial affections of the torch singer.

Ruth today testified that she lived in mortal terror of the Colonel. On the stand she told how the Colonel -- "Moe the Gimp" threatened her, abused her, terrified her and beat her. She told how the Colonel hit her with his cane.

"Oh yes," she testified, "Moe struck me with his cane. Another time he threw me to the floor of the hotel and hurt my spine."

Other testimony dwelled upon the affection that "Moe the Gimp" displayed. With Ruth Etting on the witness stand, a lawyer asked

"Did he send you a diamond ring inscribed 'To Momsie from Daddy.?' " And she replied: "Yes."

"Did he send you two Easter bunnies, ~~Momsie and Popsie~~"

*"Mamma and Papa?"*

And she answered: "Yes."

~~xxxxxxxx~~ "Did he send you ten handbags?" "No."

"Did he give you a diamond and platinum charm bracelet depicting a jazz band that cost him twenty-five hundred dollars?"

Answer: "It cost only eighteen hundred." ~~dollars~~

And after all this contrast of violence and love, terror and affection -- the testimony went on to tell ~~that on~~ <sup>about</sup> that evening

when ~~xxxx~~ Ruth Etting and the Colonel's daughter were getting dinner ready and Ruth was frying pork chops, ~~xxxx~~ <sup>"Moe</sup> the Gimp"

brought in his successor Myrl Alderman and shot him. He didn't

kill him however. And so ~~the~~ <sup>Moe the Gimp</sup> Colonel is on trial for the

mere attemptx.

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FUGITIVE

The New York police are questioning a man on a whole series of crimes, a man whom they claim ~~had~~ deserted from the Italian army in the Ethiopian War. And the story they tell about him has a <sup>*fantastic ring.*</sup> ~~fairytale fancy.~~

They say that Victor Galloti was sent to prison here in the United States, after which he was deported back to Italy. There he got into trouble and was sent to jail. He got out of that by volunteering for service when the Ethiopian War broke out. He was enrolled as a resident and went aboard a transport sailing for the African conquest. At a stop at <sup>a</sup> port he shot a guard, and escaped - and made his way back to the United States.

Galloti says this is a fairy tale. <sup>*But*</sup> The police are holding him on suspicion of having committed various crimes and of having been - the phantom burglar of the Bronx.

## FRANCE

Paris announces tonight that Great Britain has promised to support France, if France should get into a war with Italy -- moral support and military support. And today Prime Minister Chamberlain, in his London speech, declared that Great Britain's obligations to France are far more than mere legal commitments. Chamberlain likewise refused to promise that he would consult with Parliament before negotiating with Germany about a return of colonies.

This is the speech which was boycotted by the German Ambassador and his diplomatic staff in London. They didn't go. All because of advance knowledge that Chamberlain would say something about recent German press campaigns against Great Britain. He did say something, but nothing very violent. His words were: "I must deplore the recent attitude of the German press, which has not scrupled to pour out vituperation against our statesmen."



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The Right Honourable (Anthony Eden paid his visit to the White House today. First he called on Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles, who escorted him over to see the President.) We don't know what the former Foreign Secretary of Great Britain and the President of the United States talked about. Upon emerging from the White House, the Right Honorable gentleman issued the following statement: "I enjoyed my visit very much," said he, "but as to what passed between us, you will have to ask the President. That's the courteous thing to do, isn't it?"

Well, it is, but one can't ask the President, save ~~at~~ at a White House press conference. So we'll have to wait.

PAN-AMERICAN

The Pan-American conference at Lima is going to tackle the subject of racial and religious persecution. The Cuban delegation is proposing that the conference issue a protest against the suppression of minorities because of religion or race, <sup>which</sup> ~~and that~~ applies to Nazis and Fascists.)

Today, the conference decided to take action on this.

The Brazilian delegation proposes that the conference discuss the activities of minority groups in the Americas - meaning Nazis and Fascists. The Uruguayan delegation has ideas about checking foreign political activities in the western hemisphere - which also means Nazis and Fascists. So these various deliberations have a common theme.

There's talk about the conference trying to do something about the Civil War in Spain - mediation suggested. But today Franco's government at Burgos said that he wouldn't pay any attention to anything the conference might have to say about Spain. Any suggestion would be ignored.

Barcelona chimed in with the same sort of response. Any Pan-American mediation will be rejected.



## SHIPWRECKS

Tonight, one of the famous ships of the north, is pounding to pieces on the rocks in a wild Arctic storm. The schooner PATTERSON, a two master with auxiliary engines. For years she made the perilous run <sup>along</sup> the North Alaskan coast, pass<sup>t</sup>~~ed~~ Point Barrow as far as Herschel Island. Last night, in a violent tempest, she was driven ashore off Cape Fairweather. An ironic name, Fairweather - there where the icy winds and seas beat with desperate violence on a craggy shore.

At last reports, the coast guard cutter HAIDA was trying to make a rescue in the teeth of the gale and the surf <sup>--- though</sup> ~~not~~ to rescue anybody from the ship. The crew ~~had~~ got ashore, all save two men who were lost. But getting ashore at Cape Fairweather in December is almost as perilous as staying aboard a sinking ship. The sailors were reported to be huddled around fires in the bitter Arctic cold, as the rescue ship seeks a way to take them aboard.

Such is the end of a famous northern craft. The PATTERSON was built in Eighteen Eighty-Two, and was put in the service of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Later, she became a

58 1/2 whaling ship, and after that was put into the fur trade. Known as -  
the vessel that made more Arctic voyages than any other in Alaskan  
waters.

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Ship aground off Boston, too, but the latest word is that  
she has been floated. The Coast Guard <sup>Cable</sup>vessel PEQUOT. She was  
laying a cable for a new telephone line to Minot's Lighthouse,  
replacing a cable that was ripped out by the hurricane in September.  
Last night the cable got tangled somehow, and the PEQUOT was blown  
on the rocks. Two cutters spent the night trying to pull her off,  
but in vain, until high tide came this morning. Then the cable  
boat floated again.



GOAT

59.

In New York's Central Park Zoo today a keeper was in the cage of a wild goat. He stooped over to pick <sup>up</sup> something. ~~up~~ And the wild goat did just what a tame goat would do, only a wild goat would do it with rather more vigor. Tonight ~~the keeper,~~ <sup>the patient</sup>

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is resting comfortably. No, the patient is not sitting up. ~~and let's~~

get-together Democracy conference. The news from Quito is that President Barbaez sent troops to suppress an elected assembly, dissolve the assembly in fact. He then ordered new elections. Members of the assembly were outlawed, kicked out of the body to which they had been elected. The assembly had voted to promote a general of whom Ecuador's president did not approve. Thereupon the president cancelled their action, told them they were out of office and today some two provinces of Ecuador are being ruled by the military.

If the delegates at the Lima conference were embarrassed, they didn't show it. They went right on with their job, and two important things happened: - One was a suspension of the delegation from Ecuador. Our neighbors south of the Rio Grande want all Ecuadorian government to agree not to use force for the collection of international debts. Had that been done, it would have been a great success.