

CUBA

P.J. - Sanoco. Monday, March 4, 1940.

A gunfight on the streets of Havana! I ~~remember the days,~~  
~~a few years ago, when I wouldn't have read a sentence like that,~~  
~~because it wouldn't have been news.~~ But for quite some years now,  
~~we've had exceedingly little of such dispatches from Cuba. There~~  
~~was~~ a running fight today right outside the <sup>headquarters of</sup> ~~building where~~ Colonel  
~~Fulgencio~~ Batista, Cuba's Dictator, has his presidential  
~~headquarters.~~ Three men fell to the ground, two dead and one wounded.

TP  
Naturally, the episode created great excitement and at first it was  
believed to be an attack on Batista, ~~or at least on his headquarters.~~  
Later on it turned out <sup>that</sup> ~~to be nothing of the sort.~~ <sup>a</sup> group of  
terrorists were accused of trying to assassinate Dr. Orestes  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ tried it~~  
Ferrara, former Ambassador to Washington last week. The police were  
after them, and the so-called terrorists were running away.

The two men killed were <sup>the ones accused.</sup> ~~said to be terrorists, that is, the Cuban~~  
~~police said they were.~~ The man who was wounded is in the hospital,  
with eight bullets in him. ~~he was~~ an innocent bystander, ~~an employee~~  
~~at Batista's headquarters.~~

FINLAND

The Finns are still hanging on to Vipuri. It seems difficult to believe, but here's the official communique. "The enemy attempt to advance beyond Viipuri Bay was repulsed."

Elsewhere, says the official announcement, the Bolshevik invaders were hurled back with heavy loss of life.

COAL

57

The argument between Great Britain and Mussolini took on a curious complexion today. From several sources we've been hearing that the Fascist Duce is no longer in any mood to twist the Lion's tail, wants to be friends. An article by Frank Gervasi in the current COLLIERS, states definitely that the Italians are making and selling war munitions, airplanes, guns, shells, to both Britain and France. So <sup>the present</sup> ~~so that~~ controversy over coal sounds indeed strange. The Italians declare that they have to have German coal. In fact, the Duce today made an official protest to the Chamberlain Government, said the stoppage of Italian coal imports from Germany would upset and compromise economic and political relations between Italy and Great Britain. The Italians also complain that the seizures of mail on the high seas by the British is a flagrant violation of postal secrecy.

And today five Italian ships set sail from Rotterdam in Holland. They had aboard thirty thousand tons of <sup>Hitler's</sup> ~~German~~ coal bound for Mussolini's country. Then from London comes the announcement that if British <sup>war</sup> ships <sup>freight</sup> come across those five Italian ships they will certainly seize the cargoes of German <sup>Fuel,</sup> ~~coal~~

At the same time the British make a gesture in Africa which can hardly be interpreted as pro-Italian. They announce a considerable concentration of troops in the colony of Kenya. That's almost at Mussolini's door, right on the frontier of Italian Ethiopia.

MAIL

Here's another complaint about the British seizing American mail from an American Clipper plane at Bermuda. One of the passengers aboard that plane on January Eighteenth last returned to New York today, And he told reporters what happened. He says the British soldiers did not stop at seizing all <sup>of Uncle Sam's</sup> ~~the~~ mail from the plane. They lined up the passengers on the wharf and forced them to show all the letters they had on their persons and in their baggage. The man who made this complaint said that the letters he had were not highly confidential so he didn't suffer any real injury. However, he and the other passengers were decidedly annoyed. "After that," he said, "the British also searched our baggage although they knew that the passengers of <sup>e</sup> ~~that~~ Clipper were not planning to stop in Bermuda, were on their way to Europe."

OTTO

A handsome young man stepped out of the Trans-Atlantic Clipper at Baltimore today. He's a dignified young fellow, dressed in a dark suit, dark overcoat, soft brim hat, quiet and serious in manner. He's described on the airship's list as "The Duke deBar." Actually, he's the Archduke Otto of Hapsburg, Pretender to the thrones of

Austria and Hungary. *one of the few remaining glamorous figures of ex-royalty.*

Naturally, he was pounced upon by reporters, but the serious young man didn't have much to say. Said he was here to study democracy and how it works, our laws and Constitution. He called us the largest federal democracy in the world. He hopes to be able to use his knowledge some day because he believes that all the countries along the River Danube will join together in a federation.

What the Archduke didn't say, *handsome* *but* *is* what anybody could guess, that in such case he would hope to be *Your Majesty* ~~Mr. Big~~ in that federation.

To a study of the workings of democracy in the United States, the Duke deBar, alias Archduke Otto, will devote all *of* three weeks, and part of that time he will study democracy as a guest of the Countess Szechenyi, formerly Gladys Vanderbilt. There'll be no official doings for him, since he is here incognito, even if everybody does know who he is and why.

CASE

50  
A baffling case came before the New York Supreme Court in Brooklyn today. ~~It was~~ a case involving two European dictators, Adolf and Joe. Stalin and Hitler, Some people in Brooklyn had property with a mortgage on it, and they went to the bank for a bigger loan to make improvements. The bank turned them down. Thereupon the people who owned that property transferred title to ~~Hitler and Stalin~~, <sup>Adolf and Joe, just to spite the bank.</sup> The consequence was an action to foreclose the mortgage, with the Nazi and Bolshevik dictators as co-defendants. The bank asked permission of the court to make service upon Stalin and Hitler by mail. And that's what puzzles the court.

<sup>It now comes</sup>  
~~It came~~ out during the proceedings that the owners who transferred their property to the dictators are sorry for it. ~~How~~

Unfortunately, according to law, it's too late. For it is now on the

public records in Brooklyn that Hitler and Stalin are the owners of <sup>- Adolf and Joe -</sup> that property, <sup>- now just a couple of Flatbush real estate</sup> And according to a strict interpretation of the law,

no foreclosure can be complete unless the Number One Nazi and Red Man are served. The lawyers for the bank went to the German and Russian Embassies in Washington and asked what to do. The Embassies replied,

51  
"We don't know anything about Hitler and Stalin owning any property in Brooklyn." <sup>By here</sup> ~~So~~ there seems to be no chance, as yet, of Adolf and Joe moving to Brooklyn.

SOUTH POLE

Here's a report from Uncle Sam's expedition to the Antarctic. The report comes not from Admiral Byrd, Commander-in-Chief, but from the United States ship BEAR, which is Byrd's flagship. The BEAR was plugging along through thick snow and fog some eight hundred miles south of Cape Horn. Near the entrance of Marguerite Bay, <sup>in</sup> Palmer Land, ~~in Alexander Islands~~, the BEAR discovered six new islands. That is, new to the eyes of man. ~~They were~~ Small blobs of land in the ocean, just off the coast of <sup>the</sup> Alexander Islands.

As this news arrived, <sup>T</sup> the White House made public a letter written to Admiral Byrd by President Roosevelt. It contains these sentences:- "The United States has never recognized ~~any~~ claims of sovereignty over territory in the Antarctic regions asserted by any foreign state." And the President further warns Admiral Byrd that "No member of the U.S. Antarctic service shall take any action or make any statements tending to compromise this position."

52  
This tends to put the U.S. in conflict with quite a number of other countries. For among the nations laying claim to territory in Antarctica are Norway, Germany, France, Argentina, Australia and Great Britain.



At the same time it now becomes known that there is a strict censorship on all members of that American expedition to the South Pole. No man in the company of Admiral Byrd is permitted, either to write or speak of the work done on the expedition, ~~or any of its exploration work.~~ If any of the men keep diaries or journals they must be sealed and surrendered to the Commander-in-Chief before they reach the first port north of the Antarctic regions. ~~In other words, the only word they're allowed to speak about what they had been doing, is "mum". That ought to bring forth some interesting conversations. Question:- Was it cold down there? Answer. Mum. Question:- Did you have plenty to eat? Answer:- Mum. Question:- How far did you get? Answer:- Mum.~~

Until finally, "I want to go back to my mum, mum, ma."

WEATHER

People in the east woke up early this morning to a surprise. Just because there was no snow during the night, they hadn't realized that they were going through the worst storm of the season. In fact it ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> described now as the most *damaging* ~~injuriously~~ *storm we have had in the East* ~~week~~ since that hurricane of September, Nineteen Thirty-Eight. All the way from Pennsylvania to Canada, a wind of gale velocity whipped over New England, New York, New Jersey and parts of the Keystone State. So when the folks on the Atlantic coast got up this morning they found highways *-- an icy surface. Also* impassible - not because of snow, but sleet, ~~Power lines were~~ down because the cables had become so loaded with ice that they snapped off *just* like ~~setten~~ branches. *P* Apparently New Jersey and Connecticut took the brunt of the *icy tempest. A* ~~bad weather~~. ~~The~~ hundred and seven thousand people in and around Waterbury, Connecticut, were left without light and power. It took considerable ingenuity to supply the two hospitals of Waterbury over a single feed-line from a nearby city. ~~Almost every place in the Nutmeg State suffered somewhat, so the authorities reported.~~ *P* At Avon, Connecticut, there was a visitor from the south, a mocking bird. One of the

53

citizens of Avon had been feeding it all winter. When it showed up for breakfast this morning its wings were so loaded with ice that ~~the~~ mocking bird couldn't fly, so it was brought into the house to thaw out.

In New York, the authorities of the magnificent state park<sup>h</sup> at Bear Mountain reported that the storm was the worst that Bear Mountain had ever had since it became a park. Fifty-two per cent of the tree tops in forty-two thousand acres were blown down. Many entire trees were uprooted by the power of the gale.

In parts of New York City, the fire alarm boxes wouldn't work and all fire alarms had to be conveyed to the station houses by telephone.

All over the storm area motor car accidents were frequent and the New York State police begged people not to take their cars out unless they had to.

54

CAVE-IN

Early this morning there were rumblings in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, weird, ominous sounds underground. Shenandoah ~~of course~~ is a city over a huge mine of anthracite coal. It was fortunate that ~~these~~<sup>e</sup> rumblings were heard. For presently, a large area of Shenandoah ~~was~~ caved in. The warnings enabled four thousand people to take heed and run for their lives. But over an area of some twenty blocks, houses and public buildings were crumpled and ~~twisted~~ twisted. One of them was the brand new post office that the W.P.A. had put up in Shenandoah at a cost of fifty thousand dollars.

While people were running for their lives in their night clothes, front doorsteps ~~was~~ vanished. <sup>And the fugitives</sup> Some of ~~them~~<sup>^</sup> had to do quite a bit of broad jumping, for ~~while~~<sup>as</sup> they were ~~running~~<sup>sprinting,</sup> the sidewalks and streets split open in front of them. "It's a miracle," says ~~police~~ the police-chief of Shenandoah, "that nobody was seriously hurt."

Watermains broke and streams poured out into the streets. All the power had to be shut off to prevent fire, likewise all the gas. *A city sinking underground.*

## WIDOWS

Did you know that there are six ladies in these United States who never have to spend any money for postage stamps? It isn't because they never write any letters, it's because they have an ancient, and I should say, fairly valuable privilege. They can send their letters through the mail in any quantity to any place, just by writing their names on the envelopes. These six ladies are Grace Coolidge, Frances ~~Folsom~~ <sup>Folsom</sup> Cleveland, Mary Lord Harrison, Edith Carow Roosevelt, Edith Bolling Wilson, and Helen H. Taft. Yes, widows of one-time Presidents of these United States. Postmaster General Farley has discovered that it's sometimes inconvenient for these eminent widows to have to write their names on the envelopes of their letters. So the House of Representatives has passed a bill permitting them to have stamps made and stamp their names and thus frank their mail.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt went to church today. No, he didn't get mixed up in his dates and think it was Sunday. He went deliberately to St. John's, the little Episcopal Chapel across Lafayette Square from the White House. He went because this was the Seventh Anniversary of his first inauguration as President of the United States. With him was a congregation bristling with eminent names, cabinet members, leaders of Congress, political and governmental big-shots. On one side of Mr. Roosevelt was his wife, the First Lady, on the other his Mother, Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt, now eighty-six years old, though she's so hearty and vigorous that they call her - "eighty-six years young."

Appropriately enough, the lesson that was read to <sup>the</sup> ~~President~~ <sup>President</sup> ~~Mr. Roosevelt~~ and the rest of the congregation was from the Book of Micah, <sup>with those</sup> ~~and two of its verses had the~~ famous words "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more."

57  
A good deal of emphasis was laid on one person who was not among the congregation in that church. The Vice-President,

John Nance Garner, was conspicuous by his absence. He ~~had~~ had been invited, said the White House, but sent his regrets.

On the floor of the Senate, the Democratic leader, Alben Barkley of Kentucky, solemnized the occasion with a set speech. As might have been expected, it was not a speech criticizing the Roosevelt administration or the New Deal.

~~It was, in fact, just what you'd expect the Majority Leader to say about his party on such an anniversary.~~ He pointed with pride and spoke in glowing terms of the Democratic record after seven years in office.

*And* The Republicans did not let the opportunity slip *by*. Senator Austin of Vermont, the Assistant Minority Leader, took up the cudgels. He said he was glad the Democrats found something in their record to cheer about. Then he added the ~~same~~ <sup>well</sup> suggestion that this might be a valedictory <sup>— swan song —</sup> on the part of the Majority Leader and his party.

CANDIDATE

58

Here's another man who offers himself for Republican President of the United States. His name is Clyde Coburn. He lives in Bridgewater, Massachusetts and he's a merchant of candy kisses. He's starting on his campaign now, accumulating ammunition to use at the Republican Convention in Philadelphia. And he warns the G.O.P. chiefs that "You can bet your life I'll tell them a thing or two about running national politics." Mr. Coburn has been telling a thing or two to quite a number of people in the last twenty-seven years. He's been writing letters of advice to celebrities and has quite a scrapbook full of replies from many of them including the Duke of Windsor and the late Queen Marie of Rumania.

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~~Though he lives in Massachusetts Coburn is a native of Vermont.~~ Next to himself he favors as candidate District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, not because <sup>D.A.</sup> he's a ~~district attorney~~ but because ~~next~~ his name is the same as that of another fighting <sup>Dewey,</sup> ~~Vermont~~ Admiral. <sup>the Manilla</sup> ~~Dewey.~~ However, <sup>Coburn objects</sup> ~~Coburn's objection is~~ that Dewey is too young for president. But, <sup>here</sup> ~~Coburn~~ adds:- "I'll take him in my cabinet along with Herbert Hoover who's going to be my



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Dewey is too young for president. But, <sup>here</sup> ~~Coburn~~ adds:- "I'll take him in my cabinet along with Herbert Hoover who's going to be my

chief adviser." There's just one obstacle before Clyde Coburn  
in his path to the presidential nomination. He hasn't yet solved  
the problem of how to get carfare to Philadelphia. — *site of*  
*the Republican Convention and home*  
*of Blue Sunoco. What's Hugh?*

9  
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