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Musica-Coster, before he died by his own hand, wrote a bitter note denouncing others connected with the Company, officers, directors, auditors, financiers, and Wall Street. He declared that his own crooked manipulations were merely to save the Company from them. And - save it from bankruptcy. How did he try to save it? By showing profits, by putting large earnings on the books - false profits, fictitious earnings. Hence the shortage, the assets listed in the books that could not be found, that did not exist. And that's the nature of the missing eighteen million - just figures on books, a mythical piling up of fictitious profits. The eighteen million never was there. Such is the explanation given in the suicide note.

L. J. - Sunoco. Chms., Dec. 22, 1938.

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In the previous life of F. Donald Coster, as Philip Musica the Swindler, he always took the blame for his family - took the rap. And today once again he does the same - as the voice from the grave. He speaks with deep feeling of his wife, and exonerates her of any knowledge of his financial misdeeds. He exonerates her brothers, his own brothers-in-law - saying that whatever they did was at his order, which they innocently obeyed.

But what about his own brothers, the three Musicas? With altered names and altered identifies, whom he took into the firm? They were involved with him in those other Musican swindles of long ago. He covered them then, took the rap. So what about the suicide note of today?

There's one curious thing about it, the morning Coster wrote it, he must have known that he had been exposed as the swindler, Philip Musica. That startling news had broken the afternoon before and it was headlined. With that knowledge he wrote the note, and it's intensely emotional. Yet it makes no mention of his former identity as Philip Musica, ignores it completely.

Nor does he speak of his three brothers in the company as his own brothers, never refers to them by their common family name of Musica. He calls them by the names they assumed, their false identities. But he exonerates them, declares that in anything they did they merely carried out his orders.

Alive, Philip Musica always took the rap, and as Coster's voice from the grave, he again takes the rap.

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The Hollywood verdict ~~in~~ the Snyder trial is:-- guilty! Guilty ~~of~~ on one count, and it's the main count.

"Moe the Gimp" went to trial on six charges. But the prosecution itself struck out one of them during the trial -- the charge

of kidnapping, the way <sup>Col. Martin Snyder made</sup> ~~the former husband of Ruth Etting made~~

Myrl Alderman come along with him. <sup>And</sup> Today the jury acquitted

the Colonel of attempting to kill his daughter and Ruth Etting,

his former wife -- who were in the apartment to which he took

Alderman. They also found him not guilty of violating the

state firearms law -- although he did have a 'gun. They disagreed

on another count connected with making Alderman come along at

<sup>pistol point.</sup> ~~the point of a gun,~~ They convicted him of ~~shooting~~ his former

wife's present husband, ~~charged with~~ attempted murder.

And that's the main thing -- it carries a possible maximum penalty of twenty years in prison. The

minimum penalty is six months in the County Jail. So the

fate of Colonel Martin Snyder, "Moe the Gimp," will fall

somewhere between those two extremes.

## CHRISTMAS

Today at Deep River, Connecticut, a poor widow and three children moved into a brand new up-to-date house - a new spic and span home stocked with everything, furniture, clothing, groceries. A Christmas present, and the three children ran through the rooms, ~~in the hallway~~ laughing and happy. But the mother spent the day in tears.

The story is one of Christmas happiness, following close on mournful tragedy. The Beckwith family had eight children. Some weeks ago, their house burned down. Five children perished, the father too - trying to save them. The mother was left with the remaining three, penniless, homeless.

Then the Connecticut neighborhood chipped in, contributions came from far and wide. Five thousand dollars was raised, and carpenters were put to work to build a new home. It was ready today, and the surviving Beckwiths moved in - the children romping with delight, ~~and~~ the smaller ones, <sup>unable to</sup> ~~couldn't~~ understand why their mother was crying.

## LIONS

The town of Holdenville in Oklahoma, is in an uproar.

The ~~uproar~~ uproar is <sup>the word! R</sup> precise, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> clamor ~~is~~ being raised to the high heavens <sup>^</sup> by four lions. ~~They're~~ <sup>^</sup> Roaring incessantly.

They belong to a small circus, and the keeper explains that the roar is because of the weather. Oklahoma is having something of a cold snap, and the African lions are uncomfortable.

In addition to the lionine roaring, there's something else. And it isn't muttering either, although it's a lot of mutts that are doing it. All the dogs in the surrounding country are gathered around the roaring lions, ~~and~~ are barking at them. It isn't often that <sup>an Oklahoma</sup> ~~a~~ dog gets a chance to bark at a lion, and the assorted hounds and pooches are taking full advantage of the opportunity.

The town is in pandemonium; <sup>and</sup> the citizens are muttering, trying to get the circus man to take his menagerie away. The lions are roaring, ~~and~~ the dogs are barking. ~~It's~~ <sup>B</sup> doggone uproar. ~~And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

## HOPKINS

The rumor we heard the other night went buzzing around in Washington today with renewed insistence -- the report that W.P.A. administrator, Harry Hopkins, would be named to succeed retiring Secretary of Commerce, Daniel Roper.

Today's Washington gossip amplifies the supposition by naming a successor who is to take Harry Hopkins' place - when he's appointed to the Commerce Department: Colonel F.C. Harrington, who is now chief engineer of the W.P.A. They say he will be the new W.P.A. Administrator.

The President on his part has already said that he would not announce the appointment until after Secretary Roper's resignation becomes effective. And that's tomorrow - at midnight. So we won't have the announcement before Saturday.



## STABILIZATION

The Treasury Department is going to ask the new Congress to keep the Stabilization Fund going. That's a neat little pot of money to the amount of two billion dollars, which the Treasury Department uses to steady the value of the dollar.

The law creating it expires on June Thirtieth, so the Treasury will ask Congress to extend that law for another period.

Secretary Morgenthau was asked today about rumors concerning the dollar, reports that soon after Christmas the dollar might be devalued, it's gold content cut. The Secretary described the rumors in this fashion: "I don't consider them important enough to begin denying them", said he.

## MARITIME RATES

The west coast quarrel about rate cutting by Japanese steamship lines, was settled today. The complaint was that the Japanese were disorganizing maritime trade by slashing freight rates. The United States maritime Commission was holding an investigation of the matter today, when the two Japanese lines involved announced that they would join up with the other companies. They agreed to become members of the board that governs the schedule of freight rates, and thus come under its rules and regulations. The kind of shipping involved is the coffee trade, carried on between ~~the United States~~<sup>U.S.</sup> Pacific Coast ports and the eastern coast of South America - the coffee growing section. This is indicated by the name of the Board, of which the two Japanese lines now become members. It's called the Pacific Coast-River Plata-Brazil Steamship Conference.

LIMA

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(An agreement at Lima. The delegates of the twenty-one Pan-American nations have finally okayed a declaration of Western Hemisphere solidarity.) The dispute was between the United States and the Argentine delegations, and Argentina has won out. The declaration agreed upon <sup>today</sup> embodies the Argentine thesis - that the pronouncement must not be directed against European ~~and~~ Asiatic nations, that it must be all-inclusive and include American powers too. So now (the declaration as formulated today will be a general declaration of Pan-American unity against any sort of military or political drive against the sovereignty of an American nation.)

The word from Lima is that Argentina has won out, but that the American delegation does not consider that it has sacrificed any important principle.

PROTEST

One large question tonight is O will Germany officially break off diplomatic relations with the United States? That certainly may happen after the way Washington rejected the Berlin protest. The rejection was verbal, not documentary, but it was in the strongest words.

( At the State Department called Dr. Hans Thomsen, the German Charge D'Affaires. Dr. Thomsen told acting Secretary Sumner Welles that the German Government expected the United States government to make an expression of regret because of the anti-Nazi speech made by Secretary of the Interior Ickes. To this our Acting Secretary replied, "No, emphatically no!" He said the German protest was in singularly ill grace. )

The rejection <sup>was</sup> ~~sent~~ under two headings. First, remarks made by Secretary Ickes in denouncing Colonel Lindbergh and Henry Ford for accepting German Nazi decorations. The Acting Secretary told the Charge d'Affaires that these comments by the Secretary of the Interior concerned <sup>two</sup> American citizens, and therefore were our own private ~~xx~~ affairs.

Second, the Ickes denunciation of the Nazis, saying that they took the world back to a period of history when man was - unlettered, benighted and bestial. Those were the Ickes words. <sup>replied</sup> "No apology for that either," ~~said~~ the Acting Secretary, because the country agrees with what Ickes said. He told <sup>Hitler's</sup> Charge d'Affaires that the recent Nazi persecutions and suppressions had shocked the American public, and that an overwhelming proportion of the American people agreed with the Ickes remarks. Moreover, he pointed out the recent anti-American attacks in the German press. <sup>said</sup> ~~he reminded the German Charge d'Affaires that~~ the German newspapers are controlled by the government, and the government is responsible for what they say -

and yet they've been making abusive and scurrilous remarks about the United States government, and its chief officials.

SPAIN

From both sides in Spain come similar stories - huge espionage plots. And in each case this evening's news is an expansion of word we've had before.

From the Franco side, the story concerns that spy plot connected with the luggage of a British Vice Consul. And the report is that activities by Republican agents and Republican sympathizers have been on a greater scale than had been reported, widespread arrests, many executions.

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On the Barcelona side, the news <sup>is a</sup> ~~concerns the~~ follow-up of the trial of a few days ago - the trial that resulted in hundreds of convictions and executions. The Republicans state that Franco agents have been active everywhere, especially in departments that have the job of distributing food. There's widespread hunger in the Republican areas, food shortage and discontent. Franco <sup>agents</sup> ~~is~~ taking advantage of this to stir up a <sup>huge</sup> conspiracy for a counter-revolution.

## PRINCESSES

There's a variation tonight on the old theme of the poor little rich girl, and this time it's - the poor little princesses. Do they get dolls for Christmas? I'll say they do. And, it's all so sad.

They've already got so many that an exhibition of them has been made at St. James's Palace. And today the exhibit was thrown open to thousands of little girls who file <sup>d</sup> past and gazed at the hundreds of dolls. All those little girls were so sorry for Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose. Because the two royal children can't play with the dolls. There's one for example, named Marianne. <sup>a</sup> ~~It's~~ gift sent by the school children of France, ~~and it's~~ worth fifteen thousand dollars. Now no child, not even a royal princess, is allowed to romp around with a fifteen thousand dollar doll, <sup>at any rate not throw dolly around!</sup> So for poor little Princesses playthings are not to be played with, they're to be put on exhibition.

## NAPOLEON FIRE

Tonight one of the world's most famous buildings, is in danger of destruction. One of the world's most renowned monuments threatened by flames.

Today fire broke out in the Hotel des Invalides, which contains the Tomb of Napoleon. The flames began in the roof of the building, near the great golden dome which is such a landmark of Paris. Fire fighters hurried to put out the blaze -- rushing to save the Tomb of Napoleon. They found the water mains frozen; all of Europe having a bitter cold snap, Paris in the grip of ice. No water to fight the fire; only ice.

At last reports the flames were burning high in the upper part of the structure, flames glowering and glaring around the great golden dome on the banks of the Seine. And there was fear the dome might collapse, the building be destroyed -- the tomb of Napoleon engulfed in a catastrophe of fire. If that were to happen, if they're still unable to put out the blaze -- it will be another dramatic episode in the tremendous legend, of Napoleon. And SO LONG UNTIL

TOMORRO.W