

L.T. SUNOCO MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The further they look into that Nevada train wreck last night the more clear it becomes that it was deliberate wholesale murder, the most atrocious in the history of railroading in this country. In the old days of western railroading deliberate train wrecks were not unknown, but they never achieved such wholesale slaughter as that smashing up of the fast train between Chicago and San Francisco in Nevada last night. According to tonight's casualty list -- confirmed now -- twenty people were killed and no fewer than one hundred and ten injured.

The verdict of the coroner's jury is that those twenty people came to their death by train accident, and the

wreck was caused by a rail misplaced by a person or persons unknown.

~~The evidence of sabotage is unmistakable.~~ The railroad investigators found two crowbars and an instrument called a drift-pin. With these the criminals had pried loose forty-four spikes on an outside rail along a curve. Four hours before <sup>2</sup>that luxury express came to that spot another and a much heavier train had passed over the track. To loosen those spikes it must have taken the criminals ~~a lot~~ more than <sup>a half</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>hour,</sup> ~~thirty minutes.~~ The minute the Diesel Electric locomotive took that curve, it spread the rails ahead of it. Thereupon the forward <sup>six</sup> ~~six~~ cars went crashing into the river, and seven others were strewn like junk along the right of way. Scattered over the scene also were the bodies of those twenty who were killed, and the hundred and ten injured.

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The purpose of this gruesome business remains as yet a mystery - though two motives have been suggested, robbery and revenge. Robbery was the object of most previous train

wrecking in the West. The idea is that the criminal or criminals had hoped to take advantage of the agony and confusion for looting.

Throughout all the Western States the police have been hunting a suspected man. ~~He's~~ a man without ears. Soon after the tragedy ~~occurred~~ he was seen on top of a rock, peering down into a canyon. A railroad detective who is also a Deputy Sheriff, called to him, whereupon the man without ears ran. Several hours later he was seen at Hazen, Nevada, ~~which is~~ forty miles ~~xxx~~ West of the wreck. ~~He was then covered with alkali dust.~~ And later on he appeared again at a ~~xxxx~~ point still further in the direction of Reno. People who saw him say he <sup>was</sup> ~~had been~~ nervous and frightened, and asked people in motor cars, <sup>passing</sup> ~~passing by~~ <sup>asked them</sup> feverish questions about the wreck.

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Naturally the question arises: If that was the purpose of the criminal, why didn't he take advantage of the disaster? ~~To that~~ The officers reply that he was either frightened as he gazed upon the horrible details, or else, they

explain, his ghastly work had been incomplete, there were still too many men left alive after that disaster to make any looting possible.

Early this afternoon a man without ears was arrested. Detectives of the southern Pacific railroad nabbed him in the railroad yards at Sparks, Nevada. That would seem a strange place for a man to be hiding after he'd committed such a crime, especially a man whose lack of ears made him easy to identify. He was promptly taken to police headquarters at Reno. There he denied knowing anything about the ~~crime~~ crime, said he'd been in eastern Nevada and had only recently come there from the Northwest. However, the ~~pi~~ police say they found in his pocket a book of paper matches from a place of business at Fernley, Nevada. And, ~~you will recall that~~ it was at Fernley, Nevada, that the man without ears was seen soon after the wreck had taken place.

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also  
He had no left foot, and wore no shoe on his right foot. <sup>this</sup> and he explained ~~that~~ saying: "The railroad cut off my

foot two years ago in Montana, and cheated me out of money."

He said he'd lost his ears also in a railroad accident.

A single glove such as railroad train men carry was found on

him. In short, that suspect arrested at Reno appears to be

an ~~XXXX~~ ex-railroad employee with a grievance against railroads.

the letter added that the writer and his friends had paid eighteen thousand dollars for the death of Assistant Attorney General John

Wagner. Another letter that he received referred to a certain investigation he had been called. In 1903 one of the lieutenants

of William Huey, who was tried on the charge of evading his income tax, tried and acquitted. So the second letter informed the

Assistant Attorney General that he'd better lay off that line of

journaling since if he knows what's good for him, and it adds the

question "and do you think you are anyway in the Six and Ten?"

One of these two loving messages included a couple of thirty-eight revolver bullets.

While he was pondering these letters the Federal Grand Jury of New Orleans turned in some more indictments. One of them

against a Congressman named George Caldwell who is reputed to have

SCANDALS

A threat of assassination was made to an official of the Department of Justice in New Orleans. It was Assistant United States Attorney General John R. Rogge, who is directing the grand jury's <sup>investigations</sup> ~~investigations~~ into Louisiana scandals. He ~~receiv~~

received two letters. One ~~of them~~ warned him that if he doesn't get out of New ~~Orleans~~ Orleans he will die before Wednesday. And the letter added that the writer and his friends had paid eighteen thousand dollars <sup>his death</sup> for the death of Assistant Attorney General John

~~Rogge. Another letter that he received referred to a certain investigation he had been making. In 1935 one of the lieutenants of Kingfish Huey Long was tried on the charge of evading his income tax, tried and acquitted. So the second letter informed the Assistant Attorney General that he'd better lay off that jury tampering case if he knows what's good for him. And it adds the question "Who do you think you are anyway -- the Big Bad Wolf?"~~

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While he was pondering <sup>over the</sup> ~~these~~ letters the Federal Grand Jury of New Orleans turned in some more indictments. One of them against a gentleman named George Caldwell who is reputed to have

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golden spigots on his bathtub, and beds seven feet long. However, that wasn't what he was indicted for. He is charged with having devoted labor and materials of W. P. A. projects to other purposes.

worth us.

of the Communist Party in Los Angeles County was on the witness stand. He said that the relief administration in Los Angeles includes at least thirty-five members of the Communist Party. For instance, he testified that when he himself made application for relief, two of the agents who came to check up on him were Communists. Dean Lantis, of Harvard, who presided over that hearing asked this witness to name them. He wrote their names on a sheet of paper and handed it to Lantis, who did not make those names public. The witness also said that these Communists on the Los Angeles Relief Administration took care to see that families of Communists were first on the list of those to receive relief, and they were ordered by the party officers to refuse to pay rent. Their instructions were to let themselves be evicted rather than use their relief money to pay the landlord.

BRIDGES

Some more interesting facts about Communism on the Pacific Coast came to light today. They were revealed at the hearings over the deportation of Harry Bridges. A former organizer of the Communist Party in Los Angeles County was on the witness stand. He said that the relief administration in Los Angeles includes at least thirty-five members of the Communist Party. For instance, he testified that when he himself made application for relief, two of the agents who came to check up on him were Communists. Dean Landis, of Harvard, who presides over that hearing asked this witness to name them. He wrote them on a sheet of paper and handed it to Landis, who did not make ~~these~~<sup>e</sup> names public. The witness also said that those Communists on the Los Angeles Relief Administration took care to see that families of Communists were first on the list of those to receive relief. And they were ordered by the party officers to refuse to pay rent. Their instructions were to let themselves be evicted rather than use their relief money to pay the landlord.

was done with us.

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Byrd.  
Aug. 47  
1939.

ADVENTURERS

Sitting beside me tonight are a group of famous men. Three of them are gentlemen to ~~whom~~ whom I am greatly indebted for taking my place on the air two weeks ago when I went off to California on a short vacation. And, I ~~wanted~~

<sup>- Now -</sup>  
want to thank <sup>^</sup> them to their faces, and over the radio as well.

I refer to Sir Hubert Wilkins, Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews and

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Here with <sup>- sitting beside me -</sup> them <sup>^</sup> are Captain Felix

Riesenberg, writer and sea-dog, also Webb Willer, European

head of the United Press, the press association through which

I get my news from all parts of the world. And here also with

<sup>And Eleanor Roosevelt and Mrs. Roy</sup>  
us is the Admiral of the Poles, Admiral Byrd. <sup>TF</sup> We have just

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been holding a meeting of the Board of Directors of the International

Order of Adventurers ~~Inc~~ Limited. And, we had an election of

officers. Rather an unusual election. Slips of paper were

put into a hat, Sir Hubert Wilkins hat, on each slip was

written the title of an office, President, Secretary, Treasurer

and so on. Each of us reached into the hat and took out a

slip. Each man opened ~~it~~ it and saw what his office was to be.

*Chapman Andrews are in the studio with us.*

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Admiral Byrd was rather worried for fear he would draw one of the slips that had Secretary or Treasurer on it.

In a short time he will be leaving for the Antarctic on his next expedition, and he ~~was~~ couldn't very well carry out his duties of Secretary from that uninhabited and <sup>least</sup> ~~little~~ known of all continents. But, Dame Fortune handled the ~~drawn~~ drawing of slips perfectly. When Byrd opened his and read it he found that it said: Chairman of the Board of Directors -- with no duties. Captain Felix Riesenbergr found that he was to ~~take~~ be the Secretary; Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, Treasurer; my slip read Vice-President. Oh yes, and I almost forgot, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's slip read President.

Our Chairman of the Board, Admiral Byrd will have to do all his work down near the South Pole.

ADMIRAL BYRD: How would it be for me to round up some penguins and hold a Board of Directors meeting, Lowell? They look like stuffed shirts, *you know.*

LOWELL THOMAS: Do that, Dick.

T. ROOSEVELT : I some how or other think there was an insulting remark hidden somewhere. in what Dick just said:

LOWELL THOMAS: Let's overlook it Colonel Roosevelt and see

what else there is in today's news. Let's give Webb Miller the latest European news right from his own office and from his men scattered about Europe. This will be a novel experience for Webb who is here on a vacation and will be flying back to London on the Clipper on Saturday -

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## EUROPE

In Europe the rumor factories today were turning out reports about peace plans. Everybody has been wondering what it was that Italy's Foreign Minister Count Ciano and Hitler's Ribbentrop were conferring so mysteriously about at Salzburg. All that is ~~not~~ definitely known yet is that they were conferring with Hitler, whose mountain retreat is only a short distance away from Salzburg. Nothing more definite has yet been given out, ~~about that hasty and secret council.~~ But it's reported today that Hitler has a peace proposal, a definite plan which he will offer for settling the dispute with Poland over Danzig without going to war. According to still another report, the plan concerns not only a settlement of the Danzig business but peace for all Europe. And gossip goes further; that it was submitted to Hitler at the orders of Mussolini. It comprises a settlement of the economic difficulties of Europe, and the questions of colonies for Germany and Italy. And it also comprises a scheme for plebiscites, — referendums to be held in certain districts.

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In addition to these reports the Nazis started a rumor going from Germany that a solution for the difficulties with Poland over Danzig was about to be published.

SPAIN

Ever since the end of the Spanish Civil War the seat of the government of the <sup>Iberian</sup> Peninsula has remained at Burgos.

It was from there that Generalissimo Franco directed war operations and the government of the provinces he had conquered.

And there he has stayed on even though Madrid surrendered.

The reason has been that the old government ~~buildings~~ buildings in Madrid ~~were~~ were so badly damaged that they couldn't be used.

And now Franco has given orders that work should be hurried up

restoring those buildings, so that the government of Spain

may be once more established in its historic capital.

Incidentally Franco is said to have completed his plans for the Army. Last week he named his supreme war council. He is about to announce that in future there will be conscription in Spain, two years' military duty for all able-bodied men. This sounds formidable, <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ we hear it means an active army of more than three hundred and fifty thousand. All young men who are not fit for military duty will be conscripted for labor.

IRA

The government of Eire is beginning to treat the

Irish Republican Army as severely as the government of

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Great Britain. Indeed a law recently passed in Ireland called

the public safety law is even more strict than the one enacted

by the British Parliament. And today the DeValera Cabinet

took advantage of that ~~Irish~~ Irish public safety law. It

sent the police out on a series of raids which took in twenty

~~many~~ houses, seized a number of documents, and arrested

several leaders, besides questioning a number of other people.

( The Dublin government would not even say how many leaders had  
been thus arrested. )



PAINTING

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Some two months ago we heard that a valuable painting was stolen from The Louvre, the great art museum in Paris. ~~It was~~ ~~the~~ second time such a thing had happened. ~~You may recall that~~ In nineteen eleven the Mona Lisa, the most famous picture in the world, was taken and not recovered for two years. The canvas that was lifted two months ago was a Watteau worth a hundred thousand dollars. The police of all Europe, ~~in fact of the entire world,~~ have been looking for that precious bit of paint-upon-canvas. And now it turns out that all the time it was only a hundred yards from the museum. ~~It was~~ in the apartment of a young artist named Serge Boguslavsky. Accompanied by his lawyer he walked into the Palace of Justice carrying that painting under his arm, wrapped in crumpled paper.

Then he explained it was the artistic temperament that had led him to swipe it. For days he had been at work in The Louvre copying that Watteau. And as he did so he became indignant. The painting, which was an old one, had been renovated, retouched by order of the authorities of the Louvre, and young Boguslavsky thought it was a badly botched up job. Instead of repairing it, the retouchers had spoiled it. That's why he took it away, as a protest.

PAINTING-2

After he had made this explanation to a magistrate, the law called in art experts. And they agreed with the young painter. They said it had been painted over, badly retouched.

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The amusing feature of the episode is that the young man said he hadn't the slightest difficulty in taking that hundred thousand dollar canvas out of The Louvre. He just waited until he was alone in front of it, unhooked it from the wall, put it under his coat, and walked out. After he'd done so a reporter on a Parisian newspaper did the same thing with another painting hanging in The Louvre. He carried it out in the folds of a newspaper, walked a few blocks away from the museum, then telephoned the curator to tell him what he'd done. All of which delighted the Parisians who love nothing more than a ~~ughx~~ laugh at the expense of authority.

THANKSGIVING

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Thanksgiving this year will be a week earlier than we had all expected. President Roosevelt made this announcement just a few minutes ago. He made it from his summer home at Campobello, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ where he arrived early this afternoon on board the Cruiser Tuskaloosa. He should have been there earlier but the cruiser was delayed by heavy fog.

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The President says he is making this change in the Thanksgiving tradition because of many requests. People have been complaining that hitherto Thanksgiving was too close to ~~xx~~ Christmas and too ~~long~~<sup>far</sup> after Labor Day. In future he says it will be on the second Thursday of November, ~~but~~<sup>and</sup> this year it will ~~fall~~ fall on November Twenty-Third. ~~of~~ S-L-U-T-W

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