

JUMPER

L.J. - Sunoco. Tues., July 26, 1938.

New York's fashionable Fifth Avenue saw a strange scene of excitement today, crowds, police, the Fire Department, newspaper reporters, and new^S photographers. There were shouts and outcries, and ~~the~~ jittery^{of} suspense prolonged for hours. It all happened at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Fourth Street, old and aristocratic Fifth Avenue, where the Hotel Gotham stands in sedate and quiet dignity.

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The first I heard about it was an excited phone call from Freddy Benham. I thought it must be something connected with soft ball because we played Freddy's team, the Circus Saints and Sinners, in the mud on Sunday. But it was something else. Freddy had run right into a hot news story, and being an old time newspaperman, he just automatically covered it - and was phoning in.

At Hotel Gotham, John Ward, a twenty-six year old ^{chap of} ~~man of~~ 7 Chicago, went with his sister to visit another sister living in the hotel, on the seventeenth floor. A family argument ensued, and ~~he~~ Brother John went dramatic and dashed to the window. They thought he was going to jump, and end it all, but John climbed out and crawled along a ledge outside of the window. And there upon the

ledge he teetered, on the brink of a drop of seventeen stories. To jump or not to jump, that was the question. And nobody knew what John would do.

Both sisters fainted. When they were revived, one of them pleaded with John to come in. "Darling," she implored, "come back. You have too much character to do this. Come in and have a drink."

Character or no character, John wouldn't come in and have ^{wouldn't} a drink. ~~a drink~~ "I ~~wish~~ want to be let alone," he replied. "I'll think this thing out for myself."

47 And think it out he did, taking plenty of time, smoking ~~cigarettes~~ cigarettes and thinking - there on a two foot ledge, with seventeen stories to fall.

A huge crowd ~~in the street~~ gathered in the street and gazed upward. Police formed lines to keep back the spectators and stop anyone from passing - lest the figure up there hurtle down to land on somebody. He was just above the front entrance, so the hotel guests could only leave by dashing out with a speedy sprint, hoping he wouldn't come down at that particular moment. The Fire Department was there with a net, but they didn't believe

it would do any good with a fall of seventeen floors. Newsreel cameras grinding, broadcasting equipment with broadcaster there broadcasting. A Catholic priest came to try his persuasion. He looked out of the window at John on the ledge and asked the sort of question that always aroused attention. "What's your religion?" he called.

And the reply came: "I'm a Presbyterian, I guess." So that didn't do any good, and the priest could only say a prayer.

They called a psychiatrist from Bellevue Hospital, and he undertook the psycho-analytical method. He said it was a case of a crowd complex. Having collected a crowd, John would hold it as long as possible, stay in the limelight as long as he could. And that seems like the correct science, because on the ledge John stayed. He crawled out there about noon.

End of John Story

A little after four, John ~~sent after~~ ^{asked for} some coffee, and a cup ~~of coffee~~ was handed out of the window to him. He teetered dizzily as he took it and seemed ~~as if he~~ ^{about to} fall. The crowd gasped, ~~and~~ women screamed! But he recovered his balance in a regular Harold Loyd way, and drank the cup of coffee standing on the dizzy ledge.

His brother-in-law, trying to entice him, asked if he wouldn't like to go to the ball game, but John said no, he didn't care for baseball just then. The police got a rope, thinking they could lasso him when he was off his guard, but he never was off his guard, and I suppose if they did lasso him they might take a chance on hanging him as he fell.

At last reports the police had ~~pushed~~ ^{backed} away the crowd x numbering some fifty thousand by now. The idea was that if John couldn't see all the admiring spectators, his position on the ledge might lose its attraction and he might come in. But a phone call just ^{now} before I came to this microphone ~~showing~~ ^{told me} that he's still there. And if there's any change in the next few minutes, I'll

have a ~~quick dispatch and will tell you~~ *bulletin for you about John.*

LOS ANGELES

Now ~~do you want~~ ^{for} a coincidence, a ~~really~~ wild one?

Here it is. Los Angeles -- Today a young woman named Hazel ~~Hefe~~ Hefley, stood on the ledge of a sixth ~~fl~~ floor hotel window, and said she'd jump. And there she stayed, poised at the perilous brink. She yelled -- "They're trying to kill me!" Nobody found ~~her~~ out who was trying to kill her. The Fire Department came and spread nets for an expected six-story fall, and then detectives of the Police Psychopathic Squad smashed open the hotel door. Apparently she was just about to jump when they grabbed her and hauled her in.

All this while John on the ledge outside of the hotel window was thrilling the multitude in New York. The same thing simultaneously on both sides of the continent.

HINES

50
New York's current legal and political sensation is beset by rumors today. (District Attorney Thomas Dewey is prosecuting the renowned Tammany leader, James J. Hines, charging him with having been a political ally of the Dutch Schultz numbers racket. Several others are indicted along with Hines, among them Dixie Davis, who was the Dutch Schultz lawyer.) It has come to light that of late Dixie Davis has been allowed to leave prison and visit an actress, whose name has been connected with his for some time. They say the Dutch Schultz lawyer got leaves of absence under guard to visit a doctor and have his tonsils treated, during which time he called upon the actress.

That has aroused all sorts of speculation, and (today the rumor is that Dixie Davis is prepared to confess and incriminate Tammany Leader Hines. ^{Davis} ~~He~~ to be a witness for the state and testify against Hines.) that's the supposition based on the curious fact that he has been allowed to leave prison and make visits.

FAR EAST

(The Japanese report there has been fighting in the disputed area along the frontier of Japanese controlled Manchukuo and Russian Siberia. ^{The} Tokyo dispatches tell of detachments of the Red army pushing across the border into Manchukuo. The Japanese claim they ~~they~~ ^{Soviet troops} were driven out. ~~These~~ ^{only} incidents, which sound so dangerous, are in reality ~~just~~ ^{only} as dangerous as Japan and Soviet Russia want to make them. Either side can turn the frontier clashes into a ^{war} ~~perilous war danger~~, or they can play them down as mere border brawls.

RUSSIA

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You may perhaps remember the name of Krylenko, remember it in connection with many of those dreadful Soviet trials in the past. Red justice and its merciless killings, with Kreylenko, the prosecutor, raging at the fear-broken defendants, and shouting for their death. So what's the news about Krylenko today? At what new trial will he play the cold, unfeeling demander of death? If there is any trial, he'll be on the other side, in the criminal dock, accused - with the prosecutor crying out that he must be shot. For (Krylenko, who was the Red court attorney for Stalin's vengeance, is now ^{himself} faced with charges *that he often made.*

It was noticed that in the Soviet purge during the past year or so, Krylenko was not the prosecutor. Vishinsky took his place. That looked bad for ~~him~~ ^{Krylenko.} And it looks worse now. Today an article appeared in the official Communist newspaper, PRAVDA, an article written by Prosecutor Vishinsky. In it he accuses Krylenko of that familiar Soviet crime, Trotskyism, describes him as - "a Trotskyist enemy of the people." Krylenko is accused of the very crimes of which he himself used to accuse others, sending hundreds to their death. He's caught in the very system of terror that he did so much to create.

of the system that he did so much

ITALY

The anti-semitic movement in Italy took a more
today
serious turn in an article in Mussolini's own newspaper *which*,

~~This pronouncement was believed to be inspired by the~~
~~Duce himself, and it~~ calls for a new policy of ~~anti~~ racism.)

There are really two angles to it -- one connected with
colonial ~~policy~~ ^{ea.} Some ~~imperial~~ imperial powers follow a policy

of white supremacy in their colonies. *¶* We Americans should

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have no difficulty in understanding the idea. In the British
Empire a good deal of color line is drawn. The French on the
contrary pay little ~~or any~~ ^{no} attention to differences of

race.
~~color.~~ I was told in Rome last year that the Ethiopian conquest

~~put it up to the fascists to face a color problem, that their~~
~~attitude was not the French way. They draw straight racial~~

~~distinctions between the ~~white~~ whites and the darker people in~~

~~Ethiopia. This is amply brought out by today's article in~~

Mussolini's paper, *today* ~~which~~ jeers at France for accepting the
darker races on terms of equality.

The second racial angle ~~concerns~~ concerns anti-

~~semitism~~ semitism. (The world is astonished to see Italy

lining up with Nazi Germany along the Aryan line.) The old Nordic theory supposes the superiority of a tall blond, blue-eyed ~~Germanic~~ Germanic peoples. The vast majority of Italian^{ians} are certainly not tall, blond ^{or} ~~and~~ blue eyed. In fact, the majority of German^s are not. So, it is decidedly surprising to see ~~Mediterranean~~ Mediterranean Italy go in for Aryan supremacy.-- the more so as Italian Jews look so much like Italian christians you can hardly tell them apart.

I think it is mostly an angry Italian reaction against the Jewish people throughout Europe and America whom the Italians claim are proponents of anti-Fascism.

55 I recall talking in Rome to Italian offic^{ials} who expressed their resentment at Jewish ^{world} influence ~~in the world~~ against Italy. They said ~~they~~ they understood that Mussolini's alliance with Hitler would naturally antagonize the Jews.

But, they added that some account should be taken of the ~~history~~ ^{Italian} lack of anti-semitism. So I suppose the Fascist government is fostering anti-semitism as a way of ~~getting~~ getting back ^{for this}.

Anyway, the recent statement^s of race policy in Mussolini land are today confirmed by a declaration in the Duce's own newspaper - and it is no wonder that the news dispatched from Rome ~~XXXXX~~ tells us that Jewish ^{circles} ~~articles~~ in ~~Re~~ Italy are alarming.

SPAIN

If General Franco ^{was} ~~is~~ surprised by the ~~move of the~~

Barcelona offensive, he can only blame himself. It's the most elementary of military strategy for the Left Wingers to stage an attack in Catalonia for the purpose of drawing off the Rebel pressure in front of Valencia. That's what the Allies did during the World War, the British and French staging a push in the west while the Germans were making things hot for the Russians in the east.

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(Today's dispatches tell of swift early successes by the Barcelona forces. They attacked suddenly and with violent strength. They forced a crossing of the Ebro River, and swarmed all over the ~~advanced~~ enemy trenches. If they should be able to break through ^{to} any depth, it would certainly disorganize the Franco attack on Valencia.)

BRAZIL

Today in the city of ~~Brazil~~ ^{Rio} a court announced

its verdict, passed judgement on army officers who staged

~~the 1938 revolt in Rio~~ ^{Brazilian revolt} in May. They plotted to kill President

Vargas and seize the government, and in the fighting a number

of people were killed. The usual way of revolution and ~~its~~ ^{its}

suppression would lead us to expect that the days news would ~~announce~~ ^{announce}

to death ~~sentences~~ sentences. But not at all. The leaders of the

Fascist plotters, ^a ~~mere~~ lieutenant ~~was~~ ^{is} sentenced to ten years

in prison. ^{And} the commander of the National Palace Guards

who was in the plot, was likewise sentenced to ten years.

In most ~~countries~~ countries the mere ~~guilt~~ ^{guilt} of revolt would have

brought the extreme ~~penalty~~ ^{penalty} and in any nation conviction

for the killings might have meant the capital penalty.

But ~~the~~ ^{prefers the} government of Brazil ~~considers~~ ^{considers} milder way.

CHANDLER

The great poison mystery in the Kentucky primary battle rises to new heights of controversy today;- and, it was surprising enough to begin with. Senator Barkley, ~~ix~~ the administration leader running for renomination with the backing of President Roosevelt, is opposed by Governor ^{Happy} Chandler, who suddenly falls ill in the middle of his rip-roaring campaign. And the word is - ~~he was~~ poisoned. That's startling, even in a knock-down, drag-out Democratic battle, in which the startling is rather to be expected, almost a commonplace.

Today, the political poison mystery resounds with the ~~ix~~ clash of pro and con. The chief of detectives in Louisville, who might be expected to be on the trail of the criminals, speaks as follows: "The Chandler charge of poisoning," says he, "is a bedtime ~~ix~~ political story and a deliberate hoax for campaign publicity purposes." He declares that the candidate's illness is just tummy-ache. True, a doctor has signed an affidavit stating his belief that Governor ^{Happy} Chandler was ^{unhappily} poisoned. "But," argues the chief of detectives, "he cannot get another reputable physician to agree with him, and our investigation proves the whole thing is a hoax."

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Happy
From the Chandler side, however, the charge of poisoning is reiterated with picturesque details. *A state police*

Officer calls
~~Lieutenant made~~ it a case of multiple attempts at poisoning. "They

tried to get the Governor twice before," said he, "and they tried

Happy Chandler
~~twice to get me~~" The story tells of a stump-speaking ~~Chandler~~ tour,

battling for the nomination. "The first poison attempt," says *the officer*

"was at a little place outside ~~of~~ Covington. The papers spoke of

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the Governor eating hamburgers there and it was thought that he

became ill because there was something wrong with the hamburger.

But," he continues, "I gave a piece of sandwich to a doctor, and

he said there was some chemical on it."

The second attempt has a sinister touch, reminiscent of the Borgias. "That time," relates the Chandler spokesman,

"something was put in the Governor's glass. The water kind of turned

blue. I noticed it and gave it to a doctor who said it was poison,"

and that made Happy most unhappy.

And the spokesman tells how he, too, was poisoned.

On one trip into the western part of the state," says he "something

was put twice into the beer I drank, and it made me violently ill.

I had to rest a month to get over it."

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Yes, it's rather startling even for a Democratic
political battle, all this poisoning, with the counter-charge
that it's a poison hoax, as Administration Leader Senator Barkley
fights it out ~~unhappy Happy~~ ~~with the Governor of Kentucky~~ for the nomination, with
unhappy Happy.

ENDING

Well, time's up -- and out ~~there~~ on the ledge
seventeen stories high, John is still there. And ~~he~~

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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