

P.I.P. & Thurs. Nov. 2 - '50

SUBSTITUTE TRUMAN

Here's the story Collazo tells. He claims the attempt to assassinate President Truman was entirely the doing of himself and his confederate Torresola, who was killed by White House Guards. He denies that anybody else was connected with the murder attempt -- and states that he, himself, knew Torresola for only a couple of weeks.

His version is that the two met for the first time in New York's Puerto Rican quarter two weeks ago. Both ~~was~~ members of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, they talked over the fanatical ideas of that group -- holding that the West Indian island ~~was~~ is "enslaved". That -- the politicians down there were "tools" of the United States. Whereupon the two decided to do something drastic. "We decided to take the law into our own hands," says Collazo. That is, assassinate President Truman.

Torresola provided the pistols, they went to Washington -- where they registered separately under

assumed names. Then, for the sake of safety, they agreed not to meet again until just before the murder attempt, Wednesday afternoon.

At the appointed time, shortly before two in the afternoon, they joined each other, and took a taxi cab to a point a block away from in front of ~~the~~ Blair House. Collazo claims that they did not know whether the President was actually at home at that particular time. "We took a chance," says he.

All of which adds to the mystery of how anybody could have made such an insane attempt -- two men trying to shoot their way into the residence of the President -- heavily-guarded as it is. Not even knowing -- whether or not the President was inside. Just intending to murder ^{the} guards -- and taking a mad-dog chance.

Such was the story Collazo told the Police today -- without any sign of remorse. He was unemotional, impassive, as he was, likewise, when he was charged

with murder in the first degree. He was informed of this as he lay on his hospital bed -- murder in the first ^{degree -} for the killing of White House guard Leslie Coffelt.

But there is doubt, still, about the statement that the two assailants were the only ones in the murder plot -- and a rigorous investigation is going on. Puerto Rican Nationalists were rounded up and questioned in New York today, and also down on the West Indian island. There, Governor Munoz-Marin expresses the belief that the Nationalist leader, Harvard educated Pedro Albizu Campos, had something to do with the attempt to assassinate President Truman. The Nationalist leader is under arrest.

FOLLOW TRUMAN

The attempt against the President brings into the news previous cases of murderous plots by those Puerto Rican Nationalists. At Kansas City today a former Governor of the island told of his experience. E. Mont Reilly, a friend of President Truman for forty-five years. But -- a Republican, who, more than thirty years ago, organized the "Harding-for-President" movement. Harding named E. Mont Reilly as Governor of Puerto Rico, and today Reilly said: "They tried to kill me the next year. But, instead of shooting, they set afire the ship in which I was sailing." He said the origin of the blaze was a crate of oranges soaked in kerosine, which was touched off by a candle ~~when~~ when the vessel was two hundred miles at sea. The steamer burned all the way to New York, where, finally, the flames were extinguished.

At
~~From~~ Greenville, South Carolina, Robert A. Cooper
~~gives~~ gives his account. A former Governor of South Carolina,

he was a Federal judge in Puerto Rico for fourteen years -- and he was the magistrate who sent Pedro Albizu Campos to prison -- the Nationalist leader who has been arrested in Puerto Rico in connection with the attempt to assassinate President Truman. Campos was convicted of conspiring to overthrow U. S. authority in Puerto Rico, and sentenced to the penitentiary ~~at~~ in Atlanta. The day he went to prison, seven men waylaid the automobile of Judge Cooper in San Juan, the Puerto Rican capital. They fired more than thirty shots at the car. And today the former Judge says: "Why they didn't kill me, my driver and a detective assigned to me -- I will never know."

(~~Further examples of the fanaticism and violence originating on that West Indian island.~~)

SUBSTITUTE LEAD KOREA

In Korea the U.S. Twenty-fourth Division has made a withdrawal along the northwest coast -- some of its units pulling back as much as fifty miles. This came after the Twenty-fourth Division had reached a point within thirty miles of the Yalu River, and results from the sudden defeat sustained by the First Cavalry -- two regiments hurled back by the Reds, in what is described as the worst setback for American Forces since the Battle of the Bulge in World War Two. *near the Yalu* ~~the~~ *Chinese and Korean Reds* ~~they~~ drove a deep wedge into the American line, and forced a general withdrawal.

The story is one of weird surprise. In the darkness of a frosty early morning, the GI's of the First Cavalry -- heard a bugle call. An unexpected erie sound. Then, the clumping of horses' hoofs at a gallop -- equally weird. Chinese and Korean Reds were including a cavalry charge in an all-out assault. In the darkness enemies appeared from everywhere and swarmed over two regiments, attacking them with gunfire, bayonets, mortar

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shells, tanks, everything.

There was nothing that the Americans could do but get out, and they ran. Some clung to the sides of American tanks, in a wild retreat. Others had to swim across any icy river. Then, in the daylight enemy planes assailed them. But that was checked by American fighters. -- ^a~~These~~ in air battles, shot down two Red planes, Russian built Yaks.

But the two regiments of the First Cavalry were driven back for nine miles, the Chinese and Reds recapturing the city of Unsan. At last reports, the U.S. troops had established a line to the south of that place -- regrouping after their defeat.

The latest ~~is~~⁺ is that the U.S. Second Division has been thrown into the battle to retrieve the situation in the Unsan area.

An American tank column is driving to rescue two parties of B's who were cut off, trapped by the rush of the Reds. At last reports the Tanks had three miles to go to reach them.

SHAW

The world is saying farewell to George Bernard Shaw -- and recalling his amazing career. *We know how* ~~He~~ became the world's most famous writer -- a prodigy of success. Yet he began -- as a prodigy of failure. For twenty years he tried stubbornly, and failed completely.

He began writing as a boy in Dublin, and got nowhere. Then, as a young man in London, he determined to make a name as a novelist. He wrote five bulky novels, and publishers one after another turned them down -- unanimously. All he got was a total of sixty rejection slips. ~~(Finally, even the stubborn Shaw himself, was convinced that he was a failure at novel-writing.)~~

It was not until middle age that he plunged into the medium which was to make him famous -- the stage. But even so, he won little acclaim at first. However, he lived so long that he had almost an average lifespan of success, even greater than his previous failures.

Inevitably the world looks back on those Shavian flashes of wit and satire, as when a lady wrote him saying: "You have the greatest brain in the world, and I have the most beautiful ^{body.} ~~body.~~ We ought to produce a perfect child," said she. "But," Shaw wrote back, "what if the child inherits my body and your brain!"

He became famous for his great age, and one of the best of his quips was about youth, remarking -- that it was a shame so precious a gift as youth was wasted on the young. All the more to the point because of his ~~lifespan~~ lifespan of ninety-four years.

CRASH

A story just in tells of a huge plane -- a flying boxcar, roaring through the sky -- nobody in it, the automatic controls set to keep it going. Army flyers, in a blinding rainstorm, had to abandon the ponderous transport, getting out by parachute -- and on it went, flying for forty minutes and one hundred miles, before crashing. The pilot, Lieutenant George Poston, set the automatic pilot -- to keep the monster from plunging down into a crowded Nashville section. So the plane went on into northern Alabama, where it crashed in open country.

In Canadian Ontario, a section of the forest was evacuated today by the loggers. Those hardy men in the northern woods - clearing out. What's the reason? Well, the peril is great indeed.

Something has gone wrong with the numerous elk of those parts. That majestic deer has been found to be the carrier of a disease, a malady that can be transmitted to farm animals. So the plan is to eliminate the elk, and an open hunting season has been declared. The deer-hunters are moving in, five hundred of them arriving today - and the loggers got out. They know the ways of the City nimerd, his habit of taking some ordinary citizen for a deer - and blazing away.

Even the deer-hunters themselves, have a certain trepidation. Today one showed up, all toggged-out with hunting clothes and rifle - and on his back he wore a sign. A placard reading: "Don't shoot - I'm an only son, and not an elk!"

ELECTION - LUNATIC

This election is producing some weird ones -- the strangest of which comes from Marquette, Michigan. One important question always is -- the qualifications of a candidate. So consider the case of Edward Aho running for County Treasurer. He is an inmate of a mental institution -- but they say he is likely to win the election.

This candidate was entered in the primary -- and then, before the primary election was held, he was taken off to a hospital as a mental case. Nevertheless, he won the nomination -- making him the candidate of the local Democrats. They've been trying to take his name off the ticket -- but, according to Michigan law, that cannot be done without the candidate's consent. He has to withdraw on his own volition -- and, in the institution, he refuses to do so. *He say I'm a Democratic candidate and I'm not nuts.*

Today a Democratic spokesman at Marquette said: "We are not campaigning actively for him. But he ran well in the primary, even though everybody knew he was

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in the hospital. So," adds the spokesman, "we would not be surprised to see him win."

The trick in the situation is that ~~the~~ candidate Aho is a Finn and Marquette has a large Finnish population -- which will get him a lot of votes.

TANK

Wisconsin reports a manhunt for two sailors on the Great Lakes -- ~~who were~~ charged with going on a joy-ride in an army tank. We have often heard of people swiping some vehicle or other, and taking it for a dizzy dash -- just for the thrill of it. But military armour is something new, a steel monster of war.

Yet that is the escapade attributed to Theodore Loich and John Myers, two young sailors -- who are said to have stolen a Sherman tank from the National Guard and gone on a wildride. Night time -- a tank rampaging along in the moonlight. The Police gave chase, but they had a tough time, as the monster of war went charging across Wisconsin fields and meadows. Finally the two sailors jumped out, ran away -- escaping.

~~But it is also said that they have been identified~~
~~and~~ The word is that, after the joy ride in an army tank, they went back to their jobs on the ore ship on the Great Lakes, [^] ~~which~~ presumably ~~is~~ navigating somewhere on Lake Michigan.

HUNTING

In a court room at Mount Pleasant, Michigan, today, sentence was passed on a railroad brakeman. He used his freight train to go hunting.

Brakeman Vern Malicoat pleaded guilty to a charge of hunting pheasant from the top of his caboose. When he brought down a pheasant, he'd signal to the engineer -- and the engineer would back up the train so the brakeman could retrieve the bird. Which as the old phrase puts it -- "was a heck of a way to run a railroad, Nelson."