



# It Happened Last Night

## The Real-for-Sure Newsmen And the Human Truman

By Earl Wilson

Key West, Feb. 23.—Comes now a story about the human Truman.

(Don't worry, you-all, this is no political yarn. I don't know a Republican from a Democrat. Who does?)

But while down here in the South, and I mean South, not south, I've been covering the reporters who cover the Prez at his little White House, and also his big White House.

"We're all crazy about him," one of them said.



Admire these TRUMAN guys—these real-for-sure newspaper men, who write on planes, often in autos, sometimes even in open cars with rain beating on their dancing typewriters.

They're the modern Richard Harding Davises. Here they came down out of the Pan-American Clipper, carrying their typewriters, ganging about the Prez when he stepped out of the Sacred Cow. Then all 39 of them plunged into a bus and I rode along hearing their shouting on the way to the naval submarine base where Truman eats, sleeps and swims.

"Did he have on patent leather shoes?"

"No. New, but not patent leather."

"Wasn't the old man limping on that cane?"

"Not limping. Just resting. That's a vacation cane."

There was a debate about something he'd said—about exactly how he said it—and they settled on the milder version.

"We try to be accurate because we know we have the power to cause a stock market crash or an international incident," said one, to me.

And there was more talking when they started typing their "arrival" stories at a long table inside "BOQ" (Bachelor Officers' Quarters) where they live.

"What a day tomorrow. We're not going to have any time to write let alone go to the bathroom."

"Do you know we got to leave here at 2:30 a. m. to get to the airport?"

They turned to three newsless speeches from which they must make stories.

"Looks to me like the lead on this Puerto Rico speech is that he's very happy to be in Puerto Rico," said Tony (AP) Vaccaro.

"Too explosive!" grinned Merri-man (UP) Smith. "Will cause trouble all over the Caribbean."

Much later in the BOQ bar—which is the National Press Club bar all over again with slot machines and palm trees added—a reporter who covered the White House seven years and will soon have an ulcer to prove it told me that not long ago his little son was knocked down and critically injured by a truck.

He was staying up all night at the hospital with his son.

One 7:30 a. m. as he came home the phone rang.

A voice said, "How's the little fellow?"

For a moment he wondered who was up this early.

Then suddenly the reporter shouted: "Why, Mr. President,

### The Earl Can . . .

Here are some ancient yaks from an 1800 jokebook that are still fresh: "I never read a book before reviewing it—it prejudices a man so" . . . "A married man's like a razor. Always in hot water or a scrape" . . . "They are going to make policemen wear rubber boots, to keep them from waking up" . . . "I went to the country for a change and a rest. The waiters got the change and the hotel got the rest."

he's coming along fine, and thank you for calling."

"I didn't think you'd recognize my voice," Truman said.

"And I didn't think you knew anything about him being hurt," the reporter said.

"Would it upset things at the hospital if I went to call on him?" the President said.

It would have made the reporter a mighty big man at the hospital. But he said, "You know better than I do that it would, Mr. President."

So Mrs. Truman and Margaret Truman sent toys and candy and the boy got well and the reporter remembered, but he could not let it affect his work because he is a wire service man who has to be neutral and write "straight down the middle."

Among the reporters who cover him there seems to be a feeling that he "has a chance" to be elected President. That's one way they put it—"a chance." But regardless of what happens to him in the political race, a lot of them will tell you that in the human race he does pretty good.

### The Midnight Earl . . .

In New York: WHAT'S HOT: Peter Donald, who recently made news by renting an apartment, may be seen almost daily teaching 21's Peter Kriender how to skate in Rockefeller Plaza . . . Henry Morgan revealed at Spivy's he's taking guitar lessons . . . Bill Callahan's being given a big build-up by Zannuck . . . The Cornet Wildes were among the celebs at the Warwick's Raleigh Room for the 3 Suns' opening . . . Andy Russell left for the Coast to start his new film for Pasternack . . . Jeri Keever's the pretty songstress at the Latin 4.

TODAY'S SMILE: Lou Allen heard this on a Seventh Av. bus. As it became crowded the driver called out, "Boys step to the rear, girls step to the rear. If you're not a boy or a girl, stay where you are, 'cause you're in a hell of a fix already!"

CHATTER: Israel Sachs and John Garfield will be announced as the winners of the LaGuardia

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

KEEVER

## In Local Boites



Vin Roddie (left) and his boogie woogie stylings are featured at Garrison's. Dick Wilson's band plays for dancing at Le Coq Rouge.

Award by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League for "supporting better Americans of different religious and racial groups" . . . Sam Wanamaker left for the Coast, while his wife, Charlotte, stayed here to have her baby and continue acting on her radio program.

In Miami: NEWS: Billy Seaman, the canned goods king, broke his arm while dancing at Nassau. (Yah,

TODAY'S SALOON SPECIALS Jane Dulo opens at Ruban Bleu Dick Jurens orchestra into Cafe Rouge of Hotel Pennsylvania; new show at Wivel.

while dancing . . . he fell over his partner) . . . Sophie Tucker sails on the Queen Elizabeth May 14 to play the London Casino . . . Reed and Zella Suplee, Pennsylvania nudist camp operators, are about to open a bareskin camp near Miami . . . American Legionnaires will take responsibility for any damage done in their hotel rooms during the national convention in Miami in October . . . Singer Monica Lewis, vacationing in Miami Beach, will do a Para-

HOTELS and RESTAURANTS

PARAMOUNT FAMOUS SPECIAL

7 COURSE STEAK DINNER \$2.75

Beautiful Oval Cocktail Lounge

PARAMOUNT Kosher Restaurant 43rd ST., EAST OF B'WAY

DINING OUT TONIGHT?

HOTEL DIXIE 43rd St. W. of Broadway

HOTEL VICTORIA 11th Ave. at 51st St. No Cover, No Minimum

WELLINGTON 7th Ave. Corner 45th St.

Game Cock 14 E. 44TH ST. Superb Food, Excellent Wines, Liquors, Luncheon 10c

JACK'S 244 W. 46th St. FAVORITE OF THEATRE-GOERS. FAMOUS FOR ONION SOUP, FRESH MUSHROOMS, FRESH CHICKEN LIVERS, FROGS' LEGS, STEAKS, BAR.

House of Chan 7th Ave. Cor. 82nd St. New York's De Luxe Chinese Restaurant. Luncheon, Dinner & La Carte. Quiet, Unhurried Atmosphere

PACIFIC 30 FELL ST. Fine wines liquors. Luncheon 55c up. Dinner 80c up. Family dinner \$1.35 each. Excellent Chinese dinners served at all hours

RUBY FOO'S 140 West 52nd St. Finest Chinese Food Refined Atmosphere. Luncheon, Dinner, Supper, Cocktail Lounge

CHEN'S Singapore EXOTIC CHINESE AND ISLAND FOODS. Cocktails • Dinner • After Theatre • American Dishes

LILLIANA 13 St. & 5th Ave. A Superb Continental Cuisine. Luncheon \$1 up. Dinner \$2.25 up. Open Sundays-Cocktails 4 P. M. Dinner & P. M. Enjoy Dinner with music by ROSSATI-Violin, MILAN-Piano.

Raffaele's 100 W. 57th St. FINEST ITALIAN CUISINE. Cocktails, Dinner, Supper and Bennis Martini at the Pianoforte from 9 P. M.

PHIL GLUCKSTERN'S Luncheons • Cocktails • Dinner • Supper 209 West 48th St. Circle 6-9266

SCHREIBER'S Strictly Kosher. Great in Vienna—Greater in New York. Newly Decorated. Banquet Facilities. Milburn Hotel, 242 W. 16th. TE 4-2399

BERKOWITZ'S Rumanian Dinner. Catering All Occasions. Dinner Music No Amusement Tax. 163 Allen St. OR 3-8500

## Familiar Scenes

Residents of Columbia Street on New York's East Side will find familiar scenes in "My Girl Tisa," comedy-drama starring Lilli Palmer and Sam Wanamaker. Although the setting of the film, now showing at the New York Strand Theatre, is the turn-of-the-century period, many of the shops and business firms seen in the picture are still in existence today. Names that were on the store fronts during the Teddy Roosevelt era continue to advertise the same shops to this day.

"My Girl Tisa," produced by United States Pictures for Warner Bros., is the story of an immigrant girl who learns about democracy in the United States in Manhattan's teeming East Side.

mount short titled—no kidding—"I Remember Monica."

STUFF: The gambling element says, "So John Costello's the boss of Ireland. Why not? Frank Costello's the boss of the United States" . . . Don't forget Joe E. Lewis' sermon for today: "When you do the town, you probably don't do it any good" . . . That's earl, brother.

HOTELS and RESTAURANTS

You Can Afford the finest STEAKS AT OUR NEW LOW PRICES

McCarthy's FAMOUS STEAK HOUSE

NO BETTER • FOOD or SERVICE • At Our New Low Prices Anywhere in the Land

WINES AND LIQUORS LUNCHEON AND DINNER FOR RES.: VA. 6-6131, MU. 2-9513 830 SECOND AVENUE S. W. CORNER 45th STREET

Banquets Accommodations Up to 300 Weddings, Meetings, Conferences, Parties, Reasonable Rates.

SUPERB CUISINE—Excellent SERVICE Phone BANQUET Dept. CI 6-6800 HOTEL PICCADILLY 227 WEST 45th STREET

HOTELS and RESTAURANTS

opening Wed. night



Shep Fields

AND HIS rippling rhythm orchestra

FEATURING Toni Arden Bob Johnstone

PLUS newfangles on ice

It's a double treat for a perfect evening! Dance to your favorite tunes interpreted in smooth, rippling rhythm. Thrill to the top entertainment of a sensational ice show. Both at the

Terrace room

nightly at dinner and supper Saturday at luncheon

HOTEL FRANK ANDERSON

New Yorker

12th Street at 10th Avenue, New York

15 NEW YORK POST AND THE HOME NEWS MONDAY, FEB. 23, 1948