

The Killers Still Go Free

All in all, Charlotte's killers had a poor year in 1945. They didn't appear in the news. Their total of 20 slayings, in fact, found them at less than 50 per cent efficiency. But the year offers another grand chance to study the city's casual ways with murder. Not that all these cases can actually be called murders. It would be dangerous because some defendants have been freed, others charged with lesser crimes, and still others have yet to face the bar of justice. But call it what you will, human lives have been taken, and the fate of the killers isn't reassuring.

Of the 20 cases on the list only three have ended with the defendants sentenced to long terms yet were calling them that though they begin to show years. There was one short-term sentence, one fine of \$1,200 (payable to the widow of the victim). That's only five cases in which the law has called defendants to task. In five other cases, defendants were cleared by the court.

A Protector, Resigned

You remember how it was in the dark days, when the enemy's power was at high tide. It was life or death for us then, conquer or be conquered. But somehow it was a time for high-sounding ideals, for the brave old slogans of liberty and equality. When the Atlantic Charter was written, the millions looked to the Four Freedoms were surely meant for all people. We couldn't see the way to victory then, but there was hope, and there was no compromise. We would accept nothing less than complete surrender, and then we would make a better world to scale. We had the pattern roughly drawn.

Something happened, just before and after victory. Many a nation discovered in its turn that the Freedoms were meant for others, not for it. Somehow, when the Charter was drawn, we hadn't the time to think of the little people. We had no idea what dreams stirred in the breasts of men in far places. But in that time there must have been wild hopes, even in the East Indies, even in Java. When the time of the bitter discord came at last to that far-off place, after V-J Day, it meant not peace, but the beginning of a bloody new struggle. The Javanese had ideas of their own.

For months the United States stood

This Here Culture

At first glance, it looks as if the House Republicans have skinned their ignorance again. Some of them have come up with lulu in their time. Of late, of course, they've stood steadfastly against full world co-operation, against any and all Government action that might have a flat-footedness for high prices, high profits, and put their trust in the somewhat unreliable law of supply and demand. This week, they're again culture.

They're still laughing, on their side of the house, at the State Department's proposal for a big program of developing cultural relations with the whole world. At first their guffaws seemed to make it obvious that they ridiculed culture, thought it a quaint luxury, a passing fancy, or perhaps a dangerous article not to be entrusted to the common people. They sounded, at first, like a rube gathering at the general store.

But then it developed that they were not amused, but frightened. They threw a new black on bill designed to pipe out Good Neighborliness to all the world. They didn't want that kind of publicity. They'd sooner let the United States just bumble along in the world society and make its way in spite of, or because of, its traditional bad manners. Culture indeed.

And then there was another bill, hot from the State Department. The Midwestern Republicans, particularly Ohio's Brown and Illinois' Chipperfield, thought they smelled Archibald MacLeish's boldness in this bill. It was written it sounded like a piece of MacLeish poetry. A poet! What would a poet know about culture, or good neighbors? Further, the bill was broad enough, the Republicans thought, to set up the State Department in their kind of business. They thought it might take to buying radio stations all over the place, and newspapers, and turning out propaganda of any kind it wished.

So, rather than voting against sweet Culture, the GOP is only showing its caution again, and there's enough of an intimation of trouble there to give us pause, too. We're hot for nursing our relations with the world, and for telling the American story. But we shudder to think what the danger has happened at some stages in the game in the past ten years if the State Department had been put in virtual control of news, propaganda and information. We too, would like to know more about this mysterious bill.

Waste & More Waste

No organization, after expanding, likes to reduce. This is particularly true of the military. We are told that the British are not demobilizing as rapidly as the Americans, and that is one reason for wanting to keep 1,500,000 men in the American Army. This is not sound reasoning. The British have many colonies which wish independence and their imperialistic Government feels the need of a big army to prevent the dream of independence from being realized in Asia and Africa. Uncle Sam has promised independence to the Philippines and has no dream of imperialism. Therefore, the way to reduce the armed forces is to reduce.

The Secretary of War makes no announcement of the future size of the Army in these peace days, but on Friday Lieutenant-General Collins carried disappointment to hundreds of thousands of American homes when he announced that there would be a drawdown of three months in bringing back troops from overseas. The "rate" will be cut from the current 800,000 or more a month to 300,000.

Why? The reason given is based upon the fact that the United States has no propaganda for the American compulsory military training. He says that "voluntary enlistments and the draft have failed to supply enough replacements." That is propaganda, pure and

Of Amnesia In High Places: Dec. 6, 1941

WASHINGTON
ODDEST disclosure in the Pearl Harbor probe is the memory—or rather lack of memory—of our two top service leaders in 1941. Adm. H. H. Stark, chief of Naval operations, and the Army's chief of staff, Gen. George C. Marshall, were on 24-hour duty preceding Pearl Harbor, but for some strange reason neither can remember where he was on the fateful night of Dec. 6, 1941, just before the Jap attack.

Both Stark and Marshall have repeatedly told the various boards probing Pearl Harbor that they did not know where they were or what they did that night, and they stuck to this story when they testified recently on Capitol Hill.

Strangely enough, Marshall readily recalled many other details that happened about this time, including the fact that he went horseback riding the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. He even remembers the details of how he took a shower that morning. But his mind is a complete blank about the night before.

Admiral Stark is equally vague about his whereabouts on that evening.

Congressional investigators have been unable to obtain office records which might clear up the mystery, and are apparently content to let the mystery remain unsolved.

It seems highly doubtful, however, that the top leaders of our armed forces were suddenly and simultaneously afflicted with amnesia at this important hour of history—just at a time when Colonels Bratton and Sadler were frantically trying to get high officials with the message that the Japs were going to attack at 1 P. M. the next morning.

TRUMAN'S JUDGES
President Truman is up against a unique test of the ancient tradition that a Senator can virtually dictate the appointment of judges or other federal employees in his state by talking back on the floor of the Senate.

FDR tested out this tradition on various occasions, sometimes demanding that certain judges be named, sometimes not. Truman, so far, has been more cautious.

For the present, however, he has been sidestepping a showdown which he can't avoid much longer. The Supreme Court, by the appointment of James McGranery to the third circuit court of appeals, is testing out the tradition.

McGranery, a former law partner of F. Lee Keyserling, is a former general, is eminently qualified and a strong Roosevelt-Truman supporter.

However, Senator Joe Guffey of Pennsylvania opposes McGranery's appointment. He says it is an unique and interesting grounds. He doesn't oppose McGranery as a person, but he objects to this particular court of appeals judgeship affecting Pennsylvania.

At a meeting in the Senate of the Judiciary Committee, Guffey, Pennsylvania boss Dave Lawrence, Senator Francis Myers and Senator McGuffey urged:

"Why don't you take this judgeship in the District of Columbia, where the salary is \$10,000 a year and money and will give you just as much prestige."

In other words, McGranery is not obnoxious to Guffey personally, nor does the Senator think McGranery is unqualified to be a judge. In fact, he does not even object to McGranery's being a Catholic, but he objects to his sitting on the district court rather than the court of appeals. But he is not so much concerned with McGranery for the 3rd circuit court of appeals in Pennsylvania—all candidates for that job.

And so far he has managed to scare Mr. Truman.

TRUMAN'S JUVENILES
Following a White House conference on labor policies, Paul Herzog, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, handed President Truman a letter.

"It's from my eight-year-old son," explained Herzog. "He's a great admirer of you and he wanted me to be sure to give it to you personally."

Jerry Relly here has three youngsters. Mr. President, Herzog reminded him with a wink, referring to Gerard Relly, a former member of the NLRB, who then insisted on writing autograph notes to Relly's children, also. Finally he turned to the other board member, John M. Houston, former Congressman from Kansas.

"Now what can I do for you, Jack?" Houston handed him a blank letter, signed on the Bluffs National Bank in Washington.

Just sign your name on the bottom line, Jerry.

Past on the uptake, Truman turned the check over and endorsed it "without recourse" on the back.

"I haven't any money in that bank," he explained, "I've moved it back to Houston."

SURPLUS SHOTGUNS
Several times this column has called attention to the thousands of surplus Army shotguns of selling surplus Army shotguns to the public only to be barred from making purchases.

Enlisted men can now think that the Army is going to be introducing a bill, already passed the Senate, but not yet passed by the House, which would allow shotguns will be available not merely to officers but enlisted men, and also to the general public.

On the House side, Congressman Eddie Herbert of New Orleans has already introduced a bill with the Navy over the fact that naval aviators are forbidden to buy shotguns, while Annapolis graduated officers can. He will endeavor to bring the bill through the House and it should become law at an early date.

There Comes A Time When It's Smart To Speak Up

Is Atom Bomb Too Secret?

(Editors' Note: This is the second in the series of columns on atomic energy and the behind-the-scenes contest between military and civil authority for its control.)

WASHINGTON
MEMBERS of the staff of the Senate Atomic Energy Committee are presently in a state of confusion over a tentative list of questions for submission to Secretary of War Robert H. Patterson and Gen. Leslie R. Groves, director of the atomic bomb project. The committee is not yet approved by the committee before they were submitted.

The committee questionnaire covered a wide range of subjects, grouped in several categories. It asked where the bombs were stored, how they were made by one process and how many by another, and the sources of uranium were, and their extent.

It also asked for details of the scientific and technical personnel retained in connection with splitting the atom. It asked for information on foreign plans to develop the atom, and whether the United States was continuing to manufacture and store the stuff of which the bombs are made.

Patterson and Groves appeared before the committee in a closed session that at times became rather heated. Groves told the committee that some of the questions could not be answered in a general way, but that some were made by one process and how many by another, and the sources of uranium were, and their extent.

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We Need Principles, Not Facts

Dorothy Thompson
NEW YORK
WHAT is needed in the war between General Motors and the Automobile Workers Union is not a Government fact-finding commission, but a principle-finding commission. What is at issue is not the financial status of General Motors—its "ability to pay"—but the question on what principles wages are to be paid.

In the present issue, however, it is not the financial status of General Motors that is at issue, but the principle of bargaining. Bargaining always involves a prior acceptance of certain basic principles by both parties, within the framework of which adjustments can be made.

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The People's Platform

FDR Would Have Smiled Who Did Who in Moscow?

By CHARLES N. STISSON
Hartsville, S. C.
In his scorching fire-side talk, President Truman revealed that he had a kind of action that is essential to the laying of the corner stone of a dynamic, free commercial government. Rising to the exacting demands of this year's hour, he called for the channeling of the energies of the United States of America for the common welfare of all and not for a class.

Quite naturally, there will be much criticism by those who are not so interested in their own welfare as that of the nation at large. Anxiously aware that the nation's future is at stake, the man will cry out in many terms, for they will still refuse to face the fact that the American people are the laws of the land the affirming will of a people dedicated to

An Exchange of Telegrams on UNO

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HAVE BEEN ASKED BY CLIENT NEWSPAPER TO CONDUCT SURVEY OF THE CROSS SECTION OF NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTION STOP ON THE BASIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION'S DECISION TO LOCATE ITS PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES IN YOUR OPINION WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS SEEM TO YOU THE MOST SUITABLE FOR THE HYDE PARK PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK PLEASE WRITE ANSWERS IN 100 WORDS OR LESS NIGHT LETTER COLLECT BY MONDAY
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION WASHINGTON, N. J.
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