

Interviews John T. Scopes

Ralph Smith, Jr., Decatur businessman, recently visited in Dayton, Tenn., where as a special reporter for the Decatur Daily Democrat, he interviewed the famous defendant in the "Monkey Trial" of 1925, John T. Scopes, as the original trial days were relived. He brought back the following account.

Thirty-five years ago, John Thomas Scopes was convicted of violating a Tennessee state law. Last week, he was given a hero's welcome, as well as the keys to the city, where he was tried.

Balding, 60-year-old Scopes arrived in Dayton to receive the honor he gained in his famous 1925 evolution trial. Scopes is now a geologist with a gas company in Shreveport, La., where he lives.

"I had hoped the trial would accomplish more than it did," stated Scopes.

Scopes was tried and convicted of teaching Darwin's theory of evolution in the Rhea county school. The Tennessee anti-evolution law is still on record. The fine of \$100 was later appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court and the lower court decision was reversed. Scopes believes the trial stopped other states from passing similar laws.

"If I had it to do over again, I'd do exactly the same," Scopes was quoted, but quickly added, "However I'm not here to start another argument. I have no argument with religion. I still believe in evolution, and feel that the trial pertained only to the issue of freedom of education before the two master-minds became involved in the case."

The silver-tongued orator, William Jennings Bryan, sent a telegram from Memphis where he was addressing a group of Christian Fundamentalists, offering his services at the time of the trial in 1925. Shortly afterwards, H. L. Mencken and his Baltimore newspaper brought one of the nation's most famous criminal lawyers, Clarence Darrow, to the aid of Scopes.

Scopes said both Bryan and Darrow "were outstanding men in their specific fields, Bryan the orator, and Darrow the lawyer."

Scopes stated, "I believe I was given a fair and just trial. What I taught," he continued, "was that all animal life progressed from one geological period to the next."

Scopes appeared tired and worn as he once again sat in the witness chair, as flash bulbs popped in his face. "It's still the same old courtroom," he remarked, slowly moving his eyes around the room and finally coming to rest upon his wife who sat at the table where he was prosecuted.

Mrs. Rudd Brown, granddaughter of the famed Bryan, was warmly welcomed by Scopes. Dayton is where Bryan College is located.

The city was decorated with flags and banners, recreating the carnival-like setting of the original trial. Daytonites wore clothing of the twenties, the streets were lined with vendor's booths as they were then and store windows had a new look that was really an old look. The total effect was one of having the clock turned back and one almost expected to see the ghosts of trial lawyers William Jennings Bryan, Clarence Darrow and newsman H. L. Mencken who covered the trial.

Helping further to recall the events leading to Scopes arrest and trial, was the first American showing of Stanly Kramer's "Inherit the Wind," a motion picture inspired by the actual trial. The United Artist release stars Spencer Tracy based on the role of Darrow, Fredric March in a part patterned after Bryan, and Gene Kelly in a role resembling Mencken. The character recalling Scopes is portrayed by Dick York. Donna Anderson, Harry Morgan, Claude Akins and Florence Eldridge also have important roles in the film.

Economy Of Cuba Gone Communist

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign Editor

No matter what the political complexion of Fidel Castro and his chief lieutenants currently in charge of Cuba, there are few who believe that any great number of the Cuban people themselves can be persuaded to "go Communist."

But events of the last week erased any doubt there might have been that the Cuban economy already has "gone Communist."

An American in Cuba gloomily surveying the situation there predicted that most if not all American property will have been seized by the government by next summer.

The stream of long-time American residents in Cuba returning to the United States has been under way for months. And now in their places are coming the Iron Curtain technicians and advisers as Cuba switches to Russian oil, Russian fertilizer, Czechoslovak machines and other items formerly supplied by the United States.

Fallacy of Argument

Those who profess to see a difference between a Cuba economically controlled by communism but inhabited by a people who resist it as an ideology, use two main arguments.

They say the Cuban would reject the discipline imposed by communism, and that, regardless of outward appearances, he is inwardly a devout Roman Catholic.

The fallacy of the argument is suggested by the fate of Hungary and other satellite states where Communist regimes never have depended upon majority approval.

However, it is the economic side which permits no argument

and forecasts hard times ahead for the Cuban people.

Recently concluded agreements with Russia, Red China and Communist satellites primarily have been barter deals with only 20 per cent cash involved.

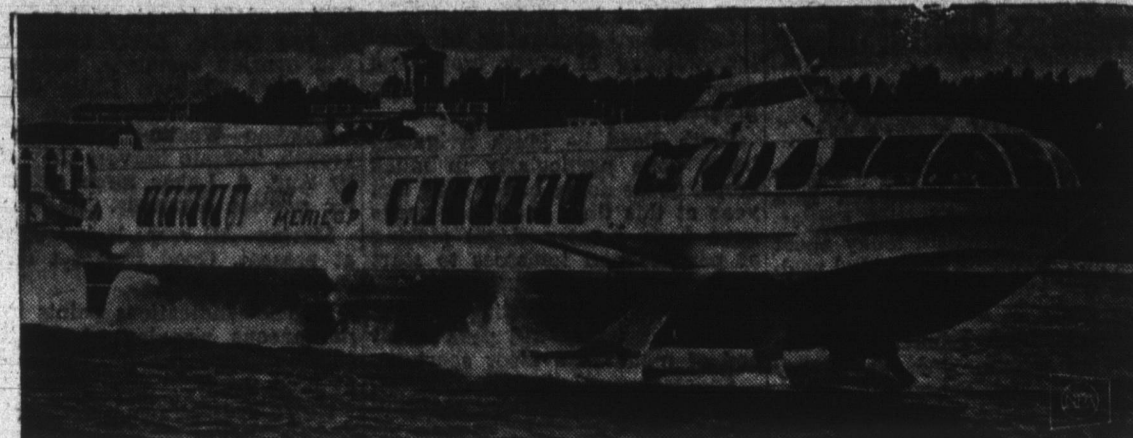
Egypt Learned Lesson
In return for sugar, Cuba has been promised Russian oil and technical assistance, Polish textile machinery and chemical equipment and Chinese rice, soybeans and textiles.

Such an arrangement provides no dollars with which to buy other needed goods, including necessary food supplies not included in the barter deal.

Among others, Egypt learned a bitter lesson when it mortgaged its principal crop, long staple cotton, in exchange for Russian arms. The deal gave Russia approximately half of Egypt's cotton, leaving the Egyptians free to sell the remainder on the world market.

When it came time to do so, the Egyptians found themselves competing against their own product which the Russians were dumping at below world prices.

So it may be with Cuba. There is no profit in selling at 3 cents sugar which costs 4 cents to produce.



WORLD'S BIGGEST HYDROFOIL?—The new Russian hydrofoil "Meteor" races toward Moscow from Gorky at about 50 mph. The Soviets say the 150-passenger motorboat is the largest of its type.

1960 Pennies With Flaw Are Valuable

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Take a close look at your pennies. They may be worth their weight in gold.

Eagle-eyed coin experts have put a value of \$8 or more on millions of 1960 pennies because of a flaw in the date.

Ben Douglas, a leading numismatist here, told UPI the irregular one-cent pieces are "the hottest item in the coin business."

The pennies are valuable because in the "1960" under Abraham Lincoln's whiskers, the "60" is smaller than the "19".

Douglas said "small 60" coins minted in Philadelphia are more valuable than similarly flawed pennies minted in Denver. He said this was because more of the faulty coins were turned out in Denver. These are marked with a tiny "D" under the "1960."

The coin expert said the Philadelphia mint turned out 2 million pennies with the irregular date and the Denver mint 3 million before the dies were changed.

"I don't recall in the 20th Century the mint making a whole new die," Douglas said.

Both mints now are turning out pennies with all characters in the date the same size.

Similar mistakes on coins or stamps in the past have produced valuable collectors items.

Gasoline itself, excluding taxes, is about 4 cents cheaper a gallon than it was 40 years ago, according to the American Petroleum Institute.

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—Ann of Michigan, June 2, 1960—