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Ex-Chicago Pitcher Slain In Mexico Linked To Red Cell

Policeman Tells Victim's Last Words

EL MANTE, Mexico, Jan. 3 (UPI)—The Mexican police corporal who killed Hirman Bithorn said yesterday that the former big league pitcher gasped: "I am a member of a Communist cell on an important mission" as he lay dying with the policeman's bullet in his stomach.

The policeman, Ambrosio Castillo Cano, said he was forced to kill Bithorn to "prevent my own death at the hands of an apparent lunatic." Witnesses to the shooting vouched for the policeman's story.

District Attorney Jesus Govea said police arrested Bithorn here when they found him trying to sell a 1947 Buick for \$350 (U.S.) without proper documents.

The former Chicago Cubs pitcher carried no identification card, not even the usual tourist card required for entry into the country, Mr. Govea said. He had no papers for the car and there were no license plates on it.

En Route to See Mother

Relatives of the big righthanded hurler said he was driving from Chicago to Mexico City to see his mother and sister. They could not explain why he should attempt to sell the car at El Mante, a small cotton center of 5,000 population on the Pan American highway nearly 300 miles north of the capital.

"It is very mysterious," Commandant of Police, Fidel Garza said. "He had \$2000 in American currency in his pocket and he had no car. He could not have been selling the car because he was out of money. Why was the car without license plates? Why did he have no papers? And what was the Communist connection?"

Police said Bithorn was shot last Saturday afternoon when he attacked the policeman who was escorting him to Mexico City where the former National League star had promised he would produce papers for the car.

Hit Me in Face'

"I was afraid he was going to kill me," said Cpl. Castillo. "Without warning or provocation, he suddenly struck me in the face with his suitcase and started to leap upon me as I lay in the street. I pulled my automatic but he ignored it and I was forced to shoot just before he hurled himself at me."

The shooting took place on the street in front of the El Mante bus station, half a block from the main plaza. A number of people saw the incident.

"I didn't intend to kill him," Mr. Castillo said. "I fired low, in an effort to disable him with a leg wound. But he crouched to spring at me just as I fired and the bullet struck higher than I expected—in the stomach."



ARMY BOUND?—Mrs. Joe Willie Riley assumes a military pose as she displays her draft notice.

Notice Blamed on Culprit

Draft Calls Mother, 50; Eager to Serve, She Says

CHICAGO, Jan. 3 (UPI)—Joe Willie Riley, who received a draft induction notice, said yesterday she'd be glad to serve if she wasn't a Gold Star mother.

But Selective Service officials said they had no intention of inducting her and that she could remain in the service.

It seems that someone registered under Mrs. Riley's name and the government is trying to catch the culprit.

Mrs. Riley reported that she received a notice two days before Christmas ordering her to report for induction Jan. 9.

She would be glad to go, she said, but "I'm 50 and don't know whether I'm strong enough to be a soldier."

She lost a son, S/Sgt. William D. Riley, in World War II and has another son, Robert S. Riley, who is a lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol.

Mrs. Riley said she began receiving Selective Service correspondence a year ago and quickly notified her draft board that she was a mother and a "slight mistake" had been made.

A draft spokesman said Mrs. Riley told them that once her mailbox had been rifled and a check stolen and cashed. From this draft officials deduced that the thief then used her name to register for the draft.

The spokesman said it was arranged to continue sending notices to Mrs. Riley so that she could send them back with the notation that she was the only one of that name at her address. This was for the purpose of preparing a file.

Seek Pay Hike For Preacher as Biggest Liar

BIGGS, Cal., Jan. 3 (UPI)—A

move is under way to give Rev. Arthur R. Kirk, pastor of the Community Church here, a pay raise for being the biggest liar in the world.

The title of world's champion liar was awarded the Rev. Kirk recently by the Burlington, Wis., Liars Club. The Rev. Kirk told a tale about watermelon vines which grew so fast they wore the melons out just dragging them on the ground. One youth was caught in the vine and dragged half a mile before getting loose, the Rev. Kirk told the Burlington club.

Leon Brink, church president, said he feels the Rev. Kirk deserves a pay raise.

"We have a minister with a broader than usual viewpoint," Mr. Brink said. "Anything you can say about northern California soil is the simple truth, and that's no lie." Mr. Brink said.

Mr. Brink grows rice on the land that inspired the Rev. Kirk's watermelon whopper.

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The Indianapolis area was the only place in the state where new snow fell. It stopped at 1 a. m. The low here was 19.

No more freezing rain was expected by the weatherman, but he said it would stay cold tonight and would be no warmer than 32 degrees tomorrow.

Editor Named Ridgway Aide

TOKYO, Jan. 3 (UPI)—An American newspaper editor will replace an army officer as chief public information adviser to Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, it was announced today.

Burrows Matthews, editor of the Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier-Express, is expected to arrive in Tokyo this week-end to take over the advisory job formerly held by Brig. Gen. Frank A. Allen, but without the latter's additional administrative duties.

Gen. Allen became involved in several disputes with the press last summer and since has remained mostly in the background. He closed his office here last Monday.

Mr. Burrows will function as a personal civilian adviser to the supreme United Nations commander. He was on the public relations staff at Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters in Europe during World War II.

Bullet in Brain Finally Is Fatal

A 65-YEAR-OLD man who clung to life for 60 hours with a bullet through his brain died last night at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Fred Johannes, 24 Orange St., was taken to the hospital Monday morning with one bullet wound in the head and another 32-caliber slug lodged in his body just below the chest. He was found in his home with a revolver at his side.

Hospital officials reported the one bullet entered his right temple, penetrated the brain and emerged behind his left ear. He remained unconscious until he died at 10:15 p. m. last night.

Police said Mr. Johannes, a Public School No. 22 custodian, had been ill health.

New Castle Lawyer Takes Post With PSC

James R. Stanley, New Castle attorney, today assumed duties as legal assistant to Crawford F. Parker of the Public Service Commission.

He succeeds Robert Young Franklin, who resigned to become Johnson County prosecutor.

Mr. Stanley, an IU graduate, is a member of the New Castle law firm of Scotten & Hinshaw.

Fortunately, milk prices have stayed far below most prices—actually, every dollar spent for milk is worth \$1.36.

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