

AstheCrowFlies

How Mario Burned His Radios and
How He Smiled at the Fireside

By ERNEST L. MEYER

AS AN accurate gauge of the state of the nation I give you Mario's lips. They are an inverse statistical graph. That is, when good trade winds blow the corners of Mario's mouth droop a bit, but in the season of economic typhoons his lips curl up in scarpicrinks, his eyes are luminous and all in all he wears a halo of happiness.

This is not because Mario takes perverse delight in watching the country go to pot. It is only that he languishes on a diet of pie and thrives emotionally on hard tack. Bad times bring out the buccaneer in him. He sallies out with his cutlass and somehow carves a living out of chaos. In such seasons his cheerfulness amid the universal doldrums is maddening and some of his friends hurl pots at him.

Golden Opportunities

A LITTLE over two years ago I came to New York and Mario, an old friend, learned that I was job-questioning in the city. It was not long before he sought me out, bubbling with such frightful enthusiasm that I knew instantly the nation was in for a cycle of calamity.

"Welcome to our city," he said warmly. "You come at a good time. There have never been such opportunities."

His words would have been reassuring had not his appearance belied them. His clothes were seedy, his cheeks hollow, yet his eyes were squirrel bright and serene.

"Opportunities?" I asked. "For example?"

"Well," said Mario, "I'll be delighted to pass on to you all the patents and good will to the celebrated Hindu Love Potion made from the secret formula of the Rajah of Rangoon, who, honored master, is none other than your humble servant, Mario."

"What the devil are you talking about?"

"A splendid opportunity," cried Mario. "I did well at it. I walnut-stained my face, wore a turban and went about the highways and byways of Harlem selling to love-mitten swains my Hindu Love Potion, guaranteed to arouse romantic quavers in any person to whom it was secretly administered. Cost me nine cents a gallon to make. Sold it for a dollar a four-ounce bottle."

"Do you think I'd make a good Hindu?" I asked doubtfully.

"Now that I look at you," said Mario, surveying me critically, "I'm afraid not. Your eyes are too Nordic. Moreover, they are of that benign blue suited only to barefoot boys and card sharpers. On second thought, I think you'd do better with the Bible game."

The Fight for Survival

"ONCE played it," explained Mario. "Simple. You read the day's obituary notices in the morning paper. You note down the names and addresses of the deceased and, wearing a somber black suit, you present yourself at those homes."

"You inquire politely for Mr. Julius Haybottom. A relative informs you sorrowfully that Mr. Julius Haybottom died only the day before. You look depressed and sigh: 'How dreadfully unfortunate. Only last week Mr. Haybottom ordered from me this new edition of the Bible.'"

"Well, my friend, it is a callous relative, indeed, who would ignore the last pious wish of the departed, so you see—"

"Mario," I said sharply, "I think that is horrible and I wish—"

"As you will," said Mario cheerily. "Only remember that all's fair in the fight for survival. I've got a lot of other schemes which I'll be glad to outline if you come down to my room just around the corner."

We walked to his quarters. In our talk en route I gathered that, despite Mario's shady traffickings, he was now a citizen of probity and had lately opened a shop dealing in second-hand radios. I also gathered that the dullness of this recent enterprise was relieved by the fact that it was a financial fiasco, so that Mario's love for buccaneering on the seas of a depression was not in the least dampened by an unromantic bank balance.

A Fantastic Fire

WE ARRIVED at his room. It was a dingy cubicle, with a fireplace as the sole aristocratic feature. We chatted and it grew colder and Mario suggested a fire.

When kindling had started the blaze he went to a closet and carried from it a great armful of wood. What wood! Slabs of mahogany, beautifully carved; strips of embossed fumed oak and panels of burnished maple.

"Mario," I exclaimed as he heaved the glossy sticks into the fire, "what in thunder are you burning?"

"Radios," said Mario simply. "If I can't sell 'em in my shop by heavens I can burn 'em in my fireplace!"

I looked at him in astonishment, fearing frenzy. Yet his eyes had never been more cherubic. And his lips, those telltale graphs of the state of the nation, were uplited in a sharp curve, generally indicating high statistical optimism.

Then I knew, with a shudder of premonition, that we would be in for a long and cold and hard winter.

Bob Burns

HOLLYWOOD, March 22.—There was a bass concert singer out here that had made quite a reputation for himself with his voice. One day a big studio sent for him and they told him that they wanted a big chorus for a picture and asked him if he could organize it. He says, "I can give you the biggest and best chorus that's ever been known in history." The studio executive says, "Well, I'll take a chance with you—now what do you need in the line of singers?"

The singer says, "Well, I want about 4,000 tenors, 500 altos and 5,000 sopranos." The executive says, "That sounds pretty good, but how many thousands basses will you need?"

The singer says, "Oh, you won't have to bother about gettin' any of them—I'm gonna sing bass myself!"

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Silent Rides

LONDON.—You can ride to radio music in Glasgow if you hire a taxi there, or in Cardiff or Bournemouth, but not in London. The chiefs of Scotland Yard who control taxicab regulations say that radio taxis are quite out of the question.

By an act passed in 1869 no vehicle may be licensed as a cab unless it complies with the conditions of fitness laid down by the Commissioner of Police.

If must, for instance, be able to turn around completely in a street twenty-five feet wide. The seats "must be well set up. There must be no excessive rake or slope toward the back." No lounging!

Another condition is that London taxis must be safe.

From March 1 next every new vehicle must have safety glass windows as well as a safety glass windscreen. Door locks must be such that doors cannot fly open accidentally.

New York Post

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MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1937

SECOND SECTION

A STAIRWAY, NOT A BALCONY



ETHEL DU PONT AND FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT JR. Turned by some, America's "Romeo and Juliet," the President's son and his fiancée, member of the powerful du Pont clan of Delaware, are pictured as they attended the Harvard Hasty Pudding Club's annual costume party at Cambridge. They were twitted for not appearing in the costumes traditionally assigned the Shakespearean lovers.

Al Smith Will Tour Europe, Breaking Life-Long Rule

Reported Planning to Sail May 24—Visit to Pope Is Considered Likely

Alfred E. Smith is scheduled to take a trip to Europe—the first in his career—within the next two months.

Under present plans he will sail with a group of friends aboard the Conte di Savoia, May 24. He is expected to visit Paris and Rome and possibly to obtain an audience with Pope Pius XI.

All he would say about the plan today was that he has it "under consideration." But it is believed to be virtually settled.

If he yields to the urging of friends and carries out his intention of taking the trip, he will be disregarding a lifetime dislike of the sea.

The last time he thought of going abroad was in 1928, after he was defeated for President. Then his friend, William F. Kennan, had completed all plans, but Mr. Smith balked.

"I'm a bum sailor," he said.

They went to Havana instead, ac-

companied by John J. Raskob and several other intimates.

He remained in Cuba only a short time. He was entertained at dinner by members of the American colony and spent a day as guest of Gerardo Machado, then president of Cuba.

This time, if he goes, Mr. Smith again will be accompanied by a few friends and will seek to avoid public functions as much as possible.

The prospect of an audience with the Pope, whose improvement in health may make it feasible, is said to have influenced Mr. Smith in favor of the trip. He long has been counted one of the country's most prominent Catholic laymen.

The date chosen is after the renting season of the Empire State Building, which Mr. Smith heads.

WELFARE ISLAND PATIENT SHOT

Vincent Lopez, thirty-four, of 339 East 101st Street (not the orchestra leader), was hit in the hand by a stray bullet last night as he sat on a bench in the grounds of Metropolitan Hospital, Welfare Island, where he was a patient.

72 TAKEN OFF FLAMING SHIP BY LIFEBOATS

Rescuers Fight Fire on
Peanut Steamer Off
Welsh Coast

EXPLOSION IGNITES CARGO AND BUNKERS

LONDON, March 22 (UP).—Lifeboats fought through blinding smoke today and rescued the seventy-two members of the British steamship Marie Moller, burning fiercely fore and aft off Holyhead on the Welsh coast.

Holyhead lifeboats took off about forty of the crew, mostly Chinese, in their first trip to the boat and removed the others later. The ship was then abandoned to the flames.

The ship's master wirelessed for a fire boat from Liverpool after two explosions started a fire aboard. The flames burst high from the decks and the ship fought its way to within two and a half miles of Holyhead, where it anchored in the moderate sea.

The ship was on its way to Liverpool, eighty miles beyond Holyhead, with a cargo of peanuts from Vizagapatam, India. It radioed at 4:45 A. M. that its fuel bunkers and its cargo were aflame after two explosions. A second message at 5 A. M. said that the United States oil tanker Beacon, lifeboats and fishing boats were standing by.

Concordat Violated

He charged the 1933 Concordat between the Vatican and the Berlin Government—in which the separate rights of church and state were set forth—has been destroyed and "rendered intrinsically valueless."

He placed direct blame for destruction of the agreement on the Nazi Government, asserting, "We have done everything to defend the sanctity of the solemnly pledged word."

At the same time, he expressed hope that the conflicting interests of Nazism and the Church may be restored to "true peace."

His declaration denounced the "open fight against confessional schools and the suppression of liberty of choice for those who have a right to Catholic education."

Charges Persecution

Although expressing his "paternal sorrow" over the Church and state conflict in Germany, the Pontiff militantly charged that Catholics were being persecuted "with pressure veiled and open and with intimidations which promise professional, economic, civil and other advantages."

Calling for a return to basic theology, the Pope declared any one daring to place a simple mortal beside or above Christ is "a senseless prophet of absurdities."

The issuance of the encyclical epistle became known here for the first time today when the Vatican secretariat of state issued a 1,500-word summary of the document, which had at first been described as an apostolic letter.

While the contents of the encyclical were being given out here, reports from Berlin said that Germany's secret police were watching persons they suspected of delivering excerpts to foreign correspondents. German Catholic clergymen, simultaneously, referred to the Vatican all requests for the text which they had read from their pulpits yesterday.

Religious Education

Official sources said the Holy Father's letter constituted an offer of collaboration to end strife over the intricate question of Church and state conflict.

The document recommended that all German Catholics return to the fundamental Catholic doctrine of a personal God for all peoples; it was said.

These official circles asserted the Pope's sorrow was expressed that the Church, despite the Vatican-German Concordat, was not free to exercise its functions, particularly in regard to schools and the press.

Nazis to Demand

New Understanding

BERLIN, March 22 (UP).—An official Nazi source strongly indicated today that Pope Pius's blunt criticism of Germany's relations with the Church would be seized upon by the Reich to force "fundamental negotiations" regarding the future of Catholicism in Germany.

The Pope's encyclical alleged Germany has violated terms of the 1933 concordat with the Holy See. The

POPE'S NOTE SEEN A BLOW AT HITLER

Direct Attack Made on Any Mortal
Presuming to Rival God

VATICAN CITY, March 22 (AP).—Pope Pius, in a reference interpreted at the Vatican as directed unmistakably at Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler, warned the Third Reich today that any one who attempts to replace God as the supreme religious being should be regarded as "a senseless prophet of absurdity."

In the second encyclical message in a week, which was read yesterday in the German Catholic churches, the Holy Father said bluntly:

"The point has now been reached where there is a question of the final and highest end, of salvation or of perdition."

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GIRL SLAYER HUNTED

MINNEAPOLIS, March 22 (UP).—Police today held one suspect and continued their check of more than 1,000 auto license numbers in an effort to find a clue to the slayer of Miss Laura Kruse, eighteen-year-old beauty parlor student, whose body was found on the South Side early Saturday.

Nazi Paper Pictures Christ
As Aryan Anti-Semitic Hero

Praises Emperor Nero as Foe of Jews in
Special Easter Number

Havas News Agency to New York Post

BERLIN, March 22.—Julius Streicher's anti-Semitic weekly, Der Stuermer, ushered in Easter Week today by calling Christ an "Aryan" and anti-Semitic, the famous fifteenth-century Pope Alexander VI "a Jew on the pontifical throne" and Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, a "baptized Jew."

The Stuermer's special Easter number displayed huge red headlines reading, "Judaism against Christianity" and "The Battle for Extermination Carried on by Bolshevism, Judaism Against the Christian Church."

Pictures of historical personages were liberally spread throughout the weekly. In support of its statement that "Christ was an anti-Semitic and the religion founded by him the greatest anti-Semitic movement of all time," the Stuermer reproduced one of Albrecht Duerer's famous portraits of the Savior.

Praises for Emperor Nero

"No feature of this face is Jewish," the magazine pointed out. "The artist has painted a hero of Nordic blood."

The Roman Emperor Nero, Der Stuermer said, "is famous as a great anti-Semitic. He ordered the Jewish world revolution crushed and Jerusalem destroyed. Thus he accomplished one of the greatest exploits in the history of the world."

"Nero's wife, Poppaea Sabina (murdered by Nero), was completely soiled by Jews although of noble descent," the paper continued.

Popes Innocent III and Gregory

IX had their portraits published with captions praising them as ardent Jew-haters, the article asserted.

Anti-Christ Rising Again

Linking the new anti-Semitic campaign with the holy season, Der Stuermer charged that the Jews were responsible for beginning the persecution of the early Christians and that the primitive church took the same steps against the Jews as are Nazi leaders today.

"Never was Christianity so threatened as it is today," the weekly declared.

"Anti-Christ is rising again. Everywhere he is attacking and everywhere Christianity retreats. This is the case in Russia and Spain. The cost of this hatred, all this disturbance comes from the same source—Judaism."

Labor Restrictions

Meanwhile, the official program restricting Jewish activities in civil life went forward with issuance of a decree banning all Jews from entering the German labor service. The order also stipulated that "Jewish halfbreeds" cannot be given higher rankings in the labor corps.

LYONS DEN

A Broadway Nocturne, Whersein a
Baby Isn't Named and Lads Go Dry

By LEONARD LYONS

"... Well, dear, I'm glad the lease is signed. ... And today I went out and got a sample of this color we want for the living-room walls. ... Here it is. ... #hat, dear? This is a coat with a fur collar? ... I know. But this fur is exactly the color we want to show the painters!"

12 P. M. "Homer Loomis and Seward Eaton," a socialite whippers at "21," who conducted that sit-down strike in a night club recently because they objected to their parents' ban on their drinking, have been on the wagon now for three weeks, voluntarily. ... "Edna Ferber wants us to name the baby 'Ferman,'" Margaret Sullivan relates, "in honor of George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber. We told her no, so she countered: 'Well, then call it 'Kauber.' ..."

Stuart Erwin and June Collyer enter and Erwin insists upon getting a hat check. "You better give me one," he tells the cloakroom boy, "because I look like so many people." ... The papers said Anne Pennington is doing a striptease act in Chicago. Lou Holtz reports at the Tavern. "As a matter of fact, she strips down to the amount of clothing she's always worn onstage." ... At the Artists & Writers the proprietor bars a publicist's wife—for biting his ankle!

I A. M. Gay, fast-paced and colorful is the unfoldment of the second edition of the Cotton Club Revue—best of the night club bargains in the Broadway belt. ... "At the first rehearsal," Duke Ellington states, "Kaloah, the dancer, tells me that she's amazed because my band played her music so well without any practice. So I told her—that the tune 'Black and Tan' was written by me." ... Ernest Lawford sits with his daughter, Betty, at Joe Du Prier's. "For 20 years I showed her the subtleties of fine acting, and what does she do?" he laments. "She accepts a role in 'The Women,' takes a bath onstage, and that makes her a sensation." ... "I've never met Gloria Swanson," Henry Fonda confesses at the Star Regis, "but I'd like to play in a picture with her some day." ... In a corner of the room, Gloria Swanson asks her escort, "That's Henry Fonda, isn't it? I'd like to be in a picture with him some day."

2 A. M. "This insurance agent hounds me," Will Oakland relates at the Fountain Room of the Murray Hill. "He's persistent, so I showed him the tables and said they must all be filled up before I can think of insurance. The next night all the tables were filled. The salesman had induced the John Hancock managers, who had a meeting in the hotel, to come." ... George Cukor, just back from Europe, displays a healthy physique at Le Mirage. "Garbo's diet took twenty pounds off me with a fruit and vegetable diet," he explains. "You see, I'm going to direct 'Gone With the Wind.' ... Do you know what I think of that guy Hitler? Abe Lyman shouts at the Versailles. "Sh," he's cautioned. "Do you want Secretary Hull to go and apologize again?" ... "Theatre operators," a producer tells Alan Cross, "are receiving offers in book Elaine Barrie and a new young man as a team. Not one, however, has offered an engagement."

3 A. M. "Alec Waugh, the British novelist, was just here," a Rainbow Room waiter whispers. "He listened to Alec Templeton, the blind pianist here, who plays any songs the customers want, and Mr. Waugh said it was amazing what things Americans can do. So we told Mr. Waugh—that Templeton is British." ... Margaret Perry and her husband, Burgess Meredith, converse with the Hartmanns at the Plaza's Persian Room. "We seldom go out," explains young Mrs. Meredith. "He's such a matinee idol that I must keep him up in the country as much as possible." ... "Get away for an evening," Proprietor Jay Faggen is urged at the Harlem Uproot House—noisier of the town's cafes. "Get away from this noise and relax." Ten minutes later Jay is discovered in a raucous 6th Ave. shooting gallery—banging away. ... "Nan Blackstone was in a bad smashup," a physician confides at the Y&M. "But she's glad it happened—because she had some plastic surgery done, and now she's really pretty."

4 A. M. At the Paradise, whose young ladies are Broadway's prettiest, George White is in a dour mood. "Willie Howard agreed to go to London and play in the 'Scandals' there," he sighs. "So I go to England and make a deal. I'm to get \$50,000 for a half-interest in my show and a guarantee against loss. They don't know Howard, so I tell 'em he's the best, the greatest, etc., and convince 'em. Then Willie says he won't travel and crimps the deal. I called London, offering to put in another comic. But, no—they want only this unknown guy about whom I raved!" ... "Yes, it's true," Belle Baker reveals at the Hollywood. "I follow Benny Fields into this place." ... "Well, it happened," Leon Belasco admits at the 18 Club. "The Boxing Commission has allowed us to put on bouts at the New Yorker." ... "Yax should've been at the Lambs Gambol," Philip Truex informs. "Ray Perkins spotted Bill Gaxton's checked coat, and said that when Gaxton walks into a room he can make everybody else feel conspicuous by their clothes!"

5 A. M. "I just heard from Benny Davis, who is playing in Boston," Leo Lindy states at Lindy's. "Cab Calloway is playing the R. K. O. theatre there, featuring the songs 'Alabama Barbecue' and 'Copper Colored Gal.' His opposition there is Benny Davis—who wrote those songs!" ... "Maurice Evans is developing a permanent repertory troupe," a theatrical agent informs. "His next portrayal will be Henry IV." ... Young John Dewey and Norman Todd, whose father owns the Charlton, parade along 52nd St., adjusting their clothes. In the night clubs there, the lads had been amusing themselves with a new strip checker game.

6 A. M. "No, I won't wipe the tears away," a girl sobs. "Well, read this, from Zif's. It says 'I resent Leonard Lyons because he has a clever wife.' ... So there. ... That's a compliment! ... Gosh, you know darn well that's a reflection on my beauty. ... What, dear? ... Am I—really?"

Cal Tinney

MANY people have wanted me to say what I think of the sit-down strikes. I shall answer by telling two stories.

No. 1: During the Boxer Rebellion in China the British forces found themselves blocked by a well-fortified Chinese position. But the Britishers' scouts soon brought back word that there were no defenses at the back of the Boxer position. So the British moved around to come up at the Boxers' rear. At which point the outraged Chinese sent a courier under protection of a white flag to inform the attackers they were coming up the wrong way!

No. 2: Many business concerns months ago foresaw that labor troubles were coming, and so set about immediately to make sure they should not be caught unprepared. In their plants they put stocks of food, guns, nightsticks, tear bombs, they surrounded the plants with riot-proof fences. Then the strikers stayed inside the fortifications.

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