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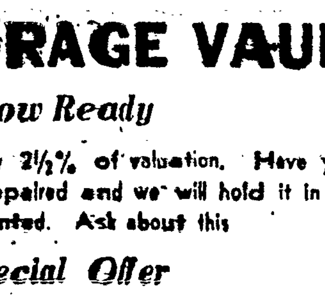

Do You Know This Man?

Orison Sweet Marden said:

"We all know people who are all their lives announcing that they are going to do a certain thing, but they never get at it. They are always waiting for the most favorable opportunity."

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I Covered Madrid

(Reds Invoke Conscription—Those Who Retreat Shot—Fall of Cities Kept from Public.)

By H. E. Knoblaugh

Largo Caballero realized the need for drastic action. As president of the General Workers' Union (U.G.T.), he called in the sub-leaders of this Revolutionary Socialist Group and explained the desperateness of the situation.

The result was a conference among the U.G.T., the heads of the syndicalist National Confederation of Labor (C.N.T.), the Federation of Iberian Anarchists (F.A.I.), the Marxists (P.O.U.M.), the Anarcho-Syndicalists, the Communists and the Left Republicans. They agreed the only solution was mobilization of all able-bodied men in loyalist territory.

A decree to this effect was issued and, whether they wanted to join or not, all men between the ages of 20 and 45 were pressed into military service. The proclamations read:

"There can be no neutrals in this war. Either you are for us or against us."

The staff of foreign training officers was increased and the first semblance of an attempt to build a disciplined army got under way.

Death If They Retreat

Militiamen could not believe their eyes when they were handed circulars which said:

"He who retreats is showing disloyalty to the government. There is only one way to treat those disloyal. They shall be exterminated with the same dispatch as the enemy facing us, or the traitors in our midst."

But when Generalissimo Asensio, going to the Tagus front one afternoon, ordered the execution on the spot of 30 militia he found returning to Madrid without authorization, they found it was true. Asensio was relieved from active service the next day and relegated to a sub-secretaryship in the ministry of war, but in many a subsequent battle a rout was halted by stationing machine gunners behind the front line trenches and moving down the first ones to retreat.

Confiscate Radios

Everything possible to maintain the morale of the loyalists was resorted to. The enemy was still advancing more slowly than before but still advancing. But those back home never knew this. The fall of Irun and San Sebastian were never announced, although some learned of it through the radio. The radios were promptly requisitioned and stacked under guard where they would reveal no more disheartening news.

Those few who were permitted to keep their radios were warned not to tune in on any rebel station under pain of being treated as a counter-revolutionary.

Moreover, only the larger and more expensive outfits could get the rebel stations anyway because the powerful government station, Radio Espana, maintained a continuous 24-hour-a-day service on the same wave length as the strongest rebel station, at Sevilla, to create interference with it and other outside stations.

When casualties became so numerous among Madrid's forces that there was almost a constant funeral procession out Alcala Street to the cemetery, the Government ended this depressing sight by banning public funerals altogether. The reason it ascribed was that they "held up traffic."

Silent on Toledo's Fall

When Toledo fell and the rebel defenders of the Alcazar were rescued after more than 70 days of siege, a siege that will go down in history because of the defenders' successful resistance against every element that could be used against them, the news would have been most demoralizing to the people in Loyalist Spain.

The suppression of news of this great defeat for the loyalists was accomplished with an efficiency that surprised us. Two weeks after Toledo's fall militiamen fighting ten kilometers north of the city as Franco moved toward Madrid called me a liar when I, thinking they knew of it, made some reference to the city's loss.

A double line of trenches was dug around Madrid, the first twelve miles and the second some sixteen miles around the capital, one circle within another. The workmen digging them had not the faintest idea Franco had moved up to within an hour's drive of Madrid. In fact, they did not know Franco was even alive. His "death" and elaborate accounts of his "funeral" at Melilla had long before been given prominent display in the loyalist press, and had never been denied.

The front was referred to as the "Talavera sector" when Franco's advance had left Talavera fifty miles in his rear. The "Tagus Front" was a familiar newspaper term when it was miles behind. To this day, in Valencia and Barcelona, newsreels taken at the beginning of the war, showing militiamen in San Sebastian, Talavera and Toledo, are shown with no effort to enlighten the audiences as to the age of the films.

"Safe conduct" passes cheerfully were issued at the ministry of war to points deep within insurgent territory, and if the trip was started the bearer of the "safe conduct" was stopped well behind the loyalist lines and turned back on some excuse calculated not to arouse his suspicions.

The newspapers daily carried accounts of fresh loyalist "victories," and when, finally, the boom of Franco's cannon reached the capital indignation at the wholesale deceit was stronger than the alarm which coursed through the city.

Women demonstrated against the government, shouting:

"We have been deceived. The enemy is at our gates."

These demonstrations, like others of a similar nature, were needless to say quickly halted by the Government which then announced:

"We had to deceive you. The exigencies of war demanded it. But we know you will be understanding and that you will fight the good fight. NO PASARAN. They shall not pass. Madrid will be the tomb of fascism. Let every house be a fortress, let every street be an impenetrable network of barricades. It is now or never. If you prove yourself cowards your men will be killed, your wives and daughters ravished. The Government is here to guide you and keep you from this fate. It will never desert you in your hour of need. Always remember that."

Flight of Government

Less than a week later the government fled to Valencia. It went at night and its departure was unannounced. Franco's forces were just outside the city and Madrid's fall looked inevitable. The nation's gold supply, which had been stored deep in the vaults of the Bank of Spain, had been sent on ahead.

The cabinet, traveling under special escort, nevertheless did not get past Tarancon on the main highway. Anarchist militiamen halted the cars.

"You cannot leave Madrid," the militiamen told the Government members. "It is for you we are fighting this war. You must stay and take your chances with the people."

The militia remained obdurate despite the oratorical abilities of the government members. They finally turned their cars and headed back toward Madrid. But some miles south they turned east and, making a long detour toward Tarancon, struck the Valencia highway again.

Two days later, in the face of ugly rumors and the expectance of of momentary entry into Madrid by Franco's forces, the newspapers were permitted to say:

"Yes, it is true the Government has left. International complications which would arise should the Government remain and be captured prompted it to go to Valencia where it can best look after the nation's interests. Even though Madrid should fall the war is not lost. The Government in Valencia will be able to carry on until we have wiped out the last of the canaille."

On the afternoon of November 9 the city gave itself up for lost. Franco's forces had pushed up from the south and in from the west, and now were facing the two main entrances to the Capital across the Toledo and Segovia bridges.

Censors that afternoon wore an abstracted, resigned look. They okayed our copy without looking at it, saying:

"What difference does it make? It soon will be over. And what will happen to us?"

Attributed to Caution

But Franco did not enter that afternoon, nor in subsequent afternoons. Why he didn't we couldn't imagine, but we on the Loyalist side afterwards attributed it to his extreme caution. He had but few men, which of course we did not know at the time, and he apparently was unwilling to run the risk of a defeat in the streets of Madrid after having come so far.

We knew he could have entered that afternoon with only a handful of men. Why, with the espionage system he apparently had inside the Capital, he didn't know it, too we never could figure out. But the significant fact was he did not try

(Continued on Page 8)

Catholic Courier

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Business communications of whatsoever nature should be addressed to the Catholic Courier and Journal, Inc., to the attention of the Manager.

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Forms close noon of Tuesday preceding publication date.

Crowds Hail AuburnBoys As Minstrels

Three Capacity Audiences Applaud Columbian Squires Offerings

By M. R. WELCH
Catholic Centre Service

AUBURN—Columbian Squires of St. Alphonsus Church demonstrated their ability as minstrel men on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings when they presented to large audiences a colorful melodious and laugh provoking performance that was a tribute to the talents of the cast and the director.

This is the third minstrel show that the Squires have presented in Auburn. Each time audiences have witnessed a thoroughly enjoyable fast moving and well directed show.

This year's show was opened by a stirring overture rendered by an eight piece orchestra under the direction of Joseph B. Tallmadge, who also directed the show.

The olio acts were new, lively and entertaining. Karlin the Magician with his bag of tricks and Joan Ireland with his "Dying Duck" dance were especially appreciated by the audience.

Interlocutor, Joe Bishop, Jr. introduced endmen Bill Coleman, Johnny Kemp, Jack Driscoll, Ned Hallon, H. Rhodes and Bob Pock.

The soloists were Jack Walsh, George Raeder, Frank Mulroy, Anthony Ragusa, Paul DiFabian and Joe Bishop.

The chorus included: Nicholas Averas, Henry Barret, Charles Beer, James Beer, Milo Bills, Stephen Burns, Charles Brister, Howard Blumrich, Robert Byrne, Joseph Carbone, John Clifford, Thomas Clifford, Francis Coleman, Harold Conner, John Conner, Harold Coughlin, Donald Dunbar, Paul Fagan, William Eisenschmidt, Robert Fennessy, John Gill, Robert Hill, John Hayden, Kenneth Heintz, Robert Hoerger, Robert Howe, Thompson Howland, William Hutchings, John Ireland, Martin Kelly, William Keirst, William Kinsella, Thomas Kunkel, William Laird, John LaVarnway, Paul Linnebach, Alfred McGrath, Paul McLane, William Mullally, Raymond Newman, James O'Neil, Francis Payne, Ernest Piccaro, Joseph Piccaro, Leo Pickney, Jack Poole, James Ramsay, Francis Redmond, William Rice, Louis Rumpf, Thomas Ryan, Joseph Somwebber, Raynold Shaw, William Shaw, Fred Simmons.

Anthony Socci, James Sweeney, Theodore Reardon, Francis Tenity, Arthur Titus, William Toltani, Robert Vatter, John Wallace, Paul Waters, Thomas Williams, Edward Caydess, Frank Cagliostro, Robert Kenny, Robert Schneider, David Steigerwald.

Junior League Plans Social

AUBURN—The Holy Family Junior League will hold its banquet, the final activity of this season, at the Auburn Country Club on Monday evening, June 14. According to present reports, it is expected that all members will attend this social gathering, and all those interested in joining this organization are cordially invited to attend.

The chairman, Mrs. James Condron, and her committee have planned an enjoyable program, which will include a guest speaker. Tickets may be procured from members of the committee at the rectory and The Catholic Centre. For reservations call Mrs. Edward Heverin.

✠ Requiescant In Pace ✠

COTTER, Dolly, wife of James Cotter, died May 31. Funeral at Our Lady of Victory Church, June 2.

DEL VECCHIO, Maddalena, 148 Verona St., wife of George Del Vecchio, died June 4. Funeral at Lady Chapel, St. Patrick's Cathedral, June 7.

DOHERTY, Frank J., 61 Electric Ave., husband of Beatrice Hourigan Doherty, died June 4. Funeral at Sacred Heart Church, June 7.

FRANK, John, 269 Jefferson Terrace, died June 1. Funeral at Holy Family Church, June 3.

GOUSE, Pauline C., died in Brooklyn, June 5. Funeral at Sacred Heart Church, June 8.

GRELL, Evelyn E., 338 University Ave., died June 5. Funeral at St. Mary's Church, June 8.

INTERLICCHIA, Salvatore, Rohr St., husband of Concetta Interlicchia, died May 30. Funeral at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, June 2.

JACOBS, Catherine M., 178 Fillmore St., aged 47 years, died June 2. Funeral at St. Augustine's Church, June 5.

KELLEHER, Michael P., 209 Sawyer St., died June 5. Funeral at St. Monica's Church, June 8.

LILLICH, Joseph D., 74 Albemarle St., died June 1. Funeral at Sacred Heart Church, June 4.

McGRATH, Mary, 135 Whitesford Road, died June 2. Funeral at St. Ann's Church, June 5.

McMAHON, Francis J., 398 Magee Ave., died June 3. Funeral at Sacred Heart Church, June 7.

MARTIN, Elizabeth, 9 Madison Park South, died June 5. Funeral at Ss. Peter and Paul's Church, June 8.

RAGONESI, Frank, 10 Albow Place, husband of Angela Zappala, died June 2. Funeral at Mt. Carmel Church, June 5.

ROSSITER, Thomas, aged 79 years, Williamson, husband of Mary Farrell Rossiter, died June 1. Funeral at St. Mary's of the Lake Church, June 4.

SCHULER, Edgar D., aged 24 years, Geneseo, died May 31. Funeral at St. Boniface Church, June 3.

SMITH, Mary Moran, 83 Richard St., wife of Edward P. Smith, died June 2. Funeral at Blessed Sacrament Church, June 5.

SULLIVAN, Nelle Anastasia, Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army Nurse Corps, died June 2. Funeral at St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester, June 5.

STEINERT, Bruno, 881 St. Paul St., husband of Vera Steinert, died June 1. Funeral at Mt. Carmel Church, June 5.

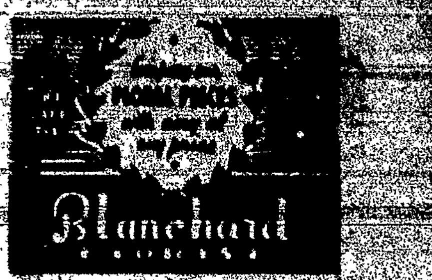
STEINWACHS, Mary, 350 Remington St., aged 52 years, wife of Joseph G. Steinwachs, died June 1. Funeral at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, June 5.

STENNER, Magdalena H., widow of the late Charles Stenner, died May 31. Funeral at St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, June 3.

VAN VOLSEM, Mary Helena, wife of Ernest Van Volsem, died June 3 at McMillan, Mich. Funeral at Holy Rosary Church, June 7.

WELCH, Margaret, 178 Burlington Ave., died June 5. Funeral at St. Paul's Church, Honeoye Falls, June 8.

WIESNER, Joseph L. Henrietta, aged 51 years, husband of Catherine Kosel Wiesner, died May 30. Funeral at Church of the Good Shepherd, June 2.



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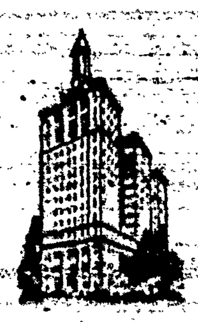

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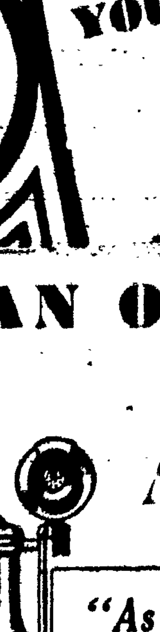

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