

Author's Trial Postponed On Defamation Charge

Rome [RNS] — A court case against Robert Katz, American author who has been charged with "defaming" Pope Pius XII, has been postponed until Feb. 12.

In November, Countess Eleonora Rossignani, a daughter of Pius XII's sister, accused Mr. Katz of "defaming" the Pope in a film "Massacre in Rome," for which Mr. Katz wrote a script based on his book, Death in Rome.

Both deal with the account of a partisan attack on the Germans during World War II when 33 German soldiers were killed in a raid in Rome's Via Raella. In retaliation, the Germans rounded up citizens and killed them in the Ardeatine caves on Rome's outskirts.

The Pope's niece has alleged that the film, "contrary to all truth," portrays Pius XII as not having done all he could to stop the massacre.

Said author Katz: "I believe that Pius, like many other Popes in the history of the Church, pursued a certain religious and political policy in which an attitude of protest and condemnation would have been not only futile but harmful."

Some documents issued by the Vatican would seem to support

Arizona to Retrace Journey

Tucson, Ariz. [RNS] — As part of the nation's 200th birthday celebration in 1976, one of the epic journeys of colonization—a 1,000-mile march by Capt. Don Juan Bautista de Anza and his band from Sonora Mexico to San Francisco in 1775 — will be reenacted.

The bones of the famed explorer, a Roman Catholic, were discovered some time ago in San Francisco.

Little known in American history books, De Anza, who had discovered a land route from Tucson to Monterey and San Francisco, led 240 soldiers and many settlers over deserts and mountains to their destination.

In the expedition were 155 women and children, 302 cattle, 340 horses and 165 pack animals. Despite the grueling journey, de Anza arrived with the same number of persons who started out.

The journey began in Horcasitas, then the capital of Sonora, north to the tiny Spanish settlement of Tubac and then up the Santa Cruz Valley past Tucson, Ariz., whose adobe presidio would be built the following year by Lt. Col. Don Hugo O'Connor, an Irishman who joined the Spanish army.

From Tucson, the band traversed the waterless desert of lava and sand between Casa Grande and the Colorado River. The group went into California at Yuma, Ariz., and then across the desert of the Imperial Valley and over the San Gabriel Mountains where the group encountered a raging snowstorm.

De Anza left the band at Monterey when it arrived on March 10, 1776. Spanish authorities ordered him to return to Mexico to report on the mission. Later, he became governor of New Mexico.

SETON 12

The 12th Seton Group will hold its February luncheon meeting Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the home of Mrs. Eaton Hammond of Dake Avenue.

Mr. Katz's views on the policy of papal silence regarding Nazi massacres.

In spite of this, his book has been branded "a lie" by the Vatican and the film "a calumny" by L'Osservatore Romano.

"At the time Death in Rome was published ten years ago," said Mr. Katz, "the Vatican said it would respond to the book through publication of documents dealing with the period. Thousands of Vatican documents have in fact been published, but not a single one has refuted my book."

According to the Italian press all attempts by researchers and historians to obtain access to secret Vatican archives relative to this period have failed. The Vatican has never published a single document that demonstrates unequivocally that Pope Pius "knew nothing" about the incident.

ASCA, an Italian Catholic news agency, has just published an interview with Eugene Dollmann, a confidante of Himmler, who when asked if Pope Pius could have stopped the Germans' retaliatory massacre, replied:

"If he had been informed in time, perhaps yes. Hitler feared Vatican reaction. I think that Herbert Kappler, (who directed German troops in Rome), speeded up the German reprisal to avoid papal intervention. It is absurd to suppose that Pius XII knew what was about to happen. Who would have told him, Kappler? The Pope was informed of the massacre only the evening after it had taken place."

Mr. Katz has described himself as "amazed" to be appearing before a penal tribunal for a "work of history."

According to the Italian press, this is the first time that an Italian tribunal has been asked to judge the activities of a Pope.

Scouts to Take Part In Interfaith Service

St. Andrew's parishioners will host an Interfaith Service at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, as a part of the Scout Week celebration. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, leaders and families from the Great Northern District of the northeast section of the city will participate. Everyone is invited.

Rabbi Aaron Solomon of Temple Beth David will join Rev. Robert Willett, chaplain, Troop 288 and Father Bernard Dollen of St. Andrew's in expressing the needs, rewards and ideals of scouting. The musical program for group participation will be provided by Sister Mary Fran and Sister Gaye Moorehead of the

new Andrew Center, 81 Barberry Ter. Scouts from various faiths will offer prayers, lessons and scriptural readings of their own choice.

Senior scouts assigned by Scoutmaster Herb Dietrich will make a personal contact with each leader of the more than 50 units expected to attend. Members of Pack 70 committee will be official greeters. Plenty of supervised parking is available for those leaders forming car pools. Coordinators for this year's service include Len Levy, Freeman Boyer, Fred Pomeroy, Dick Northrup and Andy Meritt.

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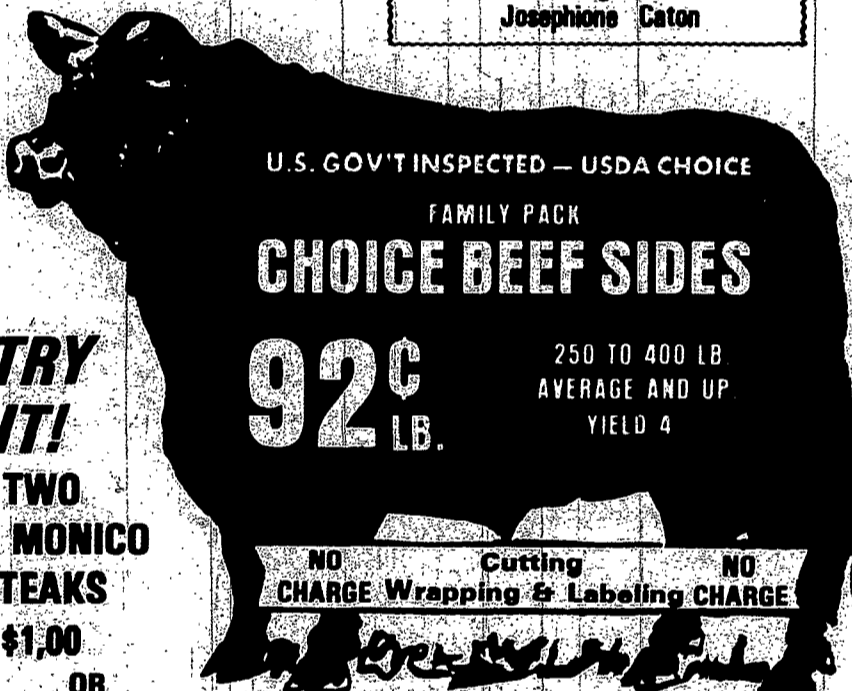
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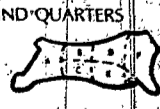
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