

U. P. Photographer Tells of Capture by Costa Rican Rebels

In Background

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Abney, veteran United Press photographer and picture bureau manager in Mexico City, was captured by rebel forces in the fighting in Costa Rica on Saturday. In the following dispatch, he tells of his narrow escape from death and of his meeting with Teodoro Picado, 27, the West Point-trained rebel commander. Abney's dispatch was filed from Managua, Nicaragua, where he arrived Wednesday night.

By JOHN ABNEY
United Press Staff Correspondent
MANAGUA, Nicaragua (UP)—You can taste fear when you are waiting for oncoming destruction. It is dry and it makes your throat swell no matter how often you swallow.

We felt that fear Saturday afternoon while waiting with a poorly trained government patrol for a rebel tank to come in sight along the Inter-American highway that bisects the Costa Rican jungles.

It began at 2 p.m. when a government patrol of 16 men armed with rifles and submachineguns set out from Santa Rosa with me and three other correspondents, George Skadding of Life, Phil Payne of Time and Paul Sance of NBC-TV.

Looked Deadly
We moved about three miles from the government's advance outpost, then set up an ambush near a big clearing where there were scattered trees and high grass. The patrol leader waved to us and we fell flat, waiting. We heard what we thought was a tank coming toward us.

I dropped behind a bushy clump 20 yards from the road and watched them coming. It was a half track loaded with green-uniformed soldiers wearing U.S. helmets. They had a deadly look about them.

It was then I felt the fear. As the truck moved even with us, three men of our badly trained and badly placed patrol began firing into the rebels who poured over the sides of the half track and scrambled to positions along the road. The fight was on.

From the direction of the rebel firing we knew they had dispersed with efficiency and were working on us from both sides. Heavy explosions from grenades shook the ground while the chatter of machine guns and rifles a few yards away deafened us.

Bullets Cut Grass
The rebel fire began cutting the top of the grass and knocking twigs from my bush and I snaked another 25 feet to the rear.

It kept up for a solid hour—the high-pitched chatter of the submachineguns, the sounds of mortars, the deep coughing of rifles and the slower hammering of .30 calibre machineguns. At the end of the hour shells were falling with jolts as the rebels methodically covered the whole area.

Suddenly it stopped. I looked at my watch and it was an hour since it began. It was now 3:45. I began to feel movements in the high grass, the quick running steps as the rebels came stopping now and then to listen.

I rolled on my back, held my cameras and waited. A submachinegun and helmet with tufts of camouflage grass on it appeared all at once and then a rebel. He was a businesslike kid who waited hawklily while I told him I was a correspondent.

Taken Captive
He marched me hands up to the road where they took my papers and cameras and put me with the rest of the correspondents lying face up in a ditch, our hands over our head.

While other rebels combed the area for more prisoners our guards kept machineguns on us. Across the road they collected their own casualties. They had two dead and four wounded. We pleaded for our cameras to get pictures but to no avail.

A 21-year-old lieutenant named Pacheco was leading the rebels. His men were grim and mad at the ambush and thought we were members of the Caribbean Legion in the forces of Costa Rican President Jose Figueres. They wanted to shoot us on the spot. But their young lieutenant told them to tie our hands behind us and they marched us down the road to their lines.

We waited until almost dark when I heard a voice say "Hello, John, I wondered if it was you. They told me some newsmen were captured."

The voice was that of a friend of mine from Mexico, an exile from Costa Rica named Manuel Caballero. He talked to the officers and a few minutes later our hands were ordered untied.

"You're lucky as hell to be alive," Manuel told us.
In the morning we met Capt. Teodoro Picado, the 27-year-old West Pointer commanding the rebels at his headquarters and Lt. Claudio Fonseca, the second in command.
"You boys are lucky," Picado said. "You were born again yesterday afternoon in Costa Rica."

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SEASIDE (U)—The bodies of four persons who died in the crash of a plane nearly four years ago were recovered Thursday in a heavily timbered area near here. The victims were Archie Hopper, 52, Warrenton; his son, Lyle, 32; Olive Howard, Warrenton, and Archie Hopper's niece, Mrs. Josephine Hayes, San Rafael, Calif.

A party headed by George Malberg, a sheriff's deputy, brought out the bodies. The party included Orville A. Hopper, Portland, a brother of Archie Hopper.
The bodies of two men were in the front and those of the two women in the rear compartment. Hopper took off Feb. 11, 1951 from Astoria on a flight for California.

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Sheree North, a shapely young actress who has plenty of Marilyn Monroe-type curves, stands beside the dressmaker's model for Marilyn's clothes as 20th Century-Fox studio officials explained why they were giving Miss North two starring roles intended for Miss Monroe. Marilyn has expressed dissatisfaction with her proposed roles in "Pink Tights" and "How to Be Very, Very Popular," the studio said, and later declined to show up for work. (AP Wirephoto)

Guards Seize Federal Con In Escape Try

McNEIL ISLAND PENITENTIARY, Wash. (U)—A knife-wielding inmate who said he planned to force the acting warden to help him escape was seized in the administration building of this federal penitentiary Thursday.

He was David Leroy Latham, 22, known as a troublesome prisoner. He has been serving time from Los Angeles for transporting a stolen automobile across state lines.

He was sent to McNeil in Aug. 1954, nearly a year after he had joined an unsuccessful mutiny at the federal reformatory in El Reno, Okla., Richard D. Auerbach, special agent in charge of the Seattle office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said.

Auerbach said Latham got out of his cell house Thursday by mingling with other prisoners in a work gang. He slipped away in the prison yard and proceeded to the administration building but was spotted by an officer who followed him.

Latham started to run, dashing into the office of L. T. Gollaher, the acting warden, with a knife in his hand. Gollaher was out and guards seized Latham before he could proceed farther.

Latham told officials he planned to use the knife which he had obtained from the prison kitchen, to force Gollaher's aid in an escape.

He originally was sentenced in Los Angeles to three years but had three years added for his part in the El Reno mutiny of Sept. 1953.

Federal officials said they were studying the possibility of adding another 5-year stretch by prosecuting him for violating the federal escape act in Thursday's attempt.

Ex-Presidents Still Called Mr. President

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UP)—Proper etiquette appears to call for addressing a former President of the United States properly as "Mr. President."

Amy Vanderbilt, a New York etiquette authority, asked former President Truman the proper means of address.

Mr. Truman told her Wednesday he "had been called everything," and he didn't care what term is used, but he personally addressed former President Herbert Hoover as "Mr. President."

And Mr. Hoover's former secretary, Bernice Miller, said she quite agreed, and that Mr. Hoover uses the same term when speaking, writing or otherwise addressing the other only living former President.

Mr. Truman said his present office staff also uses the term "Mr. President."

"I don't care what people call me. I've been called everything."

But the Democrat said, "I instructed the White House staff always to call Mr. Hoover 'Mr. President,' and I did myself at the 1946 Gridiron Dinner."



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MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Teodoro Picado Jr. (above), is leader of force of 1,000 revolutionaries in Costa Rica. He is son of a former Costa Rican president. (AP Wirephoto)

Small Loss in Grand Opera Said 'Success'

By TERESA REESE
United Press Staff Correspondent
CHICAGO (UP)—An attractive brunette who has scored tremendous financial success by operating only \$14,000 in the red leaves for New York and Europe in the grand manner Thursday.

Carol Fox, president of the Lyric Theater, has created a small sensation in the music world in bringing opera in the grand manner to Chicago, after an absence of years and only losing a few thousand in the process.

Grand opera in the past frequently has incurred annual deficits in excess of one million dollars here.

Miss Fox, in her late 20's, decided in 1951 that Chicago deserved better than a few touring opera companies each season. She thought the nation's second largest city should have bigtime opera.

A lifelong Chicagoan, Miss Fox studied singing in New York and Europe, but never sang professionally.

She approached Larence Kelly, a youthful real estate man and longtime friend of hers, about the idea. She and Kelly talked it over with Nicolo Resigno. Thirty of Miss Fox' friends were lined up to solicit funds and the Lyric Theater was born. Kelly became secretary-treasurer and Resigno conductor.

The Lyric Theater's first full season, 12 performances of eight operas, saw the dazzling success of soprano Maria Meneghini Callas' debut in her native America plus the appearance of numerous other world famous opera stars.

While the successful infant season was still in progress, Miss Fox and her collaborators were planning for a longer season next year—24 performances of 11 operas.

She and Kelly leave for New York Friday for a four-month tour of Europe to sign singers for next season.

So far they've announced only the signing of tenor Jussi Bjorling of Metropolitan Opera fame. But they indicate that most of this season's stars will be back. That would include Mme. Meneghini Callas, tenors Giuseppe di Stefano and Leopold Simoneau, and baritones Tito Gobbi and Nicola Rossi-Lemeni.

BREATH ADVICE
GENEVA, N.Y. (UP)—You don't have to be "oiled" to have a lubricated breath. Optical researchers (Shuron Co.) here say breathing on eyeglass lenses protects them during wiping. The moisture acts as a film to prevent scratches from dust and other materials.

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