

FBI Investigating Extraordinary Case Of Ferdinand Demara, Expert Imposter

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—The FBI is looking into the weird case of Ferdinand Demara, alias Dr. Benjamin Jones, imposter extraordinary. Key West police are holding the 35-year-old man for investigation.

The FBI of writing had checks. They are holding up service of the warrant until the FBI determines whether it wants Demara. Police investigator Al Albertus gave these details: A man checked into a swank Key West hotel about 18 days ago, registering as Dr. Benjamin Jones and identifying himself as a doctor of education from Lawrence, Mass. Police arrested the man yesterday on complaint of the hotel operator, who said he had cashed five \$10 checks and was holding another for \$26.

Fleet Medical Officer
Demara told officers that in 1952 a national magazine (Life) ran an article telling how he posed as a fleet medical officer in the Canadian Navy aboard the Destroyer Cayuga during the Korean conflict. During that time, Demara removed a wounded man's lung and extracted a bullet from near a soldier's heart, the article said. Demara said he had no medical training but "had read some books."

Until last month, he told officers, he had been an assistant warden at Huntsville, Tex., state penitentiary. He left the \$600 a month post, he said, after O. B. Ellis, Texas commissioner of corrections, spotted the magazine article, recognized "Jones" as Demara and questioned him about his past.

Past Catches Up
The heavyset Demara, sporting a crewcut, said he realized, his "past had caught up with me" and headed for Key West, where he said he served in the Navy in 1942.

Demara told police he intended to "commit suicide, among other things." He didn't specify what "other things" he had in mind.

Police said Demara had a loaded .38 caliber revolver registered in the name of Benjamin Jones and that his clothes were marked with the name Demara.

Officers said their prisoner received a telephone call this morning from Houston, Tex. They said they did not know who called Demara or what was discussed.

Jersey City Pays Final Respects to Hague



JERSEY CITY, N.J.—Policemen salute as casket containing body of Frank Hague is borne to hearse outside St. Aedan's Church here Thursday. Hague, former mayor of Jersey City, died New Year's Day at the age of 81. Democratic mayor of the city for eight successive years, he was regarded as last of nation's old-style political bosses. (AP Wirephoto)

Politician Given Homage, Jeer at Funeral Services

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Frank Hague, who was many things to many people in his long career as a political boss, received homage and a jeer in death Thursday as his body was taken to funeral services.

Several hundred persons—some in mink coats, some in work clothes—lined the streets as the

former mayor's body was taken from the Lawrence G. Quinn Funeral home.

One woman waved an American flag and held up a sign mocking Hague and calling him a greedy man.

Police chief Michael Cusack, on duty with an honor guard of policemen and firemen rushed across the street, grabbed the sign, and ripped it to pieces as the crowd cheered. The woman melted into the crowd.

The body was brought from the funeral home shortly before 11 a.m., preceded by Mrs. Hague and her daughter, Margaret, and son, Frank Hague Jr.

Piano Sales Reported Up

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Census Bureau indicates that despite TV, radio and the increasing use of record players—all bringing music into the home—more people than ever are buying pianos.

During 1954, the Census Bureau said, manufacturers sold just over 65 million dollars worth of pianos. This was an increase of 18 per cent over sales in 1947.

The report said, manufacturers in this country made 154,698 pianos, compared with 147,393 in 1947. Nearly all, in both years were uprights, and fewer grand pianos were made than in 1947.

Contaminated Lettuce Seized

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Thursday announced seizure in New York of two carloads of lettuce which the agency said were contaminated with the insecticide endrin.

FDA said use of endrin is not permitted on lettuce.

The agency said U. S. marshals seized one carload of the lettuce Tuesday and the other late Wednesday.

The lettuce was shipped from El Centro, Calif., FDA said.

Comic Artist Leaves Estate To Daughter

NEW YORK (AP)—Ham Fisher, creator of the comic strip "Joe Palooka," left the bulk of an estimated 2½-million-dollar estate to his 17-year-old daughter, Wendy. Fisher's will, filed for probate Wednesday, left the legal minimum to his second wife, Marilyn, whom he married in April, 1954. No child has been born to them. A section of the testament contained this paragraph: "This will and the provisions thereof shall not be either wholly or partially revoked or rendered wholly or partially ineffective or otherwise affected by the subsequent birth of a child or children said to be mine."

The widow was left \$2,500 in cash and the income from one third of his estate for the rest of her life—the minimum under New York state law.

Wendy, Fisher's daughter by his first marriage, receives the income from the remaining two-thirds of the estate. The other third reverts to her upon the death of the second Mrs. Fisher.

Wendy is attending high school and living with Mrs. Catherine Jones, a school teacher in the late cartoonist's home town of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

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British Jet Hits Homes, Four Killed

ILCHESTER, England (AP)—A British jet fighter-bomber crashed into a cluster of residential trailers Thursday and four persons were reported killed, including a woman and her baby.

The airplane, a sea venom used by the fleet air arm, plowed through two of the 12 trailers on the site, spewing wreckage. The pilot and observer, the only two in the plane, perished.

Trailer residents found the bodies of a young woman and a baby about 3 months old in the wreckage of one trailer. Another woman and a 6-months-old baby were taken to Yeovil hospital suffering shock and bruises. Ilchester is five miles from Yeovil, a glove manufacturing and market town in Somerset about 125 miles west of London.

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COURSE PLANNED
NEW YORK (AP)—A special 20-week course to prepare Brailleists needed to transcribe books for blind children will be held here.

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