

Reform-instituting Betancourt of Venezuela gets 'welcome'

By James R. Whelan
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CARACAS, Venezuela (UPI)—Romulo Betancourt is a symbol of changing times.

Once, nearly 10 years ago, Betancourt was snuffed at by the U.S. State Department as a "radical leftist."

Now 55 and approaching the end of his term as president of Venezuela, he has won the acclaim of the United States.

When he was received at the White House last Feb. 19 President Kennedy told him "You represent all that we admire in a political leader."

Years ago Betancourt flirted with Marxism, but when he went to Washington Kennedy called him the "number one enemy of international communism in this hemisphere."

The United States, impressed with the reforms he has achieved in always - explosive Venezuela, now is reported considering him as the man needed to help bolster the sagging Alliance For Progress program once his term expires next March.

Nothing Of Future

Betancourt has said nothing about post-presidential ambitions (under the constitution he would not even be eligible to run for another 10 years) beyond expressing the wish to take an extended vacation and do some writing. But he long has been an open and fervent admirer of the alliance and had launched Venezuela on major social and economic reforms envisioned by the alliance before President Kennedy announced the program.

Betancourt's time in government so far has been a succession of crises. The real triumph is that he—and elective democracy—ever got this far.

No elected president of Venezuela ever has lasted so long.

In four and a half years; he has had to

—Put down four major military rebellions.

—Ride out the disintegration of a three-party coalition when the second largest partner in his government left the party in a squabble over Cuba policy.

—Endure two splits within his own party.

—Battle continuing subversion and violence, at first largely from the rightist remnants of the Perez Jimenez clique, but lately from the Communists with vocal and active support of Fidel Castro.

—Survive at least two attempts on his life, one of which nearly succeeded and left his hands and face scarred for life.

Perhaps even more remarkable than the mere fact of survival is what Betancourt has been able to accomplish despite the pressures on him. He has steered the country through a severe economic recession into a clear recovery.

Ducknaping testimony 'not funny'

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—A municipal court judge presiding over the trial of two men accused of "ducknaping" made it clear Wednesday he saw nothing funny in the case and would tolerate no more laughter from tittering spectators.

Raymond Lopez, 71, and Steven Newrocky, 61, are on trial for petty theft because a policeman arrested them as they carried more than a dozen ducks from MacArthur Park near downtown. The defendants contend they wanted to care for the ducks, because of "improper feeding" in the park.

Tuesday, Sgt. James A. Branch testified he saw the two men loading the ducks into an auto.

"Where did the ducks come from, officer?" said attorney Julian Harmon, seeking to establish how the ducks got into the park.

"I assume from eggs," was the reply, which resulted in laughter from spectators. At that point, Judge Howard H. Schmidt warned he would remove spectators if there were further outbursts.

Klamath citizen suing policeman

KLAMATH FALLS (UPI)—A civil suit charging assault and battery was filed against city police patrolman Jack Redfield Wednesday by Marvin Andrews, Klamath Falls.

The suit asked \$900 general damages, \$2,500 exemplary damages and \$7 special damages.

Andrews charged that Redfield struck him four times after his arrest on a disorderly conduct charge June 7. He said he suffered severe lacerations and restriction of vision in his right eye as a result of the blows.

Andrews, a Negro, also complained that Redfield called him names and made a remark about his race. The alleged assault took place in the city police department, Andrews said.

Attorney must enter plea

PORTLAND (UPI)—Eugene attorney Charles L. O. Edwards has been given until Aug. 2 to prepare motions and enter a plea on charges of holding back money and evading taxes of persons who hired him to prepare their income tax returns.

He was indicted by a federal grand jury here last week.

Edwards appeared in U.S. District Court with his attorney here Wednesday and was released on his own recognizance.

He is charged with holding back more than \$10,000 due the government on returns he was hired to file, and with failing to file his own income tax returns from 1959 through 1961.

Temperatures

High and low temperatures and precipitation for the 24 hours ending at 4 a.m. PDT today.

	High	Low	Precip.
Bend	71	37	
Astoria	69	38	
Baker	70	32	.12
Brookings	72	49	
Klamath Falls	70	43	
Medford	78	47	
Newport	64	48	.03
North Bend	66	50	
Pendleton	82	55	
Portland	70	55	
Redmond	76	38	
Salem	73	47	
The Dalles	78	60	

Ex-Latvian gets Miss USA title

MIAMI BEACH (UPI)—Marita Ozers, a foreign - born blonde model who doesn't like to wear skimpy bikinis, was crowned the new Miss U.S.A. Wednesday night at the Miss Universe pageant.

The 19-year-old daughter of a carpenter will join 44 foreign beauties tonight in the semifinals of the Miss Universe contest.

The current Miss Universe, dark - haired Norma Nolan of Buenos Aires, will crown her successor in the nationally televised finals Saturday night.

Miss Ozers, who represented Illinois in the Miss U.S.A. competition, was born in Riga, Latvia, and immigrated to the United States to escape Communist oppression 13 years ago.

The runners up were Michelle Bettina Metrinko, 21, Arlington, Va., the Miss District of Columbia; Sandra Lee Marlin, 19, Springfield, Mo.; Rhea Looney, 19, Denver, Colo., and Francine Cheryl Herack, 19, Encino, Calif.

Marita—"In Latvian you pronounce it Mah-reet"—said she entered, and lost, her first beauty contest when she was 16 years old. But a year later she was runner up in a "Miss Oak Street Beach contest."

"I guess I'm getting better now," she said.

Marita admitted being "slightly embarrassed" the first time she modeled a bikini, but said she now wears a green bikini to the beach "if there aren't too many people around."

Youth drowns, others survive

SEAVIEW, Wash. (UPI)—Joyce King, 15, of Longview, Wash., drowned and a brother and sister narrowly escaped death Wednesday in the surf just off a Seaview beach.

The drowned girl's sister, Mrs. Sandra King Malvaney, 17, and brother Jesse King, 10, were taken to Ocean Beach Hospital in Ilwaco.

The U.S. Coast Guard said the trio were on a rubber raft in the surf about a half mile from the beach. The Coast Guard said the raft apparently capsized, dumping the three into the surf.

Moon-eclipse-of-sun theory not at all new

WASHINGTON (UPI)—There's going to be an eclipse of the sun Saturday, and a lot of honest and decent people are going to blame it on the moon.

Inasmuch as these people (they're called astronomers) can foretell an eclipse to a fraction of a second, they may be right about what causes it.

But in times not too far past large bodies of opinion have supported other theories. Mankind has always been aware that now and then something gets to nibbling on the sun.

Occasionally, in broad daylight, the sun disappears altogether for a brief period as though, like Jonah, it had been swallowed, but not permanently.

The moon theory is not particularly modern. The early Arawak people of British Guiana used to say, whenever an eclipse occurred, that "the sun and moon are fighting."

But other peoples proposed other sun-eating agents—gigantic frogs, huge cod fish, great black squirrels, enchanted jaguars, werewolves, mammoth serpents, and, of course, dragons.

Still others saw in solar eclipses feuds of the gods, prophetic warnings, the evil workings of witchcraft, and portents of the world's end.

One scandalous notion was that the sun and moon were lovers, under the most illicit of circumstances, who seized the opportunity of an eclipse to do what they shouldn't have.

Modern science, of course, has

killed all these notions. As far back as 1820 a scholarly textbook was assuring U.S. school children that although eclipses could be foretold, they couldn't foretell

anything. Nobody, it was suggested, could dependably base forecasts of flood, famine, war, pestilence, and general doom on eclipses of

the sun. There have been a lot of eclipses since 1820, and a lot of floods, famines, wars—but don't let's get superstitious at this late date.

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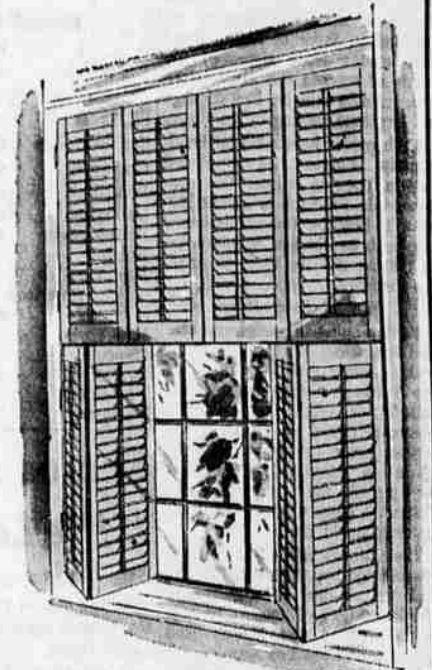
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