

Harvey Matusow's Birth Didn't Set Bronx To Cheering

Turncoat Red Seeks Career as Writer, Actor

New York—(U.P.)—What kind of a guy is this two-story Harvey Marshall Matusow whose conflicting testimony has brought Red demands for a reversal of several key government Communist convictions?

Unwittingly, perhaps he sums it up best in his forthcoming book, "False Witness," when he writes: "The Bronx didn't cheer on the week I was born."

That was Oct. 3, 1926. There has been little cheering since for this enigmatic character.

Now, he claims, he wants to undo the wrong he has done and then sever all political connections. He wants to be a writer, an artist, an actor—far removed from politics.

As a writer, he contends he is a good one and denies charges that his forthcoming book was "ghosted."

Toots Own Horn
His art work, to date, consists mostly of a painting in oils of a pet dog done when he was 12 years old, and a scrapbook of pictures, of Harvey Matusow, detailing, quite egotistically, his prowess as an actor.

There seems to be nothing in Matusow's boyhood that might have contributed to his career as liar and informer.

He was born of hard working immigrant parents who came here from Russia early in life. When he was born, they were comfortably established in an apartment in what then was considered one of the better sections of the Bronx. They continue to live there today.

Matusow went to public schools, and in the first nine grades established himself as a better-than average student.

Church records show he was a weekly visitor to the neighborhood synagogue. At one time, he worked simultaneously as a delivery boy for a grocer, butcher and druggist near his home.

Flunked Courses
Matusow described his family as one that was "closely knit," his father, mother, brother Daniel, four years his senior—and himself.

His scholastic achievements hit a stumbling block after he entered William Howard Taft High School in the Bronx in 1941. He failed English once, barely passed it a second time and had to drop a French course.

In 1942, with an eye to the future, he made inquiries about entrance to Massachusetts Institute of Technology and to City College of New York.

He received his high school diploma by finishing his senior year while in the Army.

Matusow enlisted in the Army in 1943 and was called to active duty in 1944. His most vivid recollection of Army life was finding the body of his brother, Danny, who had been shot down while on a bomber mission over Germany. He accompanied the body to this country for burial.

After his release from the Army in August, 1946, he said he considered taking up press photography. But he dropped the idea, "I didn't have the stick-to-it iveness."

Joined Communists
Matusow's first association with a leftist group came in 1946 when he joined the Ameri-



HARVEY MATUSOW
What Kind of a Guy Is He?

can Youth for Democracy shortly after his release from service. He claims he was attracted to the group because he missed the esprit de corps of the Army.

He joined the Communist party a year later.

In February, 1950, he says, "fear, need and greed" prompted him to contact the FBI and offer himself as an informant.

Late in 1951 he began his career as an informer, joining the staff of the Ohio Un-American Activities Commission.

His disclosures of Communist activities in Ohio, he says, were lies. He testified before the House Committee on un-American activities, the Senate Internal Security Committee, at the trial of the 13 Communist party leaders in New York, and before the subcommittee of investigations headed by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy.

Of his career as an informer, he says: "It was the easy way up, to let the world know that I was not just another guy."

He apparently hit the jackpot in 1953 when he married the wealthy former wife of Michigan's Republican representative, Alvin Bentley.

Then marital troubles struck. His wife divorced him, remarried him and then divorced him again.

Came a day in 1954, he says, when he was walking down Fifth Avenue in New York. An inscription on a synagogue caught his eye. It read: "Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God."

There follows his amazing reformation, he says—his decision to write a book recanting his anti-Communist testimony.

He expresses a love of American folklore and of the songs that grew out of it. He recently bought a guitar which he is learning to play. And, he adds, "I am a great cat fancier."

BLUE-EYED ROBBER
Gaffney, S.C.—(U.P.)—Charles Lanier, 28, finally admitted his part in a store holdup when the operator of the shop, Mrs. Wesley Love, said she was positive of the man's identity "because he has the prettiest blue eyes I've ever seen."

MARIJUANA BASEBALLS
Mexico City—(U.P.)—Officials today suspended all baseball games at the Federal Penitentiary when they discovered the inmates were more interested in the baseballs than the game. Authorities found several baseballs delivered to the convicts contained marijuana.

Investigators Believe Bentley Despite Claims Made by Matusow

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) said today Senate investigators still believe ex-Communist Elizabeth Bentley, even though confessed liar Harvey Matusow says she's a liar, too.

Eastland told newsmen his Senate Internal Security subcommittee probably would subpoena Miss Bentley, a key witness in Communist hunts since 1949, because Matusow charged that she gave false testimony.

The subcommittee put the Matusow hearing into temporary eclipse today. It scheduled only a closed session to question one of Matusow's publishers, Albert E. Kahn and Herb Tank, the man Eastland calls Matusow's bodyguard.

Matusow had a date in Federal court in New York today.

The subcommittee wants him back later, though it set no day.

Testimony Not False
Eastland said his own faith in Miss Bentley's testimony about a Red spy ring in government in the 1930s was unshaken by Matusow's story that she weepingly told him she was broke and "had to keep finding things to testify about."

Eastland said her testimony had been tested and never found false.

Eastland said he had no plans to invite Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) to answer Matusow's charges about him.

Matusow said that McCarthy sicked him on two Democratic Senate candidates in the 1952 campaign and sent him out to tell lies about them based on information furnished by Don Surine, a McCarthy aide.

"He was out there doing the same thing," said Matusow. "He knew what I was doing and he knew I was misrepresenting the facts."

McCarthy denied to newsmen that he asked Matusow to campaign in Washington state and Montana.

Won't Answer 'Liar'
"I wouldn't answer a man who confesses he is a liar," McCarthy said. "I've got to admit, though, that he appeared to have broken with the Communist party at the time I knew him."

Both Matusow's Democratic targets in 1952 were elected. They are Sens. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) and Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.).

Subcommittee Counsel J. G. Sourwine gave a hint of one more topic he plans to question Matusow about later. He said he wants to know about conversations the 28-year-old turnabout witness may have eavesdropped on while operating a switchboard at Communist party headquarters in New York.

200 Attend Annual Blue-Gold Banquet For Phoenix Scouts

Phoenix—Two hundred parents, relatives and boys attended the annual Blue and Gold banquet of Pack 15, Troop 15, and Explorer Post 15, Phoenix, Cub and Boy Scouts of America, February 17, at the Phoenix Community club.

Master of ceremonies for the event was C. A. Stothers, new institutional representative from the Presbyterian church for Pack 15, who is also scoutmaster of Troop 8 in Medford, and has been active in scouting in this area for many years. Invocation by Arthur Grigg preceded the potluck dinner, during which the guests and boys sat at tables by dens and troops.

Flag Ceremony
After dinner a flag ceremony was conducted by scouts and Den 4 cubs. Following his welcoming talk, Stothers asked Cubmaster Lawson Scott to introduce his committee, which consisted of Stothers, institutional representative, Curtis Barnes, chairman; David Lowry, Rollin Dexter, and Roy Maudlin. The new secretary-treasurer, Mrs. B. L. Freeman, and retiring secretary-treasurer, Mrs. James Gardner, were also introduced as well as Mrs. M. C. Yarnell, Mrs. Curtis Barnes, Mrs. Arthur Grigg, Mrs. Vernon Jackson, Mrs. Warren Kelsoe, Mrs. C. J. Marrs, Mrs. Collier Buffington and Mrs. Kathleen Hennessey, den mothers.

Scoutmaster Earl Floyd introduced the scout committee; E. Bailey, institutional representative from the Lions club; Ray Harrison, chairman; Arthur MacKintosh, John Klassen, Warren Haggard and O. E. Frazier. First Aid Demonstration

Boy scouts gave a demonstration on first aid, and a skit "How to Pack a Pack" by Dale Haggard; which was followed by the Cub Scout advancement ceremonies.

Wolf badges were given to Jimmy Marrs, Stewart Marrs and Richard Sokal, arrows: gold and two silver, Larry Richey; silver, Jimmy Higginbotham; silver, Arthur Grigg, Bear and gold arrow, John Glogowski; bear and gold arrow, Ralph Younger; gold arrow, Ronnie Davis. Ronnie Davis also received a lion badge, next rank.

Denner stripes went to Dick Dahl, Collier Buffington, David Dudley and Danny Hanscom. Assistant denner stripes went to Fletcher Fish, Roland Arney, and Larry Murphy. A one-year service star was awarded to service star to Jeffrey Knope. A den mother pin went to Mrs. C. J. Marrs, den mother certificates for one year's service to Mrs. M. C. Yarnell and Mrs. Curtis Barnes, and a one-year certificate to secretary-treasurer, Mrs. James Gardner. A graduation ceremony from the Cub Scouts into Troop 15, Boy Scouts, was conducted by Mr. Stothers for Jeffrey Knope.

Honor Den Pennant
Following roll call, the honor den pennant was awarded to Mrs. Barnes of Den 2, for the largest attendance of cubs and parents.

In the Boy Scout court of honor, with Ray Harrison presiding, second class rank went to Raymond Thompson, and first class to Donald MacKintosh. Merit badges were as follows: Marvin Frazier, scholarship, and public speaking; Jimmy Floyd, firemanship and public speaking; Dale Haggard, forestry, personal health, masonry and nature.

Lighting of candles for both scouting and cubbing with the reading of the history of the scout movement by James Scott, was followed by a closing candlelight ceremony by Stothers, and the singing of taps.

WEATHER By United Press
Northern California: Mostly fair; little change in temperature.

Liner Breaks Record On Run To Honolulu

Honolulu—(U.P.)—The Orient Lines new luxury liner Orsonova shattered a 34-year-old speed record for commercial ships yesterday when she crossed the Pacific from San Francisco in 3 days, 17 hours.

The steamer H. F. Alexander set the previous San Francisco-Honolulu record in 1921, arriving after three days, 19 hours, 57 minutes.

The 29,000 ton British liner, on her maiden Pacific cruise, averaged 23.88 knots.

Capt. Norman A. Whinfield, skipper of the ultra-modern ship, said he was not trying to break records. He said he could have made even better time but the higher speed was uneconomical.

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