



'Miss M,' Mother Hen Type Over Office Help, Faces Term in Jail

Editor's note: This is the first of three dispatches about a friendly spinster who is believed to have embezzled more money than any woman in history.

By H. D. QUIGG
United Press Correspondent
Norfolk, Va. — (U.P.) — "Miss M," the graying little lady who bossed the savings department of the Commonwealth Building and Loan Association, was a mother hen type.

For a quarter of a century she clucked and worried over the novice girl assistants she hired. Heavy makeup, smoking and drinking she frowned upon. A girl bookkeeper should be circumspect and moral.

The boss's name was Miss Minnie Clark Mangum. The office help referred to her as "Miss M." She was devoted to her work. Like a mother hen, she personally scratched and pecked among the depositors' cards and the books after hours many nights, often being there at 9 p.m. when the cleaning woman left.

Admits Taking Money
During 22 years, two months and 10 days ending last Dec. 16, the state of Virginia charged,

Miss Minnie pecked up \$2,957,060 that was not hers to peck.

Monday Miss M admitted in court taking \$1,100,333.26. In a voice scarcely audible even to the clerk, she pleaded guilty to 10 counts of an indictment, occasionally brushing away a tear. The state has not yet disclosed whether it will prosecute on three indictments accounting for the remainder.

Already Miss Minnie faces a possible maximum sentence of 130 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for June 25.

No woman in history—before Miss Minnie—ever had been accused of stealing so much. Her largesse dropped in large bundles to a small number of relatives and friends, none of whom seem to have questioned whence it came.

Miss Minnie's salary was only \$9000 a year plus a bonus that brought it to about \$10,000. She had bought only two cars in the last 16 years and her manner of life was frugal. The disposal of about \$1,000,000 is still unsolved.

Relatives Sued
The government is suing the relatives and friends trying to recover more than another \$1,000,000 which it had protected in federal insurance.

Yet she herself never dressed expensively or indulged herself. She has no vices, lived quietly supporting her aged mother—who died last year—and her blind sister.

An aging spinster—her stated age is 52 but relatives say it actually is about 60—Miss M has the look of a Helen Hokinson cartoon type, the plump club woman. In court she wore a little blue hat that seemed just to

peek over the top of a full and faintly befuddled face.

In her office there were at least 100 customers who refused to be waited on by anyone but Miss M. Of all persons she seemed the least likely to come to this.

Businessman Faces Term for Keeping Man in Chains

Detroit — (U.P.) — A Lansing, businessman faced a possible five-year sentence and \$5,000 fine today for enslaving a mental incompetent and holding him in irons.

Malcolm N. Button, 55, who has a furniture business at Lansing and a large farm near Grayling, Mich., was indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury.

The jury charged Button with holding Chauncey A. Cook, 53, a ward of the court, in "involuntary servitude by threats, force, beatings and physical restraint." No date was set for Button's arraignment.

Kept in Chains
Assistant United States Attorney Donald F. Welday said Button kept Cook in chains and leg irons from August, 1953, to June, 1955, because Cook repeatedly ran away from his guardian's farm.

Button was named Cook's legal guardian in 1951 by the Ingham County Probate Court which paid \$21 a month for the man's board and keep. Welday said Cook would

Truman Denies Calling Salerno Planner 'Squirrel-Headed General'

By EDWARD S. CORNISH
United Press Correspondent

Naples, Italy — (U.P.) — Former President Truman denied today that he himself had called the planner of the bloody Salerno landing in World War II a "squirrel-headed general."

American reporters traveling with Mr. Truman heard him make the remark during a visit to the famed battleground Tuesday.

The denial came from Eugene Bailey, secretary for the former President, in an attempt to calm the furor touched off by Mr. Truman's casual remark to reporters. Bailey said:

"Mr. Truman denies that this was his direct statement. He said he may have been repeating what one of the reporters said to him merely as a joke."

Visits Ruined City
The former President, oblivious on the surface to the worldwide controversy, strolled through the ruins of Pompeii

this morning while American tourists sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

He was so busy sightseeing along the stone streets left by history's most famous volcanic eruption that reporters had no chance to question him personally on the Salerno controversy.

Tuesday, as Mr. Truman sat at a sidewalk cafe in Salerno, site of the bloody landing on Sept. 9, 1943, he gazed at the mountains where the Germans shelled invading Allied troops.

A newsman asked Mr. Truman if this was an easy place to land.

"It was one of the two or three most difficult places to land," Mr. Truman replied.

In a running question and answer session with American newsmen touring with him, the former President also said that the Anzio beachhead to the north was another of the difficult landing places.

Controversial Beachheads
Bailey indicated that Mr. Truman considered the matter closed with this morning's denial.

This reporter, who is traveling through Italy, noted that Mr. Truman's remark was issued in an offhand manner in response to questions.

Actually, the Salerno and Anzio landings in Italy were among the most controversial of World War II. Both were part of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's pet project of

knocking Italy out of the war.

Gen. Eisenhower, then in command of Allied forces in North Africa, said later that the Salerno landing spot was picked after every other suitable beach from Rome to the toe of the Italian Boot had been studied.

Nine Men Drown in Lake Michigan Storm

Milwaukee, Wis. — (U.P.) — Nine men were drowned in Lake Michigan squalls off this city Tuesday night and early today, seven of them in the sinking of a barge at work on a construction project.

Another of the workers on the barge was missing, coast guardsmen said.

Three of the victims in the barge mishap were found and

identified early today. The Coast Guard later said it had recovered four other bodies, making a total of seven known dead.

Two fishermen drowned Tuesday night.

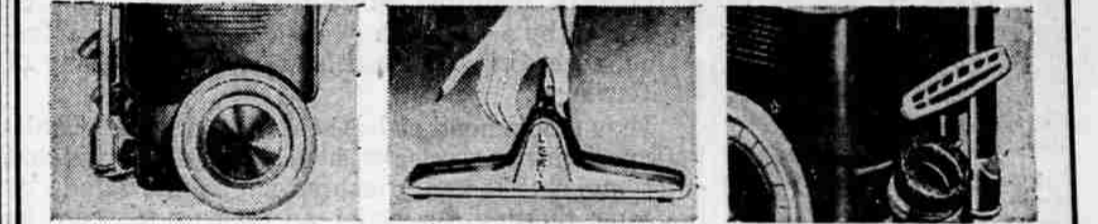
A sudden thunderstorm and squall whipped over the barge, throwing its load of workmen into the water as it sank.

Ten survivors were hospitalized with shock and exposure.

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