

Hollywood Producer Hero in Real Life Spy Story More Fantastic Than Fiction

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU
United Press Correspondent

New York — A top producer of frothy Hollywood musicals has turned up as the hero in a real life spy story more fantastic than movie fiction.

Boris Morros, a Russian-born musical prodigy, appears to have operated for at least 13 years as a U.S. agent within a Soviet spy ring. And, on at least one occasion, he walked a double-dealing tightrope to the heart of the conspiracy, a Moscow spy meeting. The espionage network is crumbling today before his testimony to a federal Grand Jury here.

Morris' part in the spy network was shadowy when the first arrests were made here in January. U.S. Attorney Paul W. Williams said this week he is "a loyal American citizen who has been working for the government."

A Brave American

By the dryly-worded testimony of two espionage indictments he is also an incredibly brave American.

For a time he spied between acts of his song and dance movies. For almost 10 years he appears to have covered furtive meetings with Russian spies and American traitors in the champagne party atmosphere of a "big deal" man vagabonding across Europe and America.

Old-time associates figure the 62-year-old Morros, also had a built-in spy cover, the personality of a gay braggart whose life history has always seemed a jumble of fact and tale-spinning fancy. And he could tell it in nine languages.

His disclosures on the operation of the spy ring, spawned

in Moscow in 1940 by Russian hangman Lavrenti P. Beria and operating "to this date," are still before the special federal Grand Jury.

Results to Date

Here are the results to date: —Three persons, Jack and Myra Sobel and Jacob Albam, have pleaded guilty to espionage. They are believed to be testifying with Morros before the Grand Jury.

—A former U.S. Army officer and his wife, George and Jane Foster Zlatovsky, are claiming asylum in Paris from an indictment charging them

with spying against the U.S. from trusted U.S. intelligence jobs.

—Two other Americans, former New York broker Alfred K. Stern and his wife, Martha, daughter of a former U.S. ambassador, the late William E. Dodd, have been fined \$50,000 for contempt for refusing to return from Mexico to testify before the spy jury.

—At least 14 Russian nationals, in addition to the now-dead Beria, have been named publicly as spies. A number of them had held embassy or consular posts in the U.S.

Present Address Is Secret

Morris, who has risked his life for nearly a generation, can be addressed today "Care of the U.S. Attorney" Williams will say only that he is "in the United States."

He was born in Czarist Russia, Jan. 1, 1895. His father was conductor of the Imperial Sym-

phony Orchestra and Morros later succeeded him in that post. He had mastered the piano at the age of four, went on to the cello at six and later learned to play nearly every instrument of the orchestra. The great Russian cellist Gregor Piatagorsky is said to have acknowledged that Morros first taught him to play his instrument. Morros himself studied with Rimsky-Korsakov in St. Petersburg.

In 1922, Morros left Communist Russia for the U.S. and became a citizen. For a time he was music director of several New York theaters. He went to Hollywood when the talkies began and was for many years music director of Paramount Pictures. He started his own producing company in 1939 and through the war years alternated between musical gaiety and government training films. His last recorded production was "Carnegie Hall" in 1947.

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(International Soundphoto)



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El Centro, Calif.—County farm advisor Lonnie McGrew revealed today that he was hauled into court by a rancher for killing a bull with his car while driving through the center of a small town 50 miles north of Las Vegas, N.M. However, McGrew said the rancher was jailed by the judge on grounds he allowed his bull to graze in the middle of the main street.



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Sprague Defense Attacks Character Of Fellow Officer

Portland — The defense today called a stream of witnesses in its attempt to discredit testimony of the state's chief witness in a false swearing case against Portland Police Officer Robert W. Sprague.

Jack Olsen, Sprague's fellow officer, is the only accuser against Sprague, charged in a grand jury indictment with false swearing before the grand jury for denying he made payoffs to Olsen.

Character Attacked

The defense centered its case on the character of Olsen and called Officer Jack Childers to the stand in an attempt to prove its contention that Olsen had a questionable reputation while that of Sprague was clean.

Childers testified that he and Olsen had been fast friends but that he had seen the accusing officer drunk while in uniform and consorting with disreputable women.

Payoff Not Reported

Other police officers testified for Sprague's defense, claiming that if Olsen had accepted payoffs from Sprague he could have reported it to his superiors but that this was never done. Olsen had testified earlier that he received payoffs from Sprague had marked the money and held it as evidence. He said he did not report it to his superiors because he was afraid for his life, although he admitted no threats had been made against him.

Police Capt. David H. Johnson and Sgt. Kenneth L. Moore testified for the defense Wednesday after the state had rested its case.

Never Reimbursed

Elkins, the man whose revelations about his underworld activities spawned Portland's vice uproar, testified that he had his own employees build Crosby's party room and was never reimbursed. The jury visit to the party room was at defense request.

Defense Attorney K. C. Tanner subjected Elkins to sharp cross examination on his claims that Crosby approached him with a deal to make a lot of money on purchase of exposition center property.

A grand jury indictment accuses Crosby, a former member of the Exposition-Recreation Center Commission, of conspiring with Elkins and others to take options on property at a site Crosby believed the city would later have to buy for the center.

Three-Way Split

According to Elkins' testimony Wednesday profits from the planned transaction would have been split three ways between him, Crosby and Thomas Johnson, a businessman with connections in the predominantly Negro district. The E-R Commission subsequently chose another site for the center and the alleged conspiracy died. Later, however, the site in which the state said Crosby was interested was selected.

Rossellini Angry With Reporters

New Delhi — Italian movie director Roberto Rossellini angrily refused today to say whether he was still seeing the Indian scriptwriter with whom his name has been linked romantically.

Rossellini arrived in New Delhi Wednesday from Bombay to confer with Italian Embassy officials. He met newsmen later but declined to answer questions concerning his relationship with Mrs. Sonali Das Gupta, or the reason for his trip here.

Today Rossellini locked himself in his room at the Imperial hotel and requested the management not to allow anyone up to see him.

Contacted by telephone, Rossellini was obviously angered. "I am fed up with your country," he told Indian newsmen. "I would like to leave soon. Why do you pester me? I feel like murdering newsmen."

Asked whether he still saw Mrs. Das Gupta, he said: "It concerns me and no one else" before banging down the receiver.

Kitchen Damaged by Fire in City Wednesday

Kitchen of a cabin owned by James B. Shaw at 1746 North Riverside, ave. was extensively damaged by fire about 12:40 p.m. yesterday, firemen said.

They reported that a pot of beans boiled dry on the kitchen range, setting fire to the wall. The blaze extended to the ceiling attic and roof.

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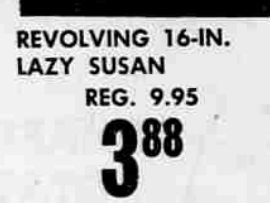
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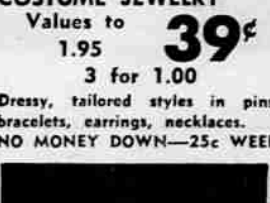
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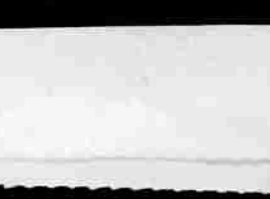
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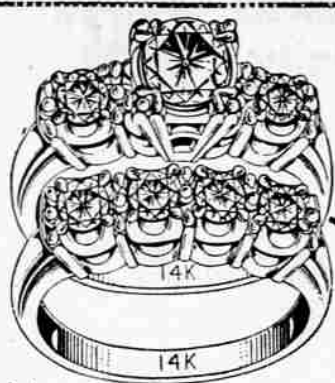


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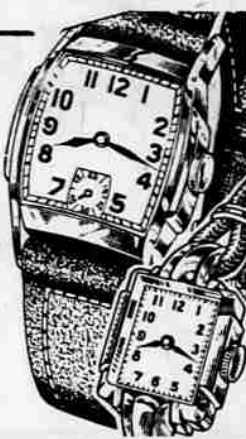
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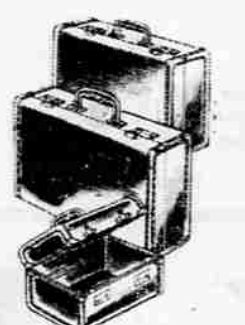


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