

Ten Years Ago Russian Teacher Jumped From Soviet Consulate

Editor's note: Ten years ago this month a middle-aged Russian school teacher leaped from a third-story window of the Soviet consulate in New York City. She said she had been held prisoner and jumped rather than be returned to Russia. Today, a decade later, she lives in seclusion, still fearful of revenge. This week she granted United Press International an exclusive interview on condition the news agency keep her present whereabouts secret.

United Press International
Oksana Stepanova Kassenkina sat in her tiny one-room

apartment and recalled the day a decade ago "when God helped me to warn America." "I think God did send me to this country in time," she said.

"I had to tell Americans to watch out for Russians without souls."

She had been sent to the United States to teach children of Soviet officials, including a son of present Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Abruptly she was summoned home and the school ordered closed. She knew what that type of order meant; her husband had disappeared at the hands of Soviet Secret Police in 1936.

Mrs. Kassenkina sought refuge with anti-Soviet Russians but was allegedly "kidnaped" by the Communists and held in the New York consulate.

At mid-afternoon on Aug. 12, 1948, as diplomatic and legal battles on her behalf appeared lost, she jumped from a third-floor window of the consulate.

Police rushed the Ukrainian ("I am not a Russian") school teacher to a hospital.

Seeks Happiness

In the 10 years since, she said, she has been "looking for happiness."

She has wandered from place to place, changing her room sometimes to avoid reporters, other times because, in the words of a friend, "she sees Russians under every bed."

Short, smiling, she looks like a typical grandmother. As for money, "I have enough," and as for clothes, "I get some when I need them—no more."

Mrs. Kassenkina wore a tiny black crocheted cap, a

blue sweater and a lavender and brown dress. "And don't forget my southern shoes. They call me Yankee down there but I belong in the sun of the South."

What has she found in her new homeland?

Last fall she became an American citizen. Last winter she joined the Catholic church. She has learned to paint. "Oh, you should see the colors I use." And, she says, "God helps me to read."

Has Been Sick

Besides all this, she has fought and won against what she calls "sickness and suffering." The injuries she suffered in her leap, the stroke she suffered four years ago. It helps, she says, to have "two, three, maybe five" pillows at night.

But it's a lonely life. A dentist today. A doctor tomorrow. A friend, a passerby for conversation.

"My business now," she said, "is with God. I feel best in church. When I visited the South, I spent every day in church—one, two, three times a day. The service was beautiful and the people so nice."

Gray-haired, she holds her cane and tips a pill from a bottle. "I don't feel able to do all I'd like," she said. "I can't be excited."

She was one of seven sisters, but after she leaped into the headlines, "they all disappeared. . . . What has happened I do not know."

What to Tell Khrushchev

On politics she is as outspoken today as the day she leaped for her life.

"I could tell Mr. Eisenhower what to tell Khrushchev," she said. "I'd tell him 'You've got a materialistic body, Khrushchev, but your body is empty. Try to get some of that spirit of God.'"

She doubts that Russia will make war—at least in the immediate future.

As to the nation she joined last fall when she was naturalized, she has this advice: "We forget our American heritage. We need to remind ourselves to be independent."

And, she said, when Americans talk of "getting along with the Communists," they should ask themselves this question: "How can you live with the devil?"

Union Tries to Get Workers on Job

Portland—(UPI)—An international representative of the Steelworkers union reported that the union was attempting to get some 425 workers who pulled a wildcat strike Monday morning to go back to work.

"The strike apparently was a spontaneous move," Lee Caldwell, the union representative, said.

The workers struck the American Can company Monday morning following the disciplinary laying off of two shipping department employees.

Caldwell said the walkout had not been authorized by either local 2070 or the international body of the union. Company officials in Portland would not comment on the incident.

Airliner Searched For Possible Bomb

San Francisco—(UPI)—An American Airlines plane en route from here to Houston, Tex., made an unscheduled stop at Bakersfield, Calif., Monday night after the airline received a telephone warning that a bomb was aboard.

A search of the plane uncovered no bombs and the flight continued to Houston, the airline said.



PUSHBUTTON honor for Polish-born scientist, Dr. Henry Samulson, who was tabbed to touch off first U. S. rocket shot at moon.



PERSISTENT SALESMAN—Making a last-minute sales pitch, a Lebanese carpet vendor offers his goods to a group of U. S. Marines leaving Lebanon. It's apparent that the vendor hated to see the Marines go since they represented fine prospective customers.

Tropicana Starts Gambling Again

Las Vegas—(UPI)—The lavish Tropicana, flush again and back in the gambling business after a \$500,000 transfusion by Chicago stockholders, today faced a state Gaming Control Board investigation.

The board which controls gambling in the state ordered an investigation to this gambling city Monday to inspect the Tropicana after the hotel closed its casino briefly.

Wheels, cards and dice which shake, rattle and roll around the clock seven days a week were stilled for four hours when manager Mickey Colohan announced, "As they say at Monte Carlo, the bank is busted."

Colohan blamed customer luck in winning as much as \$20,000 to \$30,000 at a time for depletion of the Tropicana's bankroll.

By 11 a.m. (PDT) stockholders had voted to supply the hotel with another batch of money, fired Colohan and hired former manager J. Kell Houssels, a familiar Nevada gambling figure.

Houssels gave his "personal guarantee" that any losses by the hotel would be made good, turned on the lights and signaled for play to begin.

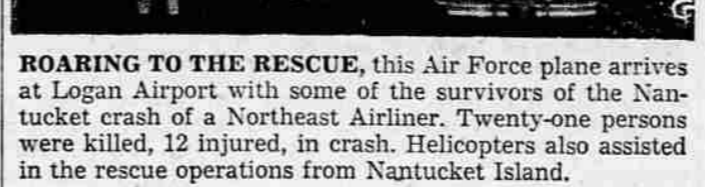
Colohan said he had warned hotel stockholders five days ago that the casino was operating too close to the edge.

Trujillo Saves Money in Canal

Balboa, Canal Zone—(UPI)—Dominican Republic playboy Gen. Rafael Trujillo Jr. saved nearly \$1,500 by listing his yacht Angelita as in ballast when it sailed through the Panama Canal Sunday, the Canal company said Monday.

It said Trujillo, son of the Dominican Republic strong man, paid tolls of only \$603.36.

When Trujillo docked in Los Angeles, he registered the Angelita as a naval vessel and thus avoided \$2825 daily dock fees. As a naval vessel had the Angelita would have had to pay about \$2,000 in Panama Canal tolls.



ROARING TO THE RESCUE, this Air Force plane arrives at Logan Airport with some of the survivors of the Nantucket crash of a Northeast Airliner. Twenty-one persons were killed, 12 injured, in crash. Helicopters also assisted in the rescue operations from Nantucket Island.

News About Books From the Library

It is one of the sad facts of life that things most enjoyed and most constantly used must sometimes be taken out of service for repair and renovation; clothes and cars and television sets library books and library buildings. The Jackson County library is no exception.

From Sept. 1 until Sept. 15 the Medford Public Library headquarters will be undergoing extensive repairs that necessitate closing the building for two weeks. To help supply reading to last over this period we shall issue each borrower a double allowance of books during the remainder of the month of August. Books will also be checked out for a longer period of time so that none will fall due while the library is closed.

While the headquarters library is closed, branch libraries in Jackson County, Central Point, Phoenix, Talent, Eagle Point, Gold Hill, Butte Falls, Table Rock, and Shady Cove will remain open to serve you. A library card issued by any of the Jackson County library agencies may be used in any branch or at the headquarters library. Books, however must be returned to the agency from which they were borrowed.

New titles made available to Jackson county readers during the past two weeks are as follows:

Animals: Prehistoric Animals, Augusta; The Animal World, Tylinek; Introducing Monkeys, Stanek; The Horse in Magic and Myth, Howey.

Sports and Entertainment: Camping and Outdoor Cooking, Oetting; Outdoor Horizons, Brings; Salt Water Fishing, Heilner; Parties for Children, Kohl.

Travel and Adventure: A Picture History of Russia, Martin; Wilderness Men, O'Hagan; America Visited, Coombs; Herb Caen's New Guide to San Francisco and the Bay Area, Caen.

Philosophy and Religion: Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, Aurelius Antoninus; Sayings of Buddha, Hanna; Portrait of Pius XII, Padellaro; The Story of Jesus, Komroff; New Approaches to Dream Interpretation, Fodor; Late Medieval Mysticism, Petry; Selected Essays, Emerson; The Lost Books of the Bible.

Literature: The Best Known Works of Oscar Wilde, Wilde; The Golden Ass, Apuleius; Chinese Proverbs from Olden Times.

Homemaking: The Hostess' Manual, Kohl; The Food-Finder, Gaunt; Feast Day Cookbook, Burton; Book of Modern Kitchens, American Builder Magazine.

Science and Technology: What's Going on in Space?, Holmes; Young People's Book of Science, Blough; Birds' Nests of the West, Headstrom; Popular Mathematics, Miller; Motor Service's New Automotive Encyclopedia, Toboldt; Land Birds of America, Murphy.

Other non-fiction: How to Hold An Audience, Garrett; Taming the Forty-Niners Margo; Who's Who in the West, 2,000 Designs, Forms and Ornaments, Estrin; 101 Ornamental Alphabets, Cohn.

Adventure Stories: Valley of Adventure, Gregory; Out West, Schaefer; Company of Adventurer's, Tharp.

Other Fiction: Mrs. Lorimer's Family, Clavering; Kalena, Booth; Beasts and Men, Gascar; Mary of Scotland, Kenyon.

Move to Raise Tax Base Meets Failure

Portland—(UPI)—A move to raise the tax base of the Portland school district to support salary increases for teachers failed to get support of the school board here Monday night.

The motion came from a new member of the board, Nicholas Granet, who had campaigned for the position on a platform of higher teacher salaries.

Granet had asked for a 35 per cent increase in the tax base to raise some \$6,500,000 for pay hikes. There was no support for his motion. Three teacher organizations had asked for the proposal to be put on the November election ballot for voter approval.



DEFYING court order giving daughter to former mother-in-law, Mrs. Patricia Karam goes to Chicago jail on six months sentence.

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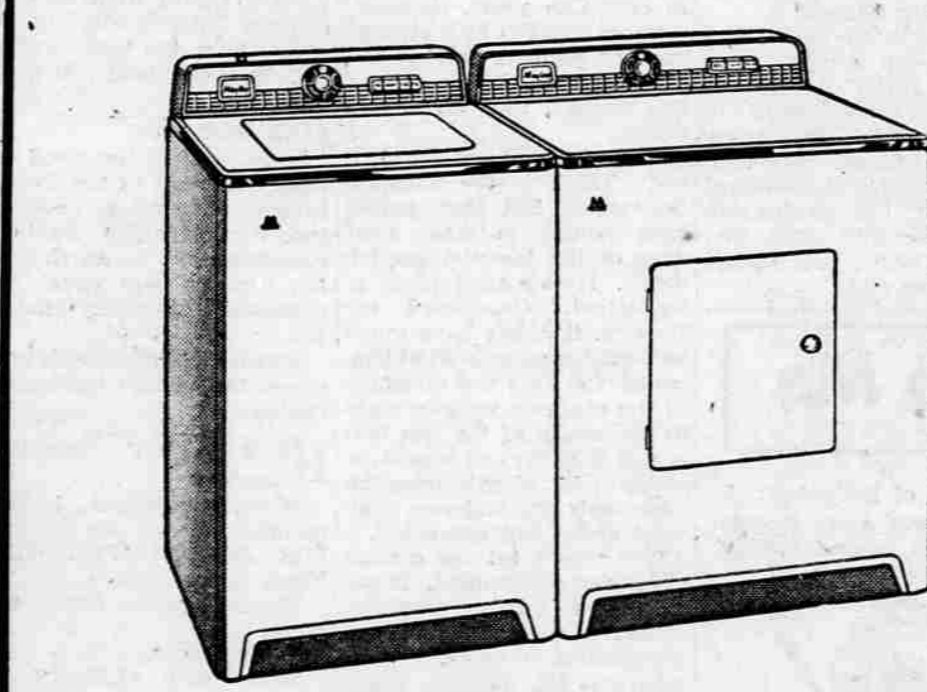


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PEERING FROM BEHIND his brief case, Teamster President James R. Hoffa searches for data to present to the Senate Rackets Committee. Not taking the Fifth?



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