

Bill Fish Installed As Club President

Bill Fish was installed president of the Jackson Toastmasters at the weekly meeting of the group Monday.

Others installed for a six month term were Dan Kidd, administrative vice president; Ed Kupillas, educational vice president; Dory Scutter, sergeant at arms; and Dale Farley, secretary-treasurer.

Meetings are held each Monday at the Jackson hotel at 6:30 a.m.

U.S. Seeking To End Florida Role As Base for Latin Revolutionaries

Editor's note: This is the second of three dispatches on Latin intrigue in Miami. For three years gun-smuggling has been big business in south Florida and a big embarrassment to Uncle Sam. Here is the record.

By HAROLD Y. JONES
Miami — (UPI) — The United States government is making determined effort to end the role of Miami and south Florida as a base for Caribbean revolutionaries.

But the gun running and spying now hotly criticized by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro

are the same methods he used so effectively to unseat former President Fulgencio Batista.

In recent months the U.S. has taken these measures:

—Added 100 agents to the Immigration Service's Border Patrol staff in Florida and set them to watching the more than 200 airports in the Florida peninsula.

—Moved border patrol headquarters for Florida from Tampa to Miami.

—Authorized the FBI to aid in policing gun-running, a field previously left to U.S. customs.

—Established a black list of pilots warned not to make unauthorized flights to Cuba. The list has been circulated among Florida airplane rental services.

—Established a flight information center at the U.S. immigration service office in Miami to coordinate information on possible illegal flights and offered a \$5,000 reward to persons supplying information on such flights.

Starts New Chapter
When Castro attacked a Batista stronghold in Oriente Province on July 26, 1953, he launched south Florida on a new and hectic chapter of its

long history as a haven for Latin intrigue.

Castro needed guns, supplies, money and men. All were available in the United States.

His agents, and those of other revolutionary movements fighting Batista, swarmed through the United States buying guns, ammunition, airplanes and field equipment.

Activity reached a peak in 1958. Batista fell on New Year's Eve.

Most of the intrigue concerned Cuba. But there also were plots directed against Nicaragua, Panama, and Dominican Republic and even far-off Argentina.

"There is no doubt that at this very minute conspiracies against a half dozen Latin American governments are being planned here in Miami," said customs Agent William B. Lankford in the summer of 1958.

In April, U.S. authorities arrested four New Yorkers with enough explosives and parts to make hundreds of hand-grenades. In October, federal agents said three men in Rochester, N.Y., sold 110 Thompson sub-machine guns to Cuban rebel agents.

A plane loaded with arms

was seized in Tarentum, Pa., and Lynwood, Calif., five Cubans were booked for possessing 16 sten guns.

So it went around the country. Some of this contraband went over the Texas border to Mexico and hence to Cuba. Most of it was funneled into south Florida.

Charles E. Wyatt, U.S. Customs superintendent now retired, estimated that \$1 million of arms destined for Cuban rebels had been seized in Florida from July 26, 1953, down to the summer of 1958.

Rebel agents bragged in December that arms costing between \$2 and \$3 million in the United States had reached the Cuban rebels only since September.

Joseph A. Fortier, supervising customs agent, guessed that U.S. authorities stopped only about 35 per cent of the flow.

Federal and Florida authorities thought they might get a respite when Castro took over Jan. 1, 1959.

It was brief. In July, 1959, agents caught three men loading \$4,500 worth of arms aboard a plane. They admitted they planned an air drop to anti-Castro forces in Cuba.

Starts Again

So the cycle started over again. The most publicized airplane flights have been made by anti-Castro Cubans, and American adventurers in their hire in recent months.

One such flight was by Pedro Diaz Lanza, the former head of Castro's air force who defected because he said Communists had taken over the 26th of July movement. He flew with an American from Florida to drop leaflets over Havana. Two persons were killed and others injured on Havana's streets as Cuban revolutionary soldiers fired at the airplane.

Castro turned this episode into an international incident which has plagued U.S.-Cuban relations. Castro and other top leaders keep up a drum-fire of complaint, that airplanes fly from Florida bases to bomb, drop propaganda leaflets and burn the sugar cane fields.

It is such flights that the recent get-tough policy of the U.S. government is designed to stop.

Timber Committee Plans Meeting

The next regular meeting of the timber committee of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association will be held Tuesday, April 12, at 7 a.m., at the Tower Restaurant in Medford, according to Dick Swan, chairman. Association members other than committee members are also invited to attend, Swan said.

Announcement of special subcommittees and reports on current committee activity will be on the agenda, Swan said. Activities of the public forest agencies for the coming months will also be reviewed, he reported. Members planning to attend should contact Dale Prentice, association secretary-manager, at 518 East Main st., Medford. The business session will follow the no-host breakfast, Swan stated.

Roseburg Youth Believed Drowned

Roseburg—UPI—Gary Tallon, 17, Roseburg, Tuesday was feared drowned in the South Umpqua river in the Garden Valley area west of here.

The youth was seen swimming in the river Monday and search started when he failed to return home. His clothing was found on the river bank.

Dragging operations resumed at dawn.

White House Meeting On Narcotics Urged

Washington—UPI—The House of Representatives approved a resolution Monday asking the President to call a White House conference on narcotics to attack drug addiction.

Administration spokesmen opposed the plan. They said the conference would duplicate work already accomplished in the narcotics field.



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