

Secret Service Agents Charged With Protection of President

By HARRY FERGUSON
United Press International
Washington—(UPI)—Since the turn of the century every president of the United States has been forced to live with the thought that there is almost a fifty-fifty chance that somebody will try to kill him.

President William McKinley was fatally wounded at Buffalo, N.Y., on Sept. 6, 1901 by an anarchist named Leon Czolgoz, but since then no assassination attempt against a president has succeeded. This is chiefly due to the vigilance of a small band of underpaid and overworked men known as the White House detail of the United States Secret Service.

But people keep trying and there has been an alarming increase in the number of threats since President Kennedy took office. The Secret Service investigated 870 threatening letters addressed to the President last year. Guards at the White House gates turned back 643 persons who tried to argue or force their way into Kennedy's office. The figures are about 50 per cent higher than those for the last year of the Eisenhower administration.

Letters Investigated

Every threatening letter must be investigated, the writer must be located and a determination made about his sanity. Almost invariably he is mentally deranged and is turned over to local authorities for action. In the first six weeks of the Kennedy administration the threatening mail increased by 300 per cent. An unsigned letter from Los Angeles: "We are sick of the dirty black Catholics. The next bomb will be for you, Mr. Kennedy."

Religious and racial prejudice and fanaticism seem to be the prime motivations of persons who threaten the President. The following was sent to President Eisenhower: "Address to the Nigger loving President of the Jewnited States. Message: You will be judged in Heaven if you help those black apes. And I may put you there."

There are few light moments in the grim, life-or-death business of being a Secret Service agent, but occasionally a letter offers some comic relief. One signed "King Harry of Harris IV" was sent to Eisenhower. King Harry advised the President that he was organizing a separate state, intended to secede from the union and that if Eisenhower didn't go along

Valley Described In Oregon Guide

Medford, as "headquarters for the Crater Lake National park and the Rogue River National forest," is described in a tour guide of the Oregon valley as part of a tourist promotion program launched this month by the Sperry and Hutchinson company, distributors of S & H green stamps. Four tour guides plus a color souvenir book are available free at more than 800 Oregon service stations offering S & H green stamps. Medford is saluted as the center of the prolific pear and peach-producing area of the rich Rogue river valley, as an important lumbering city, as the home of an unusual Catfish Derby, as the seat of the Jackson county fair, and as the "capitol" of southern Oregon.

Crater lake and Crater Lake National park are detailed in a separate section. Also mentioned are Jacksonville, Rogue River, Gold Hill and Central Point.

Travel guides and souvenir books will be backed up in tourist promotion by a statewide system of billboards listing the scenic points of the local areas as well as calling attention to local events, such as fairs and shows.

Grants Pass Calls Sewage System Bids

Grants Pass—Bids have been called on the construction of expansions of and additions to the Grants Pass sewage treatment plant and system.

Bids may be submitted to the city's manager's office until 2 p.m. Aug. 30.

The project entails installation of 10,300 feet of 18 to 30-inch sewer pipe, 450 feet of four to six-inch service connection pipe, two siphon undercrossings of the Rogue river, manholes and other facilities.

Also up for bid are 3500 feet of 12 to 15-inch sewer pipe and 500 feet of four to six-inch service connection pipe, manholes and other items in another portion of the project.

Additions to the sewage treatment plant include a pump station, measuring and filtering equipment and a chlorination control building.

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1962

By United Press International

American presidents who have been assassinated: Abraham Lincoln—Fatally wounded by actor John Wilkes Booth in Ford's theater, Washington, April 14, 1865.

James A. Garfield—Fatally wounded by Charles J. Guiteau while entering Baltimore and Potomac railroad station in Washington, July 2, 1881.

William McKinley—Fatally wounded by Leon Czolgoz on Sept. 6, 1901, while attending Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, N.Y.

Unsuccessful attempts to assassinate American presidents:

Theodore Roosevelt—Wounded in the chest in Milwaukee, Oct. 14, 1912, after he had served as President and was campaigning for re-election on the Bull Moose ticket. Joseph Schrank, a saloon keeper who fired the shot because of his objection to a third term, was adjudged insane and confined to an asylum.

Franklin D. Roosevelt—Joseph Zangara fired at him at Miami, Fla., on Feb. 15, 1933, just before Roosevelt took office. A woman knocked against Zangara's arm as he fired and the bullet fatally wounded Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago who was riding in an automobile with Roosevelt. Zangara was electrocuted.

Harry Truman—Puerto Rican nationalists tried to shoot their way into Blair House, where Truman was living while the White House was being renovated, on Nov. 1, 1950. One of the attackers, Griselio Torresola, was killed and Oscar Collazo was captured. White House guard Leslie Coffelt was fatally wounded. Collazo was tried for Coffelt's murder, sentenced to death and Truman commuted it to life imprisonment.

with the program he would have to "reason with a .22 Winchester."

Head of Club

King Harry turned out to be a 12-year-old boy, head of a club whose members had sent in cereal box tops which entitled each of them to one square inch of territory in Alaska, where they intended to set up their kingdom. The Secret Service delegated the discipline to King Harry's mother who delivered a lecture supplemented by corporal punishment.

The Secret Service was founded in 1865, but it was not charged with the protection of the President until after the McKinley assassination. In 1913, Congress authorized the service to protect the President-elect. On last election night 15 agents were standing by at the headquarters of Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon waiting to see who would win. The moment Kennedy won, they moved in and took charge of his daily routine and his schedule of trips.

Technically, Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley is the most powerful man in the United States. He can forbid the President to take a walk or a trip to Mexico, he can tell him where to go fishing or forbid him to go at all. He can veto the choice of a summer residence and deprive Kennedy of the pleasure of seeing a Broadway show. The law charges the Secret Service with protecting the President and it charges the Secret Service with obeying the Secret Service.

Presidents Pose Problems

Rowley almost never uses his veto power, but tries to accommodate himself to the President's wishes within the limits of security. Each President, of course, is a different personality and presents a different problem. Herbert Hoover apparently was the easiest President to guard because he knew the problems

er things besides drives, pitches and putts. Kennedy is by nature a gregarious man and sometimes will walk into the middle of a crowd to talk and shake hands. When that happens, there is nothing the agents can do except sweat it out and try to stay as close as possible to him.

Just the other day Kennedy was engulfed on the White House lawn by 2,200 foreign students who broke through the ropes and gave the Secret Service a bad time until they could fight their way into the throng and rescue him. Presidents have to be protected from their friends as well as their enemies. One of the closest calls Eisenhower ever had was during a trip to India



POWERFUL LEADER—Technically, U.S. Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley is the most powerful man in the United States. He can forbid the President to take a walk or a trip to Mexico, and make any other decisions regarding the chief executive's personal safety. The law charges the Secret Service with the protection of the President, and, in reverse, the President is charged with obeying the Secret Service (UPI).

when enthusiastic throngs almost overturned his car and crushed him.

The Secret Service has many things to do besides guarding the President. It is responsible for the apprehension of counterfeiters, for instance, and only a small section of the agents are assigned to the White House detail. Unlike most government agencies, the Secret Service does not seek publicity. If you walked up to a White House gate and asked to see Kennedy, you would not be met by a Secret Service agent. You would be talking to a uniformed member of the White House police force which operates under the direction of the Secret Service.

Agents Assigned

There probably are between 30 and 40 Secret Service agents assigned to the White House detail in shifts around the clock. When the President travels, they can call on the branch offices of the service and local law enforcement agencies for help.

The man who probably knows more than anybody about protecting Presidents is U. E. Baughmann, who retired last year at the age of 56 as

chief of the Secret Service. He was responsible for the safety of Truman and Eisenhower and, for a time, of Kennedy. One of his last cases was that of Richard P. Pavlick who loaded an automobile with dynamite on Dec. 11, 1960, and parked outside of a residence in Palm Beach, Fla., intending to kill President-Elect Kennedy and, at the same time, blow himself into oblivion.

It was a close call. Kennedy came out of the door and got into his automobile. Pavlick's plan was to ram his car into

the one carrying the President-Elect and let the dynamite do the rest. He hesitated an dthen decided to wait and make his attempt when Kennedy came out of church. The Secret Service got him before he got to the church.

In a discreet book which he wrote after retirement, called "Secret Service Chief," Baughmann describes the work load imposed upon the Service when a President attends a banquet.

Every hotel clerk, maid, bell boy and waiter is put through a security check. The

cooks who prepare the food are given a special check and the food is sent to a laboratory for analysis. After the tests an agent stands guard over the food until the President eats it. On the day of the banquet agents search the hall, look under tables, examine the curtains and explore any closets. Eighty Secret Service agents then are assigned to guard every possible entrance to the banquet section of the hotel.

Supervise Banquets
The Secret Service supervised the printing of the ban-

quet tickets and three agents stood at the door to collect them and be sure none was counterfeit. At every table in the banquet hall a Secret Service man attired in white tie and tails sat among the guests.

The Service throws what Baughmann calls "concentric rings" around a President on the theory that a would-be assassin will have to penetrate several layers of agents to get at their target. The outer ring is fairly thin. The closer you come to the President, the thicker the ring of agents

becomes, including the ones in white tie and tails who, of course, are carrying pistols.

When Premier Nikita Khrushchev came to this country, Baughmann took a professional interest in the technique used by his body guards. He says they seemed to be obsessed with the fear somebody was going to try to kill Khrushchev by putting radioactive dust into his food. The Soviet agents refused to allow any dish to be served to Khrushchev until they had passed Geiger counters over it.

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