

Alderman's Slaying Puts Spotlight on Political Machinery in Chicago

(Editor's note: The slaying of an alderman has put a spotlight on the machinery of political - and perhaps underworld - power in a great city. A UPI special reporting team including veteran Chicago crime reporter Robert T. Loughran, Fred Mohn and David Smothers, arrived at the 24th Ward headquarters of Benjamin (Duke) Lewis shortly after the Negro politician's bullet riddled body was discovered. The story of the slaying, its political overtones and the past violence of Chicago's political wars are detailed in the following dispatch.)

A UPI Team Report
Chicago—UPI-Police seeking the "Chinese execution" killers of Alderman Benjamin F. Lewis followed a trail of politics, power and "policy."

The politics were bigtime. Lewis, 53, whose slim, manacled body was found strangled on the floor of his headquarters Thursday, had won reelection to the City Council by an overwhelming majority only two days earlier.

His power was growing and there was talk that he aspired to Congress and to the throne of Rep. William Dawson as leader of Chicago's Negro Democrats. There was talk, too, that Lewis had made dangerous enemies in his battle to control the tough West Side 24th Ward.

"Policy," the nickel and dime gambling racket which preys on Chicago's Negroes, was an unknown factor. But it could be the big one and it could mean that Lewis fell before the expert gun of an assassin from the ranks of the Chicago Crime Syndicate. It has happened in Chicago before.

A Lewis lieutenant, ward Democratic Vice President Curtis Foster, said "The hoodlum element was trying to come in with policy. He (Lewis) said 'Over my dead body.' They killed him for revenge."

The Lewis killing was like the old times—much too much like the old times—and it raised fears that Chicago has not shed the ghost of Al Capone and his gangster shock troops.

The three automatic pistol bullets fired into the base of Lewis' skull were echoes of a bloody tradition of political vendetta, a tradition harking back to the days of Capone and the lethal 20s when the game of politics could be deadly in the 24th Ward and the neighboring "Bloody 20th."

Through the decades, Chicago politicians have been shot, knifed, bombed and kidnaped. Sometimes their slayings have touched off shock waves of reforms. But none of these victims had the power and political potential of Ben (Duke) Lewis.

A state representative called the slaying "political murder" and there was no keeping the murder out of politics. Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, one of the most powerful individual Democrats in the nation, is up for reelection April 2 and his opponent, former State's Atty. Benjamin Adamowski is no man to pass up a voteswinging issue.

Within hours after the discovery of Lewis' body, Adamowski issued a statement charging that the slaying was "another chapter in the sordid history of the Chicago Democratic machine. . . . We are apparently at the beginning of an era of violence and bloodshed."

Orders Go Out
The mayor ordered his police superintendent Orlando W. Wilson to "apprehend and bring before the bar of justice the culprit who committed this dastardly crime." Orders went out to:

—Make and hour-by-hour check of every motor vehicle made since Tuesday night, when he strode into Daley's Morrison hotel headquarters in the Loop and jubilantly announced he had won reelection by a whopping vote of 12,179 to 888.

—Find whether the Crime Syndicate, hard pressed by federal and city police raids on policy wheels elsewhere in the city, was trying to force the racket into the 24th Ward.

—Discover whether the man who placed a mysterious telephone call to police shortly after the body was discovered was crank or killer.

—At an hour when Lewis' slaying was not generally known in the city, the caller said "I got Lewis - I'll get Biggs next." A police guard was placed at the home of Robert Biggs, a Democrat who made an unsuccessful bid for alderman of the 29th Ward in the Tuesday election. Charles Chew, a Negro candidate for alderman involved in a run-off, said he got a threatening call and police established a guard around his house.

for his life. On his last night, he asked police Sgt. James Gilbert of the nearby Filmore Street Station to telephone him. It was reported Lewis told Gilbert in the 7:30 call "I'm all right." Then he said suddenly "I'm sorry, I have to hang up now."

Facets Clear, Baffling
The facts in the case were clear and baffling and the scene was a white columned stone building which previously had been a bank and a mortuary.

Lewis, still glowing over his Tuesday victory, left his wife Ella and their red brick home on Filmore st. at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. He checked into his office, paid a brief visit to the Morrison Hotel Democratic headquarters, and then returned to his headquarters at 5.

The headquarters on drab West Roosevelt road were new and imposing, covering most of the two floors of a Grecian-style building which had housed the Community State Bank and, later, a funeral home. Invitations were going to city hall that very day for the gala opening Saturday.

Lewis went to his freshly paneled, modernistic office on the second floor and closed the door with his name on it behind him. Building Manager James H. Smith heard the alderman's telephone ringing constantly, right up to the time Smith went home at 10 p.m.

At home, Mrs. Lewis wondered why her husband hadn't returned. He had never, she said, stayed out all night. She awakened at 4 a.m. and again at 8 a.m., but did not call police.

At 8:47 a.m., janitor Joseph Brown wondered why all the lights were on in Lewis' office, investigated, and found the boss of the 24th Ward spread on the floor beside his desk. Lewis' hands, locked in handcuffs of a type used by Navy MPs during World War II, were cradled over his head. A filter cigarette, burned down to the fingers, was between his fingers. The radio on a table beside him still was playing.

Murder Method Clear
The method of murder was clear. The killer had forced Lewis to don the handcuffs, then stepped up behind him as he sat and sent the bullets crashing into his skull. A green leather cushion from Lewis' chair had been used to muffle the shots. The modus operandi - bullets fired into the base of the skull - is known as "Chinese execution."

There were other professional touches. The killer had apparently entered through a back door by "popping" the lock and tumblers. A corridor and spiral staircase led to Lewis' door.

Robbery was out as a motive. There was no sign of struggle. Lewis' \$200 suit was undisturbed, the expensive watch was left on his wrist, the heavy ring on his finger, the \$36.25 in his wallet.

Coroner Andrew Toman estimated at first that Lewis had died about 8 a.m. Police discounted the theory. They pointed out that the alderman's car was still parked where Lewis had left it at 5 o'clock the day before. There was a half inch of fresh snow on the hood.

Other Political Slayings
Who killed Ben Lewis was a question which may go down in Chicago history with the old political cry "Who killed McSwiggan?"

McSwiggan, known as the "hanging prosecutor" started the current era of Chicago political killings when he was machine gunned in front of a Cicero saloon in 1926.

There were more to follow - State Rep. Clem Graver who was kidnaped from his garage on the West Side in 1953, and never seen again. Octavius Granady, Negro lawyer shot down in front of a "Bloody 20th" polling place in 1928, west GOP political leader William Granata, hacked to death in front of his Loop apartment in 1948, Charles Gross, Republican ward committeeman, cut down by shotgun blasts in 1952 - and more.

Their killers never were found.

Sawmill Workers To Seek Increase
Portland—(UPI)—The Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union announced Monday it intends to seek a wage increase this year.

No pay hike was sought last year because the union recognized the industry's crisis in competing with Canadian softwood imports.

The other large lumber union, the International Woodworkers of America, said last week it would seek a 40-cent hourly wage hike.

The LSW mentioned no specific figures, but a spokesman said at the opening of the annual Western Conference of the union here that wages would get priority in talks, rather than fringe benefits.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

HEY, MAC... WHAT AM I DOIN' WRONG? I WAS SLICIN' 'EM ALL AFTER-NOON-I EVEN TRIED TURNING A LITTLE TO MAKE UP FOR IT... SEE... LIKE THIS I INTERLOCK THE GRIP, MAC...?

THE FREELoadERS WANT A GRAM COURSE GRATES! THEY GOT POOR MAC THE PRO PINNED UP AGAINST THE BAR....

THEY WON'T EVEN BUY HIM A CLUB SOO, LET ALONE PAY FOR A REGULAR SESSION....

I COULD TELL ANGLEWORM WHAT HE DOES WRONG... HIS INTERLOCKING GRIP WON'T LET HIM OPEN HIS WALLET.

HEY, MAC... TELL 'EM THEY'VE BEEN STANDING TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE TREASURER--THEY'RE BOTH POSTED FOR BACK DUES....

MAC--WHICH FOOT DO YOU HIT THE BALL OFF IN A TRAP?

PITYING THE GOLF PRO WHO GETS WILAYED BY THE CLUB CUFF ARTISTS... THINK AND TIP OF THE WATLO HAT TO ED NIEDERKORN, OREGONIAN, PORTLAND, ORE.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars. To develop message for Thursday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ZODIAC	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aries	Guard	31 Help	61 Supplies	11	21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91
Taurus	2 Your	32 Making	62 Times	12	22	32	42	52	62	72	82	92
Gemini	3 Cooperation	33 Make	63 Toys	13	23	33	43	53	63	73	83	93
Cancer	4 You've	34 Planning	64 Enemy	14	24	34	44	54	64	74	84	94
Leo	5 Someone	35 A	65 Post	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95
Virgo	6 Against	36 Profits	66 Year	16	26	36	46	56	66	76	86	96
Libra	7 Close	37 Home	67 Dr	17	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97
Scorpio	8 Personality	38 Parents	68 Best	18	28	38	48	58	68	78	88	98
Sagittarius	9 Writing	39 Planned	69 Year	19	29	39	49	59	69	79	89	99
Capricorn	10 Study	40 Bring	70 Present	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	00
Aquarius	11 Excellent	41 Secret	71 Year	21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91	01
Pisces	12 Original	42 Purchase	72 Highlight	22	32	42	52	62	72	82	92	02
Other	13 Beware	43 On	73 Suit	23	33	43	53	63	73	83	93	03
	14 Who	44 Misplacing	74 Way	24	34	44	54	64	74	84	94	04
	15 And	45 Visitation	75 Voluble	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	05
	16 Files	46 Recreation	76 Obligation	26	36	46	56	66	76	86	96	06
	17 Wants	47 Papers	77 Year	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	07
	18 And	48 Lovers	78 Envy	28	38	48	58	68	78	88	98	08
	19 For	49 Romance	79 Couch	29	39	49	59	69	79	89	99	09
	20 Fun	50 Officer	80 Be	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	00	10
	21 Business	51 Friend	81 Present	31	41	51	61	71	81	91	01	11
	22 Peace	52 Head	82 Jealous	32	42	52	62	72	82	92	02	12
	23 To	53 Of	83 Present	33	43	53	63	73	83	93	03	13
	24 As	54 Friend	84 Jealous	34	44	54	64	74	84	94	04	14
	25 Of	55 Equipment	85 Games	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	05	15
	26 And	56 Research	86 Opponent	36	46	56	66	76	86	96	06	16
	27 Research	57 Year	87 Opponent	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	07	17
	28 Of	58 Friends	88 Activities	38	48	58	68	78	88	98	08	18
	29 Careful	59 Good	89 Now	39	49	59	69	79	89	99	09	19
	30 Money	60 In	90 Puncture	40	50	60	70	80	90	00	10	20

Legend: (S) Good (A) Adverse (N) Neutral

Small Worlds Around Us

By Wyn W. Lynks

Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1963

Greek Letter Psi Stands For Unknown Quantities
Scientists have selected a Greek letter to designate a lot of unknown quantities in the minds and actions of animals. They call it Psi.

If you are a thinking person and aspire toward better understanding of some of the lesser creatures of this earth, you will be hearing a great deal about Psi in the near future. So far, no one knows how a bird travels miles and arrives where it wants to be without a road map or compass. The boy in the third grade knows the bird can accomplish this, but the most learned scientist in the world cannot tell how or why.

No one knows how a dog or a cat can return to its former home over many miles of unfamiliar terrain, without inquiring the way. The wise guy who claims to explain how a honey bee informs its cellmates where a large supply of nectar is available, how far it is and how much there is of it is just spouting words. Can't Be Explained

Neither can it be explained how a brainless insect can select just the proper plant on which to deposit her eggs so that the offspring will have the one particular kind of food they must have to develop satisfactorily. There are a great many other animal actions and inbuilt traits that might, if understood and applied to human actions, benefit mankind in many ways. Psi will attempt to solve some of those mysteries.

Funny, that in this age of guided missiles and electronic brains, anyone would be wondering how a grasshopper can generate enough power in its rear legs to propel its own many times the length of its own body. We are reasonably sure a grasshopper's muscles are much the same as our own. Just how much hop there is in a grasshopper is a very intriguing and, so far, unanswerable question.

It would be equally interesting, and perhaps helpful, to know how a female mud-dauber wasp knows that a certain species of spider, placed in a mud cell with her egg, will supply the right kind of fresh meat for her baby wasp larva when it hatches.

Scientists know that many insects have eyes composed of hundreds of even thousands of individual facets, each facet registering its own image. There are many such insects with similar eyes, the dragon fly and the common house fly are two. With thousands of images to select from, how does the brain of the fly sort out the image or the scene it wants to react to and disregard all the rest?

A horse, an elephant and many of the birds have eyes on the side of the head; both eyes and looking out and of course, registering two distinct and separate images. How does the animal decide which object—the right or the left—is the one it should avoid? Which is the lesser danger, or offers the greater promise? The bird may cock its head sideways, thereby bringing one eye into focus, and making a decision easier. But the elephant or the horse never seems to adopt this procedure.

Seems silly, but perhaps we don't know all we thought we knew. Maybe in time Psi will be able to explain many things. We are reluctant to admit it, but there ARE a great many simple things we are all pretty ignorant about.

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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Editor's note: Sylvia Porter is on vacation. During her absence a column by Ralph McGill is being substituted. McGill is currently on a tour of African nations, about which he is writing.

COCOA AND BANANAS
Accra, Ghana: Cocoa is one of the most beautiful crops of the tropics. There are many such. A bunch of green, young bananas hanging against the darker green of the huge fronds of the tree; mangoes, green, purple and red against the heavy foliage of their heavily-leaved branches; clusters of papayas, turning golden high on a tall, straight tree - these are but a few which please the eye.

The cocoa tree is really a large shrub. Like coffee it is planted among other trees where it will have shade. The leaves are graceful and pretty. The young growth has a light bronze color. The fruit, or pod, grows only on the older wood. It is rather large, being a good handful, and it turns slowly from a deep green to pumpkin-yellow as it ripens.

Cocoa is Ghana's almost sacred crop, both a blessing and a curse because so much depends upon it. Ghana exports annually about 35 per cent of the world's total crop. Since the Second World War exports of beans have averaged about 60 per cent of the total value of the nation's exports and about 95 per cent of its agricultural sales. Production is largely in the hands of small farmers in the north.

Ahead, of course, is a tremendous economic leap forward when the Volta dam project is completed in 1965. Ghana has large reserves of Bauxite and will become an exporter of aluminum when power becomes available. Meanwhile, cocoa is the big drama. A small drop in its price not only affects thousands of small farmers but also plays havoc with the nation's budget.

It is not surprising, therefore, that law protects the cocoa tree. Woe betide any one caught illegally plucking a pod! The beans, when picked, are packed in boxes to undergo a process of fermentation. These are watched by expert eyes, somewhat akin to those of the master in a brewery who must determine when the moment of truth has come for his fermentation. When ready they are spread on a moving belt which takes them through heated chambers in which all moisture is extracted. Once so treated they are then exported over the world, chiefly to the chocolate factories of the United States and Europe. The Soviet Union also has become a customer.

Legend has it that the seeds of the first cocoa tree to be grown in Africa were smuggled out by Fernando Po, an island in the Gulf of Guinea, in the late 19th century. (Some of the best cocoa comes from Venezuela.) By the early part of the 20th century Ghana was the world's largest single producer. Either Ghana has a special affinity for the tree, or the farmers have done a better job. Neighboring countries also grow cocoa, but lag far behind. There is a story that a British farm expert was on hand when cocoa was in its early stages and saw the new crop off to a good start. Whatever the facts, the Ghanaian small farmers have held the lead. Now they and their crop are plagued with diseases reminding of those afflicting seedlings of tobacco farmers. They are subject to flights and rots.

Bananas are another export. A curious fact is that while plantain, of the banana family, is a staple item of food, the banana is not popular, possibly because it is so plentiful. A Ghanaian civil servant, a man in his fifties, said, as we discussed our boyhood and educational backgrounds, that he had grown up in a bush village amid banana trees, but had never eaten them. "We used to sell bunches of them for a penny or so," he said, "and buy canned herring."

Cocoa, in the country which produces so much of it, also is rarely served. It is not available in most stores. It must be imported back, for one thing, and is expensive. Whatever the reason, it cannot be called Ghanaian drink.

Bananas, palm nuts, kola nuts and copra are exported. The local pineapple is a magnificent item, and is a popular food. Rice, a basic food crop, is in short supply and must be imported. It is somewhat starting to see U.S. rice on sale in stores here. In the rush to industrialize, Ghana cannot afford to neglect agriculture, but most of the talk is of machines.

The Medical Roundup

by Walter Alvarez

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

Diet and Heart Disease
Before I tell about several important papers given at the recent meeting of the American Heart Association, perhaps I should prepare my readers for the fact that was thrown on the wide dissemination idea that all of us who want to keep our arteries from hardening must avoid the eating of much fat, and particularly of animal fats.

The important thing to remember is that in science, as new facts are being found, our views are constantly being changed a bit. Hence, the true scientist is never absolutely sure about anything; he is full of doubts - and is ready to change his views when new evidence makes this necessary.

So it is that today I am not distressed when I read the report of Dr. Oglesby Paul and his co-workers at the University of Illinois which states that on studying some 2,000 middle-aged men, divided into two groups - those who ate a great deal of fat and those who ate very little fat - the investigators were surprised to find that the number of heart attacks was practically the same among the fat eaters and the non-fat eaters.

Other dietary factors, including the total calories-intake and the consumption of carbohydrates, proteins, animal fats, vegetable fats, cholesterol and saturated or unsaturated fatty acids could not be related to the occurrence of cases of coronary disease either. Neither could alcohol consumption be blamed, or the type of work done.

The factors that did appear to be related to heart attacks, according to Dr. Paul - a former president of the American Heart Association - included excessive cigarette-smoking, a tendency to increased heart rate, a high blood pressure, a high blood cholesterol level and certain psychological traits. Interestingly, the study failed to confirm the widespread belief of many doctors that stocky persons with an athletic and muscular build are more prone to heart disease than are thin men.

In Dr. Paul's study, the men who died from coronary heart disease DID tend to have the highest blood levels of cholesterol. Also, it was found that a man who had a heart attack had kept living on for years usually had acquired a low level of blood cholesterol. ON THE AVERAGE, the men with the lowest level of cholesterol did not develop coronary heart disease.

In another study, Dr. Harold N. Adel of New York confirmed the observation that a high blood pressure can favor the production of cholesterol in the person's body. Another study, by Dr. Jeremiah Stamler of Chicago and Dr. Henry Taylor of Minnesota, confirmed the well-known fact that overweight increases the risk of getting coronary heart disease and a high blood pressure.

Dr. Henry C. McGill Jr., of New Orleans reported that some white American BOYS already have disease in their coronary arteries, which means that perhaps some day pediatricians will be watching out to protect their little patients from future heart disease. Dr. McGill's observations agree with those made in Korea during the war when many young soldiers who came to autopsy were

4-H Club News

Daffy Dills
The Daffy Dills 4-H club of Central Point met Saturday for an extra project, trees. We went to Charlie Hoover's house to learn of his project. First we saw boys working to choose our own trees. Hoover showed us how to prepare our cans and plant the trees.

Hoover gave us each four trees, a blue spruce, a juniper, a Russian olive and a redwood, plus two bowls of candy. When we got back to Mrs. Anhorn's house, we had refreshments which were served by Lee and Rick Korner.

The trees are to be grown and shown at the Flower show in June and at Fair. The meeting was adjourned by President Andrea Roberts.

Lee Korner, Reporter

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Doneva Koepke. Janice Mason gave a talk on color and make-up. Projects in which the girls are now working include learning to knit, sewing gathered skirts and cotton dresses. They are being helped by Mrs. L. Lemacks, their leader.

One visitor, Mrs. B. Dibble, was present at the February meeting.

Refreshments were served by Doneva Koepke.

Dona Schafer, Reporter

Desert Pegasus Club
The Desert Pegasus 4-H Horse club met at the Community building in Eagle Point with 16 members and 56 visitors present. Potluck dinner was served after which Keith A. Krambeal showed the films, "The Horse America Made" and "Woodland Manners."

Following the showing of the two films, a program of instrumental music, songs and dancing was presented.

The music was by the Johnson Brothers of Applegate, former Pegasus members, and David Parker of Sams Valley.

The visitors were members of the Medford Trailriders and the Antelope Horse club.

The next meeting of the club will be held at the Dunn ranch April 2 at 1 p.m.

Gina Krambeal, Reporter

Stage Road Blazers
On March 2 the Stage Road Blazers 4-H horse club held a work day at the home of Mrs. Reid to practice for the fair.

Earlier the club had a ride in the hills.

Greg Graf, Reporter

Attempt to Revive Suttef Is Foiled

New Delhi - (UPI) - India Express newspapers said today a young widow was seriously burned in a remote village when the residents tried to revive the ancient Hindu custom of suttee and forced her onto her husband's funeral pyre.

The reports said the incident occurred recently in the village of Makhor and that the widow was saved by police. Suttef, a practice under which widows were burned alive with their dead husbands, has practically been stamped out in India.

HONESTY COMMENDED
Fort Worth, Tex. - (UPI) - Police Chief W. T. McWhorter Tuesday commended the honesty of Officer K. C. Miles who admitted he was 40 minutes late in reporting to the station Feb. 26 because he fell asleep in his cruiser. Then the chief suspended him for three days.

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