

Castro Spy Story Declared False; Torture Charged

Miami — UPI — Cuban exile Fernando Fernandez Barcenos took back his story of being a Castro spy Wednesday and told police he was tortured for 12 hours and forced to make "false statements."

"All the statements in my confession, including the part where I said I was going to be sent to Cuba as a spy for the counter-intelligence agency, were false," the 37-year-old exile told Miami police. "The whole thing was a fake."

Tells of Torture
He said he made the confession after being tortured for 12 hours while a .45-caliber automatic pistol was held at his head.

Fernandez sought to bring charges of kidnapping and assault and battery against the Cuban exile Christian Demarco. Movement which denounced him as a spy Sunday and turned him over to the FBI.

The FBI questioned Fernandez and several "witnesses" Wednesday. They said the case would be turned over to the state attorney if the charges are substantiated.

They almost strangled me with a rope," the mischievous exile charged, pointing to a mark on his neck. He said the MDC had threatened to kill him if he did not confess.

The MDC said it accepted Fernandez into its ranks last July and discovered he was a "spy" through "a series of carefully planned traps."

Neutrality Preserved
Fernandez described himself as "neither anti-American nor anti-Castro," he praised the United States' "policy of neutrality" toward Cuba and said he wanted to return there "to ensure and suffer with my parents, my sister and my aunt."

Fernandez said he had spent most of the past two and a half years in Kansas City working for a defense plant — the Western Electric Co.

"You have to be cleared by the FBI for that," he said. Before that, he said he worked as a free lance newspaperman for the United States Information Agency here.

He had worked for a Havana television station and newspaper before coming to the U. S. in 1961, he said.

Graham Warns Of Judgment Day

Los Angeles — (UPI) — Billy Graham, speaking to the smallest audience of his current evangelistic crusade in rain-dampened Memorial Coliseum, warned Wednesday night of a day of judgment when there will be no valid excuse for rejecting the Gospel.

"Thousands of people today are too busy with the cares of life, with the problems of every day living, to give any thought to God and the church," the evangelist told his audience of 15,532.

"The Bible teaches that there will be a day for which all other days were made when the whole universe will be gathered before the judgment. We will not be judged on the basis of our social position, our race, or our bank accounts."

"God will judge you on the basis of the opportunities which you have had, but you may make all the excuses you want, but none of them will stand up at the judgment of God."

Graham said that once a person has heard the Gospel or had an opportunity to hear the Gospel, and deliberately neglects or rejects it, the responsibility is overwhelming.

"You may escape the officers of the law here, but not God's law."

"Every man who has rebelled against God, who has refused to live according to God's will, will face the judgment."

Josephine County Cattle Win at Fair

Two Josephine county farms won a total of 23 blue ribbons in various cattle division contests at the Oregon State Fair in Salem.

Hillvale farms belonging to the Martin Brothers of Cave Junction won 15 ribbons in the dairy cattle and Holstein divisions.

Two bulls entered, won senior champion and grand champion while senior champion, junior champion and grand champion were won in the female cattle class.

Hoots Angus ranch, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hoots, Grants Pass, won several events in the beef cattle and Aberdeen-Angus divisions. A bull won the calf champion while three other bulls won senior champion, reserve senior champion and grand champion for a total of eight blue ribbons.

PLAN TO MARRY
Hollywood — (UPI) — Actress Connie Stevens and actor James Stacy plan to be married on Oct. 12.

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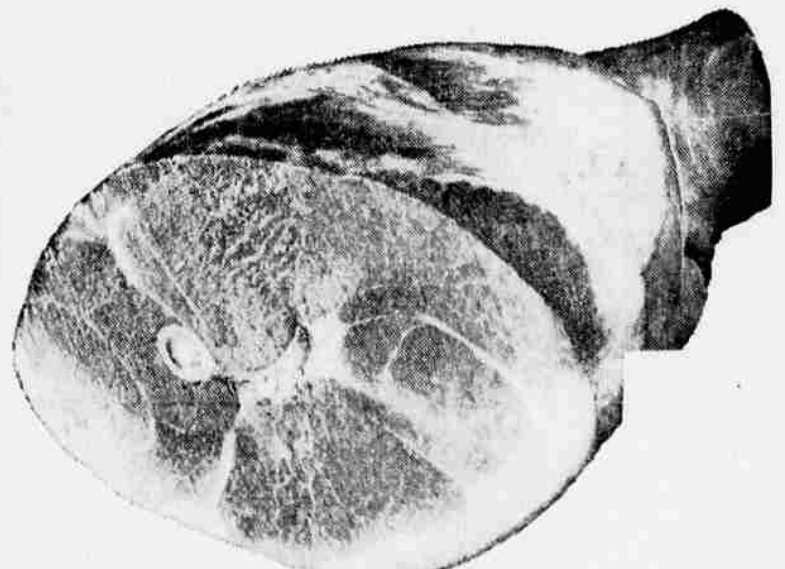
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SAFEWAY

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Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins
Medford & Tribune Staff Writers, 1962

Gopher Tortoise Too Slow To Escape From Its Death

Their day is nearly over. Soon now in many sections where they were once plentiful, the awkward, lumbering gopher tortoise will not be seen again. These harmless creatures, too slow to escape even their most sluggish enemies, were once so numerous that a dozen or more could be seen in a half hour's drive along country roads or in sandy, dry pinelands.

Called the eastern gopher tortoise, these dry land tortoises occupied a rather restricted range throughout the extreme southern United States, the southern tip of Texas and some small sections of the middle south-west.

Club Feet
The gopher tortoise is characterized by possessing club feet without the webbed extremities of the aquatic turtles; a blunt head and a high domed back.

Its diet is mostly restricted to plant life, some insects and an occasional small animal such as a mouse or frog. They are closely related to the giant tortoise of the Galapagos Islands, the very largest and oldest of all land tortoises.

Even people who think they know the gopher turtle best, often report finding one in a pond or small stream. However, they must be mistaking this tortoise with some other kind of turtle, for the gopher tortoise never goes into water. It receives what moisture it needs from the dew on plants or from juice of vegetation.

Burrowing Habits
The gopher tortoise probably received its name from the similarity of its burrowing habits with those of the little rodent with the fur and the busy feet which joyously digs its tunnels in fields and pastures of the middle west. The burrow dug by the gopher tortoise is often several feet in depth, and is the resting place of the reptile during daylight hours. It prefers the early evening or dawn hours for its foraging.

The creature's club feet are well adapted for digging. With its sharp claws a n d powerful legs it can excavate a lopped burrow to a depth of several feet in a very short time.

In its burrow he is relatively safe, but so many times he is caught in the open during the daylight hours, walking aimlessly and much too slowly to escape the slowest enemy. Some gun-happy people shoot the poor old plodder just to satisfy their lust for killing.

Death on Highway
Probably what has decimated his numbers most of all is his inability to learn the danger of crossing public highways. There are that have any yielding surface, he meets sadistic motorists whose small, self-centered minds prompt them to run over a lumbering turtle just to hear the crunching sound. These motor-mons often deliberately and purposely hit the slow-moving creature.

For some strange and obscure reason, the poor old gopher tortoise seems to go out of its way just to cross a highway. Too bad, for its high, heavy shell is useless against the crushing weight of a motor car. The southern states and sand barrens are going to be a little lonelier without this harmless plodder.

Speed Must Be Cut Down Near Schools

Medford drivers were reminded today that speed must be reduced in school zones now that classes have resumed. Oregon law requires drivers to slow to 20 miles an hour when passing a school building, grounds or school crossing during recess or while children are going to or leaving school. Exceeding that speed is prima facie evidence of violating the state's speed law, according to Capt. Clyde C. Fichtner.

"The first few weeks of school are always particularly hazardous," Fichtner said, "because drivers have grown accustomed to maintaining normal speed in school zones during the summer and children may be less alert to danger in the excitement of getting back to school."

Some 9,000 school children in the Medford school district will resume classes next week, Captain Fichtner said, and 1,000 students started classes this week at St. Mary's school.

Sales Official Visits, Holds Meeting

Mr. and Mrs. C. Wesley Wells of Phoenix, Ariz., were guests over the Labor Day week end in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe V. Negles, Gold Hill.

Wells, an official of Amway Sales Corporation, Ada, Mich., met Saturday with area representatives of the firm at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Jones, Gold Hill.