

Mystery Shrouds Fate of John Hvasta, American Escapee From Commie Jail

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP) — An international mystery Saturday shrouded the fate of John Hvasta, a naturalized American citizen who reportedly escaped from Communist Czechoslovakia's grim Leopoldov prison Jan. 2.

The United States government is trying through both diplomatic and intelligence sources to find out what has happened to the Hillside, N.J., man whose escape was announced Friday, over seven months after it was supposed to have occurred.

But at the moment officials have no idea whether he is dead or alive and still in hiding either behind

the Iron Curtain or outside the Communist bloc.

Hvasta's father and brother said in Hillside Friday night they felt confident he was safe, wherever he was, but his mother took a grim view.

"If my son had escaped from jail in New York, would it take him seven months to cross the Hudson River?" Mrs. Michael Hvasta asked, pointing out that Vienna and safety in the American zone were that close to him across the Danube.

She expressed fear the escape was "some trick of the Reds."

American officials are hopeful that Hvasta's reported dash for

freedom will not upset the long negotiations for the release of Associated Press Correspondent William N. Oatis, held by the Communists in Czechoslovakia on an espionage conviction for the past year.

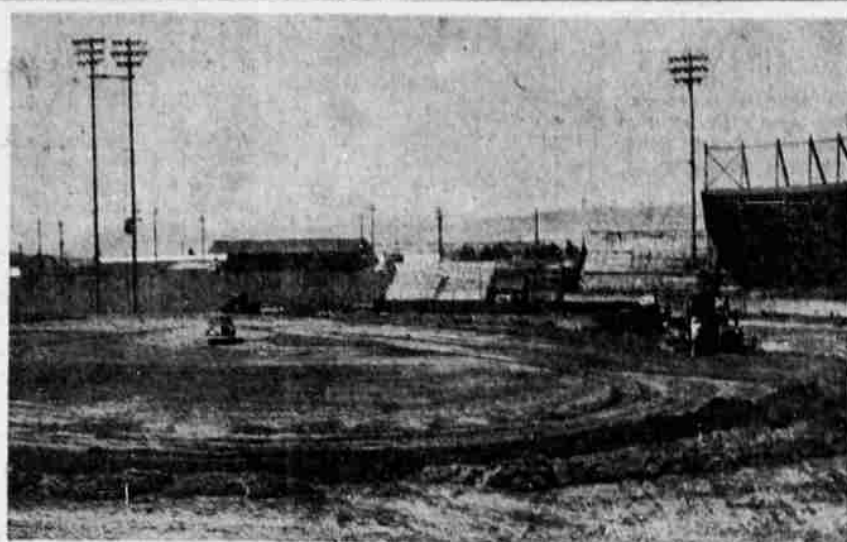
Hvasta had been sentenced to three years — later raised to 10 years — on espionage charges in May, 1949. The United States had denounced the charges against both Hvasta and Oatis as false.

American officials had not been permitted to see Hvasta since August, 1950, despite repeated requests.

The escape report was released Friday by the State Department. It said the American embassy at Prague had been notified by the foreign office in a note which added that Czech authorities "do not know his present whereabouts."

The State Department said that it "has no information which would confirm or contradict the accuracy of the statement." It added, however, that on June 27 the anti-Communist "Free Czechoslovak Information Service" published in London a report that Hvasta and several other prisoners had escaped on Jan. 2.

Officials agree the evidence leaves virtually no doubt about Hvasta's having fled from prison. But also it casts no light at all on his fate since that time.



WORKMEN WERE WORKING at fever pitch today, putting on finishing touches in turning Gems Stadium from a ballpark to a racetrack for Sunday night's hard-top race opening. (Story in Sports Section).

Peronistas Mourn Evita

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — President Juan D. Peron marched bareheaded under a rain of flower petals in solemn procession Saturday behind the body of his wife, Eva, through the center of Buenos Aires to the national capital.

Argentina thus began the final stage of 15 days of funeral honors for her first lady, equalling those normally reserved for a president dying in office.

The climax of honors heaped on the president's wife since her death July 26 will be reached when she is interred provisionally Sunday in the central building of the

Argentina's master labor organization.

A gun carriage bore the mahogany casket along a 15-block line of march from the labor ministry, where Mrs. Peron's body has been viewed by thousands. It was drawn by 45 workers from the CPT, wearing white shirts with mourning bands and black neckties.

They marched costless to typify the descamisados (shirtless ones) who formed the great political power of the Perons.

Crowds were slow in gathering and an hour before the procession started Peron's press office broadcast every few minutes over a nation-wide hookup of all radio stations an invitation for the public to assemble along the line of march.

The crowd that finally developed was much smaller than expected. It appeared some had been frightened away from the ceremonies by security precautions.

At every street corner along the procession's route, there were ambulances and bus loads of nurses — a fact recalling that eight persons were reported crushed to death and hundreds were injured in the initial rush to see Mrs. Peron's body at the labor ministry.

New Testing Program Set

WASHINGTON (AP) — On orders from President Truman, the civil service commission Saturday had the task of proposing a single program for testing the loyalty, security and suitability of federal employees.

There is now a separate program for each. In a letter to Chairman Robert Ranspach of the Civil Service Commission, made public Friday by the White House, the President said:

"I have concluded that the most desirable action at this time would be to merge the loyalty, security and suitability programs, thus eliminating the overlapping, duplication and confusion which apparently now exists."

Truman asked the commission to draft a standardized plan to be used by all "at the earliest practicable date."

In the meantime, he suggested, federal agencies might weigh their conduct of security checks against a 35-page report on the workings of this program made by an interdepartmental committee.

The committee found great variety in the way the program is handled by the several government agencies.

The security program, which mushroomed recently, is aimed at weeding out federal workers who are poor security risks. Such persons, while not deliberately disloyal, might talk too much or be otherwise indiscreet.



PHOTOS ABOVE show the rescue of a dog from a narrow crack in a concrete railway embankment in Chicago. The dog had been stuck there nearly two days. At left, Walter Baron, of the Animal Welfare League, works to free the pooch. At right, Allen Glisch carries the rescued animal to an Animal Welfare wagon. It was necessary to administer an anesthetic, grease the dog and knock out a three-foot piece of concrete before it could be removed.

Roaring Fire Razes Mill

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (AP) — A roaring fire early Saturday destroyed the main mill of one of the largest shingle plants in the Columbia with loss of almost one million dollars.

Firemen, aided by plant workers fought unsuccessfully for four hours to control the blaze that wiped out the 30-year-old Caplano Timber Co., main mill.

Flames cast a glow in the sky visible for miles. Burning shingles were blown into the air and landed miles away dangerously close to residences.

About 350 millworkers, who returned to work two weeks ago after a seven-week strike, aided the firemen and some openly wept as they saw their jobs go up in flames.

The 350 by 90-foot main building destroyed would cost more than \$500,000 to replace, John McLellan, president of the company said. The loss also included 18 big shingle machines and miscellaneous machinery, six truck loads of shingles and one truck.

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Tacoma News Talks Peace

TACOMA (AP) — Officials of the Tacoma News Tribune, which has been idled for 17 weeks, met Saturday to consider a contract proposal submitted by the CIO American Newspaper Guild toward ending its strike.

Elbert R. Bar II, vice president of the Tribune Publishing Co., said the proposal was a revision of one management submitted to the Guild. He said it was a "contract acceptable to the Guild," but he would not elaborate.

Friday, George Russell, Tribune business manager, said the Tribune would start rolling off the press within 24 hours after Guildsmen returned to their jobs.

The Guild struck July 19 when contract negotiations ran aground over job security clauses.

The Guild strike came hard on the heels of a strike by AFL Pressmen, who resolved their contract differences with the Tribune July 18 after a 14-week walkout.

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Mother Visits Heavy Cruiser

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WSB Approves New Contracts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Labor contracts calling for a shorter work week with no loss in pay have the general approval of the Wage Stabilization Board.

The agency, which has a number of petitions seeking this provision, said it would approve them if certain conditions are met.

These provisions include:

1. Evidence that the scheduled work week jibes with practice within the industry, area or comparable industry.
2. A statement that the actual number of hours to be worked fits the shorter week, although some reductions might have to be gradual.
3. A list of anticipated changes in operations, such as hiring or reassignment of employees.
4. A recording to show the pay increase, resulting from a shorter week with no wage cut, was charged against Wage Regulations Six and Eight. These allow a 10 per cent pay raise over January.
5. An examination of the requested pay rates upon other industries in the area.
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More Saucer Reports Due

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Robert R. Coles, chairman of the Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History, said Friday night that meteor particles, also known as shooting stars, would streak through the heavens nightly through Aug. 13.

"If the skies are clear," Coles said, "there will probably be a larger than average crop of flying saucer reports around Aug. 12, but these will be caused by the Persid meteor shower."

The Persid display is so-called because the shooting star trails appear to converge on the constellation of Perseus, Coles said.

The particles disintegrate into dust as they fall, he added, and won't hurt you.

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Oregon Lawyers To See Giesler

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Reprieve Appears In Sight For Man Facing Deportation

WENDELL, N.H. (AP) — Karl Latva, 48-year-old loom fixer, said Saturday he will welcome an FBI investigation so that he can escape deportation and become an American citizen.

Informed that Atty. Gen. McGrath had said in Washington he saw no reason for deporting the mill worker who said he signed a Communist card in 1934 in the belief he was helping to end a mill strike, Latva declared:

"If the decision holds I am very grateful . . . My first consideration when the case is closed will be to complete my naturalization process. My first papers have gone through and the second papers now are pending."

Latva's two Navy veteran sons, who previously said they would send a telegram to President Truman to help their dad, changed their minds on learning the attorney general indicated he would not break up the family if the facts as reported are correct.

They said: "We feel confident that after Atty. Gen. McGrath has had the facts examined he will drop deportation charges. We know that the investigation will prove that father is innocent."

McGrath said the Boston federal judge who denied Latva's petition to prevent deportation "ruled the only way he could under the McCarran Act."

But as chief law-enforcement officer, McGrath said he has "latitude in deciding whether prosecutions should or should not be pressed."

Young GOPs Name Heads

PORTLAND (AP) — Clay Myers, president of the Oregon Young Republicans, Friday named committee chairmen for the organization's policy convention at Prineville Sept. 13-14.

They are:

Taxation, Ted Goodwin, Eugene; public welfare, James Bridgewater, Albany; reapportionment, Shirley Field, Portland; labor and industries, Robert Dickey, Medford; natural resources, Stanley Dean, Portland; agriculture, Ron Johnson, Adams; education, Mrs. Frances Cole, Salem; roads, Don Morrison, Portland, state and federal affairs, George Jones, Salem; foreign policy, Russell Tripp, Albany.

E. J. (Bill) Ireland, Molalla, will be convention chairman and H. Merseureau, chairman of the Crook County Young Republicans, will be banquet chairman.

Air Guard Leaders Meet

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Guard Bureau Friday summoned key Air National Guard leaders to meet here Sept. 17-19 to "discuss the future of the Air Guard."

Major Gen. Earl T. Ricks, chief of the Bureau's Air Force Division, said chiefs of staff for air from all 48 states and territories will attend. State adjutants general also have been invited.

Divorce Granted

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — The wife of a night watchman has been granted a divorce after proving to the court that her husband had tied her to the bed every night for six weeks to "keep her from going out."

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Masonic PICNIC

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Malin Community Park

11 A.M. Till Dark

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Games for young and old! Baseball, horseshoes—Games start at 2:30 p.m.

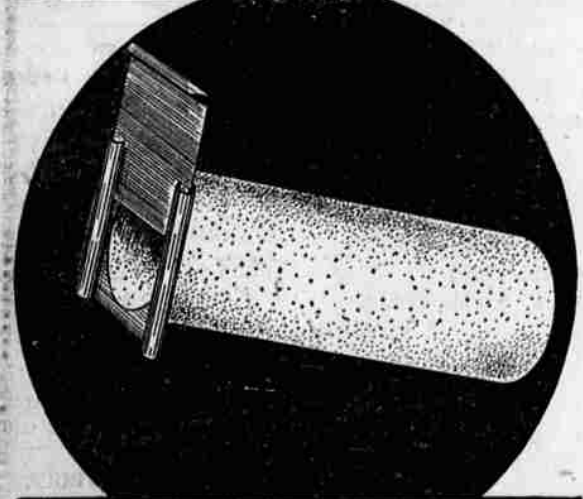
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