

# TODAY and TOMORROW

FRANK PARKER  
SPOOKS BRIDGE

## ASSASSINATION . . . of Rulers

Three Presidents of the United States have died at the hands of assassins. One ex-President, Theodore Roosevelt, was shot but not seriously injured, when he was a candidate for a third term. It was only accidental that the assassin who fired at President-elect Franklin Roosevelt missed him and hit Mayor Cermak of Chicago and four others instead.

Assassination is a risk which every head of a nation constantly faces. The President of France was killed less than a year ago. President Obregon of Mexico was assassinated in 1928. King George of Greece, Prince Ito of Japan, President Madree of Mexico, King Humbert of Italy, are only a few of the national rulers who have died at the hands of assassins in recent years.

There is no effective way to protect rulers from the irresponsible attacks of lunatics. A president or a king must show himself to his people. In this country a guard of secret service men always travels with the President and with the President-elect, but even their precautions sometimes fail. The President of the United States literally takes his life in his hands when he accepts that high office.

## EYEWITNESS . . . of Two

I happened to be present at the shooting of two Presidents, Garfield and McKinley. I doubt if there is another person living of whom that

is true. As a small boy in Washington I was passing the old Baltimore Potomac Railroad station on July 2, 1881, and went into the station to get a drink of water. As I entered the waiting room men and women were screaming and rushing in every direction. I wormed my way through the crowd boylike, and saw one of the station guards struggling with a bearded man, who was still holding a smoking revolver. On the floor lay a figure which I recognized as that of President Garfield and bending over him was the familiar figure of James G. Blaine, Secretary of State.

General Garfield died two months later. Medical and surgical science was still crude fifty years ago. There is little doubt that if doctors had known then what they know now he would have recovered.

## LUNATICS . . . with Guns

There is no doubt that Giteau, who shot Garfield, like Wilkes Booth, who killed Lincoln, and Leon Czolgoscz, the assassin of McKinley, was insane.

As a newspaper reporter "covering" the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, I was in the Temple of Music when McKinley was shot on September 6, 1901. The murderer had wrapped a handkerchief around his right hand to make it look as if it had been injured, but the bandage concealed a revolver. Only those closest to the President heard the shots or realized for a few minutes what had happened. I was present when the Buffalo police questioned him. If ever there was a lunatic Czolgoscz was one. And apparently, Zangara, who shot at Franklin Roosevelt, is likewise not quite sane.

As a result of the shooting of President McKinley stringent laws were passed providing the death penalty for even threatening the life of the President.

## Roosevelt Raises Son



Two weeks before being inducted into office as President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Masonic Hall in New York City, there to witness and raise his son, Elliott Roosevelt to the degree of Master Mason in the Architect Lodge, F. and A.M. . . . The photo was taken of father and son at the lodge hall.

## FLORIDA . . . Canal Plan

Among all the projects for public improvements to be financed by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation I cannot think of any that would do so much good as the plan to excavate a sea-level ship canal across the neck of the Florida Peninsula, connecting the Gulf of Mexico directly with the Atlantic Ocean. It would give immediate employment to tens of thousands. It would benefit everybody in the United States, from Texas east by shortening the time and reducing the cost of transportation of commodities between the Gulf States and the wealthy North Atlantic seaboard. It would pay for itself through tolls charged for the use of the canal by ships.

I hear from Florida friends that the railroads of Florida are opposing this project. That seems to me like pretty small business, but it is quite characteristic. The widespread and growing demand for a complete reorganization of the railroad systems of the United States arises largely from just such an arrogant and selfish attitude on the part of the country.

## RADIO . . . World-wide Report

We have got so accustomed to radio broadcasting that to most of us it hardly seems like a miracle. But I cannot escape the feeling that the world entered a new era on February 17th when the League of Nations broadcasted to the world its report refusing to recognize Japan's rights in Manchuria.

Two powerful short wave stations at Geneva sent this fifteen thousand word message in Morse Code around the world for anybody and everybody to pick up. It took ten hours to transmit the entire report, but every word of it was picked up by the New York Times and it was published in full on the following morning. Within less than twenty-four hours every newspaper in the world was able to inform its readers that the combined nations of the world would oppose Japanese aggression in China.

It was the most impressive gesture the League of Nations has ever made. And my guess is that it will accomplish its purpose.

## Rockford News

Miss Beulah Folger, of Rural Hall was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Davis Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Eubank, of Winston-Salem, were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Davenport.

Miss Versie Wilmoth spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Coe, at Stony Knoll.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Marion and children, Ruth and Phillip, of Ararat, visited relatives here Sunday.

Mrs. Ralph Burrus, who teaches at Low Gap, spent several days at her home here last week.

The roads have been impassable and school has had to close since the busses could not be operated.

Miss Pearl Hicks, of Winston-Salem, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. John Hudson.

## ANDY MELLON SUE

Andrew W. Mellon and two of his former treasury associates have been named defendants in a \$220,000,000 civil suit—the largest ever filed in the District of Columbia supreme court. The suit charges connivance with officers of unidentified foreign steamship companies, to evade payment of income taxes.

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