

Sax Rohmer:

SKRIVNOST DR. FU-MANČUJA

Viseča svetilka s pestro po-barvanim senčnikom je nad nami lahno nihala, kar je najbrž povzročil kak pih, ki je zavel skozi sobano. Dečkove težke veke so začele trepetati in Karamaneh se je živčno oklenila moje roke in me tako držala, ko je gledala, kdaj se bodo dolge trepalnice odprle. Tišina na tem mestu je bila že kar nadnaravna, da je že kar pritiskala na nas.

Nadzornik Weymouth je z začudenim licem pogledal preko moje rame.

"Kje je dr. Fu-Manču?" sem zašepetal, ko se je Nayland Smith pojavil zraven mene. "Ne morem razumeti tišine v hiši."

"Poglejte okrog," je odgovorila Karamaneh, ne da bi odvrnila pogled z obličja Aziza.

Ozrl sem se po zasenčenih stenah. Velike steklene omare, police in vdolbine v zidu so bile



V blag spomin

PETNAJSTE OBLETNICE SMRTI
NAŠE LJUBLJENE MATERE

Frances Kobe

ki je preminula 8. januarja 1940

Draga in nezabna mati. Danes je minilo že petnajst let, odkar si se za vedno ločila od nas. Ze petnajst let tugujemo nad Tvojim grobom in jednega srca kličemo Tvoje sladko ime. Ob Tvojem grobu poleg sosesčine Tvojega soproga in našega blagopokojnega ljubljene očeta Vama močno žalostni kličemo: Spočijta se v Bogu do svidenja nad zvezdami.

Zalujoci:

HCERE in SINOVI
Cleveland, Ohio, 7. jan. 1955.



V BLAG SPOMIN

SEDME OBLETNICE SMRTI NAŠE
DRAGE SOPROGE IN MATERE

AGNES BECK

ki je preminula 7. januarja 1948

Sedem let že Te zemlja krije, ko ločili smo se le za čas; tam Tebi lepše sonce sij, kjer pravi je le dom za nas.

Večni Bog Ti daj plačilo, ko svetu že dala si slovo, draga soproga, dobra mati, spavaj v grobu zdaj sladko.

Zalujoci ostali:

ANTON BECK, soprog
ANTHONY, sin
JOSEPHINE, hči
VNUKI
Cleveland, Ohio, 7. jan. 1955.

in je bila pomoč blizu, sva se nahajala v bivališču najbolj zvi-tega morilca, kar jih je kdaj prišlo z vzhoda.

S čudno mešanimi občutki sem šel čez debelo preprog; vstric mene pa je stopal Smith in odgrnil zastor, ki je zakrival neka vrata, katera nam je Karamaneh pokazala. Ko sem pogleda v mračen prostor onstran, je bilo razen tistega v sobi takoj vse drugo pozabljeno.

Zrla sva v malo, kvadratno sobo, ki so ji stene bile prevešene s čudovitimi kitajskimi prevesami in tla pokrita z blazinami. Tam v kotu je slabotna, modra luč, ki je stala na nizki mizi, slikala spačene sence okoli nazaj naslonjenega koščena-lica. Bil je dr. Fu-Manču!

Ob pogledu nanj mi je srce zastalo — tako neizmerna je bila groza, s katero me je prisotnost tega človeka navdala. Z roko sem se držal zastora in ga motril. Veke so zakrivala zlobne zelene oči, ozke ustnice pa so bile videti, ko da se smehljajo. Potem je Smith nemo pokazal na njegovo roko, v kateri je držal majhno pipo. Zoprnkast vonj mi je stopil v nosnice in tedaj mi je postalo jasno, zakaj je povsod vladala taka tišina in zakaj se je naš načrt z lahkoto razvijal.

Zlovešči razum je bil otrpel — zgubljen v svetu sanj. Fu-Manču je spal v opijevi omami! Motna luč je začrtala mrežo malih gub, ki so krile rumeno lice od koničaste brade pa do velikega čela in tvorile temne senčne kroge v vdrtinah pod očmi. Končno smo zmagali. Moževa strast je pripravila njegovo propast.

Nisem mogel spoznati, v kako globokem stanju je bil njegov ogabni sen. Premagal sem del odpora in pozabil na Karamanehino svarilo ter bil baš na tem, da stopim v sobo, ki je bila prepojena z zoprnim opijevim dimom, ko mi je lahna sapa zavela v lice.

"Ne hodite noter!" me je posvaril tih, tresoč se glas Karamanehin. Njena roka je prijala moja leht. Petagnila je Smitha v stran, mene pa nazaj od vrat.

"Tam je nevarnost!" je zašepetala. "Ne hodite v tisto sobo! Policija ga mora na kak način dobiti — in spraviti ven! Ne hodite v tisto sobo!"

Dekletov glas je razburjeno drhtel; njene oči so srdito žarele. Besna mržnja, ki se je porodila zaradi okrutnih krivic, jo je zdaj razjedala, toda strah pred Fu-Mančujem jo je še zmerom obvladoval.

Nadzornik Weymouth je prišel po stopnicah in se nam priključil.

"Poslal sem dečka v Rymanovo sobo na stanici," je dejal. "Okrožni ranocelnik bo skrbel zanj, dokler vi ne pridete, gospod doktor. Zdjaj je vse pripravljeno. Motorni čoln čaka ob ladjedelnici in vsi konci tistega kraja so zastraženi. Kje je

naš mož?" Iz žepa je potegnil zapestne spone in vprašujoče dvignil obrvi. Ker ni bilo nikjer nikakega šuma, ki bi izdajal kako udejstvovanje nevarnega Kitajca, je bil v zadregi.

Nayland Smith je s palcem pokazal proti zavešenim vratom. Ta hip, še preden smo mogli izreči kako besedo, je Weymouth stopil k zastrtim vratom. Bil je človek, ki je šel naravnost proti svojemu cilju in si prihranil razmišljanje za poznejši prosti čas. Mislim celo, da je nanj začelo učinkovati ozračje tistega prostora (ki je bil, dasi gol in neopremljen, poln osladnega duha). Bila ga je sa-

ma vnema, da se ga čimprej znebi in se loti posla. Potegnil je zaveso v stran in šel v sobo. Smith in jaz sva morala za njim. Vprav med vrati smo vsi trije za hip postali in pogledali tvor, ki je širil grozo po vzhodnem in zahodnem svetu.

Dasi je bil Fu-Manču brez moči, nas je tudi zdaj navdajal s strahom, ko je bil njegov velikanški razum omrtvičen in otopen. V slabo razsvetljeni sobani, ki smo jo pravkar zapustili, smo slišali, da je Karamaneh zadušeno vzkrivila. Toda ta krik je bil prepozen!

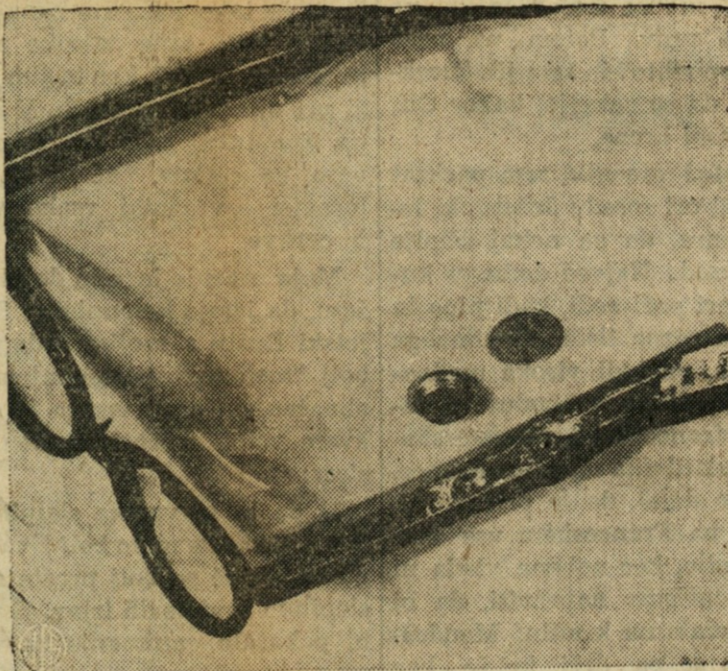
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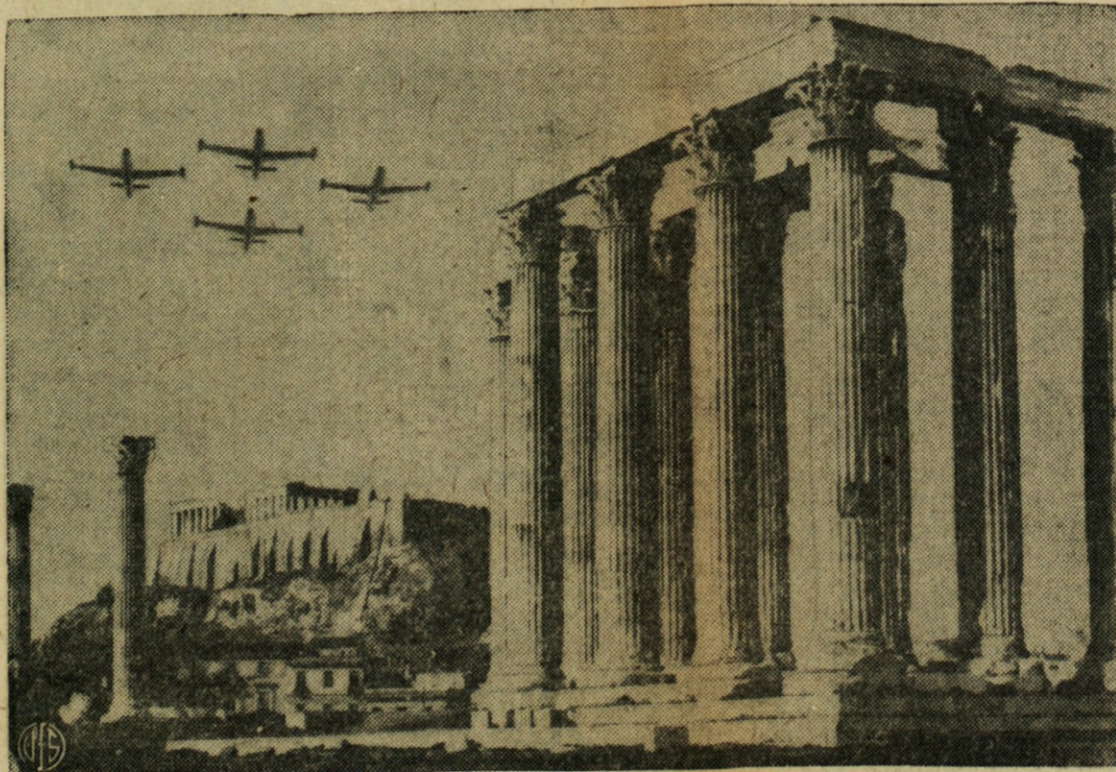
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OČALA IN SLUŠALO — V roženem okviru očal, ki jih vidite na sliki, je vgrajen slušni aparat. Nova vrsta očal in slušala je izdelek Ontario, Inc. v Dobbs Ferry, N. Y. Poleg okvira je mala baterija, ki oskrbuje mikrofon s potrebnim elektriko 180 ur.



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New Punch Card Tax Form

The new punch-card Federal tax form for reporting 1954 income was described by Director of Internal Revenue Parker C. Williams as the simplest return ever developed by the Revenue Service during the 40 year history of the Federal income tax.

"This is one Federal tax return that can be filled in with the very minimum of trouble," Director Williams said. "Devised for the employee whose total wages reported on his withholding statement amounts to less than \$5,000, and who does not have more than \$100 of other income, the return requires no mathematical computations," he explained.

The new punch card return, officially designated Form 1040A, is now available at all Internal Revenue offices, and can also be obtained at most banks, building associations and post offices. Besides the punch card, taxpayers who elect to use the simplified form are furnished an instruction sheet which carries facsimiles of both sides of the card. After the data has been assembled on the instruction sheet, the taxpayer copies it on the punch card, retaining the rough draft for his own records.

The front of the card bears the taxpayer's identification, the amount of income he has received, the amount withheld by his employer, and dividend credits and sick pay allowances, if any. He also designates by check mark his marital status, and signs the card, which is his return. If it is a joint return, the signatures of both the husband and wife are required. On the back of the card the taxpayer shows his exemptions, including himself, his wife, children and other dependents, the extent of support, etc.

When the card return is completed, it should be mailed, with the taxpayer's withholding statement (Form W-2), to the District Director of Internal Revenue in the envelope which is provided for this purpose. From the information on the card, the Internal Revenue Service will figure the tax. If the taxpayer has overpaid, a refund check will be forwarded to him. If additional taxes are owed, he will receive a bill.

Director Williams says that many wage and salary earners who this year will receive the regular 1040 forms by mail are eligible to use the simplified punch-card return which may easily be obtained, thus saving themselves the worry of determining their correct taxes. Persons using the card forms, he pointed out, must take the standard ten per cent allowance for deductible items, such as interest payments, medical expenses, charitable contributions, etc. In most cases, Director Williams says, the ten per cent standard deduction is generous, and the taxpayer will be benefited by taking it, rather than enumerating any deductible items to which he might be entitled.

Rabbit or Elephant

John Cameron Swazey, having toured the country with his Cameo News Caravan feeling the tempo of the recent elections, tells of the tiny rabbit who was running out of the Soviet Union as his life depended on it. He was stopped close to the border by a tired old fox who asked why all the excitement.

"Haven't you heard?" panted the rabbit. "The Kremlin has decided to kill every elephant in Russia."

The fox shook his head. "But I still don't understand," he said. "Why should that worry you? They didn't say anything about rabbits, did they?"

"Fool," hissed the rabbit. "You don't know those people in the Kremlin. They will kill me first — and then make me prove I'm not an elephant!"

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St. Ann's Society, KSKJ Norwood Library Movies

The Christmas Party we sponsored in conjunction with St. Lawrence and St. Joseph lodges was a howling success, if you get what I mean. Our attendance was larger than ever. Michael Winter, the Librarian of the accordion, played carols before Santa's long awaited arrival.

Supreme Board member Mr. Joseph W. Kovach greeted those in attendance and impressed upon the younger people that he was gratified to see them take an interest in the KSKJ activities. "This," he said, "is as it should be. We are daily losing our old timers to the grim reaper and it will be left to you to carry on the wonderful work they carried on before us."

At our annual meeting we elected the following officers for 1955: Pres., Josephine Mulk; vice-pres., Frances Lindich; sec'y., Josephine Winter; rec.-sec'y., Agnes Zagar; treas., Antonia Debelak; medical examiners Drs. Perko, Folin and Skur; auditors Frances Adler, Anne Zbikowski and Helen Krofi; flag bearer Antonia Debelak; representatives for SNH on E. 80th St. Mary Filipovic, Frances Lindich; representatives for SNH in Maple Heights, Verona Skufca, Anna Krescovic; representatives Ohio KSKJ Federation Frances Lindich and Josephine Winter; representatives Ohio KSKJ Boosters Bernice Zupanic and Rose Urbancic; rep. Women's and Juvenile Activities Aloise Fortuna.

In January each member will get 2 tickets to sell or buy on the affair to be held in May. Proceeds go to our sick benefit fund. We also decided to donate \$10 to the family of any of our members who die. In the past we furnished pall bearers — this will be discontinued in the future.

JOSEPHINE WINTER

Important Notice To All Lodges and Clubs

Many local and out of town clubs and lodges run a regular monthly ad in our newspaper containing all such information as: Names of officers, time and place of meetings, etc. This lodge roster is published once or twice a month. The price is \$10 per year, which is low considering the service it renders your group.

Lodges which run such ads usually get free publicity announcing their meetings and other similar short notices. So, for the \$10 fee, a lodge or club receives advantages far in excess of the amount spent. Yearly meetings are usually held during December. We suggest that all lodges and clubs which expect to receive free publicity during the coming year, vote for this monthly ad and share in the extra benefits you will receive. Certainly, there isn't a lodge or club that cannot afford the small amount of \$10 yearly.

ONLY LODGES AND CLUBS WHICH WILL HAVE THEIR AD IN OUR MONTHLY ROSTER WILL BE GIVEN FREE PUBLICITY.

Plan to enjoy a movie program at Norwood Branch Library, 6405 Superior Ave., Friday evening, January 14, at 8 o'clock. There is no admission fee, but children will be admitted only if accompanied by adults. Four short films will be presented.

The Moor's Pavane:
Story of the Moor Othello told in dance form.

People of Norway:
Daily life of the Norwegian people at work and play.

Miracle on Skis:
Two amputee veterans remaster the art of skiing.

Concert Hall Favorites:
Music of all times by a group of American artists.

Blood Donor Schedule

Beginning with the New Year the Cleveland Regional Blood Center located in Red Cross Headquarters, 1227 Prospect Ave., will be open on Mondays only from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. In addition to the one day center operation, however, the Red Cross Blood Mobiles will be going into industry and community areas on a full five-day-week schedule where donors may give blood either at their place of employment or in their community. The Cleveland Regional Blood Center distributed more than 38,000 pints of blood without charge to patients in Greater Cleveland's Hospitals during 1954.

Good Salesmanship is Good Showmanship

Many years ago a portly but very alert-looking gentleman stood at a counter in the toy department of a New York store. There was no activity in the place.

"Are you selling these toys?" the man asked the girl clerk.

"I'm supposed to," she answered, "but nobody seems to want them." "I don't wonder," commented the man. "You are so quiet nobody notices you. Why don't you set these toys going and create a little racket? Start the bells ringing and the toys scooting about, and inquisitive people will gather to see what is going on. Let me see if I can help you."

Whereupon he set the toys going, and when a crowd had collected, he proceeded with a few well-chosen words to launch a sales campaign. Soon he had all the toys sold except two.

"I'll take them, Mr. Frohman," a smiling lady explained.

"Ah, so you've recognized me!" cried the volunteer clerk.

And so she had. It was Daniel Frohman, one of America's most distinguished theatrical producers, engaged in his favorite hobby — demonstrating his extremely sound and practical theories concerning salesmanship.

With a laugh, he grabbed his hat and fled.

"Light travels 186,000 per second."

"Still not as fast as gossip."

Construction Record In 1955 Forecast

Washington, D. C. — New construction activity will reach an all-time high of \$39.5 billion in 1955, 7 percent above the record-breaking \$37 billion seen for 1954, according to outlook estimates prepared jointly by the Labor and Commerce Departments.

The Government agencies said their estimates are based on the assumptions that the economy as a whole will be relatively stable, that building costs, too, will be stable, and that consumer income will continue at record levels.

Both private and public construction are expected to set new records next year, with private outlays rising to \$27.4 billion and public outlays to \$12.1 billion.

The greatest boost to privately financed construction will be from outlays for non-farm residential building, expected to increase by 13 percent to \$15 billion. This volume would account for 55 percent of all private construction next year.

"A continued strong demand for new homes, the ready availability of mortgage money, plus the easier credit terms provided by the 1954 housing legislation indicate that private dwelling units started in 1955 will exceed this year's anticipated high total by about 100,000 units," the agencies said.

The 1,300,000 total public and private housing units estimated to get under way next year would make 1955 second only to the peak year of 1950, when construction was started on 1,396,000 dwellings.

The report said that among important influences supporting new housing demand are "widely distributed liquid assets in the hands of consumers; the millions of World War II veterans still eligible for GI home-loan privileges, which, under

the GI Bill of Rights, expire in 1957; and changing family housing needs, as the birth rate continues to rise and larger families in middle-income groups become more prevalent. Of special significance is the strong trend toward home ownership in recent years, which reflects consumer preferences. This in itself imparts much of the vitality to the present housing market."

Altho private housing is expected to account for the bulk of the net increase in total private construction operations in 1955, important types of non-residential building are also likely to break records. Current prospects are that commercial construction will continue to expand to a new high of \$2.3 billion of work put in place in 1955, with the emphasis on new stores, shopping centers, and offices to service new housing developments and continued suburban growth. Religious and private educational building, each of which achieved more construction put in place in 1954 in any previous year, will probably expand still more in 1955.

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New industrial construction will probably be somewhat less than in 1954, declining moderately for the third successive year, since the major part of the huge defense plant expansion begun after 1950 has been put in place. However, the downturn in contracts awarded for industrial building has been leveling off, so that the rate of decline in work put in place in 1955 is expected to be less than in 1954.

The anticipated increase in public construction activity next year reflects continued expansion for nearly all types of State and local public works.

the report declared. The value of expenditures on State and locally owned projects, for which a new high of \$8 billion appears likely in 1954, will exceed the \$9 billion level in 1955, according to the estimates.

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