Against the Grain

Manuscript 8467

Bet You Missed It-Press Clippings – In the News – Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

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Editor's Note: Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to *Against the Grain's* attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — **KS**

FROM BULLIED KID TO 75 FILMS

Stacy Keech was born with a hare lip. He talked funny with a nasal voice and was mercilessly teased and bullied.

But his father had studied drama at **Northwestern** and became director of the **Pasadena Playhouse** in California. Then they moved to Queens, NY for him to be an RKO director. Then they went back to LA in Sherman Oaks where the dad produced a radio series for NBC called "Tales of the Texas Rangers."

Keech had the acting bug and studied drama at **Berkeley**. His nasal voice became part of his roles. He is noted for "The Long Riders," "Fat City," "The Bourne Legacy," and a TV series of tough guy Mike Hammer.

See — **Marc Myers**, "House Calls: From Bullied Kid to Screen Tough Guy," *Wall Street Journal*, April 19, 1909, p.M5.

MOBY: FROM VW TO LOS FELIZ

Singer-songwriter **Moby's** father killed himself driving drunk. His mother took him aged two to Haight-Ashbury where he sat in the back of a VW or X-rated movie theaters while she and her boyfriends smoked pot.

They returned to Darien, Conn. for him to start school. She found more hippy friends and later moved to a biker gang. To **Moby**, it was all poverty and shame. He spent a lot of time locked in a closet listening to music. One day he was given an electric guitar.

He dropped out of the **University of Connecticut**, struggled with post-LSD panic attacks, began to DJ. Success soon followed. Albums include "Play," "18," and "Hotel."

He now lives in 2,500 square feet in Los Feliz section of LA. His father called him "Moby" because the mother's family side is related to **Herman Melville**.

See — **Marc Myers**, "House Calls: A Restless, Creative Soul Finds Safe Harbor," *Wall Street Journal*, May 10, 2019, p.M1.

LET'S READ DEPRESSING BOOKS ON RUSSIA

Anne Applebaum, *Red Famine* (2017) (**Stalin** starves millions in Ukraine); (2) **Tim Tzouliadis**, *The Forsaken* (2008) (American workers volunteer to work in Russia. End up in gulags.); (3) **Peter Pomerantsev**, *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible* (2014) (post-Soviet oil boom of greed and crass gluttony); (4) **Alexander Yakolev**, *A Century of Violence in Soviet Russia* (2002) (exposé of mass arrests and murders by **Lenin** and **Stalin**); (5) **Vasily Grossman**, *An Armenian Sketchbook* (2013) (travels through Armenia with a large discourse on Jewish and Armenian genocide).

See — **Alexandra Popoff**, "Five Best," *Wall Street Journal*, May 11-12, 2019, p.C8.

SUMMER TIPPLING – THE CLINT

Clint Hill was the Secret Service bodyguard who shielded **Jackie** when **Jack** was killed. Post-White House, he was assigned to her and travelled the world, appearing in countless glamorous photos. Most notably, he went with her to Ravello on the Amalfi Coast when she was a guest on the **Agnelli's** 82-foot sailboat with its unique wine-red sails.

The North Dakotan water-skied with the young **Caroline** and was introduced to the Negroni. He wrote about this in *Mrs. Kennedy and Me*.

And he made a few adjustments to the Negroni to arrive at the Clint: 2 shots Campari, 1 shot vodka, slice of orange, soda water, tall glass with ice.

See — **David Netto**, "Camelot Straight Up," *Town & Country*, Summer, 2019, p.56.

BASEBALL CLOSER CLOSES A BOOK ONLY TO OPEN ANOTHER

Sean Doolittle attended **UVA** before being selected in the first round of the draft by the **Oakland As**. Spring training in West Palm Beach found him without a suitable bookstore for his voracious reading habit.

He began seeking out independent bookshops during each stop on the tour and writing about them for his Twitter following of 100,000. He has plugged **Three Lives & Company** in Manhattan's West Village, **Vroman's** in Pasadena, **Tattered Cover** and **Mutiny Information Café** in Denver.

On his bucket list is **Classic Lines** in Pittsburg.

He mostly is into Fantasy and Sci-Fi, and can't seem to interest his teammates to accompany him on a book search.

See — **Jared Diamond**, "The Closer Who is Trying to Save Books," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 24, 2019, p.A12.

NIXING NOSTALGIA

Publishing giant **Meredith Corp.** became the nation's largest with the purchase of **Time, Inc.** last year but immediately after spotted problems. *Time*, *Fortune*, *Money* and *Sports Illustrated* had rich history and prestige, but their content could be found many places. Without the least nostalgia, **Meredith** sold them.

People, **Time's** cash cow, faces the stresses of modern publishing with big declines in print advertising and newsstand revenue. But it had unparalleled access to celebrities. It could grow profits.

Ad pages are down 38% since 2014, and digital ads aren't replacing them. **Meredith** sees no value in magazines with news and sports. The online world is awash. Rather it's going with lifestyle. Food, fashion and home content is not time sensitive. Styles of the rich and famous are a huge draw.

It closed *Ladies' Home Journal* with its title off-putting to young females. It's added *Happy Paws* with a focus on animal emotional needs. It's added recipe-focused *Hungry Girl*.

And being in Des Moines, Iowa helps. Salaries are 50% lower than NYC.

See — **Jeffrey Trachtenberg**, "In Lousy Market, Magazine Giant Axes Nostalgia," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 24, 2019, p.A1.