

July 3, 1943.

Mr. A. W. Grant,
San Antonio Express,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir:

With further reference to a report carried in your paper a couple of weeks ago in which it was stated that Mr. Carter's son, Amon Carter Jr., had been exchanged as a prisoner of war and was back home, and with further reference to a suggestion given you over the telephone may I relate an incident which happened in Pittsburgh in 1941 and which may give the FBI a lead, for there is a possibility that it is the same person, who impersonated Amon Junior at that time.

The person referred to was John "Jack" H. Carter, Jr., of San Antonio, Texas. We understand his father, John H. Carter of 227 East Magnolia Avenue, San Antonio, Texas, was, at that time, a traveling salesman for Johnson and Johnson (medical supplies). His mother is a sister of former Judge Summers H. Sharp of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, the Republican nominee for Governor, against Homer A. Holt, Democrat, in the 1936 State election. At that time (July 1941) this young man had spent six or eight months in West Virginia.

The information given Mr. Carter at that time was that this person registered at the William Penn Hotel around five-thirty o'clock, Sunday afternoon, July 12, as John Jacob Astor, III, and later that evening or on the following Monday morning re-registered for the same accommodations as Amon G. Carter, Jr. On Monday afternoon at two-thirty o'clock he arrived on the 15th floor of Benedum Trees Building, asked to see Mr. M. L. Benedum, and was received cordially by both Mr. Benedum and Mr. Joe Trees. They advised that this person made no effort to secure financial assistance or favors of any kind. They didn't question his identity and turned him over to Mr. David D. Johnson of that firm for entertainment. He took the youngman to his apartment for dinner, along with several friends, took him back to the William Penn Hotel Monday evening.

On Tuesday morning the Credit Manager of the William Penn Hotel, Mr. Cox, called Mr. Johnson about a de luxe luncheon party and gave the information to him of the dual hotel registration whereon Mr. Johnson suggested an investigation.

The following paragraph is quoted from Mr. David D. Johnson's letter of July 16, 1941 to Mr. Carter:

"It seems that while in West Virginia over the past several months he has cooked up quite a coal deal. In his possession was a coal lease affecting property in Clay District, Harrison County, West Virginia, in which his uncle, David Carter of Shinnston, West Virginia, was lessee. While there he telephoned Mr. W. P. Fitch of San Antonio and Mr. Fitch's lawyer, Mr. Marshall Eskridge, also of San Antonio, representing himself to be John Jacob Astor, III, and was salesman enough to influence them to come here by plane to discuss the purchase of Mr. Fitch's coal properties. I do not know either Mr. Eskridge or Mr. Fitch, but I talked to both of them by telephone. It developed that Mr. Eskridge has known Jack (but did not recognize his voice over the telephone) and his family for a number of years and was on friendly terms with Jack until a year or so ago when the latter was the victim of a serious automobile accident involving a fractured skull and a stay of several months in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. Not long after being released from the hospital, Jack became a big time promoter and entertainer under the non de plume of William P. Sloan. This morning, at Detective headquarters, he claimed to have been a fraternity brother of Amon, Jr., at the University of Texas. Of course, I have no way of checking the accuracy of this statement. Director Fairley is sending you the photograph which you requested. Our impression here is that John H. Carter, Jr., is suffering from some sort of mental derangement, likely the result of his automobile accident some years ago."

We don't know just what can be done about the matter but he has popped up occasionally, or we presume it is the same person, and the above detailed information is give with the thought the FBI might be able to suggest a solution.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am

Yours very truly,