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The mysterious death of Ashley Wilkes: And other tales from the "Georgia Wasp"

T. D. Scribe

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This collection of posts from the "Georgia Wasp" web log ("blog") starts off with "the mysterious death of Ashley Wilkes." (His airplane was shot down by eight German fighters a mere three years after he starred in "Gone with the Wind.") It ends by asking the musical question: "Was Moses [- some 3,300 years ago -] the first guy to ever say, 'It's only weird if it doesn't work!'"

(At the Battle of Rephidim. "Hey, you could look it up!")

In between are posts including one on "Johnny Yuma." (Starring Nick Adams, who also died under mysterious circumstances a few years after his series ended.) And there's one on "When adultery was proof of loyalty." Other posts include travelogs, and a view of American History, “patched and piebald."

(Like John Adams: "I’ll not be in the history books. Only Franklin. Franklin did this, and Franklin did that, and Franklin did some other damn thing. Franklin smote the ground, and out sprang General Washington, fully grown and on his horse.") But getting back to that MYSTERIOUS DEATH:

"It happened during the early years of World War II, over the Bay of Biscay off the French coast. In June 1942, a commercial airliner carried Howard and 16 other passengers and crew from Lisbon to London. The airliner was shot down by eight Luftwaffe Junkers Ju 88C6 fighter aircraft..."

There were several theories about the shoot-down. One held that it was a mere "accident of war." A second said Howard's friend and bodyguard looked a lot like Winston Churchill, and THAT's who the Germans were really after.

But a third theory said that Lesley Howard was a British spy, and that one of his missions was to keep Spain neutral. (That is, from joining Hitler and the Nazis. Another fascinating detail was that his partner in this particular mission was the lovely Spanish actress Conchita Montenegro - AND her husband...)

Another form of "the Nazis did it deliberately" theory was that no less a person than Joseph Goebbels ordered the shoot-down. The Nazi propaganda minister is said to have called Howard ‘Britain’s most dangerous propagandist.’”

And finally, it should be noted that the "Wasp" blog is fashioned on Harry Golden's, "Carolina Israelite." The "Israelite" was an old-time newspaper of the 1940s and ’50s, done up by Golden, a “cigar-smoking, bourbon-loving raconteur.” And the conventional wisdom is if Harry was writing today, “the Carolina Israelite would be done as a blog.”

In turn, while the "Israelite" was the work of man who escaped New York's Lower East Side - and moved to the Deep South - the "Wasp" is the product of a "classic White Anglo-Saxon Protestant." But we both share a love of both history and people, and what I hope is a mirror of his unique sense of perspective and humor.

One reviewer said of Harry Golden:

"He tells us things we don’t know, he gives a new look to things we do know, and he makes us think about things that we know but have avoided thinking about."

And aside from that, Harry was ALSO considered a "voice of sanity amid the braying of jackals."

Not a bad set of goals at all.

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From reader reviews:

Scottie Hicks:

This The mysterious death of Ashley Wilkes: And other tales from the "Georgia Wasp" book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This particular The mysterious death of Ashley Wilkes: And other tales from the "Georgia Wasp" without we realize teach the one who reading it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry The mysterious death of Ashley Wilkes: And other tales from the "Georgia Wasp" can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even telephone. This The mysterious death of Ashley Wilkes: And other tales from the "Georgia Wasp" having very good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Mary West:

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Arthur Bennett:

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Beverly Woods:

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