

commentary
from other pens...

Anarchist shoots
President McKinley

By Lawrence L. Knutson

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WASHINGTON — The president came in out of the September heat and took his place in the receiving line at the exposition's Temple of Music. A large American flag hung behind him. Potted palms stood at either side. A grand pipe organ pumped out classical airs high above his head. It was a few minutes before four in the afternoon Sept. 6, 1901, on the sprawling grounds of the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, N. Y. William McKinley, former Union Army major and two-term governor of Ohio, was 58, just six months into his second term in an administration that had already been the most eventful since the Civil War. At 4 o' clock, a side door opened and an eager line of people moved forward, many wiping their brows with large white handkerchiefs. Among them was a clean-shaven, man in an unremarkable black suit. He too had a white handkerchief. It was wrapped around his right hand. It concealed a snub-barreled, .32-caliber Iver-Johnson revolver. Leon Czolgosz (pronounced CHOL-gosh) considered himself an anarchist, a foe of governments and rulers. When later asked for his name he said he was Fred Nieman. Some said that could be translated from German as "Fred Nobody." He had come to Buffalo to kill the president. Elected in 1896, McKinley was the bridge between two centuries. In four years he had led the country onto the world stage.

In his first inaugural address, McKinley pledged to keep the United States out of "wars of conquest." It was a promise he was unable to fulfill. The cause was revolutionary Cuba and the attempts by Spain to quell armed dissent in its Caribbean colony just 90 miles from U.S. soil. The explosion of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor enflamed American public opinion. Congress declared war on April 25, 1898. McKinley was ready. An American fleet had already sailed to the Far East; On May 1 it steamed into Manila Bay in the Philippines and destroyed the Spanish fleet. The U.S. Army invaded Cuba. Spain accepted peace terms on Aug. 10, ceding Puerto Rico and some Pacific islands. McKinley agonized over annexation. The United States, an angry opposition contended, had won independence from a colonial power and had no business becoming a colonial power itself. On Sept. 5, President's Day, McKinley looked to the future in a speech in which he called expositions "the timekeepers of progress." McKinley had been known as a champion of protective tariffs. Now the world was a smaller, faster place and his views were changing. "Isolation is no longer possible or desirable," he said. "God and man have linked the nations together. ... The period of exclusiveness is past. The expansion of our trade and commerce is the pressing problem." That night there were fireworks, shooting stars and an illumination that spelled out: "Welcome to McKinley, Chief of Our Nation." The morning of Sept. 6, the McKinleys viewed Niagara Falls, then returned to Buffalo so the president could keep a promise to meet the public. In the great hall of the Temple of Music the president began to pump hands. In her 1959 book, "In the Days of McKinley," Margaret Leech gave this account:

"At seven minutes past four, while a Bach sonata was purling under the din of the crowd, the president's reaching hand was struck aside, and a man lurched forward. Two shots cracked sharply." A bullet grazed the president's ribs; the other cut through his stomach. Policemen and bystanders knocked the gunman to the ground. "Don't let them hurt him," the president said. After an operation that failed to find the second bullet, McKinley appeared to rally. But gangrene was setting in along the torn wound. On Sept. 14, McKinley roused himself to say goodbye. "It is God's way; his will, not ours, be done." A few hours later, his doctor raised his head. "The president is dead," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lawrence L. Knutson has covered the White House, Congress and Washington's history for more than 30 years.



Up the Mississippi without a paddle

There is dancing in the streets of the pioneer village, Senator Jesse Helms has colon cancer and he will not run again in 2002. There was a time when one tribe would have traded their majority for the defeat of Senator Jesse Helm (R) of North Carolina.

There must be something in the water down there in North Carolina. Those guys have been known to tell the village along the Potomac to go drain your swamp first. Back when protective tariffs was good monetary policy its legislature passed a state ordinance that made it unlawful to collect said tariffs, states rights, you know. They also said if this famous Indian fighter President Andrew Jackson tried to intervene it would secede. In those days down south in Dixie protective tariffs were as despised as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is today. Senator Jesse Helms was a Watergate baby and became the most powerful member of the Foreign Relation Committee since days of the Vietnam dove J. William Fulbright (D) Arkansas. Helms was so conservative he made Teddy Kennedy look like a skin head.

Yeah there really was something to that Y2K virus. It has hollowed out the tribal camp ground along the Potomac. Everywhere you look another cold war Indian is about to hang up his tomahawk. There may not have been so many hit men this side of Moscow at the funeral of the—village Queen, Katherine Graham, owner of the Washington Post, and now Senator Helms is out of here. Some called Senator Helms a racist others called him a homophobe. What ever you can say about him he looked out for North Carolina. He used his seniority to bump Senator Richard Lugar (R) Indiana off Agriculture committee,



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when North Carolina's farmers were in the cross hairs of the fine ole lady of big government. But in recent years he bumped Senator Lugar from the Foreign Relations Committee. Jesse you are a blight you should have stayed on the Agriculture Committee, this Senator Lugar doesn't know the difference between a nuclear scientist and a Chinese spy. He just said farm income was \$60 billion in year 2000. Well that was a lot of (!***) I mean kitty litter. When you call Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM), the largest U.S. grain producer, you believe China has farm surpluses. To get that much he must have counted the export subsidies that went to the Maritime Service, under something called the Jones Act. No problem there. I read Mother Jones all the time. Wrong Jones, and there was a problem. No president since the war of 1812 ever was elected without the endorsement of the Maritime Service, and that included the Gipper. During the 1980s we decontrolled everything. They decontrolled the banks and we had the big bank bailouts. They decontrolled those price gouging utilities in California, too. But to reform this law it takes more than click of the boss's intern button. In order to export value added food we need 416(b) Food For Progress exports. When that happens it kicks in the Jones Act, otherwise called cargo preference. It not only pays exporters cash bonuses that they surely call a tax

cut, and their shipping rates are not competitive. We give more valued food than we spend on foreign aid and pay the freight doing it. The subsidies to the Maritime fleet needs shipping subsidies of 100 percent to 300 percent over ocean going rates. You know we may be onto something here. Since the North American Free Trade agreement the U.S. has become the dumping ground for everyone's surpluses. We get wheat, hogs and cattle from Canada, for IBP, corn fructose for Pepsi and Coke, from Mexico and soybeans from South America. It doesn't help things any when our new Ambassador to Canada has just said we need to eliminate our borders. To late pal we don't have a border, so let's use the Jones Act that requires cargo moving between two U.S. domestic ports be transported on American-built, owned and crewed vessels. How is a cargo of soybeans from South America to Decatur, Ill., any different than a boat from Seattle to Alaska or something from San Francisco to Hawaii. Those free trickers just keep coming, it is enough to make everyone a Communist. So have another fast track, that they call Trade Promotion Authority. Live with it. It will happen with or without the American farmer. It's OK to believe Americans have the birthright to obtain all goods and services at the lowest cost on the planet. So, row row row your boat up the Mississippi River, to Decatur Ill., all you want but if IBP, ConAgra, Excel-Cargill and the Andrus family had to pay 300 percent over ocean going rates for their captive supplies from South America, they would book a flight to Beijing. © 2001 Wayne Gattshall wayneg@goodland.ixks.com

Examine the Lorazepam/Clorazepate settlement

Dear Kansas Consumers: If you purchased Lorazepam and/or Chlorazepate between January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1999, and were not reimbursed by insurance, you are a member of a Settlement Group in a lawsuit brought by the Attorneys General of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Trade Commission, against Mylan Laboratories, Inc., Cambrex Corporation, Profarmaco S.r.l., Gyma Laboratories of America, Inc., and SST Corporation.

The lawsuit claims that as a result of Defendants' conduct, consumers were overcharged for the purchase of Lorazepam and/or Clorazepate. The Plaintiffs and Defendants have agreed to a proposed settlement of these claims. The proposed settlement must still be approved by the Court. If you wish to remain a member of the settlement group, you must make a claim prior to September 29, 2001. All claims must be submitted to the Lorazepam/Clorazepate Settlement Administrator. If you have any questions about how to submit a claim or what information you must include in your claim submission, you may contact the Lorazepam/Clorazepate Settlement Administrator by calling 1-800-899-5806 (for the hearing impaired call 1-877-564-7096); by mail to Lora-



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• consumer corner

zepam/Clorazepate Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 1605, Faribault, MN, 55021-1605; or by e-mail to administrator@agsettlement.com. If you complete and submit a claim on behalf of a deceased claimant, you should also submit documentation that confirms your authority to act on behalf of the deceased. Any funds awarded under these circumstances will be paid to the estate of the deceased. It is suggested any questions regarding the claims process be directed to the Settlement Administrator to ensure that all claims are filed by the claims deadline of September 29, 2001. Any claims filed after the September 29, 2001 deadline will not be considered. The Lorazepam/Clorazepate Settlement Claim Form may be downloaded from www.agsettlement.com as an Adobe® Acrobat® PDF document for printing, which requires the free Adobe Acro-

bat Reader® software. Mail the completed Claim Form to: Lorazepam/Clorazepate Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 1605, Faribault, MN 55021-1605. Attorney General Stovall and her Consumer Protection/Antitrust division encourage you to make a claim. Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. This service is also used to provide information to make you aware of an important antitrust issue. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and an agent will return your call promptly.

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