

Before he could board a train to return, she was dead.

Mad with grief (he said) he began to gamble on horses, betting wildly and carelessly, his whole interest in life annihilated. To everyone's amazement, he couldn't lose a bet.

"Four months later," said Nick, concluding his story, "I recovered my senses sufficiently to count the money and found myself in possession of more than a million dollars!"

It was then and there, Nick said, that he decided upon the proper career for a man in his position. He pocketed his winnings and returned to the United States for an assault upon the biggest games, of any description, that could be found. Whatever the truth may be, Nick Dandolo was known to his new gambling associates as "Nick The Greek," and under this name he became a legend.

He won and lost with equal elan and was as proud in later life of his losses as of his winnings. Indeed, he discussed the losses with much the same air of quiet pride that other men employ in speaking of their grandchildren.

On one occasion, author Damon Runyon watched awestruck as the Greek laid \$40,000 to \$20,000 against a single dice-point—a four. When the four turned up on the next roll and stake was swept away, Runyon inquired:

"Do you... do that often, Nick?"

"Why not?" The Greek replied. "It's a 2-to-1 shot, isn't it?"

LOST \$280,000 ON A POINT

An even bigger loss was the \$280,000 Nick once bet gambler Arnold Rothstein on another point; in this case, a five.

"Why'd you make it \$280,000?" columnist Jimmy Cannon once asked.

"That's as far as Arnold wanted to go," said Nick.

On another occasion, Nick lost the biggest single pot in the history of Poker—\$605,000—again to Rothstein, in a game of Stud.

"At that," he said, "I came out \$70,000 ahead of the game. I'd taken Arnold for \$675,000 during seven hours of play leading up to that one bet."

The next day, Nick recalled, Rothstein sent him a brand-new Rolls-Royce, as a token of his esteem. But Nick sent it right back. "Who needs a car in New York?" was his only comment.

This refusal to concern himself more than peripherally with the material side of life was another notable aspect of his character.

(To Be Continued)

PARKER

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where he could pick up a subway. Off the itinerary though it was, it was that walk across the George Washington Bridge that sparked two dozen Parker novels and some of the biggest Hollywood stars playing the character in movie adaptations.

Those who are familiar with the GW Bridge know it is not a little foot bridge. It is the busiest motor-vehicle bridge in the world and has what was once the world's longest main span on a suspension bridge. It is not sleek and elegant like the Golden Gate Bridge or charmingly Victorian like the Brooklyn Bridge. The GW Bridge is marked by imposing steel structures that impress upon the viewer the elements of strength, solidity, and immovability. As Westlake made his way across the bridge the pounding of the constant flow of traffic—cars, trucks, buses—never let up. People familiar with the Hudson River will also know that the wind, as well, almost never lets up. So

as Westlake contemplated this structure suspended high above the murky water below, being buffeted by a constant onslaught of wind gusts and heavy traffic, he was struck by the impossibility of the bridge succumbing to the unrelenting pressures. The bridge bent, swayed, and vibrated, but never was there any question of it giving in to the forces arrayed against it. Strength and ultimate survival were essential elements of its character—perhaps the only elements—and it would remain safely above the ever-present dangerous waters. The Richard Stark pen name Westlake chose for the Parker novels fits accordingly. Stark is the German word for "strong," and matching this meaning with the first name will yield an additional *entendre*. The English meaning of "stark," of course, is equally fitting.

So here we go again. Parker will be coming this month to a theatre near you. Could be a pip; could be a pip.

NEWTOWN, MAYS

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Because no dynamite association has been hijacked and used as a front by crypto-fascist extremists.

That the National Rifle Association has been allowed to dictate what constitutes public safety in America illustrates both a) that a requirement for serving in the U.S. government involves a complete disregard for human life and b) how easily the public can be fooled by con artists. Guns are great, and America deserves a responsible gun association. But the NRA is a sham. For decades it's been used as a facade by an extreme right-wing group that would love nothing more than to replicate Nazi Germany here—except with a few fewer dead Jews. We need Israel in the war against the Muslims. This is the group our pseudo-democratic government has been taking its marching orders from.

Are all NRA members Nazis? Not necessarily. Many are just gullible and not too bright. But in general here's how you can tell. One of the favorite arguments of "gun advocates" is that unrestricted access to guns was established in the Bill of Rights as a safeguard against oppression by our own government. This is true; armed citizens were to be the last line of defense against enemies both foreign and domestic. But ask these same "gun advocates" if they also believe in a strong U.S. military, strong national defense, maybe even increased defense spending. If they answer "yes," then you've got yourself either a Nazi or Nazi stooge on your hands. The 18th-century citizens who pushed for the 2nd Amendment also insisted on no—or an extremely small—standing national army during peacetime. The fear was that if you allowed the national government to maintain a powerful military during times when we were not under attack by foreign enemies, then the government could easily turn around and use that military to suppress its citizens. Today, the argument that armed citizens could stand up to the current U.S. military is ludicrous in the extreme. And anyone who is for both the 2nd Amendment and the large U.S. military we currently have is a hypocrite whose lie has been exposed. The 2nd Amendment is outdated, archaic, and serves no useful purpose anymore, crushed into oblivion by the very people who claim to support it. Thanks to them, not only has the usefulness of armed citizens for national defense been taken away, the government's power is now 100s of times greater than any resistance that could possibly be put up by these same armed citizens. The only thing the 2nd Amendment is being used for anymore is as a tool by shadow Nazis to dupe the public into getting

their people into power. If they ever achieved a complete takeover, watch how fast all those precious "freedoms" are stripped away. These people also like to complain a lot about socialism. Well, better democratic socialism than National Socialism, in my opinion.

In the end, however, the Newtown tragedy might just have been the shock that wakes the public up. They may finally realize there's a man behind the curtain, a man with a stern countenance and Charlie Chaplin mustache who's been feeding them the big lie. The NRA's silence in the days following the massacre follows the pattern of the criminal who thinks this time he may be found out. His first instinct is to say nothing and see if this thing blows over. But it won't blow over. Like its fellow New England towns Lexington and Concord, the shots fired in Newtown are just the first in a long battle for freedom. There will be blood. But 200 years from now the sacrifices of the patriots will be remembered in the 1st grades yet unborn.

NEWTOWN, FAIL

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the long line of government psyops designed to persuade the public to allow the government to take away their guns, and their means to defend themselves against the Government and the banksters that the politicians really serve.

The small children murders are designed to create hysterical emotions in women to get them to demand that guns are banned. If that doesn't work they will continue with their evil agenda with worse and worse atrocities on younger children, until they get their way and disarm the people, so that they cannot fight back against government tyranny.

Newtown is the U.S.A.'s Dunblane, which was orchestrated in Scotland in 1996 by the British establishment to whip up hysteria in order to ban all handguns from the U.K. It was a follow-up to the Hungerford Massacre in England in 1987, which was carried out by mind-controlled Michael Ryan, who then shot himself so he could not be questioned. And it was used to ban semi-automatic rifles and shotguns.

It's always the same people behind it: the gun-grabbers who want the people to be defenseless against the gun-grabbers' employers, namely, the banksters who own all of the politicians. They get their politicians to pass legislation for them in order to remove the people's freedoms and means of defending themselves, and enslave them in a draconian police-state under a mountain of debt. And then exterminate the useless-eaters.

The Dunblane massacre was supposedly carried out by Thomas Hamilton, who was a pedophile and procurer of children for a high-level pedophile ring involving senior members of the Tony Blair, Labour Party shadow-cabinet and others. The massacre served two purposes, it achieved their desired handgun-ban and killed the abused children, so they could not be witnesses against the elite-pedophiles. They then had the findings of the inquiry sealed for 100 years, which is proof of the above.

Like Newtown there were two shooters, Hamilton and a hit-man who shot Hamilton and made it look like Hamilton committed suicide after shooting 16 children, so that he couldn't be questioned. Hamilton was found in the school gymnasium slumped against a wall and still gurgling when an off-duty policeman PC Grant McCutcheon entered the gym and saw two semi-automatic pistols, one on either side of Hamilton's body.

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