

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

**Mann, Erika**

**Pacific Palisades, 1948-03-31**

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Erika Mann  
1550 San Remo Drive  
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California,  
March 31., 1948.

Senator H. M. Kilgore  
Committee On Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Kilgore.

Your letter of March 10th has been following me about before being returned here where I found it upon my return from a lecture tour, yesterday. Kindly excuse this belated reply.

My information on Dr. Manfred Curry is not as conclusive as I should like it to be. Having attended the amazing party at his mansion which I described in an article published by the Chicago Daily News ( May 1946 ), I discussed the man and his activities with the American authorities in Bavaria ( both military and civilian ), as well as with a number of Germans who knew him. The latter stated unanimously that he had been quite a Nazi. Known as "der Koenig vom Ammersee" ( "the king of Lake Ammer" ), he'd been observed - and photographed - giving the Hitler salute; high party functionaries had frequented his parties; and particularly the German navy had been interested in the Doctor and his work. From the Americans I learned that "at present" ( early in 1946 ) Dr. Curry was trying hard to get a factory "unfrozen" that had never produced anything but airplane parts ( Junkers ) but in which he seemed keenly interested. -All of this sounded convincing enough but was not substantiated by documentary evidence.

My above mentioned article produced two effects :  
First: I was called - in Chicago - by two former C.I.C. men who telephoned independently from each other, expressing relief because "something was finally being done" and offering to furnish additional information. One of these officers declared that he had personally seen and confiscated a canceled check for a fairly large amount made out to Dr. Curry by a department of the German Navy. He also spoke of photographs showing Dr. Curry in the company of high Nazi officials and giving the Hitler salute. Both officers reported that despite the most conclusive evidence against the man, their efforts to get the case cleaned up had met with failure. To their minds Dr. Curry must have been enjoying "some very powerful protection". As they would not discuss details over the telephone, I got their names and addresses and called my editor to inquire whether he'd be interested in a follow-up on the Curry story. He was not. Hence, as a newspaper woman I, too, dropped the case which had seemingly ceased to be any of my business. I am sorry

to say that I also failed to file for future reference my informants' addresses. However, any major C.I.C. outfit stationed in Munich and surroundings during the period in question appears likely to be familiar with the facts pertaining to the affair Curry.

The second - rather belated - reaction to my article came some ten weeks ago when one of Dr. Curry's German neighbours wrote from Riederau on the Ammersee, Bavaria, U.S. Zone. His was a very excited letter stating that Dr. Curry's Nazi activities had been so numerous and outspoken that he, writer, was at a loss to understand the Doctor's release from prison. My correspondent added that he had furnished the local authorities with a wealth of incriminating material concerning Dr. Curry; that my article had only scratched the surface of the ugly Curry picture; and that he'd be glad to supply me with certified copies of the documents referred to. - I answered immediately but have not thus far received the papers in question.

That, I am afraid, is all that I can tell you at present. Through his wife, the former Mrs. Thyssen, Dr. Curry is said to have been - and probably still is - in close touch with German heavy industry. His dealings with the German Navy seem to be on the record, as is the fact that his American citizenship never caused the Nazi authorities to molest - let alone duly intern - the "King of Lake Ammer".

Should there be anything you'd like me to do in this context, I should, of course, be very glad to help. Before leaving Riederau - according to my correspondent - Dr. Curry threatened to sue me "and certain others" upon his arrival here. For reasons which I presume to be excellent he has done nothing of the kind.

Believe me, dear Senator Kilgore,  
Yours most sincerely