

THE IMMACULATE DECEPTION

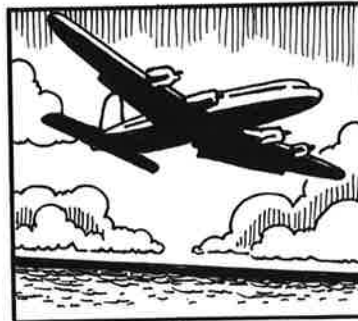


IN PITTSBURGH, LES BANOS IS REMEMBERED AS A LEGENDARY SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER. HIS SHOT OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE'S 3,000TH HIT IS ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZED PHOTOS IN SPORTS HISTORY. AND THEY WERE CLOSE FRIENDS OFF THE FIELD AS WELL.



WHEN NICARAGUA WAS DEVASTATED BY AN EARTHQUAKE IN 1972, LES VOLUNTEERED TO HELP CLEMENTE WITH RELIEF EFFORTS THERE, AND WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE ON THE SAME TRAGIC FLIGHT WHICH CLAIMED CLEMENTE'S LIFE.

BUT ANOTHER LEGENDARY SPORTS MOMENT, THE IMMACULATE RECEPTION CHANGED HIS PLANS. THAT CATCH BY FRANCO HARRIS ADVANCED THE STEELERS IN THE NFL PLAYOFFS, SO INSTEAD OF FLYING TO NICARAGUA WITH CLEMENTE, LES BANOS STAYED BEHIND TO PHOTOGRAPH THE PLAYOFF GAME.



LES BANOS SAVED HUNDREDS OF LIVES IN EUROPE DURING WWII... POSING AS AN SS MEMBER IN THE NAZI PARTY.

LES WAS BORN IN HUNGARY IN 1923. HIS MOTHER DIED WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG. HE WAS RAISED BY HIS LUTHERAN AUNT MARGARET AND UNCLE BELA VANCZAK. THIS LATER ALLOWED HIM TO HIDE HIS JEWISH HERITAGE.

