

Gerold Frank, Great Investigator; or fun and foibles in Memphis circa 11/11/68

While JL and I were awaiting communication on Discovery in the Memphis Sheriff's office last Tuesday we got into a conversation with the friendly lady receptionist. She started talking about the great parties, mostly with the press. (She was not then with the Sheriff.) When she mentioned Frank's name Jim or I said something that reminded her of this story:

The word was out that the Great Percy Foreman was in town but none of the out-of-town press at one gathering had located him. They decided that one of them should make a diligent search. Frank volunteered and returned later to report no sighting of The Texas Tiger. As he said this a new reporter joined the party. Couldn't find him? he asked? That's the guy whose feet you walked on and to whom you apologized for it!

When I told Martin Waldron this story by phone tonight he was reminded of those parties and the fairly generous supply of fairly generous, unattached ladies most of whom he believes were divorcees who were party-minded. Frank had his sights on one but pressed overhard. Regardless of the reason, he was making no time at all. There came an evening when one who Waldron seems to think was Tony Lewis was getting a good reception. One of the others thought it might be fun to tell Gerold that the lady's mood and disposition had changed, as indeed it had in the privacy of her quarters which somehow seem to have been less than really private. One of the reporters phoned Frank to tell him that receptivity awaited, without mentioning it was not for Frank. He grabbed a cab, an \$18.00 ride, and rushed off only to bust in and bust up.

The picture of Frank unable to identify or find Percy Foreman is, however, really funny because talking to him and reading his work makes one wonder how he could have ever made it as a reporter. There is nothing too ridiculous for him to believe and write about with deepest sincerity (it appears). Walking on Foreman's feet and then not recognizing him face-to-face seems like the real Gerold Frank. HW 10/9/74