

Remember Those Pumpkin Papers?

Followers of the Alger Hiss-Whittaker Chambers case sometimes seem to be speaking in a jargon all their own. See if you know what they mean when they refer to:

1. Pumpkin Papers.
2. Woodstock typewriter, most often the "old Woodstock typewriter."
3. George Crosley.
4. Rare prothonotary warbler.
5. Bokhara rug.
6. Red-herring.

Answers:

1. Whittaker Chambers hid five rolls of microfilm, two containing confidential State Department material, in a hollowed pumpkin in a field on his Maryland farm. He claimed the films were of documents passed to him by Hiss.

2. Sixty-five pages of retyped State Department documents were produced by Chambers as evidence of information passed to him by Hiss. All but one page had been typed on the same machine. Hiss claimed to have lost track of the old typewriter he had had during that period. While the FBI searched in vain for what was considered to be a key piece of evidence, Hiss' brother, Donald, located the typewriter, but remained silent as to its whereabouts.

Several months later, an independent search conducted by one of Hiss' unsuspecting attorneys turned up the Woodstock. Once the type was said to match that on the papers, an effort was made by Hiss supporters to prove that the government had managed to duplicate the machine.

3. This was the name Hiss claims he knew Chambers by when they were acquaintances in the mid '30s. Chambers claims to have been known as "Carl" or "Karl" in his underground days.

4. Chambers used his knowledge of Hiss' interest in ornithology to prove to HUAC how well he knew him. During his testimony, Hiss made an unsuspecting corroborating statement.

5. Chambers claims he gave this rug to Hiss and three other underground contacts in appreciation for their work for the party. Hiss claims he received it in payment for a monetary debt.

6. First used by Harry S Truman in a press conference held the day Hiss first appeared before HUAC. It was the Democratic president's term for congressional probes, such as HUAC's, he said covered up the legislative failings of the Republican Congress.