

A Collection of Burbank Murders and Mishaps

From the pages of
the *Los Angeles Times*
1890 to 1983

SHOT BY MISTAKE.

Accidental Killing of Maj. H. M. Mitchell.

DETAILS OF THE SAD TRAGEDY

Shot by Deputy City Attorney W.
E. Dunn While Deer Hunting
in the Mountains Back
of Burbank.

One of the saddest tragedies that has been chronicled in this city for many years is that surrounding the sudden death of Maj. H. M. Mitchell, which took place yesterday morning a few minutes before 10 o'clock in the mountains about six miles above Burbank.

At 8 o'clock yesterday morning Maj. Mitchell and W. E. Dunn, Deputy City Attorney, left the major's ranch on the Los Angeles River about five miles above this city, for a deer hunt, and shortly after the hunt began, Dunn mistook Mitchell for a deer and shot him through the right side, killing him instantly.

Mitchell and Dunn have been on a number of hunting expeditions together, and as the major was one of the best mountaineers in Southern California, Dunn ever stood ready to go with him, so when the major invited him last Friday afternoon to go out to his ranch that evening for a deer hunt early the next morning he jumped at the chance, and they left for the major's ranch where they spent the night.

Early Saturday morning they started out and spent the whole day tramping over the mountains, but did not run across any signs of deer. They returned to the ranch in the evening tired out but not discouraged, for during the evening they agreed to start out again yesterday morning.

At 8 o'clock yesterday morning they left the ranch in the major's spring wagon for Burbank, intending to drive into the mountains as far as possible and spend the day hunting.

On the road up they met a man who lives up in the mountains, and questioned him as to the best place to find game.

He told them where they would find a man named Gaston, who would gladly go with them and show them where they could find deer, as signs had been seen during the past few days. He told them to introduce themselves and ask Gaston to go with them.

They soon found Gaston, and when their mission was made known, he hurriedly gathered up his traps and they started up a steep ridge about six miles above Burbank.

They had not gone far when a deer jumped up close to them and Gaston fired at him, but did not bring him down. Major Mitchell proposed that they separate and run the wounded deer, as they supposed Gaston's bullet took effect, out of the brush. Dunn took to the ridge and the Major moved along the side of the hill, a little lower down, or in the brush where the deer had disappeared. Gaston took the other side of the cañon, and all three moved slowly up the mountain. Mitchell had not gone far when the deer jumped up close to him and he fired, at the same time calling to Dunn to "come on." A few seconds after Mitchell fired, Dunn, who was about one hundred feet from him saw what he imagined to be the deer and fired. He saw it drop and hurried toward it. When he got within a few feet of the object he saw it move and fired again. He hurried on and was horrified to see Maj. Mitchell lying on his face. At first he thought the major had hurried to the deer and was shamming, but when he reached him and turned him over, after calling several times, he saw the blood gushing from a frightful wound in the right side and he realized what he had done.

He started toward Gaston, calling for help and firing his gun in rapid succession, Gaston hurried to Dunn and the two ran back to the wounded man, only to find him dead. As soon as they saw that nothing could be done for him they hurried to Burbank, where Dunn surrendered himself to Constable Fawkes of that place. The Constable hurried Dunn to the city and conducted him to the County Jail.

Dunn was almost insane with grief when he reached the jail, and did not seem to know any one. Just after he was taken to the jail several of his friends called on him, among whom was Constable Clements. As soon as he got sight of Clements he begged for his pistol and tried to get hold of it. His friends were very much afraid that he would take his own life if he had an opportunity, and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon Justice Austin took him from the jail and conducted him to his own house, where he and other friends remained with him all night.

The news soon spread over the city, and hundreds of people were talking about it on the streets all afternoon.

The Coroner was notified at 1 o'clock, and he started at once for Burbank, where he summoned a jury, and in company with the undertakers, Orr & Sutch, and the jury, he made his way to the spot where the body fell. After the jury had viewed the remains, the body was placed on a stretcher, and the little procession started down the mountain. They reached the city with the remains at 7 o'clock last evening, and went at once to the undertaking parlors of Orr & Sutch, where the inquest will be held at 9 o'clock this morning.

During the evening hundreds of people visited the parlors and looked at the dead man.

The funeral will be held from Andrew Glasselli's residence on Buena Vista street this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The sad news was not broken to Mrs. Mitchell until late yesterday afternoon, when her father went out to the ranch. She has been ill for two or three months, and her family were afraid the shock might prove fatal, but she bore up under the terrible blow like a true Christian.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Maj. Mitchell was born in Richmond, Va., December 14, 1846. While yet a minor and attending the Virginia Military Institute he served as a member of the Cadet Corps in the Confederate army in Ewell's command, and was at Appomattox. After the war he engaged in raising wheat and tobacco in Virginia, and in 1867 he taught school in North Carolina. In 1868 he came via Nicaragua to California, and after spending a few months in San Francisco, he took up his residence in Los Angeles, where he has remained almost ever since. At first he engaged in surveying, but he subsequently took up newspaper work and acted as reporter on the old Star under Maj. Ben C. Truman. At the same time he corresponded for the New York Herald and made quite a reputation as a writer of California stories. During his leisure hours he studied law, and in 1872 he was admitted to the bar and began his career as a law clerk. In 1879 he was admitted to the Supreme Court, but he did not take kindly to office work, and during the incumbency of Alexander and Kowland as sheriffs of this county he acted as Under Sheriff. He assisted in the capture of the notorious bandit Tiburcio Vasquez, and convinced his companions that no braver man lived in the State.

He has also filled the positions of Public Administrator and Notary Public and has served as assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff when Gen. John M. Baldwin was in command of the First Brigade, N. G. C.

In 1877 he was elected Sheriff of Los Angeles county, and made one of the best sheriffs the county has ever had. In 1880, after the expiration of his term, he resumed the practice of the law, but he once more gave up practice when his friend, J. C. Kays, was elected Sheriff, and served as Under Sheriff up to two years ago, when Martin Aguirre was elected by the Republicans.

In October, 1879, he married the oldest daughter of Andrew Glasselli, Esq., of this city, and for several years they have lived on his San Rafael Ranch on the Los Angeles River, a few miles this side of Burbank.

For years past Maj. Mitchell has been a conspicuous figure on Fourth of July and other holidays, as he was often called upon to act as grand marshal. He served five years in the local volunteer fire department and has always been a warm friend to the fire boys.

Mr. Mitchell was a man of fine, chivalrous instincts, and he made an enviable record as an officer, as a journalist and as an attorney. He was a cultured gentleman,

a warm friend and a kind husband and father. He had always been a Democrat, and there is no man in Southern California who stands higher in the party, although he had never been an office-seeker, and was never elected at his own solicitation. He leaves a wife and two little daughters.

PRISONER DROPS FROM FAST TRAIN.

HANGING by his hands from a car window; an escaping prisoner rode nearly five miles on a train running forty miles an hour near Burbank yesterday morning, and then, unable to hold on longer, he dropped to the ground.

Throughout most of the perilous ride every effort was made to rescue the man from his position, and at the same time recapture him; but owing to the certainty that he would have been thrown under the wheels of the train if he were seized, he was allowed to drop. That he was not killed is surprising; but he probably escaped with a severe shaking-up and many bruises.

When the south-bound Southern Pacific express train No. 8 arrived at San Fernando shortly before noon yesterday, five hours late, it was boarded by Constable Peter Lopez with three prisoners who had been sentenced to the County Jail for thirty days each for malicious mischief, consisting of the burning of railroad ties. All of the men were of the hobo type, and as their offense had not been serious, the officer did not guard them as closely as he would have done had they been charged with felony. He took them into the smoking car and allowed them the freedom of the car. That any of them would attempt to escape never occurred to him, because he knew that the train would not stop until River Station in Los Angeles was reached, there being no passengers for Burbank, the only intermediate station.

Soon after the train left San Fernando, one of the prisoners went to the closet and locked himself in. The

officer waited for his return, but when he did not appear, Lopez began looking for him. Trying the closet door he found it fastened, and he was unable to get any response to his repeated rapping on the door. It then occurred to him that the man had escaped, and rushing to a window he looked to see whether the closet window was open.

The first thing he saw when he opened the window was his prisoner hanging outside the train, within a few feet of him, but out of his reach. The officer then went to the platform, intending to seize the prisoner from the lower step, but when he got there he found that although he could just reach the man, to have caught hold of him and released his hold upon the window would have certainly resulted in throwing him between the coaches and under the wheels, so fast was the train moving. It was impossible to enter the closet.

The man realized the danger of his position, and pleaded with the officer and others on the steps not to touch him, as that would mean his death. He had expected that the train would stop at Burbank, and intended to drop off as it slowed up, but it did not stop there, and it was impossible for him to hold on until the train reached this city. He hung there as long as he could and then dropped. He was seen to roll clear of the track into the grass and weeds alongside of the right of way, and after the train had passed he was seen to get up and limp across the track in the direction of the San Fernando wagon road, which was only a short distance away at that point. Lopez brought his other two prisoners to this city and lodged them in jail. They call themselves Joseph Thompson and J. C. Bourgire.

BURBANK.**POISONOUS MISTAKE.**

BURBANK, July 2.—Capt. White, who owns a fine ranch south of town, narrowly escaped death by taking carbolic acid by mistake for spirits of ammonia. He discovered his error in time to avoid swallowing more than a little of the acid, so that beyond a severely burned mouth, no damage resulted. It is perhaps not generally known that the only antidote for carbolic-acid poisoning available to the saving of life, in case the acid is swallowed, is common epsom salts, which should be immediately given in teaspoonful doses, well diluted, and oft-repeated until the doctor arrives.

UNLUCKY DRIVER.

Miss Flora Fairburn, who was injured in a runaway a few months since, was again the victim of a similar occurrence yesterday afternoon. The horse took fright and ran, and the cart striking a tree by the roadside, Miss Flora was thrown violently to the ground, and dragged some distance, sustaining internal injuries that may prove serious.

BURBANK BREVITIES.

It is the intention of the Burbank Coöperative Association to open its dryer the 10th inst. The crop will be the heaviest in many years. The cannery at Toluca will begin packing about the same time.

The Burbank Building Association has just completed extensive improvements on its brick block here. Foresters' Hall has been entirely re-floored and papered throughout, and all of the numerous rooms in the building upstairs, as well as all of the stores below, have been painted and papered. It is expected to furnish accommodations for the influx of workers at the dryer. A hotel will be opened about the 10th inst. in the block.

President G. D. Radcliff of the association has completed his canvass of the fruit crop now in sight and finds it to double that of any former season.

Rev. Drummond McCunn writes from his ranch at Hemet, where he is passing his vacation, that the fruit crop there is exceptionally heavy. Mrs. McCunn and the children are visiting her mother, Mrs. Thompson, at Beaumont.

B. H. Ingram and family of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., occupy the Powell residence on Olive avenue.

J. H. Weber and family, long residents here, have moved to their Los Angeles home on West Eleventh street.

Rev. L. S. Spring, pastor of the First Methodist Church at Santa Paula, passed through here yesterday en route to his old home in Nebraska. Mrs. Spring and the children will visit her sister, Mrs. Thomas Story, during his absence.

Miss Susan Breaze, who has been the guest of Mrs. P. R. Moore, has returned to her home in Cleveland, O.

BURBANK.

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Jul 17, 1902;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. A7

BURBANK.

CHILD DRINKS GASOLINE.

BURBANK, July 16.—Little Pauline, the fifteen-month-old child of E. R. Ertle, who recently moved here from Los Angeles to the fine ranch he bought from E. Klatcher, drank gasoline and narrowly escaped death, and is now in a precarious condition. The physician in attendance thinks she may recover.

BURBANK BREVITIES.

The association and Klatcher's dryers are running full time, each giving employment to 300 hands. The apricots are small, but of fair quality, and the prices paid range from \$7 to \$10 a ton. The association has had a fine well sunk on its property near the depot.

The oil put upon the leading thoroughfares in this vicinity, having now dried, has put the roads in almost perfect condition, free from dust, and proves a boon to the ranchers who are moving the heaviest crop of fruit raised in this valley in five years.

Burbank Lodge, I.O.G.T., entertained friends with an ice cream supper last night. Miss Carrie Hale, by invitation, entertained the assembled guests with several musical selections.

Charles Fischer has received his commission as postmaster and has assumed the duties. Henry Storey will be his assistant.

Mrs. Spring and family, of Santa Paula, who have been the guests of her sister, Mrs. Thomas Story, are visiting Mrs. Spring's mother, of Bunhilde ranch.

J. E. Nelson and family, who have been spending their vacation at the foothill home of Mrs. Nelson's father, E. L. Hubbell, have returned to their home on Bonnie Brae street, Los Angeles.

Miss Vail, of Omaha, Neb., is the guest of Mr. Hurst's family. Miss Vail is an accomplished pianiste, and will soon go to Boston.

Mrs. Henry Herberger and daughter are visiting relatives at Omaha, Neb., their former home.

Miss Edythe Milne is spending her vacation at the home of her parents, at Bonnie Brae Lodge.

TWO LABORERS STEP TO DEATH.

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Nov 24, 1907;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1981)
pg. 116

TRAGIC.

TWO LABORERS STEP TO DEATH.

STRUCK BY FAST TRAIN AND HORRIBLY MANGLED.

Before the Eyes of a Score of Persons, Mexican Track Workmen Attempt to Cross in Front of "The Owl" and Both Are Killed—Their Bodies Brought to This City.

A. Orsdo, a Mexican laborer, and a companion, L. Arles, were killed yesterday at Burbank, when "the Owl" train, south bound from San Francisco, ran them down directly in front of the Burbank station. The accident was witnessed by more than a score of persons.

Both men were frightfully mangled. Arles was instantly killed, while Orsdo, who was standing behind the first victim, lived two hours after the accident.

According to the reports received from eyewitnesses, the Mexicans were on a work train that drew onto a siding at Burbank to allow the Owl to come through. The Owl was late, and going fast. The Mexicans thought they had time to cross in front of the train and buy some tobacco at the store near the station. They leaped from the work train and stepped directly in front of the Owl. The first Mexican was thrown high in the air, and was dead before he hit the ground.

Orsdo was thrown to the side of the track. His left foot was torn off, and his left leg mangled. His left arm was broken in four places, and his shoulder crushed. The edge of the cow-catcher caught his forehead over the right temple, and scalped him, tearing the hair and scalp and leaving the skull bare. These, with other injuries, caused his death.

Both men were brought to Los Angeles. Orsdo was hurried to the Receiving Hospital, where Surgeons Quint and Bonyng made a desperate effort to save his life. He died just as the surgeons were beginning to operate on him.

MURDER FOILED, TRIES STARVING.

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Feb 18, 1907;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. 118

MURDER FOILED, TRIES STARVING.

BURBANK WOULD-BE ASSASSIN WASTING AWAY.

Chained to Cot at County Hospital—Refuses Food and Says Water Is "Too Heavy"—Doctors Think Him Not "Dope" Fiend but Just Crazy—Relative Visits Him.

Having failed to kill his sister's family at the Stancilff ranch near Burbank, Fred Strader is trying to starve himself to death at the County Hospital.

For several days he has refused water, saying it was "too heavy." He said he wanted light water. Yesterday, he decided not to take any more food.

Chained by the feet to a cot in the insane ward, the man seems to be wasting away. His arms are no thicker than a little girl's.

In spite of the fact that six bottles containing chloral, strychnine, morphine, opium and other varieties of "dope," were taken from him after he tried to slaughter the Stancilff family, the physicians at the County Hospital do not believe that he is a "dope fiend," or that he was full of "dope" when he went wild, at Stancilff's. They think he was just plain crazy.

That County Hospital people are informed that two of Strader's brothers died insane.

Alpha Stancilff, who was shot in the forehead by Strader, visited him Friday at the hospital, and tried to find out why the man wanted to kill them all. She could get no satisfaction from Strader.

The patient will reply to questions of the simplest kind, only after they have been repeated to him two or three times. When asked why he wanted to kill his sister's family; why he wants to starve to death, or why the water is too heavy, he only stares dully.

There is great danger of Strader getting away. At least there would be if he wasn't kept chained to the foot of the bed. Ever since being brought to the hospital, he has been trying to escape.

The boy, William Stancilff, the nephew of Strader, who shot his uncle with a small rifle to protect his mother and sisters from Strader's murderous revolver, will not be prosecuted.

Strader will be examined for insanity some day this week. At the examination an effort will be made to find out why he took six bottles of poison out to Burbank on the day of the shooting.

KILLED BY CAVE-IN.

Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); May 8, 1908;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1980)
pg. 118

KILLED BY CAVE-IN.

Well-Known Rancher of Burbank Meets Death Digging Trench on Supervisor Patterson's Land.

BURBANK, May 7.—Buried under six feet of earth in a trench he was digging. W. Bickett, 59 years old, a well-to-do rancher of this place, met his death here this morning. He was working alone and it was probably half an hour after the cave-in before it was learned that an accident had happened.

Bickett, who was unmarried, had lived for a long time on Supervisor Patterson's ranch and was well known in this section. Yesterday he was engaged in digging a trench connecting two wells. When last seen by friends, he was working about six feet below the surface. Some time afterward, when some of his friends passed, they saw the banks had caved in. Hastily the dirt was removed, but when the body of Bickett was reached, it was cold in death.

BANDIT CHASE LEADS NORTH.

Slayers of Burbank Officer Sought Near Simi.

Purrier Sinks Rapidly as Re- sult of Wounds.

Posses Follow Up All Tips Regarding Fugitives.

Search was extended to Ventura county late yesterday for the three auto bandits who shot to death Robert Normand, deputy city Marshal, and perhaps fatally wounded Henry E. Purrier, township Constable, while resisting arrest at Burbank early Friday morning. Deputy Sheriffs Coutts, Bell, Lips and Anderson hurried to Simi on a tip that three men, answering in a general way the description of the fugitives, had been there and headed in their automobile toward the mountains.

Deputy Sheriff Sweesy visited Constable Purrier in the Burbank Hospital yesterday afternoon, but was unable to gain much additional information regarding the gunmen. Constable Purrier, suffering from three bullet wounds, was reported in a serious condition, and less hope was held for his recovery than on Friday.

Officers of all surrounding towns and cities are on the lookout for the seven-passenger Studebaker automobile and the three men described as Italians who fled Burbank after the shooting which followed their arrest when they were caught entering the U. L. Wood tire shop. All clues to the whereabouts of the bandits were run down by posses under the direction of Sheriff Cline and Undersheriff Manning.

The report from Simi on which the officers acted was that three men had stored their automobile in a private garage there, had stocked up with provisions and then headed for the mountains. One of the men seemed to be sick. Constable Purrier, in describing the pistol battle, said he believed he hit one of the men and possibly two, although he could not tell definitely.

The body of Deputy City Marshal Normand is being held at the A. C. Fillback undertaking establishment, pending a Coroner's inquest.

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NIGHT RIDERS BAFFLE POLICE

Second Suspect Released in Burbank Mystery

Death Threat to Grocer is Still Unexplained

Two Men Arrested Deny Any Connection With Gang

With the release yesterday of a second suspect, Burbank's police investigation of a mysterious organization known as "The Night Riders," credited with threatening the life of Jay Henry, Burbank grocery-store proprietor, came to a temporary standstill.

Henry found a note tacked to the rear door of his store when he opened up last Saturday morning, reading:

"You are warned. You and yours. This will be your last night spent in peace. We have you marked and will get you. Our organization, The Night Riders, have visited you. All is ready. We will visit your store once again and then we will do our deadly work. Don't raise any alarm or your suffering will be greater. Last warning. Death will soon come.

"The Night Riders.

The note was crudely printed with pencil on a piece of wrapping paper. Henry considered it in the light of a joke, but the fact that his wife had been insulted by a stranger who had appeared at her home unexpectedly shortly before, prompted him to notify Chief of Police John Long of Burbank.

A youth giving the name of

Clare Seaton was the first suspect arrested, but released when he satisfied officers that he had no connection with the death threat. The second man arrested gave the name of Frank Myer. He admitted, according to Chief Long, that he had gone to the Henry home and made remarks at which Mrs. Henry took offense. He denied any participation in the threats or membership in the mysterious "Night Riders." He was released yesterday for lack of convicting evidence.

Chief Long, who is assisted in the investigation by Sergeants Stanford and Marigold, characterized the "plot" last night as the probable work of a crowd of irresponsible youths, but lacking concrete evidence declared that the investigation will be pushed to the fullest extent. He said he had heard vaguely of "The Night Riders" as a club of young men who ride motorcycles, but had attached no suspicious significance to the fact.

TAKES LIFE ON DEATH OF FIRST BORN

*Wife of Burbank Realty
Man Found Shot on Bed
Once Used for Baby*

Lying on a small mattress that had rested in the crib of her infant son, who died two weeks ago, the lifeless body of Mrs. Grace E. Anderson, 30 years of age, was found in the garage of her home at 1051 East Alameda street, Burbank, yesterday, by neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Reeves. The discovery of the body with a bullet wound in the head and a .32-caliber pistol near by followed a shot that caused the Reeves to investigate.

No note was left, but the death bed chosen by Mrs. Anderson led her husband, Frank E. Anderson, prominent realty man of Burbank, to express the belief that she committed suicide in a temporary lapse of reason due to an uncontrollable grief for the loss of her firstborn. Since the death of her son, Mr. Anderson said, his wife has been moody and under a strain both physical and mental.

She appeared to be in fairly good spirits, he said, when he left home yesterday morning. He had been away for only a short time when the shot was heard in the garage.

The body was taken to the mortuary of A. C. Fillbach, where an inquest will probably be conducted today.

BOY LOSES LIFE UNDER TRAILER

William Hoffman Falls Under Wheels in Burbank

Companions, Fearing Cen- sure, Return to Glendale

Three Youths Arrested on Suspicion Released

BURBANK, Aug. 3.—William Hoffman, 13 years of age, of Glendale, whose body was discovered at the curb here last night with his head crushed and an arm nearly severed, came to his death as the result of falling from the trailer of a truck on which he had been stealing a ride, according to the report of the accident told by Philip Hollander and Morris Rector, Glendale neighbors of the Hoffman boy.

The three boys had "hopped" the trailer in Glendale earlier in the evening and ridden to Burbank, where the driver of the truck had to stop to replenish the supply of water in his motor. According to the story told by the survivors, William attempted to board the trailer and continue his trip when he slipped and fell under the wheels, which passed over his body. The Hollander and Rector boys, afraid of what might happen to them as a result of the accident, returned to their homes and did not report the affair to anyone.

The body was discovered later by Cecil Kennard, 377 Palm avenue, Burbank; Frank Richards, 1822 Grismer street, Burbank, and Guy Whilson, Empire avenue, Burbank. They reported their find to the local police. After an investigation by Chief Long's men and deputies from the Sheriff's office, the three Burbank youths, who are well known to the police here, were placed under arrest and taken to the County Jail, where they were kept until this morning. They were returned here before noon, and after the Glendale boys had given their version, released.

Hoffman's companions at first refused to admit they were with him, but under the skillful questioning of Capt. William Bright and Chief Long, they broke down and admitted they saw the accident.

DEATH DUEL ENDS OLD FEUD

Pair "Shoot It Out" in Burbank and One, Wounded Perhaps Fatally, Faces Charge of Murder

A feud of long standing between Julian Chacon, 22 years of age, and Marcellno Delgado, 27, resulted fatally for the former and probably fatally for the latter last night when the two engaged in a gun duel as they met at the intersection of Flower and Verdugo streets in Burbank, according to Burbank police reports.

Chacon was killed instantly and street.

Delgado is at General Hospital, where he is not expected to live after sustaining a bullet wound in the lung.

Delgado has been charged with murder and Chief of Police Bergh and Police Captain Hampton of Burbank are investigating the shooting in an endeavor to learn circumstances surrounding the affray.

Two young girls, Anita Lara and Adeline Stephenson of Burbank, were questioned by police following the shooting, when it was learned that they were with the men and seized the guns used by the enemies after both had fallen and carried them to their home at 122 Verdugo

According to meager information obtained by police last night, the men had met earlier in the evening and engaged in an altercation during which Delgado struck Chacon. The latter announced his intention of going for a gun and Delgado did likewise. They met later and the shooting took place. Chacon fired four shots, one of which took effect in his adversary's lung, while Delgado fired only twice, the last shot proving fatal when it struck Chacon's temple.

Leo Lopez, Frank Celya and Sam Cadinas are held in the Burbank jail as material witnesses.

NINETEEN-DAY FAST BRINGS BURBANK WOMAN'S DEATH

The almost mummified body of Mrs. Anna E. Mahoney, 53 years of age, sister of William M. Ball, Los Angeles policeman, lay in a Burbank mortuary last night, nineteen days after Mrs. Mahoney began a period of fasting and prayer while in a spell of religious fervor.

A post-mortem by county authorities is scheduled to be performed today over the remains of the victim of the fast, who denied herself even a sip of water while whispering prayers through parched lips for those she described as her "loved ones."

Mrs. Mahoney, the wife of George Mahoney and mother of two grown sons, died shortly after noon Wednesday, while an ambulance was en route from General Hospital to remove her to the psychopathic ward of that institution for observation and forcible feeding.

She was found lying on a cot in a garage in the rear of her home at 1823 Brighton street, Burbank, Monday by workers of the Church of the Nazarene, which she formerly attended, after her religious fast had been reported by her husband.

Dr. E. D. Pratt, summoned by attaches of Emergency Hospital at Burbank when Mahoney appealed there for assistance in ending the woman's fast, attempted to persuade Mrs. Mahoney to take water, as had the church workers who investigated. The woman steadfastly refused water or food as she had since her fast began.

Mahoney, advised by hospital officials to get out a warrant authorizing his wife's removal to the psychopathic ward of General Hospital, obtained the warrant and the ambulance was speeding to the Mahoney home when Mrs. Mahoney died. Dr. Pratt said thirst had caused death and that the woman's skin was parched and her body

"dried up" almost to the point of mummification.

Mrs. Mahoney left the Nazarene Church a year ago, Rev. W. C. Frazier, pastor of the church, said, and had received no fasting ideas from that church while a member.

Mahoney had not been working recently, police of Burbank said. The woman leaves, besides her husband, two sons, Vernon and Lester; three sisters, Mrs. Lorena Reynolds, Burbank; Mrs. Eunice Willard, also of Burbank, and Mrs. Minnie O'Conley, Oakland, and five brothers, all residing in the East. The Mahoneys moved to Burbank from Kentucky several years ago.

The body is at the Fillback mortuary, Burbank, pending funeral arrangements to be made by relatives.

Guard Shoots Bandit t

TIP ON ROBBERY PLOT TRIPS PAIR

*Burbank Watchman Fires as
Intruders Fail to Halt*

*One Killed Instantly While
Other Dives Out Window*

*Former Policeman Gives Up
Short While Later*

BURBANK, July 30. (Exclusive)—
A load of buckshot fired by a dili-
gent caretaker early this morning

ended the career
of one bandit
and hastened
the arrest of a
former Los An-
geles policeman
when the two
men were sur-
prised in an as-
serted attempt
to rob the
Druids' Temple,
1809 South
Magnolia Boule-
vard.

The dead man
was identified
as Samuel J.

Goff, 26 years of age, of 11617 South
Vermont avenue.

His companion, John S. Alexan-
der, escaped from the building aft-
er Goff was shot, but later sur-
rendered at the University Station,
according to police records. He is
being held in the Burbank jail on
a charge of suspicion of robbery.

Anthony Fido of 526 North Lamar
avenue, caretaker of the temple,
guarded the place with a shotgun
when it had been darkened at the
conclusion of the Saturday night
dance. He said a guest had in-
formed him that two men had been
overheard planning to rob the tem-
ple safe.

REFUSE TO HALT

Shortly after midnight, Fido said,
he and his 14-year-old son, Joe,
were on guard in the empty hall
when two intruders, lighting their
way with matches, forced an en-
trance through a rear window. Fido
said he ordered them to halt, but
they paid no attention to him.
Thinking he could force their at-
tention, he said, he fired low, the
shot going through the bottom of a
door.

In spite of the warning shot, Fido
said, the two men continued their
way toward the cash register and
safe, and refused to heed his com-
mands to halt.

He fired again, he said, this time
directly at the intruders. The
charge went through Goff's neck,
killing him instantly.

DIVES OUT WINDOW

Alexander held up his hands in
a gesture of surrender, but dived
through an open window when
Fido's head was turned for a mo-
ment, according to the police re-
port. He was seen by Fido's wife
and daughter as he fled from the
place. A short time later he sur-
rendered at University station, ac-
cording to Officers Horne and Neale.

According to police records, Goff
was wanted by local officers on pre-

WATCHMAN'S SHOT PREVENTS ROBBERY



Anthony Fido
Burbank Druids temple guard, who
yesterday slew one bandit and
caused surrender of former police-
man who escaped buckshot.

vious burglary charges. Alexander
served about four months on the
Los Angeles police force, records
revealed.

Goff's body was taken to the
Powell mortuary, but later was re-
moved to the County Morgue. He
leaves his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth
Goff of 1533 One Hundred and Sev-
enth street, Los Angeles.

anch Nov 2, 1933 ry

AUTOPSY SHOWS DEADLY AGENT

*Arsenic Found in Organs of
Arthur C. Genung*

*Victim Ill, Suffers Sudden
Relapse and Expires*

*Coroner to Conduct Inquest;
Search Starts for Clews*

BURBANK, Nov. 1.—Investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Arthur C. Genung, 60-year-old contractor, was begun by police today following the revelation by an autopsy that a large quantity of arsenic was found in the man's vital organs.

Genung, who lived at 218 North Orchard Drive, died in his home last Sunday. His body was removed to the A. C. Fillbach mortuary and the Coroner's office notified.

AUTOPSY ORDERED

Due to lack of an attending physician prior to his death the Coroner ordered an autopsy performed by Assistant Autopsy Surgeon Webb, who reported yesterday that he found a sufficient quantity of arsenic in the vital organs to have caused death.

Following the findings Burbank police started an investigation. According to the officers, Genung was a building contractor but had not been employed for several weeks. He had been ill for some time but officers said that there was nothing in the case to indicate that Genung had ended his life.

MYSTERY IN CASE

According to his wife, Genung was taken ill last Friday. After two days in bed he seemed improved, then suddenly suffered a relapse and died.

Investigators took samples of several medicines that the man had been taking and sent them to the county chemist for analysis. An early theory that Genung might have been stricken by poison from vegetables that had been sprayed with an insecticide was discounted by chemists, who held the amount of poison found by the autopsy was too great to have been from that source.

A complete report of the case was ordered returned to the Coroner, who directed that an inquest be conducted.

TWO KILLED

LIQUOR LINKED TO BAY AFFRAY

Experts Testify Actor Had Alcohol in System

Defense Tries to Show Death Victim Was Drunk

Mrs. Lessert Backed by Character Witness

Expert prosecution witnesses were called to the witness stand yesterday in Superior Judge Fricke's court at the trial of Mrs. Alta Lessert, charged with the murder of Tom Bay, motion-picture cowboy, in an effort to prove Bay was intoxicated at the time Mrs. Lessert asserts he attempted to kill her and she shot him in self-defense.

These witnesses were A. J. Abernathy, county chemist, and Dr. A. F. Wagner, county autopsy surgeon. Both testified under questioning by Charles W. Ostom and Roland Rich Woolley, defense attorneys, that they found a considerable amount of alcohol in Bay's body. The defense attorneys drew the inference that Bay was intoxicated at the time he was killed.

QUARREL BLAMED

Mrs. Lessert testified she shot Bay during a quarrel after he had reached for a gun, which she snatched from his grasp and fired in self-defense. The defendant also testified Bay had beaten her on many occasions and had threatened her life.

Mrs. Lessert also called a number of character witnesses, including Buck Bucko, Roy Bucko, Jack Castle and Jack Padjan, motion-picture actors, and Arthur Hudkins, a brother of Ace Hudkins, prize fighter. All testified Bay was known as a troublesome character.

THREAT DESCRIBED

Clyde Boulter, another defense witness, said he had once heard Bay remark he was going to take Mrs. Lessert for a ride from which she would not return.

Bay was shot to death in his home at 602 North Lincoln Boulevard, Burbank, on October 11, 1933.

Mrs. Mary Frances Miles, the only eyewitness to the shooting, testified she saw Mrs. Lessert fire the fatal shot while Bay stood with his back toward her, his hands raised above his head. Later, Mrs. Miles said, Mrs. Lessert pressed the gun to her own breast and attempted to end her own life.

Mate Slain



Mrs. Ida Christensen, widowed in shotgun duel between husband and lodger at their home. Clash is laid to jealousy.

Times photo

KILLING LAID TO JEALOUSY

Investigators Tell Findings in Fatal Duel in Which Husband Met Death

Jealousy over the attentions paid by a roomer in his home to the wife of Ozro W. Christensen, 48-year-old cement worker, 318 North Lomita street, Burbank, was the cause of a shotgun duel Sunday near Castaic in which Christensen was killed and the roomer, Henry Baer, 38, received critical wounds, Sheriff's investigators said last night.

While Baer, held on suspicion of murder, lies near death in the prison ward of the General Hospital, Inspector Stensland said questioning of Mrs. Ida Christensen, the widow, disclosed that her husband had shown considerable jealousy over several visits made by Mrs. Christensen and Baer to Burbank beer parlors.

CAUSE OF SHOOTING

It was an argument over Baer's attentions to his wife, officers said, that resulted in the shotgun duel between the two men while quail hunting near Castaic.

Christensen, Baer and a third member of the party, Rueben Smith, 241 North Providencia street, Burbank, had left their car and were walking up a canyon when Christensen directed Smith up a side draw.

A bit later, Baer told officers, Christensen pointed a shotgun at him and fired.

SEVEN SHOTS FIRED

Seven shots were fired, Stensland said, four from Christensen's weapon, one charge which struck Baer in the jaw and neck, and three from Baer's gun, two of which struck Christensen in the head, killing him. Smith removed the wounded man to Newhall and called officers.

Surgeons said last night Baer has a slight chance for recovery.

Pending Baer's recovery and further investigation of the shooting, no inquest into Christensen's death has been set.

Jun 1, 1935

PISTOL USED IN SUICIDE

Death Follows Conference

*Italian World War Veteran
Turns Gun on Self in
Library of Home*

BURBANK, May 31.—Believed to have been worrying over being transferred to another position Robert De Violini, 45 years of age in charge of the escrow department of the Bank of America branch here, shot and killed himself this afternoon. He lived at 408 Sunset Canyon Drive.

GIVEN NEW POST

De Violini was on his vacation and, police were informed, he had been ordered to take a position in a branch bank in Los Angeles, which De Violini considered a demotion.

He was visited at his home this afternoon by Jack H. Brahm of 929 Edith street, Alhambra, an official of the Bank of America in Los Angeles. They had conversed for some time in the library and Brahm started to depart. As he turned and stepped out of the library door De Violini seized a pistol from a nearby shelf and fired a .38-caliber bullet into his brain, dying instantly.

FORMER ARMY MAN

De Violini had been connected with the Burbank branch bank for more than seven years. He was formerly a captain in the Italian army and served during the World War.

He leaves his widow, Frances, and two small children. The body was taken to the A. C. Filbach mortuary, where an inquest will be conducted.

Boy, 13, Crushed to Death by Loose Trailer

A heavy trailer which broke loose from a truck loaded with butane gas brought sudden death to Bill Moffett, 13, news-boy, of 915 S. Lake St., Burbank, yesterday when the vehicle turned over and crushed the lad as he sat folding newspapers at Victory Blvd. and Alameda St., Burbank, police reported.

Young Moffett, with six other boys, was preparing newspapers for delivery when the trailer rolled wildly toward him after being unjointed from a truck reported driven by Fred E. Nash, 26, of Fresno.

Other Boys Escape

The six boys escaped to safety but the Moffett boy, who had his back to the oncoming trailer, was pinned beneath the vehicle.

Mrs. Joan McBride, 39, of 5943 S. Wilton Place, received contusions and abrasions yesterday when she was struck by an automobile driven by Wallace Young, 44, who told police he was an employee of Franchot Tone, screen actor.

Driver Not Held

The machine was registered to Tone and Young gave his address as 144 Monovale Ave., Holmby Hills, the same as the actor's, police said. Young was not held.

The accident occurred about noon at First and Springs Sts. Mrs. McBride was treated at Georgia Street Receiving Hospital and then sent home.

Struck by an automobile while crossing Huntington Drive at Buena Vista Drive, Monrovia, Charles Martin, 78, of 1020 Huntington Drive, Monrovia, received injuries yesterday which resulted in his death. Driver of the car, Samuel R. Ornelas, 35, of 1608 Juarez St., Irwindale, was not cited. He told police that Martin stepped in front of his machine.

Britain Honors Burbank Marine

BURBANK, March 12. — Throwing himself on a hand grenade tossed by a Jap into a group of his marine comrades on Tarawa, Cpl. Phillip Ray Burke, 21, risked his life to save theirs.

Convalescing from injuries at the San Diego Naval Hospital, he today was awarded the British Distinguished Service Medal for "outstanding gallantry, initiative and devotion to duty shown in operations against the Japanese in Tarawa during the reconquest of the Gilbert Islands." The Gilberts are a British possession.

Cpl. Burke previously had been given the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Burke, 143 S. Sparks St., and is reported to be the first Burbank serviceman to receive the British citation and medal. He was graduated from Burbank High School where he was student body president.

Cpl. Burke is one of a family of three fighting men. His father enlisted in the Seabees in 1942 and is a chief warrant officer who spent 14 months in the Aleutians and recently shipped out to the South Pacific. His brother, Roy E. Burke, 22, is a fire controlman on a destroyer in the Pacific and has served in the Navy since before Pearl Harbor.

Bureau Given Typewriter of Slain Airman

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jun 3, 1945;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. A3



Times photo

GIFT FROM HEART—Typewriter shortage at Veterans' Service Bureau, Burbank, prompts Mrs. Harry Van Atta to present machine formerly owned by her late son, Cpl. Donald W. Van Atta, to Harry Whitcomb, head of bureau.

Bureau Given Typewriter of Slain Airman

BURBANK, June 2.—Shortage of typewriters at the Veterans' Service Bureau has been solved, thanks indirectly to Cpl. Donald W. Van Atta, who was killed last February in a plane crash near Savannah, Ga.

"We are sure Don would have wanted his typewriter used to help other servicemen," said Mr. and Mrs. Harry Van Atta of 716 East San Jose Ave., as they gave the machine to Harry Whitcomb, service officer at the bureau.

Cpl. Van Atta, who attended Burbank High School and Pasadena Junior College, enlisted in September, 1942, in the Army Air Forces. He was an instructor in aerial gunnery. His sister Barbara attends Redlands University.

Mother Finds Son Hanging in Playhouse

The age-old mystery of boyhood's heartaches yesterday surrounded the death of Michael Rogers, 14, Burbank High School student, whose mother, after a night of waiting, found his body hanging from a rafter.

Burbank police are convinced the boy hanged himself. In his pockets, they said, were none of the traditional marbles, jack-knives or other gadgets of youth and no identification—only 27 cents. Police Lt. K. K. Kypers, who investigated, said the boy apparently looped a rope around a rafter in the playhouse of a friend, Jack Reeder, also 14, of 707 N. Reese Place, Burbank.

Jumps to Death

Lt. Kypers said the boy apparently tied the rope securely around his neck after climbing on a rope swing he and his friend had hung in the garage. Then he jumped to his death.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Viola Rogers, 727 N. Orchard Drive, said her son told her Friday night he was going to help his friend build a trapeze, then go to a show. She told police she walked past the Reeder home three times during the night but, finding they had retired, did not disturb them. The Reeder boy was not home.

When Michael failed to appear this morning, Mrs. Rogers went to the Reeder home and with the Reeder family visited the playhouse, a former garage.

Scuffle Death Held Accidental

Illustrated on Page 3, Part I

Death of 17-year-old John C. Newsom III, of 525 S. 10th St., Burbank, following a scuffle with a fellow student last June 11 on the Burbank High School grounds, was accidental, a Coroner's jury decided yesterday.

Keith Jensen, 17, of 1315 Blossom St., Glendale, who exchanged blows with Newsom, was exonerated of blame.

The two youths fought over who should drink first at a playground drinking fountain and Newsom fell to the ground, according to David Shleppey, 16, of 1055 E. Orange Grove Ave., whose testimony was corroborated by James Collins, 21, of 1050 E. Verdugo Road, Burbank.

Jensen said there was no previous quarrel between Newsom and himself.

L.A. Times
12 Jun 1946

Pregraduation Scuffle Fatal

A scuffle during rehearsal for commencement exercises tomorrow cost the life yesterday of a Burbank High School senior, John C. Newsom, 17, of 525 S. 10th St., Burbank.

Investigating officers said that the youth and a classmate tangled near a drinking fountain as the class gathered on the athletic field for the rehearsal. There was pushing and shoving.

Newsom, officers said, fell back onto a wall and then slumped to the ground. Efforts of an inhalator squad to revive him were futile.





L.A. Times
27 Jun 1946

Times photo

FREED—Dep.-Coroner Frank Monfort questions Keith Jensen, 17, about the death of John C. Newsom III, a fellow student at Burbank High School. Young Newsom died following a scuffle with Jensen when they argued about who should drink first at playground drinking fountain, according to witness. Jensen was cleared.

Scuffle Death Held Accidental

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jun 27, 1946;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881-1963)
pg. 5

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Man Plunges to River Death

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Aug 7, 1947;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1981)
pg. A9

Man Plunges to River Death

Karl K. Kaylor, 44, of 1214 Leland Way, Burbank, stopped his car on the Arroyo Seco Freeway southbound traffic bridge, climbed to the top of the railing and leaped to his death in the Los Angeles River bed yesterday noon.

Officers said the man left no notes. They later learned he was a toolmaker at Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

John H. Bafford, flood control watchman, told police he saw the man plunge through the air. Officers estimated the jump as close to 200 feet.

Former Burbank Man Kills Self in Plunge

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Nov 4, 1948;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1980)
pg. 22

Former Burbank Man Kills Self in Plunge

George Murray, 56, of Burbank jumped to his death from a 23rd floor window in lower Manhattan yesterday, according to New York police. He was a former Burbank gasoline station worker. Papers in his pocket identified him as a former resident of 606 N 1st St., Burbank.

Body of Man Discovered in Ruins of Burned Stable

The burned body of a stablehand was found yesterday after fire destroyed the Pickwick Stables, 1016 Riverside Drive, Burbank, and 18 horses boarded there were burned to death. About 80 horses were led to safety.

The dead man was identified as Emil Hill, 47, who lived in a room at the southeast corner of the stable structure. His body was found in his living quarters.

Investigators reported that a pile of newspapers found nearby had an odor of kerosene or gasoline and that they were seeking to determine whether or not the fire had been set.

Dets. R. L. McCann and R. H. Coveney said they ascertained

that Hill had been involved in an argument about 12 hours before the fire and that he had suffered a stab wound, for which he had been treated.

The Coroner's office reported that an autopsy will be performed on Hill's body to determine, if possible, the nature of his wound.

The fire was detected by a passerby about 4:30 a.m. Firemen said it had been determined the blaze started in the stablehand's quarters.

It quickly swept the structure, the flames fanned by the draft created as rescuers opened the doors to lead the horses out.

The stables were owned by J. C. Hendershot.

Lockheed Man Found Dead; Four Notes Left

Maurice Edgar Smith, 48, administrative co-ordinator at Lockheed Aircraft Corp, Burbank, was found dead yesterday afternoon in the bedroom of his apartment, 131 S Avon St., Burbank.

Although the actual cause of death has not been determined, Burbank police listed it as suicide and said death apparently resulted from poison.

Smith left four notes, two of which were addressed to his 16-year-old daughter Marilou, who lived with him. Another was to his wife Valarie of 3433 W 58th Place, from whom he had been estranged since last September, police said. The fourth was to his employers.

Tired and Lonely

The one to his wife concluded: "Don't be misled—I've no broken heart. I'm just tired and lonely. Loneliness is worse than death."

Smith's body was held at Fillbach Funeral Home in Burbank pending an autopsy. The death was discovered by Miss Louise Davidson, a visiting nurse at the Lockheed plant who went to the Smith home to determine why he had failed to report for work or answer telephone calls.

Man Dies in Bar Brawl; Adversary Kills Self

A predawn barroom brawl in Burbank early yesterday ended with one man kicked and beaten to death, and his adversary a gunshot suicide, investigating officers reported.

Police said the dead man was George Robert Wolter, 37-year-old grocery clerk, of 616-A E Garfield Ave., Glendale, and Douglas H. Slover, 34, an aircraft worker of 519 1/2 E Providencia Ave. Burbank.

Det. R. L. McCann said that Slover and his wife Jessie, 27 and Wolter and a woman friend Mrs. Dorothy Bolger Lee, 48, of 4209 Magnolia Ave., Burbank were among a group of persons in the bar, at 3917 Riverside Drive, at about 3 a.m.

The two women, he said, engaged in a bitter argument. Witnesses reported that Wolter entered the women's quarrel and slapped Mrs. Slover.

Then, McCann said, Slover knocked Wolter down and kicked him several times about the head. Wolter was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital.

When police went to Slover's house to arrest him, they knocked on the door for admittance. They heard a shot they

said, and forced the door. They found Slover dead with a 45-caliber automatic pistol at his side. He had shot himself through the head, they reported.

Arrival of the officers apparently interrupted Slover's writing a note to his wife. In it he said, "Seems I've got a little more time than I thought I had, sweetheart, so I'll spend it telling you I love you over and over. Sorry for everything. I failed y-----". The note ended with the letter "Y."



SHOOTING AFTERMATH—Mrs. Laura Callaway and her daughter Jean shown at inquest after jury decided Mrs. Callaway's husband, a Burbank detective, met his death "presumably at the hands of his wife." Later she was arraigned on murder charge.

Times photo

Slain Burbank Officer's Widow Held in Murder

Mysterious Letter Hinting at Possible Trouble From Vice World Read at Inquest

A Coroner's jury yesterday determined that Perry Callaway, Burbank detective, met his death last April 12 "presumably at the hands of his wife, Mrs. Laura Callaway, 36.

Mrs. Callaway later was arraigned on a charge of murder before Municipal Judge Louis Kaufman. He ordered her to appear for preliminary hearing April 26 and set bail at \$5000. She has been in the hospital ward of the County Jail.

Letter Creates Stir

A letter, written by the murder victim to a sister in Kansas, created a stir during the inquest. It was introduced by the dead man's brother, Emmett Callaway of Portland, Or. It read:

"I had an offer to go to work as an investigator for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office last week. I have been working with them a little on vice. You can expect quite a shake-up in this county this year and God knows it's about time. In case of my sudden and untimely demise send this to Mr. Barnes, chief of investigation for the Los Angeles District Attorney's office. Of course, this isn't going to happen."

Deny Knowing Him

The letter was postmarked the day before he died.

Asst. Dist. Atty. John Barnes and Everett P. Davis, chief of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, both said they did not know Callaway and, to their knowledge, he had not been offered a job on their staff.

Inquest witnesses included Lt. Robert H. Coveney of the Burbank Police Department, who identified the body and conducted the investigation of the case.

He said the bullet apparently was fired from inside the house, the slug penetrating the glass door window and a screen to hit Callaway in the head as he stood on the back porch.

No Clear Prints

George Lacy, Sheriff's laboratory technician, said there were no clear prints on the snub-nosed 38-caliber revolver from which the death bullet was fired.

He added that both Mrs. Callaway and her daughter Jean, 18, registered negative in paraffin tests taken on their hands.

Burbank Police Sgt. Gilbert Leslie testified that Mrs. Callaway, when he questioned her following the shooting, told him she did not remember having a gun in her hand or having shot her husband.

Heard Scratching Noise

He said she had admitted she had risen once during the night to investigate a scratching noise, but that she had found nothing and returned to bed.

Miss Callaway said her mother was awake but drowsy from a sedative when she went to bed on the night of the shooting. She said she did not hear a shot fired.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Al Lucas at one point asked Miss Callaway point-blank: "Did you kill your stepfather?"

"I did not," the girl replied.

Mrs. Callaway declined to testify, giving the reason of ill health.

DETECTIVE MURDER SEEN AS MYSTERY

"No one probably will ever know who killed this man."

Such was the remark of her attorney yesterday as Mrs. Laura Jane Callaway, 36, went on trial for the murder of her husband, Harry Alexander Callaway, 41, a detective with the Burbank Police Department.

The detective was found dead, a bullet hole in his head, beside the back steps of the couple's home at 818 E Delaware St., Burbank, last April 12.

Double Defense

Before selection of a jury to try the small, mild-mannered woman began in Superior Judge Thomas L. Ambrose's court yesterday afternoon, Atty. Donn B. Downen Jr. told reporters he will present a double defense.

First, said the lawyer, he will introduce medical testimony that if it was Mrs. Callaway who fired the fatal bullet from the kitchen through a back door on which the shade was drawn, and hit her husband outside, in the dark early morning hours of the murder, she did not know it, or was unconscious of her act because of drugs given to her for a kidney ailment.

'White Flame' Case

(The "not guilty because of unconsciousness" defense had its most sensational successful application in the "white flame" defense of Paul Wright more than 10 years ago).

Secondly, said Atty. Downen, he will present evidence to show that there were numerous other persons who "had plenty of reason" to kill Callaway. He proceeded to point out that at the

time of his death the detective was working with the District Attorney's office in investigation of the Burbank Police Department and vice conditions in that city.

Second-Degree Case

As Judge Ambrose began qualifying prospective jurors concerning the possibility of the death penalty, Dep. Dist. Atty. Arthur Veitch interrupted to announce that the prosecution will not seek the death penalty, will attempt to prove only second-degree murder. At Mrs. Callaway's preliminary hearing, Dep. Dist. Atty. Albert K. Lucas said:

"We have no proof, we don't contend that this was a murder with malice aforethought."

Believed to have been murdered between 2 and 8 a.m., April 12, Callaway had spent the evening before at Burbank Elks Lodge. There is evidence that upon returning home at 2 a.m., he opened a can of beans in the kitchen of his home.

Found Near Steps

His body was found beside the back steps. A bullet hole in a shade drawn over the back screen door indicated the fatal shot was fired from inside the kitchen.

At the time of the murder Mrs. Callaway insisted, and still insists, that she knows nothing about it. She and her daughter Jean, 18, discovered the body while preparing breakfast at 8 a.m. April 12.

Selection of the jury to try Mrs. Callaway, who is free under \$5000 bail, will be resumed today.



FREED—Mrs. Laura Jane Calloway, left, wife of slain Burbank policeman, appears dazed as she hears not guilty verdict read aloud, freeing her from a charge of murder. Her blond daughter by another marriage, Jean, 18, embraces her mother tenderly.

Times photo

POLICEMAN'S WIDOW FREED IN SLAYING

**Directed Verdict in Case of Mrs. Calloway,
Burbank, Returned in Two Minutes by Jury**

A directed verdict of innocence in the April 12 gunshot death of Perry Calloway, 41-year-old Burbank policeman, yesterday freed his diminutive, 36-year-old wife Laura Jane, from a charge of murder.

Mrs. Calloway, who has been under medical treatment for a chronic kidney ailment, broke into tears when the jury returned its verdict after only two minutes' deliberation. Her blond daughter Jean, 18, child of a former marriage, embraced her.

Superior Judge Thomas L. Ambrose, who presided during the two-week trial, had advised the jury that "there is no evidence to controvert Mrs. Calloway's denial of any knowledge of how Mr. Calloway was shot . . . there is no direct information as to what actually happened.

'Family Friction'

"There was much evidence introduced to show motive but in my opinion it only showed family friction—which is only too common between husband and wife, especially where one partner is drinking," the judge continued.

Calloway was found dead in the back yard of his home at 818 E Delaware Road, Burbank, a bullet hole in his head. The slug came from his service revolver, kept in a bedroom dresser drawer. It had been fired from inside the house, occupied at the time by Mrs. Calloway and her daughter.

Prosecution Praised

Judge Ambrose praised the prosecution in his remarks to the jury.

"There is no evidence," he said, "that the prosecution has suppressed any evidence. It has done everything possible to shed all light on the case.

"You are instructed to bring in a verdict of not guilty. But you are not required to follow this instruction."

After the verdict, Atty. Donn B. Downen, counsel for Mrs. Calloway, disclosed that he had hired independent authorities to administer a truth serum to his client in an effort to get at the truth. She had told the same story of the tragedy under influence of the drug as she had from the witness stand, he said.

Burbank Sued in Jeep Deaths of Two Youths

The city of Burbank was named a defendant yesterday in two \$100,000 damage suits for wrongful deaths, brought by the parents of two youths killed in a jeep accident last January in Stough Park, Burbank.

City Clerk Addie Jones, Park Superintendent Dewey Kruckeberg and Harry DeMaranville, park caretaker, were named specifically as defendants and were served with summonses yesterday.

The plaintiffs are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harrison, of 925 E. Olive Ave., Burbank, parents of Kenneth, 17, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tinker, of 714 E Palm Ave., Burbank, parents of Robert Jr., 17.

A third boy, Larry W. Hughes, 18, also died in the crash as the jeep went out of control and hurtled 90 feet down a cliff. He was not mentioned in any court action.

The suits contend that the city and its employees were negligent in their maintenance of a dirt road near the Inspiration Point parking area. Atty. White McGee Jr. prepared both complaints.

Burbank Boy's Gunfire Death Held Accidental

The death of Arnold V. O'Gorman, of 1929 N Manning St., Burbank, who was shot in the face and throat by a playmate in his bedroom Aug. 29, was ruled accidental by a Coroner's jury yesterday.

Norman D. Lervold, 14, of 2136 N Valley St., Burbank, who fired the 22-caliber rifle, and Wayne K. Barnes, 13, of 1830 Frederick St., Burbank, who witnessed the shooting, told the jury the gun was discharged by Lervold, who had forgotten the gun was loaded.

Lt. Paul M. Evans of the Burbank Police Department also testified and said that officers who handled the case agreed that the shooting was accidental.

Apr 23, 1952

Lineman Dies in Fall Off Pole

William Thomas, 36, of 321 W Alameda Ave., Burbank, a lineman for the city of Burbank, yesterday fell to his death while working on a power pole at Keystone St. and Winona Ave., apparently a victim of electrocution, police said.

Husband Arrested in Wife's Mystery Death

Conflicting stories following the death of a housewife in Burbank yesterday resulted in the arrest of her husband, a film studio employee, Burbank police said.

The dead woman was Mrs. Helen Stevens, 49, of 3100 Chandler Blvd. She had collapsed in the home of a friend, Mrs. Billie May McConnell, 720 N Whitnall Highway, Burbank, and was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital.

Mrs. McConnell told officers that Mrs. Stevens had gone to her home late Monday and asked to spend the night there. Mrs. Stevens explained that she had some trouble at home, Mrs. McConnell said.

At about 5:30 a.m. yesterday, Mrs. Stevens' husband, Frank, drove up to the house in a taxi and entered the room where his wife was sleeping, police were told.

Twenty minutes later Stevens left the room, re-entered the taxi and drove away, the officers were informed.

Mrs. McConnell said she then entered Mrs. Stevens' room and found her pale and breathing heavily. Because of past asthmatic attacks suffered by Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. McConnell thought another such attack was under way.

An hour later Mrs. McConnell

Stevens unconscious.

Stevens was contacted at Columbia Studios and upon questioning by police denied ever going to the McConnell home.

"My wife drove me to work," he told Lt. Kenneth K. Kipers. "She never left home last night. I never took a taxicab."

Stevens was promptly booked for investigation pending an autopsy.

4 Highway Deaths Swell County Toll

Child Struck Down While Crossing Burbank Street

TRAFFIC TOLL

Yesterday's deaths—4.
1953 county total—450.

Four persons died in Los Angeles County yesterday as a result of traffic accidents.

One was the victim of an April 7 smashup that injured eight others. Another was killed in a desert pile-up that involved two trucks and two automobiles. The third was killed when a car collided with a utility pole, and the fourth, a child, struck down while crossing a Burbank street.

Elroy Baca, 16, of 207 W 2nd St., San Pedro, died at Harbor General Hospital in Torrance of injuries received when the car in which he rode collided with a tank trailer at Anaheim Blvd. and Figueroa St. April 7. His brother, Lloyd, and another passenger died in the wreckage and the eight other passengers were injured.

Car Hits Power Pole

Two more persons, Mrs. Patricia Barbee, 30, of 10424 Nashville St., East Whittier, and her husband James, 30, died as the result of injuries received when their car, driven by Barbee, struck a power pole on Workman Mill Road near Pioneer Blvd. north of Whittier. Three other persons were injured, one critically. They included Dale Fink, 30, of El Monte, in critical condition at General Hospital; Tom Pulliam, 18, of 13024 Walnut St., Whittier, and Ron Bowen, 19, of 9150 S Painter St., Whittier.

A head-on collision on U.S. Highway 6 near Lancaster resulted in the death of Gus E. Kincaid, 45, of 319 E 59th Place. Sheriff's deputies said his pickup truck apparently crossed the highway center line and collided with an automobile driven by Clyde Irvine, 19, of Route 1, Box 26-D, Saugus.

Irvine was taken to Palmdale Hospital with major injuries. Meanwhile another automobile, driven by Ralph K. Payne, 25, of 3661 Stewart Ave., Venice, crashed into the tangled wreckage, and a few minutes later a truck, driven by Raymond Baker, 26, of Route 4, Box 239, Lancaster, struck the other cars piled up in the highway. Neither Payne nor Baker was injured.

The day's fourth fatal accident took the life of Peter Sappoe, 4, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sappoe, 140 E Tujunga Ave., Burbank. He was dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital there after he was struck by a car at the intersection of Elmwood Ave. and Victory Blvd., Burbank.

The driver of the car, D. E. Durrell, 29, of 621 Thompson Ave., Glendale, was booked by Burbank police on suspicion of manslaughter. Officers said the youngster was crossing the intersection with his 5-year-old sister Lorraine when he was struck down.

How Plane Ripped Through Burbank Homes and Garages



DEVASTATION—BUT NO DEATH—Here's what happened when converted bomber crashed in Burbank.

one-half block from intersection of Hollywood Way and Verdugo Ave. Plane hit wires (1), plunged into edge of

home (2), clipped garages (3) and (4), then hit pole (5) and spun into garage apartment. Arrow indicates all

that remained of crossbar when pole fell. Three were hurt. Story on Page 1. Part 1.



JOURNEY'S END—Here is where plane wound up, smashed into garage apartment after striking home and two garages. Note one of plane's two motors in foreground. Other was hurled more than 50 feet away.

Sister Dead, Reseda Boy, 3, Fights for Life

A Reseda couple kept a bedside vigil yesterday at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank where their 3-year-old son fought for his life against influenza as the Coroner searched for the cause of death of his 21-month-old sister, who died Tuesday morning.

Robert Marc Hamm, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Hamm of 7965 Chastain Ave., Reseda, was brought to the hospital when his parents discovered him in violent pain.

Police Escort

The Hamms received police escort from Burbank Patrolman Scott Cowen, whom they hailed at Hollywood Way and Chandler Blvd.

Doctors said the boy was in a critical condition, suffering with influenza and other possible complications.

Tuesday morning the Hamms discovered their only other child, Cynthia, in convulsions. They wrapped her and took her to the Valley Receiving Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Further Study

An autopsy was performed yesterday but further study is necessary before the exact cause can be determined, a Coroner's office spokesman said.

Hamm, 26, is employed at Pacific Airmotive Corp. in Burbank. Mrs. Lorraine Hamm, 24, is the daughter of Arnold Fate, a Burbank Public Service Department engineer.

The little girl's body is at Forest Lawn Mortuary, where funeral arrangements are pending.

GOLFER'S WIFE POISONED

Family Friend Found in Auto With Mrs. Von Elm Held

BURBANK, Calif., Oct. 27 (AP)—The wife of George Von Elm, former United States amateur golf champion, died today of insecticide poisoning and a young family friend is held on suspicion of murder.

The body of Mrs. Mary Von Elm, 46 years old, a movie dress designer, was found before dawn in a car on a tavern parking lot. With her was Roy Ford, 29, who lived with the Von Elms in a North Hollywood motel. A bottle of insecticide was found under the car.

The coroner's office said after an autopsy that it was not prepared to list the death as a homicide, suicide or accident.

Mr. Ford, protégé of the 54-year-old Mr. Von Elm, told police he knocked the bottle of insecticide from Mrs. Von Elm's lips but "it was too late."



TAKES LIE TEST — Roy Ford, who underwent lie detector test in death of Mrs. Mary Von Elm, 46.

Times photo

Lie Test Fails to Solve Death of Mrs. Von Elm

Lie detector evidence proved "inconclusive" yesterday in an investigation into the death of Mrs. Mary (Bernice) Von Elm, 46, wife of George Von Elm, former national amateur golf champion.

Roy Arthur Ford, 29, Von Elm's golfing protege, underwent the lie detector test in Pasadena yesterday at the behest of Burbank Det. Lt. Kenneth Kipers.

Ford was booked on suspicion of murder when he was found Wednesday in a car with the body of Mrs. Von Elm.

Further Investigation

Details of the lie detector test were presented to Dist. Atty. Roll, who assigned Dep. Dist. Atty. Albert K. Lucas to work with Burbank police in further investigation of the death.

Dr. Frederick D. Newbarr, county autopsy surgeon, said Mrs. Von Elm died of a nicotine poison.

Ford was bending over her body in a Burbank tavern parking lot when police arrived at the scene. Ford said he was listening for a heart beat, explaining that he had awakened a minute or two earlier in the car.

Describes Evening

The suspect told Lt. Kipers that he and Mrs. Von Elm had been drinking in a tavern and that when they left, Mrs. Von Elm fell three times. Ford said he assisted her to the car, where they argued and she gulped down contents of a bottle.

The bottle that had contained the deadly fluid was found near the car.

Von Elm said he believed Ford was innocent in the death of Mrs. Von Elm. Ford had been living with the Von Elms at 10750 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood.

Golfer's Wife Called Suicide

New York Times (1923-Current file); Nov 2, 1954;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2007)

pg. 18

Golfer's Wife Called Suicide

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 1 (AP)—

The coroner's office announced today that it was listing the death of Mrs. Mary Von Elm, wife of George Von Elm, former national amateur golf champion, as a suicide. Her body was found in a car on a parking lot behind a suburban Burbank tavern last Wednesday.

Woman Dies as Trash Fire Ignites Dress

Mrs. Naomi Ebert, of 736 E San Jose Ave., Burbank, was burned to death early yesterday when her clothing ignited from an incinerator at her home after paint thinner exploded in a trash fire she had set, Burbank police reported.

Her husband, John, 56, told officers he heard his wife's screams and dashed out to see her enveloped in flames on the ground near the incinerator. Ebert said he obtained a blanket and smothered the flames.

Mrs. Ebert was pronounced dead at St. Joseph Hospital. Officers said a can which had contained the thinner was found near the incinerator.

WOMAN HUNTED IN POSSIBLE MURDER

Glendale Man, 27, Dies in Hospital After Receiving Severe Blow on Back of Head

An unidentified woman who from a severe blow on the complained to three eyewitnesses that her feet and legs were covered with blood was being sought today as Bur- bank police launched a possible murder investigation into the death of Terry F. Meyer. Meyer recently separated from his wife, Maxine A. Meyer.

Meyer, 27, of 1122 S Central Ave., Glendale, died in County General Hospital Sunday night after informing police he had "fallen asleep in a relative's car." He refused to identify his companion.

The three eyewitnesses, John M. Becker, 26, of 8525 Forsythe St., Sunland; James W. Oden, 39, of 13017 Borden St., North Hollywood, and Roosevelt Willingham, 31, of 1622 E 40th Place, described the woman as in her 20s. She was said to be 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighed approximately 145 pounds.

Seen Dragging Body

All three told police they saw the woman late Friday night dragging Meyer's body across Victory Place near the Southern Pacific Railroad underpass. The underpass is between Burbank Blvd. and Empire Ave., in Burbank. She drove away in a private car while police were being summoned.

Meyer was taken to St. Joseph Hospital suffering

back of the head. There was no indication that he had fallen or been thrown from a car. He was later transferred to County Hospital where he died Sunday night.

Meyer recently separated from his wife, Maxine A. Meyer.

The couple's 7-year-old boy was with the mother. Investigating officers were trying to contact her and a taxicab driver who summoned police Friday night.

Police said Meyer had been drinking. Lt. Kenneth K. Kippers and Sgt. Burton Fiske were in charge of the investigation.

Young Bandit Uses Knife on Cabbie's Throat

Nov 13, 1955

A teen-ager pulled a knife across Cabbie Casey Whitney's throat early yesterday in a robbery try that netted the young bandit \$15, Burbank police reported.

Whitney, 46, told officers he picked up the youth, about 16, at Olive Ave. and San Fernando Road. Later, he said, the boy drew a knife and demanded his money.

"I'll give you my money but don't cut my throat," he said.

His bandit-passenger then drew the knife across Whitney's throat, inflicting a superficial wound, and fled.

Whitney said the boy was

about 5 feet 9 inches, weighed 150 pounds and was wearing a black leather jacket and blue denim trousers.

Bride Released on Bail in Knife Death of Mate

Mrs. Gladys Mauck Afek, Vegas June 30 and were married.

34-year-old bride of a week, was at liberty on \$250 bail yesterday on a manslaughter charge by Burbank police for the stabbing death of her husband, Henry, 32, after a prenuptial quarrel June 23.

She was booked in Burbank City Jail Thursday on suspicion of manslaughter when her husband, an aircraft worker, died at Sawtelle Veterans Hospital of what the Coroner's office described as brain damage resulting from a stab wound.

Story of Beating

Burbank police reported that Mrs. Afek told them of an argument during which Afek dared her to strike him with a knife after he "choked me and knocked me around," broke an earring and damaged her partial dental plate. She said she "couldn't take it any more" and threw an eight-inch kitchen knife at Afek, causing the head wound.

This incident happened at her former apartment at 1346 Whitnall Highway, Burbank, and a day later, June 24, Afek was admitted at General Hospital, police said. He was released from the hospital June 27 and the couple went to Las

Mrs. Afek told officers Afek became ill again last Monday and was admitted at Sawtelle Veterans Hospital where he died Thursday night. Her arrest followed when Dr. Victor Cefalu, Chief Deputy Coroner, attributed death to "brain damage resulting from a stab wound of the head."

Sgt. Burt Fiske said the woman had been arrested for assault with a deadly weapon after the knife-throwing incident, but the charge was reduced to battery and she entered a not guilty plea in Burbank Municipal Court with a jury trial set for July 17.

The Afeks lived at 266 W Elm Ave., Burbank. His body was sent yesterday from the Veterans Hospital to his former home in Steubenville, O.

Worker Killed in Scaffold Fall

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 25, 1958;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. B30

Worker Killed in Scaffold Fall

A bridge under construction over the intersection of Providencia Ave. and Flower St., Burbank, as part of the Golden State Freeway was the scene of tragedy yesterday when a 33-year-old laborer fell 35 feet to his death.

Burbank police said Louis Joseph Gonzales of 13054 Torch St., Baldwin Park, was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital after he tumbled from a scaffold.

Accident With Gun Kills Burbank Boy

MOJAVE, March 24—An investigation was opened to-day into the death of a 6-year-old Burbank youngster from a 22-caliber bullet wound at Mojave Hospital last night.

The victim was identified as Christopher Oergal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oergal.

According to information given to Sheriff's deputies here, the boy and his parents and an uncle were engaged in target practice on the desert about 20 miles southwest of Mojave.

A pistol discharged as the uncle, Lloyd Oergal, was reloading it. The bullet struck young Oergal in the chest.

25 Mar 1958

Mystery Woman's Body Found Outside Hospital

Young Brunet Victim's Clothing Stripped of Identification; Cause of Death Sought

The fully clothed body of a young woman was found last night on a parkway lawn bordering St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank. The victim, about 21, apparently was driven to the hospital and left on the strip of grass about 7 p.m.

The fully clothed body of a young woman was found last night on a parkway lawn bordering St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank. The victim, about 21, apparently was driven to the hospital and left on the strip of grass about 7 p.m.

The victim, about 21, apparently was driven to the hospital and left on the strip of grass about 7 p.m. A preliminary post mortem examination by the Coroner failed to disclose the probable cause of death.

Police Lt. E. J. Vandergrift said the clothing had been stripped of identification.

Results were not expected before tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the "Jane Doe" body was fingerprinted by police for possible identification.

Vandergrift said hospital attendants were first alerted to the body by an anonymous phone call. A doctor assigned to the emergency ward of the hospital pronounced the pretty young woman dead.

Shielded by Hedge

She was dressed in a black shortie coat, cream-colored blouse and red print pedal pushers. Her feet were bare, but a pair of pink, flat shoes lay nearby.

The victim wore a 14-karat gold wedding band and engagement ring on her left hand, an inexpensive gold

wristwatch and a small lock-et around her throat.

The section of lawn where the body was abandoned is shielded from general view of the hospital by a six-foot-high hedge and is across from a vacant lot in the 500 block of S Buena Vista St.

Vandergrift speculated that the woman had been dead less than two hours when the body was found.

The discovery was made at the height of the hospital's visiting period.

Woman Admits Having Role in Bride Death, Police Say

Believed Linked to Illegal Surgery on Young Victim

Illegal surgery had been arranged for the teen-age bride found dead Saturday in Burbank, it reportedly was admitted to detectives yesterday by Mrs. Ruth Haskins, 42.

She was booked on suspicion of murder following her return here from Mexico.

Mrs. Haskins was arrested at the Tijuana Airport by Los Angeles homicide detectives. They acted on information implicating her in illegal surgery believed performed on Mrs. Brenda Emerson, 16, whose body was found Saturday night on the lawn of St. Joseph Hospital.

A preliminary autopsy report showed a high level of sodium pentothal, an anesthetic, in the body of the girl but no positive indication the drug was the cause of death. Two needle puncture marks were found on the body.

Search for Man

Mrs. Haskins was quoted by officers as saying she put the young married girl in contact with a man for the illegal surgery. Police already were searching for him for questioning in connection with the case.

Mrs. Haskins denied being implicated in the actual surgery and insisted she only acted as a go-between but police said they were investigating the possibility she was involved in the surgery.

She was carrying \$945 in cash when arrested and also a book containing a long list of telephone numbers, detectives added.

Dets. Danny Galindo and Paul LePage, who returned Mrs. Haskins, said she agreed to accompany them back across the border.

Mrs. Haskins lived at 515 N Hayworth Ave. and was sentenced to a year in County Jail here in 1956 after being convicted on three counts of illegal surgery, detectives reported.

Operation Mill

She was said to be on the way to Mexico City to join her brother, Dr. Philip Victor Ames, 43, osteopath, who has been a fugitive from justice since he failed to appear for sentencing Dec. 20, 1957, on nine counts of illegal surgery.

Closely guarding the source of their information, Los Angeles and Burbank police said they had received word that Mrs. Haskins and the man being sought had been working together in a "floating" illegal operation mill.

Their information, police



RETURNED -Mrs. Ruth Haskins, returned from Tijuana, questioned in death of teen-age bride.
Times photo

said, was that Mrs. Haskins and the man had Mrs. Emerson in a motel near St. Joseph Hospital, Burbank, Saturday night when something went wrong.

The victim's body — still warm — was found on the grass in front of the hospital after an anonymous telephone call was received by hospital attendants.

An autopsy revealed the two puncture marks, one on the inside of the left elbow and one on the buttocks, but failed to disclose the cause of death. Microscopic and toxicological tests were ordered.

Believed Pregnant

Dr. Frederick D. Newbarr, chief county autopsy surgeon, said the condition of reproductive organs indicated a "50-50" chance that Mrs. Emerson was pregnant, but he could not be sure until the microscopic tests are completed about Thursday or Friday.

He said there was no indication that any instruments had been used in the reported illegal surgery.

Mrs. Emerson was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Blonder, 9606 Cresta Dr., West Los Angeles, who were said to have been opposed to her elopement to

Please Turn to Pg. 13, Col. 1



FAMILY AT FUNERAL -Walking toward grave of Mrs. Brenda Emerson at Mt. Sinai Memorial Park is family of young bride whose body was found on hospital lawn. From left are Mrs. Sheldon Grossbart, her aunt, her husband, Stephen Emerson, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Blonder, and her brother, Leonard.
Times photo

Phoenix last June with Steve Emerson, 20.

She and her jobless husband had been living at 9645½ W. Olympic Blvd. Emerson said he last saw his wife at 4 p.m. Saturday in Hollywood and that she was supposed to attend a family reunion at her parents' home. Blonder was described as a wealthy retail merchant.

Originally it was reported that Weber, who represents both the Blonders and Emerson, had prevented police from questioning the parents and had advised them not to discuss the case.

Police said yesterday, however, that they had received full co-operation from the family from the beginning. They said the family was acting under instructions to maintain a "noncommittal status" to give police more time to apprehend the suspects.

Manhunt On in Death of Young Bride

Suspect Sought as Police Probe Illegal Surgery

Several mysteries remained hidden yesterday in the death of Mrs. Brenda Blonder Emerson, 16-year-old bride whose still-warm body was found on the lawn of St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank last Saturday night.

The mysteries persisted despite the capture of Mrs. Ruth Haskins, 42, a nurse, who has admitted she was the go-between for an illegal operation on the youthful bride, and a search for the man believed to be responsible for her death.

Named and Described

He was identified in an urgent all-points police bulletin yesterday as Edgar Schrater, alias Edgar Salgado, 37. The bulletin requested "Pick up and hold on suspicion of murder." It described Schrater as a small man with black wavy hair and an olive complexion, 5 ft. 5 in. tall and weighing 150 lbs.

Inasmuch as Mrs. Haskins was arrested in Tijuana Monday—at exactly the hour a tearful funeral service was being conducted here for Mrs. Emerson—Mexican authorities also have been requested to be on the lookout for Schrater.

Woman Sought

As homicide detectives continued their investigation Capt. Arthur Hertel ordered a police broadcast for Mrs. Mabel Horwitz, 55, also known as Caroline Carroll, and her daughter Betty, asking that the pair be held for questioning.

Detectives said Mrs. Horwitz knows Schrater and may have information on his whereabouts.

Mrs. Haskins, who was sentenced to a year in the County Jail in 1936 after being convicted on three counts of illegal surgery, was arrested as she started to board a plane for Mexico City. She was carrying \$945 cash.

Brother a Fugitive

It was assumed that she was going to join her brother, Dr. Philip Victor Ames, 43, osteopath, who has been a fugitive from justice since he failed to appear for sentenc-

BRIDE'S SLAYING

Continued from Second Page
ing Dec. 20, 1957, on nine counts of illegal surgery.

According to Capt. Arthur Hertel of the Los Angeles Police Department's homicide squad, Schrater is a former driver for Dr. Ames and "learned the trade" from the fugitive osteopath.

Who Made Arrangements?

Despite all this information, including Mrs. Haskins' report that plans for illegal surgery on Mrs. Emerson called for a \$600 fee, police yesterday were giving no information as to where the young bride obtained the money which she is believed to have been carrying.

If they know, they also were not revealing who

made the arrangements with Mrs. Haskins, nor who, if anyone, drove Mrs. Emerson to a secret rendezvous Saturday afternoon.

Los Angeles and Burbank police were co-operating yesterday in a search to learn where the fatal treatment was given to Mrs. Emerson and thus establish definite jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Dr. Theodore Curphey, county coroner, declared after a personal examination yesterday that he "strongly suspects" the teenage bride was pregnant. This was contrary to previous reports that her condition was a "false pregnancy" induced by worry and strain. There will be no absolute proof of the victim's condition until findings from microscopic

tests are completed today, the coroner added, however.

Dr. Curphey continued to concur with the belief that injections of sodium pentothal, an anesthetic, hastily and inexpertly administered, were the cause of death.

"Half a gram of sodium pentothal, if administered rapidly, would be fatal," he explained.

Would Not Cause Death

Although 3.4 grams of the drug were found in Mrs. Emerson's body, this amount would not cause death if injected slowly and properly, the coroner indicated.

After his personal examination yesterday, Dr. Curphey said he found no marks of instruments.

"But this means nothing," he said. "With new and modern instruments, abortionists no longer leave their cards."

Burbank Man Held in Death of Policeman

The alleged slayer of a Long Beach policeman, shot in a gun battle late Friday night, was identified yesterday as Doyle Terry, 25, of 122-A N Cordova St., Burbank.

Terry had given police the alias of Warren Durfee when he was captured by pursuing officers a mile from the scene of the shooting.

Police said a 44 caliber magnum revolver, the weapon used to kill Patrolman Vernon Owings, 31, was found in Terry's automobile. Owings was shot in the head as he sought to aid two men he believed were having car trouble on Terminal Island.

Companion Wounded

His partner, Richard A. Brizendine, 29, was shot in the leg but managed to radio for help. A dragnet of 40 patrol cars hunted down and seized Terry and his companion, Ross Wilson, 26, a convicted sex offender released as cured last year from Atascadero State Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

Wilson had been hit in the arm and hand by bullets fired by Brizendine. He was taken into custody at a Long Beach hospital.

Both suspects were booked for murder and assault with a deadly weapon. The wounded police officer was reported doing well yesterday at St. Mary's Hospital.

Man Crushed to Death by Press

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Oct 21, 1961;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. 19

Man Crushed to Death by Press

Vincent J. Amaniera, 26,
of 7947 Clybourn Ave., Sun
Valley, was crushed to death
when a one-ton punch press
he was helping to move top-
pled over on him Friday.
The accident occurred in a
shop at 3009 W Magnolia
Ave., Burbank.

Slain Blond Was Daughter of Professor

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jul 15, 1962;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. D1

Slain Blond Was Daughter of Professor

A blond 18-year-old girl slain here in a robbery attempt six weeks ago was identified Saturday as the daughter of an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati.

He is Harry McLaughlin, who was reported grief-

stricken and confined to his bed.

His wife, mother of Miss Maureen Claire McLaughlin, seemed to be in a state of shock.

"We just don't know what happened. We don't know what to do. Can you tell us how she died?," she asked The Times when interviewed by telephone.

Shot in Robbery

Det. Lt. E. J. Vandergrift of the Burbank police traced the girls's identity through an insurance policy. She was shot to death May 29 when

she tried to rob a Burbank liquor store.

The girl had been previously identified as Mari Dubonett, a University of Cincinnati coed who dreamed of a career as a Hollywood model.

She came to California, in February and stayed in Victorville with the family of a man who had employed her in Ohio as a baby-sitter.

In March she became restless and determined to seek

her fortune in filmland. The only money she had was \$100, according to Vandergrift.

Maureen registered in a Sunset Blvd. motel on April 1 as Miss Dubonett. From there on the path to her violent death became clear.

She took part in at least six holdups, detectives said.

Six members of a gang which police said used her in robberies were indicted Thursday. Two others are still sought.

hatred of Abstract Art

23-Current File); Dec 7, 1962;

Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

Jammed Gun Kills Labor Board Deputy

A deputy state labor commissioner accidentally shot himself to death when he tried to clear a jammed shotgun, Burbank police reported Thursday.

John Kimberling, 43, of 835 N Valley St. was dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital Wednesday night.

Officers said Kimberling was preparing to clean his jammed 28-gauge automatic shotgun in the den of his home when it accidentally went off, shooting him in the chest.

His wife, Diana, and daughter, Deanna, heard the shot from the kitchen and rushed in to find him slumped over a divan.

He went to work with the State agency in August, 1959, and was assigned to the Van Nuys office of the commis-

sion. Before that he worked with the United Mine Workers Union in Texas and was an organizer for the old CIO in Texas and Oklahoma.

Crash Hurls Baby in Arms to Death

A 5-month-old baby was torn from her mother's arms and fatally injured by the impact of a two-car collision Thursday in Burbank.

The infant, Cynthia Lewis, died two hours later in St. Joseph's Hospital. Her mother, Emma, 20, was hospitalized with a fractured leg and severe shock.

Police said the father and husband, Larry L. Lewis, 21, of 4935 Whitsett Ave., North Hollywood, a Lockheed employee, was turning left from Pass Ave. to Toluca Park Dr. when his car collided with one driven by Joanne Madelein, 23, of 3517 Warner Ave., who suffered cuts and bruises.

There were no arrests.

Hiroshi Nomura, 23, of

GIFT EXCHANGE ENDS IN SLAYING OF WIFE

An attempt at a holiday reconciliation ended violently in Burbank Saturday with the wife stabbed to death and the estranged husband, who tried to take his own life, booked as a murder suspect.

Police said James MacCue, 54, stabbed his wife, Gladys Pearl, 49, Lockheed employee, on a crowded street outside his apartment at 1208 N 3rd St. One of their two sons, Conrad, 10, tried vainly to restrain his father.

Less than an hour before the stabbing, the couple and their sons had exchanged Christmas gifts. They met at a market, at 1100 N San Fernando Rd., where the other son, Frank, 17, works

as a box boy, and exchanged the gifts during Frank's lunch hour.

Acting Lt. Roger Smith said that after the older boy returned to work, the MacCues and the younger boy walked to MacCue's apartment. Smith said MacCue, a credit man, became enraged when his wife refused to enter the apartment.

MacCue, he said, stabbed his wife five times with a boning knife. The officer said MacCue then slashed his wrists.

He was admitted to the prison ward at General Hospital in serious condition.

The MacCues separated last October in Albermarle County, Va., Burbank police said, and Mrs. MacCue moved to California with the boys. MacCue arrived in Burbank two weeks ago, according to police.

Mother Gets Prison Term

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Nov 23, 1963;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. B3

Mother Gets Prison Term

Mrs. Carol June Hodges, 21, of 729 E Providencia St., Burbank, was sentenced to serve from five years to life in prison Friday for the beating death of her daughter, Donna, 2, last May 1.

Superior Judge J. Howard Ziemann imposed the sentence despite the woman's outburst in court, during which she claimed the youngster was injured in a bathtub fall.

Young Husband Jailed After Slaying of Bride

Stabbed Pregnant Wife to Death Because of Fear She Would Leave Him, Police Say

A young Burbank husband was held on suspicion of murder Thursday after he allegedly stabbed his pregnant bride to death because he was afraid she was going to leave him.

Police said William James Frisina, 22, admitted stabbing his wife, Sharron Lynn, 21, with a butcher knife and a letter opener.

"We were married 208 days, 11 hours, 50 minutes and 30 seconds when I killed her," he told detectives.

Frisina telephoned Burbank police just before midnight Wednesday and told them, "I've just killed my wife. And please hurry. I may kill myself."

Officers went to his apartment at 2552 N Buena Vista Dr. and found Frisina on a bed beside his dead wife, stroking her blond hair and maundering, "You're happy now—you're happy now."

Sgt. Don Sanders said Frisina told him he killed his wife because she had threatened to leave him if he ever struck her again.

They were arguing in bed Wednesday night, he told Sgt. Sanders, and he backhanded her across the face, then remembered her threat.

"I didn't know what to do," Frisina said. "If I killed her she would be gone and if I didn't she would have left anyway."

Coroner Says County Leads in Drug Deaths

BY WALT SECOR

Times Staff Writer

BURBANK—This county "is the druggiest area in the nation" because of its 800 to 900 deaths a year from narcotics, Dr. Theodore J. Curphy, county chief medical examiner and coroner, told the Optimist Club on Thursday.

Dr. Curphy, speaking at a luncheon meeting at the YM-CA, said drug deaths "are a major problem" in the examiner's office.

He said San Francisco and Las Vegas "are racing for second place in the nation in the number of drug deaths."

Causes Listed

He said the deaths occur chiefly among addicts—habitual users who take overdoses—and persons who take barbiturates in large quantities either accidentally or with suicidal intent.

The investigation of sudden, unexpected deaths of all types "is miserably handled" in most parts of the nation because the coroner usually has no medical background, Dr. Curphy declared.

He said the separation of the public administrator's office and inception of a medical examiner system in this county in 1957 advanced scientific research into death causes.

Few Mysteries

Only 2.3% of the cases handled by the office involve police investigations, "who-dunit type," Dr. Curphy said.

"Two-thirds of the cases handled in the office are deaths from heart disease, and often other factors are involved," he said. "Medical research is carried on through autopsies to determine all the medical facts involved for use in heart disease studies."

He said studies are made in deaths resulting from occupational hazards, such as cases involving toxic gases or materials with the aim of preventing other fatalities.

Woman Found Beaten to Death

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Aug 8, 1965;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. 3

Woman Found Beaten to Death

The body of a 73-year-old woman who apparently was beaten to death was discovered late Saturday in the Burbank rooming house she operated at 344 E. Tujunga Ave.

Officers said they found the body of Mrs. Albertine Le Tourneau after relatives reported they were unable to contact her. Police said they are searching for a missing rookier at the house.



CHARRED. —Remains of boarding barn at a Burbank stables where two men and 12 horses burned to death.
Times photo by Don Cormier

Stable Blaze Kills 2 Men, 12 Horses; 40 Animals Saved

Two men and 12 horses were burned to death early Sunday when fire destroyed the boarding barn at the Booth Riding Stables in Burbank.

The two men, both stable employees, apparently were asleep when the fire broke out at 12:41 a.m. They were Doc Sawyer, about 38, and Ignacio Perez, 23.

Roy Lattin, a stable employee, was eating at a nearby restaurant when he looked out and saw the barn on fire. He ran to the barn and released about 40 horses.

One of the freed horses was struck by a car. It and one which was critically burned had to be destroyed. Burbank police and Humane Society officers later rounded up the strays.

Hundreds at Scene

The flames which leaped 50 feet into the air attracted hundreds of residents and horse owners, many clad in bathrobes and nightclothes.

Some of them asked for axes to free their trapped horses from the blazing barn but were dissuaded by firemen because of the danger.

Many were heartbroken over the loss of their animals. One woman, when told her horse had burned to death, cried "O, my God," and fled from the scene.

Cause of the fire could not be immediately determined. Burbank firemen said the blaze might have been started in the men's sleeping quarters by a cigaret.

Five units from the Burbank Fire Department, under the command of Chief William J. Taylor, brought the fire under control in 20 minutes.

Officers Kill Gunman Near Burbank Bank



BURBANK — A North Hollywood man who aroused suspicion by loitering in a bank was shot to death and a policeman was wounded Monday in a gun battle in the bank parking lot.

The dead man was identified as Eddie Raymond Sender, 32, of 8001 Longridge Ave.

Police said he pistol whipped Det. Sgt. William B. Smith, 36, and then shot the officer point blank in the abdomen after Smith stopped him outside the bank and asked him to identify himself.

The wounded officer and his partner, Sgt. Carl Lane, 49, fired seven shots at the man. Sender fired back five shots which struck the building of a branch of Security First National Bank at 3400 W. Magnolia Blvd.

Russell Crocker, assistant vice president of the bank, said police were called when Sender was seen in the lobby by a teller. He said Sender aroused suspicion March 24 when he was observed loitering in the bank for "an unusual length of time."

WOUNDED Det. Sgt. William B. Smith was shot in battle with gunman.



GUNMAN KILLED—Eddie Raymond Sender, 32, North Hollywood, was killed Monday on a Burbank bank parking lot in an exchange of gunfire with Police Sgt. Carl Lane, at right, and Det. Sgt. William S. Smith, Smith was wounded.

Times photo

Children Saved but Fire Kills Mother

WALT SECOR

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Oct 6, 1967;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. SF1

Children Saved but Fire Kills Mother

BY WALT SECOR

Times Staff Writer

BURBANK — A young mother whose last thoughts were for the safety of her two children was burned to death early Thursday when fire destroyed their home at 1060 E. Magnolia Blvd., police said.

The youngsters were rescued by a man living in the house who was burned and cut while rescuing the children, officers said. He was driven back by heat and flames in two attempts to save the mother.

The 20-year-old mother, Mrs. Patricia R. Tinkler, apparently was overcome by smoke and heat while trying to flee from a bedroom. Her body was found on the floor in a corner of the room after firemen extinguished the blaze which occurred about 5:30 a.m.

Raymond Claude Rouse, 41, who saved the children, was treated at

CHILDREN SAVED

Continued from First Page

St. Joseph Hospital for burns and cuts and released.

The children, Jean Ann Tinkler, 4, and Raymond Tinkler, 1, were unharmed.

Rouse told officers he was awakened in a bedroom by heat and flames which he said apparently were centered in the living room where he and Mrs. Tinkler had watched television before midnight.

He told police he woke Mrs. Tinkler and told her the house was on fire.

Asks for Children

"Are the children out yet?" Mrs. Tinkler asked him.

Rouse went to another bedroom and carried the girl, Jean Ann, from the house. He tried to return to Mrs. Tinkler but was driven back by flames.

Rouse said he then went outside and around to the boy's bedroom, which he could not enter from inside because of the flames. He smashed the window, found the boy still asleep and carried him out the window.

Rouse told police he made a second attempt to get to Mrs. Tinkler's room

but again was halted by a barrier of flames.

The house was entirely ablaze when firemen arrived, said Batt. Chief Jack Nare. He said the one-story frame dwelling was virtually destroyed although the flames were brought under control in 20 minutes.

The cause of the fire was not determined but the investigation is being continued by the fire prevention bureau of the Fire Department.

The children were cared for by neighbors for several hours Thursday until they were taken by an aunt, Mrs. Henry Grambo, 14015 Oxnard St., Van Nuys.

"I will raise them if I can," said Mrs. Grambo, who has four children of her own. She said she does not know the whereabouts of the children's father, but understands the couple were getting a divorce.

BOYS' DEATHS LAID TO SUICIDE PACT

**Youths, 18 and 16, Found in Motel
With Gun, Airplane Glue, Farewell Notes**

BY GORDON GRANT

Times Staff Writer

BURBANK—Two teen-aged boys, one a high school student and both, according to police, under the influence of airplane glue fumes, were found shot to death Monday in a motel.

Detectives said apparently one boy shot the other, then turned a .22-caliber rifle on himself in what appeared to be a suicide pact. Both boys left notes.

Dead with three bullets in his chest was Robert D. Rings, 16, 6464 Woodman Ave., Van Nuys, an A-11 student at Grant High, Van Nuys. A few feet away in the room at 1001 N. San Fernando Road was the body of Stephen L. Beery, 18, with one wound in the chest.

Sequence of Shootings

Det. Lt. E. J. Vandergrift said he believed Beery shot Rings, then himself. The note from Rings was addressed to his parents, Robert and Ortha Rings. It said: "Mom and Dad — Don't feel sorry for me. If it wasn't for you, I would have killed myself a long time ago."

Beery's note, addressed to no one, read: "I'm on a trip now but that's not what is causing this act. I should have done this a long time ago. I am going to shoot myself and then my friend. (I'm going to shoot my friend first.)"

In the room, police found several tubes of airplane

glue and some rags saturated with glue. They said the most common method of sniffing glue is to soak it into rags and inhale the fumes.

The father of the Rings boy had gone to Van Nuys police headquarters just after 11 a.m. Monday to file a missing persons report. He told officers his son and Beery, who had moved in with the Rings family about a month ago, asked permission to use the family car about 8 p.m. Sunday, ostensibly to visit Beery's mother, Mrs. Norma J. Rhyan, 12927 Welby Way, North Hollywood.

Check Out Time Factor

However, he said, the boys did not come home and a check with Mrs. Rhyan showed that they had not been there.

Less than an hour after the father made the report, the bodies were discovered. The motel manager, Willis Stone, said he had gone to the boys' room to remind them checkout time had passed. There was no answer to his knock and he opened the door as far as a safety chain would permit. He saw a body on the floor and called police.

The motel manager said the pair checked in about 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

Lt. Vandergrift said Monday night he had not learned why the Beery boy went to live with the Rings.

POLICE SEEK KEY TO BOYS' DEATHS

BY GORDON GRANT

Times Staff Writer

BURBANK — While funeral arrangements were being completed Tuesday for two teen-aged boys shot to death in an apparent murder-suicide pact, police continued their efforts to pinpoint a reason for the tragedy.



Robert Rings

"We've talked to a lot of people — friends, families — but we can't come up with a definite conclusion," said Det. Lt. E. J. Vandergrift. "Maybe we never will. The only thing I can say at the moment is that glue-sniffing can lead to terrible things."

The motel room at 1001 N. San Fernando Road in which the bodies were found Monday reeked of glue fumes from saturated rags, Vandergrift said.

Robert E. Rings, 16, of 6464 Woodman Ave., Van Nuys, a Grant High School student, had been shot three times in the chest.

Steven L. Beery, 18, was shot once in the chest. Vandergrift thinks Steven killed his friend, then propped the .22-caliber rifle against the bed, aimed the muzzle at his chest and pushed the trigger.

A deputy coroner said the shooting apparently took place shortly after the boys checked in about 8:30 p.m. Sunday. The shots were not heard, Vandergrift said, probably because of loud rock and roll music and a tape recorder.

Friends Over Years

Robert Rings, father of the victim, said the boys had been friends for several years and that he had taken Steven in to live with them about two weeks ago.

The boys had found a friendship through sports.

Robert admired Steven for his excellence in baseball, basketball and golf, the father said.

Steven was considered an excellent scuba diver and had been chosen for the North Hollywood Little League All-Star team in 1965.

Records indicated Steven was involved in a burglary complaint in 1963, and Vandergrift said he was told the boy had been sniffing glue "for a long time," but that apparently it was new for Robert.

Steven had attended Grant High School, but transferred to North Hollywood High and then to Hollywood High in November.

His mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rhyen, 12927 Welby Way, North Hollywood, said he had not attended classes for about a year.

Funeral Services

Funeral services for Robert are scheduled Thursday at 11 a.m. in Wayside Chapel, Valhalla Memorial Park.

Services for Steven will be held Friday at 1 p.m. at The Valley Funeral Home, 2119 W. Burbank Blvd., with interment at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills.

Robert also leaves a sister, Mary, 19, a TV actress.

Steven also leaves his father, Benjamin Beery, who Tuesday night had not been located by authorities.



ONE WHO LIVED—Lela Henslev Perveler, ex-wife of accused slayer, outside Glendale apartment. She survived three attempts on her life.
 Times photo by R. L. Oliver

Murder Charges Filed Against Pair in Double Indemnity Case

Ex-Policeman Accused of Killing Wife; His Woman Friend Was Implicated in Her Mate's Death, Police Say

BY ROY HAYNES and DIAL TORGERSON

Times Staff Writers

Murder charges were filed Thursday against a man and a woman who, police said, killed their mates to collect double-indemnity life insurance.

Paul S. Perveler, 31, was accused of murdering his 22-year-old bride of less than two months. Kristina Cromwell, 27, was charged with killing her husband, Marlin, 27.

Perveler—a bar owner and former policeman—was also charged with murdering Mrs. Cromwell's husband, and was charged with the attempted murder of his former wife, Lela.

They were arraigned Thursday afternoon before Municipal Judge Joan Dempsey Klein, who remanded them to custody pending a preliminary hearing May 13, without bail. Attorneys for each insisted their clients were innocent.

Police said that Perveler, who worked as an insurance adjuster after his forced resignation from the police department, apparently schemed to heavily insure the victims, then kill them for big payoffs.

Collected \$60,000

Cromwell was shot to death Dec. 11, 1966, at the Cromwells' Highland Park home. Mrs. Cromwell collected upwards of \$60,000 in insurance payments, police said. Investigators said some of the money was blown in free-spending trips Perveler and Mrs. Cromwell took to Las Vegas.

Cheryl Perveler was shot to death last April 20 at the Pervelers' Burbank apartment. Police said insurance policies written on her life a week after their marriage would have paid Perveler \$50,000.

Detectives who have been working on the case for more than a year said that Mrs. Cromwell had an alibi for Dec. 11 and Perveler for April 20. "New evidence" led to the pair's arrest this week, officers said. But they wouldn't say what it was.

The complaints against the pair were issued by Dep. Dist. Atty.



ARRAIGNED—Kristina Cromwell, 27, before her appearance in court.
 Times photo

Vincent T. Bugliosi after a study of evidence compiled by Det. Sgt. Don Ham and other investigators.

The attempted murder complaint was based on a brutal beating suffered June 25, 1966, by Perveler's first wife.

Lela Hensley Perveler—an attractive blonde of 30 who lives in Glendale—told officers this story:

As she was returning home early June 25, her husband flagged down her car a block and a half from their home, pulled her out, kicked her, and beat her head against the pavement, shouting: "I'm going to

Charges Filed Against Pair in Two Deaths

Continued from Third Page
kill you." He fled as a car approached. She recovered from serious injuries.

Mrs. Perveler filed no charges against her husband after the beating incident because, she said Thursday, she still at the time hoped to reconcile their marriage.

She said detectives had asked she not discuss the case, but she said of the Perveler she knew in the days before their 1964 marriage:

"Paul very much liked to be a policeman. He really enjoyed his job. He was quite bitter when he was forced off the force."

Police allege that at the time of their divorce three attempts had been made against Lela's life—which was then insured for a policy which, under its double-indemnity clause,

would have paid Perveler \$32,000.

Twice before the June 25 incident Mrs. Perveler was knocked down by hit-run autos and seriously injured. In neither case was she able to identify the driver.

She and Perveler were

divorced in September, 1966.

Police said Perveler resigned from the Police Department in September, 1963, under the accusation that he helped arrange an abortion for a girlfriend of a fellow officer.

Investigators said he quit work as an insurance

adjuster and bought a Burbank beer bar after Mrs. Cromwell received her insurance settlement for her husband's death.

They said he bought a second beer bar, in Sunland, with money given

the couple as a wedding present from the father of his second wife.

Investigators indicated that, although there was evidence linking Perveler to Cromwell's death, there

was none indicating Mrs. Cromwell was implicated in the death of Cheryl Perveler.

Ex-Officer, Woman Indicted in Deaths

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

A former police officer and his attractive, blonde girl friend were indicted Wednesday by the County Grand Jury on charges stemming from the shooting deaths of their heavily insured mates.

Paul S. Perveler, 31, now the owner of beer bars in Burbank and Sunland, was charged with the slayings of his second wife, Cheryl, 22, and Marlin Cromwell, 27.

He also was indicted on a charge that he attempted to murder his first wife, Lela Hensley, 30, and on one count of grand theft involving \$5,000 he allegedly took from a Highland Park barber.

Mrs. Kristina Cromwell, 27, said to be Perveler's girl friend, was indicted for murder in the death of Cromwell, her husband and the father of her 6-year-old son.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Vincent T. Bugliosi presented the testimony of more than 30 witnesses, reportedly in an attempt to give the grand jury a complete picture of the tangled case which began in 1965.

INDICTMENTS

Continued from First Page

The offenses actually charged in the indictment as they occurred were:

1—On June 25, 1966, Mrs. Hensley, who divorced Perveler in January, 1967, allegedly was beaten and threatened by him. She was insured at the time for \$16,000.

2—On Dec. 11, 1966, Cromwell was shot five times in the head and chest in his home at 2723 Ballard St. The killer set the house afire. His wife, who collected \$35,000 in life insurance, was visiting a friend in Twenty Nine Palms at the time.

3—On Jan. 29, 1968, Perveler accepted \$5,000 from a barber friend on the pretense of helping him to conceal the money in a pending divorce action. He allegedly refused to return the \$5,000.

4—On April 20, 1968, Cheryl Perveler, married to Perveler only seven weeks, was found shot to death in the garage of their apartment at 2021 Grismer St., Burbank. Her life was insured for \$25,000, but no money has been paid.

ny believed to have been given by witnesses was that Mrs. Cromwell purchased a gun of the same caliber which killed her husband, that Perveler had purchased a gun of the same caliber which killed his wife (neither weapon has been found) and that the two of them, after Cromwell's death, made a trip to Las Vegas, using some of the proceeds of the insurance for expenses and gambling.

Many of the witnesses summoned to testify reportedly supplied information gathered by Dets. Don Ham and John St. John. Their investigation began shortly after the death of Cromwell 16 months ago.

The pair have been in jail since their arrest on May 1. Murder charges previously filed reportedly will be dismissed in favor of the district attorney's complaint.

Included in the testimo-

EX-OFFICER, WOMAN DENY DEATH CHARGES

A former police officer and his girlfriend pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges that they murdered their mates to collect life insurance.

Superior Judge James D. Tante denied motions to suppress evidence and for separate trials for Paul S. Perveler, 31, and Mrs. Kristina Cromwell, 27. He ordered the two to appear in court Aug. 1, when a trial date will be set.

Late last month Judge Tante also denied requests by attorneys Morris Lavine and Melvin Belli that the case be thrown out because of insufficient evidence to warrant an indictment.

Perveler is accused of killing Mrs. Cromwell's husband, Marlin, 27, and attempted murder of his first wife, Lela Hensley, 30.

Perveler and Mrs. Cromwell had been held without bail since their arrest May 1, when police say they completed a year-long investigation into the slaying.

The tangled case, police say, began in June, 1966, when Mrs. Hensley, who divorced Perveler in January of that year, allegedly was beaten and threatened by him.

Three previous attempts had been made on her life in 1965 and 1966. In one instance she was knocked down by a car whose driver pursued her down a sidewalk.

At that time she was insured for \$16,000.

On Dec. 11, 1966, Cromwell was shot five times in the head at his Los An-

geles home, which was burned after the shooting. Mrs. Cromwell, who was out of town at the time, collected \$35,000 in life insurance.

On April 20 of this year, Cheryl Perveler, 22, married to Perveler for seven weeks, was found shot to death in the garage of their Burbank home.

Ex-Officer, Woman Ask Separate Trials

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Nov 15, 1968;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. B1

Ex-Officer, Woman Ask Separate Trials

A former police officer and his girl friend will learn Monday whether they will have to stand trial together on charges of murdering their mates to collect life insurance, it was ruled Thursday.

Superior Judge Pearce Young took under submission arguments by defense lawyers asking that Paul S. Perveler, 31, and Mrs. Kristina Cromwell, 27, be tried separately.

Perveler, a police officer for a short time and more recently a beer bar owner, is accused of slaying his second wife, Cheryl, 22, and Mrs. Cromwell's husband, Marlin Cromwell, 27, and of attempting to murder his first wife, Lela Hensley, 30.

Attorneys for Mrs. Cromwell, who is charged only with the slaying of her husband, contend it would be prejudicial for her to be tried with Perveler because of the greater number of counts against him.

Cromwell was found shot five times in the head on Dec. 11, 1966, and Cheryl Perveler, married to the defendant for only seven weeks, was found shot to death in the garage of their Burbank home last April 20.

If Judge Young denies the severance motion, selection of a jury is scheduled to begin Monday.

Tenacity Pays Off in Dispute on Fingerprints

BY RICHARD WEST

Times Staff Writer

A prosecutor's tenacity has kept an erroneous fingerprint identification from being entered as evidence in the murder trial of Paul S. Perveler and Mrs. Kristina Cromwell.

Perveler, 31, a former Los Angeles policeman, and Mrs. Cromwell, 27, are accused of killing their mates to collect \$60,000 in life insurance. Dep. Dist. Atty. Vincent T. Bugliosi is seeking to send them to the gas chamber.

Vincent Yoder, a police fingerprint technician, had testified that two fingerprints found on beer bottles in the house where Mrs. Cromwell's husband, Marlin, was shot to death were neither those of the victim nor Perveler.

The prints were those of an unidentified person or persons, Yoder told a jury in the court of Superior Judge Pearce Young.

Could Have Hurt Case

This could have been damaging to the prosecution which contends that Cromwell apparently had been drinking beer with his killer. The unidentified prints indicated that another man had been present.

Prosecutor Bugliosi, who said later that he was taking "a shot in the dark," asked the head of the police fingerprint detail to check the prints out again.

This was done, and on Thursday Yoder took the stand once more and admitted that he had made an error. He said one of the prints was, indeed, that of Cromwell and that the other, badly smeared, could belong to Cromwell or someone else.

In other testimony, downtown gun dealer Claude Johnson said that Mrs. Cromwell purchased a 22-caliber Hi-Standard revolver from his store in June, 1966.

Type Used in Murder

A police ballistics expert testified that Cromwell had been slain with either a Hi-Standard, Iver Johnson or Harrington revolver. The murder weapon has never been found.

Another prosecution witness, Leonora Cheely of Kansas City, Mo., testified she was living in Twentynine Palms in December, 1966, when Mrs. Cromwell telephoned her and said she would like to visit her for several days beginning Dec. 9.

Mrs. Cromwell's husband was murdered on Dec. 11 in his home at 2723 Ballard St.

Mrs. Cromwell and her son, Kent, were at Mrs. Cheely's home on Dec. 11 when the defendant's father telephoned to tell her that her husband had been murdered.

The widow turned pale and began to cry, Mrs. Cheely said, but half an hour later she had recovered enough to take her son horseback riding.

Detective Joe Aguirre testified that when he went to the home of Mrs. Cromwell's parents on the day of the murder he asked a woman he found there if she were Leonora Cheely.

"Yes, and I'm Kristina's alibi," he quoted her as saying.

Mrs. Cheely denied on the stand that she had ever made this statement.

Aguirre said Mrs. Cromwell told him that a man named Dick Scott, whom she met in a bar, had given her a pistol which she took out to the desert to fire several times. This gun has never been found, the detective said.

Besides killing Cromwell, Perveler is accused of shooting to death his second wife, Cheryl, 22, in the garage of their apartment at 2021 Grismer St., Burbank. She was found slain April 20, 1968.

He also tried to kill his first wife, Lela Hensley, 30, on June 25, 1966, by beating her, the prosecution says. She divorced him in January, 1967.

The trial, which began before the jury Nov. 26, is expected to take two months. The prosecution will continue its case Monday.

INQUEST TODAY IN BURBANK SLAYING

BURBANK — A coroner's inquest will be held today in the death of Frank Brandon, 23, son of a former mayor, who was shot and killed June 12 by a police officer investigating a burglary report at a beer bar at 3813 W. Magnolia Blvd.

The inquiry will be held at 10 a.m. in the Hall of Justice in Los Angeles.

Brandon was struck by a shotgun blast fired by officer Robert H. Jacobs, 35, while assertedly attempting to break through a glass window after the building was surrounded by policemen responding to a burglary alarm in the building and telephone calls from two neighbors.

Jacobs said he fired once after Brandon had ignored two shouted commands to

leave the building and was trying to smash the window. Brandon, who was unarmed, was killed instantly.

Employees of the bar told police there was approximately \$100 in the cash register in addition to small change. It had not been touched.

The incident occurred shortly before 3 a.m. The two residents called police while Brandon assertedly was noisily removing planks from a boarded rear door to enter the building. A silent alarm was set off.

Brandon was the son of Dr. Robert Brandon, a dentist, who served two terms as mayor and was a member of the City Council for eight years before he lost a bid for reelection in 1967.

Officers Stake Out Home, Kill Suspect in Bizarre Kidnaping

Police searched Saturday for a second suspect in a bizarre kidnaping which ended in death for one suspect at a Burbank home and confiscation of 73 kilos of marijuana.

Los Angeles and Burbank police gave this account:

Two men kidnaped Joseph R. Hurley, 24, from his home at 18400 Devonshire St., Northridge, about 5:15 p.m. Friday and left him locked in the basement of a cabana behind a house at 318 S. Sunset Canyon Drive, Burbank.

Hurley, handcuffed, broke out and ran to the house of a neighbor, who called police about 9 p.m.

Two hours later, one suspect arrived at the cabana where Burbank police officers confronted him.

The suspect, identified as Wallace Noe, 28, a transient, reportedly drew a .22-caliber automatic Ruger pistol when officers ordered: "Freeze." He was dropped by a shotgun blast fired by Burbank officer John Bruno.

Officers said they found the marijuana in the concrete cellar where Hurley was imprisoned. The street-sale value was estimated at \$9,000.

Hurley reportedly told officers that he had been kidnaped on two previous occasions by Noe and the second suspect because they suspected him of a narcotics double-cross.

Officers were seeking the resident of the home, Mrs. Mary Davis, for questioning.

Jul 31, 1969

Suspect Held in Shootings at Burbank

BY JOHN KENDALL
and DICK MAIN

Times Staff Writers

A Lockheed Aircraft employee—disgruntled by criticism of his work—shot and killed a supervisor in the plant Wednesday and later shot two others to death at a union hall in Burbank.

The victims included Thomas E. McNett, 55, president of District Lodge 727, International Assn. of Machinists.

Isaac Jernigan Jr., 29, a senior template maker, surrendered without resistance about two blocks from the union office.

He was booked on suspicion of murder by Burbank police and later transferred to the county jail.

Account of Slaying Given

Police, union members and aircraft company officials pieced together this account of the triple slayings:

Jernigan had received an employee performance notice criticizing him for failing to wear safety glasses while working in a hazardous area.

Jernigan, who was suspended briefly last year on a similar reprimand, walked into Lockheed's Plant B-1 in Burbank shortly before 2 p.m. and gave the performance report to Jan Howard Domonoske, 28, template department supervisor.

Witnesses said Domonoske tried to hand the report back to Jernigan, but instead of taking it, the latter stepped back, drew a short-barreled revolver and shot twice.

Domonoske, struck in the chest and head, fell mortally wounded in front of 50 startled workers.

Suspect Scales Fence

Acting Burbank Police Lt. M. J. Weatherford said 15 police cars were dispatched to surround the Lockheed plant when the first report was received of the shooting.

But the suspect, who abandoned his car in a company parking lot, scaled a chainlink fence and went to the IAM headquarters at 2600 W. Victory Blvd., about three-quarters of a mile from Plant B-1.

At the headquarters, he asked to see McNett but was told the union official had left his office to address a group of retired union members in an adjoining enclosed patio.

McNett was talking to two women when the suspect burst into the patio and yelled, "Mr. McNett?"

Please Turn to Page 22, Col. 1



SLAIN — Thomas E. McNett, union official, among three slain by disgruntled Lockheed Aircraft employe.

Times photo

Suspect Seized as Gun Spree Leaves 3 Dead

Continued from First Page

but instead of taking it, the latter stepped back, drew a short-barreled revolver and shot twice.

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Bursts Into Patio

McNett was talking to two women when the suspect burst into the patio and yelled, "Mr. McNett?"

The union official turned and was struck by the first of three bullets fired into him.

Leonard E. Nolan, 52, a Lockheed tool planner, tried to stop the gunman near a back door.

Police said the suspect shot Nolan, who reeled back into the patio and crumpled onto the floor only 3 feet from McNett's body.

Nolan, 1912 Pepper St., Burbank, had gone to the union hall with fellow members of a union governing committee to audit union books.

Irving Moss, 1606 N. Laurel Ave., another member of the committee, was in the finance office when the shootings occurred.

He said he and Frank Placencia, financial secretary of the union, raced out of the building and asked a gardener if he had seen a man running away. The gardener pointed in the direction the bearded gunman had fled.

Moss and Placencia got into a station wagon and spotted the suspect in the 1200 block of Lincoln Ave.

"He saw us and reached down as if he were going to pull a gun from his belt," Moss said. "We sped past him and drove until we saw police and told them where he was."

Refuses Statement

Officers Neil McCarthy and Walter Lencki said the suspect threw up his hands to surrender when he saw them. The snub-nose revolver was found in nearby bushes.

Lt. Weatherford said Jernigan refused to make any statement.

A spokesman at Lockheed said records showed he was suspended last August for violating safety regulations—reportedly for wearing a long sleeved shirt around machinery. He was reinstated last November.

Jernigan, a Lockheed employe since 1964, lives at 9727 Haas Ave.

Domonoske, 325 N. Kenwood St., Glendale, had been employed by Lockheed since 1961.

McNett, who founded the 12,000-member local in 1939, lived at 6255 Elmer Ave., North Hollywood.

CRIME

Death Sentences

Three men were condemned to death in Los Angeles in separate cases that involved five slayings.

One was Robert K. Beausoleil, 22-year-old-off-and-on-again member of the Charles Manson hippie "family" that is involved in the Tate-La Bianca murder cases. Convicted of the torture-murder of musician Gary Hinman, he was the first member of the cult to be convicted for one of eight slayings allegedly planned by Manson.

The second defendant was Ronald F. Fouquet, convicted of the 1966 beating death of his 5-year-old stepson, Jeffery Lansdown.

The third was Isaac Jernigan Jr., 30-year-old president of the Black Workers Alliance, who was convicted of shooting to death his plant supervisor and two fellow unionists at the Lockheed Aircraft plant in Burbank last July 30.

All will be formally sentenced next month.

Jury Overruled on Death for Slayer

The convicted slayer of three men last July 30 in Burbank was sentenced Wednesday to life imprisonment, despite a jury's recommendation that he be condemned to death.

In reducing the penalty, Superior Judge Norman R. Dowds said he considered Isaac Jernigan Jr., 30, to be mentally ill.

It marked the second time in a week that a jury verdict in a death penalty case has been overturned.

Superior Judge Charles H. Older on Monday sentenced Vassie Lee Washington Jr., 31, who faced the death penalty for the slaying of a 16-month-old child, to a life term.

In both cases the prosecution opposed the reductions in penalty and Wednesday Los Angeles Asst. Dist. Atty. Joseph P. Busch Jr. declared:

"All of the evidence available to the court was presented to 12 jurors in each of these cases and they unanimously felt the proper punishment was death.

"There was nothing additional presented to the two judges to war-

PENALTY

Continued from First Page

rant reductions of the verdicts rendered by the juries in these cases."

Jernigan, president of the Black Workers Alliance, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the slayings of Jan H. Domonoske, 28, his plant supervisor at Lockheed Aircraft, and Thomas E. McNett, 55, president of his union.

He also was convicted of second-degree murder in the shooting of Leonard E. Nolan, 52, a fellow union member, killed when he came to McNett's aid.

Judge Dowds said he did not believe the jury gave proper weight to the findings of five psychiatrists, who testified that Jernigan was mentally ill at the time of the slayings, but legally sane. The court added that the levels established to determine legal insanity are set arbitrarily.

In explaining that he felt the defendant's mental health should be considered in sentencing, Judge Dowds conceded that another matter to consider is the heinous nature of the offense and the effect the crime has on the families of the victims.

He said he sympathizes with the Domonoske, McNett and Nolan families, but added: "It must be realized that no punishment inflicted upon Mr. Jernigan will restore these men."

Four of the psychiatrists said Jernigan was mentally ill at the time of the murders and the fifth testified that he had a paranoid type of personality.

Dep. Dist. Atty. James E. Zeigler contended during the trial that Jernigan shot Domonoske after a series of labor disputes and killed McNett because he felt the union leader did not support his position.

Gang Slayings: Is 'Syndicate' at Work in Valley?

BY KENNETH HANSEN

Times Staff Writer

Hoodlums, big time and small time, are murdered occasionally in the Valley, but the Police Department says that is no indication of crime syndicate activity in the city.

"There have been incidents where personal differences and failure to pay off gambling debts have resulted in slayings, but there is no such thing as a crime syndicate in the city," said a high-level department spokesman.

But some lower echelon policemen say there is a criminal organization in Los Angeles, with evidence of it popping up frequently.

Occasionally, big-time hoods are eliminated in the Valley, but most of the victims reportedly are small-scale, independent operators, such as street-corner bookies:

Life on the Line

But the fact remains that when a street bookie, or other criminal small timer, goes into debt, he normally cannot borrow from the banks or savings and loan associations.

Instead he goes to a syndicate loan shark, and he does not put up a home or car as collateral. He puts his life on the line.

And when he cannot pay, there is only one way the shark can enforce the agreement and warn other deadbeats: kill the recalcitrant debtor.

A contract has been let (criminal parlance for an order to kill) on a Valley bookie, now serving a jail sentence who is in debt to a Miami shark for more than \$60,000, police sources say. There is no way for the bookie to pay off the debt.

Among the Dead

Recent Valley victims include William Amato, 49, of 12360 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, described by police as a big-time bookie in the early 1950s but at the time of his death a minor operator.

Amato was executed at 7 p.m. Sept. 23 with a shot in the back of the head. He was found in his auto parked at Huston St. and Bellingham Ave.

Amato probably was murdered by a disgruntled customer, according to Lt. Robert J. Helder of central homicide.

"Amato was a bookie, and he wasn't paying off on the bets," says Jack Gotch, an investigator for the District Attorney's Office. "He operated alone, but there could have been a gangland connection."

About a month before Amato was slain, another North Hollywood bookie, Elvis Yancy, 55, was murdered in a liquor store at 6461



GEORGE PISCITELLE
... never got 'the stuff.'



ROBERT WROLSTAD
... made \$100,000 a year.



SUSANNE WROLSTAD
... wife who died too.

Valley Gang Murders: Is 'Syndicate' at Work?

Continued from First Page
Lankershim Blvd., where
he worked as a clerk.

Yancy was dispatched in
the same manner as Ama-
to—a bullet in the back of
the head. He was in a
seated position in the rear
of the store.

On its face, the murder
appeared to have been a
robbery slaying. The cash
register was rifled of \$300.
But \$170 was found on
Yancy's person and his
wrist watch had not been
taken, according to Det.
Sgt. Doug Bentley.

The most spectacular
slaying this year was of
George Bart Piscitelle, 36,
an often-arrested former
henchman of Mickey Co-
hen and Nevada vice king-
pin Joe Conforte.

What Was 'Stuff'?

Piscitelle, who lived at
7918 Peachtree Ave., Van
Nuys, was slain in a gang-
land-style confrontation
May 8 at the apartment
of Ivars Apinitis, 5655 Hal-
brent Ave., Van Nuys.

Apinitis, 27, and two
others were wounded in
the fight which began
when a gunman demand-
ed: "OK, hand the stuff
over."

But what "the stuff" was
and the cause of the
outburst remains a myste-
ry.

Criminal complaints
were filed in the case, but
when it came time to go to
trial there were no witnes-
ses, officers reported.

Piscitelle was a veteran
of gangland wars, and,
according to police, was
present during the 1959

murder of Jack (The En-
forcer) Whalen at a Ven-
tura Blvd. restaurant in
Sherman Oaks. Piscitelle
and Cohen were indicted
for the slaying but were
acquitted.

Perhaps the most baf-
fling of recent Valley mur-
ders was the demise of
Kenneth A. Lindstrand,
32, a bachelor of 15344
Weddington St., Van
Nuys, shot before about 40
witnesses during a 1967
Halloween party in a
neighboring apartment
house.

By the time the cos-
tumed guests realized it
was not a prank, the
suspect fled.

Lindstrand left \$119,700
in cash in two safe deposit
boxes in a Ventura Blvd.
bank. He also had \$30,000
in known bank accounts.

Under Investigation

At his death, Lind-
strand's advertising direc-
tory business was being
investigated by the State
Attorney General's Office
and the Post Office De-
partment.

The attorney general
had filed a complaint
charging that Lindstrand
intimated that the forms
he sent out were bills
rather than solicitations.
The Post Office was inves-
tigating fraud.

Lindstrand's death also
was linked with the shoot-
ing of a Mafia figure in
Florida. Two days after
the Halloween slaying
here, Tommy Altamura
was shot to death in
Miami.

In Altamura's possession



WILLIAM AMATO
... latest gambler slain.

was a \$10,000 cashier's
check drawn on the Lin-
coln Bank of Van Nuys on
the same day that Lind-
strand had drawn \$40,000
in cash from various
banks.

The Lindstrand slaying
is unsolved.

Another slaying last
year was that of Gerald
Covelli, 42, Chicago syndi-
cate gangster turned infor-
mer. Covelli was killed by
a bomb that went off in his
car shortly after he drove
away from his home at
16044 Royal Mount Drive,
Sherman Oaks.

Covelli had violated the
syndicate code of secrecy.
His testimony sent four
Chicago racketeers to pri-
son in 1962.

Double Murder

His case joined the un-
solved list.

A double murder in
point is that of Burbank
bookmaker Robert Erwin
Bloss. Turn to Page 2, Col. 1.

SLAYINGS

Continued from Third Page
Wrolstad, 31, and his blonde wife, Susanne, 28.

They were shot to death, both in the left eye, in their home at 745 N. Valley St. on Dec. 8, 1965. Wrolstad's bookmaking operation netted him \$100,000 a year, and he employed about 10 persons, according to Burbank Det. Harry L. Strickland.

Old-Style Killing

Police theories are various: that Wrolstad was slain by others anxious to take over his business; that it was simple robbery, or that it was a combination of both. Whatever the motive, police feel the slayings were committed by a hoodlum who knew Wrolstad well.

Lt. E. J. Vandergrift, commanding Burbank detectives, said the murder appears to have been an "old-style gangland killing—both victims apparently were on their knees, and they were shot in or near the left eye."

Wrolstad was known as a free-wheeling gambler and the double deaths have not been solved.



DEATH SCENE — William Miller and his wife were swept from this Burbank home in 1964 deluge. She drowned and he sued officials for failing to alert homeowners of flood danger.

'64 DEATH---IS ANYONE AT FAULT?

Six rainy seasons ago, Burbank's Sunset Canyon was just like many burned-over canyons in Southern California this year — in danger of flood.

A brush fire swept the rustic Burbank canyon in March of 1964, denuding the steep hillsides. On a November morning eight months later, there was a sudden downpour—the first rain of the season—and a towering avalanche of water, mud, automobiles and other debris roared down Country Club Drive.

The torrent crashed through the house of Frank Sinatra's piano accompanist, William A. Miller. Miller's daughter, Meredith, who later said the house had been turned into a "covered bridge," got out of the way. But Miller and his wife Aimee were swept down the canyon. Only Miller, who wound up in a debris basin grasping the door handle of a floating Volkswagen, survived.

Effects of Ruling Incalculable

Whether the Sunset Canyon tragedy could have been averted by officialdom is still very much a subject of legal controversy, and a recent ruling by a judge in the case could have far-reaching implications for future flood victims.

Los Angeles Superior Judge Stevens Fargo threw out a jury verdict allowing Miller to collect \$129,000 from the city of Burbank and the County Flood Control District.

Fargo, remanding the lawsuit to a new trial,

ruled there was insufficient evidence for the jury to find negligence on the part of the city or county. In fact, Fargo declared, there was clear evidence that both agencies had discharged their responsibilities fully.

Miller's attorney, Herbert Hiestand Jr., says he will appeal Fargo's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary. The suit covered several issues, but Hiestand contends the primary one concerned the fact the Millers had been given no warning to evacuate.

Position of Burbank Counsel

Attorney Fulton Haight, whose law firm served as special counsel for the City of Burbank, claims the city and county are not legally bound to warn residents of danger.

In any case, Haight argues, the 10-foot-high avalanche that descended on the Millers was such a scientific rarity (flood control people call them "Noah-type floods") that no human being could have expected it. And short of a multi-million dollar dam, nothing could have prevented the avalanche, he says. Furthermore, it came so suddenly there was no time to alert residents.

However, Haight says, the city of Burbank did provide warning of a general flood threat by holding meetings and distributing pamphlets in advance of the rainy season.

Hiestand rejoins that, first of all, the Government Code does require evacuation warnings; secondly, a flood catastrophe actually was fore-

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Responsibility for '64 Death Still Unsettled

Continued from First Page
seen by government officials if not by residents; and thirdly, there would have been time to alert the Millers if a warning system had been set up.

Rain began falling moderately in the Verdugo Mountains before dawn that Nov. 8, saturating the bare soil on the hillsides of Sunset Canyon. A downpour struck at about 8 a.m. City and county crews, which had been in the canyon for an hour and a half, just had time to scurry to safety—and no time to issue warnings, it was claimed in trial testimony.

Meredith Miller, now 23, said she looked out the window of her house and saw a car float by on a brown river of debris hurtling down Country Club Drive, a twisting roadway-drainage channel lined by several dozen homes.

Alarmed, she told her mother and awakened her father. While her parents were preparing to leave, Miss Miller fled out a back door and started climbing a hillside.

Miller, 55, said he told his wife, "Come on, Honey, we better get out of here, too."

Body Found

"I remember reaching down and picking up the dog . . . and that's the last thing I remember for quite a while," Miller recalled. He and his wife were carried to the bottom of the canyon into a debris catch-basin, where Miller was rescued and his wife's body was found later.

Miller suffered a broken heel in addition to numerous bruises and scratches.

As a sidelight to the case, Miller — who has been Sinatra's pianist for 17 years—was put up in the singer's Palm Springs home to recuperate. Sinatra also found the musician a new home, paid whatever hospital bills were left unpaid by insurance and personally supervised the furnishing of the new home down to the silverware, linen and clothing.

Other issues at the trial concerned whether the county had failed to clear an upstream debris basin before the rain, and whether the city had improperly maintained a fire road, thereby contributing to soil erosion.

The jury foreman, in an affidavit obtained by Haight's law firm after the trial, said the jury had ruled out negligence in those regards but felt there should have been a warning and evacuation system.

Jurors' Suggestion

Several jurors informally told attorneys they thought the city could have had a police car drive down the street with red light and siren going when the downpour hit. This could have been a prearranged signal to flee, the jurors said.

Haight says the lesson to be learned from the tragedy is that government has the responsibility for providing only so much flood (and fire) protection to canyon dwellers. They must either live with and deal with the risk of there not being enough protection, or move out, he says.

Hiestand sees it differently: Government is obligated to do more, and can do more.

It may be up to the courts and the Legislature to decide.

Hit-Run Death

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 23, 1971;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. SF3

Hit-Run Death

BURBANK — Jerrold Enfield, 65, of Sherman Oaks, was killed by a hit-run driver early Wednesday as he was walking across Magnolia Blvd. at Mariposa St., police reported. Enfield, 6365 Ventura Canyon Ave., was pronounced dead at the scene. Witnesses said the car slowed briefly after hitting Enfield and then sped off.

Father Charged in Son's Death

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Aug 29, 1972;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. SF6

Father Charged in Son's Death

BURBANK George Stanley DeLorenzo Sr., 47, of 1111 N. Rose St., unemployed father of 12, was arrested here Monday on a murder warrant issued by police in Jersey City, N.J., in the death seven years ago of his 3-year-old son.

Relatives of DeLorenzo accused him of beating the child to death and concealing the body in his former home in Jersey City. An extradition hearing is scheduled today at 9 a.m. in Superior Court.

FATHER HELD FOR MURDER

Mother's Fear Kept Son's Slaying a Secret for 7 Years

BY JOHN KENDALL

Times Staff Writer

The mother and sister of 4-year-old Joseph John De Lorenzo said Thursday that fear had kept them from telling police the boy had been killed by his father seven years ago and buried in a New Jersey basement.

Mrs. Frances De Lorenzo, 42, and her 19-year-old daughter, Janet, said they had lived in a "state of fear" created by George De Lorenzo from the time of Joseph's death on March 19, 1965, until last week.

De Lorenzo has denied the charges.

The 47-year-old jobless father of 12 was arrested outside the family's rented Burbank home and arraigned Wednesday in Jersey City, N.J., on charges of killing his son.

Police there—acting on instructions from Burbank police—dug beneath a basement stairwell and four feet down found the skeletal remains of a child, wrapped in a yellow blanket.

Her son was buried there, Mrs. De Lorenzo said in an interview Tuesday, after her husband struck Joseph on the back with a stick and killed the boy.

De Lorenzo told her, Janet and another daughter, Agnes, now 22,—the three witnesses—that if they told

police he would say they helped kill the boy, Mrs. De Lorenzo said.

She quoted her husband as saying that he would get the electric chair but she would die slowly in the gas chamber.

Agnes ran away from home a year after her brother's death, but De Lorenzo and his family continued to live in the house at 530 W. Side Ave., until moving to California in 1970.

Police in Burbank learned of Joseph's death and burial Aug. 27 from Janet De Lorenzo, her uncle, Joseph Amato, and a family friend, Robert Schad, 23.

Two days earlier, according to Amato, Mrs. De Lorenzo broke the years of silence and told him that Joseph had been killed.

"I got to the point that I just couldn't hold it in," she said.

Amato said he waited until Sunday, Aug. 27, to report to police so Janet and Schad could leave the De Lorenzo home on a pretext of going to church.

"He would have killed us all if he had any idea that I knew what happened," Amato said.

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SLAYING

Continued from First Page

"He had them (his wife and two daughters) convinced since the murder that, 'If I go, you're going to go too.'"

But, according to Amato, the fear took another form.

Members of the family talked about that part of it, too.

Mrs. De Lorenzo, Janet, Amato, and 14-year-old Michael De Lorenzo said De Lorenzo regularly beat his wife and children, used loud, profane language, and had never worked in 23 years since he married his wife in New Jersey.

Two weeks before Joseph's death was reported, Mrs. De Lorenzo said, her husband held a .22-caliber rifle to her head and threatened to shoot her if she said anything to the rest of the family.

Shortly before his arrest, Amato said De Lorenzo severely beat Michael.

Police were called in both cases, according to the family, but officers

were told stories each time to keep De Lorenzo from being arrested.

Mrs. De Lorenzo said she still believed that she might be blamed by her husband for Joseph's death and that if he was locked up he would "open his mouth."

Amato and Janet said the boy had been killed after weeks of torturous punishment.

"He was just like a giant and we were just little things that he could step on," Mrs. De Lorenzo said.

"I always thought that he just wanted to be big but now I know he's got to be nuts."

Mother's Fear Keeps Son's Slaying a Secret for 7 Years; Father Held

JOHN KENDALL

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 8, 1972;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. C1

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Times Staff Writer

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Mrs. De Lorenzo said she still believed that she might be blamed by her husband for Joseph's death and that if he was locked up he would

"open his mouth."

Amato and Janet said the boy had been killed after weeks of torturous punishment.

At De Lorenzo's arraignment in Jersey City, Asst. County Prosecutor Armand Pohan successfully argued against releasing De Lorenzo on grounds that he had conducted a "reign of terror" against his family.

"There's enough room in the backyard for all of you," Pohan quoted De Lorenzo as telling family members.

At the De Lorenzo home Tuesday, younger children played on swings.

"None of the children miss him," said Michael De Lorenzo.

Man Killed in Fight Over Woman

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jul 28, 1972;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. SG6

Man Killed in Fight Over Woman

An early morning fight over a woman resulted in the death of a South San Gabriel man and serious injury to another in the presence of four children, Burbank police said Thursday.

Dead of gunshot wounds is Richard Salas Morales, 31, of 449 W. Ramona Blvd.

In the prison ward at USC-County Medical Center with serious gunshot and stab wounds is David E. Garcia, 43, of 441 W. Spazier Ave., Burbank, where the fight took place.

Police said Morales and Garcia fought over the affections of a woman. They said Morales shot Garcia first through the arm with a .32-cal. automatic pistol, then stabbed him repeatedly with an ice pick. But Garcia wrestled away the gun and shot Morales through the chest. Morales was dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital.

Drug Usage Dropping in Burbank Schools

Drug usage by students in Burbank schools has declined dramatically since 1968, said Dr. Robert E. Shanks, superintendent of schools.

Commenting on a report presented to the Burbank Board of Education during December by the Department of Pupil Personnel Services, Shanks noted that during November of 1973 there was a total of 12 students arrested in Burbank for drug violations and only two students suspended from school for possession or use of drugs at school.

Shanks recalled that during one week alone in 1969, 48 students were suspended from Burbank schools for drug usage.

He said that when he took office in 1968, the juvenile drug problem was growing rapidly.

Working with St. Joseph Medical Center, Burbank Schools helped set up the Burbank Drug Abuse Council. Through the council the Impact Plus Two drug education programs was brought into the Burbank Schools. It was and is a continuing program designed to inform students and to involve parents in problems and solutions to the use of drugs by their children.

Since those early days of the program, Shanks said, drug usage has steadily declined in Burbank Schools.

"Some people say it is because the kids have gone underground with their drug usage," he said. "I don't think that's the case."

The glamour appears to have gone out of using drugs, he said, and as a result "There has not been a case of juvenile death from drugs in Burbank for years."

But as juvenile drug usage decreases, he says, alcohol appears to be taking its place.

"BRIDGE, an organization formed to help counsel youths on drugs, is now turning its attention to the growing use of alcohol by teenagers," Shanks said.

Alcohol is especially troublesome, he said, because it is so easily obtainable by youngsters, either through older friends or by misrepresenting themselves as adults.

Inquest May Endanger Murder Case Charge

Fate of Husband in Burbank Shooting
Hinges on Hospital Treatment Inquiry

BY KEN FANUCCHI

Times Staff Writer

An inquest into the death of a Burbank woman that could jeopardize the district attorney's murder case against her estranged husband has been ordered by the coroner's office.

The hearing will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Criminal Courts Building, Los Angeles, into the circumstances surrounding the June 9 death of Mrs. Mary Ochoa, 49, of 501 E. Cedar Ave., Burbank.

James Kono, special assistant to Coroner Thomas Noguchi, said the inquest will seek to find out if there was a "therapeutic misadventure" in connection with treatment given her shortly before she died at St. Joseph Medical Center.

"We want to determine if there is criminal neglect in the woman's death beyond the gunshot wound for which she was treated," he said.

Investigation Conducted

A spokesman for St. Joseph said the hospital is conducting an investigation to see if a portion of the nitrogen-oxygen system in the operating room where surgery was performed on the victim had any connection with her death.

"While there is, at this time, no proof linking the system to the patient's death," his statement continued, "the incident has been reported to the appropriate authorities to insure that justice will be done with respect to all concerned."

The Glendale office of the district attorney is seeking to have a preliminary hearing on a murder charge against Alfonso Ochoa, 61, of 535 N. Lomita Ave., Burbank, now set for Monday, postponed until after the inquest.

Ochoa, an unemployed tool and die maker, was arraigned on a murder charge Wednesday before Burbank Municipal Judge Archie Walters who set bail for him at \$10,000.

Donald Goldsobel, in charge of the district attorney's office in Glendale, said the inquest results could cause the office to file reduced charges against Ochoa.

Surgery Performed

"Unless there is evidence to the contrary that Mrs. Ochoa died from other causes in addition to the gunshot wound, we will continue to press our murder complaint," he said.

Burbank police said Ochoa assertedly fired a single shot from a .22-caliber revolver into the victim's stomach during a dispute at his home.

Mrs. Ochoa was taken by Burbank police to St. Joseph Medical Center,

where surgery was performed. "Shortly thereafter, the patient died," the hospital spokesman said.

Inquest hearing officer Frederick Lacey said the investigation was prompted by "hearsay, but serious" information learned by the coroner's office.

Subpoenas for 10 persons have been issued by his office, Lacey said.

He said he could not recall a similar case in which the results of the inquest may force the district attorney to reduce the charges against a defendant.

"We had countless cases where charges were raised, never lowered," he said. "This is certainly an unusual, if not unique, situation."

Husband May Face Murder Charge in Hospital Accident

WILLIAM FARR

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jul 20, 1973;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. B1

Husband May Face Murder Charge in Hospital Accident

BY WILLIAM FARR

Times Staff Writer

A Burbank man whose wife died as a result of an operating room accident after he shot her could still face a murder trial despite a judge's ruling Thursday which erased the homicide count.

Municipal Judge Marion Gubler ordered 61-year-old Alfonso Ochoa to stand trial only for assault with intent to commit murder and set his Superior Court arraignment on that charge for Aug. 2.

The case involves the death of Mary Elizabeth Ochoa, 49, who died June 9 at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank after being taken there by police.

A coroner's jury ruled June 29 that her death resulted, not from a .22-caliber gunshot in the stomach, but from accidental administration of nitrous oxide.

When informed of Gubler's ruling

OCHOA

Continued from First Page
Thursday, Dep. Dist. Atty.
Donald Goldsobel said:

"We will still file an information in Superior Court alleging one count of assault with intent to commit murder and another count charging murder because the prosecution feels the evidence is sufficient to sustain the murder charge."

Testimony at the inquest revealed that after the surgery was performed on Mrs. Ochoa, she received nitrous oxide instead of pure oxygen because the lines were crossed in the recently constructed operating suite.

Dr. Leonard Condit, who performed the surgery, testified that he considered Mrs. Ochoa's condition to be "good" at the conclusion of the operation.

Navy Flier Killed When Ejection Parachute Fails

Three Crewmen Abandon Jet When It Blows Tires and Ground Loops Before Halting Safely

One Navy flier was killed and two others were injured today ejecting from a new Lockheed-built jet when it blew two tires and ground looped while landing at the Hollywood-Burbank Airport.

After the three crewmen were rocketed 100 feet into the air, the abandoned twin-jet Viking S-3A anti-submarine warfare aircraft straightened out on the runway and rolled to a halt without hitting anything. Damage to the plane was slight.

Burbank firemen said the parachute of the man who was killed failed to open. A Navy spokesman attributed the death to a failure of the ejection system. Parachutes of the other two crewmen deployed.

The injured crewmen were taken to St. Joseph's Medical Center, where they were undergoing X Rays. Firemen said they did not appear to be seriously hurt.

Names of the dead man and the two injured were withheld until their families could be notified.

Federal Aviation Administration personnel at the airport said the accident occurred at 9:34 a.m. as the plane was coming in on a routine training flight from the North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego.

The aircraft ground looped—pivoted around on one dragging wingtip—apparently as the result of the two blown tires.

It was the second fatal accident involving the Viking since Lockheed began turning the planes over to the Navy last year. Last November the pilot and copilot of a Viking were killed during a practice landing at

the Naval Air Facility east of El Centro.

The plane, which normally carries a crew of four, has been operational with the Navy since early last year.

The Navy is authorized to buy 179 Vikings. So far it has ordered about 100 of the aircraft, placing a \$222.7 million order last March and another \$275.1 million order in October.

Total value of the program has been reported at \$2.5 billion.

The Viking is designed to patrol the seas as far as 1,000 miles from aircraft carrier bases.

Burbank Seeks Facts in Rock Concert Deaths

Although two brothers were stabbed to death at a Burbank park rock concert Saturday night, city officials have not decided whether to ban future concerts in the park.

In the Stough Park incident John R. Hoppes, 20, and Daniel D. Hoppes, 18, of North Hollywood were killed during a free concert attended by approximately 300 persons.

Burbank Mayor William Rudell said he did not think the City Council would act on the concert situation at Tuesday's meeting.

"There is a tendency to overreact in these matters," he said. "Before a change in policy is considered, we want to develop all the facts—and right now, I don't think the answer is to close down the facility."

The stabbing occurred near the Starlight Bowl. Police said one of the brothers struck Michelle Houston, 21, prompting her husband Robert Lee Houston, 25, to draw a hunting knife on them.

The brothers died at Burbank Community Hospital. Houston was taken to the jail ward of the County-USC

CONCERT DEATHS

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Medical Center where he was booked on suspicion of murder.

"Currently, we're holding him on a homicide," Burbank Police Capt. Bill Smith said. "Normally, the district attorney would issue a murder complaint, but there was a fight involved and that could reduce the charge to manslaughter," he said.

The impromptu rock concerts have been going on all summer.

"We have been overseeing these gatherings in a low-key fashion. There have been only three or four

cases where we've had to take action," said acting Burbank Police Chief Capt. Don Tutich.

"These weekend concerts started with 50 or 60 kids between the ages of 18 and 20," Burbank Police Sgt. Art Moody said. "The crowds just kept mushrooming, and Saturday there were upwards of 300 persons there.

"We told them as long as they kept the place cleaned up, they could use the park anytime. This is the first real trouble I can remember up there," he said.

THE SOUTHLAND

Stabbing Suspect to be Freed

A suspect in the death of two brothers at a Burbank rock concert over the weekend will be released today after his discharge from County-USC Medical Center where he has been treated for a broken cheekbone, officials said. Robert Lee Houston, 25, contends that when he stabbed John R. Hoppes, 20, and his brother Daniel D. Hoppes, 18, he acted in self-defense and defense of his wife, Michelle, whom he says was attacked by one of the brothers.

Burglary Suspect Shot to Death After Wounding Burbank Officer

A burglary suspect was shot to death early Monday outside a Burbank surplus food store after he shot and wounded a policeman.

The officer, Brian Arnspiger, 32, was taken to Burbank Community Hospital and released after treatment for a right arm flesh wound.

The dead suspect was identified as Richard M. Falcon, 31, of Los Angeles. His alleged associate, Sidney Lee Cundiff, 54, of Los Angeles, was booked on suspicion of murder as a result of Falcon's death during the commission of a crime.

Burbank police said Anthony Schi-

avone, 61, owner of the Price Fighters, 240 S. Golden Mall, Burbank, heard noises inside his locked shop early Monday and telephoned police.

Officers Arnspiger and Robert Giles, 22, responded to the burglary call.

Arnspiger went to the rear of the store, where he saw Falcon trying to escape through a broken window.

Arnspiger said he ordered Falcon to freeze. Instead, Falcon reportedly fired three times, hitting Arnspiger once.

Arnspiger emptied his revolver at Falcon, mortally wounding him.

TAPES RAISE PUZZLING QUESTIONS IN DETECTIVE'S DEATH

WILLIAM FARR; BILL HAZLETT

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 10, 1976;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. OC1

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BY WILLIAM FARR and BILL HAZLETT

Times Staff Writers

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Bobby Hall was scared, obviously with good reason.

"He carried a concealed weapon with him every place he went," said Carol Hall, his estranged wife.

"I think Robert Vesco is trying to kill me," Hall told his teen-age daughter when she asked why he was carrying a gun to their Father's Day dinner at a Burbank restaurant.

One of his closest friends, Lawrence P. Mathes, 42, also had noticed Hall's growing anxiety and fear.

"He loaded every gun in the house," Mathes, who had shared Hall's home for six months, told Burbank investigators. "He never answered the door without a gun in his hand."

Mathes said he became aware of Hall's increasing jumpiness early in May.

The 44-year-old private detective was right about one thing—somebody was out to kill him.

Little more than a month after his cryptic explanation to his daughter, the slight, bearded Hall was dead.

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He was killed at 11:10 p.m. July 22 by an unknown assailant who fired a single shot into the back of his head through the open kitchen window of his Burbank home, police said.

What made Hall, a relatively obscure operator in his own right, think that an international figure such as Vesco, fugitive financier and millionaire wheeler-dealer, would bother to reach out from the exile of his Costa Rican fortress to have him murdered?

The answer to that almost certainly can be found in Hall's close association with Thomas P. Richardson, 37, convicted Century City stock swindler and a Vesco "prot-

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But if Vesco really did want Hall dead, he was not the only one, according to investigators.

"Hell, there were probably any number of people who wanted to see this guy dead, just by the nature of the kind of work he did," said Burbank Det. Lt. Al Madrid, who is heading the investigation.

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ging . . . the wiretapping . . . the digging into other people's lives, he probably came up with some information he shouldn't have, and it led to his death."

As one private detective put it, "There were probably 20 people who wanted to kill Bobby Hall, and five times that many who were happy to see him meet his maker."

Numbered among the latter are some prominent entertainment figures, since it is known he got many of them hooked on the special "happy shots"—methamphetamine or speed mixed with vitamin B12—he provided.

Detectives are wondering aloud if Hall might have been blackmailing some of these entertainers.

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Tape Recordings Raise Puzzling Questions in Death of Detective

Continued from First Page

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Many of the tape recordings, according to Lt. Madrid, "contain unsupported allegations involving numerous political and show-business personalities in various criminal activities."

Included are the names of several well-known entertainment figures, The Times has learned.

Hall's concern with Vesco was at least partly explained by Richardson, who telephoned Burbank detectives two days after the murder to relay what he considered vital information about a possible motive and a suspect.

But unlike Hall, the flamboyant former stockbroker never pointed a finger of suspicion at Vesco.

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According to police, Richardson said the fact that Ginsburgs had posed as the stockbroker's close friend while planning a double cross so incensed Hall that the private detective initiated a wave of harassment against the informer.

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shouting insults in public confrontations and several physical threats, Richardson told police.

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Burbank detectives added more tape recordings to their growing collection when they seized 26 cassettes from the Studio City apartment of Gene LeBell, 43-year-old ex-wrestler and the karate expert who refereed the bout between heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali and Japanese martial arts star Antonio Inoki.

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He declined to elaborate and refused to discuss the contents of the tape-recorded conversations between LeBell and Hall.

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Richardson refused to play the entire recording. This spurred Burbank detectives to ask Municipal Judge Bernice Kaufman for a search warrant that would give them access not only to the conversation, but to those on the 33 tape recordings in Richardson's possession.

The contents of those tape recordings have not been

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DEATH MYSTERY

Continued from 6th Page

disclosed, but it is known that veteran Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Eggars resigned suddenly when some of the recorded statements reportedly linked him with Richardson, Ginsburgs and the slain private detective.

Testimony in Richardson's trial revealed that it was Eggars who first recruited Ginsburgs to become a government informant.

Although Eggars later denied, through a spokesman, that his association with the dead detective had anything to do with his quitting, he admitted he had used Hall as a "double agent" during the Richardson investigation because Hall was working for the stockbroker at the time.

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Death of Detective —Baffling Mystery

Continued from First Page

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Tapes May Be Key in Murder Inquiry

Continued from Third Page

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Hearing in Investigator's Death Postponed

BILL HAZLETT

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Oct 14, 1976;
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pg. OC3

Hearing in Investigator's Death Postponed

Judge Admits 8 Disputed Tape Recordings as Evidence

BY BILL HAZLETT

Times Staff Writer

The preliminary hearing for two men charged in the July 22 slaying of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall was postponed Wednesday after it became mired in legal wrangling.

Attorneys for Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and Gene LeBell, 44, voiced strong objections to eight tape recordings offered as evidence by the prosecution.

The recordings, made without the defendants' knowledge before their arrest, reportedly contain self-incriminating statements made to former Beverly Hills Police Capt. Jack Egger.

Defense attorneys Norman Atkins and Charles Weedman objected on the grounds Egger had been acting as a police agent at the time the tapes were made.

"He was as much as police agent as if he had a badge and capon, and a gun and club," said Weedman.

Dept. Dist. Atty. Jerry Bowes disagreed, saying Egger, who resigned under pressure Aug. 21, was a civilian and both defendants knew he was no longer a police officer. As an officer, Egger might have been legally required to have warned the suspects of their rights.

Burbank Municipal Judge Marion E. Gubler, after recessing for more than an hour to study cases cited by Bowes, overruled the defense objection and admitted the recordings into evidence on the basis of a 1975 California Supreme Court ruling.

Egger, who has been granted both state and federal immunity in the case, was the prosecution's star witness and the target of slashing cross examination by Atkins, Ginsburgs' attorney.

Atkins suggested Egger had been derelict in failing to warn either Burbank police or the intended victim of the impending attack on Hall, even though Egger testified Ginsburgs had told him he planned to kill Hall about an hour before the private investigator was slain.

The defense attorney asked Egger if he was addicted to the use of "speed" — a concoction of methamphetamines and

vitamins — reportedly used by Hall and others involved in the bizarre case.

The former police captain violently denied any such addiction.

Earlier, Egger testified he had known Hall for 15 years and that Hall had been a police informant — and more particularly a personal informant of his — during that time.

Judge Gubler recessed the hearing — ordered to reopen at 1 p.m. Friday in Division 2 of Burbank Municipal Court — before Weedman, representing LeBell, could begin his cross-examination.

A hint of defense tactics was revealed earlier when Weedman said during a recess, "we are exploring some lines of hard evidence toward another suspect in the Hall murder."

He declined to identify the suspect, but added, "It is obvious there are other viable suspects with any number of strong motives for killing Bobby Hall."

Other witnesses called during the opening session Wednesday included Lawrence P. Mathes, 42, who testified he had been staying in Hall's Burbank home for several months at the time of the slaying.

Mathes said he heard the shot that killed Hall and called police after finding the victim lying face up on the kitchen floor with his head in a dish.

At the same time he was calling police, Mathes said, he also called George H. Yocham, former Los Angeles police lieutenant now an instructor at Los Angeles Valley College, on a second telephone.

Asked why he had called Yocham, Mathes explained, "He was a good friend of Bobby's, so I told him somebody had just killed Bobby."

Dr. Joseph F. Choi, deputy coroner, testified that Hall was killed by a single .38 caliber bullet, fired at a range of 18 to 30 inches, that struck him behind his left ear and exited behind his right ear.



WITNESS - Former police Capt. Jack Egger before appearance Wednesday at hearing on murder.

Times photo

On cross-examination, Dr. Choi also testified he found numerous needle marks — referred to as "tracks" — on Hall's arms, indicating he had been injecting himself with a hypodermic needle for some time.

The deputy coroner said no toxicological tests were made for amphetamines during Hall's autopsy, although the slain private investigator reportedly was using the same "speed" mixture mentioned in Egger's cross examination.

Dr. Choi said none of the needle marks was "fresh," meaning no injections in the 24 hours prior to Hall's death.

Legal Clash Delays Hearing for 2 in Detective's Death

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The preliminary hearing for two men charged in the July 22 slaying of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall was postponed Wednesday after it became mired in legal wrangling.

Attorneys for Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and Gene LeBell, 44, voiced strong objections to eight tape recordings offered as evidence by the prosecution.

The recordings, made without the defendants' knowledge before their arrest, reportedly contain self-incriminating statements made to former Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Egger.

Defense attorneys Norman Atkins and Charles Weedman objected on the grounds Egger had been acting

as a police agent at the time the tapes were made.

"He was as much a police agent as if he had a badge and cap on, and a gun and club," Weedman said.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Jerry Bowes disagreed, saying Egger, who resigned under pressure Aug. 21, was a civilian and both defendants knew he was no longer a police officer. As an officer, Egger might have been required to have warned the suspects of their rights.

Burbank Municipal Judge Marion E. Gubler, after recessing for more than an hour to study cases cited by Bowes, overruled the defense objections and admitted the recordings into evidence on the basis of a 1975 California Supreme Court ruling.

Egger, who has been granted both state and federal immunity in the case, was the prosecution's star witness and the target of slashing cross-examination by Atkins, Ginsburgs' attorney.

Atkins suggested Egger had been derelict in failing to warn either Burbank police or the intended victim of the impending attack on Hall, even though Egger testified Ginsburgs had told him he planned to kill Hall about an hour before the private investigator was slain.

The defense attorney asked Egger if he was addicted to the use of "speed"—a concoction of methamphetamines and vitamins—reportedly used by Hall and others involved in the bizarre case.

The former police captain violently denied any such addiction.

Earlier, Egger testified he had known Hall for 15 years and that Hall had been a police informant—and more particularly a personal informant of his—during that time.

Gubler recessed the hearing—ordered to reopen at 1 p.m. Friday in Division 2 of Burbank Municipal Court—before Weedman, represent-

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WITNESS—Former police Capt. Jack Egger before appearance Wednesday at hearing on murder.

Times photo

HEARING IN SLAYING DELAYED

Continued from First Page

ing LeBell, could begin his cross-examination.

A hint of defense tactics was revealed earlier when Weedman said during a recess, "We are exploring some lines of hard evidence toward another suspect in the Hall murder."

He declined to identify the suspect, but added, "It is obvious there are other viable suspects with any number of strong motives for killing Bobby Hall."

Other witnesses called during the opening session Wednesday included Lawrence P. Mathes, 42, who testified he had been staying in Hall's Burbank home for several months at the time of the slaying.

Mathes said he heard the shot that killed Hall and called police after finding the victim.

At the same time he was calling police, Mathes said, he also called George H. Yocham, former Los Angeles police lieutenant now an instructor at Los Angeles Valley College, on a second telephone.

Asked why he had called Yocham, Mathes explained, "He was a good friend of Bobby's, so I told him somebody had just killed Bobby."

Dr. Joseph F. Choi, deputy coroner, testified that Hall was killed by a single .38-caliber bullet, fired at a range of 18 to 30 inches, that struck him behind his left ear and exited behind his right ear.

On cross-examination, Choi also testified he found numerous needle marks—referred to as "tracks"—on Hall's arms, indicating he had been injecting himself with a hypodermic needle for some time.

The deputy coroner said no toxicological tests were made for amphetamines during Hall's autopsy, although the slain private investigator reportedly was using the same "speed" mixture mentioned in Egger's cross-examination.

Choi said none of the needle marks was "fresh," meaning no injections in the 24 hours before Hall's death.

2 Held to Answer in Detective Death

BILL HAZLETT

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Oct 16, 1976;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. A16

2 Held to Answer in Detective Death

BY BILL HAZLETT

Times Staff Writer

The two men accused in the July 22 slaying of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall were held to answer to murder charges Friday after a stormy preliminary hearing.

Attorneys for Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and Gene LeBell, 44, lost several legal encounters during the closing hours of a two-day hearing before Burbank Municipal Judge Marion E. Gubler.

Defense attorney Norman Atkins, representing Ginsburgs, attacked the testimony of the prosecution's principal witness, saying, "If that is the only evidence against my client, there are many others who also could be suspects in this murder."

Atkins renewed his earlier objections to the admission of eight tape recordings, and transcripts of conversations on the tapes, as prosecution evidence.

Gubler overruled the objection, saying the tapes and transcripts contain "some very important and relevant material . . . which has great probative value."

The jurist said he had not only listened to the tapes, but had compared them with the transcripts—"a task that took many hours"—to reach his conclusion.

Charles Weedman, in his defense of LeBell, argued that the evidence presented in the preliminary hearing, "at its worst," was not enough to order his client to stand trial for murder.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Jerry Bowes countered Weedman's contention by saying the recordings and transcripts contained "not only enough evidence to hold LeBell to answer, but enough to convict LeBell of murder."

The recordings contain certain incriminating statements made by the defendants before their arrest—without their knowledge—to former Beverly Hills Police Capt. Jack Egger.

Egger, the prosecution's major witness, spent seven hours on the witness stand during the two-day hearing under the close watch of his personal attorney, Robert K. Steinberg.

"He's beat, completely wrung out," Steinberg said after Egger completed his appearance.

Egger, who resigned Aug. 21 after 17 years on the Beverly Hills police department, volunteered to be wired for sound by Burbank detectives in an effort to elicit statements from Ginsburgs and LeBell. The recorded state-

ments became the foundation for the prosecution's case.

Other witnesses called to testify Friday were investigator Richard Schmidt, who explained his part in attaching the hidden radio transmitter to Egger, and investigator J. V. Rodriguez, who detailed parts of the homicide investigation.

Gubler ordered Ginsburgs and LeBell to appear Oct. 29 for arraignment in Pasadena Superior Court on the murder charges.

LeBell was allowed to remain free on \$50,000 bail, but the judge refused a motion to reduce Ginsburgs' \$250,000 bail and he was remanded to custody.

Defense Attorneys in Killing of Detective Ask Access to Files

BY WILLIAM FARR
Times Staff Writer

Attorneys for two men charged with the murder of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall asked Friday to look at the personnel files of two former policemen closely associated with both the victim and the defendants.

Chatsworth pornographer Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and West Hollywood karate expert Gene LaBell, 44, have been charged with the July 22 slaying.

Pasadena Superior Judge Mary Good Rogan delayed her decision until Thursday on how much information the defense attorneys can have from the files of former Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Egger and former Los Angeles police Lt. George Yocham.

She instructed Murray Lertzman, representing Ginsburgs, and Charles Weedman, LaBell's lawyer, to submit a list of what items in the files might be relevant to this case.

Lertzman and Weedman said they are seeking information on any disciplinary actions taken against either of the former officers on incidents where Hall had some involvement.

Egger is the prosecution's key witness and already has testified in a preliminary hearing that both Ginsburgs and LaBell admitted to him their roles in the Hall killing.

Ginsburgs also reportedly told Egger that the murder weapon was registered to Yocham. Police believe it was a gun given to Ginsburgs as a birthday gift from Hall and Yocham.

Regarding the relevance of the personnel files, Lertzman pointed out that Hall had a long-standing relationship with both Egger and Yocham as a friend and an informant.

Egger, a 17-year veteran with the Beverly Hills police department, resigned shortly after Hall's death. Egger's departure was precipitated by Burbank detectives playing selected rape recordings for Beverly Hills Police Chief Edward Kreins.

Those recordings were among the more than 200 tapes found in Hall's apartment. The contents of the tapes played for Kreins have not yet been disclosed by authorities.

Yocham, who now heads the police science department in Los Angeles Valley College, worked with Hall as a private detective after leaving the Los Angeles Police Department in 1971.

Accused Slayer's Transfer Bid Rejected

WILLIAM FARR

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Dec 1, 1976;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. OC3

Accused Slayer's Transfer Bid Rejected

Suspect in Burbank Detective's Death Assails Jail Facilities

BY WILLIAM FARR

Times Staff Writer

Jack Ginsburgs, accused murderer of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall, failed Tuesday in his plea to be moved from county jail to a hotel room under the supervision of guards hired by former Police Chief Tom Reddin.

However, after vetoing that plan proposed by the Chatsworth pornographer, Pasadena Superior Judge Walter R. Evans did lower his bail from \$250,000 to \$175,000.

But Ginsburgs' attorney, Murray Lertzman, said he still would not be able to post the lower bail amount.

In other actions during Tuesday's court session, Evans set separate trial dates for Ginsburgs, 37, and his codefendant, Gene LeBell, 44, a West Hollywood karate expert and former professional wrestler.

Ginsburgs' trial is set for Jan. 10 and LeBell's is scheduled for Feb. 21 in Pasadena.

In asking that he be removed from jail and placed under the guard of Tom Reddin Security Service, Ginsburgs complained that being held in county jail made it impossible to effectively assist in preparing his legal defense.

His major complaint was that facilities at the jail made it difficult to listen to and fully concentrate on the estimated 400 hours of tape recordings which he plans to review prior to his trial.

These include the nearly 300 tapes seized at Hall's apartment after his July 22 murder.

Evans offered, as an alternative, to set aside a room at the Pasadena Courthouse for Ginsburgs to listen to the tapes if he continues to be unable to make bail.

Evans also ruled on the defense request to have certain information from the personnel files of ex-Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Egger and former Los Angeles police Lt. George Yocham.

Both were closely associated with both the defendants

and the victim over a long period of years.

Egger is the prosecution's key witness and already has testified that both Ginsburgs and LeBell admitted to him their roles in the Hall slaying.

The judge granted the defense permission to obtain Egger's Aug. 21, 1976, handwritten letter of resignation to Beverly Hills Police Chief Edward Kreins, who reportedly demanded it after Burbank detectives played several of the Hall tape recordings for him.

One other document turned over to the defense dealt with a Feb. 20, 1973, disciplinary action taken against Egger.

The suspension was ordered because of Egger's relationship with Jerome Pierce, a man with a long arrest record and a key figure in a scandal that rocked Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke's office.

This disciplinary action stemmed from Egger accompanying Pierce on expense-free trips to Sacramento and Hartford, Conn. and accepting two guns from Pierce as gifts.

Egger also was instrumental in the issuance of an arrest warrant for a girlfriend who had jilted Pierce.

A top aide to Reinecke resigned his post after it was revealed that he arranged for Pierce to obtain a concealed weapon permit and an Irwindale police lieutenant's badge

he used in the arrest of the girlfriend.

The judge said he could find nothing of relevance in the personnel file of Yocham, who is now a police science instructor at Los Angeles Valley College.

TV Newsman Joel Garcia Slain, Ex-Wife Arrested

Television news reporter Joel Garcia was shot to death Monday night following a quarrel with his former wife, Burbank police said today.

Garcia, 36, a producer-reporter for KCET Channel 28, was found lying on the lawn in front of an apartment house at 624 E. Cypress Ave. by police officers investigating a report of shots being fired.

Garcia was dead on arrival at Burbank Community Hospital. He had been shot five times, police said, once in the head, once in the chest and three times in the left arm.

Garcia's ex-wife Lupe, 24, was arrested and booked on suspicion of murder, police said.

Burbank Police Sgt. Leon Lawery said that Garcia and his former wife, who had a 5-year-old daughter, had finalized their divorce two months ago.

Lawery said Garcia, who lived in Alhambra, had gone to the apartment house Monday to return the child to the custody of his ex-wife following the Memorial Day weekend.

The couple became involved in an argument over child support, Lawery said, and Garcia was shot with a .22-caliber pistol.

The child, who was asleep in her bedroom at the time of the shooting, was placed in custody of the woman's niece, police said.

Garcia had begun working at KCET in January according to a station spokesman, following five years on the staff of television station KTTV Channel 11 as a general assignment reporter.



Joel Garcia

Ex-Wife of Slain Newsman Joel Garcia to Be Arraigned

The former wife of slain television reporter Joel Garcia will be arraigned Thursday on murder charges in the death of her ex-husband, Burbank police investigators said Tuesday.

Garcia, 36, a producer-reporter for KCET Channel 28, reportedly was shot to death Monday night after a quarrel with his former wife, Lupe, 24, at her Burbank apartment.

Garcia's body was found lying on the lawn in front of the apartment building at 624 E. Cypress Ave. by police officers responding to a report of shots being fired.

Garcia was dead on arrival at Burbank Community Hospital. He had been shot five times, police said, once in the head, once in the chest and three times in the left arm.

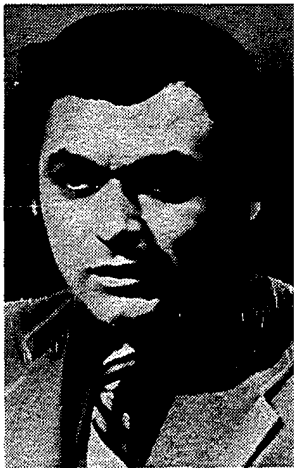
Burbank Police Sgt. Leon Lawery said that Garcia and his former wife, who had a 5-year-old daughter, had been granted a divorce two months ago.

Lawery said Garcia, who lived in Alhambra, had gone to the apartment house Monday to return the child to the custody of his ex-wife after the Memorial Day weekend.

The couple became involved in an argument over child support, Lawery said, and Garcia was shot with a .22-caliber pistol.

The child was placed in custody of the woman's niece, police said.

Garcia had begun working at KCET



Joel Garcia

in January, according to a station spokesman, after five years on the staff of television station KTTV Channel 11 as a general assignment reporter.

A family spokesman said a Rosary will be recited Thursday evening at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, East Los Angeles. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday at 10 a.m. at the same church, with interment to follow.

THE SOUTHLAND

Man Held in 2 Hit-Run Deaths

A Burbank man was held in connection with the deaths of two women who were struck by a hit-and-run driver. Police said Debi Ann Milligan, 23, and Mary Ann Sergiadis, 27, both of Burbank, were struck as they stood beside Mrs. Sergiadis' car, parked on Magnolia Blvd. near Moss St. The driver sped away, but several witnesses described him and took the license number of his car, found parked in a lot two blocks away. Both women were pronounced dead at the scene. Burbank police subsequently arrested Gerald Rene Perron, 45, at his home in Burbank. He was held on suspicion of felony manslaughter and hit-and-run driving.

MAN HELD IN HIT-RUN DEATHS JUST MICHAEL SEILER

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 11, 1978;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. OC1

MAN HELD IN HIT-RUN DEATHS JUST LEFT JAIL

BY MICHAEL SEILER

Times Staff Writer

A Burbank man accused of killing two women in a hit-and-run auto accident had been released from jail just eight hours before the accident occurred, after serving 146 days for driving while intoxicated, police said Wednesday.

George Rene Perron, 45, will be formally charged today in the deaths of Debi Ann Milligan, 23, and Mary Ann Sergiadis, 27, who were killed Tuesday morning on Magnolia Blvd. in Burbank.

Police said they will seek charges of felony hit-and-run driving, vehicular homicide and using false infor-

Please Turn to Page 6 Col. 2

SUSPECT

Continued from First Page

mation to obtain a driver's license.

A check of police and jail records Wednesday revealed that Perron had been charged with drunk driving

seven times since 1972.

He was arrested Dec. 19, 1977, and found guilty on two counts of driving while intoxicated. Perron was sentenced to a total of 188 days, but got 42 days off for good behavior.

Perron was released from County Jail Tuesday at 2 a.m.

He got no sleep that morning, Perron told investigating officers. Instead, he visited a girlfriend and then an early opening bar.

Perron left the bar at about 9 a.m., officers said. The accident occurred about 90 minutes later.

Mary Tyler Moore's Sister Dies

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Feb 16, 1978;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. B28

Mary Tyler Moore's Sister Dies

Elizabeth Moore, 21-year-old sister of TV star Mary Tyler Moore, was found dead Wednesday in a Burbank apartment.

The coroner's office said she died of a "possible overdose" of medicinal drugs but gave no other details.

Burbank police said the apartment was rented to a relative.

An afternoon TV news report of the young woman's death apparently was misunderstood by many distraught viewers who swamped the switchboard at KNBC-TV in Burbank

with calls, thinking Mary Tyler Moore had died.

A spokesman for MTM Productions said the actress was in New York City making a TV film and was unaware of her sister's death for several hours. She reportedly was flying back to Los Angeles Wednesday night, according to the spokesman.

The spokesman quoted Grant Tinker, the TV star's husband, as saying the sister's death was a private family matter and there would be no comment on it.

Off-Duty Officer Kills Burbank Holdup Suspect

An off-duty policeman shot and killed a holdup man early Sunday during a robbery attempt at a Burbank restaurant, police reported.

A Burbank police spokesman said that Burbank officer Jack Freer, 23, was one of six customers in Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 1300 N. San Fernando Blvd., when two men tried to rob it shortly after 1 a.m.

The two men were identified as Jack Bishop, 20, and Keith W. Murdock, 20, both of Van Nuys. Police said Bishop was armed with a revolver and Murdock with a knife.

Police said the armed pair were herding customers and employees of the restaurant toward a corner when Freer, who was not in uniform, drew his .38-caliber service revolver.

The officer wheeled, pushed a female customer aside, and fired four times at Bishop, hitting him once in

the heart. The gunman did not return the gunfire.

Murdock was also hit by the gunfire, police said. He was wounded in the shoulder, apparently by a stray bullet, as he ran from the restaurant. No customers were hurt.

Murdock sped away in a waiting car driven by David P. Lopez, 26, of Reseda, officers said. The car was stopped and the two men arrested by a Burbank police unit a few minutes later less than a mile away.

Bishop was later pronounced dead at the scene.

Murdock was taken to the jail ward of the County-USC Medical Center, where he was booked on suspicion of murder and robbery. Lopez was booked into the Burbank jail on similar charges. Police said murder charges are usually filed in any case where a death occurs in connection with the commission of a felony.

Tennis Ace Held in Coach's Death

JERRY BELCHER

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jan 28, 1978;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. OC1

Tennis Ace Held in Coach's Death

BY JERRY BELCHER

Times Staff Writer

College tennis star Lori Andersen was arrested by Burbank police Friday on suspicion of murdering and burying the coach of her women's tennis team at California State University, Northridge.

Police said the 21-year-old Northridge senior voluntarily led them to a vacant lot in Sylmar before dawn Friday and pointed out the shallow grave in which they found the body of 31-year-old Susan Hyde.

Miss Hyde, tennis instructor and coach at Northridge, was last seen alive Jan. 13, according to investigators, although she was not reported missing until several days later.

Police said they arrested Miss Andersen after she had been spotted lying in a Glendale street in an apparently dazed condition and with both hands tied in front of her.

They said she told a bizarre and unverified story of having been dumped in Glendale by a man who had kidnaped her from in front of her Granada Hills home 28 hours earlier.

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SUSPECT IN SLAYING

Continued from First Page

Burbank Police Sgt. Don Brown said the possibility that the kidnap story was true had been ruled out. He said it was entirely possible the suspect had tied her own hands and sprawled on the Glendale street for some purpose of her own.

She was found about 8 p.m. Thursday and taken to Burbank Community Hospital. Burbank police, who said they had been "interested" in talking to Miss Andersen even before the Glendale kidnap story, questioned her at length in the hospital.

Finally, police said, after she had been released from the hospital she voluntarily took them to the grave site near the intersection of the Foothill and Golden State freeways.

Nearby, according to investigators, they found another small hole in which the victim's purse had been buried.

Brown said he could not discuss any motive or the exact cause of death.

There was one report that Miss Hyde had been shot to death and that a bullet hole had been found in her Burbank apartment, but the sergeant would neither confirm nor deny it.

A coroner's investigator also declined to speculate on the cause of death until after tests are completed sometime today or Sunday. But he did say there were some indications the body had been burned.

Colleagues of Miss Hyde had reported to Los Angeles police on Jan. 16 that she was missing.

However, Burbank police did not get into the case until Jan. 24, when Miss Hyde's roommate, tennis pro Jan Hasse, returned from a tour and became alarmed.

Dr. Glenn Arnett, athletic director at the university, said although Miss Hyde technically was a part-time instructor, she had worked virtually full time as a physical education teacher and coach for the last seven years.

He described her as "cooperative, sincere and responsible" and said she had "good rapport" with both faculty and students.

"We're all in a state of shock over this," he said.

Miss Hyde was a native of Houston and a 1969 graduate of the University of Texas.

Miss Andersen was the first-ranked singles player on the Northridge women's team last year and was to be top seeded again this year, according to campus officials.

She had been at Northridge, majoring in physical education, since 1975. Before that she had attended the University of Redlands and Ventura College. She was described as an average student.

She had been living with other members of the Northridge team in a rented home in Granada Hills.

Bittaker to Stand Trial in 5 Deaths

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jul 9, 1980;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881-1980)
pg. B20

Bittaker to Stand Trial in 5 Deaths

A 39-year-old Burbank mechanic will be tried in the rape and torture deaths of five teen-age girls last year, prosecutors revealed Tuesday.

Lawrence S. Bittaker was held to answer to 28 felony counts—including murder, kidnaping and rape—after a nine-day preliminary hearing in Torrance that was closed to the press and public.

As a result of a gag order invoked by Municipal Judge William Hollingsworth, prosecutors were not able to discuss until Tuesday the outcome of the preliminary hearing that ended last week.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Stephen Kay said that among the more than 70 witnesses who testified at the hearing was Bittaker's alleged accomplice, Roy Lewis Norris. In exchange for his testimony, the death penalty will not be sought for him.

Two Killed, Two Hospitalized by Toxic Fumes

**By NIESON HIMMEL
and DAVID HOLLEY**
Times Staff Writers

Toxic gases in a manhole at the Burbank Water Reclamation Plant Monday brought death to two city employees and left two other men in serious condition, the Burbank Fire Department reported.

Firefighters said two men were overcome while working in the manhole, and the other two lost consciousness when they attempted to rescue them.

The dead were identified as Bruce J. Burton, 25, a city water reclamation plant operator, and David R. George, 33, his assistant.

David Singleton, 63, and Willard Flinders, who attempted to bring them to the surface, were hospitalized.

Singleton, a civil engineer employed by the City of Burbank, was reported in stable condition at Burbank Community Hospital and Flinders, an employee of the Gerstenberger Construction Co., was reported in serious condition in the intensive-care unit at St. Joseph Medical Center.

Burbank City Manager James Algie said all four men were involved in replacement and repair work that is under way in the plant, located at Chestnut and Lake streets.

He said Burton and George were replacing wooden flumes used in sewage filtration.

D.A. Probing Deaths of 2 at Burbank Water Plant

By **DAVID HOLLEY**

Times Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office has opened an investigation into a May 5 toxic gas accident at the Burbank water reclamation plant that claimed two lives, Burbank officials have revealed.

The accident, which occurred five weeks after the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited safety violations at the municipal plant, led to another citation May 22 charging that "willful violation" of safety regulations led to the deaths. State investigators are looking into possible criminal prosecution arising from the accident.

The district attorney's investigation was initiated at the request of the Burbank City Council after some council members criticized a May 16 city attorney's probe on the accident because key management-level personnel were not questioned.

"There were some questions about the completeness of the city attorney's investigation," Mayor Leland Ayers said. "I think the council's position is we don't want a stone un-

turned. We want a complete and independent investigation, no matter how we get it, and we find (Dist. Atty. John) Van de Kamp's office has that qualification."

Deputy Dist. Atty. Robert L. Sills, in a letter to City Atty. Samuel Gorklick informing him of the opening of the investigation, praised the city attorney's report on the accident.

"I was very impressed with the preliminary report," Sills said. "It certainly provided this office with a good foundation upon which to build our investigation."

That report contained testimony that Bruce Burton and David George died after entering a manhole without testing for toxic gases or using safety equipment. Week-old sewage was being pumped through the manhole at the time.

In their earlier inspection of the plant, state officials had specifically warned plant management about the importance of using safety equipment and testing for toxic leaks.

Worker Sues Burbank Over Job Injuries

Brain Damage Feared From Rescue Attempt in Water Plant Deaths

By DAVID HOLLEY

Times Staff Writer

Willard J. Flinders, a construction company employee injured in the May 5 toxic gas accident at the Burbank water reclamation plant, has filed a claim against the city charging it with responsibility for the accident.

The accident occurred five weeks after the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited safety violations at the plant. The state agency issued another citation May 22 charging that "willful violation" of safety regulations led to the manhole accident, which left two men dead and two injured.

Flinders, an employee of Gerstenberger Construction Co., spent five days unconscious in the intensive care unit of St. Joseph Medical Center after being overcome while attempting to rescue the men who had entered the manhole. He was released after 10 days of hospitalization.

Tests for Brain Damage

The sum to be asked from the city will depend on the results of tests made by medical specialists to determine whether Flinders suffered permanent brain damage from the accident, according to Barbara J. Penny, his attorney. The claim will seek punitive as well as actual damages, Penny said.

Flinders may well receive considerably more money from the city than the widows of the two men who died in the accident, according to John Siciliano, attorney for Carmella George, whose husband David died in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue Bruce Burton.

Under Workers' Compensation law—which applies to city employees injured or killed on the job—benefits are paid according to a schedule that does not take into ac-

count who is at fault in an accident, Siciliano said.

No lawsuit based on the employer's negligence can be filed, except that if a claimant can prove to the Workers' Compensation board that the conduct of the employer is such that it "shocks the conscience," a limited additional benefit may be won, Siciliano said.

The maximum death benefit under Workers' Compensation is \$55,000.

"Flinders will wind up making a ton of money and it's very possible that the families of the men who died will recover very little," Siciliano said.

City Atty. Samuel Gorlick, however, indicated he felt Flinder's case against the city is weak.

"I do not believe that the city is liable for the injuries sustained by Mr. Flinders," Gorlick said.

"Mr. Flinders was employed by an independent contractor, not by the city, and happened to be in the area when the accident occurred. He sustained the injuries while attempting to rescue those in the manhole. This was done of his own free will and not under any compulsion by the city."

Widow Says Mate Foresaw Fume Peril

DAVID HOLLEY

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 8, 1980;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. OC_A14

BURBANK MANHOLE DEATHS

Widow Says Mate Foresaw Fume Peril

By DAVID HOLLEY

Times Staff Writer

The two men killed Monday by toxic fumes in a manhole accident at Burbank's water reclamation plant repeatedly had protested the routine violation of safety procedures at the plant, the widow of one of the men said Wednesday.

After months of complaints failed to correct the problems, the two men—Bruce J. Burton and David R. George—informed the California Occupational Safety and Health Agency of the safety violations and requested an inspection, Anne Burton said.

A March 20 inspection by that agency resulted in a citation listing 11 safety violations at the plant that were to be corrected by April 20.

Arthur Carter, chief of the state Division of Safety and Health, Tuesday labeled the accident an "outrageous tragedy" that would not have occurred had the city responded promptly to the citation.

City officials said one man was working in the manhole and lost consciousness. A second man, George, then went down to try to rescue Burton, Mrs. Burton said. When he, too, lost consciousness a third man went

to call paramedics and two other men tried to rescue the pair in the hole before the paramedics arrived, according to officials, who declined to say which worker was initially in danger.

The latter two men also lost consciousness. All four were rescued by paramedics and the first two were pronounced dead at the scene. The second two remain hospitalized, the officials said.

Anne and Bruce Burton were married only six weeks ago and George served as best man at the wedding, she said.

Dissatisfaction with safety conditions at the plant had led her husband to seek employment elsewhere, Mrs. Burton said. "We've been trying to get out of Burbank for months," she said. "He's gone on several job interviews."

Mrs. Burton said her husband had told her of incidents in recent months in which employees at the plant flatly refused to do jobs they believed were dangerous. On at least one occasion, the plant supervisor reported the protests to a City Hall official but no action was taken to correct the conditions, she said.

"We all know the accident could have been prevented had all the safety equipment been available that was needed desperately," Mrs. Burton said.

Plant employees knew they were violating safety procedures and that the breathing apparatuses at the plant before the March 20 inspection were not in working condition, workers said Wednesday. New breathing gear was in the plant office at the time of Monday's accident, but no workers had yet been trained in how to use them, they said.

The lack of devices to detect toxic gases was cited as a violation after the March 20 inspection, but the plant still has no such devices, employees said.

Burton, 25, had received training in water treatment during three years in the Army. He began work for the city of Burbank in 1977.

City officials declined to respond Wednesday to either Mrs. Burton's statements or Carter's allegation that the accident would not have happened had the city corrected the safety violations.

Burbank Looks Back in Anguish at Tragedy

DAVID HOLLEY

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 11, 1980;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. GB1



A HAPPIER TIME—Bruce and Anne Burton were married just six weeks before the accident on the job that killed him and his friend.

Burbank Looks Back in Anguish at Tragedy

By **DAVID HOLLEY**

Times Staff Writer

Everyone agreed it should not have happened.

But the asphyxiation deaths of two city workers last week also left a broad area of disagreement over why it happened and who was at fault.

Anguished city officials were guarded in discussing the tragedy that occurred Monday in a manhole at the Burbank water reclamation plant.

A March 20 inspection of the plant and the Beachwood pump station by state safety officials turned up 11 safety violations that were to be corrected by April 20, with that deadline extended to May 1 for some of the violations.

A separate memorandum listed additional criticisms involving requirements to test air in confined spaces before and during entry by workers.

"The city of Burbank was given sufficient time to obtain the appropriate respiratory protective equipment and adopt the require safe work practices," said Arthur Carter, chief of the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health. "Had it done so, the May 5 worker deaths and injuries could not have occurred."

Senior Assistant City Atty. David Rakov labeled Carter's statement

"premature" and based on an unfinished investigation of the accident, but said the city would withhold further comment pending completion of its own investigation.

Following release of Carter's statement, the widow of one of the dead men said her husband, Bruce J. Burton, and his best friend, David R. George, who died trying to save him,

'I feel real bad about it. And it could have been me.'

had been ones who filed the complaints that led to the March 20 inspection at the plant.

Before reporting the alleged violations to the state, Burton had for months repeatedly protested unsafe procedures to the plant supervisor, Mrs. Anne Burton said. Other employees besides her husband and George had at times protested violation of safety procedures, and on at least one occasion the protests were reported to a City Hall official, she said.

The calls from Burton and George to the state Occupational Safety and

Health Agency were made anonymously out of fear of losing their city jobs, Mrs. Burton said.

Following the accident, City Manager James Algie, on the advice of City Atty. Samuel Gorlick, issued instructions to all city employees not to discuss the accident or events leading up to it until the city completes an investigation.

One reason for asking employees to decline to talk with the press is that the city does not want to see careers or reputations damaged unfairly, Mayor Leland Ayers said. After completion of the city investigation, disciplinary action will be taken with the advice of the city attorney if it is called for, he said.

A number of city employees familiar with work procedures in water reclamation and sewer maintenance, who asked not to be identified, said that violation of safety procedures was common. Some said it was necessary to complete the workload demanded by the city.

Safety procedures requiring tests of manholes for toxic gases and the wearing of harnesses to enable employees on the surface to pull up a worker if overcome by gases "take time" to implement, one worker said.

Sewer maintenance workers enter

manholes to perform maintenance such as trimming of tree roots and adjustment of devices that control the flow of sewage. Often they are under pressure to clean and maintain a certain number of manholes in a day, which is referred to as covering a given amount of "footage," the man said.

A man might be expected to "do 2-

'I think the city is safety-conscious on the whole.'

000 feet" in a day, which would mean working inside five or six manholes spread out over 2,000 feet of sewer line, he said.

Superiors "are always bitching about footage," he said. "And you're not going to make any footage by going at it like that (following all safety regulations) . . . I do it the quickest way possible. But it's different since the accident."

In years of work on sewer maintenance in Burbank, the man said, he has often used a harness but has never used a breathing apparatus.

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Burbank Looks Back in Anguish at Deaths of Two Workers; Officials Guard Words

Continued from First Page

"The ones who cut corners want the footage, and I guess they don't realize that somebody can drop dead," he said. "It should be a little different now. It has been since Monday . . . I talked to (Burton and George) last Thursday. I feel real bad about it. And it could have been me."

Workers familiar with the situation at the water reclamation plant said safety procedures were routinely violated and equipment such as breathing apparatuses and devices to test for toxic gases were not available or were not in working condition. Breathing apparatuses had been purchased after the March 20 inspection, but employees had not yet been trained in their use at the time of the accident, they said.

Rakov, who is heading up the city investigation of the accident, said it is his understanding that "specific instructions were left to the employees . . . not to go down into the manholes without borrowing from sewer maintenance crews those toxic gas detection devices."

Public Works Director Edward R. James said he had not been informed of any complaints about safety procedures at the plant before the state inspection of March 20. He said his understanding was that the breathing apparatuses at the plant before the March 20 inspection were in functioning order. They were found to violate state standards only because they were not the required kind, he said.

James said he had no answer for why most of the violations had still not been corrected at the time of the accident.

Following the March 20 inspection, according to Ayers, higher level city officials took "some very drastic action" and issued instructions aimed at correcting the situation.

The City Council, however, was not informed of the state citation until after the accident, Ayers said.

"Why we were not informed of this citation will become a prime target at the end of this investigation," Ayers said. "I had no idea that we had situations where we were not being informed of something of this nature."

Sandra Ludwig, president of the Burbank City Employees Assn., expressed strong doubt that significant safety violations are common in the city.

"I think the city is very safety-conscious on the whole," she said. "This is going to bring a lot of pressure on the city on any small safety concerns people might have. I think some small safety violations may be corrected. But I was very surprised to hear, if it is a fact, that the city had major safety violations."

If it is true that sewer maintenance workers ignore some safety procedures in order to complete their assignments on time, Ludwig said, those workers have always had the power to force the issue simply by following the procedures.

"If you follow the safety procedures and you come to the end of the day and you haven't finished all the work because you followed safety procedures, they can't very well say anything," Ludwig said.

Algie declined comment on whether sewer maintenance workers routinely disregard certain safety requirements and whether schedules pressure them to do so.

A water reclamation employee indicated that workers, despite protesting on some occasions, had often gone along with the violation of standard operating procedures and could not place all the blame for such violations on their superiors.

Specific violations listed in the state citation issued on April 1 included:

- Failure of respiratory protective equipment at the plant to meet approved standards.

- Failure to train employees in the "need, use, sanitary care and limitations of respiratory protective equipment."

- Failure to provide those employees required to enter confined spaces with "appropriate and approved" respiratory protective equipment.

- Failure to train any employees in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

- Failure to have guard devices on machinery at the Beachwood pumping station.

- Failure to post signs warning that machines at the Beachwood pumping station are automatically controlled and may start at any time.

- Failure to properly maintain electrical wiring.

- Failure to maintain the Beachwood pumping station fire extinguisher at required intervals.

Accompanying the citation, according to Dianne Dienst, a spokeswoman for the Occupational Safety and Health Agency, was a memorandum of equal importance intended to "alert management to conditions that have the potential to become hazardous."

This memorandum, Dienst said, reviewed requirements that air in any confined space be tested for toxic gases or oxygen deficiency before entry by workers, that tests continue while workers are in the confined space and that ventilation be provided if dangerous air contamination or oxygen deficiency is demonstrated.

Monday's accident began, Ayers said, with one worker entering the manhole to install an additional "baffle" to regulate the flow of effluent through pipes. Toxic gas, probably hydrogen sulfide, had apparently flowed into the manhole from pipes connecting the manhole with the raw sewage, Ayers said.

When the first man lost consciousness from the fumes, a second man entered the manhole to try to rescue him.

When the second man also collapsed, a third man ran to get breathing apparatus and call the paramedics, Ayers said. "Two other individuals ran to the hole, observed the two men in the bottom and proceeded to (try to) rescue them," Ayers said.

All four men were pulled out by paramedics, who arrived at the scene within a few minutes. The first two men, Burton, 25, and George, 33, were pronounced dead at the scene. The other two, David Singleton, 63, a civil engineer for the city, and Willard Flinders, 41, an employee of Gerstenberger Construction Co., were hospitalized.

Ayers said he did not know which of the two dead men entered the manhole first, but Mrs. Burton said she understood that her husband was first and George had died attempting to save him.

Mrs. Burton said she and her husband were married only six weeks ago; George was best man at the wedding.

Burton had been seeking work elsewhere, partly because of dissatisfaction with safety conditions at the plant, Mrs. Burton said. "We've been trying to get out of Burbank for months," she said.

"My husband was not stupid. He wouldn't have gone down 20 feet if he'd smelled gas. David also was not a stupid man. No matter how much he loved Bruce he wouldn't have gone down if he thought he was going to die."

Burton was born in Norfolk, Va. He received training in water treatment with the Army and was enrolled in engineering courses at Valley College at the time of the accident. He began work for the city in 1977.

After winning a promotion, her husband "felt that the city had done him a favor by making him a senior operator," Mrs. Burton said. "He was dedicated to them and he worked seven days a week for a long time for the city."

Funeral services for George and prayer services for Burton were scheduled Friday at Forest Lawn Memorial Park-Hollywood Hills.

Funeral ceremonies for Burton were scheduled for tomorrow in Virginia, Mrs. Burton said.

Safety Violations in 2 Gas Deaths Found

But Burbank Study Fixes No Blame in Manhole Accident

By **DAVID HOLLEY**
Times Staff Writer

A Burbank city attorney's report on the May 5 toxic gas deaths of two workers in a Burbank water reclamation plant manhole fixes no specific blame for the accident but contains testimony that reasonable safety precautions were blatantly violated.

The deaths of Bruce Burton and David George resulted from the pumping of week-old sewage through the manhole in which the men were working, an employee who survived the accident said in the report released Friday.

Sewage in Burbank is normally treated so quickly—within about one hour—that toxic gases are not produced, David Singleton, a civil engineer for the city was quoted as saying. This fact played a role in leading the men involved in the accident, including Singleton and plant supervisor Gerald Gaglione, to let down their guard on safety procedures, Singleton told city investigators.

Five weeks before the accident, the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited safety violations at the plant, including lack of approved breathing apparatus and failure to train employees in its use. A memorandum accompanying the citation stressed the importance of testing for toxic gas before entering manholes.

Burton, according to his widow, was one of the men who had requested the state inspection because of dissatisfaction with safety procedures at the plant. Plant employees also said he had criticized unsafe practices at the plant.

Burton, according to the report, was present when the inspection was made, knew of the citation and was present at a meeting at which Public Works Director Edward James told the men not to violate any safety procedures.

When the accident occurred, new approved breathing devices were at the plant but the men had not yet been instructed in their use, according to the report. No one tested the manhole air for toxic gases the morning of the accident, the report said.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators are currently examining city compliance with safety regulations and the question of possible criminal charges arising from the incident.

Singleton, who was injured trying

2 BURBANK DEATHS

Continued from First Page

to rescue the two men who died, said he entered the manhole shortly before pumps were turned on to send a flow of sewage through the manhole from the Beachwood pumping station, about two miles away.

While down in the hole, Singleton heard the flow of water coming, he said.

"I felt, 'Well, when that water gets here, there will be a big splash' . . . so I scrambled out," Singleton said.

Singleton decided, he said, that an additional baffle would be needed to control the flow. He said he discussed this need with Gaglione but could not recall whether the two men who later died in the accident were present at the time of the conversation.

"He (Gaglione) asked me, 'Suppose we can do that without shutting the pump station down?' and I said, 'I think so,'" Singleton said. "Neither one of us were thinking about the toxicity of the condition."

Shortly after this conversation, Burton entered the manhole to install an additional baffle.

Burton was soon overcome by toxic gases, at which point George entered the manhole to rescue him, according to all accounts of the accident. Singleton and Willard Flinders, an employee of a private contractor, then entered the manhole to rescue the first two men and were also overcome. Paramedics arrived on the scene and brought out all four men, but Burton and George were dead.

"If anybody had asked, 'Is it possible this might be poisonous?' anyone would have said yes, including Bruce (Burton) and Dave (George)," Singleton told investigators. "Everybody would have said yes . . . stay away from it, don't get near it. But no, none of us thought about it . . . It was all sitting there for a week, just generating some poisonous gases but none of us thought about it."

A key issue left unanswered by the report is to what degree Burton felt required to enter the manhole.

"There is no evidence that either of the deceased employees were ordered into the manhole without the use of metering devices or any other safety equipment," the report said.

Probe Asks Why He Entered Death Trap

Burbank Worker's Motive Sought; May Determine Liability, Criminal Charges

By DAVID HOLLEY

Times Staff Writer

Careers, money and possible criminal charges resulting from the May 5 toxic gas deaths of two Burbank city employees may hang on the final answer to a question that grew in importance as investigators gathered evidence last week:

Why did Bruce Burton enter the water reclamation plant manhole that proved to be a death trap for himself and his best friend David George, who died trying to save him?

If it is finally ruled that Burton decided on his own to ignore required safety procedures and enter the manhole, the liability faced by the city and some of its employees or management personnel will be lessened.

But if city and state investigators, or eventually the courts, determine that Burton's superiors or city policies, actions or inaction played a significant role in the events leading to his and George's deaths, the city and some individuals could be in serious trouble.

Although much remains unclear about the accident—which occurred

five weeks after the state Occupational Safety and Health administration cited safety violations at the plant—evidence shows that Burton entered the manhole after pumps began forcing a flow of sewage through pipes connected to the hole.

In tests conducted by state investigators Thursday, the level of toxic gases in the manhole rose from safe to highly dangerous levels within minutes after the pumps were turned on. The same pumps were on when Burton entered the manhole.

On the morning of the accident—before the flow of effluent began—David Singleton, a civil engineer for the city, entered the manhole to make an inspection, according to Public Works Director Edward R. James.

Singleton heard the flow of sewage coming through the pipes, climbed out of the manhole and observed the flow from ground level, James said. Singleton determined that an additional "baffle" was needed to regulate the flow of effluent through the pipes, James said. Singleton confirmed James' version of events but declined further comment.

Later that morning, Burton went into the manhole while the pumps were running and effluent was flowing, James said. He declined comment on why Burton entered the manhole.

Singleton, along with Willard Flinders, an employee of Gerstenberger Construction Co., was injured trying to rescue Burton and George. Singleton was released from the hospital after four days, while Flinders was in satisfactory condition last week and was expected to return home soon.

Mayor Leland Ayers has said that Burton entered the manhole to install a baffle, but has indicated uncertainty as to why Burton attempted the work when he did.

A strong and unpleasant odor was coming from the manhole when Burton entered, according to an employee who asked not to be identified, citing instructions from the city attorney's office not to talk to the press. The employee said he did not know why Burton entered the hole.

Burton, according to his widow, Mrs. Anne Burton, was one of the men who had originally asked the Occupational Safety and Health Ad-

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DEATH PROBED

Continued from First Page

ministration to inspect the water reclamation plant. He did so only after repeatedly protesting unsafe procedures to his supervisor, Mrs. Burton said.

About 10 days after the March 20 state inspection, which turned up 11 safety violations at the plant and the Beachwood pumping station, an incident occurred in which all the workers at the plant refused to do a manhole job in a way they felt violated safety procedures, according to Mrs. Burton, plant employees and James.

Plant supervisor Gerald Gaglione reported the protests to James, who came to the plant and met with the men, James and the employees said.

James, plant employees and Mrs. Burton all say that James stressed that the men should not violate safety procedures, and told them that required equipment such as approved breathing apparatus and devices to test for toxic gas had been ordered and was on the way.

James said last week that he also told the men to borrow toxic gas detection devices from sewer maintenance crews rather than enter manholes without testing the air inside.

Several plant employees said they attended that meeting and could confirm that James stressed adherence to safety procedures, but they said they could not recall James saying anything about borrowing devices from sewer crews.

Informed of those statements, James said that a few days after his meeting with the men, sewer crews were called in for a job requiring gas detection devices, in line with his instructions. Joel Embick, a public works leadman who works with sewer maintenance, said that Gaglione made the call to the sewer maintenance office.

James, Embick and Gaglione declined to comment on why no one called the sewer maintenance crews on the morning of the accident.

According to state safety regulations, workers are required to test manholes for toxic gas before entering them. Workers also must receive training in the use of breathing apparatus.

Failure to train employees in the use of breathing apparatus was one of the violations listed in the state citation issued before the accident. A training session was held last week in which Fire Department personnel demonstrated the newly purchased breathing apparatus to plant employees.

State Issues Citations in Burbank Workers' Deaths
DAVID HOLLEY
Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 23, 1980;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. D1

State Issues Citations in Burbank Workers' Deaths

By DAVID HOLLEY

Times Staff Writer

Citations charging that "willful violation" of safety regulations led to the May 5 deaths of two workers in a manhole at the Burbank city water reclamation plant were issued by state investigators Thursday.

A spokesman for the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which conducted an investigation of the tragedy and issued the citations, said they would "normally" be cause for consideration of possible criminal charges by the district attorney's office.

Such action, however, will probably have to await completion of a parallel investigation—also conducted by OSHA—of criminal liability in the

accident, the spokesman said.

The citations were handed to Burbank city officials Thursday afternoon at the end of an hour-long meeting with OSHA officials at the water reclamation plant.

In all, six citations were issued.

Of these, two citations alleged "willful and serious" violation of state safety regulations, three more were for "serious but not willful" violations and one contained a list of four general violations turned up by investigators.

The "willful and serious violations" charged that:

—"Prior to employees entering a

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CITATIONS

Continued from First Page

confined space, no test was made of the air to determine whether dangerous air contamination and/or oxygen deficiency existed."

—"Employees entering a confined space in which a safe atmosphere was not ensured were not equipped with appropriate, approved respiratory protective equipment."

Two men, Bruce Burton and David George, were asphyxiated when they entered a manhole where toxic gases were backed up May 5. Two others, David Singleton and William Flinders, were made seriously ill when they tried to rescue them.

All were finally pulled from the hole by paramedics using respirator gear.

Burbank city officials had no immediate comment on the citations.

On March 20, an OSHA inspection of the Burbank water reclamation plant resulted in a citation for safety violations. The citation was accompanied by a memo stressing the vital importance of testing for toxic gas before entering a manhole at the plant.

Citations Issued in Plant Deaths

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 24, 1980;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. OC5

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Further Probe on Fume Deaths Asked

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 28, 1980;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1
pg. B21

Further Probe on Fume Deaths Asked

The Burbank City Council voted Tuesday to request that the district attorney or the Los Angeles County Grand Jury investigate the May 5 deaths of two city workers overcome by toxic gas in a water reclamation plant manhole.

The action was taken after council criticism of a May 16 city attorney's office report on the accident for failing to include interrogations of management level city personnel.

State investigators also are looking into possible criminal liability arising from the accident.

DAVID HOLLEY

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jun 1, 1980;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. B2

Council Quiet on Manager Ouster, Asks Independent Probe of Workers' Deaths

By DAVID HOLLEY

Times Staff Writer

The Burbank City Council last week discussed but took no action on a controversial push for the ouster of City Manager James Algie, a move spearheaded by Councilman Jim Richman.

The council did, however, unanimously approve a motion by Councilwoman Mary Lou Howard requesting the district attorney or the county grand jury to investigate a May 5 accident in which two city workers died from toxic gas in a water reclamation plant manhole.

Council members indicated that the call for an outside investigation was made both to ensure a complete examination of events leading up to the accident and to reassure critics who have questioned the ability of the city to investigate itself.

Richman said he is pushing for the dismissal of Algie because of his failure to inform the City Council of a California Occupational Safety and Health Administration citation of safety violations at the plant issued five weeks before the accident.

The dump-Algie attempt, however, dates back to criticisms leveled at him by Richman and Howard during budget discussions a year ago. That controversy ended with Algie winning a 3-2 vote of confidence. Richman has indicated that his current attempt to get Algie fired is based largely on factors unrelated to the accident.

Discussion of Algie's position presumably took place during an hour-

long executive session held behind closed doors following an hour of public comment during which nearly 20 persons spoke, most in support of Algie.

After the executive session Mayor Leland Ayers announced only that "the council discussed personnel matters and potential litigation and will continue to discuss personnel matters in the near future. There will be no action this evening."

Richman had stated prior to Tuesday's meeting that if the council failed to vote for Algie's ouster in executive session, he would make such a motion during the public portion of the meeting. He did not do so, however, and the council took no public vote on the issue.

Richman said he decided not to push for a vote at Tuesday's meeting because of the conversations held in executive session.

The council decision to request district attorney or grand jury investigation of the accident was taken following the submission to the council of a three-page memorandum from Richman listing questions left unanswered by a May 16 city attorney's office report on the accident.

Richman's criticisms focused on the failure to interrogate management-level personnel, the use of a private investigator who is also approved by the city's liability carrier and the failure to include in the May 16 report all police and fire department reports based on statements made immediately after the accident.

The report was prepared under great time pressure, Senior Assistant City Atty. David Rakov said in response to Richman's criticisms.

"We did the best we could, as objectively as we could, in the time allotted," Rakov said. "I think it's jumping the gun to start criticizing a report that was done in that time."

The council voted to refer Richman's memorandum to the city attorney's office.

Initiation of a district attorney's investigation is not automatic even upon request of a city council, according to Gilbert Garcetti, head of the special investigations division of the district attorney's office.

"We'd first have to analyze (Burbank's request) to determine if there is sufficient reason to conduct a criminal investigation," Garcetti said. "We can't possibly open investigations on every case that's referred to us."

Garcetti indicated, however, that his office would consider Burbank's request.

Jack Hourigan, a legal adviser for the county grand jury, said that to avoid duplication of efforts, "if the district attorney is going to conduct an investigation, it's doubtful that the grand jury would also investigate."

The grand jury is likely, however, to monitor any investigation by the district attorney, Hourigan said.

An investigation into possible criminal liability arising from the accident also is being conducted by the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Man Accused in Son's Death to Attend Rites

By TIM WATERS,
Times Staff Writer

A Burbank Municipal judge ruled Tuesday that a man charged with murdering his 4-year-old son can attend the youngster's funeral.

Judge C. Bernard Kaufman ruled that Michael F. Corrigan, who was arrested Friday after his son's body was found in a suitcase at the family home in Burbank, could go to the funeral today, provided that he is accompanied by sheriff's deputies. After the services, Corrigan must return to jail, the judge said.

The judge's decision came during arraignment proceedings for the 31-year-old unemployed photo lab worker, who pleaded not guilty to the murder charge. Corrigan's attorney, Paul J. Wallin, asked that his client be allowed to attend the funeral and be given five minutes to discuss burial arrangements with his wife, Petranella, who was present in court.

Kaufman granted both motions, scheduled a preliminary hearing June 24 and set Corrigan's bail at \$100,000.

Reported Missing

At the same time, the judge granted a motion by Deputy Dist. Atty. Diane Goldman to seal police reports on the case because of possible "undue pretrial publicity." The motion was not contested by Wallin.

Corrigan, who is being held at Los Angeles County Jail, was taken into custody after his wife discovered the boy, James Patrick Corrigan, dead in the suitcase two days after the father had reported the youngster missing. The father had told police he assumed his son had climbed out a window and wandered away after being sent into the bedroom to play with his 17-month-old sister, Monica.

According to police, the father ran from the apartment after the discovery, flagged down a passing sheriff's car, and said, "We've found my son. My God, he's dead."

An autopsy concluded the boy died of suffocation caused by "mechanical compression of the chest and inadequate air supply in a confined space."

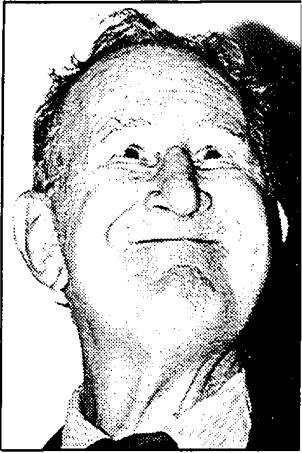
After the arraignment, Wallin maintained that his client was not guilty of murder and that family

Please see ACCUSED, Page 8

members believed in his client's innocence.

Wallin theorized that the boy might have been playing hide-and-seek in the bedroom with his sister and was accidentally locked in the suitcase.

However, Deputy Dist. Atty. Robert Cohen said the suitcase, which was opened by the boy's mother as she searched for a lock of her son's hair to give to a psychic, was not in the home when police searched the apartment immediately after the boy was reported missing.



Los Angeles Times

Doodles Weaver

Doodles Weaver Dies; Apparent Suicide Victim

By TED THACKREY JR.,
Times Staff Writer

Comedian-character actor Doodles Weaver, 71, apparently shot himself to death in the living room of his Burbank home, the Los Angeles County coroner's office said Sunday.

Weaver's body was discovered Saturday night by his son, Winstead, of Sun Valley, who called police. He said he had become alarmed when he did not hear from his father for several days, and was unable to reach him by telephone.

Burbank police Sgt. Don Brown said Weaver was shot twice in the chest. A .22-caliber pistol and about \$54 in cash were nearby.

There was no sign of foul play, Brown said.

Winstead Weaver told police his father had been despondent lately due to a heart ailment.

The scion of an old Los Angeles area family, Winstead Sheffield (Doodles) Weaver was a brother of former NBC board Chairman Sylvester Weaver, and son of onetime Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce President Sylvester L. Weaver Sr.

A longtime character actor, much in demand for "hayseed" roles in the late 1930s and '40s, Weaver was best known for his comic songs and routines with the Spike Jones band which featured comical musical arrangements and skits.

Weaver said he had "spent years developing a personality," only to be type-cast as "a goofy . . . hick" in his first film role—a characterization that stuck with him throughout his career.

2 Restaurant Workers Shot in Robbery; 1 Dies

GEORGE RAMOS

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 19, 1983;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. OC_A3

2 Restaurant Workers Shot in Robbery; 1 Dies

By GEORGE RAMOS, *Times Staff Writer*

One employee of a Burbank fast-food restaurant was shot to death, reportedly execution-style, and another was critically wounded during a baffling midnight robbery, police said Sunday.

Burbank police Sgt. Harry Griffin said the two workers at a Taco Bell restaurant were apparently taken to the rear of the eatery sometime between 11:30 p.m. and midnight Saturday and then shot. There were no signs of a struggle, investigators noted.

Griffin likened the Taco Bell shooting to the Dec. 14, 1980, incident at a Bob's Big Boy restaurant in Los Angeles in which four people were shot to death and five others were wounded for no apparent reason.

"That's the first thing I thought of when I heard about it (the Taco Bell incident)," Griffin said. "I can't see any reason for it. How much money can one get in a place like that? \$500?"

Officers arriving at the Taco Bell said the restaurant's cash register was empty. It was not immediately known how much money was taken.

The dead employee was identified by the county coroner's office as 27-year-old Lindell W. Hunter of North Hollywood. The name of the wounded 16-year-old, who was reported in very critical condition at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, was not immediately released.

1 Slain, 1 Hurt in Robbery at Restaurant

2 Employees Shot at Taco Bell in Burbank; Police Lack Suspects

By GEORGE RAMOS,
Times Staff Writer

An employee of a Burbank fast-food restaurant was shot to death, reportedly execution-style, and another was critically wounded during a baffling midnight robbery, police said Sunday.

Burbank police Sgt. Harry Griffin said the two workers at a Taco Bell restaurant were apparently taken to the rear of the eatery, located at 4301 W. Magnolia Blvd., sometime between 11:30 p.m. and midnight Saturday—an hour before closing time—and then shot. There were no signs of a struggle, investigators noted.

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'Can't See Any Reason'

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Few Details Released

Investigators were reluctant to give out many details of the shootings. They refused to say what kind of wounds the victims suffered or what type of weapon was used. But a press statement read to reporters several hours after the incident mentioned that the two were shot execution-style.

Later in the day, officers backed away from any comments on the style of the shootings.

The two workers were discovered on the floor in the rear of the restaurant by the owner of a nearby bar when he was summoned by customers, who noticed that the restaurant's counter was unattended. "He went to the rear and found them," Griffin said.

Officers have no suspects in custody and are asking for public assistance. Griffin said anyone who might have been in the area is urged to call Burbank police.

2nd 'Taco Bell' Death

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 29, 1983;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. A1

2nd 'Taco Bell' Death

A 16-year-old boy who was shot and critically injured at a Taco Bell restaurant in Burbank on Sept. 17 died Wednesday night, becoming the second murder victim in the apparent robbery attempt.

An autopsy was scheduled later today in the death of James Falconio, a student at Burroughs High School. Lindell W. Hunter, 27, of North Hollywood was also shot to death in the robbery. A suspect in the slayings, William Kirkpatrick Jr., 23, pleaded not guilty to both murders in Burbank Municipal Court this morning.

Jury Recommends Death for Killer of 2 in Restaurant

By GREG BRAXTON,
Times Staff Writer

A Pasadena Superior Court jury Thursday recommended that William Kirkpatrick Jr., a transient who was convicted earlier this month in the murder and robbery of two Taco Bell employees in Burbank, be sentenced to death.

The seven-man, five-woman jury returned the verdict after almost two days of deliberation in the penalty phase of Kirkpatrick's trial. The jury had earlier found Kirkpatrick guilty of a special circumstance allegation—committing murder during a robbery—which made him eligible for the death penalty or life without parole.

Judge Coleman Swart will pronounce formal sentence on Aug. 14.

Kirkpatrick, who participated as

co-counsel during the penalty phase, was impassive when the jury's recommendation was read. His attorneys, Rayford Fountain and Albert DelGobbo, said he had been expecting the death penalty recommendation.

A family member of one of the victims who attended the verdict reading said he was pleased with the jury's decision. "Kirkpatrick got what he deserved," said the family member, who asked not to be identified. "He has no idea how many lives he has wrecked by what he did."

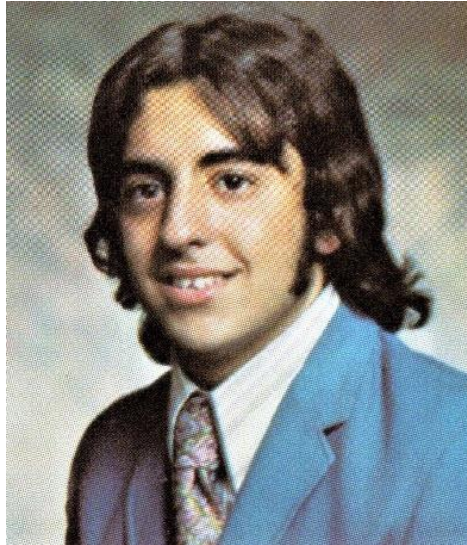
Kirkpatrick, who insisted he was innocent throughout the trial, was convicted of the Sept. 17, 1983, slaying of James Falconio, 16, and Lindell W. Hunter, 27, who both worked at the Taco Bell restaurant at 4301 W. Magnolia Blvd. Investigators said Kirkpatrick, a former employee at the restaurant, took about \$650 from the cash register, herded the pair into a rear closet and shot them both in the head.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Terry Green claimed Kirkpatrick "had a beef to settle with Hunter" and Taco Bell for firing him. "Mr. Kirkpatrick shot the two workers because he wanted to do it right," Green said. "He didn't want to leave any witnesses behind."

When Kirkpatrick was given the opportunity to speak during the penalty phase last week, he blasted his lawyers for ignoring his suggestions for his defense, criticized the judge for not allowing him to participate actively in his defense and berated the jury for finding him guilty of murder—comments his lawyers said may have alienated the jury.

"I really believe those comments had an unfavorable impact on the jury," Fountain said. "But Willie seems to accept the verdict."

Jury Foreman Larry Gillman said Kirkpatrick's comments were not considered by the jury. "We just considered his own story on the stand, and we found it unreasonable," he said.



Ronald Joseph Adeeb, BHS 1972

NOTE: Ronald Adeeb went missing Jan 1982 and so did six other people and all had ties to a used car dealership in the valley owned by Harvey Rader. All seven people remain missing. Below is an excerpt about the case and links to other articles.

...as the investigation lurched forward, the police discovered that Rader had ties to three other unsolved missing-persons cases. Seven months before the Salomons vanished, British expats Peter and Joan Davis disappeared. The couple bought and sold luxury cars with Rader. According to reports, Rader told the police that Peter Davis was involved in fencing stolen jewelry and guns. When the police arrived at the Daveses' house in Granada Hills, the couple's dinner was still cooking on the stove; their luggage, a valuable painting reportedly by Gainsborough, and their pet Akita were gone. Their Thunderbird was abandoned in a Los Angeles International Airport parking lot. This, the police would learn, was two months after a Burbank businessman named Ron Adeeb told relatives he was going to see a man about cars and vanished. The man was later determined to be Rader. Adeeb's car was found in an LAX parking lot as well.

LAPD detectives believed that all parties had been murdered, and Rader was the prime suspect. But they lacked three significant elements to prove his guilt: a motive, witnesses, and the bodies.

In November 1983, Rader's cousin, Ashley Paulle, came forward with a shocking story. Paulle had worked for Rader's dealership, but returned to England after the Salomons went missing. He eventually contacted the authorities after being pressured by a private investigator hired by Elaine's family. In exchange for immunity from prosecution, Paulle returned to the U.S. and told investigators he witnessed Rader shoot Sol in the head in the office at his dealership after Sol demanded repayment of the \$20,000 he had invested. Paulle claimed that another car dealer named Gerald Baxter and two Italian men were present, and that he was instructed to drive Rader and the Italians to the Salomon

home, where they subsequently murdered Elaine, Michelle and Mitchell. Paulle then helped Rader bury the family's bodies in the desert in Antelope Valley.

Paulle also implicated Rader in the disappearance of a British couple named Peter and Joan Davis, who went missing on March 17, 1982. The Davises lived only two miles away from the Salomons and also did business with Rader's dealership. According to Paulle, Rader murdered the couple in order to steal valuable artwork from their home and he helped Rader bury the bodies in the desert near Bakersfield.

Paulle also claimed that Rader told him he was responsible for the January 1982 disappearance of a Burbank businessman named Ronald Adeeb, who also invested money in Rader's dealership, but Paulle had no idea where Adeeb's body was.

Links

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1988-01-02-me-34203-story.html>

<https://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/salomon-unsolved-murder/>

https://www.reddit.com/r/UnresolvedMysteries/comments/9d5fyo/the_1982_disappearance_of_the_salomon_family/