

Divorcee Shoots Self After Test Pilot Is Killed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A red-headed divorcee who shuddered "every time I saw or heard an airplane" shot and killed herself last week in grief over a test pilot's death 10 days ago, police reported.

Well-to-do Mrs. Phyllis Ann Pratt, 27, was found in the bedroom of her apartment in suburban Tarzana, a bullet wound in her head. Her hand still clutched a pearl-handled revolver.

Officers said the flyer was Stanley Alexander Beltz, 44, of nearby Palmdale, a Lockheed engineering test pilot, who crashed Aug. 31 in an F4B Starfire jet. He had been divorced from a former wife.

Detectives Gerald Wilson and Kenneth Brondell said Mrs. Pratt left a note saying:

"Please forgive me. I tried but I have no courage to go on. I was never anything until I fell in love with him. He was a great man. I loved and respected him with all my being and soul. There are one million things locked in my heart that tell how wonderful he was. We had so many beautiful things together I can't go on without him. . . . Every time I saw or heard an

airplane I shuddered. I wish to be cremated. No funeral. Just me, the ring and watch Stan gave me, and his QB. pin."

Police said this referred to a flier's organization, the Quiet Birdmen. The note added: "There's nothing else left of me—just an empty shell. My life, love, soul and being went with Stan."

Higher Rankings For Medical Men In Service Asked

BREMERTON (AP) — Higher ranks for doctors, dentists and other medical-dental personnel entering the armed forces were suggested recently by Dr. Frank B. Berry, assistant secretary of defense for health and medicine.

Such men should be commissioned as full lieutenants on entering the Navy and as captains when going into the Army and the Air Force instead of the present situation of becoming lieutenants, junior grade, in the Navy and first lieutenants in the two other branches of the service, he said.

Dr. Berry, members of the Civilian Advisory Health and Medical Council, and other advisers visited Bremerton Naval Shipyard facilities and conferred with state and local doctors and health officials as another step in their nation-wide tour. The council has just returned from Alaska.

Dr. Berry, in an interview, said two-thirds of the medical-dental personnel in the armed forces changes every two years.

"That isn't the way to conduct a good efficient business," he commented.

Steps should be taken to make medical careers in the armed services more attractive and the higher entering ranks appear to be one way and is under consideration by his council, he said.

Doctors and dentists face a "four year" lag behind line-type officers in getting promotions, he explained.

Alberta Province Political History Proves Interesting

EDMONTON, Alta. (AP) — Alberta became a province 50 years ago. But the history of the white man has made within its boundaries extends from the 18th century fur trappers to the unusual present-day government of the Social Credit party.

Back in 1905, when western Canada was losing its frontier isolation, Albertans got tired of being just a part of the Northwest Territories. The 100,000 who launched the provincial government have grown to more than 900,000, and Alberta ranks fourth among Canada's 10 provinces.

The Indians, the buffalo, the trappers, the pioneer ranchers and farmers, and the prospectors for oil and natural gas have all left their colorful mark on Alberta.

The first white man to see the untamed Alberta plains was Anthony Henday, agent of the Hudson's Bay Co., who came in 1754 to buy the fur catch of the Indians.

The colorful story of Alberta's change from wild trapping country to a modern agricultural and industrial area is matched by a political history unique in Canada.

U. S. Expects All 41 Americans To Be Released

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States expects all 41 American civilians known to be in Red China to be released "promptly" under Saturday's agreement at Geneva, a State Department spokesman said.

Press Officer Henry Suydam told reporters the Red Chinese have now made a "public commitment" and "we have no reason to doubt" it will be carried out.

"We are certainly delighted," he said, "that all the American civilians in China are going to be permitted to leave."

At present there are 41 of these, including two U.S. Army civilian employees, John Thomas Downey and Richard George Peeteau, who were captured during the Korean war and given long term sentences on espionage convictions.

Of the 41, the Reds announced Sept. 6 that 12 would be given exit permits. Saturday Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson at Geneva announced that Ambassador Wang Ping-Nan had informed him that 10 other persons would be released at Hong Kong within a few days.

That leaves 18 American civilians known to be in Red China, some of whom were released from prison some time ago but remain in Red China because their husbands are still in jail there.

The Liberal party set up the first government and held power until 1921. Then the farmers, still the dominant economic group in the province, thought they were not getting the consideration they deserved. They formed the United Farmers of Alberta, won control of the provincial government and promptly set about changing the political emphasis.

Under UFA, the provincial government guaranteed bank loans to the big wheat pools. This eventually cost the government about 3½ million dollars, but UFA insisted it saved the situation when the 1929 slump hit the market.

Alberta has attracted international attention for its political and economic innovations under the Social Credit party, in power since 1935. Social Credit initially promised a \$25 monthly dividend to all residents, an end to borrowing from outside sources, and creation of a unique credit system.

Most of these far-reaching proposals came to nothing as a result of judicial decisions. The government's efforts to control banking and the press also were declared outside the Legislature's scope.

However, the government did establish treasury branches to enable persons using them to exchange goods and services without using money. Transfer vouchers introduced under this system became famous as Social Credit scrip.

With the World War II boom, the original idea of the treasury branches faded. Now they operate like chartered banks.

Albertans celebrating their golden jubilee have a good yardstick of progress in the increasing value of their agricultural production. In 1905 it was \$16,428,000; last year, it was \$519,368,000.

A newer measuring stick is afforded by oil and gas production. Virtually nil in 1905, the 1954 crude oil output was put at 227 million dollars and natural gas production at nearly two million dollars.

Refusal To Pay Penalties Draws Suits In Court

PORTLAND (AP) — The Columbia River Packers Assn. and three individual fishermen, accused of refusing to pay Coast Guard safety violation penalties, are being sued in federal court here.

The suits were filed by the U.S. district attorney's office after a number of small boats capsized in the recent fishing derbies in the Astoria area.

The government contends that the defendants have not paid penalties which were levied by the Coast Guard on ground that proper safety precautions were not observed.

Lutheran Critical Of Billy's Remark

NEW YORK (AP) — A Lutheran official Monday criticized Baptist Evangelist Billy Graham for a comment that morals in Norway are "at a low ebb."

Graham made the comment recently on returning home from European preaching tour that included a two-day visit in Norway.

The Rev. Dr. J. Carl Preus, executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, said he thought Graham had "used very poor taste and showed poor judgement."

Dr. Preus, who arrived on the liner Stavangerfjord, said the Norwegians "are burned up" with Graham for criticizing their morals "after having given him such a wonderful reception."

Then he added: "As far as Norwegian morals are concerned, I can't see that they are any worse than ours are in any place in this country."

Dr. Preus was in Norway three months on a religious research project.

Pendleton Preparing For Annual Round-Up

PENDLETON (AP) — This Eastern Oregon city is preparing for the Wednesday night opening of the Pendleton Round-Up.

Preliminary events last weekend included a two-hour parade of floats, bands and marching units watched by an estimated 20,000 persons.

The Happy Canyon pageant will be held Wednesday and the Round-Up arena show is to open the following day. Some 200 cowboys are expected to enter the various events.

Vital Statistics

Marriage Licenses Issued
MENTZER-TOPPINGS — Douglas L. Mentzer and Yvonne Toppings, both of Roseburg.
WELKER-SUMMERS — Glenn Halsten Welker and Marlene Clara Summers, both of Roseburg.

Divorce Suits Filed
GOUGH — Betty Jane vs. George Keith Gough. Married April 14, 1955, at Sutherlin. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged.

ACORD — Thomas vs. Nancy K. Acord. Married July 6, 1952, at Grants Pass. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged. Plaintiff seeks custody of two children.

PATTISON — Maude C. vs. William Howard Pattison. Married Dec. 24, 1934, at Sioux City, Iowa. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged.

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THIS BEATS BATHING—Autumn may be near, but it still gets hot in Dallas, Tex., as Billy Martin, 3, can testify. So he uses his own time-tested method of keeping cool. Throughout the summer Billy has whiled away the hot days on the curb in front of his home—after first unscrewing the water hydrant plug.

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