

Movie Actor John Hodiak Falls Dead of Heart Attack

TARZANA, Calif. (AP) — John Hodiak, who had seemed in robust health as he co-starred in his current film as an air force surgeon, fell dead Wednesday of a heart attack. He was 41.

The quiet-mannered, handsome actor collapsed in his bathroom at 6:50 a.m. and, his physician said, died instantly of a coronary thrombosis. He had been up an hour with his mother and sister, complaining of gas, for which he took soda.

Hodiak had no previous indications of heart trouble and had not been otherwise ill, said Dr. Sidney N. Spies.

Heard Fall

The actor, formerly married to Anne Baxter, died in the San Fernando Valley home he shared with his parents, sister and younger brother. His sister, Mrs. Anne

Sierra, heard him fall to the floor. A fire department inhalator squad worked over him.

Hodiak was due at 20th Century-Fox studio this morning for scenes in "Threshold of Space" co-starring him with Guy Madison, Virginia Leith and Dean Jagger.

Role Nearly Done

He had nearly finished his role, patterned after Lt. Col. John P. Stapp, air force surgeon famed for rocket-sled experiments in aviation medicine for the air research and development command.

Hodiak and Stapp developed a warm friendship during location scenes at Holloman Air Force Base near Alamogordo, N. M., from which the actor returned last week, a studio spokesman said.

Hodiak appears on film to ride the sled at 632 m.p.h. but actually only rode the sled for close-ups. His physical exertion in the picture, the studio said, was only the normal amount in movie making.

Stage Role

Hodiak's last previous picture was MGM's "Trial," in which he played the prosecutor. His role last year on the New York stage as a naval officer accused of mutiny in "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial" gave a new impetus to his screen career.

His previous pictures included "A Bell for Adano," "The Harvey Girls," "Command Decision," "Battleground," "The Miniver Story," "Across the Wide Missouri," "Battle Zone," "Mission Over Korea" and "Conquest of Cochise."

In "Lifeboat"

He first achieved prominence in the Alfred Hitchcock-directed "Lifeboat." Tallulah Bankhead picked him for the role of Kovac, the oiler and her romantic opposite.

Miss Baxter divorced Hodiak in January 1953 after six years' marriage. Their daughter, Katrina, 4, lives with her mother.

The resonant-voiced actor stood 6 feet, weighed 180 and had hazel eyes and brown hair. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., where his father was a factory worker. A few years later the family moved to a Detroit suburb, where John acted in parish plays, played on the Hamtramck High School baseball team and caddied at a country club. His parents, of Ukrainian ancestry, were amateur actors.

On Radio Station

He worked in the budget office of the Chevrolet Motor Co., Detroit, and later got a job on a local radio station, playing bit parts. He had originated the character of "Li'l Abner" on the radio in Chicago in 1940 when a film scout signed him.

When studio aides suggested a change of name to something more romantic-sounding, Hodiak replied: "No. When my mother and father take their friends to the movies to see their son, I don't want them to have to explain that their boy has changed his name."

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hodiak; the brother, Walter, and sister, Mrs. Silva.



TARZANA, Calif.—Screen Actor John Hodiak, 41, died of a heart attack in his home here Wednesday. (AP Wirephoto).

Beck to Visit Red China on Asian Tour

HONOLULU (AP) — President Dave Beck of the AFL Teamsters says he plans to visit "Japan, Red China and as many countries of Asia as I can" next spring to observe labor's role in Asia.

Beck said in an interview he would make the trip after the Teamsters' executive board meeting in Honolulu in March. He said he would report to President Eisenhower, as he did after a European trip.

Beck is attending a meeting of the policy committee of the Western Conference of Teamsters.

Canada's province of Alberta produces 240,000 barrels of oil a day from more than 4,000 wells.

Anchorage Civic Leaders Planning Tour of Russia

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Anchorage area civic and political leaders are planning a goodwill trip to the Soviet Union.

Mayor Ken Hincney, Councilman Jack White, City Atty. John Rader and Clifford Groh, a member of the school board, revealed Wednesday that they are planning to apply for permission to visit the Soviet Union as representatives of the territory to foster good will.

They will also attempt to promote trade between Russian Siberian ports and Alaska.

White said he will broach the plan to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Friday.

"I think that since we are the closest American citizens to the Russians we should join in the exchange of visitors and show our good will," White said.

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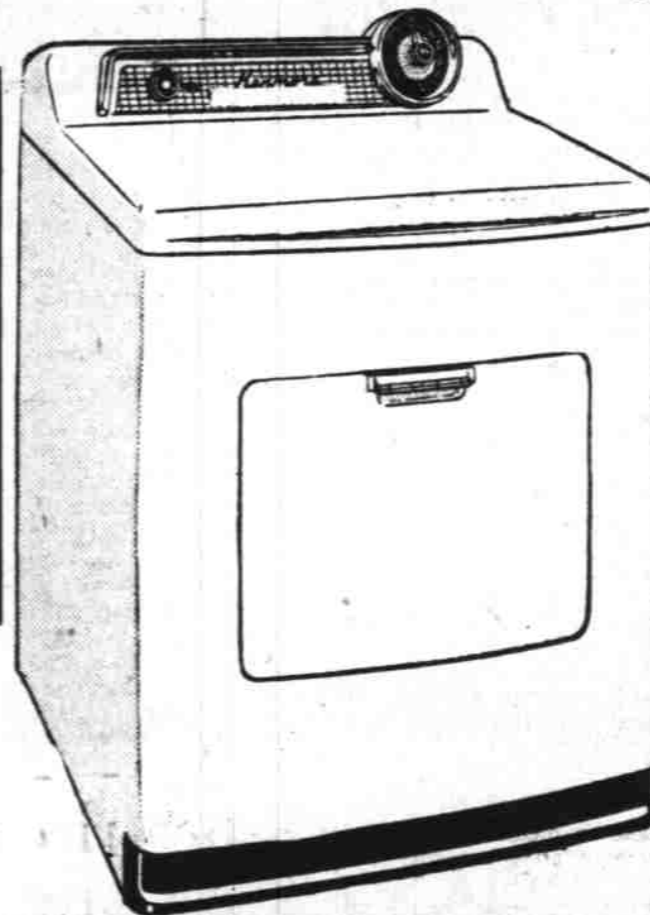
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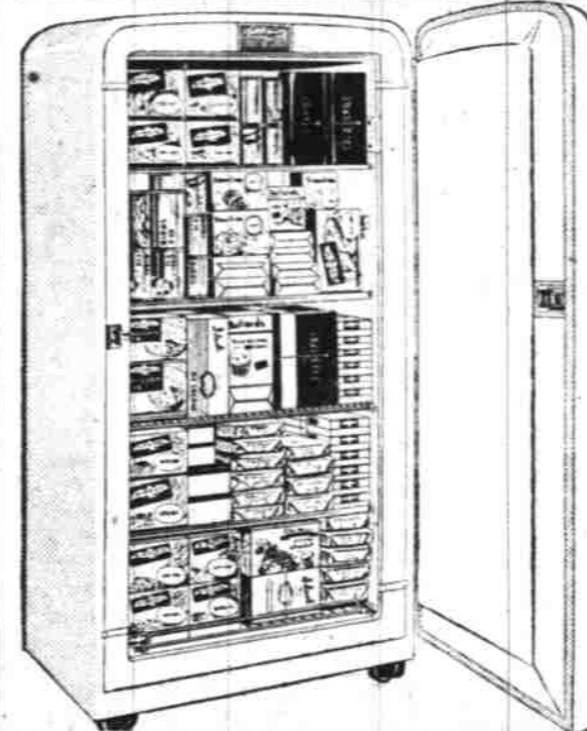
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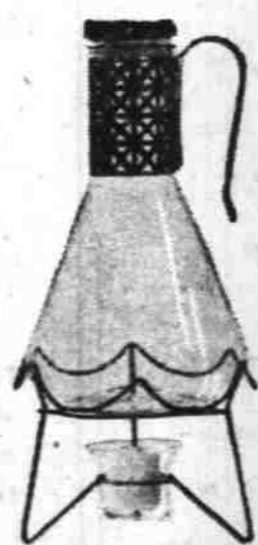


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