

Disappearance of Flier in Dominican Republic Stirs Officials of Government

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — U. S. government officials are growing increasingly agitated over the disappearance of an Oregon flier in the Dominican Republic, a Caribbean dictatorship.

Seven weeks have elapsed since Gerald Lester Murphy, a 23-year-old aviator from Eugene, Ore., vanished without a trace in the Dominican capital, Ciudad Trujillo. He had just quit his job with the Dominican Airline, which is owned and operated by the government of Generalissimo Rafael

Leonidas Trujillo. Murphy's car was found abandoned on the outskirts of the capital city not far from the coast and the shark-infested waters that are nearby.

A month after Murphy disappeared Dominican police arrested a Dominican national, Antonio Del La Maza, who had worked with Murphy for the government airline. Several days after his arrest and detention, police reported to American authorities that he had committed suicide in jail and left a letter for his wife in which he confessed killing Murphy.

Officials Skeptical

American officials are plainly skeptical of the appearance of the entire affair. They recall vividly the mysterious disappearance last March of Jesus Galindez, a Dominican history professor at Columbia university who vanished from New York

City. He was an avowed foe of Dictator Trujillo. No trace has ever been found of the professor.

Diplomatic relations between the U. S. and the Dominican government are very strained, which serves to aggravate the suspicions that are harbored by State Department officials who are working on the case.

De la Maza, the suspect, was found hanging in his cell from a pipe that was only six inches above his head, according to Dominican police, who have complete authority to investigate the case locally without U. S. interference. They said he hanged himself by knotting mosquito netting into a makeshift rope.

State Department Silent

New and secret developments have occurred in the last few days, but State Department officials won't talk about them yet.

Very probably they involve this series of circumstances:

De la Maza showed up at the American embassy in Ciudad Trujillo on Dec. 10 to pick up visas which he had arranged to obtain for his parents to come to the United States. Murphy, as it is now recalled, was last seen only a few days before this. His abandoned car was noticed Dec. 6. He had that day advertised his personal effects for sale in a local newspaper prior to returning to the U. S. to be married to a Pan-American airline hostess from Miami.

Embassy officials recall that de la Maza seemed highly overwrought when he showed up for the visas. His parents then left the country and now reside in New York. Police then picked him up for questioning, and a few days later reported him as

a suicide.

F. B. I. agents have been called into the case. They have obtained a photostatic copy of the alleged suicide note in order to make a handwriting analysis and determine whether in their opinion it is genuine or a forgery.

Some officials here, who know

more than they can reveal at this time, believe there has been active complicity on the part of Dominican underlings of the Trujillo regime. Possibly the political reason for such complicity, if it turns out to be the fact, might lie in the type of hauling the Dominican Airline may have

had young Murphy doing.

The whole affair seems headed for becoming a minor international incident between the U. S. and one of her smallest neighbors, unless a better answer for the disappearance of the Oregon flier is found very soon.

PACIFIC INDUSTRIAL
A DIVISION OF PACIFIC BRIDGE
16 S. Central • Phone 3-5308

• Quick in Results!
Use Tribune Want Ads

March of Dimes Said Desperately in Need Of Funds for Program

Chicago—Polio patients of the nation would be in a dangerous position if many people had the erroneous idea that paralytic polio is licked at a time when the current March of Dimes is desperately in need of funds.

Basil O'Connor said here today.

O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, was in Chicago to attend a Cook County Chapter Medical Advisory Committee luncheon in tribute to those who gave valuable assistance during the 1956 polio epidemic.

Remarks Misinterpreted

The danger to polio patients had been enhanced, he said, by an unfortunate misinterpretation of his remarks published on the occasion of a birthday interview recently, in which he discussed what the National Foundation might do when the polio problem actually had been reduced to a minimum.

"Some people apparently thought that our looking ahead to the future had a direct bearing on the present," the March of Dimes leader declared. "But, as a matter of fact, there can be no future until the problems of the present have been met."

"Like any organization dedicated to the public interest, we have been discussing and investigating possible courses of future action in serving the American

people, for we know that some day polio will be conquered, now that we have a preventive vaccine.

"But to view this as an indication that our original goal already has been achieved is a distortion of the facts, at a time when our obligation to at least 80,000 old polio patients is most pressing."

Scientific research for improved treatment, rehabilitation and polio vaccines, as well as professional education to train urgently needed physicians, therapists and other medical experts and care of new patients this year, all depend upon continued public support of the 1957 March of Dimes, O'Connor said.

"I wish I could issue some kind of victory statement, now that we have come this far in the fight against polio," he added. "There are many elements of victory in existence—reduced polio incidence last year, the inoculation of more than 44,000,000 children and adults with at least one shot of Salk vaccine, improved patient care. But I am afraid that talk about victory today would be dangerously premature. Victory means the end of a fight and the tragic fact is that the polio fight is far from over. I am sure the American people intend to fight it to its end."

1957 March of Dimes POSTER GIRL

BORN TOO SOON

FOUR-YEAR-OLD MARLENE OLSEN OF BURLINGTON, WIS., WAS HIT BY POLIO JUST AS THE NATION WAS GETTING ITS FIRST SALK VACCINE... SYMBOLIZES THE COUNTRY'S POLIO VICTIMS WHO STILL NEED MARCH OF DIMES HELP!

STRIKES WHEN SHE WAS THREE, MARLENE WEARS A BRACE ON HER RIGHT LEG AND NEEDS CRUTCHES TO GET AROUND. DOCTORS SAY SHE'LL NEED CONTINUING CARE FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS!

MARLENE HAS MADE UP HER MIND—SHE WANTS TO BE A DOCTOR WHEN SHE GROWS UP!

MARLENE'S SISTER, 18-MONTH-OLD KAREN, WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS LAST MAY FOR "TO BEGETHER WE WORK IN KOREA!"

HER DAD CAPTAIN ARNOLD OLSEN, AN ARMY BOMBER PILOT, WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS LAST MAY FOR "TO BEGETHER WE WORK IN KOREA!"

LET'S FINISH THE JOB!

Join the MARCH OF DIMES IN JANUARY

Area Farmers Reminded of Social Security Changes

Farmers of Jackson and Josephine counties who will be filing a combined income tax and social security return for 1956 are reminded that the social security provisions for reporting farm income have been changed to the farmer's benefit, W. V. Nusbbaum, district social security manager, said today.

The revisions are designed to provide the small farmer particularly with a more favorable basis for figuring his social security payments, he said.

The new law permits a farmer with a gross income of \$1,800 or less during 1956 to use either his actual net earnings for social security purposes, or two-thirds of his gross farm income.

If his gross income exceeds \$1,800, but his net earnings are less than \$1,200, he may report his net earnings as \$1,200. The new method may be used by farm partners as well as by individual farm operators, Nusbbaum said.

It applies to farmers who keep their records on the accrual basis and those who use the cash method, he added.

The self-employment tax on 1956 farm income is 3 per cent of the net earnings up to the maximum of \$4,200. For the years 1957 through 1959 farmers will pay 3½ per cent of their taxable farm income. While the 1956 social security law increased the self-employed tax rate starting with 1957, farmers this year will be reporting on 1956 income and therefore the tax rate is still 3 per cent, Nusbbaum said.

PROSPECT WCTU To Send Gift Boxes

By GENEIL SPRUILL

Prospect — The WCTU met Tuesday at the home of Hope Hedegpeth. The ladies finished a quilt top they were making and decided to send each local boy in the service a box of candy and cookies. Their next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Joe Colley.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Owsley and daughter, of Eureka, Calif., who were called here due to the death of Kiser Owsley, have been visiting with Mrs. Owsley's parents, the Grants.

Miss Kathy Dilley has been out of school for several days due to illness but is again back at school.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Halfit from Port Orford are spending several days at the Lewis Robertson home.

Mrs. Roy Vaughn was hostess Jan. 7 at a birthday dinner honoring Mrs. Ray Gillespie.

On Jan. 23, the Prospect school children and any one between the age of six months and 20 years will be given polio vaccine free of charge.

Mrs. Paul Mather and Mrs. Vernon Govenor were hostesses Tuesday, Jan. 15, at a pink and blue shower honoring Mrs. Russell Shoemaker. After opening the gifts refreshments were served. Those attending were Mrs. Spencer Lewis, Mrs. Spencer Lewis Jr., Mrs. Gene Williams, Mrs. Eugene Carrico, Mrs. Clifford Snodgrass, Mrs. John Hansen, Mrs. Clarence Pearce, Mrs. George Govenor, Mrs. Len

ard Chandler, Miss Merrilyn Lewis and Miss Mary Lou Harper.

Six members of the birthday club met Thursday with Mrs. Kenneth Edwards the honored guest. Mrs. Robert Ellis won the door prize. Twelve new chairs have been purchased for the use of the club. The ladies are now trying to raise money to buy a piano.

The Home Extension group met Jan. 16. About 28 ladies attended. A hot dinner was served by Mertis Chandler, Tressie Vaughn, May Richardson and Ann Gillespie.

Lloyd Moore is confined to a Portland hospital, where he underwent a lung operation Friday at 1 p.m. He was accompanied by his wife and his brother and family from Lakeview, Ore.

Miss Yvonne Struck and Sandra Poole have been absent from school recently due to illness.

The grade school basketball team has been doing well this season, winning 15 games out of 16 played.

SCHOOL DAYS

Ogden, Utah—(U.P.)—City employees here are going back to school—and apparently enjoying it. Officials say 300 of Ogden's 350 city workers have taken part in personnel administration, government administration, public relations and similar courses offered at Weber College. The classes are optional, but college credit is given for those who want it.

MODERN heat with OIL heat

BUY YOUR HEATING OIL FROM THE DEALER WHO DISPLAYS THIS SEAL OF QUALITY

The heating oil dealer who displays this seal is an independent businessman personally interested in your comfort, safety and satisfaction. He is pledged to give you dependable service, fair business practices and highest quality products. Be sure you buy your heating oil from the dealer who displays this seal.

BE SURE... buy your heating oil from the progressive dealers listed below. They are independent businessmen pledged to give you low prices, unexcelled service and the very finest in Modern Oil Heat comfort.

JACKSON COUNTY CHAPTER
OIL HEAT INSTITUTE OF OREGON

FABER FUEL CO. MEDFORD FUEL CO. VALLEY FUEL CO.
WESTERN OIL & BURNER CO. WHITTLE OIL CO.

Sniders Ice Cream

THE FUN FOOD THE WHOLE FAMILY LOVES!

Big servings cost so little!

Ice Cream's the big buy in any size package! No other dessert is so delicious... so filled with good things... so easy to serve. So go ahead, live a little! Enjoy ice cream often!

Take home plenty for the week end!

ICE CREAM IS PURE PLEASURE

LEARNING TO DRIVE? Look for AUTOMOBILE DRIVING SCHOOLS TOWING SERVICE in the YELLOW PAGES

You'll find it fast in the YELLOW PAGES