

Slaying of Two Young Brothers by Recently Released Psycopath Predicted by Officials

Editor's note: An account with a record of sex offenses has been charged with savagely murdering two young brothers 31 days after his release from prison. Why, as a potential menace to society, was he given his freedom? That question has touched off a controversy which is explored in the following dispatch.

By CHINA ALTMAN
United Press Correspondent
Brockton, Mass.—For six years Raymond F. Ohlson spent his leisure in prison carving religious statues. Fifty-one days after his release for good behavior he allegedly butchered two young brothers.

The slaying of John Logan, 12, and his brother Paul, 10, was labeled "savage" and "fiendish." Later, a state correction official examined a long police file marked "Ohlson" and added that it was "inevitable."

From across the state came a storm of "I told you so's." Prison officials, psychiatrists and state parole board members agreed the 20-year-old sexual psychopath "never should have been release." No one knew the Logan brothers would be the victims, but the crime had been predicted by a dozen men.

Correction official, Dr. Ray Gilbert said "It was almost inevitable that this person would commit such an act unless aided or segregated from society."

Shocking Record
Police Chief Joseph C. Wright said Ohlson's record showed a history of sadistic sexual attacks on boys. When he was only 12, he had beaten a 3-year-old child. Two years later he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for sexually assaulting and nearly strangling a 12-year-old boy—within 100 yards of the Logan brothers murder scene.

Dr. Ian Paley Rak, Concord Prison psychiatrist, reported Ohlson "presents a very grave potential danger to the community." Rak said Ohlson has "strong homosexual drives . . . and is potentially dangerous on the basis of past acts with sadistic sexual elements of a serious nature to the lives of others." A staff member of Metropolitan State Hospital said "extreme caution should be used in permitting this boy in the community."

From the father of the slain children came the same question that hundreds asked "How could they ever have let him out?"

Warden Edward S. Grennan had one answer: "We had to let him out. His time was up."

Grennan said Ohlson was a timid, withdrawn boy, but a "model inmate." He had nearly four years deducted from his sentence for "good time."

State Correction Commissioner Arthur T. Lyman said "Theoretically Ohlson could have been committed indefinitely under the sexual psychopathic law."

Confused Law
"However," he said, "this whole law is extremely confused. It never even has been activated." He explained that the 1954 measure would become effective only when a center for sexual psychopaths was established.

"Such a center has never been built or designated," he said.

The parole board which twice turned down Ohlson's petitions for an early release had recommended to Plymouth County District Attorney John R. Wheatley a year before his scheduled discharge that Ohlson should be indefinitely committed.

But both Wheatley and Dr. Jack S. Ewalt, state commissioner of mental health, said there was no legal basis under which he could be confined, partly because of the ineffectiveness of the present law and partly because Ohlson's deviation was classed as neurotic rather than psychotic.

"Confusion," said Lyman, was part of the answer to why the youth was discharged from Concord.

So it was that Ohlson, a free man, came to live with his mother, Dorothy Ohlson, here in a three-room fourth floor apartment. Neighbors described the place as "very quiet and pleasant." Mrs. Ohlson, a graying blonde in her late 40s, divorced her machinist husband 3½ years ago.

On the day of the Logan brothers' murder, July 26, Ohlson awakened in his room at 10 a.m. It was his day off from his new job at the Stacey-Adams Shoe Co.

Day of Rest

The slightly built youth dressed that day in his favorite clothes, dungarees and an open collar shirt. He stood before the dresser mirror a long time, combing his straight brown hair.

He planned to "loaf around, maybe stay home all day," he had told his mother. She often told friends proudly that he

liked his new room, which was decorated in pink and white, and a curious mixture of religious pictures and photographs of movie actress Debra Paget. Near his bed was a large autographed picture of Miss Paget, below it a statue of Christ.

On a small table was a religious statue he made in prison.

Warden Grennan reported his hobby there was carving such figures.

Concealed Knife
Before he left the apartment that day, Ohlson straightened his bed, taking care to conceal under his pillow a long-bladed knife with an ornate handle. He had bought it at a pawn shop.

the same place he got another knife parole officers had taken from him three weeks before.

Ohlson later told police he strolled down to the field park pool that afternoon, chatted briefly with the Logan brothers, returned to his room, took his knife from beneath his pillow and walked back to the park.

Police said he confessed forcing the boys into the woods, stabbing them and tossing their nude bodies on a rough funeral pyre of wood and underbrush.

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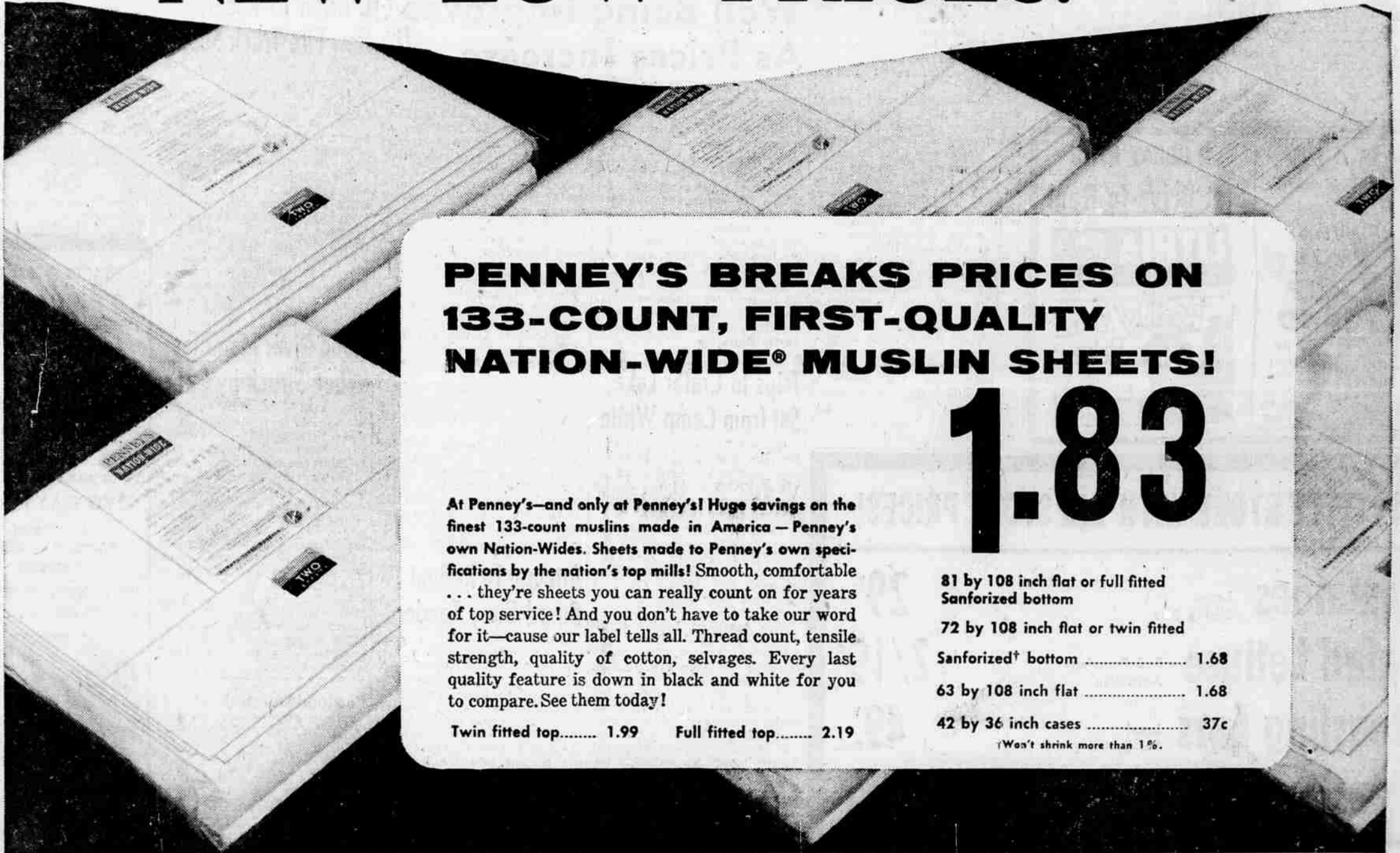
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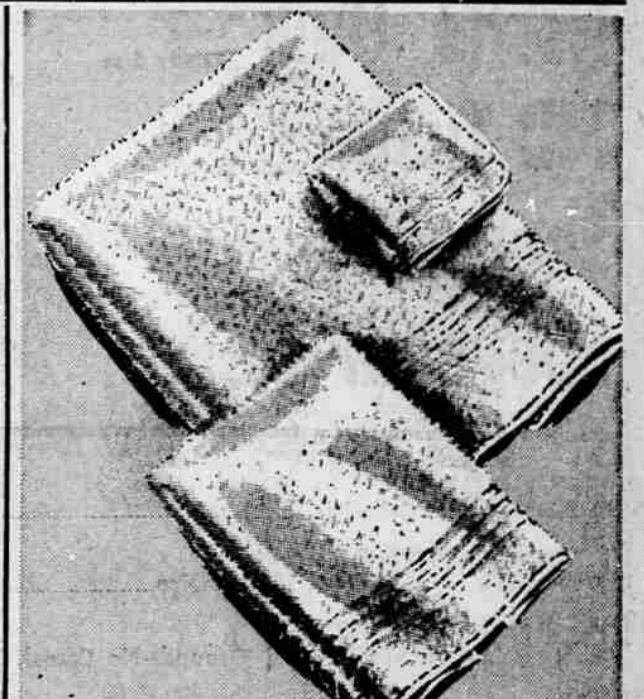
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Seattle — The nude body of a strawberry blonde was recovered from Lake Washington near Kenmore Wednesday afternoon.

An autopsy determined death was due to drowning and both the sheriff's office and the coroner's office were trying to establish her identity.

The German navy lost 178 of its U-boats during World War II.