

Lana Turner's Flirtation With Tragedy Finally Catches Her

Editor's note: Following is the first of three dispatches on the life of Lana Turner, whose 14-year-old daughter killed her mother's boy friend in their Hollywood home last week. The series is written by Vernon Scott, United Press correspondent.

By VERNON SCOTT
United Press Hollywood
Writer

Hollywood — Lana Turner flirted brazenly with tragedy during her 18-year reign as queen of tinsel town glamour girls—and it finally caught up with her.

The platinum beauty's reckless love affair with hoodlum Johnny Stompanato—which ended Friday night when her daughter Cheryl, 14, stabbed him to death—was the latest in a long series of whimsical romances, all of which ended in tears, or the divorce courts.

In the past Miss Turner's nippers hurt only herself. But frightened, pathetic Cheryl scarred her life forever attempting to "protect" her mother.

A self-styled impulsive playgirl, Lana changed boyfriends and husbands with the regularity of a metronome.

She has been the classic Hollywood glamour queen—nightclub habitue, gay divorcee, mink-swathed idol of the world's shop girls.

Recently she explained her flamboyant behavior: "I've fallen in love many times, and I was usually the patsy. All my life I've wanted to be loved. But I lose out every time."

Despite her dazzling beauty, Lana Turner's sobriquet is "the gal they love and leave."

She never attempted to play down her romantic flings, saying "I love the boys and the boys love me."

Her taste in men ranged from gangster Stompanato to musicians, movie heroes, mil-



LEAVING Beverly Hills police station, Cheryl Crane, 14, breaks down after fatal stabbing of Johnny Stompanato, boy friend of Actress Lana Turner, mother of girl, at Miss Turner's Hollywood home. (International)

lionaires and free-wheeling playboys. A partial list of the men Lana loved and lost includes attorney Greg Bautzer (engaged, 1940), actors Turhan Bey (1945), Fernando Lamas, Victor Mature, Peter Lawford, singer Tony Martin, millionaire Howard Hughes.

Marital status made no difference to Lana. She flew to Mexico in 1947 on a lark to visit Tyrone Power (he was married at the time). She married Steve Crane (Cheryl's father) before his divorce was final. Third husband Bob Toping was a married man when their romance began.

For most of her 38 years the original movie "sweater girl" existed on headlines and heartbreak, all of her own doing.

Even callused Hollywood

gasped at a Confidential Magazine story several years ago in which sweater girl Turner and Ava Gardner were reported involved in a lurid incident in Palm Springs with bartender Donald Bledsoe.

A Life of Calamity
Her life is punctuated with calamity—miscarriages, a murdered father, domestic battles, childhood neglect and four marriage failures.

Lana once said, "I like the Moccasin and the fine and fancy food, fast music, bright lights, dancing and staying up late, cocktails and champagne and holding hands under the table. I like partying and kissing the men in my life."

"I always go in with both feet or head over heels."

She admits marrying her first husband, terrible-tempered Artie Shaw, in a fit of spite because boyfriend Bautzer had stood her up on a date. She went for a ride in the moonlight with Shaw to celebrate her 19th birthday in 1940 and wound up flying to Las Vegas to elope.

The marriage lasted four months.

"If I had stopped to think," she said later, "there would have been no wedding."

But Lana seldom stops to think. She didn't pause last December when Stompanato followed her to London to play patty-cake. She failed to consider Cheryl or her own reputation when she bucketed off to Acapulco earlier this year with the swarthy gangster.

Once again Lana refused to think. That was last Friday night. As a result her only child killed a man. And Lana will have that bruising memory to live with the rest of her life.

Next: Lana's screen and marital career.



CHAINS NEEDED?—Half-buried telephone poles and buried cars mark the depth of the snow along U. S. Highway 40 near Soda Springs, Nevada, one of the main roads to Reno, Nevada. The driver of this car tried to dig out, but gave up after uncovering only one door.

Comeback Predicted For Public Transit Systems in Nation

Chicago — A transportation expert today predicted a prosperous comeback for public transit, thanks to the American motorist who has created a "traffic paralysis" in downtown areas.

Jesse H. Haugh, head of the San Diego Transit System and president of the American Transit Association, said that public transportation is now "at its lowest ebb."

But the situation will start to improve with the increased use of superhighways funneling thousands of cars into the city every day with no place to park and very little space to move," Haugh said.

"Traffic engineers are now beginning to turn their thoughts to the movement of people rather than vehicles," he said. "Freeways and expressways designed solely for the automobile are aggravating the problems they were supposed to alleviate."

Haugh said that as the traffic monster grows more and more motorists will leave their car in the garage and turn to public transit. He said that public transit in turn will improve its service as it attracts more passengers.

Haugh said he could see no downward trend in fares despite the increased revenue from bigger passenger loads.

"Transit fares have been the victims of inflation as everything else," he said. "Trouble is we are regulated by state commissions and a good many people attend hearings to let off steam and com-

She is the great-grandmother of Wayne Vaughn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vaughn.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Anderson were dinner guests at the home of Mrs. Pearl Adair at Shady Cove Saturday, April 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vaughn and son, Wayne, and daughter, Sonda, all of Napa, Calif., have been spending their spring vacation with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Vaughn, on Laurelhurst road.

University Gets Pottery Collection

Zion National Park, Utah — A rare collection of Indian pottery, dating from 500 to 1300 A. D., has been given to University of Utah at Salt Lake City by Chester A. Thomas, assistant superintendent of Zion National Park. He found the 65 jars, bowls and cooking pots 25 years ago, while excavating in southeastern Utah and southwestern Colorado.

Photograph Studio Serves As Museum

Evergreen Park, Ill. — Photographer Stanley Sak's studio might appear to a visitor as a cross between a museum and a portrait gallery.

Sak has hung on his walls pictures of cherubic children, along with trophies of his less sedentary life—hunting in the wilds of Guatemala. His prize exhibits include jaguar pelts, Mayan pottery, mounted swordfish, and snake skins.

Sak, his wife, Helen, and their son, James, 15, started their jungle adventures in 1952. Mrs. Sak read in a travel magazine that little was known about the Lacondon Indians who inhabit Central America. That was enough to spark her husband's curiosity.

On one occasion they entered a hut to find the Indians also collected souvenirs—skulls. But the people were not head-hunters, the Saks learned, the skulls came from jungle apes, which are a staple of the Lacondon diet.

SHIPPERS DISCUSS SLUMP
London — The world's leading maritime nations will meet here to discuss the shipping slump that has laid up several million tons of tanker and dry cargo vessels. The 17 member nations of the International Chamber of Shipping will hold a one-day closed conference April 16.

Most lobsters are a dark color when caught and turn scarlet only when cooked, but occasionally an all-red specimen is taken from the sea.

Some Days It Seems a Person Just Can't Make Dishonest Million Bucks

By DOC QUIGG
United Press Correspondent
New York — Some days you can't make a dishonest million. And what's worse nobody cares.

A man in our office named Joseph L. Jones arose at 7 a.m. in his Pelham, N.Y., home, feeling fine, and took the train to work.

He emerged from Grand Central Station onto 42nd st. and decided to do some banking before going to the office. The transaction involved transferring money from his account in one big 42nd st. bank to another big 42nd st. bank.

A Slight Mistake
He went to the first big bank and withdrew \$2,320. He put the check in his pocket.

The teller said just a minute. When he returned, he said he had called the first bank and they agreed to fix things up with the right sum.

The first bank opined that after they had closed, the day before, somebody had accidentally brushed against the keys of the electronic machine that makes out the checks, and the mechanism had stayed all night with a figure one and a couple of zeroes poised in its innards, waiting for someone to come in with a check.

The check to Jones had been, they presumed, the first one made out on that machine did its duty as it saw it. Well, Jones went on to work, and he began thinking. He thought: "Goodness gracious, that million dollars was made out to me, Joseph L. Jones. In truth and certainty, I was a millionaire—for five minutes or so. What if I had carried it around all day, I'd have been a millionaire for a day. What if . . . My. My. What if . . ."

et, walked two short blocks to the other bank, made out a deposit slip, and thrust it and the check into a teller's window.

"I think," said the teller pleasantly, staring at the check, "that this probably won't go through the clearing house. It says a million dollars here."

The face of the check announced the sum to be paid to the order of Joseph L. Jones was \$1,002,320. "You better take it back and have them issue another check," the teller said. "Go back and do it all over," said Jones. "Oh, no, why don't you just call 'em up and see what's wrong?"

Average College Student 'Sharper'
Madison, Wis. — The average college student entering the University of Wisconsin now is "sharper" than the average student who entered in 1930, according to a study made here recently.

Dr. J. Kenneth Little, director of institutional studies at the university, said scholastic achievement of present college freshman is higher than in 1930.

Little said the percentage of entering freshmen who had ranked in the top quarter of their high school classes was 45 per cent in 1930 and 56 per cent in 1956. There has been a continual decline since 1930 of students who graduated in the bottom half of their high school graduating classes, he added.

INDUSTRY PROJECTS SET
Cairo — Industry Minister Aziz Sidky said Tuesday night that agreement with Russia on all 65 industrial projects to be financed by a \$175 million Soviet loan is expected by the end of next month. An Egyptian mission is in Moscow to conclude arrangements for some of the projects as part of a five-year development plan.

Letters Reveal Lana Turner's Love for Johnny Stompanato

Hollywood — Actress Lana Turner's love for handsome Johnny Stompanato was revealed today in torrid letters from the glamorous film star to her underworld Lothario.

And, the person who told the world about the actress and the good-looking Johnny—Mickey Cohen—vowed to find out the "truth" about the slaying last Friday of his ex-boyfriend by Miss Turner's 14-year-old daughter, Cheryl.

Avenging Angel
The 50-year-old, lippy, ex-gambler swaggered onto the spotlighted stage of the drama Tuesday in the role of an avenging angel with knowledge of the correspondence between Lana and Stompanato, 32.

"I'm not through with this mess," the ex-hoodlum said. "Johnny was a friend of mine. I'll find out the truth yet."

Letters from voluptuous Lana to Stompanato were printed Tuesday in a copyrighted article by the Los Angeles Evening Herald-Express. They badly dented Miss Turner's story that it was Stompanato who pursued her—without encouragement—to London and Mexico.

Terms of Love
In them, the blonde actress addressed Stompanato as her "dearest, darling love," "dear lover," "honey pot," "darling Papito," and "daddy darling." The letters were written from various parts of Europe to Stompanato and dated from last fall.

One dated Thursday morning, 7:30 (from Copenhagen), postmarked Sept. 19, 1957, read:

"My dearest, darling love — This is the first letter I do wish it could be bright and brilliant but somehow I'm not quite up to it. Because all I want to write and say is I love you . . ."

Another from London read in part:

" . . . Just this morning your precious exciting letter arrived — and I'm quickly jotting this to you to tell you I adore the way you write and all the truly beautiful things you say to me — so, please, please dearest continue . . ."

"I'll close now love, will write tonight (sic) — have to go to a meeting with dir. writers etc. — know dearest I love you angel — cuigado y bací, bací — hold me dear lover."

Tender Things

And another in part: "Such a lovely day, weatherwise, and yet — so alone — all the little tender, dear things that we usually went thru on Sunday — were somehow missing . . ."

Miss Turner was not talking about the story of her affair with Stompanato. She was reported still under sedation at her Beverly Hills home.

After a conference with her

Tuesday her attorney, Jerry Giesler, said:

Miss Turner will not make any statements, nor grant any interviews, because she will do her speaking if necessary at the inquest Friday."

A full cast was named for the Friday hearing, including Cheryl Crane, the tall, dark-haired girl, who plunged the

McLEOD Farewell Party Given

By CAROLINE L. HARDING
McLeod—A farewell party was given in the Upper Rogue Grange hall Saturday evening, March 29, honoring Master Herb Carlton and Mrs. Carlton. The tables were decorated with Easter baskets filled with flowers. The Carltons were presented with a gift by Harold Barber. About 75 friends and Grangers were present.

The Carltons have moved to Ashland, where they are building a new home.

Robert Busch, who has been confined in a Medford hospital is now home and may receive visitors.

Dale Chapman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vic Chapman, slipped a disc in his back and was taken to Sacred Heart hospital for treatment but is now at home. Dale received the injury while at the smoker held recently in the Prospect gym.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harding were luncheon guests at the home of Mrs. Ralph Ellis in Medford Tuesday, March 25.

Scott Brill, who was injured in the bomb explosion recently at Medford High school, is now able to be around.

Irwin Howe is much better and has returned to his home after surgery in Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Heidinger of Dayton, Ore., were visiting their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Rod Perry, the week end of March 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Ludo Grieve of Prospect have bought a home in Shady Cove and will move into it soon.

Miss Marilyn Fredrickson of Eugene visited her aunt, Mabel Dawson during spring vacation.

Mrs. Katherine Bunce of Rogue River visited with her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Sanderson the week end of March 22.

Mrs. Eva Johnson and Peggy Dean and Cory spent a few days last week with Mrs. Johnston's mother, Mrs. Ann Elliott, in Woodland, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. John Carlton and daughter Jacque, of

razor-sharp, 8-inch butcher knife into Stompanato's abdomen, because she was afraid he would make good his threat to maim her beautiful mother.

Cheryl was ordered held in juvenile hall pending a hearing to determine whether she will be held to answer for the slaying of Stompanato.

Shady Cove, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Netherland of Medford and Mr. and Mrs. Claud Garrett of Ashland all attended their parents' farewell party.

Nick Kobornik of Roseburg was on the panel discussion over KBES-TV last Monday night, March 24. Kobornik is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harding of Trail.

Mrs. Chuck Speciale and children of Portland were house guests of Mrs. Speciale's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mowat Ash, recently.

David Plankenhorn of Ashland has been visiting with his cousin, Jacque Carlton, during spring vacation.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Carter of Lebanon, Ore., celebrated her 100th birthday March 20.



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