

Bomb Rips Religious Colony; Talk With Stranger Overheard

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A cult member, Brother Martin, told deputies that shortly before the explosion he overheard "master" Venta and another brother in a conversation with a stranger in the office of the main monastery building.

The man was wearing shoes and was not a member of the sect because none of them wear shoes, Brother Martin said.

Martin said the stranger was in his early 20s, wore khaki clothes and carried a small canvas zipper bag about 18-inches long.

"I heard the master say 'What do you think I am, a hypocrite?' just before I left the building and in a moment the whole thing exploded," Martin said.

As dawn broke over the desolate scene, some 12 members of the cult, gathered in the consultation room of one of the remaining buildings of the 11-acre colony. They knelt before the throne of their dead master and hummed a prayer of "Love Krishna."

Cult members turn over their worldly possessions to the foundation, which in turn looks after them as long as they remain members of the sect.

Born in San Francisco
Some 100 members live on the 11-acre grounds of the cult which started its colony here half a dozen years ago.

Venta, 47, a tall, lean bearded figure, tells his fol-

lowers that he is the Christ. Venta was born Francis Heindswater Pencovic in San Francisco March 29, 1911, a day he regards as the sacred day.

The chain-smoking mystic has traveled throughout the world studying and lecturing. In 1945 he served briefly in the army.

Los Angeles police records showed he had been arrested in cities throughout the West on charges ranging from larceny and vagrancy to burglary.

At the monastery site he lived with his second wife, Ruth, and their six children. He had two children by his former wife, who divorced him in 1941.

Bus-Truck Crash Kills 2, Hurts 20

Somerville, N. J. (UPI)—Two persons were killed and about 20 injured Tuesday night in the collision of a New York-bound Trailways bus and a pickup truck on an icy road.

Police reported that three persons were injured seriously when the bus, going east on Route 28, swerved into the westbound lane and crashed head-on with a pickup truck at about 8:50 p.m.

Both occupants of the truck were killed. They were identified as Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Dillong, both 32, of Whitehouse, N. J.

Driver George Simons, 37, of Easton, Pa., told police he drove up in back of a truck that had no rear lights. He said he swerved into the opposite lane to avoid hitting the unlighted truck and slammed into the other truck.

Simons suffered a fractured foot and was treated for shock. Five ambulances working in relays took about 20 passengers and Simons to Somerset hospital.



ON DISPLAY—The 1959 Edsel, which is now on display at Medford Motors, 225 South Riverside ave., Medford, offers a selection of 10 models in three series, Ranger, Corsair and Villager station wagon. The Edsel features increased passenger space with no added overall length, reduced total weight and a wide selection of economy engines and transmissions. Shown above are the Corsair four-door hardtop, and the rear of the Ranger four-door sedan.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Ore., Wednesday, December 10, 1958 7

School Bus Ditched; 10 Children Treated
Lawndale, N. C. (UPI)—More than 40 children crowded into a school bus escaped serious injury Tuesday when the bus hit a ditch, plunged down a 12 foot embankment and landed on its roof.

The State Highway Patrol said 10 of the children were treated by local physicians for minor cuts and bruises and were released.

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Ventura county fire officials said there was "no doubt the explosion was caused by a bomb."

Los Angeles and Ventura county sheriff's investigators, and the FBI in an unofficial investigation, began an immediate investigation.

Los Angeles Police Sgt. R. H. Sansing said "it is common knowledge Venta had many enemies. In the course of his travels here and in Europe he managed to acquire many enemies."



FATING HEARTILY, Pork Master, grand champion barrow, is admired by Gerald Anderson, 16, Leland, Ill., who raised it. Gerald also raised last year's Chicago International Live Stock Exposition Poland China champ.

In Serious Condition
The dead and their approximate ages were listed as: Bishop Marlin Baker, 40; Cardinal James Shanafelt, 37; Brother Ellyn James Shanafelt, 11 months; Sister Keela Baker, 7; Bishopess Jean Shanafelt, 38; Sister Anna Noga, 65, and Sister Ethel Reey, 58, and Venta, 47.

Two of the injured, Sister Erma Winfrey, 59 and Sheila Vizina, 8, were taken to Ventura County hospital with serious burns.

A second child, Linda Lee Baker, 9, was taken to Los Angeles County hospital where she was reported in serious condition with burns over 80 per cent of her body.

Mrs. Ruth Lewis, a member of the cult, said the whole building "blew up. Everything was on fire. I managed to get my little granddaughter, Linda, out."

Sister Nekona, who uses only a first name as do the other cult members, said she was in the main building at the time of the explosion.

"Shortly before I went to sleep I heard a man talking to a brother who told him 'You know you are not supposed to be on these premises,'" she said.

Hears Cries for Help
"I woke up to find debris falling on my bed. There was fire everywhere. At first I thought it was testing at Rocketdyne."

North American Aviation's highly secret Rocketdyne experimental testing facility is in the general area.

Mrs. Dorothy Ham, who lives about a mile from the cult, said she was awakened by the explosion and heard "screams and cries for help."



NO USE—Rev. Nobel Streeter, pastor of a Prineville, Ore., community church, is shown during his hour-long telephone conversation with cornered ex-convict Stanley Robinson, in which the pastor unsuccessfully tried to persuade Robinson to submit to re-arrest. Robinson held off police for 10 hours with a rifle, and finally shot himself. Robinson's ex-wife, standing at left, also pleaded with him, to no avail.

Bridges Seeks To Circumvent Law

Reno, Nev. (UPI)—Harry Bridges, West Coast longshore leader, goes to court today in an attempt to get around a Nevada law forbidding his marriage to a pretty Nisei secretary.

The 58-year-old union chief came here with his bride-to-be, Miss Noriko Nikki Sawada, 32, not knowing Nevada forbids marriages between Caucasians and Orientals.

They registered in a \$16 a day suite at the Mapes hotel as "Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bridges, 150 Golden Gate ave., San Francisco." The address is the headquarters of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Bridges and Miss Sawada received the press in their suite Tuesday morning. Bridges was unusually affable, but he appeared worried when newsmen told him about the Nevada law, modeled after an 1884 California law found unconstitutional eight years ago.

Grants Pass Girl 'Democracy' Winner
Eugene (UPI)—Shirley Satterfield, 16-year-old Grants Pass high school student, has been named regional winner of the Voice of Democracy contest. She will compete in the state finals in Salem this month. The winner goes to Washington, D. C., in February where four winners will be chosen for \$1500 scholarships.

EDUCATOR DIES
New York (UPI)—Dr. Donald G. Twksbury, 64, professor of education at Teachers College of Columbia University, died Monday after an illness of several months.

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Blast-off station launches rockets high into air!
Turn crank to fire either 6 1/2" rockets or 4 1/2" satellites from steel launching base with authentic design. Radar scanner turns to track "sky". **2.98**

Fanner 50 gun, holster for the fastest draw on the block!
As shown on TV's Micky Mouse Club. Bullet-loading 5-shot cap gun in cowhide holster plus 18 metal play bullets. For the junior "Marshall." **4.98**

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Exciting action toy for ages 6 mos. to 2 yrs. **1.98**

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Vinyl basket with handles, full of baby things! **2.98**

Sale! Rose Christmas lights
Only at Wards! UL approved
24 red or pink plastic 2" roses fit over miniature bulbs. Clear bulbs are 12" apart on 30' cord. Replaceable bulbs; add-on plug. 24-light set! **5.98**

Doll stroller has canopy to keep doll in shade!
Parade dolly in comfort and style! Has 11x10" seat, chrome trim, PLUS detachable canopy and shopping bag! Will delight any doll, and little mother! **6.95**

Cuddle this 11 1/2" Tiny Tears, she drinks, wets, cries
Cries real tears! Dressed in cotton romper, has rooted hair. Layette has pajamas, booties, pacifier, bottle, sponge, washcloth, soap and Kleenex! **7.98**

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52-GAME CHEST YEAR-LONG FUN!
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SUB-MACHINE GUN SPARKS, RECOILS!
Battery-run, looks, sounds real. Fast action! **2.98**

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Red cellophane with hanger, electric candle. **69¢**

DELIGHT DOLLY WITH 23" BUGGY
Canopy keeps her in the shade! **9.95**
Silver.

1.98 DOLL BATH WITH DOLL
Adorable doll plus tub, pail, 15-pc. set. **1.66**

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