

Pattern of Twisted Motives Unfolds in Religious Bombing

Chatsworth, Calif. — (UPI) — A pattern of twisted motives began to emerge today explaining why two former religious cult members carried out a murderous bombing which claimed 10 lives, including their own.

"We will make him (Krishna Venta, the cult's leader) deliver a public statement that he isn't what he claims, that he is not the Lord, that he is immoral, hypocritical and untruthful."

The words were spoken by the two former members, Ralph Muller, 33, and Peter Dumas Kamenoff, 42, into a tape recorder only a few hours before they had a showdown meeting Tuesday with Venta which ended in the deaths of the two men, Venta and seven other persons, including two children, at the Fountain of The World colony in a small canyon near here.

Slaves of Master

"The people are slaves of the master, he holds them in bondage," the recordings left by the dead men said.

"He doesn't practice what he preaches," the voices said. They also accused Venta, 49, self-appointed messiah, of being immoral with two women, including Kamenoff's wife, and of making trips to Las Vegas and gambling with the cult's money.

Members of the group turn over all their worldly goods to join and wear long robes, no shoes and allow hair and beards to grow.

"We have dedicated our lives to this mission, and whatever may come. This may be our last night in this world. We are leaving this recording because we want people to know our motives," the tapes said.

The men used 20 sticks of high potency dynamite to flatten the main building in the cult's colony where about 70 members and their children lived. Most of the members were sleeping in another building when the bomb exploded.

Sister Christi, a member of the cult for three years before leaving to get married last summer, offered a simpler reason of what motivated Muller and Kamenoff — jealousy.

Trouble in Alaska

In a copyrighted interview with the Los Angeles Examiner, Sister Christi said: "It was a case of jealousy, I think, a suspicion of infidelity."

"I guess Kamenoff was angry at the master for ordering him to leave his wife."

"Muller and Kamenoff were with us when we all went to Alaska to begin a colony. About 35 other members of the group live at the Alaskan colony."

"About a year later, I think Kamenoff's wife came up to join us."

She said that about a year ago Kamenoff slapped his wife and she went to Venta to complain. Kamenoff was ordered to leave the colony.

"He complained, I guess, but he went. And with him went Muller. They went to Denver, I think. That's the last I saw of them."

"But we heard from them often. We kept getting letters. They said they were thinking of starting a new fellowship and they urged us to join."

Muller was described by friends as a moody man who believed his friend Kamenoff had been done an injustice by Venta.

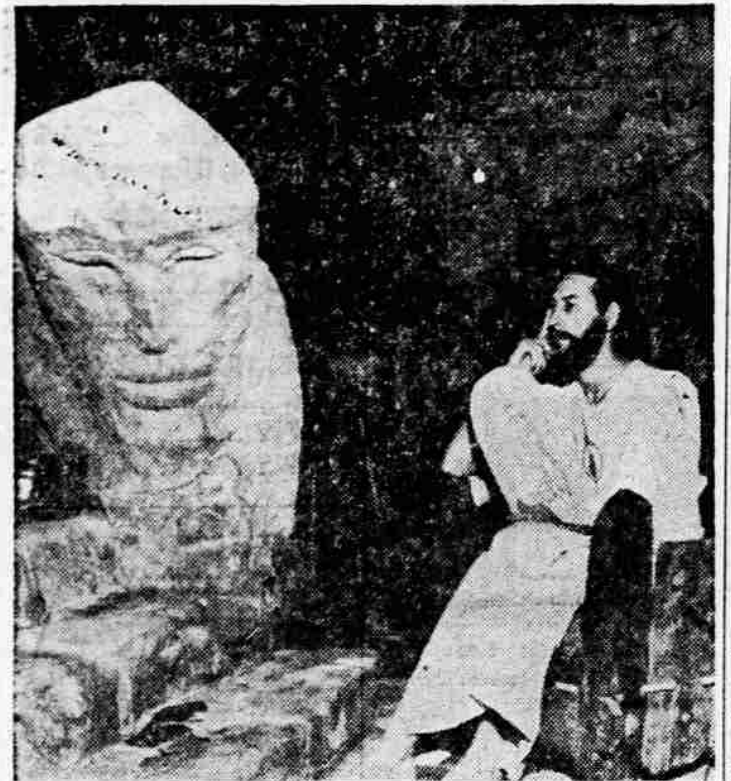
Venta's wife, Mother Ruth, who was at the Alaskan colony at the time of the bombing, returned here Thursday and said she thought it possible Muller and Kamenoff might have been pushed to committing the bombing because of a guilt complex involving \$2,000 they allegedly kept in violation of the cult's rules.

She said the men earned the money in Alaska as wages for helping fight a large forest fire there shortly before they left the group. They failed to turn the money over, she said.

Mother Ruth said the group which dedicates itself to helping during disasters such as floods and fires would meet to elect a new leader and Board members since four of the board members had been killed in the explosion.

She said she did not mourn the physical loss of her husband.

"He is still here in spirit. He died on the cross 1,900 years ago and was resurrected. He possibly will be resurrected again."



LOS ANGELES CULT BOMBED—An explosion and fire totally destroyed the headquarters of the Fountain of the World religious colony near Los Angeles, killing 10 persons, several of them children. The blast occurred at about 2 a. m., while most of the victims were sleeping. Among the missing and believed dead was the leader of the cult, Krishna Venta, here shown in a file photo of 1952.

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\$9⁹⁵



HEAVY SNOWFALL—Oswego, N. Y., has been nearly paralyzed by a four-foot fall of snow, which piled up drifts as deep as 20 feet. These two girls find themselves in a regular canyon of snow bounding this shoveled walk.

Banker Tells How Embezzling Acts Began To Pile Up

Los Angeles — (UPI) — "Thank God it's over!" the 39-year old bank cashier sobbed.

"It was so easy," said Lynn Franklin Arnett. "At first I started taking just small amounts but they kept piling up and skyrocketing. I always intended returning the money but things just got out of hand."

Arnett explained with emotion how he stole an estimated \$216,000 from the First National Bank of Orange in nearby Santa Ana over the past several years.

It was the third major shortage of bank funds disclosed in less than a month within the Los Angeles area.

The Sun Valley National Bank is nearly \$1 million short as the result of an involved worthless check cashing scheme in connection with which 13 persons have been arrested. And two bankers have been charged with embezzling \$280,000 from the Bank of Belmont Shore.

Arnett told authorities Thursday after his arraignment on embezzlement charges that he had started a bowling alley shortly before going to work for the bank in 1950.

The bowling alley lost money and Arnett said he found he couldn't support his wife, Phyllis, and their three children, twins Beth and Beverly, 15, and Robert, 13, on his \$275 monthly salary from the bank.

Pulled Ledger Sheets

He had little trouble covering up the stolen funds, he said. "You could tell when the examiners were in the bank," he stated. "All I did was pull some ledger sheets to make things balance out."

FBI agents said an investigation of the bank's records began Wednesday when an employee happened to notice an irregularity in one of the accounts. The investigation was completed Thursday with Arnett's arrest.

Three Vehicles, Horse Involved In H99 Accident

Three vehicles and a horse were involved in an accident on Highway 99 on Blackwell hill north of Central Point about 1:45 p. m. yesterday, according to state police.

Police said vehicles were operated by Joseph Edward Cox, 24, of Grants Pass; Dean Clark Steinbach, 21, of Wenatchee, Wash., and Gray Harrison, 30, of Portland.

Both Steinbach and Harrison attempted to pass Cox's pickup truck at the same time, state police said. Steinbach's car struck the side of the Harrison car, pulled back into the outside lane, struck the rear end of the pickup truck, officers reported.

A horse in the rear of the Cox pickup broke loose and jumped onto the hood of the Steinbach car.

Officers Hunt

Officers said the horse was not seriously hurt. Minor damage resulted to the Harrison and Cox vehicles and the Steinbach car received hood damage. No citations were issued.

In a second accident yesterday, two cars were damaged at the intersection of Beall lane and Highway 99, state police reported.

The accident occurred about 9:46 p. m. when cars driven by Ola Gladys Bennett, 48, of route 2, box 666, Central Point, pulled out of Beall lane in the fog ahead of a car driven by Violet Marie Leroy, 27, of 212 Glen Way, Central Point. The Leroy car struck the rear end of the Bennett car, police said.

No injuries were reported and no citations issued state police said.

Lana's Daughter To Stay With Grandma

Santa Monica, Calif. — (UPI) — Cheryl Crane, 15, daughter of actress Lana Turner, is making good progress and will remain in the custody of her maternal grandmother for at least six more months.

Superior Judge Allen T. Lynch said Thursday a review of the teen-ager's case since she killed her mother's lover, Johnny Stompanato, with a butcher knife last April 4, showed she was doing well.

She will remain a ward of the court while in her grandmother's custody, Lynch said.

Neither Miss Turner nor Cheryl's father, restaurant owner Stephen Crane, objected to Cheryl remaining with Mrs. Mildred Turner, the grandmother.

More Space Money Believed Needed

Washington — (UPI) — The National Space Administration indicated today it plans to ask the new Congress for at least another \$45 million to help speed the nation's space programs during the current fiscal year.

A space administration spokesman told United Press International that the agency's officials have had no apparent change of heart about the \$45 million that Congress shaved from their first budget to make it about \$300 million.

However, he declined to give any hint of whether the space administration's budget request for fiscal 1960 would match the more than \$500 million called for Thursday night by chief counsel George J. Feldman of the House Space Committee.

Explorers Attempt Atlantic Crossing By Using Balloon

El Medano, Tenerife, Canary Islands — (UPI) — Four adventurous English explorers took off from here today on the first attempted crossing of the Atlantic ocean by balloon.

Their balloon, the "Small World," rose into the air before daybreak and within an hour had disappeared over the horizon. It was flying the Union Jack.

Over Southern Seas

Two hundred well-wishers braved the early morning cold to cheer when the balloonists, three men and a girl, took off on their 3,000-mile journey along the same southern sea path blazed by Christopher Columbus.

The leader of the group was Arnold "Buzzy" Eliot, 51. He told newsmen before stepping into the car slung beneath the balloon he hoped to land "somewhere between the British Honduras and British Guiana sometime within the next one to three weeks."

Eliot's companions are his son Timothy, 21, a radio and weather expert; Colin Mudie, 32, a naval architect and designer of the balloon's basket-boat, and Mudie's wife, Rosemary, 30, a pretty artist, photographer, second pilot and cook.

To Act as Boat

The gondola of the balloon is designed to act as a boat in case the balloon falls at sea. A weather report indicated the adventurers would have northeasterly winds for 500 miles. The expedition had been delayed for several days by changeable winds.

Only the northeast trade winds will do. That is the same wind that filled the sails of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria when Columbus sailed across the Atlantic in 1492.

A recent market survey of paint dealers and consumers found that three out of every four homes in the South are painted white.

'Playhouse 90' Succumbs To Inevitable; Presents Program on News Event

By WILLIAM EWALD

New York — (UPI) — Ever since "Kraft Theatre" sank in the Titanic a couple of semesters back, there has been a steady TV traffic in the recreation of actual events.

"Climax" bumped off Albert Anastasia last season and "Playhouse 90" knocked off Josef Stalin this season. I seem to remember, too, Lincoln getting shot again in a CBS-TV spectacular and such tidbits as the burning of the Hindenburg, the journey of Hurricane Diane and even the dispatching of Rasputin, the mad monk.

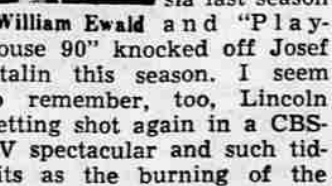
Succumbed to Inevitable

It was inevitable, I suppose, that TV would get around to a tasty event like the 1929 St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago in which seven associates of one "Bugs" Moran were sent to their heavenly reward or reasonable facsimile thereof. Thursday night, CBS-TV's "Playhouse 90" succumbed to the inevitable.

Whether the resulting vehicle "Seven Against the Wall," was a drama is perhaps open to dispute. It seems to me it more closely resembled a piece of reportage with dramatized parts, whatever that means. But its classification is not too important.

What is important is that much of the 90 minutes was pretty fascinating stuff, particularly the opening portion of the show which struck me as hard and crunchy. And despite a certain amount of sag around the middle when the program's "matter-of-fact" approach began to sound a little like a parody of itself, I would say it remained fairly absorbing.

I counted a cast of 44 and



William Ewald

UAR GRADUATES FLIERS

Cairo — (UPI) — Fifty-two cadets graduated from the United Arab Republics air force academy Thursday in ceremonies attended by President Gamal Abdel Nasser. His younger brother, Rashid Nasser, was one of the graduates.

A special green paint has been developed for spraying on grass that has turned brown. It won't rub off and it won't track.

A while I got the wild feeling that he was imitating Sid Caesar. The principal star, of course, was Franklin Schaffner, who directed the play with wondrous skill.

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