

# 'Second Messiah' Cult Leader Accused of Illicit Love Affairs

Chatsworth, Calif. — (UPI) — Bearded, berobed cult leader Krishna Venta who in life described himself as a sec-

ond Messiah, was accused in death yesterday of illicit love affairs with some of his ardent women followers.

The accusation was revealed by James H. Mulvey, special agent in the state attorney general's office. The accusers were two former sect members who carried out a murder-suicide bombing pact in which they blew up the Fountain of the World monastery, killing themselves, Venta and seven of his followers early Wednesday.

Mulvey said Ralph Muller, 33, and Peter Kamenoff, 42, made a 20-page accusatory statement against Venta, 47, less than 36 hours before the bombing.

Former members of the cult, they wanted Venta's activities curbed, Mulvey said.

**Without License**  
They charged that Venta practiced medicine without a license, performed marriage ceremonies without authority, and allowed at least one cult member to die for lack of proper medical treatment.

The pair went to the monastery, authorities said, carrying a lethal package of 20 dynamite sticks in an attempt to make Venta publicly confess wrongdoing.

Because Muller and Kamenoff were killed in the explosion, Ventura county coroner Virgil Payton at first said there would be no inquest. But yesterday he said there might be an inquest after all.

**New Circumstances**  
Payton said there were "new circumstances" surrounding the case but he refused to discuss them or their possible relations to the former disgruntled sect members — Muller and Kamenoff.

In their visit to the attorney general's office, Kamenoff, who spoke broken English, said:

"When we went on our forest fire fighting he (Venta), whenever he chooses, he sleeps in the car. He takes one of his disciples, a sister, and sleeps with them."

**Cold-Blooded**  
Kamenoff said the so-called "master" said he was cold-blooded and needed a companion to keep him warm.

Mulvey had asked if Venta had had relations with any under-age girls and Kamenoff said there were few girls of that age in the cult. He added, however, that Venta had relations with some young girls who later left the colony.

Muller corroborated Kamenoff's charge against Venta whose real name, on police records, was Francis Pencovich. He had been arrested

for offenses ranging from larceny to vagrancy and once was involved in a non-support case with his first wife.

His second wife, known as mother Ruth, by whom Venta fathered six children, defended him against the charges by Kamenoff and Muller. She said she had the backing of the 60 cult members in describing her husband as a "misunderstood man of high moral value."

## Study, Smoking Age Requirement Lowering Urged

Salem — (UPI) — The 1959 Oregon legislature will be asked to lower the compulsory education age from 18 to 16 years, and to lower the age limit on smoking to 16.

The Legislature Interim Committee on Judicial Administration will make the recommendations.

Circuit Judge Ralph Holman, chairman of the committee's juvenile code subcommittee, said strong support for lowering the compulsory education age has come from teachers.

Judge Holman noted an anti-social reaction is produced in some youths forced to stay in an environment where they do not fit, such as school for older children.

He said the committee favors lowering the age on smoking because the present age limit of 18 is often held up to ridicule. The proposed law "might get some enforcement below that age," he said.

The committee also has proposed to abolish the state curfew law. He said the present law "means absolutely nothing."

Another committee proposal defines authority to take juveniles into traffic and municipal courts but gives juvenile courts discretion to handle traffic cases if individual judge desires.

The report on recommendations was made before Oregon's supreme court and circuit court judges in the closing session of the two-day state judicial council meeting in Portland Friday.

Filling a hospital room with ionized air has been found to reduce greatly the pain of patients with severe burns and to eliminate the need for large doses of narcotics.

## Seaton Calls Hells Canyon Site Fraud of Century

Honolulu — (UPI) — Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton charged Friday night that the Hells Canyon site in Idaho for a proposed federal dam was the "fraud of the 20th century."

"Not one acre of irrigated land has ever been directly connected with it," he said.

Seaton, speaking to the final dinner meeting of the 12 western states Republican Conference, cited the proposed Idaho reclamation project as the type of political issue Republicans must "hammer away at" to win back voter confidence in 1960.

The secretary said the Idaho project would cost the taxpayers of America nearly 600 million dollars, exclusive of any damage claims paid to the Idaho Power Company.

"Nonfederal development of the same stretch of the same river, which already has begun, will produce roughly the same results in power production and all the flood control needed in that area — and it costs the taxpayers nothing," Seaton said.

## Ice, Fog Hamper Crews Restoring Power, Telephone

Pendleton — (UPI) — Telephone and power company crews, hampered by continuing ice and fog, worked around the clock yesterday to restore power and telephone service in northeastern Oregon, in a wide area north of Pendleton.

Crews totaling nearly 50 men worked to repair downed power lines in the 40-mile stretch from Cold Springs to Weston, while phone company crews worked to restore lines between Walla Walla, Wash., and Pendleton.

The downed power lines affected service in Helix, Athena and Weston. PP&L Line Superintendent Piper Kari said crews were working intently to restore power to ranches and homes of the area.

He added that crews, from Pendleton and Hermiston in Oregon, and Yakima, Sunnyside and Toppenish in Washington, would work through the weekend in an effort to restore power and keep it flowing. One trouble, he said, was that when lines were restored, crews had to keep doubling back to scrape new ice from them, done by use of ropes.

## 'Sun Blinded' Driver Kills State Flagman

Winchester Bay — (UPI) — Fred Earl Younans, 63, Winchester Bay, was killed near here Friday when struck by a car on Highway 101.

Younans, who was a state highway flagman, was directing traffic from the center

lane of the three lane highway when struck by a car driven by Lewis Everette Poague of Reedsport. Poague told officer Edward Bakke of the state police that

he was blinded by the sun and did not see Younans standing in the road.

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