

California Youth Held in 6 Slayings During 19-Day Spree

Miami — (UPI) — Once started, killing came easy to 17-year-old Dennis Whitney. He shot his victims in the head because "it seemed like the logical place."

The red-haired youth snuffed out six lives and critically wounded a seventh in a 19-day spree that started in California and ended on a weedy Florida sand dune fronting the Atlantic.

Whitney was captured Saturday and readily admitted to three murders in the Miami area. Then he stunned authorities Sunday with the statement: "I might as well clean 'em all up."



DENNIS WHITNEY Killing Came Easy

Details Crime

He ticked off the details of how he killed three other men in robberies as he traveled from California to Florida.

Whitney, who has been in minor troubles since he was 10, started his killing after he left home at North Hollywood, Calif., last month.

He said he killed a service station attendant in a robbery at Victorville, Calif., because "I was broke and hungry."

He said he killed another service station man at Tucson, Ariz., and a Negro man who befriended him in Phoenix, Ariz. He hitched a ride to Miami and killed two service station attendants in robberies because "I couldn't get a job."

He wounded another man critically and then slew a woman whose car he stole to break out of a south Florida dragnet.

Breaks Down Once

The youth's moods flitted back and forth as he detailed his crimes.

He was truculent as he told detective Warren Holmes: "I planned to kill maybe a dozen or so."

But when police took him to the scene of one of the men he killed here they said, "he put his head in his arms and blubbered for two or three minutes. It was the first and only time he broke down."

He was contrite when he told reporters Sunday night: "I don't think I intended to kill. I don't feel too good about it."

But his voice was cold when he told why he shot all his victims in the head: "It seemed like the logical place."

He dropped his head and seemed afraid when he talked about what might happen to him.

"I figure I'll either get the chair or life in prison," he muttered. "I've thought a lot about what the electric chair would be like. I suppose I would go to hell."

Prosecution To End Motherwell Case

Downieville, Calif. — (UPI) — The prosecution was expected to end its case today when the Larry Lord Motherwell trial opens after a three-day recess.

The remaining prosecution witnesses are expected to attack Motherwell's statement that he never was in Marysville, Calif., before Aug. 14, 1958.

That was the day he registered at a motel there with Mrs. Pearl Putney, 72, wealthy Washington, D. C., widow. A year and a day later bleached bones — identified as those of Mrs. Putney — were found in a mountain forest near here.

Defense attorney Jack Reges has indicated that he will take three or four days to present his case.

Missile Project Slated in Idaho

Mountain Home, Idaho — (UPI) — Ground was to be broken today for a mammoth construction project in the desert near here that will put nine Titan missiles into the nation's operational arms system.

Gov. Robert Smylie was scheduled to turn the first spadeful of earth for the \$28,899,000 project at ceremonies near Orchard. The construction of the complexes will take 18 to 24 months.

Each of three complexes will house three Titans with one spare. The complexes will be built in Elmore and Owyhee counties.

The number of men needed to maintain a missile squadron on a round-the-clock alert has not been revealed, but estimates place the number at about 700.

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Malheur Water Outlook Improved

Vale, Ore. — (UPI) — The outlook for irrigation water supplies in Malheur county has improved considerably since Feb. 1, and now ranks between fair and average, it was reported today.

W. T. Frost, snow survey expert with the Soil Conservation service, said snowfall and rain during February were above normal. He said water content of the mountain snow pack in the eastern Oregon area averages 92 per cent of normal and 134 per cent of the total at this time last year.

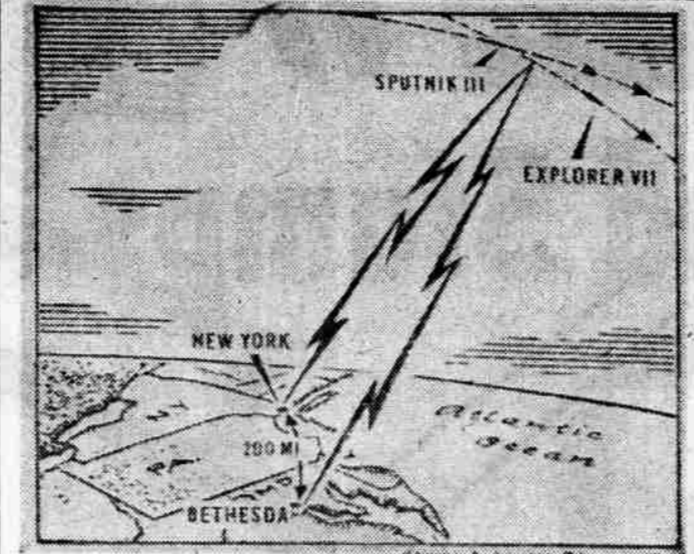
Frost added that the presence of low-elevation snow cover this year contrasts strongly with its absence last year.

Moisture in watershed soil has improved especially at lower elevations where rain fell or snow melted on unfrozen soil, he said.

Flow of the Owyhee river is forecast at 53 per cent of normal for the March-July period. Flow of the Malheur river is forecast at 74 per cent of normal.

Frost said the "normal" figures were for the 15-year period from 1943 through 1957.

Tokyo — (UPI) — A six-man Japanese team returned today from a two-month Himalayan expedition in search of the "abominable snowman" in Nepal. Expedition leader Teizo Ogawa reported the team brought back evidence that members believe "the snowmen really exist."

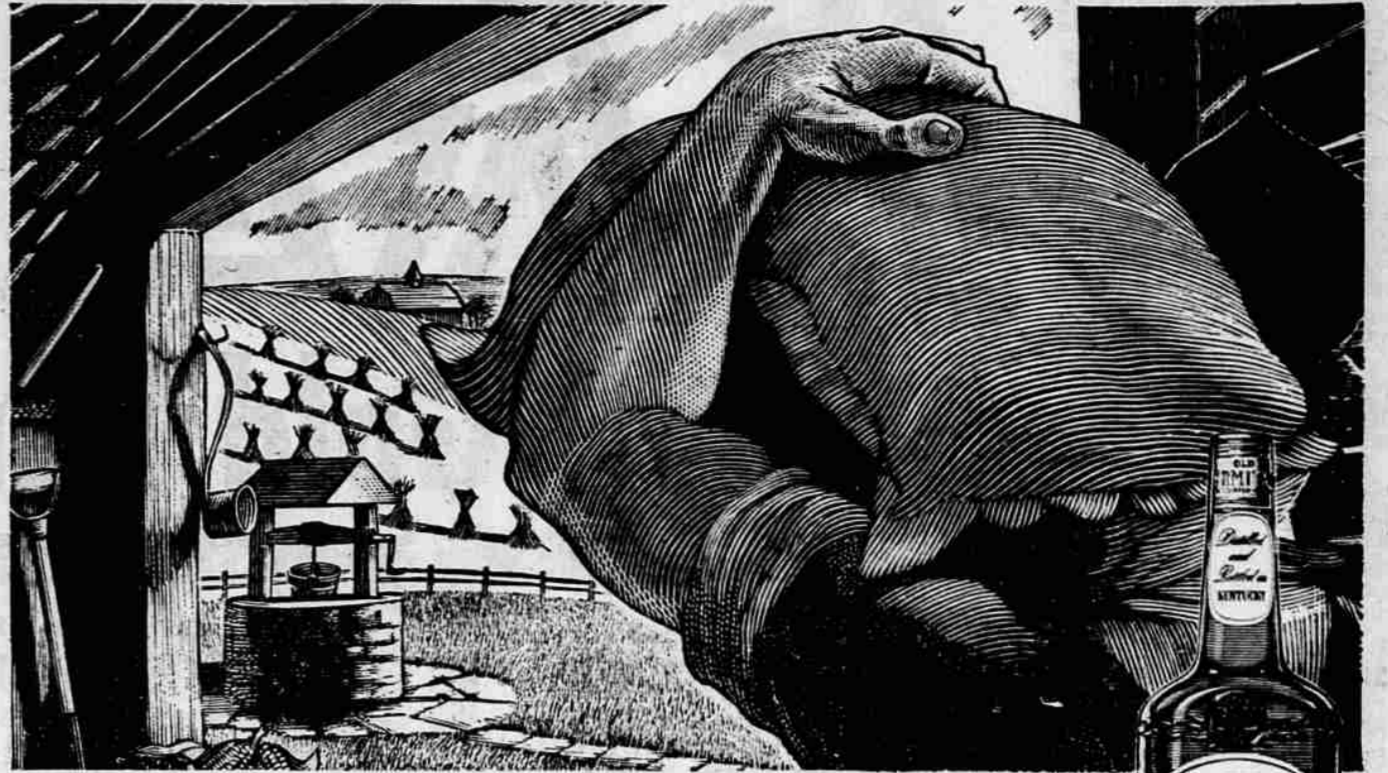


HAM SIGNALS BOUNCED — Ham radio operator Perry Klein, 17, left, top photo, of Bethesda, Md., bounced signals from earth satellites to communicate with a fellow ham operator, Rafaei Soifer, 17, right, top photo, of New York, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology freshman. M.I.T. reported that the youths had accomplished what the best scientists and equipment had failed to do when they made radio contact between Bethesda and New York. After more than 100 observations during the past two years, the youths made contact by bouncing radio signals from U.S. Explorer VII satellite and Russia's Sputnik III as they passed almost simultaneously in low orbit over the Atlantic coast. The lower photo shows an artist's sketch of the paths of the satellites at the same time the contact was made.

—(UPI Telephotos)

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