

# Kidnaping, Murder of Polish Boy Remains Unsolved Crime

Warsaw — (UPI) — On Jan. 21, 1957, a tall, good-looking school-boy was met by two men as he left his classes, climbed into a taxi with them, and was never seen alive again.

Now more than three years later, despite rewards and such novel techniques as broadcasting tape recordings of the kidnapers' voices, Polish police remain baffled by the country's most mysterious postwar crime.

The boy was Bohdan Piasecki, 16-year-old son of Boleslaw Piasecki, "the richest man in Poland," who became wealthy running the Communist puppet church organization "Pax."

The time was one of political ferment in Poland. Only the previous day Roman Catholic Poles, with the tacit approval of Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, had elected a parliament with a strong majority for the Communists led by Wladyslaw Gomulka, who had returned to party leader-

ship in the peaceful revolution of October, 1956.

The breath of freedom from the harsh shackles of Stalinism was blowing strongly over the country and the hated symbols of the era of terror were being swept away.

One of these was "Pax" the organization reportedly set up by former Soviet security police chief Gen. Ivan Serov.

When Piasecki's son disappeared, the then-free-swinging Warsaw press was quick to draw political inferences.

Some implied the boy had been spirited away to the Soviet Union or Canada, for protection and to build sympathy for Piasecki and the "Pax" organization. Others said the motive was revenge for "Pax" activities, or for Piasecki's prewar anti-Semitic activities.

Piasecki had been involved in pro-Axis Fascist organizations in Poland before World War II. But during the Nazi occupation of this country, he fought against the Germans.

He was captured by Soviet troops in 1944, but was released within a few months and began profitable publishing operations.

**Nationwide Search**

The kidnaping set off a nationwide search. Telephone calls—which police recorded on tape—demanded a ransom of 300,000 zlotys (\$12,000 at tourist rate) and 4,000 U.S. dollars in cash. Piasecki agreed to pay but the kidnapers failed to pick up the money.

Police found the taxi driver, who told them his two passengers had identified themselves to the boy as "secret police" agents. He said the boy accompanied them willingly and all three were driven to the Central Courts building and entered it.

The taxi driver was held for questioning, released, and then taken into custody again about 18 months later, on undisclosed charges, at a time when he was planning to emigrate to Israel.

There the trail ended. For nearly two years, the "Pax" newspaper *Slowo Powszechne* ran a picture of the boy daily, with a plea for information and offers of reward.

**Body Discovered**

But on Dec. 8, 1958, the pictures abruptly stopped. The next day police announced the body of Bohdan Piasecki, his school books beside him, had been found in a disused basement locker under a grocery shop 200 yards from the Central Courts.

The knife with which he had been stabbed to death was still in his body. Medical experts believed he had been killed within a few hours of the kidnaping.

The tragic discovery convinced most doubters that the boy's disappearance had been a simple, brutal case of kidnaping for money, without political implications.

But it failed to move the mystery nearer a solution.

In the more than a year that has passed since the body was found, police arrested a Polish laborer and accused him of sending ransom notes to the elder Piasecki. But after weeks of interrogation, police said, they became convinced the man knew nothing of the crime and had only been seeking money.

The police also broadcast the tape-recordings of the telephone demands for ransom, which they believe were the voices of the real kidnapers.

**Numbers Supplied**

Regional stations all over the country carried the recordings of the harsh voice putting out the terms for the boy's safe return.

The public prosecutor's office supplied telephone numbers where any Pole who believed he recognized the threatening voice could pass on the identification to detectives.

But the dramatic bid for public help failed. All leads given by helpful listeners proved futile.

Recently, as the third anniversary of the kidnaping passed, police said grimly the file remained open on the country's greatest unsolved crime.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 3  
Wednesday, Mar. 16, 1960

## Conductors Air Strike Vote

Cedar Rapids, Iowa—(UPI)—J. A. Paddock, president of the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen, said Tuesday that the union's executive committee later this week will decide whether to call a strike vote against the railroads.

Paddock, Cedar Rapids, said "chances are" a strike vote will be called, but there were a number of other things being considered.

He indicated that the fact the engineers union has arranged for arbitration of its dispute with the railroads will have an effect on whether the union would vote on a strike.

"The conductors and engineers have been tied closely on wages and it seems logical that a decision in that field will have an effect on our dispute," he said.

He said he thought his union and the railroads were making progress last week in face-to-face negotiations, but he wasn't sure now. He said it is possible they may begin negotiations again soon.

## Nixon Urged To Start Campaign

Washington — (UPI) — Senate GOP campaign chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said today he has urged Vice President Richard M. Nixon to "get out and campaign" against attacks by Democratic presidential candidates.

"I don't think the vice president can wait until after the Republican convention to start his campaign," Goldwater said in an interview. He said he would like Nixon to speak at some state Republican conventions.

Goldwater said that Nixon has not given a final answer to his request for more direct campaign activity between now and the July 25 GOP convention in Chicago.

But Nixon's office told United Press International there has been no change in his announced intention to participate in none of the presidential primary campaigns and to stick mainly to his job in Washington.

## SAG Refuses To Permit Film Work

Hollywood—(UPI)—The Screen Actors Guild has refused to grant its permission to actors to return to work on eight films left unfinished when the actor's strike began March 7.

"The guild will not allow the eight pictures to go back into production until negotiations have proceeded to a point where the guild is assured of an equitable deal," said SAG Executive Secretary John L. Dales.

"This point has not yet been reached."

His statement Tuesday brought a halt to optimistic reports that the strike was near settlement.



### Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

**Here's a Look at The World of Germs**

It takes several generations for a man to live his lifetime; about 75 years, more or less. A dog makes it in about 10 or 12; a common hen does it in five, and she has to be lucky at that. Fruit flies and a few other insects can accomplish this undesirable goal in a matter of a few days. Some insects, with more speed than good sense, live a lifetime in a single hour.

But the smallest of living organisms, the germs and microbes, are gifted with speeds far beyond even the very speedy superperson variety, and can generate several generations in an hour. Some of these undesirable characters become great-great-grandfathers before they are 10 minutes old. To them, extreme old age seems to be a matter of seconds.

**Twist in Two**

They accomplish this phenomenal speed of reproduction by literally twisting themselves in two. Each microbe becomes a pair of identical twins in a few seconds. These twins grow, almost like an explosion, and redivide times without number. Here is a problem in multiplication that can be called division.

These little demons are called micro-organisms, micro meaning small, and organisms signifying living beings—meaning tiny living things. Mostly, people call them germs; it's the same thing. There are germs of two principal kinds—plant and animal. Those of the nature of plants we usually call bacteria. These are divided roughly into three kinds; round, rod-like and spiral. They are the ones that cause decay.

Up until scientists began prying into the private lives of these little demons, most people believed them to be microbes and that they just grew, like Topsy, in a sort of spontaneous way. First they "were not there, then they were." Of course, in this Lilliputian world there are many that seem to be pretty valuable and essential citizens, that do a great deal of good.

They make possible the growth of plants, the digestion of food in animals, and the elimination of waste materials. But, like automobiles when they get out of control, they can cause no end of trouble.

All the encouragement the microbes and the bacteria need is warmth and moisture, a little of the right kind of food, and they begin to divide. Away they go until the body

that harbors them becomes sick, and possibly dies if the numbers of the little demons cannot be controlled. They can always be depended on to over-do a good thing.

**Knocked for a Loop**

Medical science has been literally breathing down the backs of many of these tiny culprits for some time, and has forced some varieties of the most obnoxious ones to a standstill. Sooner or later many other varieties will be knocked for the proverbial outside loop.

No other living thing in the world thrives better in warm moist darkness than a microbe. Sunlight makes puny weaklings of them or kills them outright, but the trouble is sunlight does not travel around corners or shine brightly inside a pair of lungs, or a stomach or a throat.

These inside dwellers have to be treated otherwise. Medical science has been onto some of the tricks and, in many instances, has found where one microbe will battle another microbe to the finish; sort of like "sending a thief to catch a thief" formula. So the men of science began "choosing sides" by organizing teams of microbes known to be friendly against opposing teams of enemy microbes.

By placing them in contact they can benefit by the silent struggle that takes place; using microbes to fight microbes, but doing this on our own terms and at the time and place of our own choosing.

**(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)**

**4-H Club News**

**Table Rock Pack Rats**

During the course of the first two meetings of the Table Rock Pack Rats 4-H club, we elected officers and planned our projects.

The first meeting was at Mary Myers, our assistant leader's home. Officers were elected as follows: president, Pat Striplin; vice president, Aletta Myers; secretary, Carol Myers; and reporter, Glenna Brown.

The second meeting was held at the home of Pat Striplin. Miss Norma Hague was in attendance and helped us with some of our problems.

Glenna Brown, Reporter.

**Phoenix Saddle-lites**

The Phoenix Saddle-lites held their regular meeting recently at the home of Bonnie Holmes. Final plans for the forthcoming horse exhibition at the Crater Lions' Sportsfair were decided upon.

A committee was appointed to put a display, advertising the horse exhibition, in Walt Young's stationery store. Signs were also placed in Lamport's Sporting goods and Gibson's Saddlery. The committee members were Edna Welch, Marty Graham, Janet Young, Susan Griffin and Sharon O'Connors.

A swimming party was planned Sunday, March 20, at Twin Plunges. Tentative plans for a ride after the Sportsfair were discussed.

Refreshments were served by Bonnie and Mrs. Holmes. Sharon O'Connors, Reporter.

**EXPAND JET SERVICE**

London—(UPI)—Moscow radio announced that expanded summer airline schedules will put Soviet jets in service to 18 national capitals April 1.

East Meadows, N.Y. — (UPI) — Abraham Ornstein, 105, a cantor in New York City who retired in 1933, died Sunday.

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