



Anastasia Mystery May Be Solved By Trial in Hamburg

Editor's note: Did the Grand Duchess Anastasia, youngest daughter of Russia's last czar, escape with her life when Bolsheviks murdered the royal family in 1918? Several claims to the title have been made, among them that of Anna Anderson, above, who has fought for 40 years to prove she is Anastasia. The mystery may soon be solved, for her claim will be considered soon by a Hamburg, Germany, court.

By W. M. H. VAN OKKER
Written for UPI

Is Anna Anderson Anastasia? When the strange and tragic case of Anna Anderson who, sick and penniless, has fought for 40 years to prove she is Grand Duchess Anastasia, youngest daughter of Russia's last czar and sole survivor of the Bolshevik slaughter of the rest of her immediate family, goes to trial in Hamburg, Germany, the mystery of the century may be solved and Anastasia officially recognized as Her Imperial Highness.

Becomes a Legend
Because of the play and movie, Anastasia has become a legend and her story an unsolved mystery. People are surprised to learn she is a real person, alive and still fighting for recognition.

Even the story of execution of the Russian royal family, prisoners of the Bolsheviks since the St. Petersburg uprising more than a year before, is known only to history students, memory of it having faded for most people.

It was during the middle of the night of July 16-17, 1918, in the cellar of a house in Siberia, that the czar, his family and others - arranged as for a family portrait - were slain by their Red guards.

The czar was seated in the center, the czarevitch, a hemophiliac, was seated on his right. Dr. Eugene Botkin, the czar's personal physician stood next to him. The czarina was seated behind and between the czar and czarevitch. The four grand duchesses were grouped about the czarina. A lady-in-waiting, a manservant and the chef stood against a wall behind the family and doctor.

They were murdered by their guards as a White Russian Army advanced, threatening the Red Army of Siberia and the liberation of the royal family.

As the death cries of the victims ceased in that cellar filled with the sickening smell of gunpowder and blood, one of the grand duchesses rolled over and screamed. She was hit on the head with the butt of a rifle and stabbed with a bayonet.

The bodies were wrapped in blankets, carried out of the cellar and laid on the ground to be loaded on lorries and taken to an abandoned mine pit to be burned. There are documents to establish this.

Body Disappeared
There also is evidence that the body of one of the grand duchesses disappeared and that the Bolsheviks carried on a house to house search that night, a search that spread during the following days, weeks and months to all surrounding country dominated by the Bolsheviks.

Unbelievable except to those who know that anything can happen is Anastasia's story of her rescue and escape in an ox-drawn turnip cart from Siberia to Romania that took six months.

Equally fantastic is the story of the birth in Bucharest of her son, fathered by her peasant rescuer, her marriage to the peasant and the death of the peasant in Bucharest, the placing of her baby in a Bucharest orphanage, and her perilous trek to Berlin hoping to reach her mother's sister,

Princess Irene of Prussia. Then followed her desperation and attempted suicide at 18 in a Berlin canal, her story in an asylum and then the beginning of her long fight to prove her identity.

Story Unbelievable
This story is no less unbelievable than the intrigue and what lay behind it of those closest to Anastasia who allegedly recognized her and then denied it. It is a story that if true, is unbelievable to

naive people schooled in traditional moral values.

In the play and movie, Grandma, mother of the murdered czar, dowager empress of Russia, who had escaped to Copenhagen during the revolution, goes to Anastasia in Berlin in 1926, and, in an enigmatic climax, recognizes Anastasia.

In real life Grandmama, a Danish princess by birth, did not go to Berlin.

Prince Valdemar of Denmark, her brother, sent a letter in July, 1925, by Alexis Volkov, the murdered czar's groom-of-the-chamber, to Herluf Zahle, Danish ambassador in Berlin. Volkov with Zahle went to see Anastasia.

After this visit Grandmama sent Anastasia's former nurse-governess and two tutors to Berlin. Finally she sent Grand Duchess Olga, her daughter, sister of the late czar and Anastasia's aunt.

Each of the above allegedly recognized Anastasia. But after Olga's return to Copenhagen and several warm let-

ters to Anastasia there was a silence.

Volkov, the nurse-governess and the two tutors made a statement in 1926 saying they had not recognized Anastasia. Zahle, believing Anna Anderson was Anastasia, continued his investigation for 18 months on his own before turning it over to the head of a Russian refugee organization, Serge Botkin, a cousin of Dr. Botkin who was murdered with the royal family. Zahle's confidential files will be opened at the trial.

Good Case
Anna Anderson has a good case with a backbone. Dr. Otto Reche, dean of German anthropologists, appointed in June, 1959, to study the case, says Anna Anderson is Anastasia.

The court action is a civil suit filed in December, 1957, for property in Germany belonging to the late czar. The Royal House of Hesse (Anastasia's mother was Princess Alix of Hesse before she married Nicholas II of Russia) is Anastasia's opponent in this action. The House of Hesse claims Anna Anderson is

Local People to Attend Convention

More than two-thirds of the Medford congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses plan to join 800 to 1,000 delegates in the "Seek Peace and Pursue It" convention in Klamath Falls April 15 to 17.

Speakers from the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society's headquarters in New York will be featured. They include Lester M. Dugan, district minister, serving the West coast area.

The keynote address will be "Seek Peace and Pursue It" at 7 p.m. Friday. The concluding address, "Perfect Love Throws Fear Outside," will be Sunday evening. Morning, afternoon and evening sessions Saturday and Sunday will be

Francisca Schanzkowskii, a Polish peasant.

Anna Anderson is not Polish, she is not a peasant, she is not an impostor, she is not a lunatic. She is a human being. Who is she? Anastasia?

devoted to Bible talks, discussions, and demonstrations during the convention. There will be a baptism of new ministers on Saturday.

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OSC Students Make \$145,000 in Positions

Corvallis—More than \$145,000 was earned by Oregon State college students at jobs found through the college employment service last year to set a new earning record.

Mrs. Rose Duthie, employment secretary, said 2,039 men and 493 women found work through her office. Of these, 386 men and 185 women had a steady cash job.

The increase in the population of Corvallis, and the opening of new business ventures have kept pace with the increase in college enrollment, and the greater number

of students needing work, Mrs. Duthie reported.

The minimum rate of pay has remained at \$1 an hour for yard work and similar jobs. However, many employers are paying \$1.25 for this type of work and feel the student workers are worth it. Pay for skilled and semi-skilled labor has been from \$1.50 to \$2 an hour.

Business firms, offices, restaurants, and residents of Corvallis and the surrounding communities have been most cooperative in employing the wives of students, Mrs. Duthie said.

However, the increase in the enrollment of married men the past year or two has resulted in a surplus of trained workers and in many cases the wives had to accept any kind of employment available.

Committee Heads Named by Council

The names of committee chairmen of the Medford Safety Council for the coming year were announced at the April meeting Friday at the Rogue Valley Country club.

The committees and the chairman of each are Berry Bigham, awards; Dr. William J. Thompson, legislative; Greg Orr, budget and program; Russ Jamison, publicity; C. D. (Swede) Larson, membership; Elliott Becken, school patrol banquet; Officer Jack McMillan, traffic; Berry Bigham, T. Man; Sheriff Joe Walsh, water safety; E. M. Fahwell, industrial.

Ralph Matthews, president of the citizen safety organization, noted that anyone interested in serving on the various committees should feel free to contact the chairman for more information on the activities planned.

Ross Gilkinson Elected by Masons

Portland - UPI - The new most illustrious grand master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Oregon is D. Lynn Woodson of Portland.

Woodson was chosen Tuesday during an assembly at the Masonic Temple here.

Others elected included: Arthur Kriever, Albany, deputy grand master; Theo Roaks, Salem, grand principal conductor of work; Herman R. Husen, Reedsport, grand captain of guard; Edward Norton, Eugene, grand marshal; Ross Gilkinson, Medford, grand sentinel, and L. C. Smitten, Pendleton, grand steward.

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