

Police Press Hunt For Killer in Case Of Basement Grave

San Francisco—(AP)—Police intensified their search for a woman murder suspect today after her two grandchildren with whom she had been seen recently, were found wandering on an Oakland, Calif. street.

Oakland police said the two youngsters were picked up Tuesday afternoon as stray children. Efforts to identify them and find their parents led to the connection with Mrs. Iva Kroeger, 44, wanted as a suspect in the slaying of two persons whose bodies were uncovered in basement graves here.

Seen With Children
Police were combing the East Bay area where the children were found. Other reports said Mrs. Kroeger was seen with the children in San Francisco last week end. They were reported to be the sons of a Florida man who was Mrs. Kroeger's son by a previous marriage.

Oakland police said the children were identified as related to Mrs. Kroeger through pictures. They were being cared for at the Oakland Juvenile Hall but officials there declined to give their names or ages.

Mrs. Kroeger's husband, Ralph, 61, was booked on suspicion of murder. He denied any knowledge of how the bodies of a Santa Rosa, Calif., couple were buried under concrete in his basement.

The body of Jay Arneson, 70, a semi-invalid, was found in the modest Kroeger home Monday night. Late Tuesday, police found another decomposed body in a steamer trunk buried a few feet from the spot where Arneson's remains were discovered.

Strangled with Belt
Coroner's deputies said Arneson apparently had been strangled with a belt which was found about his neck. They were analyzing the remains of the second body today to determine whether it was that of Arneson's ex-wife, Mildred, 58.

The Arnesons, who had been friends of Mrs. Kroeger, vanished six months ago from the motel they operated at Santa Rosa, Calif., where they lived in separate rooms after divorce.

Police said the Kroegers, using the name "Long," subsequently took over operation of the motel.

A warrant was filed for Mrs. Kroeger by the FBI charging her with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution in another case. A warrant seeking her for assault with a deadly weapon was issued in Santa Rosa in May of this year after she threatened a bill collector with a gun.

Mrs. Kroeger was seen last in a neighborhood department store Friday.

Boarded Bus
She had with her a blond boy about three years old and said she was caring for him for a neighbor. The woman and the boy were reported to have boarded a bus toward downtown San Francisco.

A chance remark by a construction worker, Walter Hughes, 38, led to the discovery of the bodies in the Kroeger home. He was questioned by police and released.

Hughes casually remarked to another Santa Rosa motel operator, Mrs. John Dodge, that he had driven Mrs. Kroeger and Arneson to Mrs. Kroeger's home last January—and had dug a hole in the basement floor there "for some plumbing" at Mrs. Kroeger's request.

Mrs. Dodge recalled that Arneson had been missing since mid-January and called Santa Rosa authorities, who alerted San Francisco police. They entered the Kroeger home with a search warrant Monday night and found Arneson's body one hour and 45 minutes later.

Mrs. Arneson was seen for the last time Dec. 15, when she had a deed on her property notarized—supposedly as collateral on a loan of \$10,000 to invest during a projected South American trip.

Police said the deed subsequently was recorded by Mrs. Kroeger, under the alias, "Long."

California Man Receives Plaque From AETA Group

Eugene—The American Educational Theatre Association's Citation of Merit Award Plaque, highest honor bestowed by the group, was given this week to Samuel Seldon, head of the department of theatre arts at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The award and several others were made at an awards luncheon held on the first day of the 26th annual AETA convention at the University of Oregon. The luncheon followed the opening session of the convention.

Seldon served as president of the association in 1960. He has written more than 50 articles on the theater for leading national and foreign theater periodicals, and has written, or had a part in the writing of, 11 books.

Before assuming his present position, Seldon was chairman of the department of dramatic arts at the University of North Carolina, and was Director of the Carolina Playhouse.

Delegates Welcomed
Oregon Gov. Mark O. Hatfield welcomed delegates to Oregon at the first general session. Another speaker was Miss Peggy Wood, president of the American National Theatre Academy. Arthur S. Flemming, president of the university, gave the keynote address.

Noting the convention theme of "theatre of distinction," Dr. Flemming praised the group for criticizing mediocrity, and admonished delegates to "help build lives that are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence."

He blamed the willingness on the part of some educators in the past to settle for mediocrity for two big weaknesses today: inability to communicate effectively with one another, and the lack of creative energy and original thought.

"I believe that those who have devoted their lives to educational theater can make contributions which can lead to the substitution of excellence for mediocrity," he said.

Sequoia Singers Entertain Rotarians
The Sequoia High school madrigal singers from Redwood City, California, entertained members of the Medford Rotary club Tuesday at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Members of the talented group, featuring the romantic style singing popular in England during the Shakespearean era, presented the program at a luncheon meeting. They are currently appearing at Ashland during the Shakespearean Festival.

Youngsters who won special honors during the city recreation baseball program this summer were presented trophies by John Kovenz, Medford High school baseball coach and head of the summer baseball clinic here.

Those who won awards were Steve Cox, Jack Mullen, Rick Lewis, Mike Farthing, Brad Thompson, Dick Bottinger and Bruce Bertrand.

Checking Auto Good Idea For Motor Trip
New York—(AP)—Before you begin an interstate motor trip, be sure your automobile liability insurance meets with the laws of the states you plan to visit, the Insurance Information institute suggests.

Such a check is particularly advisable if your itinerary includes Canada or Mexico.

GERMS FIND OIL
New York—(AP)—Oil Facts, a publication of the American Petroleum Institute, reports that a newly patented system uses certain bacteria which thrive on methane gas in the search for new oil deposits.

Decisions Studied In ROTC Research

By APRIL W. STONE
United Press International
Washington—(AP)—The first of a four-part study of man's decision-making ability was completed here recently.

The initial phase of the program involved 202 Air Force ROTC cadets and took 18 months to complete at the Catholic university of America here.

The cadets were subjected to a multitude of personality and intelligence tests and then given the "decision-making ability test," a series of numerical problems, each requiring a decision.

The number of "good," "fair" and "foolish" decisions made by each subject was scored and this data was related to his "personality" as determined by earlier personality and intelligence tests.

Subjects were classified as (1) fast deciders, (2) intermediate decision speed and (3) slow deciders. They were also rated as (1) high anxiety and (2) low anxiety.

Findings Told
The Catholic university reported these major findings: "Snap" decisions are usually bad decisions. Subjects who consistently made "good" decisions were those who used all the time available before signifying their choice.

Intelligent persons make better decisions. It was found that individuals with a high degree of intelligence were capable of absorbing and evaluating more information in a shorter time than the average.

Vocations are unrelated to decision making ability. No relationship was found to exist between a man's occupational interest and his ability to make decisions.

Four Airmen Test Reaction To Bright Light
San Antonio, Tex.—(AP)—Anyone who has ever looked at an exploding flash bulb and then tried to read his watch can sympathize with four U.S. Air Force volunteers helping in space flight research.

They participated in initial experiments by eye specialists at the U.S. Air Force Aerospace Medical center to determine how long it takes for a space pilot to read his controls after being temporarily blinded by the sun.

Capt. Sanford L. Severin of the ophthalmology branch at Brooks Air Force base tested four volunteers by dazzling them with a flash of light.

It then took the volunteers six to 30 seconds to regain sufficient vision to see small blinking lights on a testing machine. There were variations according to the intensity of the flash and the brightness of the test lights.

Face Situations
Severin's report said astronauts and pilots face many situations where they have to discriminate details of a dimly illuminated object shortly after exposure to a more highly illuminated field.

"The pilot of a high performance jet bomber must be able to read his instrument panel even if exposed to the flash of a small atomic weapon," he said. "And as astronaut who is dazzled as his space craft enters the bright portion of the orbit must retain visual discrimination."

Severin warned "if instruments cannot be read during a critical phase of the mission, the results may be disastrous."

He said the experiments on two flight surgeons, a pilot and a staff ophthalmologist prove the reliability of testing equipment. Results also proved that recovery from dazzle is consistent and repetitive.

Severin said more experiments are needed to clearly define the ability of a person to recover from a dazzling flash.

Forest Service Laboratory Opens At Oregon State

Corvallis—(AP)—The U.S. Forest Service's new half million dollar Forestry Sciences laboratory opened formally today at Oregon State university.

The functional wood building was dedicated in ceremonies attended by officials representing the university, state, forest service and lumber industry.

The structure is the first unit of a laboratory that ultimately will cost \$1.5 million. Surrounding a courtyard on three sides, it contains an insect research wing, a plant disease research wing, and an administrative wing. Its staff of 35 includes 24 forest scientists.

Directed by Robert W. Cowlin, the laboratory's program will include research in forest economics and management, forest utilization, fire prevention, watershed management, range, wildlife and recreation.

The laboratory and the university will cooperate. Those taking part in the dedication included OSU President James Jensen; Dr. George Jemison, deputy assistant chief for research, from the Forest Service, Washington, D.C.; Charles R. Holloway Jr., vice president of the state Board of Higher Education; and Clarence W. Richen of the Western Forestry and Conservation association.

The laboratory will have an initial operating budget of about \$300,000 a year. When additional units are built, the laboratory will be a \$1,500,000 research center with an annual budget of about \$650,000.

The laboratory will be operated by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service.

MUSHROOMING

New York—(AP)—Big business soon may make the mushroom as familiar on the dining table as potatoes and tomatoes. The Borden company and other major concerns have recently acquired mushroom plantations with a total capacity yield of one million pounds a year. U.S.

output this year is estimated at nearly 132 million pounds, up six million from last year and triple 30 years ago.

More than six million germs can be carried by the common house fly.

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