

Woman Commits Suicide To Escape Murder Charge

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — A beautiful Alaskan blonde, charged with murder in the slaying of her wealthy husband, has removed herself from the jurisdiction of the courts by taking a lethal dose of sleeping pills.

Now a Negro musician, who claims he was her lover, faces trial alone on the murder charge in Alaska next month.

Police said Mrs. Diane Wells, 31, swallowed 30 powerful sedative tablets and died in her room at the Hollywood Plaza Hotel Tuesday.

The distraught woman came here last Jan. 22 for health reasons after being released on \$10,000 bail.

She had been arrested in Seattle on a grand jury indictment after she left Alaska.

She and jazz drummer Johnny Warren, 33, are accused of murdering her husband, Cecil Wells, 51, wealthy Fairbanks auto dealer and former president of the Alaska Chamber of Commerce. He was fatally shot in the Alaska city last Oct. 17.

SAID BEATEN
Mrs. Wells had contended that she was beaten senseless by two men who broke into the Wells' Fairbanks apartment and her husband was killed before she regained consciousness. She said

tained facial bruises and blackened eyes.

Warren, free on \$5,000 bail, said he and Mrs. Wells had had a love affair, which she denied. She maintained she was innocent of the shooting.

Warren was arrested in Oakland, Calif., where he told police that at a Fairbanks club Mrs. Wells' eyes "led me to believe she might appreciate attention."

Detectives said Mrs. Wells, without luggage, checked into the hotel here Monday evening.

Officers found a note reading: "For one thing, I am guilty, too, for ever seeing Warren, and if Warren is guilty... one thing is for sure, Cecil is dead. And I must be the cause of it, one way or another." The note was signed with a "D."

NOTE TO FRIEND
On a writing desk beside the body was an incomplete note, addressed to "Bill." It read:

"I had 20 of them. (Apparently referring to sleeping pills) 20 in my bra. I'm happy and relaxed. It was not —"

One of the friends who identified the body was William Columbian, formerly of Alaska. He evidently was the "Bill" in the note.

Still another note was found in an envelope addressed to Columbian and read:

"Thanks for being such a loyal and wonderful friend since my trouble. I mean it. And especially thanks for going out of your way so much for Mark (her son). I won't need this on my last trip. God bless you."

Police said another note was addressed to Mrs. Ruben Tate of Seattle and asked her to "Please raise Mark as your own."

ESTATE ESTIMATED
An attorney for the Wells estate said Marquand, 5, the son, will receive an estimated \$200,000. Much of the estate, valued at about \$500,000, will go to children by previous marriages. Diane was Wells' fifth wife.

When Columbian identified the body, he was accompanied by Mrs. Joan Mansfield, who told officers that Mrs. Wells had lived with her for a time here.

After learning of Mrs. Wells' death, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Edna Westbrook, left Fairbanks by plane to take custody of the Wells' youngster, who is in a nursery school here. Wallace Aiken, attorney for the Cecil Wells estate, also is flying here from Seattle.



MARY ANN KIRKPATRICK, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Kirkpatrick, 1981 Harman, is completing her Air Force basic military training course at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

U.S. Army Retrains GI Offenders

KAUFBEUREN, Germany (AP) — Hundreds of young American soldier convicts are making good at a "second chance" U. S. army camp here in southwest Germany near the Austrian border.

Convicted in courts — martial throughout Europe for lesser offenses, they are sent here for rehabilitation and retraining instead of to prison or bounced out of uniform in disgrace.

The Army says 8 of 10 soldiers sent here are returned to normal military duty. Their average age is 21.

Kaufbeuren's prisoners have been convicted of such offenses as absence without leave, misappropriation of Army vehicles, disrespect for superiors, insubordination or drunkenness.

They have been sentenced to confinement of up to six months. Some have been meted out bad conduct or dishonorable discharges, but these are suspended when they come here.

The soldier convicts live in the same type of quarters and eat the same foods as other U. S. soldiers in Europe. The Kaufbeuren center

looks much like any other military post in the American zone of Germany.

But the Army's provost marshal in Europe, Brig. Gen. J. P. Holland of Chicago, Ill., says there's "no pampering or silver spoon or kid glove handling of the trainees."

"It's a tough retraining program," he declared.

Then he added—perhaps with a memory of the brutal Army stockade in the novel and film "From Here to Eternity": "There's nothing in this retraining program remotely resembling some of the

widspread misconceptions of life in an Army confinement facility. The men are sent to the rehabilitation center as punishment for some breach of law, but they're not—and I emphasize this—sent there for punishment."

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Waldport Drown Victim Found

WALDPOR (AP) — The body of Henry Kling, 24, who drowned with three others in a Jan. 2 boating accident on Alsea Bay, was recovered Tuesday.

The bodies of the three other victims, Lyle Marion Kling, Alton R. Kling, and Loren McWhorter, were recovered earlier.

Their boat capsized while they were en route from Waldport to a logging job on the other side of the bay.

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JAPANESE VISIT

TOKYO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent landed in Japan to a plush welcome Wednesday on his goodwill tour of the world.

Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida greeted the white-haired Canadian as a guest of state at Haneda Airport.

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Rose Festival Day Changed

PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland Rose Festival floral parade, traditionally held on Friday morning, will be on June 12, a Saturday, this year.

The children's parade, usually held on Saturday, will be Friday, the Rose Festival Association announced.

Plans for this year's stadium shows include the appearance of Gloria Krieger, the 1951 festival queen. Miss Krieger, a singer, now is under contract to Columbia Pictures in Hollywood.

COURT MARTIAL

TOKYO (AP) — M. Sgt. Maurice L. Schick will be tried by court-martial Tuesday for the slaying of 9-year-old Susan Rothschild, an Army colonel's daughter, the Army announced Wednesday.

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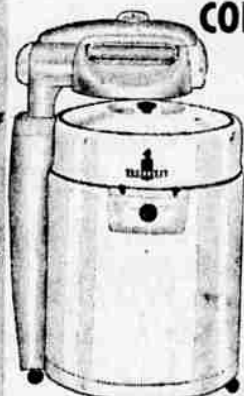
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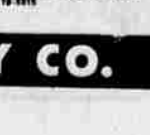
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