

Actress Slain, Police Report

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Actress Helene Jerome was strangled to death, police say.

The nude body of the 50-year-old woman was discovered Wednesday in her room in a Hollywood hotel. Police believe a prowler entered the room through a broken window.

Her estranged husband, character actor Edwin J. Jerome, found the body after a room clerk reported her phone off the hook. An autopsy was performed yesterday.

RICKOVER MEDAL OKAYED
WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Eisenhower signed a bill Thursday authorizing the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee to confer a gold medal on Rear Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, "father" of the atomic submarine.

Gals Want To See Western Hero Capture The Heroine

By DOROTHY ROE
Associated Press Women's Editor

Women are sick and tired of staring night after night at TV westerns where the fellow never gets the girl, says Helen Ainsworth, Hollywood's only woman movie producer.

"Women want romance," says Miss Ainsworth, who started out as a talent manager and now is producing under her own banner, in partnership with her client, actor Guy Madison. "Any fool should know that, but I guess it takes a woman to make it clear to the sponsors and networks.

"Even the actors are getting fed up with all these rootin'-tootin' Westerns. Why for eight years, starring in these rough, tough, he-man shows, Guy Madison hasn't kissed a single girl—on camera, that is."

Miss Ainsworth, a hefty blonde with a sentimental smile, is pretty proud of her distinction of being the only woman producer in America's film capital. Says she: "I'm just naturally emotional,

but I think it takes some of that to get some heart into movies. Of course you have to have plenty of tough business sense too. After all, movie production is one of the country's biggest businesses. But it can't be all business.

"For instance, when I take on a new client, I'm not only his business manager, but also practically a nursemaid, confidante and mother.

"Actors are sensitive people, and you have to handle them carefully. Build up their confidence, keep them ticking."

Among Miss Ainsworth's discoveries are such stars as Carol Channing, John Raitt, Howard Keel and—of course—Guy Madison. Her first TV commitment under the new production company will be a weekly series starring Madison in a romantic period role.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



'OKAY IF I TAKE MY GRUB OUT UNDER THE STARS, MA'AM?'

Best Way To Become Star Is To Lose Beauty Contest

By JAMES BACON
AP Motion Picture Writer

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—It's nice to win a beauty contest but it's better to lose—if you want to become a movie star.

The history of beauty contest winners has been dismal in Hollywood. Take Vera Miles, who lost out in the Miss America contest some years back. Even she can't remember the name of the girl who won the year she entered.

In the recent Miss Universe contest, Evy Norlund as Miss Denmark wasn't one of the five finalists. Yet she is the only one of the 79 international beauties who wound up with a movie contract.

Max Arrow, talent director at Columbia Pictures, watched the telecast of the Long Beach beauty pageant. It was a miniature screen test for the 20-year-old Evy.

Arrow had a look at another beauty contest loser a few years ago. He took her to the late Harry

Cohn and urged that she be signed. That was Kim Novak.

He has the same feeling about Evy—also a blonde. She's getting the same buildup that Kim got four years ago. Columbia even fixed her up with a room at the nearby Studio Club, the SWCA-like habitat that Kim called home even after she reached stardom.

Evy's selection for a contract indicated a trend in Hollywood beauty, especially as it relates to box office. A few years ago, every new starlet signed by a studio could roughly fall into two categories. Either she was a Marilyn Monroe type or a Grace Kelly type.

Evy, a shapely blonde with an intriguing accent, is a Scandinavian. She's a blonde, like the category is a blending of the Kelly-Monroe types with that added something that only foreign girls have.

Evy had no dramatic training before Columbia signed her. The daughter of an architect, she was

Sportsman Files For Divorce

RENO (AP)—A legal notice appearing in a Reno newspaper today disclosed that wealthy sportsman James L. Stack Jr. has filed divorce action against movie actress Wanda Hendrix.

Miss Hendrix and Stack, brother of actor Robert Stack, were married in June 1954.

Stack's divorce action was secretly filed Aug. 13. Two days before, his wife was taken to Cedars of Lebanon Hospital at Los Angeles after a collapse her attorney said was caused by an attempted reconciliation with Stack.

Miss Hendrix was treated for emotional collapse and released a few days later.

a top fashion model in Copenhagen when she won out over several hundred girls for the Miss Denmark title.

"I didn't think I would ever get to the United States as a tourist but here I am under contract to a big movie studio. It's incredible," she said.

But then, how many tourists look like Brigitte Bardot?

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Pair Seeks Trial Halting

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—John W. Powell and his wife Sylvia are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to halt their trial on charges of sedition. The trial is scheduled to start Sept. 22 in federal court here.

Mrs. Doris Brin Walker, Powell attorney, said a petition asking a writ of mandamus or prohibition had been dispatched to the court's clerk in Washington and to Justice William O. Douglas.

The Powells are charged with printing false reports that U.S. forces made germ warfare attacks on Communist China during the Korean War. They published the China Review in Shanghai.

Mrs. Walker said the petition contends the sedition charge is without basis since the Korean conflict was fought without a declaration of war by Congress.

The U.S. Court of Appeals here rejected substantially the same appeal here last month.

Television Quiz Winner Hates 'Personality' Tag

By CHARLES MERCER
NEW YORK (AP)—Charles Van Doren detests being described as a "personality."

"I'm a person," says Van Doren, who received an NBC-TV contract after his intelligence, character and manner made a tremendous impression on viewers last year in the course of winning \$129,000 on Twenty-One.

"I teach and I write and I appear on television in various capacities. I have a contract with NBC that will run two years more and I don't want to be a white elephant to the network. I'm from New England and I want to earn my pay."

This week Van Doren is substituting for Dave Garroway on the Today show. In a couple of weeks he'll return to Columbia University and resume teaching English literature. In November he'll publish an anthology of letters entitled "Letters to Mother."

Exactly what he'll be doing on NBC during the coming season is uncertain at the moment, but Van Doren hopes he'll be working in the area of news features.

Some time ago Van Doren decided that the television field where he could be most useful was news. Characteristically inclined to go to the heart of any matter, he went to the office of Robert Kintner, president of NBC.

"I told him what I wanted to do," he said. "and Mr. Kintner said, 'Fine. We'll send you to Tokyo for some news experience. I was rather startled. My wife was pregnant (their daughter Elizabeth was born July 2) and I asked Mr. Kintner if I could take her to Tokyo too. He said, 'Sure,' and to check out with Bill McAndrew (vice president) in charge of NBC news. But Bill McAndrew said they didn't need anybody in Tokyo. The best place for experience, he said, was Washington."

The five weeks Van Doren spent in Washington for NBC this summer as a cub television reporter he considers one of the most profitable times of his life.

"When I went there," he said, "I was pretty worried as to whether they'd think I was a dilettante or interloper or a publicity crazy guy. But the people there accepted me on exactly the terms I wanted: as a beginning reporter. I asked millions of questions and everybody always was helpful."

Edward Kletter, a vice president, said: "We have implicit confidence in the integrity of Jack Barry and Dan Enright. We have been associated with them for eight years. Our present contract has another year to go."

Hogan, nominated for the U.S. Senate this week at the Democratic State Convention in Buffalo, said his investigation of TV quiz shows has uncovered nothing thus far to warrant grand jury action.

"I am convinced that we have a lot more digging before we can suggest anything serious here," he said, adding: "I won't think in dimensions not etched out in evidence."

Hogan did not disclose what Stempel told him. But the latter has been quoted in newspaper stories as saying, after he won \$50,000, he was ordered to miss a question "any schoolboy could answer."

Van Doren, who went on to win \$129,000 after beating Stempel, said: "I'm sad and I'm shocked. I don't know what to say except that I thought I won honestly."

At no time, Van Doren said, was he coached or tutored or was any pressure put upon him.

'Rigging' Charges Denied By Quiz Show 'Twenty-One'

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Broadcasting Co. and producers of the Twenty-one television quiz show deny charges by a contestant that the program was rigged.

Herbert Stempel, who won \$50,000 on the show, contended he was coached on the answers before he went on the air and then was told to miss a question which enabled Charles Van Doren to eliminate him.

Dist. Atty. Frank S. Hogan confirmed that Stempel's testimony brought the show into the TV quiz program probe, touched off by a complaint of a contestant on the Dotto show.

Jack Barry and Dan Enright, producers, issued a statement saying Stempel's charges were "entirely spurious and malicious."

NBC issued a statement simultaneously, terming the accusations "utterly baseless and untrue."

The network said it learned of them over a year ago and an investigation turned up nothing to substantiate them.

Later Pharmaceuticals, Inc., makers of Geritol, sponsor of the show, said it had not been aware of any complaints made about the program.

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Non-Striker Said Beaten

PORTLAND (AP)—Reported threats of violence and the beating of a non-striker were under police investigation today in the aftermath of an unauthorized strike last week at the American Can Co. plant here.

Harold Bradley, Portland, told police he was beaten by a fellow worker for refusing to join the wildcat strike which was not sanctioned by the United Steelworkers Union. Bradley underwent minor surgery Thursday for treatment of a broken nose and a serious cut over his right eye.

Police arrested Daniel Stoller, 27, Portland, on a charge of assault and battery after Bradley signed a complaint. Stoller also is employed at the plant.

Several of the hourly paid workers who remained on the job during the strike have reported telephone threats, police said. One man said a threatening note was pinned to his front door.

The walkout occurred after the company laid off three employees as a disciplinary measure. The dispute was settled last week and work at the plant resumed.

Video Actress Divorces Mate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marjorie Miller, 23, an actress on TV's Dragnet series, has divorced her husband she says "showed me no love or affection for more than a year."

The blonde actress testified yesterday she and TV director John Florea, 42, separated last May. They were married in Tacoma, Wash., in 1953. A property settlement approved in Superior Court gives her \$400 monthly alimony.

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