A Collection of Burbank Murders and Mishaps

From the pages of the *Los Angeles Times* 1890 to 1983
SHOT BY MISTAKE.


DETAILS OF THE SAD TRAGEDY.

Shot by Deputy City Attorney W. E. Denny while Clear Hunting.

The Los Angeles Times (1886-1922); Dec 8, 1890; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987); pg. 3
PRISONER DROPS FROM FAST TRAIN.

HANGING by his hands from a car window, an escaping prisoner rode nearly five miles on a train running forty miles an hour near Burbank yesterday morning, and then, unable to hold on longer, he dropped to the ground.

Throughout most of the perilous ride every effort was made to rescue the man from his position, and at the same time recapture him; but owing to the certainty that he would have been thrown under the wheels of the train if he were seized, he was allowed to drop. That he was not killed is surprising; but he probably escaped with a severe shacking-up and many bruises.

When the south-bound Southern Pacific express train No. 8 arrived at San Fernando shortly before noon yesterday, five hours late, it was boarded by Constable Peter Lopez with three prisoners who had been sentenced to the County Jail for thirty days each for malicious mischief, consisting of the burning of railroad ties. All of the men were of the hobo type, and as their offense had not been serious, the officer did not guard them as closely as he would have done had they been charged with felony. He took them into the smoking car and allowed them the freedom of the car. That any of them would attempt to escape never occurred to him, because he knew that the train would not stop until River Station in Los Angeles was reached, there being no passengers for Burbank, the only intermediate station.

Soon after the train left San Fernando, one of the prisoners went to the closet and locked himself in. The officer waited for his return, but when he did not appear, Lopez began looking for him. Trying the closet door he found it fastened, and he was unable to get any response to his repeated rapping on the door. It then occurred to him that the man had escaped, and rushing to a window he looked to see whether the closet window was open.

The first thing he saw when he opened the window was his prisoner hanging outside the train, within a few feet of him, but out of his reach. The officer then went to the platform, intending to seize the prisoner from the lower step, but when he got there he found that although he could just reach the man, to have caught hold of him and released his hold upon the window would have certainly resulted in throwing him between the coaches and under the wheels, so fast was the train moving. It was impossible to enter the closet.

The man realized the danger of his position, and pleaded with the officer and others on the steps not to touch him, as that would mean his death. He had expected that the train would stop at Burbank, and intended to drop off as it slowed up, but it did not stop there, and it was impossible for him to hold on until the train reached this city. He hung there as long as he could and then dropped. He was seen to roll clear of the track into the grass and weeds alongside of the right of way, and after the train had passed he was seen to get up and limp across the track in the direction of the San Fernando wagon road, which was only a short distance away at that point. Lopez brought his other two prisoners to this city and lodged them in jail. They call themselves Joseph Thompson and J. C. Bourgire.
POISONOUS MISTAKE.

BURBANK, July 2.—Capt. White, who owns a fine ranch south of town, narrowly escaped death by taking carbolic acid by mistake for saltpetre of ammonia. He discovered his error in time to avoid swallowing more than a little of the acid, so that beyond a severely burned mouth, no damage resulted. It is perhaps not generally known that the only antidote for carbolic-acid poisoning available is the saving of life, in case the acid is swallowed, is common epsom salts, which should be immediately given in teaspoonful doses, well diluted, and often repeated until the doctor arrives.

UNLUCKY DRIVER.

Miss Flora Fairburn, who was injured in a runaway a few months since, was again the victim of a similar occurrence yesterday afternoon. The horse took fright and ran, and the cart striking a tree by the roadside, Miss Flora was thrown violently to the ground, and dragged some distance, sustaining internal injuries that may prove serious.

BURBANK BREVITIES.

It is the intention of the Burbank Cooperative Association to open its dryer the 10th inst. The crop will be the heaviest in many years. The cannery at Tolucan will begin packing about the same time.

The Burbank Building Association has just completed extensive improvements on its brick block here. Theaters' Hall has been entirely refloored and papered throughout, and all of the numerous rooms in the building upstairs, as well as all of the stores below, have been painted and papered. It is expected to furnish accommodations for the influx of workers at the dryer. A hotel will be opened about the 10th inst. in the block.

President G. D. Radcliff of the association has completed his census of the fruit crop now in sight and finds it to double that of any former season. Rev. Drummond McCunn writes from his ranch at Hemet, where he is passing his vacation, that the fruit crop there is exceptionally heavy. Mrs. McCunn and the children are visiting her mother, Mrs. Thompson, at Beaumont.

B. H. Ingram and family of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., occupy the Powell residence on Olive avenue.

J. H. Weber and family, long residents here, have moved to their Los Angeles home on West Eleventh street.

Rev. L. S. Spring, pastor of the First Methodist Church at Santa Paula, passed through here yesterday en route to his old home in Nebraska. Mrs. Spring and the children will visit her sister, Mrs. Thomas Story, during his absence.

Miss Susan Breaze, who has been the guest of Mrs. P. R. Moore, has returned to her home in Cleveland, O.

If you have anything to sell, to exchange, or want anything in the wide world, put a "Liner" in The Times. Rate, 1 cent a word each insertion; minimum charge, 15 cents.
BURBANK.

CHILD DRINKS GASOLINE.

BURBANK, July 16. — Little Pauline, the fifteen-month-old child of E. R. Ertle, who recently moved here from Los Angeles to the fine ranch he bought from E. Kletcher, drank gasoline and narrowly escaped death, and is now in a precarious condition. The physician in attendance thinks she may recover.

BURBANK BREVITIES.

The association and Kletcher's dryers are running full time, each giving employment to 300 hands. The apricots are small, but of fair quality, and the prices paid range from $7 to $10 a ton. The association has had a fine well sunk on its property near the depot.

The oil put upon the leading thoroughfares in this vicinity, having now dried, has put the roads in almost perfect condition, free from dust, and proves a boon to the ranchers who are moving the heaviest crop of fruit raised in this valley in five years.

Burbank Lodge, I.O.G.T., entertained friends with an ice cream supper last night. Miss Carrie Hale, by invitation, entertained the assembled guests with several musical selections.

Charles Fischer has received his commission as postmaster and has assumed the duties. Henry Storey will be his assistant.

Mrs. Spring and family, of Santa Paula, who have been the guests of her sister, Mrs. Thomas Story, are visiting Mrs. Spring's mother, of Sunhilde ranch.

J. E. Nelson and family, who have been spending their vacation at the foothill home of Mrs. Nelson's father, E. L. Hubbell, have returned to their home on Bonnie Brae street, Los Angeles.

Miss Vall, of Omaha, Neb., is the guest of Mr. Hurst's family. Miss Vall is an accomplished pianist, and will soon go to Boston.

Mrs. Henry Herbergar and daughter are visiting relatives at Omaha, Neb., their former home.

Miss Edythe Milne is spending her vacation at the home of her parents, at Bonny Brae Lodge.

If you have anything to sell, to exchange, or want anything in the wide world, put a "Line" in The Times. Rate, 1 cent a word each insertion; minimum charge, 15 cents.
TWO LABORERS STEP TO DEATH.

STRUCK BY FAST TRAIN AND HORRIBLY MANGLED.

Before the Eyes of a Score of Persons, Mexican Track Workmen Attempt to Cross in Front of "The Owl" and Both Are Killed—Their Bodies Brought to This City.

A. Orsdo, a Mexican laborer, and a companion, L. Arles, were killed yesterday at Burbank, when "the Owl" train, south bound from San Francisco, ran them down directly in front of the Burbank station. The accident was witnessed by more than a score of persons.

Both men were frightfully mangled. Arles was instantly killed, while Orsdo, who was standing behind the first victim, lived two hours after the accident.

According to the reports received from eyewitnesses, the Mexicans were on a work train that drew onto a siding at Burbank to allow the Owl to come through. The Owl was late, and going fast. The Mexicans thought they had time to cross in front of the train and buy some tobacco at the store near the station. They leaped from the work train and stepped directly in front of the Owl. The first Mexican was thrown high in the air and was dead before he hit the ground.

Orsdo was thrown to the side of the track. His left foot was torn off, and his left leg mangled. His left arm was broken in four places, and his shoulder crushed. The edge of the cow-catcher caught his forehead over the right temple, and scalped him, tearing the hair and scalp and leaving the skull bare. These, with other injuries, caused his death.

Both men were brought to Los Angeles. Orsdo was hurried to the Receiving Hospital, where Surgeons Quint and Bonynge made a desperate effort to save his life. He died just as the surgeons were beginning to operate on him.
MURDER FOILED, TRIES STARVING.

BURBANK WOULD-BE ASSASSIN WASTING AWAY.

Chained to Cot at County Hospital—Refuses Food and Says Water is "Too Heavy"—Doctors Think Him Not "Dope" Fiend but Just Crazy—Relative Visits Him.

Having failed to kill his sister's family at the Standiff ranch near Burbank, Fred Strader is trying to starve himself to death at the County Hospital.

For several days he has refused water, saying it was "too heavy." He said he wanted light water. Yesterday, he decided not to take any more food.

Chained by the feet to a cot in the insane ward, the man seems to be wasting away. His arms are no thicker than a little girl's.

In spite of the fact that six bottles containing chloral, strychnine, morphine, opium and other varieties of "dope," were taken from him after he tried to slaughter the Standiff family, the physicians at the County Hospital do not believe that he is a "dope fiend," or that he was full of "dope" when he went wild at Standiffs. They think he was just plain crazy.

The County Hospital people are informed that two of Strader's brothers died insane.

Alpha Standiff, who was shot in the forehead by Strader, visited him Friday at the hospital, and tried to find out why the man wanted to kill them all. She could get no satisfaction from Strader.

The patient will reply to questions of the simplest kind, only after they have been repeated to him two or three times. When asked why he wanted to kill his sister's family; why he wants to starve to death, or why the water is too heavy, he only stares dully.

There is great danger of Strader getting away. At least there would be if he wasn't kept chained to the foot of the bed. Ever since being brought to the hospital, he has been trying to escape.

The boy, William Standiff, the nephew of Strader, who shot his uncle with a small rifle to protect his mother and sisters from Strader's murderous revolver, will not be prosecuted.

Strader will be examined for insanity some day this week. At the examination an effort will be made to find out why he took six bottles of poison out to Burbank on the day of the shooting.
KILLED BY CAVE-IN.

Well-Known Rancher of Burbank
Meets Death Digging Trench on
Supervisor Patterson’s Land.

BURBANK, May 7.—Buried under
six feet of earth in a trench he was
digging, W. Bickett, 50 years old, a
well-to-do rancher of this place, met
his death here this morning. He was
working alone and it was probably
half an hour after the cave-in before
it was learned that an accident had
happened.

Bickett, who was unmarried, had
lived for a long time on Supervisor
Patterson’s ranch and was well known
in this section. Yesterday he was en-

gaged in digging a trench connecting
two wells. When last seen by friends,
he was working about six feet below
the surface. Some time afterward,
when some of his friends passed, they
saw the banks had caved in. Hastily
the dirt was removed, but when the
body of Bickett was reached, it was
cold in death.

SANTA MONICA.

SANTA MONICA, May 7.—Charles
Kerr, who was injured in a runaway
accident at Tehachepi a month ago
and was brought by special train to
the local hospital, had so far recovered
today that he was removed to his
home in Los Angeles.

No inquest was held today over the
body of George Fitch of Los Angeles,
who committed suicide here yesterday.
At the request of his sister, Mrs. F.
Reading of No. 257 Griffin avenue, the
body was taken to Los Angeles for
burial.

C. W. Allen of Venice has let the
contract for the erection of a $1000
cottage on Nineteenth street.
BANDIT CHASE LEADS NORTH.

Slayers of Burbank Officer Sought Near Simi.

Purrier Sinks Rapidly as Result of Wounds.

Posses Follow Up All Tips Regarding Fugitives.

Search was extended to Ventura county late yesterday for the three auto bandits who shot to death Robert Normand, deputy city Marshal, and perhaps fatally wounded Henry E. Purrier, township Constable, while resisting arrest at Burbank early Friday morning. Deputy Sheriffs Couts, Bell, Lips and Anderson hurried to Simi on a tip that three men, answering in a general way the description of the fugitives, had been there and headed in their automobile toward the mountains.

Deputy Sheriff Swessy visited Constable Purrier in the Burbank Hospital yesterday afternoon, but was unable to gain much additional information regarding the gunmen. Constable Purrier, suffering from three bullet wounds, was reported in a serious condition, and less hope was held for his recovery than on Friday.

Officers of all surrounding towns and cities are on the lookout for the seven-passenger Studebaker automobile and the three men described as Italians who fled Burbank after the shooting which followed their arrest when they were caught entering the U. L. Wood tire shop. All clues to the whereabouts of the bandits were run down by posses under the direction of Sheriff Cline and Undersheriff Manning.

The report from Simi on which the officers acted was that three men had stored their automobile in a private garage there, had stocked up with provisions and then headed for the mountains. One of the men seemed to be sick. Constable Purrier, in describing the pistol battle, said he believed he hit one of the men and possibly two, although he could not tell definitely.

The body of Deputy City Marshal Normand is being held at the A. C. Fillback undertaking establishment, pending a Coroner's Inquest.
BANDIT CHASE LEADS NORTH.

Slayers of Burbank Officer Sought Near Simi.

Purrier Sinks Rapidly as Result of Wounds.

Posses Follow Up All Tips Regarding Fugitives.

Search was extended to Ventura county late yesterday for the three auto bandits who shot to death Robert Normand, deputy city Marshal, and perhaps fatally wounded Henry E. Purrier, township Constable, while resisting arrest at Burbank early Friday morning. Deputy Sheriffs Counts, Bell, Lips and Anderson hurried to Simi on a tip that three men, answering in a general way the description of the fugitives, had been there and headed in their automobile toward the mountains.

Deputy Sheriff Swessy visited Constable Purrier in the Burbank Hospital yesterday afternoon, but was unable to gain much additional information regarding the gunmen. Constable Purrier, suffering from three bullet wounds, was reported in a serious condition, and less hope was held for his recovery than on Friday.

Officers of all surrounding towns and cities are on the lookout for the seven-passenger Studebaker automobile and the three men described as Italians who fled Burbank after the shooting which followed their arrest when they were caught entering the U. L. Wood tire shop. All clues to the whereabouts of the bandits were run down by posses under the direction of Sheriff Cline and Undersheriff Manning.

The report from Simi on which the officers acted was that three men had stored their automobile in a private garage there, had stocked up with provisions and then headed for the mountains. One of the men seemed to be sick. Constable Purrier, in describing the pistol battle, said he believed he hit one of the men and possibly two, although he could not tell definitely.

The body of Deputy City Marshal Normand is being held at the A. C. Fillback undertaking establishment, pending a Coroner’s inquest.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
NIGHT RIDERS BAFFLE POLICE

Second Suspect Released in Burbank Mystery

Death Threat to Grocer is Still Unexplained

Two Men Arrested Deny Any Connection With Gang

With the release yesterday of a second suspect, Burbank's police investigation of a mysterious organization known as "The Night Riders," credited with threatening the life of Jay Henry, Burbank grocery-store proprietor, came to a temporary standstill. Henry found a note tacked to the rear door of his store when he opened up last Saturday morning. Reading:

"You are warned. You and yours. This will be your last night spent in peace. We have you marked and will get you. Our organization, The Night Riders, have visited you. All is ready. We will visit your store once again and then we will do our deadly work. Don't raise any alarm or your suffering will be greater. Last warning. Death will soon come.

"The Night Riders"

"The note was crudely printed with pencil on a piece of wrapping paper. Henry considered it in the light of a joke, but the fact that his wife had been assaulted by a stranger who had appeared at her house unexpectedly shortly before, prompted him to notify Chief of Police John Long of Burbank.

A youth giving the name of

Clare Gestion was the first suspect arrested, but released when he satisfied officers that he had no connection with the death threat. The second man arrested gave the name of Frank Myer. He admitted, according to Chief Long, that he had gone to the Henry home and made remarks at which Mrs. Henry took offense. He denied any participation in the threats or membership in the mysterious "Night Riders." He was released yesterday for lack of convicting evidence.

Chief Long, who is assisted in the investigation by Sergeants Stanford and Marigold, characterized the "plot" last night as the probable work of a crowd of irresponsible youths, but lacking concrete evidence declared that the investigation will be pushed to the fullest extent. He said he had heard vaguely of "The Night Riders" as a club of young men who ride motorcycles, but had attached no suspicious significance to the fact.
NIGHT RIDERS BAFFLE POLICE

Second Suspect Released in Burbank Mystery

Death Threat to Grocer is Still Unexplained

Two Men Arrested Deny Any Connection With Gang

With the release yesterday of a second suspect, Burbank’s police investigation of a mysterious organization known as “The Night Riders,” credited with threatening the life of Jay Henry, Burbank grocery-store proprietor, came to a temporary standstill. Henry found a note tacked to the rear door of his store when he opened up last Saturday morning, reading:

“You are warned. You and yours. This will be your last night spent in peace. We have you marked and will get you. Our organization, The Night Riders, have visited you. All is ready. We will visit your store once again and then we will do our deadly work. Don’t raise any alarm or your suffering will be greater. Last warning. Death will soon come.

“The Night Riders.”

The note was crudely printed with pencil on a piece of wrapping paper. Henry considered it in the light of a joke, but the fact that his wife had been insulted by a stranger who had appeared at her home unexpectedly shortly before prompted him to notify Chief of Police John Long of Burbank.

A youth giving the name of Clare Gleston was the first suspect arrested, but released when he satisfaction officers that he had no connection with the death threat. The second man arrested gave the name of Frank Myer. He admitted, according to Chief Long, that he had gone to the Henry home and made remarks at which Mrs. Henry took offense. He denied any participation in the threats or membership in the mysterious “Night Riders.” He was released yesterday for lack of convincing evidence.

Chief Long, who is assisted in the investigation by Sergeants Stanford and Marigold, characterized the “plot” last night as the probable work of a crowd of irresponsible youths, but lacking concrete evidence declared that the investigation will be pushed to the fullest extent. He said he had heard vaguely of “The Night Riders” as a club of young men who ride motorcycles, but had attached no suspicious significance to the fact.
TAKES LIFE ON DEATH OF FIRST BORN

Wife of Burbank Realty Man Found Shot on Bed Once Used for Baby

Lying on a small mattress that had rested in the crib of her infant son, who died two weeks ago, the lifeless body of Mrs. Grace E. Anderson, 30 years of age, was found in the garage of her home at 1051 East Alameda street, Burbank, yesterday, by neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Reeves. The discovery of the body with a bullet wound in the head and a .32-caliber pistol near by followed a shot that caused the Reeves to investigate.

No note was left, but the death bed chosen by Mrs. Anderson led her husband, Frank E. Anderson, prominent realty man of Burbank, to express the belief that she committed suicide in a temporary lapse of reason due to an uncontrolable grief for the loss of her firstborn. Since the death of her son, Mr. Anderson said, his wife has been moody and under a strain both physical and mental.

She appeared to be in fairly good spirits, he said, when he left home yesterday morning. He had been away for only a short time when the shot was heard in the garage.

The body was taken to the mortuary of A. C. Fillbach, where an inquest will probably be conducted today.
BOY LOSES LIFE UNDER TRAILER

BOY LOSES LIFE UNDER TRAILER

Will Hoffman Falls Under
Wheels in Burbank

Companions, Fearing Censure, Return to Glendale

Three Youths Arrested on Susicion Released

Burbank, Aug. 3—William Hort-
man, 15 years of age, of Burbank, whose body was discovered at the curbs here last night with his head crushed and an arm nearly severed, came to his death as the result
of falling from the trailer of a truck on which he had been sleeping as a ride, according to the report of the acci-
dent told by Philip Neer and Marn Besser, Glendale officials of the Hoffman boy.

The three boys had "hopped" the trailer in Glendale earlier in the mor-
ing and ridden to Burbank, where a neighbor had suggested they might
be able to replenish the supply of water in the desert. According to a story told by the survivor, William
attempted to board the semi-trailer and
continue his trip when he alighted and fell
under the wheels, which mauve the boy's
head and left an arm near disarticulated.

Neer boys, afraid of what might happen to them as a result of the acci-
dent, returned to their homes and did not report the affair to the police.

The boy was discovered later by Cecil Elliott, 15, also of Glendale, while
walking to school in the Glendale
area. Will's body was taken to
Burbank, and City Warden, Empire avenue, Burbank, re-
ported their fine to the local police.

After an investigation by Burbank's
men and detectives from the Glendale
office, the three boys were summoned
and were compelled to answer as
witnesses before Sheriff Charles F. Martin's
grand jury. They were placed under arrest and taken to the country jail, where they have been kept until this morning. They were returned here before 10 o'clock, and by the Glendale boys had given their names, according to detectives.

Laguna Beach Plane Party in Mexico Jaunt

Laguna Beach, Aug. 3—Going to
meet a permit, the acquisition of which required a month, a party of
local aviation enthusiasts journeyed to Isla
Gigante, traveling 16 miles inland.

In the flying party, consisting of four planes, were Joe Butcher of Laguna Beach, the owner of the ship; Eddie Martin of Santa Ana in the same plane; Leon A.Taylor, combat instructor at North Island and Lindt, Buck Eastman, in the
local, Thomas's plane, and Capt. Orville Wright, whose ship was piloted by Mr. and Mrs. William B. Borden, in Orville's plane.

After the planes were launched, they proceeded to Isla Gigante in an ar-
ticulated formation, where a reception was held by Mexican and American government officials.

Their trip was to have been extended to Mexico City, but the Mexican offi-
cials asserted against such an ex-
cursion in view of the religious taboo as a result of the closing of the border. As a result, they were forced to return by land, without losing until they finally reached the shores of Isla Gigante, about fifteen miles from the border.

Another attempt was made to
return the flyers back to re-
main in Mexico, but this was
again prohibited by federal officials and American authorities.

AIR DEVICE BUILDING

INVENTOR HAS PARACHUTE

DESIGNED TO SAVE HIS TETHER AND PLANE

San Diego, Aug. 3—The eyes of the aviation world are focused upon San Diego, where a start of the latest
shifts of mechanism for safe building of the safety apparatus that will save the lives of the great ex-
periers, and which promise to be the greatest in the field of aviation.

Dover, after years of suspension of a parachute in the Navy, is at last ready to realize his
dream of a perfect parachute, which is designed to serve the life of the pilot and the airplane as
a whole. The first of the experimental type of parachute reported has been developed by the
Dover Parachute Corporation, for the United States Navy and other branches of the Service.

The parachute is described as the first of its kind to be developed, and is a

safety device for the airman, giving him the

right to the use of the parachute in case of emergency, and enabling the

of "Wings," a super-creation: in

the activities of the plane in the airway. The

airman to take advantage of the device to

the fullest of its capabilities.
DEATH DUEL ENDS OLD FEUD

Pair "Shoot It Out" in Burbank and One, Wounded Perhaps Fatally, Faces Charge of Murder

A feud of long standing between Julian Chacon, 22 years of age, and Marcelino Delgado, 27, resulted fatally for the former and probably fatally for the latter last night when the two engaged in a gun duel as they met at the intersection of Flower and Verdugo streets in Burbank, according to Burbank police reports.

Chacon was killed instantly and street. Delgado is at General Hospital, where he is not expected to live after sustaining a bullet wound in the lung.

Delgado has been charged with murder and Chief of Police Bergh and Police Captain Hampton of Burbank are investigating the shooting in an endeavor to learn circumstances surrounding the affray.

Two young girls, Anita Lara and Adeline Stephenson of Burbank, were questioned by police following the shooting, when it was learned that they were with the men and seized the guns used by the enemies after both had fallen and carried them to their home at 122 Verdugo

According to meager information obtained by police last night, the men had met earlier in the evening and engaged in an altercation during which Delgado struck Chacon. The latter announced his intention of going for a gun and Delgado did likewise. They met later and the shooting took place. Chacon fired four shots, one of which took effect in his adversary's lung, while Delgado fired only twice, the last shot proving fatal when it struck Chacon's temple.

Leo Lopez, Frank Celya and Sam Cadinias are held in the Burbank jail as material witnesses.
The almost mummified body of Mrs. Anna E. Mahoney, 53 years of age, sister of William M. Ball, Los Angeles policeman, lay in a Burbank mortuary last night, nineteen days after Mrs. Mahoney began a period of fasting and prayer while in a spell of religious fervor.

A post-mortem by county authorities is scheduled to be performed today over the remains of the victim of the fast, who denied herself even a sip of water while whispering prayers through parched lips for those she described as her "loved ones."

Mrs. Mahoney, the wife of George Mahoney and mother of two grown sons, died shortly after noon Wednesday, while an ambulance was en route from General Hospital to remove her to the psychopathic ward of that institution for observation and forcible feeding.

She was found lying on a cot in a garage in the rear of her home at 1823 Brighton street, Burbank, Monday by workers of the Church of the Nazarene, which she formerly attended, after her religious fast had been reported by her husband.

Dr. E. D. Pratt, summoned by attaches of Emergency Hospital at Burbank when Mahoney appealed there for assistance in ending the woman's fast, attempted to persuade Mrs. Mahoney to take water, as had the church workers who investigated. The woman steadfastly refused water or food as she had since her fast began.

Mahoney, advised by hospital officials to get out a warrant authorizing his wife's removal to the psychopathic ward of General Hospital, obtained the warrant and the ambulance was speeding to the Mahoney home when Mrs. Mahoney died. Dr. Pratt said thirst had caused death and that the woman's skin was parched and her body "dried up" almost to the point of mummification.

Mrs. Mahoney left the Nazarene Church a year ago, Rev. W. C. Frazier, pastor of the church, said, and had received no fasting ideas from that church while a member.

Mahoney had not been working recently, police of Burbank said. The woman leaves, besides her husband, two sons, Vernon and Lester; three sisters, Mrs. Lorena Reynolds, Burbank; Mrs. Eunice Willard, also of Burbank, and Mrs. Minnie O'Conley, Oakland, and five brothers, all residing in the East. The Mahoneys moved to Burbank from Kentucky several years ago.

The body is at the Fillback mortuary, Burbank, pending funeral arrangements to be made by relatives.
Guard Shoots Bandit to Death and Causes Arrest of Ex-Officer

Burbank Watchman Fires as Intruders Fail to Halt
One Killed Instantly While Other Dives Out Window
Former Policeman Gives Up Short While Later

Burbank, July 30. (Exclusive)—A load of buckshot fired by a different caretaker early this morning ended the career of one bandit and hastened the arrest of a former Los Angeles policeman when the two men were surprised in an attempted attempt to rob the Druks' Temple, 1859 South Magnolia Boulevard.

The dead man was identified as Samuel J. Gott, 28 years of age, of 1129 South Vermont Avenue.

His companion, John S. Alexander, escaped from the building after Gott was shot, but later surrendered at the University Station, according to police records. He is being held in the Burbank jail on a charge of suspicion of robbery.

Anthony Fido of 361 North Lamar Avenue, caretaker of the temple, guarded the place with a shotgun when it had been darkened at the conclusion of the Saturday night dance. He said a guest had informed him that two men had been overhearing planning to rob the temple late.

REFUSE TO HALT

Shortly after midnight, Fido said, he and his 14-year-old son, Joe, were on guard in the empty hall when two intruders, lighting their way with matches, forced an entrance through a rear window. Fido said he ordered them to halt, but they paid no attention to him. Thinking he could force their attention, he said, he fired low; the shot went through the bottom of a door.

In spite of the warning shot, Fido said, the two men continued their way toward the cash register and safe, and refused to heed his commands to halt.

He fired again, he said, this time directly at the intruders. The charge went through Gott's neck, killing him instantly.

DIVES OUT WINDOW

Alexander held up his hands in a gesture of surrender, but dived through an open window when Fido's head was turned for a moment, according to the police report. He was seen by Fido's wife and daughter as he fled from the place. A short time later he surrendered at University Station, according to police reports.

According to police records, Gott was wanted by local officers on previous burglary charges. Alexander served about four months on the Los Angeles police force, records revealed.

Gott's body was taken to the Powell mortuary, but later was removed to the County Morgue. He leaves his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Gott of 1533 One Hundred and Seventh street, Los Angeles.
Poison Death of Burbank Contractor Causes Police to Launch Inquiry

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Nov 2, 1933; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. 12

AUTOPSY SHOWS DEADLY AGENT

Arsenic Found in Organs of Arthur C. Genung

Victim Ill. Suffers Sudden Relapse and Expires

Coroner to Conduct Inquest;
Search Starts for Clues

BURBANK, Nov. 1—Investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Arthur C. Genung, 58-year-old contractor, was launched yesterday by an autopsy that a large quantity of arsenic was found in the vital organs.

Genung, who lived at 110 Orchard Drive, died in his home last Sunday. His body was removed to the A. C. Pillath mortuary and the Coroner's office for an

AUTOPSY ORDERED

Due to lack of an apparent physician prior to his death the Coroner ordered an autopsy performed on the body. An attempt was made yesterday to find the doctor who performed the autopsy, but he could not be located. 

NATURAL CAUSE OF DEATH

According to police, Genung was taken ill last Friday. After two days he had sickened rapidly and was admitted to a hospital.

Investigator took samples of several medications that the man had been taking and sent them to the coroner's laboratory. 

Genung might have died of natural causes, but it was impossible to determine the exact cause of death.

MYSTERY IN CASE

A complete report of the case was ordered as soon as possible...

TWO KILLED IN VENTURA AUTO CRASH

Wife and Girl Companion of Victims Injured When Coupe Hits Palm Tree

VENTURA, Nov. 1—Two Ventura women and a young man were killed without funeral at 11:30 a.m. today when the coupe in which they were riding crashed into a palm tree and overturned, killing a family of three.

The deceased are Helen Benson, 36 years of age, and Charles H. Davis, 25. The injured are Mrs. Geraldine B. Benson, 36, wife of the deceased.

Benson was killed instantly when her head struck the curb as she was thrown out of the car, while Davis, driver and owner of the vehicle, died from head injuries after he reached the County Hospital.

Mrs. Benson is reported in a serious condition today at the Ventura Memorial Hospital, suffering from concussion of the brain. A young man, Miss Beatrice, a student at the local school, was also killed and is reported in 

Barber Beats Code by His Book Entries

LONG BEACH, Nov. 1—James B. Barber today entered a plea of not guilty to a charge of violating the liquor laws, in which he bartered code functions, a bookkeeping practice wherein the defendant charged $20 for butt 20 and entered a balance of 40 cents on the books.

Counsel contended that the warrant was not legally served to be paid, and was declared to be invalid by the court. 

At the same time, the case was made at the same time will be taken off session, as the case is not yet ready for trial.

CRONICIOLOGIST TO TALK

Pleasanton, Nov. 1—Dr. E. G. Lees, head of the agricultural college's department of agriculture, will address the weekly community forum tonight at 8 p.m. 

Dr. Lees will speak on "The Problems of Cotton Identification," and will illustrate his talk with slides.
LIQUOR LINKED TO BAY AFFRAY

Experts Testify Actor Had Alcohol in System

Defense Tries to Show Death Victim Was Drunk

Mrs. Lessert Backed by Character Witness

Expert prosecution witnesses were called to the witness stand yesterday in Superior Judge Fricke's court at the trial of Mrs. Alta Lessert, charged with the murder of Tom Bay, motion-picture cowboy, in an effort to prove Bay was intoxicated at the time Mrs. Lessert asserts he attempted to kill her and she shot him in self-defense.

These witnesses were A. J. Abernathy, county chemist, and Dr. A. P. Wagner, county autopsy surgeon. Both testified under questioning by Charles W. Ostrom and Roland Rich Woolley, defense attorneys, that they found a considerable amount of alcohol in Bay's body. The defense attorneys drew the inference that Bay was intoxicated at the time he was killed.

QUARREL BLAMED

Mrs. Lessert testified she shot Bay during a quarrel after he had reached for a gun, which she snatched from his grasp and fired in self-defense. The defendant also testified Bay had beaten her on many occasions and had threatened her life.

Mrs. Lessert also called a number of character witnesses, including Buck Bucko, Roy Bucko, Jack Castle and Jack Pajak, motion-picture actors, and Arthur Hudkins, a brother of Ace Hudkins, prize fighter. All testified Bay was known as a troublesome character.

THREAT DESCRIBED

Clyde Boulter, another defense witness, said he had once heard Bay remark he was going to take Mrs. Lessert for a ride from which she would not return.

Bay was shot to death in his home at 602 North Lincoln Boulevard, Burbank, on October 11, 1933. Mrs. Mary Frances Miles, the only eyewitness to the shooting, testified she saw Mrs. Lessert fire the fatal shot when Bay stood with his back toward her, his hands raised above his head. Later, Mrs. Miles said, Mrs. Lessert pressed the gun to her own breast and attempted to end her own life.
Mrs. Ida Christensen, widowed in shotgun duel between husband and lover at their home. Cliché is laid to jealousy.

**KILLING LAID TO JEALOUSY**

**Investigators Tell Findings in Fatal Duel in Which Husband Met Death**

Jealousy over the attentions paid to her lover by a roofer in her home to the wife of Ozo W. Christensen, 48-year-old cement worker, 318 North Lamita street, Burbank, was the cause of a shotgun duel Sunday near Castaic in which Christensen was killed and the roofer, Henry Baer, 38, received critical wounds. Sheriff's investigators said last night.

While Baer, held on suspicion of murder, lies near death in the prison ward of the General Hospital, Inspector Stensland said questioning of Mrs. Ida Christensen, the widow, disclosed that her husband had shown considerable jealousy over several visits made by Mrs. Christensen and Baer to Burbank beer parlors.

**CAUSE OF SHOOTING**

It was an argument over Baer's attentions to his wife, officers said, that resulted in the shotgun duel between the two men while quail hunting near Castaic.

Christensen, Baer and a third member of the party, Rueben Smith, 241 North PROVIDER street, Burbank, had left their car and were walking up a canyon when Christensen directed Smith up a side draw.

A bit later, Baer told officers, Christensen pointed a shotgun at him and fired.

**SEVEN SHOTS FIRED**

Seven shots were fired, Stensland said, four from Christensen's weapon, one charge which struck Baer in the jaw and neck, and three from Baer's gun, two of which struck Christensen in the head, killing him. Smith removed the wounded man to Newhall and called officers.

Surgeons said last night Baer has a slight chance for recovery.

Pending Baer's recovery and further investigation of the shooting, no inquest into Christensen's death has been set.
Bank Official Worried Over Transfer Takes Own Life at Burbank

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jun 1, 1935;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. 6

Bank Official Worried Over Transfer Takes Own Life at Burbank

PISTOL USED
IN SUICIDE

Death Follows Conference

Italian World War Veteran
Turns Gun on Self in
Library of Home

BURBANK, May 31—Believed to have been worrying over being transferred to another position, Robert De Violini, 45 years of age in charge of the escrow department of the Bank of America branch here, shot and killed himself this afternoon. He lived at 406 Sunset Canyon Drive.

GIVEN NEW POST

De Violini was on his vacation and, police were informed, he had been ordered to take a position in a branch bank in Los Angeles, which De Violini considered a demotion. He was visited at his home this afternoon by Jack H. Brahm of 929 Edith street, Altamira, an official of the Bank of America in Los Angeles. They had conversed for some time in the library and Brahm started to depart. As he turned and stepped out of the library door De Violini stared a pistol from a nearby shelf and fired a .38-caliber bullet into his brain, dying instantly.

FORMER ARMY MAN

De Violini had been connected with the Burbank branch bank for more than seven years. He was formerly a captain in the Italian army and served during the World War.

He leaves his widow, Frances, and two small children. The body was taken to the A. G. Pihlach mortuary, where an inquest will be conducted.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Boy, 13, Crushed to Death by Loose Trailer

A heavy trailer which broke loose from a truck loaded with butane gas brought sudden death to Bill Moffett, 13, newsboy, of 915 S. Lake St., Burbank, yesterday when the vehicle turned over and crushed the lad as he sat folding newspapers at Victory Blvd. and Alameda St., Burbank, police reported.

Young Moffett, with six other boys, was preparing newspapers for delivery when the trailer rolled wildly toward him after being unjointed from a truck reported driven by Fred E. Nash, 26, of Fresno.

Other Boys Escape
The six boys escaped to safety but the Moffett boy, who had his back to the oncoming trailer, was pinned beneath the vehicle.

Mrs. Joan McBride, 39, of 5943 S. Wilton Place, received contusions and abrasions yesterday when she was struck by an automobile driven by Wallace Young, 44, who told police he was an employee of Franchot Tone, screen actor.

Driver Not Held
The machine was registered to Tone and Young gave his address as 144 Monovale Ave., Holmby Hills, the same as the actor’s, police said. Young was not held.

The accident occurred about noon at First and Springs Sts. Mrs. McBride was treated at Georgia Street Receiving Hospital and then sent home.

Struck by an automobile while crossing Huntington Drive at Buena Vista Drive, Monrovia, Charles Martin, 78, of 1020 Huntington Drive, Monrovia, received injuries yesterday which resulted in his death. Driver of the car, Samuel R. Ornelas, 35, of 1608 Juarez St., Irwindale, was not cited. He told police that Martin stepped in front of his machine.
Britain Honors Burbank Marine

BURBANK, March 12. — Throwing himself on a hand grenade tossed by a Jap into a group of his marine comrades on Tarawa, Cpl. Phillip Ray Burke, 21, risked his life to save theirs.

Convalescing from injuries at the San Diego Naval Hospital, he today was awarded the British Distinguished Service Medal for “outstanding gallantry, initiative and devotion to duty shown in operations against the Japanese in Tarawa during the reconquest of the Gilbert Islands.” The Gilberths are a British possession.

Cpl. Burke previously had been given the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Burke, 143 S. Sparks St., and is reported to be the first Burbank serviceman to receive the British citation and medal. He was graduated from Burbank High School where he was student body president.

Cpl. Burke is one of a family of three fighting men. His father enlisted in the Seabees in 1942 and is a chief warrant officer who spent 14 months in the Aleutians and recently shipped out to the South Pacific. His brother, Roy E. Burke, 22, is a fire controlman on a destroyer in the Pacific and has served in the Navy since before Pearl Harbor.
Whittier College
honors Memory
of Mrs. Hoover

Whittier, June 3—Los
Angeles Memorial Hall will
be the scene of the next
10,000-classes morning
building a
Whitney College
academic program, according to an
announcement today by President
William C. Jones.

Choice of the cause was made
by the board of trustees
at a meeting of the board for
May. Such the former President
and Mrs. Smith have taken a
position in the American
president and several other
benefactors living up to the hope Mrs. Hoover
have been offered a
president, Hoover is to
be on hand.

"The building now, according
to President Jones, is in fine
shape. Mrs. Hoover is on
the floor, a coachman, and a
number of other people are
an active member of the
Whitney College
building executive.

More than $10,000 has been
in the construction of the
Whitney College
building, according to a
statement by the chairman of the
Whitney College
building committee. It
will now be placed in
hand that former
American

Franciscan Order

Ordained Priests

Santa Barbara, June 3—
15 members of the Franciscan
Order were ordained to the
coporeal priesthood at cer-
emonies in Old Mission Santa
Barbara. Services will begin
12:15 a.m. with Bishop Joseph
Dodge, bishop of Los Angeles, as the
official celebrant. Sermons will be
spoke by the following:

1. Father Michael P. Berkley, rector of the
table priest.
2. Father William J. Murphy, C.S.P.,
rector of the Franciscan Seminary.
3. Father John J. O'Sullivan, C.S.P.,
rector of the Franciscan Seminary.

"We are sure that some would have
beefed the young to help other service," said Mr.
and Mrs. Harry Van Atta of the
East San Jose Ave., as they gave
the marriage of Nobby Whisler,
Chapl. Van Atta, who directed
Berkeley High School and San
Jose Junior College, entered in
September 1937, in the army
for a short time and went to
artillery army. His store
Barbara estats Redondo Un-
iversity.

Chamber Officials

to Honor Col. Foy

ALHAMBRA, June 3—Cham-
ber of Commerce officials, includ-
ing Judge Hopping, a U.S. re-
covery director, will confer a
reception tonight on the
returning postmaster general, who
accept a position with the
Army Veterans Council chambers,

Chamber officials are the
head of Mrs. Losa Haye,
Mrs. R. A. Foy, and Mrs. A. D.
and 1937. Postmaster general, a
in a car to the Hai
Foy will restore power
development of commercialism in
the country. His colleagues
have been in contact with the
Vietnamese Provisional
Committee.

The car was in the garage a
week ago, he said. "It came from
museum.

Mail Rider, 93, Laid to Rest

RESIDUE, June 3—Frank
Devereux, who recently served
as mail rider for the
post office at this station for
30 years, was buried at
the cemetery here today. He was
born on Alvar St. in Los
Angeles on Aug. 9, 1877.

Flew 40 planes before he died,
was 93 years of age. He
had been a special
wound on his head and

New Citrus Group Elects

By electing George Galbraith
as president, the
Los Angeles County
Citrus Organization Association
was formed today.

South Bay Service Center
Ready to Aid 500 Veterans

South Bay Service Center
officers have announced
an all-veterans service center

Inglewood resident
found dead in car

INGLEWOOD, June 3—The
body of Lawrence L. Cline, 70,
Social service reporter for
the Los Angeles Times, was
found in his car in the
He was found in the car

Services Conducted

For Mrs. Susan R. Lane

LONGBEACH, June 3—Fun-
dal services for Mrs. Susan R.
Lane, 98, Long Beach resident,
were held today for Mrs. Lane,
A Long Beach veteran since
1947, died Thursday in her
home and was buried at the
Long Beach Cemetery. Her
son, John, 98, was a
![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Merita Maria Acosta
Arches Ranch Near Escaloni

In 1983, Merita Maria Acosta, former
first lady of the United States, passed
away on her ranch near Escaloni, a
small town in California. Her
ancestry dates back to the 16th century
when her family migrated from Spain.

Marilyn Monroe
Acar

Ranch Near Escaloni

Burlington, Vermont, at the age of
87, Mrs. Monroe was honored for
her contributions to the arts and
her philanthropic work.

Bureau Given Typewriter of Slain Airman

LOS ANGELES TIMES, June 3—

Reprouuced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Charter Draft Aides Appointed

Bureau Given Typewriter of Slain Airman

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Mother Finds Son Hanging in Playhouse

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 12, 1946; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987) pg. A1

The age-old mystery of boyhood's heartaches yesterday surrounded the death of Michael Rogers, 14, Burbank High School student, whose mother, after a night of waiting, found his body hanging from a rafter.

Burbank police are convinced the boy hanged himself. In his pockets, they said, were none of the traditional marbles, jack-knives or other gadgets of youth and no identification—only 27 cents. Police Lt. K. K. Kypers, who investigated, said the boy apparently looped a rope around a rafter in the playhouse of a friend, Jack Reeder, also 14, of 707 N. Reese Place, Burbank.

Jumps to Death

Lt. Kypers said the boy apparently tied the rope securely around his neck after climbing on a rope swing he and his friend had hung in the garage. Then he jumped to his death.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Viola Rogers, 727 N. Orchard Drive, said her son told her Friday night he was going to help his friend build a trapeze, then go to a show. She told police she walked past the Reeder home three times during the night but, finding they had retired, did not disturb them. The Reeder boy was not home.

When Michael failed to appear this morning, Mrs. Rogers went to the Reeder home and with the Reeders visited the playhouse, a former garage.
Pregraduation Scuffle Fatal

A scuffle during rehearsal for commencement exercises tomorrow cost the life yesterday of a Burbank High School senior, John C. Newson, 17, of 525 S. 10th St., Burbank, following a scuffle with a fellow student last June 11 on the Burbank High School grounds, was accidental, a Coroner's jury decided yesterday.

Keith Jensen, 17, of 1315 Blossom St., Glendale, who exchanged blows with Newson, was exonerated of blame.

The two youths fought over who should drink first at a playground drinking fountain and Newson fell to the ground, according to David Shleppey, 16, of 1055 E. Orange Grove Ave., whose testimony was corroborated by James Collins, 21, of 1050 E. Verdugo Road, Burbank.

Jensen said there was no previous quarrel between Newson and himself.
Pregraduation Scuffle Fatal

A scuffle during rehearsal for commencement exercises tomorrow cost the life yesterday of a Burbank High School senior, John C. Newson, 17, of 525 S. 10th St., Burbank.

Investigating officers said that the youth and a classmate tangled near a drinking fountain as the class gathered on the athletic field for the rehearsal. There was pushing and shoving.

Newson, officers said, fell back onto a wall and then slumped to the ground. Efforts of an inhalator squad to revive him were futile.

Illustrated on Page 3, Part 1

Death of 17-year-old John C. Newson III, of 525 S. 10th St., Burbank, following a scuffle with a fellow student last June 11 on the Burbank High School grounds, was accidental, a Coroner's jury decided yesterday.

Keith Jensen, 17, of 1315 Blossom St., Glendale, who exchanged blows with Newson, was exonerated of blame.

The two youths fought over who should drink first at a playground drinking fountain and Newson fell to the ground, according to David Shifley, 16, of 1055 E. Orange Grove Ave., whose testimony was corroborated by James Collins, 21, of 1050 E. Verdugo Road, Burbank.

Jensen said there was no previous quarrel between Newson and himself.

L.A. Times
27 Jun 1946

LFRED—Dep.-Coroner Frank Monfort questions Keith Jensen, 17, about the death of John C. Newson III, a fellow student at Burbank High School. Young Newson died following a scuffle with Jensen when they argued about who should drink first at playground drinking fountain, according to witnesses. Jensen was cleared.
Scuffle Death Held Accidental

Illustrated on Page 3, Part I

Death of 17-year-old John C. Newsom III, of 525 S. 10th St., Burbank, following a scuffle with a fellow student last June 11 on the Burbank High School grounds, was accidental, a Coroner's jury decided yesterday.

Keith Jensen, 17, of 1315 Blossom St., Glendale, who exchanged blows with Newsom, was exonerated of blame.

The two youths fought over who should drink first at a playground drinking fountain and Newsom fell to the ground, according to David Shleppey, 16, of 1055 E. Orange Grove Ave., whose testimony was corroborated by James Collins, 21, of 1050 E. Verdugo Road, Burbank.

Jensen said there was no previous quarrel between Newsom and himself.

Firearms Expert Dies

PLYMOUTH (Mass.) June 26. (AP)—Capt. Charles L. Van Amburg, 65, retired Massachusetts State police firearms and explosives expert, whose testimony was a prominent feature of the internationally noted trial of Nicola Sacca and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for murder, died today.
Man Plunges to River Death

Karl K. Kaylor, 44, of 1214 Leland Way, Burbank, stopped his car on the Arroyo Seco Freeway southbound traffic bridge, climbed to the top of the railing and leaped to his death in the Los Angeles River bed yesterday noon.

Officers said the man left no notes. They later learned he was a toolmaker at Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

John H. Bafford, flood control watchman, told police he saw the man plunge through the air. Officers estimated the jump as close to 200 feet.

Sleeping Tablets Fatal to Wife of Physician

Mrs. Mildred Ende, 49, wife of Dr. Frank M. Ende, 2270 N. Beachwood Drive, died early yesterday at her home. Death apparently was due to an overdose of sleeping tablets, according to police. Mrs. Ende had been despondent because of continued ill health, police said.

Body of Cigar Maker, 69, Found Floating in Surf

The body of Henry J. Muehlenhaupt, 69, retired cigar maker of 2685 Oregon Ave., Long Beach, was found floating in the surf off Third Place in the beach city yesterday. Investigators reported the man had been despondent recently.
Former Burbank Man Kills Self in Plunge

George Murray, 56, of Burbank jumped to his death from a 23rd floor window in lower Manhattan yesterday, according to New York police. He was a former Burbank gasoline station worker. Papers in his pocket identified him as a former resident of 606 N 1st St., Burbank.
Body of Man Discovered in Ruins of Burned Stable

The burned body of a stablehand was found yesterday after fire destroyed the Pickwick Stables, 1016 Riverside Drive, Burbank, and 18 horses boarded there were burned to death. About 80 horses were led to safety.

The dead man was identified as Emil Hill, 47, who lived in a room at the southeast corner of the stable structure. His body was found in his living quarters.

Investigators reported that a pile of newspapers found nearby had an odor of kerosene or gasoline and that they were seeking to determine whether or not the fire had been set.

Det. R. L. McCann and R. H. Coveney said they ascertained that Hill had been involved in an argument about 12 hours before the fire and that he had suffered a stab wound, for which he had been treated.

The Coroner's office reported that an autopsy will be performed on Hill's body to determine, if possible, the nature of his wound.

The fire was detected by a passerby about 4:30 a.m. Firemen said it had been determined the blaze started in the stablehand's quarters.

It quickly swept the structure, the flames fanned by the draft created as rescuers opened the doors to lead the horses out.

The stables were owned by J. C. Hendershot.
Lockheed Man Found Dead; Four Notes Left

Maurice Edgar Smith, 48, administrative co-ordinator at Lockheed Aircraft Corp, Burbank, was found dead yesterday afternoon in the bedroom of his apartment, 131 S Avon St., Burbank.

Although the actual cause of death has not been determined, Burbank police listed it as suicide and said death apparently resulted from poison.

Smith left four notes, two of which were addressed to his 16-year-old daughter Marilou, who lived with him. Another was to his wife Valarie of 3433 W 58th Place, from whom he had been estranged since last September, police said. The fourth was to his employers.

Tired and Lonely

The one to his wife concluded: "Don't be misled—I've no broken heart. I'm just tired and lonely. Loneliness is worse than death."

Smith's body was held at Fillbach Funeral Home in Burbank pending an autopsy. The death was discovered by Miss Louise Davidson, a visiting nurse at the Lockheed plant who went to the Smith home to determine why he had failed to report for work or answer telephone calls.
Man Dies in Bar Brawl; Adversary Kills Self

A gendaw harrow brawl in Burbank early yesterday ended with one man kicked and beaten to death, and his adversary a gunshot suicide, investigating of- ficers reported.

Police said the dead men were George Robert Wolter, 37-year-old grocery clerk, of 616 A B Harvard Ave., Glendale, and Douglas H. Slover, 34, an aircraft worker of 6154 E. Providencia Ave. Burbank.

Det. R. L. McCann said the Slover and his wife Jesse, 27 and Wolter and a woman friend, Mrs. Dorothy Bolger Lee, 48, of 4200 Magnolia Ave., Burbank were among a group of persons in the bar, at 3017 Riverside Drive, at about 3 a.m.

The two women, he said, enganged in a bitter argument. Wt-nesses reported that Wolter entered the women's quarrel and slapped Mrs. Slover.

Then, McCann said, Slover knocked Wolter down and kicked him several times about the head. Wolter was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital.

When police went to Slover's house to arrest him, they knocked on the door for admittance. They heard a shot then said, and forced the door. They found Slover dead with a 45-caliber automatic pistol at his side. He had shot himself through the head, they reported.

Arrival of the officers apparently interrupted Slover's writing a note to his wife. In it he said, "Seems I've got a little more time than I thought I had, sweetheart, so I'll spend it telling you I love you over and over. Sorry for everything. I failed you ...." The note ended with the letter "Y,"

Ave., Long Beach, were found peacefully fishing at Lake Hava- su, near Parker, Ariz. Their plane had been landed in the desert nearby.

The younger Callender, the pilot, had filed a flight plan with the traffic control tower at International Airport from East Long Beach to Needles, sched- uling arrival at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. When they failed to arrive, they were reported missing.

Callender explained that while in flight the three had changed their minds and flown directly to the lake.

FLAMES THAT WRECK HOME AREN'T MERRY

The merry crackling of a fireplace in your living room is a pleasant sound to hear. But not when you're in an upstairs bathroom.

When Mrs. Beatrice Smith opened her bathroom door to investigate what she thought was fireplace sounds, she found the hallway a mass of smoke and flame.

She made her way to safety, and called firemen. The blaze, cause of which was undetermined, result- ed in $12,000 damage to the Smith home at 3000 Shelby Ave., West Los Angeles.
Slain Burbank Officer’s Widow Held in Murder

Mysterious Letter Hinting at Possible Trouble From Vice World Read at Inquest

A Coroner’s jury yesterday determined that Perry Callaway, a Burbank detective, met his death last April 12 “presumably at the hands of his wife, Mrs. Laura Callaway, 36.”

Mrs. Callaway later was arraigned on a charge of murder before Municipal Judge Louis Kaufman. He ordered her to appear for preliminary hearing April 25 and set bail at $5000.

She has been in the hospital ward of the County Jail.

Letter Creates Stir

A letter, written by the murder victim to a sister in Kansas, created a stir during the inquest. It was introduced by the dead man’s brother, Emmett Callaway of Portland, Or.

“I had an offer to go to work as an investigator for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office last week. I have been working with them a little on vice. You can expect quite a shakeup in this county this year and God knows it’s about time. And Burbank will come in for its share. In case of my sudden and untimely demise send this to Mr. Barnes, chief of investigation for the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office. Of course, this isn’t going to happen.”

Deny Knowing Him

The letter was postmarked the day before he died.

Asst. Dist. Atty John Barnes and Everett P. Davis, chief of the District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation, both said they did not know Callaway and, to their knowledge, he had not been offered a job on their staff.

Inquest witnesses included Lt. Robert H. Conway of the Burbank Police Department, who identified the body and conducted the investigation of the case.

He said the bullet apparently was fired from inside the house, the slug penetrating the glass door window and a screen to hit Callaway in the head as he stood on the back porch.

No Clear Prints

George Lacy, Sheriff’s laboratory technician, said there were no clear prints on the stub-ended 38-caliber revolver from which the death bullet was fired.

He added that both Mrs. Callaway and her daughter Jean, 18, registered negative in paraffin tests taken on their hands.

Burbank Police Sgt. Gilbert Leslie testified that Mrs. Callaway, when he questioned her following the shooting, told him she did not remember having a gun in her hand or having shot her husband.

Heard Scratching Noise

He said she had admitted she had risen once during the night to investigate a scratching noise, but that she had found nothing and returned to bed.

Miss Callaway said her mother was awake but dozy when she went to bed on the night of the shooting. She said she did not hear a shot fired.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Al Lucas at one point asked Miss Callaway point-blank: “Did you kill your stepfather?”

“I did not,” the girl replied. Mrs. Callaway declined to testify, giving the reason of ill health.
"No one probably will ever know who killed this man."

Such was the remark of her attorney yesterday as Mrs. Laura Jane Callaway, 36, went on trial for the murder of her husband, Harry Alexander Callaway, 41, a detective with the Burbank Police Department.

The detective was found dead, a bullet hole in his head, beside the back steps of the couple's home at 818 E Delaware St., Burbank, last April 12.

**Double Defense**

Before selection of a jury to try the small, mild-mannered woman began in Superior Judge Thomas L. Ambrose's court yesterday afternoon, Atty. Donn R. Downen Jr. told reporters he will present a double defense.

First, said the lawyer, he will introduce medical testimony that if it was Mrs. Callaway who fired the fatal bullet from the kitchen through a back door on which the shade was drawn, and hit her husband outside, in the dark early morning hours of the murder, she did not know it, or was unconscious of her act because of drugs given to her for a kidney ailment.

**'White Flame' Case**

(The "not guilty because of unconsciousness" defense had its most sensational successful application in the "white flame" defense of Paul Wright more than 10 years ago).

Secondly, said Atty. Downen, he will present evidence to show that there were numerous other persons who "had plenty of reason" to kill Callaway. He proceeded to point out that at the time of his death the detective was working with the District Attorney's office in investigation of the Burbank Police Department and vice conditions in that city.

**Second-Degree Case**

As Judge Ambrose began qualifying prospective jurors concerning the possibility of the death penalty, Dep. Dist. Atty. Arthur Veitch interrupted to announce that the prosecution will not seek the death penalty, will attempt to prove only second-degree murder. At Mrs. Callaway's preliminary hearing, Dep. Dist. Atty. Albert K. Lucas said:

"We have no proof, we don't contend that this was a murder with malice aforethought."

Believed to have been murdered between 2 and 8 a.m., April 12, Callaway had spent the evening before at Burbank Elks Lodge. There is evidence that upon returning home at 2 a.m., he opened a can of beans in the kitchen of his home.

**Found Near Steps**

His body was found beside the back steps. A bullet hole in a shade drawn over the back screen door indicated the fatal shot was fired from inside the kitchen.

At the time of the murder Mrs. Callaway insisted, and still insists, that she knows nothing about it. She and her daughter Jean, 18, discovered the body while preparing breakfast at 8 a.m. April 12.

Selection of the jury to try Mrs. Callaway, who is free under $5000 bail, will be resumed today.
POLICEMAN'S WIDOW FREED IN SLAYING

Directed Verdict in Case of Mrs. Calloway, Burbank, Returned in Two Minutes by Jury

A directed verdict of innocence in the April 12 gunshot death of Perry Calloway, 41-year-old Burbank policeman, yesterday freed his diminutive, 39-year-old wife, Laura Jane, from a charge of murder.

She, however, remains under medical treatment for a serious injury suffered during the two-week trial, she was carried into the courtroom Sunday on a stretcher and was taken to her home under police guard.

"Fearfully Frightened"

"This was more severe medically than to show murder but to my opinion it is only a matter of time before she recovers and there is no chance for the return of serious injuries and I think it is hopeless for her to be tried," the judge continued.

Calloway was found dead in a hotel room at 1231 E. Commercial St. A police report said he died of a bullet shot in his head. The dog case came from his service revolver, kept in a bedside drawer, or perhaps from the floor near him, where 12 to 15 bullets were found, the police said.

Exculpating Evidence

Calloway and his wife, who was 12 weeks before her confinement, were separated by a fence that the judge characterized as a "dog" fence. The police, however, said they were "sitting in a hotel room" when the bullet struck the officer. Swan said that the bullet was fired after the couple "went out to their room." The judge added that the officer was not in the hotel room at the time he was shot.

The couple have been married for 13 years. The officer was a 16-year member of the force, although only 39 days of service before his death.

For two minutes yesterday at the Marin County Court the issue of the verdict was debated. Perry Calloway, 50, told the officer's widow, Mrs. Calloway and the officer, that she was innocent of any murder.

Forcible Prisoner

Judge Swan continued that the officer's widow should not be prosecuted for murder. The police, however, said they were "sitting in a hotel room" when the bullet struck the officer. Swan said that the bullet was fired after the couple "went out to their room." The judge added that the officer was not in the hotel room at the time he was shot.

For two minutes yesterday at the Marin County Court the issue of the verdict was debated. Perry Calloway, 50, told the officer's widow, Mrs. Calloway and the officer, that she was innocent of any murder.

Forcible Prisoner

Judge Swan continued that the officer's widow should not be prosecuted for murder. The police, however, said they were "sitting in a hotel room" when the bullet struck the officer. Swan said that the bullet was fired after the couple "went out to their room." The judge added that the officer was not in the hotel room at the time he was shot.

Grantland Rice Award

Go to South Dakota

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP - Feb 19, 1927) Perry Calloway, 50, of Beverly Hills, Calif., whose original work on the Grantland Rice Award, the world's most famous black athlete, was awarded by the Los Angeles Daily News Daily Mirror.

SURVIVAL PATTERN

PUT INTO BRAILLE

H. W. Noe, Los Angeles, Calif., a popular district residen, has announced that his new invention, the "Survival Pattern," has been transcribed into Braille for the benefit of the blind.

He said that this is the first time this has been done in Braille. He also said that the same time he had transcribed a manuscript for the benefit of the blind. The pattern was observed and the book was donated to the Braille Institute.
Burbank Sued in Jeep Deaths of Two Youths

The city of Burbank was named a defendant yesterday in a $100,000 damage suit for wrongful deaths, brought by the parents of two youths killed in a jeep accident last January in Slough Park, Burbank.

City Clerk Adelle Jones, Park Superintendent Dewey Kruckenberg and Harry DeMaranville, park caretaker, were named specifically as defendants and were served with summons yesterday.

The plaintiffs are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harrison, of 125 Olive Ave., Burbank, parents of Kenneth, 17, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tinkler, of 714 E. Palm Ave., Burbank, parents of Robert Jr., 17.

A third boy, Larry W. Hughes, 18, also died in the crash as the jeep went out of control and hurtled 90 feet down a cliff. He was not mentioned in any court action.

The suit contend that the city and its employees were negligent in their maintenance of a dirt road near the Inspiration Point parking area. Atty. White McGee Jr. prepared both complaints.

$10,000 Given to Aid War on Deadly Weed

Richfield Oil Co. yesterday announced a $10,000 grant to the Nevada State Department of Agriculture to a scientific project aimed at Halogenet gommenia, a weed that is proving deadly to livestock.

Halogenet, a fast-spreading plant, already has caused many deaths of cattle, sheep and goats in California, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Wyoming, and now reportedly infests about 600,000 acres. It first was reported in Nevada about 15 years ago.

The Halogenet weed thrives on bare soil. It has a tiny flower and wicker-shaped leaves tipped with slender bristles. These leaves contain oxalic acid, and two or three bites of it are said to be fatal to mature sheep.

Croatian Colony Plans Celebration Sunday

Members of the Croatian colony of Southern California will celebrate the 15th annual Croatian Day with an all-day pageant, bazaar and dance Sunday at the Croatian Recreation Center, 1125 S. Budlong Ave., it was announced yesterday. A queen and princess will be crowned.

Two leading contestants for queen are Jacqueline Chatou, 227 Cala Ave., and Dorothy Gabriele, 5931 Northside Drive.

New Mexico Picnic Set

Former New Mexico residents now living in this area are being invited to a picnic Aug. 19 in Sycamore Grove, starting at noon, it was announced yesterday.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Boy, 2, Killed by Backing Car

Two-year-old Randy Vaughn was killed yesterday when he was run over in the driveway of his Lakewood home by a car being backed from the garage by his mother, California Highway Patrolmen reported.

The boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Vaughn, 3339 Greenbriar Road, was pronounced dead on arrival at Seaside Hospital, Long Beach. Officers said the boy apparently ran into the path of the car unobserved by his mother, Mrs. Sally Vaughn.

RFC Man Sworn In

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Stanley P. Reed today swore in Clarence A. Beitel, Chicago banker, as deputy administrator of the Reconstruction Finance Corp.

Burbank Boy’s Gunfire Death Held Accidental

The death of Arnold V. O’Gorman, of 1029 N Manning St., Burbank, who was shot in the face and throat by a playmate in his bedroom Aug. 29, was ruled accidental by a Coroner’s jury yesterday.

Norman D. Lervold, 14, of 2128 N Valley St., Burbank, who fired the 22-caliber rifle, and Wayne K. Barnes, 13, of 1830 Frederick St., Burbank, who witnessed the shooting, told the jury the gun was discharged by Lervold, who had forgotten the gun was loaded.

Lt. Paul M. Evans of the Burbank Police Department also testified and said that officers who handled the case agreed that the shooting was accidental.

Fall Injures Television’s Dick Lane

Dick Lane, the television actor, is currently holding forth at the Hollywood Hospital, nursing two fractured heels, following a fall from a six-foot ladder in the back yard of his home.

Lane, 50, of 301 N Swall Drive, Beverly Hills, was pruning a tree when he lost his balance and fell from the ladder yesterday. He received treatment at the Beverly Hills Emergency Hospital and was then transferred to the Hollywood Hospital.

Boat Adrift Towed to Port

The fishing boat Apache, adrift three miles off Huntington Beach with her engine out of operation, was towed into Long Beach yesterday after a short wave radio enthusiast heard the boat’s distress call and notified the Coast Guard.

W. R. Krachen of 435 Orinola Ave., Long Beach, told the Coast Guard he heard the boat’s message for aid, listing eight passengers aboard the 32-foot craft. Dean Snyder of 10811 Sampson St., Lynwood, was listed as the owner of the boat.
Lineman Dies in Fall Off Pole

William Thomas, 36, of 321 W Alameda Ave., Burbank, a lineman for the city of Burbank, yesterday fell to his death while working on a power pole at Keystone St. and Winona Ave., apparently a victim of electrocution, police said.

Asbury Seeks Commutation Fare Increases

The Asbury Rapid Transit System seeks fare increases in an application filed with the Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco yesterday.

The system operates buses in Los Angeles, Pasadena, Hollywood, Culver City, Burbank and San Fernando.

Unlike the Los Angeles Transit Lines and the Pacific Electric Railway which applied for fare increases last week, the Asbury System asks no change in its basic fare rate, seeking only a boost in price of its commutation books of various types.

It also asks permission to discontinue six of special rate books for school students.

GAR VETERAN GONE—Douglas T. Story, one of the few remaining Civil War veterans, who died yesterday at the age of 107 in the Veterans Hospital, is shown in a recent photograph at his West Los Angeles home where he lived with his daughter.
Husband Arrested in Wife's Mystery Death

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jan 16, 1952;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. A2

Conflicting stories following the death of a housewife in Burbank yesterday resulted in the arrest of her husband, a film studio employee, Burbank police said.

The dead woman was Mrs. Helen Stevens, 49, of 3100 Chandler Blvd. She had collapsed in the home of a friend, Mrs. Billie May McConnell, 720 N Whitnall Highway, Burbank, and was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital.

Mrs. McConnell told officers that Mrs. Stevens had gone to her home late Monday and asked to spend the night there. Mrs. Stevens explained that she had some trouble at home, Mrs. McConnell said.

At about 5:30 a.m. yesterday, Mrs. Stevens' husband, Frank, drove up to the house in a taxi and entered the room where his wife was sleeping, police were told.

Twenty minutes later Stevens left the room, re-entered the taxi and drove away, the officers were informed.

Mrs. McConnell said she then entered Mrs. Stevens' room and found her pale and breathing heavily. Because of past asthmatic attacks suffered by Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. McConnell thought another such attack was under way.

An hour later Mrs. McConnell

Stevens unconscious.

Stevens was contacted at Columbia Studios and upon questioning by police denied ever going to the McConnell home.

"My wife drove me to work," he told Lt. Kenneth K. Kipers. "She never left home last night. I never took a taxicab."

Stevens was promptly booked for investigation pending an autopsy.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Four persons died in Los Angeles County yesterday as a result of traffic accidents. One was the victim of an April 7 smashup that injured eight others. Another was killed in a desert pile-up that involved two trucks and two automobiles. The third was killed when a car collided with a utility pole, and the fourth, a child, struck down while crossing a Burbank street.

Elroy Baca, 16, of 207 W 2nd St., San Pedro, died at Harbor General Hospital in Torrance after injuries received when the car in which he rode collided with a tank trailer at Anaheim Blvd. and Firebaugh St. April 7. His brother, Lloyd, and another passenger died in the wreckage and the eight other passengers were injured.

Car Hits Power Pole

Two more persons, Mrs. Patricia Barbee, 39, of 10344 Nashville Dr., East Whittier, and her husband, James, 30, died as the result of injuries received when their car, driven by Barbee, struck a power pole on Workman Mill Road near Penmar Dr. and Whittier Blvd. of Whittier. Three other persons were injured. One critically. They included Dale Findes, 38, of El Monte, in critical condition at General Hospital; Tom Pulliam, 18, of 19322 Walnut St., Whittier; and Ron Brown, 19, of 3150 S Painter St., Whittier.

A head-on collision on U.S. Highway 6 near Lancaster resulted in the death of Gus E. Kincade, 45, of 319 E 39th Place. Sheriff's deputies said his pickup truck apparently crossed the highway center line and collided with an automobile driven by Clyde Irvine. Driver of Route 1, Box 26-D, Saugus.

Irvine was taken to Palmdale Hospital with major injuries. Meanwhile, another automobile, driven by Ralph K. Payne, 25, of 3681 Stewart Ave., Venice, crashed into the tangled wreckage, and a few minutes later a truck, driven by Raymond Baker, 28, of Route 4, Box 233, Lancaster, struck the other cars piled up in the highway. Neither Payne nor Baker was injured.

The day's fourth fatal accident took the life of Peter Sappho, 42, of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Suphoo, 149 E Tulipans Ave., Burbank. He was dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital there after he was struck by a car at the intersection of Elmore Ave. and Victory Blvd., Burbank.

The driver of the car, D. E. Durrell, 29, of 631 Thompson Ave, Glendale, was booked by Burbank police on suspicion of manslaughter. Officers said the young man was crossing the intersection with his 5-year-old sister Lorraine when he was struck by the vehicle.
How Plane Ripped Through Burbank Homes and Garages

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jan 11, 1954;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. 3

How Plane Ripped Through Burbank Homes and Garages

DEVIATION—BUT NO DEATH—Here's what happened when converted bomber crashed in Burbank.

JOURNEY'S END—Here is where plane wound up, smashed into garage apartment after striking home and two garages, near one of plane's two motors in foreground. Other was hurled more than 50 feet away.
Sister Dead, Reseda Boy, 3, Fights for Life

A Reseda couple kept a bedside vigil yesterday at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank where their 3-year-old son fought for his life against influenza as the Coroner searched for the cause of death of his 21-month-old sister, who died Tuesday morning.

Robert Marc Hamm, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Hamm of 7965 Chastain Ave., Reseda, was brought to the hospital when his parents discovered him in violent pain.

Police Escort

The Hamms received police escort from Burbank Patrolman Scott Cowen, whom they hailed at Hollywood Way and Chandler Blvd.

Doctors said the boy was in a critical condition, suffering with influenza and other possible complications.

Tuesday morning the Hamms discovered their only other child, Cynthia, in convulsions. They wrapped her and took her to the Valley Receiving Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Further Study

An autopsy was performed yesterday but further study is necessary before the exact cause can be determined, a Coroner's office spokesman said.

Hamm, 26, is employed at Pacific Airmotive Corp. in Burbank. Mrs. Lorraine Hamm, 24, is the daughter of Arnold Fate, a Burbank Public Service Department engineer.

The little girl's body is at Forest Lawn Mortuary, where funeral arrangements are pending.
BURBANK, Calif., Oct. 27 (AP) — The wife of George Von Elm, former United States amateur golf champion, died today of insecticide poisoning and a young family friend is held on suspicion of murder.

The body of Mrs. Mary Von Elm, 46 years old, a movie dress designer, was found before dawn in a car on a tavern parking lot. With her was Roy Ford, 29, who lived with the Von Elms in a North Hollywood motel. A bottle of insecticide was found under the car.

The coroner's office said after an autopsy that is was not prepared to list the death as a homicide, suicide or accident.

Mr. Ford, protégé of the 54-year-old Mr. Von Elm, told police he knocked the bottle of insecticide from Mrs. Von Elm's lips but "it was too late."
Lie Test Fails to Solve Death of Mrs. Von Elm

Lie detector evidence proved "inconclusive" yesterday in an investigation into the death of Mrs. Mary (Ber-nice) Von Elm, 46, wife of George Von Elm, former national amateur golf champion.

Roy Arthur Ford, 29, Von Elm's golfing partner, underwent the lie detector test in Pasadena yesterday at the behest of Burbank Det. Lt. Kenneth Kipers.

Ford was booked on suspicion of murder when he was found Wednesday in a car with the body of Mrs. Von Elm.

Further Investigation
Details of the lie detector test were presented to Dist. Atty. Roll, who assigned Dep. Dist. Atty. Albert K. Lucas to work with Burbank police in further investigation of the murder.

Dr. Frederick D. Newbarr, county autopsy surgeon, said Mrs. Von Elm died of a nicotine poison.

Ford was bending over her body in a Burbank tavern parking lot when police arrived at the scene. Ford said he was listening for a heart beat, explaining that he had awakened a minute or two earlier in the car.

Describes Evening
The suspect told Lt. Kipers that he and Mrs. Von Elm had been drinking in a tavern and that when they left, Mrs. Von Elm fell three times. Ford said he assisted her into the car, where they argued and she gulped down contents of a bottle.

The bottle that contained the deadly fluid was found near the car.

Von Elm said he believed Ford was innocent in the death of Mrs. Von Elm. Ford had been living with the Von Elms at 10730 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood.

Pacific Storm Reported

MANILA, Oct. 28 — A tropical storm with winds of 55 miles an hour was located midway between Guam and the Philippines today, The Manila Weather Bureau said the storm was moving toward the Northern Philippines at about 10 miles an hour.
Golfer's Wife Called Suicide

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 1 (AP)—The coroner's office announced today that it was listing the death of Mrs. Mary Von Elm, wife of George Von Elm, former national amateur golf champion, as a suicide. Her body was found in a car on a parking lot behind a suburban Burbank tavern last Wednesday.
Woman Dies as Trash Fire Ignites Dress

Mrs. Naomi Ebert, of 736 E San Jose Ave., Burbank, was burned to death early yesterday when her clothing ignited from an incinerator at her home after paint thinner exploded in a trash fire she had set, Burbank police reported.

Her husband, John, 56, told officers he heard his wife’s screams and dashed out to see her enveloped in flames on the ground near the incinerator. Ebert said he obtained a blanket and smothered the flames.

Mrs. Ebert was pronounced dead at St. Joseph Hospital. Officers said a can which had contained the thinner was found near the incinerator.

Widower Admits His 1945 Death Date Is Overdue

OWOSSO, Mich., July 17 (AP) At the time of his wife’s death some years ago Charles Starr announced he would die in 1945. He had that date placed on his tombstone alongside the grave of his wife.

At a party marking his 101st birthday yesterday Starr acknowledged he made a big mistake. He is still hale and hearty.

Starr takes long walks every day and recently cut down a tree in his yard “just to clean it up.”

Angeleno Elected

WINONA LAKE, Ind., July 17 (AP) — Dr. Robert A. Cook, Wheaton, Ill., was re-elected today as president of Youth for Christ International, now holding its 10th annual convention here. Roy McKeown, Los Angeles, was named secretary.
WOMAN HUNTED IN POSSIBLE MURDER

Glendale Man, 27, Dies in Hospital After Receiving Severe Blow on Back of Head

An unidentified woman who complained to three eyewitnesses that her feet and legs were covered with blood was being sought today as Burbank police launched a possible murder investigation into the death of Terry F. Meyer, recently separated from his wife, Maxine A. Meyer. The couple's 7-year-old boy was with the mother. Investigating officers were trying to contact her and a taxicab driver who summoned police Friday night. Police said Meyer had been drinking. Lt. Kenneth K. Kipers and Sgt. Burton Fiske were in charge of the investigation.

Meyer, 27, of 1122 S Central Ave., Glendale, died in County General Hospital Sunday night after informing police he had "fallen asleep in a relative's car." He refused to identify his companion.

The three eyewitnesses, John M. Becker, 26, of 8525 Forsythe St., Sunland; James W. Oden, 39, of 13017 Borden St., North Hollywood, and Roosevelt Willingham, 31, of 1622 E 40th Place, described the woman as in her 20s. She was said to be 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighed approximately 145 pounds.

Seen Dragging Body

All three told police they saw the woman late Friday night dragging Meyer's body across Victory Place near the Southern Pacific Railroad underpass. The underpass is between Burbank Blvd. and Empire Ave., in Burbank. She drove away in a private car while police were being summoned.

Meyer was taken to St. Joseph Hospital suffering...
Pedestrian Found Dead After Car Leaves Road
Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Nov 13, 1955; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987) pg. 24

Young Bandit Uses Knife on Cabbie’s Throat

It wasn't until police arrived at the scene of an accident that a motorist learned his car apparently had struck and killed a pedestrian yesterday.

Vincenzo Martinez, 26, of 161 E 2nd St., San Bernardo, said his car went out of control and struck a power pole at Lakewood Blvd. and Adoree Ave. in Downey after being forced off the highway by another car.

Martinez was uninjured. But when police arrived they found Jack Campbell, 42, of 6035 Graywood Ave., Bellflower, lying dead in the road nearby.

Driver Crushed

Police said the Martinez car apparently struck Campbell while Martinez was fighting to control the automobile. He was not held.

A hit-and-run driver fled from a fatal accident at 124th St. and Wilmington Ave., although his vehicle apparently was not at fault, California Highway Patrol officers said.

Killed in the two-car crash was James Lee Hart, 22, of 11725 Wilmington Ave., passenger in a car which the CHP said was traveling on the wrong side of Wilmington. The driver of the latter car was identified as Raymond Hart, 23, also of 11725 Wilmington Ave. He was injured critically. Officers said the Harts were not related.

Milten W. Axson, 40, of 5474 San Fernando Road, was crushed to death yesterday when he was pitched from his light pickup truck after it struck another on San Fernando Road in Burbank, then overturned on nearby railroad tracks.

Other Driver Unhurt

Wreckage of Axson's car tied up two trains on the Southern Pacific tracks alongside San Fernando Road near Brighton St.

Driver of the other truck—Russell T. Taylor, 31, of 13811 Cohasset St., Van Nuys—was uninjured.

Witnesses said Axson's truck was traveling at an excessive speed when the accident occurred.

Car-Truck Collision

In another accident yesterday, IRA Roseborough, 24, of 1847 W 65th St., was killed and a passenger in his car was fatally injured when the vehicle collided with a truck at Western and Vermont Aves.

His passenger, David C. Johnson, 19, a Camp Pendleton marine, died later at General Hospital.

A teen-ager pulled a knife across Cabbie Casey Whitney’s throat early yesterday in a robbery that netted the young bandit $15, Burbank police reported.

Whitney, 16, told officers he picked up the youth, about 16, at Olive Ave. and San Fernando Road. Later, he said, the boy drew a knife and demanded his money.

"I’ll give you my money but don’t cut my throat," he said.

His bandit-passerenger then drew the knife across Whitney’s throat, inflicting a superficial wound, and fled. Whitney said the boy was about 5 feet 9 inches, weighed 150 pounds and was wearing a black leather jacket and blue denim trousers.
Bride Released on Bail in Knife Death of Mate

Mrs. Gladys Mauck Afek, 34-year-old bride of a week, was at liberty on $250 bail yesterday on a manslaughter charge by Burbank police for the stabbing death of her husband, Henry, 32, after a prenuptial quarrel June 23.

She was booked in Burbank City Jail Thursday on suspicion of manslaughter when her husband, an aircraft worker, died at Sawtelle Veterans Hospital of what the Coroner's office described as brain damage resulting from a stab wound.

Story of Beating

Burbank police reported that Mrs. Afek told them of an argument during which Afek dared her to strike him with a knife after he "choked me and knocked me around," broke an earring and damaged her partial dental plate. She said she "couldn't take it any more" and threw an eight-inch kitchen knife at Afek, causing the head wound.

This incident happened at her former apartment at 1346 Whitnall Highway, Burbank, and a day later, June 24, Afek was admitted to General Hospital, police said. He was released from the hospital June 27 and the couple went to Las Vegas June 30 and were married.

Mrs. Afek told officers Afek became ill again last Monday and was admitted at Sawtelle Veterans Hospital where he died Thursday night. Her arrest followed when Dr. Victor Cefalu, Chief Deputy Coroner, attributed death to "brain damage resulting from a stab wound of the head."

Sgt. Burt Fiske said the woman had been arrested for assault with a deadly weapon after the knife-throwing incident, but the charge was reduced to battery and she entered a not guilty plea in Burbank Municipal Court with a jury trial set for July 17.

The Afeks lived at 266 W Elm Ave., Burbank. His body was sent yesterday from the Veterans Hospital to his former home in Steubenville, O.
Worker Killed in Scaffold Fall

A bridge under construction over the intersection of Providencia Ave. and Flower St., Burbank, as part of the Golden State Freeway was the scene of tragedy yesterday when a 33-year-old laborer fell 35 feet to his death.

Burbank police said Louis Joseph Gonzales of 13054 Torch St., Baldwin Park, was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital after he tumbled from a scaffold.
Shotgun Blast Kills Youth in Garden Grove

GARDEN GROVE, March 24—Johnny Philippi, 14, was killed today by a shotgun blast as he and a classmate were handling the weapon while absent from school.

Eighth-grader Johnny was in the kitchen of the home of Roger Schlager, 13, when they decided to get a 12-gauge shotgun; kept hidden by the boy’s father, R. W. Schlager.

Police quoted Roger as saying that he put two shells in the gun and accidentally pulled the trigger as the boys sat at the kitchen table.

The charge struck the victim in the chest. He staggered into the back yard where neighbors found him and called police. The boy died shortly afterward at a hospital.

He was the son of Mrs. John L. Philippi of Garden Grove.

Roger’s mother, summoned home from her work at a nursery, found her son tearfully praying for his friend.

Accident With Gun Kills Burbank Boy

MOJAVE, March 24—An investigation was opened today into the death of a 6-year-old Burbank youngster from a 22-caliber bullet wound at Mojave Hospital last night.

The victim was identified as Christopher Oergal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oergal.

According to information given to Sheriff’s deputies here, the boy and his parents and an uncle were engaged in target practice on the desert about 20 miles southwest of Mojave.

A pistol discharged as the uncle, Lloyd Oergal, was reloading it. The bullet struck young Oergal in the chest.
Mystery Woman’s Body Found Outside Hospital

Young Brunet Victim’s Clothing Stripped of Identification; Cause of Death Sought

The fully clothed body of a young brunette was left last night on a parkway lawn bordering St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank. Police were stymied further when there were no signs of violence on the body. PoliceLt. E. J. Vandergrift said the clothing had been stripped of identification.

The victim, about 21, apparently was driven to the hospital and left on the strip of grass about 7 p.m.

A full autopsy was ordered. Results were not expected before tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the “Jane Doe” body was fingerprinted by police for possible identification.

Vandergrift said hospital attendants were first alerted to the body by an anonymous phone call. A doctor assigned to the emergency ward of the hospital pronounced the pretty young woman dead.

Shielded by Hedge

She was dressed in a black shortie coat, cream-colored blouse and red print pedal pushers. Her feet were bare, but a pair of pink, flat shoes lay nearby.

The victim wore a 14-karat gold wedding band and engagement ring on her left hand, an inexpensive gold wristwatch and a small locket around her throat.

The section of lawn where the body was abandoned is shielded from general view of the hospital by a six-foot-high hedge and is across from a vacant lot in the 500 block of S Buena Vista St.

Vandergrift speculated that the woman had been dead less than two hours when the body was found.

The discovery was made at the height of the hospital’s visiting period.
Woman Admits Having Role in Bride Death, Police Say

Believed Linked to Illegal Surgery on Young Victim

Illegal surgery had been arranged for the teenage bride found dead Saturday in Lakeview. It reportedly was admitted to detectives yesterday by Mrs. Ruth Haskins, 32.

She was found on suspicion of murder following her arrest here from Mexico.

Mrs. Haskins was arrested at the Los Angeles airport by Los Angeles homicide detectives. They said an inquest findings implicating her in the illegal surgery believed to have caused the bride's death. Mrs. Haskins, who was found dead Saturday night on the steps of the Lakeview hospital.

A preliminary autopsy report showed a high level of salvia poison, an anesthetic, in the body of the 23-year-old girl. The preliminary report showed the death to be accidental.

Mrs. Haskins was suspected of arranging for the illegal surgery to be performed by Dr. Philip W. Abramson, who was found dead Saturday night in his home.

Det. Danny Glad and Paul Lebow, of the Los Angeles police, were searching for the illegal surgery facility.

Mrs. Haskins, who was arrested Saturday night, was held on suspicion of murder, according to police.

The Illegal Surgery Operation

She said she was in on the way in Mexico City to pay for the illegal surgery, according to police.

Doctor's Arrest

Dr. Abramson was arrested Saturday night at his home.

Lakeview Hospital

The body of the bride was removed to the hospital in a coroner's car.

FAMILY AT FUNERAL

Waking toward grave of Mrs. Brenda Eimerman at Mt. Vernon Memorial Park, a family of young bride whose body was found at hospital.

Mrs. Eimerman was the mother of the 23-year-old girl. She was found dead Saturday night in the hospital.

The wake was at the hospital in the morning.

The body was taken to the Parker Funeral Home, which is in charge of the funeral arrangements.

The family was notified of the death.

The wake was held at the hospital in the morning.

The funeral was held at the hospital in the morning.

The body was taken to the Parker Funeral Home, which is in charge of the funeral arrangements.
Continued from Second Page

Phoenix last June with Steve Emerson, 20.

She and her jobless husband had been living at 9645 1/4 W. Olympic Blvd. Emerson said he last saw his wife at 4 p.m. Saturday in Hollywood and that she was supposed to attend a family reunion at her parents' home. Blonder was described as a wealthy retail merchant.

Originally it was reported that Weber, who represents both the Blonders and Emerson, had prevented police from questioning the parents and had advised them not to discuss the case.

Police said yesterday, however, that they had received full cooperation from the family from the beginning. They said the family was acting under instructions to maintain a "noncommittal status" to give police more time to apprehend the suspects.
Manhunt On in Death of Young Bride

Suspect Sought as Police Probe Illegal Surgery

Several mysteries remained hidden yesterday in the death of Mrs. Brenda Blonder Emerson, 16-year-old bride whose still-warm body was found on the lawn of St. Joseph Hospital in Burbank last Saturday night.

The mysteries persisted despite the capture of Mrs. Ruth Haskins, 42, a nurse, who has admitted she was the go-between for an illegal operation on the youthful bride, and a search for the man believed to be responsible for her death.

Named and Described

He was identified in an urgent all-points police bulletin yesterday as Edgar Schrater, alias Edgar Salgado, 37. The bulletin requested "Pick up and hold on suspicion of murder." It described Schrater as a small man with black wavy hair and an olive complexion, 5 ft. 9 in. tall and weighing 150 lbs.

Inasmuch as Mrs. Haskins was arrested in Tijuana Monday—at exactly the hour a tearful funeral service was being conducted here for Mrs. Emerson—Mexican authorities also have been requested to be on the lookout for Schrater.

Woman Sought

As homicide detectives continued their investigation Capt. Arthur Hertel ordered a police broadcast for Mrs. Mabel Horwitz, 53, also known as Caroline Carroll, and her daughter Betty, asking that the pair be held for questioning.

Detectives said Mrs. Horwitz knows Schrater and may have information on his whereabouts.

Mrs. Haskins, who was sentenced to a year in the County Jail in 1956 after being convicted on three counts of illegal surgery, was arrested as she started to board a plane for Mexico City. She was carrying $945 cash.

Brother a Fugitive

It was assumed that she was going to join her brother, Dr. Philip Victor Ames, 45, osteopath, who has been a fugitive from justice since he failed to appear for sentence.
BRIDE'S SLAYING

Continued from Second Page

ing Dec. 20, 1957, on nine
counts of illegal surgery.

According to Capt. Arthur
Hertel of the Los Angeles
Police Department's homi-
cide squad, Schrater is a for-
mer driver for Dr. Ames and
"learned the trade" from the
fugitive osteopath.

Who Made Arrangements?

Despite all this informa-
tion, including Mrs. Haskins'
report that plans for illegal
surgery on Mrs. Emerson
called for a $600 fee, police
yesterday were giving no in-
formation as to where the
young bride obtained the
money which she is believed
to have been carrying.

If they know, they also
were not revealing who
made the arrangements with
Mrs. Haskins, nor who, if
anyone, drove Mrs. Emerson
to a secret rendezvous Sat-
turday afternoon.

Los Angeles and Burbank
police were co-operating yest-
eryday in a search to learn
where the fatal treatment
was given to Mrs. Emerson
and thus establish definite
jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, Dr. Theodore
Curphey, county coroner, de-
clared after a personal ex-
amination yesterday that he
"strongly suspects" the teen-
age bride was pregnant. This
was contrary to previous re-
ports that her condition was
a "false pregnancy" induced
by worry and strain. There
will be no absolute proof of
the victim's condition until
findings from microscopic
tests are completed today,
the coroner added, however.

Dr. Curphey continued to
concur with the belief that
injections of sodium pento-
thal, an anesthetic, hastily
and inexpertly administered,
were the cause of death.

"Half a gram of sodium
pentothal, if administered
rapidly, would be fatal," he
explained.

Would Not Cause Death

Although 3.4 grams of the
drug were found in Mrs. Em-
erson's body, this amount
would not cause death if in-
jected slowly and properly,
the coroner indicated.

After his personal exami-
nation yesterday, Dr. Cur-
phrey said he found no marks
of instruments.

"But this means nothing,"
he said. "With new and mod-
ern instruments, abortionists
no longer leave their cards."
Burbank Man Held in Death of Policeman

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jun 26, 1960; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987) pg. D4

The alleged slayer of a Long Beach policeman, shot in a gun battle late Friday night, was identified yesterday as Doyle Terry, 25, of 122-A N Cordova St., Burbank.

Terry had given police the alias of Warren Durfee when he was captured by pursuing officers a mile from the scene of the shooting.

Police said a .44 caliber magnum revolver, the weapon used to kill Patrolman Vernon Owings, 31, was found in Terry’s automobile. Owings was shot in the head as he sought to aid two men he believed were having trouble on Terminal Island.

Companion Wounded

His partner, Richard A. Brizendine, 29, was shot in the leg but managed to radio for help. A dragnet of 40 patrol cars hunted down and seized Terry and his companion, Ross Wilson, 26, a convicted sex offender released as cured last year from Atascadero State Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

Wilson had been hit in the arm and hand by bullets fired by Brizendine. He was taken into custody at a Long Beach hospital.

Both suspects were booked for murder and assault with a deadly weapon. The wounded police officer was reported doing well yesterday at St. Mary’s Hospital.
Man Crushed to Death by Press
Vincent J. Amaniera, 26, of 7947 Clybourn Ave., Sun Valley, was crushed to death when a one-ton punch press he was helping to move toppled over on him Friday. The accident occurred in a shop at 3009 W Magnolia Ave., Burbank.
Slain Blond Was Daughter of Professor

A blonde 18-year-old girl, slain here in a robbery attempt six weeks ago was identified Saturday as the daughter of an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati.

Her mother, the wife of Mr. Maureen Claire McLaughlin, seemed to be in a state of shock.

"We just don't know what happened. We don't know what to do. Can you tell us how she died?" she asked.

The Times when interviewed by telephone.

**Shot in Robbery**

Det. Lt. E. J. Vandergrift of the Burbank police traced the girl's identity through an insurance policy. She was identified as Miss Dubonett, a University of Cincinnati coed who dreamed of a career as a Hollywood model.

She came to California in February and stayed in Victorville with the family of a man who had employed her in Ohio as a baby-sitter.

In March she became restless and determined to seek her fortune in filmland. The only money she had was $100, according to Vandergrift.

Maureen registered in a Sunset Blvd. motel on April 1 as Miss Dubonett. From there on the path to her violent death became clear.

She took part in at least six holdups, detectives said.

Six members of a gang which police said used her in robberies were indicted Thursday. Two others are still sought.

stricken and confined to his bed.

His wife, mother of Miss Maureen Claire McLaughlin, seemed to be in a state of shock.

"We just don't know what happened. We don't know what to do. Can you tell us how she died?" she asked.

The Times when interviewed by telephone.

**Shot in Robbery**

Det. Lt. E. J. Vandergrift of the Burbank police traced the girl's identity through an insurance policy. She was identified as Miss Dubonett, a University of Cincinnati coed who dreamed of a career as a Hollywood model.

She came to California in February and stayed in Victorville with the family of a man who had employed her in Ohio as a baby-sitter.

In March she became restless and determined to seek her fortune in filmland. The only money she had was $100, according to Vandergrift.

Maureen registered in a Sunset Blvd. motel on April 1 as Miss Dubonett. From there on the path to her violent death became clear.

She took part in at least six holdups, detectives said.

Six members of a gang which police said used her in robberies were indicted Thursday. Two others are still sought.
Painter Pays for Hatred of Abstract Art

PARIS - Bernard Lorjou was 4,000 francs ($800) poorer Thursday because he hates abstract art.

Lorjou is a painter, but only of something you can recognize.

The sight of abstract paintings in art galleries and at exhibits, got to be, almost more than he could endure. In September, 1961, at the Paris biennial art exhibit, where abstract works took up about two-thirds of the space, Lorjou stood outside the show distributing copies of an open letter to Raymond Cogniat, an art critic and an organizer of the biennial. In the letter Lorjou called Cogniat "the gravedigger of French art" and accused him of turning French museums into latrines. Cogniat sued for damages.

At the trial Nov. 22, Lorjou denied nothing. He said he was merely carrying on "my crusade against abstract art, this shame."

Cogniat said "this is not the time or the place to speak about the aesthetic angles, but I cannot let the insults go unchallenged."

After thinking it over for two weeks, the court Thursday fined Lorjou 1,000 francs ($200) and ordered him to pay 3,000 francs ($600) to Cogniat as damages.

Alumni Assn. to Meet

The New York Alumni Assn. of Los Angeles will meet next Friday at 6:30 p.m. at 1312 N L a Brea Blvd.

Savannah to Travel

SPARROWS POINT, Md. (UPI) - The United States expects to sign agreements permitting the nuclear ship Thursday. "We expect to visit several European ports, Lawrence reports, and be able to sign several formal agreements with the general counsel, said several of these countries.

Jammed Gun Kills Labor Board Deputy

A deputy state labor commissioner accidentally shot himself to death when he tried to clear a jammed shotgun, Burbank police reported Thursday.

John Kimberling, 43, of 835 N Valley St. was dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital Wednesday night.

Officers said Kimberling was preparing to clean his jammed 28-gauge automatic shotgun in the den of his home when it accidentally went off, shooting him in the chest.

His wife, Diana, and daughter, Deanna, heard the shot from the kitchen and rushed in to find him slumped over a divan.

He went to work with the State agency in August, 1959, and was assigned to the Van Nuys office of the commission.
Crash Hurls Baby in Arms to Death

A 5-month-old baby was torn from her mother's arms and fatally injured by the impact of a two-car collision Thursday in Burbank.

The infant, Cynthia Lewis, died two hours later in St. Joseph's Hospital. Her mother, Emma, 20, was hospitalized with a fractured leg and severe shock.

Police said the father and husband, Larry L. Lewis, 21, of 4935 Whitsett Ave., North Hollywood, a Lockheed employee, was turning left from Pass Ave. to Toluca Park Dr. when his car collided with one driven by Joanne Maddelein, 23, of 3517 Warner Ave., who suffered cuts and bruises.

There were no arrests.

Hiroshi Nomura, 23, of 3467 2nd St., was killed Thursday night when his sports car crashed into the rear of a streetcar at 6th St. and Vermont Ave. None of the 40 passengers aboard the streetcar was injured.

John Peters, 32, of 1550 Woodbury Rd., Altadena, died in St. Luke Hospital, Pasadena, after he was struck by a car as he crossed New York Dr. near Hill Ave., Pasadena. The driver was not held.
GIFT EXCHANGE ENDS IN SLAYING OF WIFE

An attempt at a holiday reconciliation ended violently in Burbank Saturday when the wife stabbed to death and the estranged husband, who tried to take his own life, booked as a murder suspect.

Police said James MacCue, 54, stabbed his wife, Gladys Pearl, 49, Lockheed employee, on a crowded street outside his apartment at 1208 N 3rd St. One of their two sons, Conrad, 10, tried vainly to restrain his father.

Less than an hour before the stabbing, the couple and their sons had exchanged Christmas gifts. They met at a market, at 1100 N San Fernando Rd., where the other son, Frank, 17, works as a box boy, and exchanged the gifts during Frank's lunch hour.

Acting Lt. Roger Smith said that after the older boy returned to work, the MacCues and the younger boy walked to MacCue's apartment. Smith said MacCue, a credit man, became enraged when his wife refused to enter the apartment.

MacCue, he said, stabbed his wife five times with a boning knife. The officer said MacCue then slashed his wrists.

He was admitted to the prison ward at General Hospital in serious condition.

The MacCues separated last October in Albermarle County, Va., Burbank police said, and Mrs. MacCue moved to California with the boys. MacCue arrived in Burbank two weeks ago, according to police.
Mother Gets Prison Term

Mrs. Carol June Hodges, 21, of 729 E Providencia St., Burbank, was sentenced to serve from five years to life in prison Friday for the beating death of her daughter, Donna, 2, last May 1.

Superior Judge J. Howard Ziemann imposed the sentence despite the woman's outburst in court, during which she claimed the youngster was injured in a bathtub fall.
Young Husband Jailed After Slaying of Bride

Stabbed Pregnant Wife to Death Because of Fear She Would Leave Him, Police Say

A young Burbank husband was held on suspicion of murder Thursday after he allegedly stabbed his pregnant bride to death because he was afraid she was going to leave him.

Police said William James Frisina, 22, admitted stabbing his wife, Sharron Lynn, 21, with a butcher knife and a letter opener.

"We were married 208 days, 11 hours, 50 minutes and 30 seconds when I killed her," he told detectives.

Frisina telephoned Burbank police just before midnight Wednesday and told them, "I've just killed my wife. And please hurry. I may kill myself."

Officers went to his apartment at 2552 N Buena Vista Dr. and found Frisina on a bed beside his dead wife, stroking her blond hair and mauldering, "You're happy now—you're happy now."

Sgt. Don Sanders said Frisina told him he killed his wife because she had threatened to leave him if he ever struck her again.

They were arguing in bed Wednesday night, he told Sgt. Sanders, and he back-handed her across the face, then remembered her threat.

"I didn't know what to do," Frisina said. "If I killed her she would be gone and if I didn't she would have left anyway."
Coroner Says County Leads in Drug Deaths

BY WALT SECOR

BURBANK—This county "is the druggiest area in the nation" because of its 800 to 900 deaths a year from narcotics, Dr. Theodore J. Curphy, county chief medical examiner and coroner, told the Optimist Club on Thursday.

Dr. Curphy, speaking at a luncheon meeting at the YMCA, said drug deaths "are a major problem" in the examiner's office.

He said San Francisco and Las Vegas "are racing for second place in the nation in the number of drug deaths."

Causes Listed

He said the deaths occur chiefly among addicts—habitual users who take overdoses—and persons who take barbiturates in large quantities either accidentally or with suicidal intent.

The investigation of sudden, unexpected deaths of all types "is miserably handled" in most parts of the nation because the coroner usually has no medical background, Dr. Curphy declared.

He said the separation of the public administrator's office and inception of a medical examiner system in this county in 1957 advanced scientific research into death causes.

Few Mysteries

Only 2.3% of the cases handled by the office involve police investigations. "Who-dunit type," Dr. Curphy said. "Two-thirds of the cases handled in the office are deaths from heart disease, and often other factors are involved," he said. "Medical research is carried on through autopsies to determine all the medical facts involved for use in heart disease studies."

He said studies are made in deaths resulting from occupational hazards, such as cases involving toxic gases or materials with the aim of preventing other fatalities.
Woman Found Beaten to Death

The body of a 73-year-old woman who apparently was beaten to death was discovered late Saturday in the Burbank rooming house she operated at 344 E. Tujunga Ave.

Officers said they found the body of Mrs. Albertine Le Tourneau after relatives reported they were unable to contact her. Police said they are searching for a missing roomer at the house.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Stable Blaze Kills 2 Men, 12 Horses; 40 Animals Saved

Two men and 12 horses were burned to death early Sunday when fire destroyed the boarding barn at the Topo Riding Stables in Burbank.

The two men, both stable employees, apparently were asleep when the fire broke out at 12:41 a.m. They were Dot Sawyer, about 38, and Ignacio Perez, 23.

Roy Latkin, a stable employee, was eating at a nearby restaurant when he looked out and saw the barn on fire. He ran to the barn and released about 40 horses.

One of the freed horses was struck by a car. It and one which was critically burned had to be destroyed.

Burbank police and Humane Society officers later rounded up the horses.

Hundreds at Scene

The flames which leaped 30 feet into the air attracted hundreds of residents and horse owners, many clad in bathrobes and nightclothes.

Some of them asked for axes to free their trapped horses from the blazing barn but were dissuaded by firemen because of the danger.

Many were heartbroken over the loss of their animals. One woman, when told her horse had burned to death, cried "O, my God," and fainted from the scene.

Cause of the fire could not be immediately determined. Burbank firemen said the blaze might have been started in the men's sleeping quarters by a cigarette.

Five units from the Burbank Fire Department, under the command of Chief William J. Taylor, brought the fire under control in 20 minutes.
Officers Kill Gunman Near Burbank Bank

BURBANK — A North Hollywood man, who aroused suspicion by loitering in a bank was shot to death and a policeman was wounded Monday in a gun battle in the bank parking lot.

The dead man was identified as Eddie Raymond Sender, 32, of 8001 Longridge Ave.

Police said he pistol whipped Det. Sgt. William B. Smith, 36, and then shot the officer point blank in the abdomen after Smith stopped him outside the bank and asked him to identify himself.

The wounded officer and his partner, Sgt. Carl Lane, 49, fired seven shots at the man. Sender fired back five shots which struck the building of a branch of Security First National Bank at 3400 W. Magnolia Blvd.

Russell Crocker, assistant vice president of the bank, said police were called when Sender was seen in the lobby by a teller. He said Sender aroused suspicion March 2d when he was observed loitering in the bank for "an unusual length of time."

WOUNDED Det. Sgt. William B. Smith was shot in battle with gunman.

GUNMAN KILLED Eddie Raymond Sender, 32, North Hollywood, was killed Monday on a Burbank bank parking lot in an exchange of gunfire with Police Sgt. Carl Lane, at right, and Det. Sgt. William S. Smith. Smith was wounded.
Children Saved but Fire Kills Mother

BY WALT SECOR
Times Staff Writer

BURBANK — A young mother whose last thoughts were for the safety of her two children was burned to death early Thursday when fire destroyed their home at 1060 E. Magnolia Blvd., police said.

The youngsters were rescued by a man living in the house who was burned and cut while rescuing the children, officers said. He was driven back by heat and flames in two attempts to save the mother.

The 20-year-old mother, Mrs. Patricia R. Tinkler, apparently was overcome by smoke and heat while trying to flee from a bedroom. Her body was found on the floor in a corner of the room after firemen extinguished the blaze which occurred about 5:30 a.m.

Raymond Claude Rouse, 41, who saved the children, was treated at
CHILDREN SAVED

Continued from First Page

St. Joseph Hospital for burns and cuts and released.

The children, Jean Ann Tinkler, 4, and Raymond Tinkler, 1, were unharmed.

Rouse told officers he was wakened in a bedroom by heat and flames which he said apparently were centered in the living room where he and Mrs. Tinkler had watched television before midnight.

He told police he woke Mrs. Tinkler and told her the house was on fire.

Asks for Children

"Are the children out yet?" Mrs. Tinkler asked him.

Rouse went to another bedroom and carried the girl, Jean Ann, from the house. He tried to return to Mrs. Tinkler but was driven back by flames.

Rouse said he then went outside and around to the boy's bedroom, which he could not enter from inside because of the flames. He smashed the window, found the boy still asleep and carried him out the window.

Rouse told police he made a second attempt to get to Mrs. Tinkler's room but again was halted by a barrier of flames.

The house was entirely ablaze when firemen arrived, said Batt. Chief Jack Nare. He said the one-story frame dwelling was virtually destroyed although the flames were brought under control in 20 minutes.

The cause of the fire was not determined but the investigation is being continued by the fire prevention bureau of the Fire Department.

The children were cared for by neighbors for several hours Thursday until they were taken by an aunt, Mrs. Henry Grambo, 14015 Oxnard St., Van Nuys.

"I will raise them if I can," said Mrs. Grambo, who has four children of her own. She said she does not know the whereabouts of the children's father, but understands the couple were getting a divorce.
BOYS' DEATHS LAID TO SUICIDE PACT

Youths, 18 and 16, Found in Motel
With Gun, Airplane Glue, Farewell Notes

BY GORDON GRANT
Times Staff Writer

BURBANK—Two teenage boys, one a high school student and both, according to police, under the influence of airplane glue fumes, were found shot to death Monday in a motel.

Detectives said apparently one boy shot the other, then turned a .22-caliber rifle on himself in what appeared to be a suicide pact. Both boys left notes.

Dead with three bullets in his chest was Robert D. Rings, 16, 6464 Woodman Ave., Van Nuys, an A-11 student at Grant High, Van Nuys. A few feet away in the room at 1001 N. San Fernando Road was the body of Stephen L. Beery, 18, with one wound in the chest.

Sequence of Shootings
Det. Lt. E. J. Vandergrift said he believed Beery shot Rings, then himself.

The note from Rings was addressed to his parents, Robert and Ortha Rings. It said: "Mom and Dad—Don't feel sorry for me. If it wasn't for you, I would have killed myself a long time ago."

Beery's note, addressed to no one, read: "I'm on a trip now but that's not what is causing this act. I should have done this a long time ago. I am going to shoot myself and then my friend. (I'm going to shoot my friend first.)"

In the room, police found several tubes of airplane glue and some rags saturated with glue. They said the most common method of sniffing glue is to soak it into rags and inhale the fumes.

The father of the Rings boy had gone to Van Nuys police headquarters just after 11 a.m. Monday to file a missing persons report. He told officers his son and Beery, who had moved in with the Rings family about a month ago, asked permission to use the family car about 8 p.m. Sunday, ostensibly to visit Beery's mother, Mrs. Norma J. Rhyan, 12927 Welby Way, North Hollywood.

Check Out Time Factor
However, he said, the boys did not come home and a check with Mrs. Rhyan showed that they had not been there.

Less than an hour after the father made the report, the bodies were discovered. The motel manager, Willis Stone, said he had gone to the boys' room to remind them checkout time had passed. There was no answer to his knock and he opened the door as far as a safety chain would permit. He saw a body on the floor and called police.

The motel manager said the pair checked in about 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

Lt. Vandergrift said Monday night he had not learned why the Beery boy went to live with the Rings.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
POLICE SEEK KEY TO BOYS' DEATHS

BY GORDON GRANT

Robert Rings

BURBANK — While funeral arrangements were being completed Tuesday for the two seventeen-year-old boys who died shortly after a short to death in an apparent murder-suicide pact, police continued their efforts to pinpoint a reason for the tragedy.

"We've talked to a lot of people — friends, families — but we can't come up with a definite conclusion," said Lt. L. J. Vandergrift. "Maybe we never will. The only thing I can say at the moment is that glue-sniffing can lead to terrible things."

The motel room at 1001 N. San Fernando Road in which the bodies were found was filled with sheets of glue fumes from saturated glue packs, Vandergrift said.

Robert R. Rings, 18, of 6464 Woodward Ave., Van Nuys, a high school student, had been shot three times in the chest.

Steven L. Pederson, 18, was shot once in the chest. Vandergrift thinks Steven killed his friend, then propped the 22-caliber rifle against the bed, aimed the muzzle at his own chest and pushed the trigger.

A deputy coroner said the shot appeared to have taken place shortly after the boys checked in at about 8:30 p.m. Sunday. The shots were not heard, Vandergrift said, probably because of loud rock and roll music and a tape recorder.

Friends Over Years

Robert Rings was the father of the victim, said the boys had been friends for several years and that he had taken Steven in to live with him a month ten weeks ago.

The boys had found a friendship through sports. Robert admired Steven for his excellence in baseball, basketball and golf, the father said.

Steven was considered an excellent scholar and athlete and had been chosen for the North Hollywood High School League All-Star team in 1967.

Records indicate Steven was involved in a burglar-lazy complaint in 1965 and Vandergrift said he was told the boy had been "constantly glue-guzzling for a long time," but that apparently it was new for Robert.

Steven had attended Grant High School, transferred to North Hollywood High and then to the Hollywood High in November.

His mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Womack, 13259 Welshy Way, North Hollywood, said he had not attended funerals for about a year.

Funeral Services

Funeral services for Steven are scheduled Thursday at 11 a.m. in Wayzelo Chapel, Valhalla Memorial Park. Services for Steven will be at 2 p.m. Friday at 11 a.m. at the Valley Funeral Home, 2110 W. Burbank Blvd., with interment at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills.

Robert also leaves a sister, Mary, 19, a TV actress.

Steven also leaves his father, Benjamin Beery, who Tuesday night had not been located by authorities.
ONE WHO LIVED—Leda Hendley Perveler, ex-wife of accused sniper, outside Glendale apartment. She survived 12 attempt on her life.

Murder Charges Filed Against Pair in Double Indemnity Case

Ex-Policeman Accused of Killing Wife; His Woman Friend Was Implicated in Her Mate's Death, Police Say

BY ROY HAYNES and DIAL TORGERSON

Murder charges were filed Thursday against a man and a woman who, police said, killed their mates to collect double-indemnity life insurance.

Paul F. Perveler, 31, was accused of murdering his 22-year-old bride of less than two months, Kristina Cromwell, 27, was charged with killing her husband, Martin, 27.

Perveler—a bar owner and former police officer—was also charged with murdering Mrs. Cromwell's husband, and was charged with the attempted murder of her former lover, with whom she was involved.

They were arraigned Thursday afternoon before Municipal Judge Josephine Bliss in Glendale, who continued the case pending a preliminary hearing May 14, without bail.

Attorneys for each insisted their clients were innocent.

Police said that Perveler, who worked as an insurance adjuster after his forced resignation from the police department, apparently schemed to heavily insure the victims, then kill them for big payoffs.

Collected $60,000

Cromwell was shot to death Dec. 11, 1968, at the Cromwell's Highland Park home. Mrs. Cromwell collected upwards of $10,000 in insurance payments, police said.

Investigators said some of the money was blown in five-speeding trips Perveler and Mrs. Cromwell took to Las Vegas.

Perveler was shot to death last April 20 at the Pervelers' Burbank apartment. Police said insurance policies written on her life a week after their marriage would have paid Perveler $50,000.

Detectives who have been working on the case for more than a year said that Mrs. Cromwell had an alibi for Dec. 11 and Perveler for April 20. "New evidence" led to the pair's arrest this week, officers said, but they wouldn't say what it was.

The complaints against the pair were issued by Dep. Dist. Atty.

ASSIGNED—Kristine Cromwell, 27, before her appearance in court, Thursday.

Vincent T. Buitlagi after a study of evidence compiled by Det. Sgt. Don Ham and other investigators.

The attempted murder complaint was based on a brutal beating suffered June 20, 1968, by Perveler's first wife.

Leda Hendley Perveler—an attractive blonde of 30 who lives in Glendale—told officers this story:

As she was returning home early June 25, her husband flagged down her car a block and a half from their home, pulled her out, kicked her, and beat her head against the pavement, shouting: "I'm going to
would have paid Perveler $32,000.

Twice before the June 25 Incident Mrs. Perveler was knocked down by hit-and-run autos and seriously injured. In neither case was she able to identify the driver.

She and Perveler were divorced in September, 1966.

Police said Perveler resigned from the Police Department in September, 1963, under the accusation that he helped arrange an abortion for a girlfriend of a fellow officer.

Investigators said he quit work as an insurance adjuster and bought a Burbank beer bar after Mrs. Cromwell received her insurance settlement for her husband's death. They said he bought a second beer bar, in Sunland, with money given to the couple as a wedding present from the father of his second wife.

Investigators indicated that, although there was evidence linking Perveler to Cromwell's death, there was none indicating Mrs. Cromwell was implicated in the death of Cheryl Perveler.

Continued from Third Page

He fled as a car approached. She recovered from serious injuries.

Mrs. Perveler filed no charges against her husband after the beating incident because, she said Thursday, she still at the time hoped to reconcile their marriage.

She said detectives had asked her not to discuss the case, but she said of the Perveler she knew in the days before their 1964 marriage:

"Paul very much liked to be a policeman. He really enjoyed his job. He was quite bitter when he was forced off the force."

Police allege that at the time of their divorce three attempts had been made against Leila's life—which was then insured for a policy which, under its double-indemnity clause,
Ex-Officer, Woman Indicted in Deaths

BY RON EINSTOSS
Times Staff Writer

A former police officer and his attractive, blonde girl friend were indicted Wednesday by the County Grand Jury on charges stemming from the shooting deaths of their heavily insured mates.

Paul S. Perveler, 31, now the owner of beer bars in Burbank and Sunland, was charged with the slayings of his second wife, Cheryl, 22, and Marlin Cromwell, 27.

He also was indicted on a charge that he attempted to murder his first wife, Lela Hensley, 30, and on one count of grand theft involving $5,000 he allegedly took from a Highland Park barber.

Mrs. Kristina Cromwell, 27, said to be Perveler's girl friend, was indicted for murder in the death of Cromwell, her husband and the father of her 6-year-old son.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Vincent T. Bugliosi presented the testimony of more than 30 witnesses, reportedly in an attempt to give the grand jury a complete picture of the tangled case which began in 1965.
The offenses actually charged in the indictment as they occurred were:

1—On June 25, 1966, Mrs. Hensley, who divorced Perveler in January, 1967, allegedly was beaten and threatened by him. She was insured at the time for $16,000.

2—On Dec. 11, 1966, Cromwell was shot five times in the head and chest in his home at 2723 Ballard St. The killer set the house afire. His wife, who collected $35,000 in life insurance, was visiting a friend in Twenty Nine Palms at the time.

3—On Jan. 29, 1968, Perveler accepted $5,000 from a barber friend on the pretense of helping him to conceal the money in a pending divorce action. He allegedly refused to return the $5,000.

4—On April 20, 1968, Cheryl Perveler, married to Perveler only seven weeks, was found shot to death in the garage of their apartment at 2021 Grismer St., Burbank. Her life was insured for $25,000, but no money has been paid.

Included in the testimo-
EX-OFFICER, WOMAN DENY DEATH CHARGES

A former police officer and his girlfriend pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges that they murdered their mates to collect life insurance.

Superior Judge James D. Tante denied motions to suppress evidence and for separate trials for Paul S. Perverel, 31, and Mrs. Kristina Cromwell, 27. He ordered the two to appear in court Aug. 1, when a trial date will be set.

Late last month Judge Tante also denied requests by attorneys Morris Levine and Melvin Belli that the case be thrown out because of insufficient evidence to warrant an indictment.

Perverel is accused of killing Mrs. Cromwell's husband, Marlin, 27, and attempted murder of his first wife, Lela Hensley, 30.

Perverel and Mrs. Cromwell had been held without bail since their arrest May 1, when police say they completed a year-long investigation into the slaying.

The tangled case, police say, began in June, 1966, when Mrs. Hensley, who divorced Perverel in January of that year, allegedly was beaten and threatened by him.

Three previous attempts had been made on her life in 1965 and 1966. In one instance she was knocked down by a car whose driver pursued her down a sidewalk.

At that time she was insured for $16,000.

On Dec. 11, 1966, Cromwell was shot five times in the head at his Los An-
Ex-Officer, Woman Ask Separate Trials

A former police officer and his girl friend will learn Monday whether they will have to stand trial together on charges of murdering their mates to collect life insurance, it was ruled Thursday.

Superior Judge Pearce Young took under submission arguments by defense lawyers asking that Paul S. Perveler, 31, and Mrs. Kristina Cromwell, 27, be tried separately.

Perveler, a police officer for a short time and more recently a beer bar owner, is accused of slaying his second wife, Cheryl, 22, and Mrs. Cromwell's husband, Marlin Cromwell, 27, and of attempting to murder his first wife, Lela Hensley, 30.

Attorneys for Mrs. Cromwell, who is charged only with the slaying of her husband, contend it would be prejudicial for her to be tried with Perveler because of the greater number of counts against him.

Cromwell was found shot five times in the head on Dec. 11, 1966, and Cheryl Perveler, married to the defendant for only seven weeks, was found shot to death in the garage of their Burbank home last April 20.

If Judge Young denies the severance motion, selection of a jury is scheduled to begin Monday.
Tenacity Pays Off in Dispute on Fingerprints

BY RICHARD WEST

A prosecution attorney has kept an annoying fingerprint identification from being entered as evidence in his murder trial of Paul S. Perzel and Mrs. Mary Jo Osmon.

Perzel, 32, a former Los Angeles taxi driver, and Mrs. Osmon, 27, were accused of killing their motorists to collect $500 in life-insurance. Diet. Atty. Vincent T. Bughilisk is seeking to stop the trial to the gas chamber.

Vincent T. Bughilisk, a police fingerprint technician, had insisted that this foreskin left behind during a struggle to escape the house where Mrs. Osmon's brother, Martin, was shot to death were connected with three of the victim's fingerprints.

The police wore those of an unidentified person or persons. You'd find a jury in the court of Superintend Judge Jayne in Young.

Could Have Hurt Case

This was damaging to the prosecution, with witnesses who had been called and who had been helped with his killing, and the one uninterrupted information that another man that had been present;

Prosecutor Bughilisk, who later said that he was taking "a risk in the dark," asked the head of the police fingerprint division to check the prints out.

He was then was and on Thursday Tuesday took the stand and once more and admitted that he had made an error. He said one of the prints was, in fact, that of an injured man, but that he could have led to court to Cincinnati or somewhere.

In either instance, the passenger, lawfully in a car, barred Clarence Johnson and said that Mrs. Osmon bought a $200,000 life-insurance receiver, which would vary in decisions in June.

Type Used in Murder

A police background expert testified that, at a Cincinnati, Mrs. Osmon had been with a book, and it was identical, and she did not want to visit and took the trial on his second day.

Mr. and Mrs. Osmon's husband was murdered on Dec. 11 in his home.

Mrs. Osmon, and her mother, who was at Mrs. Osmon's home on Dec. 11 when the body was discovered, telephoned to tell her that her husband had been murdered.

The man turned pale and led to her, Mrs. Osmon, and her brother, who had had a child, was seized enough to take her to Cincinnati, wherever.

Detective Joe Agui said this time he went to the home of Mrs. Osmon's stepson on the day of the murder and it was his wife who had found her. He was Leslie A. Osmon.

The man, "The boy and the man's nick," she quoted him as saying.

Mrs. Ozor denied on the stand that she had ever made this statement.

At another point, Mrs. Osmon testified that she had seen a man, whom she later testified was her stepson, whom she met five or six days after giving her a pistol which she had taken to the desert at some time.

This gun has never been found, the detective said.

Released without a hearing, Cremona, another stepson of Mrs. Osmon, said he had no idea of the circumstances of his death and until the second week of December, the.gem of his automobile in the garage of Mr. Osmon's home.

He was found dead Jan. 4, 1968.

-- He tried to kill his wife, he said, after she told him about his father, she said.

He also testified about his friend, the prosecution, who gave the car to the son.

The trial, which began before the jury Nov. 26, is expected to last two months. The prosecution told not to end before the next.
INQUEST TODAY IN BURBANK SLAYING

BURBANK — A coroner's inquest will be held today in the death of Frank Brandon, 23, son of a former mayor, who was shot and killed June 12 by a police officer investigating a burglary report at a beer bar at 3813 W. Magnolia Blvd.

The inquiry will be held at 10 a.m. in the Hall of Justice in Los Angeles.

Brandon was struck by a shotgun blast fired by officer Robert H. Jacobs, 35, while attempting to break through a glass window after the building was surrounded by policemen responding to a burglary alarm in the building and telephone calls from two neighbors.

Jacobs said he fired once after Brandon had ignored two shouted commands to leave the building and was trying to smash the window. Brandon, who was unarmed, was killed instantly.

Employees of the bar told police there was approximately $100 in the cash register in addition to small change. It had not been touched.

The incident occurred shortly before 3 a.m. The two residents called police while Brandon supposedly removing planks from a boarded rear door to enter the building. A silent alarm was set off.

Brandon was the son of Dr. Robert Brandon, a dentist, who served two terms as mayor and was a member of the City Council for eight years before he lost a bid for reelection in 1967.
Officers Stake Out Home, Kill Suspect in Bizarre Kidnapping

Police searched Saturday for a second suspect in a bizarre kidnapping which ended in death for one suspect at a Burbank home and confiscation of 73 kilos of marijuana.

Los Angeles and Burbank police gave this account:

Two men kidnaped Joseph R. Hurley, 24, from his home at 18400 Devonshire St., Northridge, about 5:15 p.m. Friday and left him locked in the basement of a cabana behind a house at 318 S. Sunset Canyon Drive, Burbank.

Hurley, handcuffed, broke out and ran to the house of a neighbor, who called police about 9 p.m.

Two hours later, one suspect arrived at the cabana where Burbank police officers confronted him.

The suspect, identified as Wallace Noe, 28, a transient, reportedly drew a .22-caliber automatic Ruger pistol when officers ordered: "Freeze." He was dropped by a shotgun blast fired by Burbank officer John Bruno.

Officers said they found the marijuana in the concrete cellar where Hurley was imprisoned. The street-sale value was estimated at $9,000.

Hurley reportedly told officers that he had been kidnaped on two previous occasions by Noe and the second suspect because they suspected him of a narcotics double-cross.

Officers were seeking the resident of the home, Mrs. Mary Davis, for questioning.
UNION PRESIDENT, 2 OTHERS SLAIN

JOHN KENDALL; DICK MAIN

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jul 31, 1969;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
p. 1

Suspect Held in Shootings at Burbank

BY JOHN KENDALL and DICK MAIN

A Lockheed Aircraft employee—disgruntled by criticism of his work—shot and killed a supervisor in the plant Wednesday and later shot two others to death at a union hall in Burbank.

The victims included Thomas E. McNett, 35, president of District Lodge 727, International Assn. of Machinists.

Joe Jernigan Jr., 29, a senior template maker, surrendered without resistance about two blocks from the union office.

He was booked on suspicion of murder by Burbank police and later transferred to the county jail.

Account of Slaying Given

Police, union members and aircraft company officials pieced together this account of the triple slayings.

Jernigan had received an employment performance notice criticizing him for falling to wear safety glasses while working in a hazardous area.

Jernigan, who was suspended briefly last year on a similar reprimand, walked into Lockheed's Plant B-1 in Burbank shortly before 3 p.m. and gave the performance report to Jan Howard Demosome, 28, template department supervisor.

Witnesses said Demosome tried to hand the report back to Jernigan, but instead of taking it, the latter stepped back, drew a short-barreled revolver and shot twice.

Demosome, struck in the chest and head, fell mortally wounded in front of 80 startled workers.

Suspect Scales Fence

Acting Burbank Police Lt. H. J. Weatherford said 15 police cars were dispatched to surround the Lockheed plant when the first report was received of the shooting.

But the suspect, who abandoned his car in a company parking lot, scaled a chainlink fence and went to the IAM headquarters at 2000 W. Victory Blvd., about three-quarters of a mile from Plant B-1.

At the headquarters, he asked to see McNett but was told the union official had left his office to address a group of retired union members in an adjoining enclosed patio.

McNett was talking to two women when the suspect burst into the patio and yelled, "Mr. McNett!!"

Please Turn to Page 22, Col. 1
Suspect Seized as Gun Spree Leaves 3 Dead

Continued from First Page

but instead of taking the last step back, drew a short-handed revolver and shot twice.

Dominick, seated on the dock, lay motionless and was in the line of fire of 60 startled workmen.

Dominick, standing on the dock, lay motionless and was in the line of fire of 60 startled workmen.

According to the sheriff's statement, he asked to see McGinn but was told that the chief of police had left his office to address a group of visiting union members in an afternoon meeting at the Palace Hotel.

Russet Into Panic

McGinn was talking to two women when the suspect burst into the room and yelled, "Mr. McGinn!"

The sheriff's statement continued and was sworn to the best of the officer's knowledge and belief.

Leonard E. Nolan, 32, a locksmith, whose name was mentioned in the report, tried to stop the gunman near a bank door.

"Police saw the suspect rush down Nolan, who had been shot back into the union hall, where all members of a union governing committee were summoned to audit union books,

Irving D. King, 40, an engineer, was a member of the committee, was called to the phone office when the shootings occurred.

He said and Frank Flores, the union's legal advisor, the secretary of the union, were not on hand and that one of them had left the building.

"None of us knew anything about it when we got into the union hall," King said.

Nolan, 22, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, 60, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, and 60, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, had been shot in the union hall, where all members of a union governing committee were summoned to audit union books,

Irving D. King, 40, an engineer, was a member of the committee, was called to the phone office when the shootings occurred.

He said and Frank Flores, the union's legal advisor, the secretary of the union, were not on hand and that one of them had left the building.

"None of us knew anything about it when we got into the union hall," King said.

Nolan, 22, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, 60, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, had been shot in the union hall, where all members of a union governing committee were summoned to audit union books,

Irving D. King, 40, an engineer, was a member of the committee, was called to the phone office when the shootings occurred.

He said and Frank Flores, the union's legal advisor, the secretary of the union, were not on hand and that one of them had left the building.

"None of us knew anything about it when we got into the union hall," King said.

Nolan, 22, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, 60, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, had been shot in the union hall, where all members of a union governing committee were summoned to audit union books,

Irving D. King, 40, an engineer, was a member of the committee, was called to the phone office when the shootings occurred.

He said and Frank Flores, the union's legal advisor, the secretary of the union, were not on hand and that one of them had left the building.

"None of us knew anything about it when we got into the union hall," King said.

Nolan, 22, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, 60, 2235 Regent St., Chicago, had been shot in the union hall, where all members of a union governing committee were summoned to audit union books,
CRIME

Death Sentences

Three men were condemned to death in Los Angeles in separate cases that involved five slayings.

One was Robert K. Beausoleil, 22-year-old-off-and-on-again member of the Charles Manson hippie "family" that is involved in the Tate-La Bianca murder cases. Convicted of the torture-murder of musician Gary Hinman, he was the first member of the cult to be convicted for one of eight slayings allegedly planned by Manson.

The second defendant was Ronald F. Fouquet, convicted of the 1966 beating death of his 5-year-old stepson, Jeffery Lansdown.

The third was Isaac Jernigan Jr., 30-year-old president of the Black Workers Alliance, who was convicted of shooting to death his plant supervisor and two fellow unionists at the Lockheed Aircraft plant in Burbank last July 30.

All will be formally sentenced next month.
Jury Overruled on Death for Slayer

The convicted slayer of three men last July 30 in Burbank was sentenced Wednesday to life imprisonment, despite a jury's recommendation that he be condemned to death.

In reducing the penalty, Superior Judge Norman R. Dowds said he considered Isaac Jernigan Jr., 30, to be mentally ill.

It marked the second time in a week that a jury verdict in a death penalty case has been overturned.


In both cases the prosecution opposed the reductions in penalty and Wednesday Los Angeles Asst. Dist. Atty. Joseph P. Busch Jr. declared: "All of the evidence available to the court was presented to 12 jurors in each of these cases and they unanimously felt the proper punishment was death.

"There was nothing additional presented to the two judges to war-
Continued from First Page

rants reductions of the verdicts rendered by the juries in these cases.

Jernigan, president of the Black Workers Alliance, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the slayings of Jan H. Domonoske, 28, his plant supervisor at Lockheed Aircraft, and Thomas E. McNett, 55, president of his union.

He also was convicted of second-degree murder in the shooting of Leonard E. Nolan, 52, a fellow union member, killed when he came to McNett's aid.

Judge Dowds said he did not believe the jury gave proper weight to the findings of five psychiatrists, who testified that Jernigan was mentally ill at the time of the slayings, but legally sane. The court added that the levels established to determine legal insanity are set arbitrarily.

In explaining that he felt the defendant's mental health should be considered in sentencing, Judge Dowds conceded that another matter to consider is the heinous nature of the offense and the effect the crime has on the families of the victims.

He said he sympathizes with the Domonoske, McNett and Nolan families, but added: "It must be realized that no punishment inflicted upon Mr. Jernigan will restore these men."

Four of the psychiatrists said Jernigan was mentally ill at the time of the murders and the fifth testified that he had a paranoid type of personality.

Dep. Dist. Atty. James E. Zeigler contended during the trial that Jernigan shot Domonoske after a series of labor disputes and killed McNett because he felt the union leader did not support his position.
Gang Slayings: Is ' Syndicate' at Work in Valley?  
KENNETH HANSEN  
Times Staff Writer  

Hoodlums, big time and small time, are murdered occasionally in the Valley, but the Police Department says that is no indication of crime syndicate activity in the city.  

"There have been incidents where personal differences and failure to pay off gambling debts have resulted in slayings, but there is no such thing as a crime syndicate in the city," said a high-level department spokesman.  

But some lower echelon policemen say there is a criminal organization in Los Angeles, with evidence of it popping up frequently.  

Occasionally, big-time bookies are eliminated in the Valley, but most of the victims reportedly are small-scale, independent operators, such as street-corner bookies.  

Life on the Line  

But the fact remains that when a street bookie, or other criminal small timer, goes into debt, he normally cannot borrow from the banks or savings and loan associations.  

Instead he goes to a syndicate loan shark, and he does not put up a home or car as collateral. He puts his life on the line.  

And when he cannot pay, there is only one way the shark can enforce the agreement and warn other deadbeats: kill the recalcitrant debtor.  

A contract has been let (criminal parlance for an order to kill) on a Valley bookie, now serving a jail sentence who is in debt to a Miami shark for more than $60,000, police sources say. There is no way for the bookie to pay off the debt.  

Among the Dead  

Recent Valley victims include 49-year-old Amato, 49, of 12500 Riverside Drive, North Hollywood, described by police as a big-time bookie in the early 1950s but at the time of his death a mine operator.  

Amato was executed at 7 p.m. Sept. 23 with a shot in the back of the head. He was found in his auto parked at Huston St. and Bellingham Ave.  

Amato probably was murdered by a disgruntled customer, according to Lt. Robert J. Held of central homicide.  

"Amato was a bookie, and he wasn't paying off on the bets," says Jack Gotch, an investigator for the District Attorney's Office. "He operated alone, but there could have been a gangland connection."  

About a month before Amato was slain, another North Hollywood bookie, Elvis Yancey, 53, was murdered in a liquor store at 6461
Valley Gang Murders: Is ' Syndicate' at Work?

Continued from First Page

Lankershim Blvd., where he worked as a clerk.

Yancy was dispatched in the same manner as Amato—a bullet in the back of the head. He was in a seated position in the rear of the store.

On its face, the murder appeared to have been a robbery slaying. The cash register was rifled of $300. But $170 was found on Yancy’s person and his wrist watch had not been taken, according to Det. Sgt. Doug Bentley.

The most spectacular slaying this year was of George Bart Piscitelle, 56, an often-arrested former henchman of Mickey Cohen and Nevada vice kingpin Joe Conforito.

What Was 'Stuff'?

Piscitelle, who lived at 7918 Peachtree Ave., Van Nuys, was slain in a gangland-style confrontation May 8 at the apartment of Ivars Apnitis, 5655 Halbrent Ave., Van Nuys.

Apnitis, 27, and two others were wounded in the fight which began when a gunman demanded: "OK, hand the stuff over!"

But what 'the stuff' was and the cause of the outburst remains a mystery.

Criminal complaints were filed in the case, but when it came time to go to trial there were no witnesses, officers reported.

Piscitelle was a veteran of gangland wars and, according to police, was present during the 1950 murder of Jack (The Enforcer) Whalen at a Ventura Blvd. restaurant in Sherman Oaks. Piscitelle and Cohen were indicted for the slaying but were acquitted.

Perhaps the most baffling of recent Valley murders was the demise of Kenneth A. Lindstrand, 22, a bachelor of 15341 Weddington St., Van Nuys, shot before about 40 witnesses during a 1967 Halloween party in a neighboring apartment house.

By the time the costumed guests realized it was not a prank, the suspect fled.

Lindstrand left $119,700 in cash in two safe deposit boxes in a Ventura Blvd. bank. He also had $30,000 in known bank accounts.

Under Investigation

At his death, Lindstrand's advertising agency business was being investigated by the State Attorney General's Office and the Post Office Department.

The attorney general had filed a complaint charging that Lindstrand intimated that the forms he sent out were bills rather than solicitations.

The Post Office was investigating fraud.

Lindstrand's death also was linked with the shooting of a Mafia figure in Florida. Two days after the Halloween slaying here, Tommy Altamura was shot to death in Miami.

In Altamura's possession was a $10,000 cashier's check drawn on the Lincoln Bank of Van Nuys on the same day that Lindstrand had drawn $40,000 in cash from various banks.

The Lindstrand slaying is unsolved.

Another slaying last year was that of Gerald Covelli, 42, Chicago syndicate gangster turned informer. Covelli was killed by a bomb that went off in his car shortly after he drove away from his home at 16044 Royal Mount Drive, Sherman Oaks.

Covelli had violated the syndicate code of secrecy. His testimony sent four Chicago racketeers to prison in 1962.

Double Murder

His case joined the unsolved list.

A double murder in point is that of Burbank bookmaker Robert Erwin Blaine Berns and his wife in 1961.
Continued from Third Page

Wrolstad, 31, and his blonde wife, Susanne, 28. They were shot to death, both in the left eye, in their home at 745 N. Valley St. on Dec. 8, 1965. Wrolstad’s bookmaking operation netted him $100,000 a year, and he employed about 10 persons, according to Burbank Det. Harry L. Strickland.

Old-Style Killing

Police theories are various: that Wrolstad was slain by others anxious to take over his business; that it was simple robbery, or that it was a combination of both. Whatever the motive, police feel the slayings were committed by a hoodlum who knew Wrolstad well.

Lt. E. J. Vandergrift, commanding Burbank detectives, said the murder appears to have been an "old-style gangland killing—both victims apparently were on their knees, and they were shot in or near the left eye."

Wrolstad was known as a free-wheeling gambler and the double deaths have not been solved.
DEATH SCENE — William Miller and his wife were swept from this Burbank home in 1964 deluge. She drowned and he sued officials for failing to alert homeowners of flood danger.

Six rainy seasons ago, Burbank's Sunset Canyon was just like many burned-over canyons in Southern California this year — in danger of flood.

A brush fire swept the rustic Burbank canyon in March of 1964, demanding the steep hillsides. On a November morning eight months later, there was a sudden downpour — the first rain of the season — and a towering avalanche of water, mud, automobiles and other debris roared down Country Club Drive.

The torrent crashed through the house of Frank Sinatra's piano accompanist, William A. Miller. Miller's daughter, Meredith, who later said the house had been turned into a "coved bridge," got out of the way. But Miller and his wife Aimee were swept down the canyon. Only Miller, who wound up in a debris basin grasping the door handle of a floating Volkswagen, survived.

Effects of Ruling Incalculable

Whether the Sunset Canyon tragedy could have been averted by officialdom is still very much a subject of legal controversy, and a recent ruling by a judge in the case could have far-reaching implications for future flood victims.

Los Angeles Superior Judge Stevens Fargo threw out a jury verdict allowing Miller to collect $129,000 from the city of Burbank and the County Flood Control District.

Fargo, remanding the lawsuit to a new trial, ruled there was insufficient evidence for the jury to find negligence on the part of the city or county. In fact, Fargo declared, there was clear evidence that both agencies had discharged their responsibilities fully.

Miller's attorney, Herbert Hiestand Jr., says he will appeal Fargo's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary. "The suit covered several issues, but Hiestand contends the primary one concerned the fact the Millers had been given no warning to evacuate.

Position of Burbank Counsel

Attorney Fulton Haight, whose law firm served as special counsel for the City of Burbank, claims the city and county are not legally bound to warn residents of danger.

In any case, Haight argues, the 10-foot-high avalanche that descends on the Millers was such a scientific rarity (flood control people call them "Noah-type floods") that no human being could have expected it. And short of a multi-million dollar dam, nothing could have prevented the avalanche, he says. Furthermore, it came so suddenly there was no time to alert residents.

However, Haight says, the city of Burbank did provide warning of a general flood threat by holding meetings and distributing pamphlets in advance of the rainy season.

Hiestand rejoins that, first of all, the Government Code does require evacuation warnings; secondly, a flood catastrophe actually was fore-
Responsibility for ‘64 Death Still Unsettled

Continued From First Page

seen by government officials if not by residents; and thirdly, there would have been time to alert the Millers if a warning system had been set up.

Rain began falling moderately in the Verde Valley Mountains before dawn that Nov. 8, saturating the bare sand on the billboards of Sunset Canyon, Coach C. A. A. Club, and the peep-stroke at about 8 a.m. in the city. And a strange evaporation, which had been in the canyon for an hour and a half, just had time to produce such a safety and no time to issue warnings, it was claimed in trial testimony.

Mellisah Miller, new 23, said she looked out at the window of her house and saw a car flash by the brown river of darkly burling red on the cliff. It was the Club Drive, a peculiar roadway-draughting shrub lineed by several dozen voices.

Alarmed, she told her mother and evacuating to the father. While her parents were preparing to depart, Miss Miller flung out a back door and started climbing a hillside.

Miller, 50, said he told his wife, "Come on, my dear, we better get out of here, too."

Body Found

According to the police, Miller, who was a close relative, stated that last night he saw several men near the house. At about 2:30 a.m., they started toward the house and were heard talking.

Miller said he could not drive because of the conditions of the road, thereby contributing to the scene of the crime.

The jury foreman, in an affidavit obtained by the lawyer's wife, stated that the jury had agreed to acquit the accused on all counts.

Haight's father, the district attorney, told the lawyer to stand by negotiation in those cases and that there should have been a more thorough and systematic investigation.

Juries' Suggestions

Several jurors independently told attorneys they thought the city and the county had failed to cure an upstream debris barrier before the flood and that the city had improperly maintained the road, thereby contributing to the scene of the crime.

The jury foreman, in an affidavit obtained by the lawyer's wife, stated that the jury had agreed to acquit the accused on all counts.

Haight's father, the district attorney, told the lawyer to stand by negotiation in those cases and that there should have been a more thorough and systematic investigation.

Juries' Suggestions

Several jurors independently told attorneys they thought the city and the county had failed to cure an upstream debris barrier before the flood and that the city had improperly maintained the road, thereby contributing to the scene of the crime.

The jury foreman, in an affidavit obtained by the lawyer's wife, stated that the jury had agreed to acquit the accused on all counts.

Haight's father, the district attorney, told the lawyer to stand by negotiation in those cases and that there should have been a more thorough and systematic investigation.
Hit-Run Death

BURBANK — Jerrold Enfield, 65, of Sherman Oaks, was killed by a hit-run driver early Wednesday as he was walking across Magnolia Blvd. at Mariposa St., police reported. Enfield, 6365 Ventura Canyon Ave., was pronounced dead at the scene. Witnesses said the car slowed briefly after hitting Enfield and then sped off.
Father Charged in Son's Death

BURBANK  George Stanley DeLorenzo Sr., 47, of 1111 N. Rose St., unemployed father of 12, was arrested here Monday on a murder warrant issued by police in Jersey City, N.J., in the death seven years ago of his 3-year-old son.

Relatives of DeLorenzo accused him of beating the child to death and concealing the body in his former home in Jersey City. An extradition hearing is scheduled today at 9 a.m. in Superior Court.
The mother and sister of 4-year-old Joseph John De Lorenzo said Thursday that fear had kept them from telling police the boy had been killed by his father seven years ago and buried in a New Jersey basement.

Mrs. Frances De Lorenzo, 42, and her 18-year-old daughter, Janet, said they had lived in a "state of fear" created by George De Lorenzo from the time of Joseph's death on March 19, 1965, until last week.

De Lorenzo has denied the charges.

The 47-year-old jobless father of 12 was arrested outside the family's rented Burbank home and arraigned Wednesday in Jersey City, N.J., on charges of killing his son.

Police there—acting on instructions from Burbank police—dug beneath a basement stairwell and four feet down found the skeletal remains of a child, wrapped in a yellow blanket.

Her son was buried there, Mrs. De Lorenzo said in an interview Tuesday, after her husband struck Joseph on the back with a stick and killed the boy.

De Lorenzo told her, Janet and another daughter, Agnes, now 22, — the three witnesses—that if they told police he would say they helped kill the boy, Mrs. De Lorenzo said.

She quoted her husband as saying that he would get the electric chair but she would die slowly in the gas chamber.

Agnes ran away from home a year after her brother's death, but De Lorenzo and his family continued to live in the house at 530 W. Side Ave., until moving to California in 1970.

Police in Burbank learned of Joseph's death and burial Aug. 27 from Janet De Lorenzo, her uncle, Joseph Amato, and a family friend, Robert Schad, 23.

Two days earlier, according to Amato, Mrs. De Lorenzo broke the years of silence and told him that Joseph had been killed.

"I got to the point that I just couldn't hold it in," she said.

Amato said he waited until Sunday, Aug. 27, to report to police so Janet and Schad could leave the De Lorenzo home on a pretext of going to church.

"He would have killed us all if he had any idea that I knew what happened," Amato said.

Please Turn to Page 9, Col. 4
Continued from First Page

"He had them (his wife and two daughters) convinced since the murder that, 'If I go, you're going to go too."

But, according to Amato, the fear took another form.

Members of the family talked about that part of it, too.

Mrs. De Lorenzo, Janet, Amato, and 14-year-old Michael De Lorenzo said De Lorenzo regularly beat his wife and children, used loud, profane language, and had never worked in 23 years since he married his wife in New Jersey.

Two weeks before Joseph's death was reported, Mrs. De Lorenzo said, her husband held a .22-caliber rifle to her head and threatened to shoot her if she said anything to the rest of the family.

Shortly before his arrest, Amato said De Lorenzo severely beat Michael.

Police were called in both cases, according to the family, but officers were told stories each time to keep De Lorenzo from being arrested.

Mrs. De Lorenzo said she still believed that she might be blamed by her husband for Joseph's death and that if he was locked up he would "open his mouth."

Amato and Janet said the boy had been killed after weeks of torturous punishment.

"He was just like a giant and we were just little things that he could step on," Mrs. De Lorenzo said. "I always thought that he just wanted to be big but now I know he's got to be nuts."

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Mother's Fear Keeps Son's Slaying a Secret for 7 Years; Father Held

BY JOHN KENDALL

The mother and sister of 4-year-old Joseph John De Lorenzo said Thursday that fear had kept them from telling police the boy had been killed by his father seven years ago and buried in a New Jersey basement.

Mrs. Frances De Lorenzo, 42, and her 18-year-old daughter, Janet, said they had lived in a "drum" created by George De Lorenzo from the time of Joseph's death on March 19, 1965, until last week.

The 47-year-old jobless father of 12 was arrested Aug. 28 outside the family's rented Burbank home and arraigned Wednesday in Jersey City, N.J., on charges of killing his son.

De Lorenzo denies the charges. Police there—acting on instructions from Burbank police—dug beneath a basement stairwell and 4 feet down found the skeletal remains of a child, wrapped in a yellow blanket.

Her son was buried there, Mrs. De Lorenzo said in an interview, after her husband struck Joseph on the back with a stick and killed the boy.

De Lorenzo told her, Janet and another daughter, Agnes, now 22—the boy's 8-year-old sister—that if they told police he would say they helped kill the boy, Mrs. De Lorenzo said.

"I got to the point that I just couldn't hold it in," she said. Amato said he waited until Sunday, Aug. 27, to report to police so Janet and Schad could leave the De Lorenzo home on a pretext of going to church. "He would have killed us all if he had any idea that I knew what happened," Amato said.

He had them (his wife and two daughters) convinced since the murder that, "If you go, you're going to go too." Amato said.

Mr. De Lorenzo, Janet, Amato, and a family friend, Robert Schad, 23, two days earlier, according to them, broke the boy's 12 years of silence and told him that Joseph had been killed.

Two weeks before Joseph's death was reported, Mrs. De Lorenzo said, her husband held a 22-caliber rifle to her head and threatened to shoot her if she said anything to the rest of the family.

Shortly before the arrest, Amato said De Lorenzo severely beat Michael. Police were called in both cases, according to the family, but officers were told stories each time to keep De Lorenzo from being arrested.

Mrs. De Lorenzo said she still believed she might be blamed by her husband for Joseph's death and that if he was locked up he would "open his mouth."

Amato and Janet said the boy had been killed after weeks of torture punishment.

At De Lorenzo's arraignment in Jersey City, Ass't County Prosecuting Armand Pohan successfully argued against releasing De Lorenzo on grounds that he had conducted a "reign of terror" against his family. "There's enough room in the backyard for all of you," Pohan quoted De Lorenzo as telling family members.

At the De Lorenzo home Tuesday, younger children played on swings. "None of the children miss him," said Michael De Lorenzo.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Man Killed in Fight Over Woman

An early morning fight over a woman resulted in the death of a South San Gabriel man and serious injury to another in the presence of four children, Burbank police said Thursday.

Dead of gunshot wounds is Richard Salas Morales, 31, of 449 W. Ramona Blvd.

In the prison ward at USC-County Medical Center with serious gunshot and stab wounds is David E. Garcia, 43, of 441 W. Spazier Ave., Burbank, where the fight took place.

Police said Morales and Garcia fought over the affections of a woman. They said Morales shot Garcia first through the arm with a .32-cal. automatic pistol, then stabbed him repeatedly with an ice pick. But Garcia wrestled away the gun and shot Morales through the chest. Morales was dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital.
Drug Usage Dropping in Burbank Schools

Drug usage by students in Burbank schools has declined dramatically since 1968, said Dr. Robert E. Shanks, superintendent of schools.

Commenting on a report presented to the Burbank Board of Education during December by the Department of Pupil Personnel Services, Shanks noted that during November of 1973 there was a total of 12 students arrested in Burbank for drug violations and only two students suspended from school for possession or use of drugs at school.

Shanks recalled that during one week alone in 1968, 48 students were suspended from Burbank schools for drug usage.

He said that when he took office in 1968, the juvenile drug problem was growing rapidly.

Working with St. Joseph Medical Center, Burbank Schools helped set up the Burbank Drug Abuse Council. Through the council the Impact Plus Two drug education programs was brought into the Burbank Schools. It was and is a continuing program designed to inform students and to involve parents in problems and solutions to the use of drugs by their children.

Since those early days of the program, Shanks said, drug usage has steadily declined in Burbank Schools.

"Some people say it is because the kids have gone underground with their drug usage," he said. "I don't think that's the case."

The glamour appears to have gone out of using drugs, he said, and as a result "There has not been a case of juvenile death from drugs in Burbank for years."

But as juvenile drug usage decreases, he says, alcohol appears to be taking its place.

"BRIDGE, an organization formed to help counsel youths on drugs, is now turning its attention to the growing use of alcohol by teenagers," Shanks said.

Alcohol is especially troublesome, he said, because it is so easily obtainable by youngsters, either through older friends or by misrepresenting themselves as adults.
Inquest May Endanger Murder Case Charge
KEN FANUCCHI
Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Jun 22, 1973; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987) pg. SF6

Fate of Husband in Burbank Shooting
Hinges on Hospital Treatment Inquiry

BY KEN FANUCCHI
Times Staff Writer

An Inquest into the death of a Burbank woman that could jeopardize the district attorney's murder case against her estranged husband has been ordered by the coroner's office.

The hearing will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Criminal Courts Building, Los Angeles, into the circumstances surrounding the June 9 death of Mrs. Mary Ochoa, 40, of 501 E. Osaar Ave., Burbank.

James Kono, special assistant to coroner Thos Noguchi, said the inquest will seek to find out if there was a "therapeutic misadventure" in connection with treatment given her shortly before she died at St. Joseph Medical Center.

"We want to determine if there is criminal neglect in the woman's death beyond the gunshot wound for which she was treated," he said.

Investigation Conducted

A spokesman for St. Joseph said the hospital is conducting an investigation to see if a portion of the nitrogen-oxygen system in the operating room where surgery was performed on the victim had any connection with her death.

"While there is, at this time, no proof linking the system to the patient's death," his statement continued, "the inciden has been reported to the appropriate authorities to insure that justice will be done with respect to all concerned."

The Glendale office of the district attorney is seeking to have a preliminary hearing on a murder charge against Alfonso Ochoa, 61, of 535 N. Loma Ave., Burbank, now set for Monday, postponed until after the inquest.

Ochoa, an unemployed tool and die maker, was arraigned on a murder charge Wednesday before Burbank Municipal Judge Archie Walters who set bail for him at $10,000.

Donald Goldsobel, in charge of the district attorney's office in Glendale, said the inquest results could cause the office to file reduced charges against Ochoa.

Surgery Performed

"Unless there is evidence to the contrary that Mrs. Ochoa died from other causes in addition to the gunshot wound, we will continue to press our murder complaint," he said.

Burbank police said Ochoa allegedly fired a single shot from a .22-caliber revolver into the victim's stomach during a dispute at his home.

Mrs. Ochoa was taken by Burbank police to St. Joseph Medical Center, where surgery was performed. "Shortly thereafter, the patient died," the hospital spokesman said.

Inquest hearing officer Frederick Lacey said the investigation was prompted by "hearsay, but serious" information learned by the coroner's office.

Subpoenas for 10 persons have been issued by his office, Lacey said.

He said he could not recall a similar case in which the results of the inquest may force the district attorney to reduce the charges against a defendant.

"We had countless cases where charges were raised, never lowered," he said. "This is certainly an unusual, if not unique, situation."
Husband May Face Murder Charge in Hospital Accident

BY WILLIAM FARR
Times Staff Writer

A Burbank man whose wife died as a result of an operating room accident after he shot her could still face a murder trial despite a judge's ruling Thursday which erased the homicide count.

Municipal Judge Marion Gubler ordered 61-year-old Alfonso Ochoa to stand trial only for assault with intent to commit murder and set his Superior Court arraignment on that charge for Aug. 2.

The case involves the death of Mary Elizabeth Ochoa, 49, who died June 9 at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank after being taken there by police.

A coroner's jury ruled June 29 that her death resulted, not from a .22-caliber gunshot in the stomach, but from accidental administration of nitrous oxide.

When informed of Gubler's ruling

Please Turn to Back Page, Col. 3.
OCHOA

Continued from First Page

Thursday, Dep. Dist. Atty. Donald Goldsobel said:

"We will still file an information in Superior Court alleging one count of assault with intent to commit murder and another count charging murder because the prosecution feels the evidence is sufficient to sustain the murder charge."

Testimony at the inquest revealed that after the surgery was performed on Mrs. Ochoa, she received nitrous oxide instead of pure oxygen because the lines were crossed in the recently constructed operating suite.

Dr. Leonard Condit, who performed the surgery, testified that he considered Mrs. Ochoa's condition to be "good" at the conclusion of the operation.
Navy Flier Killed When Ejection Parachute Fails

Three Crewmen Abandon Jet When It Blows Tires and Ground Loops Before Halting Safely

One Navy flier was killed and two others were injured today ejecting from a new Lockheed-built jet when it blew two tires and ground looped while landing at the Hollywood-Burbank Airport.

After the three crewmen were rocketed 100 feet into the air, the abandoned twin-jet Viking S-3A anti-submarine warfare aircraft straightened out on the runway and rolled to a halt without hitting anything. Damage to the plane was slight.

Burbank firemen said the parachute of the man who was killed failed to open. A Navy spokesman attributed the death to a failure of the ejection system. Parachutes of the other two crewmen deployed.

The injured crewmen were taken to St. Joseph's Medical Center, where they were undergoing X Rays. Firemen said they did not appear to be seriously hurt.

Names of the dead man and the two injured were withheld until their families could be notified.

Federal Aviation Administration personnel at the airport said the accident occurred at 9:34 a.m. as the plane was coming in on a routine training flight from the North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego.

The aircraft ground looped—pivot ed around on one dragging wingtip—apparently as the result of the two blown tires.

It was the second fatal accident involving the Viking since Lockheed began turning the planes over to the Navy last year. Last November the pilot and copilot of a Viking were killed during a practice landing at the Naval Air Facility east of El Centro.

The plane, which normally carries a crew of four, has been operational with the Navy since early last year.

The Navy is authorized to buy 179 Vikings. So far it has ordered about 100 of the aircraft, placing a $222.7 million order last March and another $275.1 million order in October.

Total value of the program has been reported at $2.5 billion.

The Viking is designed to patrol the seas as far as 1,000 miles from aircraft carrier bases.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Burbank Seeks Facts in Rock Concert Deaths

Although two brothers were stabbed to death at a Burbank park rock concert Saturday night, city officials have not decided whether to ban future concerts in the park.

In the Stough Park incident John R. Hoppes, 20, and Daniel D. Hoppes, 18, of North Hollywood were killed during a free concert attended by approximately 300 persons.

Burbank Mayor William Rudell said he did not think the City Council would act on the concert situation at Tuesday’s meeting.

"There is a tendency to overreact in these matters," he said. "Before a change in policy is considered, we want to develop all the facts—and right now, I don’t think the answer is to close down the facility."

The stabbing occurred near the Starlight Bowl. Police said one of the brothers struck Michelle Houston, 21, prompting her husband Robert Lee Houston, 25, to draw a hunting knife on them.

The brothers died at Burbank Community Hospital. Houston was taken to the jail ward of the County-USC

Please Turn to Page 19, Col. 1

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
CONCERT DEATHS

Continued from Third Page
Medical Center where he was booked
on suspicion of murder.

"Currently, we're holding him on a
homicide," Burbank Police Capt. Bill
Smith said. "Normally, the district at-
torney would issue a murder com-
plaint, but there was a fight involved
and that could reduce the charge to
manslaughter," he said.

The impromptu rock concerts have
been going on all summer.

"We have been overseeing these
gatherings in a low-key fashion.
There have been only three or four
cases where we've had to take ac-
tion," said acting Burbank Police
Chief Capt. Don Tutich.

"These weekend concerts started
with 50 or 60 kids between the ages
of 18 and 20," Burbank Police Sgt.
Art Moody said. "The crowds just
kept mushrooming, and Saturday
there were upwards of 300 persons
there.

"We told them as long as they kept
the place cleaned up, they could use
the park anytime. This is the first
real trouble I can remember up
there," he said.
A suspect in the death of two brothers at a Burbank rock concert over the weekend will be released today after his discharge from County-SC Medical Center where he has been treated for a broken cheekbone, officials said. Robert Lee Houston, 25, contends that when he stabbed John R. Hoppes, 20, and his brother Daniel D. Hoppes, 18, he acted in self-defense and defense of his wife, Michelle, whom he says was attacked by one of the brothers.

San Diego Gas & Electric Co. asked the state Public Utilities Commission for a new rate increase of $16.3 million. SDG&E Vice President John Woy said the rate hike is needed because of a computer error made many of whom had a month's supply on hand, according to the company. Agreement on wage boosts was announced by a spokesman for the privately owned Compania de Gas and representatives of 1,000 workmen.
Burglary Suspect Shot to Death After Wounding Burbank Officer

A burglary suspect was shot to death early Monday outside a Burbank surplus food store after he shot and wounded a policeman.

The officer, Brian Arnspiger, 32, was taken to Burbank Community Hospital and released after treatment for a right arm flesh wound.

The dead suspect was identified as Richard M. Falcon, 31, of Los Angeles. His alleged associate, Sidney Lee Cundiff, 54, of Los Angeles, was booked on suspicion of murder as a result of Falcon's death during the commission of a crime.

Burbank police said Anthony Schiavone, 61, owner of the Price Fighters, 240 S. Golden Mall, Burbank, heard noises inside his locked shop early Monday and telephoned police.

Officers Arnspiger and Robert Giles, 22, responded to the burglary call.

Arnspiger went to the rear of the store, where he saw Falcon trying to escape through a broken window.

Arnspiger said he ordered Falcon to freeze. Instead, Falcon reportedly fired three times, hitting Arnspiger once.

Arnspiger emptied his revolver at Falcon, mortally wounding him.
TAPES RAISE PUZZLING QUESTIONS IN DETECTIVE’S DEATH
WILLIAM FARR; BILL HAZLETT
Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 10, 1976;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. OC1

TAPES RAISE PUZZLING QUESTIONS IN DETECTIVE’S DEATH

BY WILLIAM FARR and BILL HAZLETT

Times Staff Writers

A premonition of death seemed to stalk the shadowy world in which Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall plied his trade. Bobby Hall was scared, obviously with good reason. “He carried a concealed weapon with him every place he went,” said Carol Hall, his estranged wife. “I think Robert Vesco is trying to kill me.” Hall told his teen-age daughter when she asked why he was carrying a gun to their Father’s Day dinner at a Burbank restaurant.

“My closest friend, Lawrie Mathes, 42, also had noticed Hall’s growing anxiety and fear.” He loaded every gun in the house, Mathes, who had shared Hall’s home for six months, told Burbank investigators. “He never answered the door without a gun in his hand.” Mathes said he became aware of Hall’s increasing jum-piness early in May.

The 44-year-old private detective was right about one thing—somebody was out to kill him. Little more than a month after his cryptic explanation to his daughter, the slighet, bearded Hall was dead.

First in a series.

He was killed at 11:10 p.m. July 22 by an unknown assailant who fired a single shot into the back of his head through the open kitchen window of his Burbank home. Police said.

What made Hall, a relatively obscure operator in his own right, think that an international figure such as Ves-co, fugitive financier and millionaire wheeler-dealer, would bother to reach out from the exile of his Costa Ri-can fortress to have him murdered?

The answer to that almost certainly can be found in Hall’s close association with Thomas P. Richardson, 37, convicted Century City stock swindler and a Vesco “prot-egue,” currently facing a six-year term in federal prison.

There is evidence to show that Hall was helping Rich-ardson in an attempt to squeeze financial aid out of Vesco under the threat of giving federal prosecutors damaging information about the fugitive financier if Richardson was “not well taken care of.”

Vesco, who fled first to the Bahamas, then to Costa Rica, is under a federal indictment on charges stemming from a secret $200,000 contribution he made to former President Richard M. Nixon’s 1972 campaign in a reported attempt to quash a probe of his finances by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But if Vesco really did want Hall dead, he was not the only one, according to investigators.

“Hell, there were probably any number of people who wanted to see this guy dead, just by the nature of the kind of work he did,” said Burbank Det. Lt. Al Madrid, who is heading the investigation.

“The man who know of his background . . . the bug-
ging . . . the wiretapping . . . the digging into other peo-
ple’s lives, he probably came up with some information he shouldn’t have, and it led to his death.”

As one private detective put it, “There were probably 20 people who wanted to kill Bobby Hall, and five times that many who were happy to see him meet his maker.”

Numbered among the latter are some prominent enter-
tainment figures, since it is known he got many of them hooked on the special “happy shots”—methamphetamine or speed mixed with vitamin B12—he provided.

Detectives are wondering aloud if Hall might have been blackmailing some of these entertainers.

Investigators also are scrutinizing Hall’s dealings with a number of present and former police officers to determine if his death is somehow linked to one such relationship.

Law enforcement officers from the local to federal level have known Hall for years in a variety of roles—as an in-
formant, as a source for the illicit “happy shots” of speed

Please Turn to Page 6, Col. 1

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Police say the detective became incensed over a planned double cross.

that led to Richardson's latest arrest, had implicated both the former stockbroker and the slain private detective in the buglary-burglary incident.

Meanwhile, detectives are laboriously attempting to unravel all of the mysteries that have surfaced during the Hall murder investigation.

Schmidt, who listened to the tape, said Richardson told Veeco that if it were not for him, he (Richardson) would not have faced six years in prison, adding that if he was going to spend that time in prison, he expected to enjoy all of the benefits of the well-taken care of.

Richardson, according to the tape, actually threatened Veeco, saying that if he were not "taken care of" he would go to the government and tell them about the weapons he had smuggled to Veeco.

In fact, Richardson actually sent Hall to make a preliminary contact with federal agents about setting up such a deal. The deal could fail.

Veeco, according to the tape, told Richardson he had two ways to go—either to prison or jump his bond and join the fugitive financier in Costa Rica.

When Richardson declined both suggestions and repeated his demand for money along with his threat to deal with the government, Veeco reportedly said, "This would be a lot more."

Richardson suddenly terminated the conversation by hanging up the telephone.

Earlier in the same recorded conversation Richardson told Veeco Hall had been wounded, to which the fugitive financier coldly responded, "No, he didn't.

At that point, the conversation turned to other matters. Richardson refused to play the entire recording. This spurred Barket detectives to seek Municipal Judge Ber- nie Kaufman for a search warrant that would give them access not only to the conversation, but to those on the 36 tape recordings in Richardson's possession.

The contents of those tape recordings have not been

Please Turn to Page 7, Col. 1
disclosed, but it is known that veteran Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Eggars resigned suddenly when some of the recorded statements reportedly linked him with Richardson, Ginsburgs and the slain private detective.

Testimony in Richardson's trial revealed that it was Eggars who first recruited Ginsburgs to become a government informant.

Although Eggars later denied, through a spokesman, that his association with the dead detective had anything to do with his quitting, he admitted he had used Hall as a "double agent" during the Richardson investigation because Hall was working for the stockbroker at the time.

Eggars, who had been with the department 17 years, said he resigned strictly for health reasons, adding that the pressure of the job had left him with a case of extreme hypertension.

Beverly Hills Police Chief Edward Kreins would say only that Eggars resigned for personal reasons because
TAPES RAISE QUESTIONS IN DETECTIVE’S DEATH
BILL FARR; BILL HAZLETT
Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 10, 1976;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pq. C1

BY BILL FARR
and BILL HAZLETT
Times Staff Writers

A premonition of death seemed to stalk the shadowy world in which Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall plied his trade. Bobby Hall was scared, obviously with good reason. “He carried a concealed weapon with him everywhere he went,” said Carol Hall, his estranged wife. “I think Robert Vesco is trying to kill me.” Hall told his teen-age daughter when she asked why he was carrying a gun to their Father’s Day dinner at a Burbank restaurant. One of his closest friends, Lawrence Mathes, 42, also had noticed Hall’s growing anxiety and fear. “He loaded every gun in the house,” Mathes, who had shared Hall’s home for six months, told Burbank investigators. “He never answered the door without a gun in his hand.”

Mathes said he became aware of Hall’s increasing jumpyness early in May. The 44-year-old private detective was right about one thing—somebody was out to kill him. Little more than a month after his cryptic explanation to his daughter, the slight, bearded Hall was dead. He was killed at 11:10 p.m. July 22 by an unknown assailant who fired a single shot into the back of his head through the open kitchen window of his Burbank home, police said.

What made Hall, a relatively obscure operator in his own right, think that an international figure such as Vesco, fugitive financier and millionaire wheeler-dealer, would bother to reach out from the exile of his Costa Rican fortress to have him murdered? The answer to that almost certainly can be found in Hall’s close association with Thomas P. Richardson, 37, convicted Century City stock swindler and a Vesco “protégé,” currently facing a six-year term in federal prison. There is evidence to show that Hall was helping Richardson in an attempt to squeeze financial aid out of Vesco under the threat of giving federal prosecutors damaging information about the fugitive financier if Richardson was “not well taken care of.”

Vesco, who fled first to the Bahamas, then to Costa Rica, is under a federal indictment on charges stemming from a secret $200,000 contribution he made to former President Richard M. Nixon’s 1972 campaign in a reported attempt to quash a probe of his finances by the Securities and Exchange Commission. But if Vesco really did want Hall dead, he was not the only one, according to investigators. “Hell, there were probably any number of people who wanted to see this guy dead, just by the nature of the kind of work he did,” said Burbank Det. Lt. Al Madrid, who is heading the investigation.

“From what we know of his background . . . the bugging . . . the wiretapping . . . the digging into other people’s lives, he probably came up with some information he shouldn’t have, and it led to his death.”

As one private detective put it. “There were probably 20 people who wanted to kill Bobby Hall, and five times that many who were happy to see him dead.”
Continued from First Page

see him meet his maker .

Numbered among the latter are some prominent enter-
tainment figures, since it is known that people had been
hooked on the special "happy shots"—methamphetamine
or speed mixed with vitamin B12—he provided.

Detectives are wondering aloud if Hall might have been
blackmailing some of these entertainers.

Investigations also are scrutinizing Hall's dealings with a
number of prominent and former police officers to determine
if his death is somehow linked to one such relationship.

Law enforcement officers from the local to the federal level
have known Hall for years in a variety of roles— as an in-
formant, as a source for the illicit "happy shots" of speed and
as someone to handle the unsavory, often illegal tasks of
tapping and wiretapping.

While it is hard to find anyone with a complimentary
word for Hall personally, even his most ardent detractors
are vocal in praise of his talents for wiretapping and elec-
tronic eavesdropping.

Hall's specialty was bugging and building homes and
offices—a skill he reportedly used in working for both
Richardson and Vesco—and he had almost an obsession
about recording telephone calls and private conversations.

A number of his former colleagues also seem to have
ever had a penchant for making tape recordings, investi-
gators said.

Authorities hope to find the answers to a score of puz-
zing questions among almost 300 separate tape record-
ings they have seized thus far in the murderer investigation.

At the time, investigators from local, county and fed-
eral enforcement agencies are trying to untangle a snarl of
subplots revealed in the recorded conversations which
deal with extortion, drugs, prostitution, gambling and
burglary.

Many of the tape recordings, according to Lt. Madrid,
"contain unsuppressed allegations involving local po-
litica l and show-business personalities in various criminal
activities ."

Included are the names of several well-known enter-
tainment figures.

Hall's concern with Vesco was at least partly explained
by Richardson, who telephoned Burbank detectives two

Police say the detective became in-
censed over a planned double cross.

days after the murder to relay what he considered vital
information about a possible motive and a suspect.

But unlike Hall, the flamboyant former stockbroker
ever pointed the finger of suspicion at Vesco.

Instead, according to court documents, Richardson told
Detect. Richard Schmidt, he felt that perhaps (Jack) Gins-
berg may have killed Hall because of Hall's activities
against Ginsberg.

Ginsberg, whose true name is Ginsburgs, is an accused
pornographer with reputed connections in organized crime
who at one time was Hall's friend and business
partner, according to police.

Richardson explained how he had hired Hall in 1975 to
learn the identity of the government's principal informant
in the then-impending federal stock fraud case against him.

Hall, apparently through his law enforcement contacts,
quickly discovered that the so-called key witness was
Ginsburgs, 37, who previously had worked as a financial
consultant in Richardson's now-defunct brokerage firm.

According to police, Richardson said the fact that Gins-
burgs had been shot as the stockbroker's close friend while
planning a double cross so incensed Hall that the private
detective initiated a wave of harassment against the infor-
mant.

The harassment included bugging Ginsburgs' telephone,
shouting insults in public confrontations and several phys-
ical threats, Richardson told police.

Richardson, free on an appeal bond, was convicted in
federal court in March 26 in a massive stock fraud case
sentenced May 3 to a six-year prison term by U.S. Dist.
Judge Matt Byrne.

And the government's chief witness—as Hall earlier
discovered—was Ginsburgs, whose own federal obscenity
indictment was later dismissed by the Justice Department.

Richardson, using his in 1974 of his private jet to
tamper with guns and prostitutes to Vesco's island home
and to detectives his close personal and business
relationship with Hall started about five years ago when he had
the private detective to debug Vesco's home in the

The SEC investigation of Vesco resulted in a suit
against the financier and 41 other defendants on charges
that they looted the Investment Overseas Services—a
mutual fund complex created by Bernard Cornfield—of
more than $220 million.

Please Turn to Page 4, Col. 1

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
The private investigator was used by police as a 'double agent.'
Hearing in Investigator's Death Postponed

Judge Admits 8 Disputed Tape Recordings as Evidence

BY BILL HAZLETT
Times Staff Writer

The preliminary hearing for two men charged in the July 22 slaying of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall was postponed Wednesday after it became mired in legal wrangling.

Attorneys for Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and Gene LeBell, 44, voiced strong objections to eight tape recordings offered as evidence by the prosecution.

The recordings, made without the defendants' knowledge before their arrest, reportedly contain self-incriminating statements made to former Beverly Hills Police Capt. Jack Egger.

Defense attorneys Norman Atkins and Charles Weedman objected on the grounds Egger had been acting as a police agent at the time the tapes were made.

"He was as much as police agent as if he had a badge and cap on, and a gun and club," said Weedman.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Jerry Bowes disagreed, saying Egger, who resigned under pressure Aug. 21, was a civilian and both defendants knew he was no longer a police officer. As an officer, Egger might have been legally required to have warned the suspects of their rights.

Burbank Municipal Judge Marion E. Gubler, after refusing for more than an hour to study cases cited by Bowes, overruled the defense objection and admitted the recordings into evidence on the basis of a 1975 California Supreme Court ruling.

Egger, who has been granted both state and federal immunity in the case, was the prosecution's star witness and the target of slashing cross examination by Atkins, Ginsburgs' attorney.

Atkins suggested Egger had been derelict in failing to warn either Burbank police or the intended victim of the impending attack on Hall, even though Egger testified Ginsburgs had told him he planned to kill Hall about an hour before the private investigator was slain.

The defense attorney asked Egger if he was addicted to the use of "speed" — a concoction of methamphetamine and vitamins — reportedly used by Hall and others involved in the bizarre case.

The former police captain violently denied any such addiction.

Earlier, Egger testified he had known Hall for 15 years and that Hall had been a police informant — and more particularly a personal informant of his — during that time.

Judge Gubler recessed the hearing — ordered to reopen at 1 p.m. Friday in Division 2 of Burbank Municipal Court — before Weedman, representing LeBell, could begin his cross-examination.

A hint of defense tactics was revealed earlier when Weedman said during a recess, "we are exploring some lines of hard evidence toward another suspect in the Hall murder."

He declined to identify the suspect, but added, "It is obvious there are other viable suspects with any number of strong motives for killing Bobby Hall."

Other witnesses called during the opening session Wednesday included Lawrence P. Mathes, 42, who testified he had been staying in Hall's Burbank home for several months at the time of the slaying.

Mathes said he heard the shot that killed Hall and called police after finding the victim lying face up on the kitchen floor with his head in a dish.

At the same time he was calling police, Mathes said, he also called George H. Yocham, former Los Angeles police lieutenant now an instructor at Los Angeles Valley College, on a second telephone.

Asked why he had called Yocham, Mathes explained, "He was a good friend of Bobby's, so I told him somebody had just killed Bobby."

Dr. Joseph F. Choi, deputy coroner, testified that Hall was killed by a single .38 caliber bullet, fired at a range of 18 to 30 inches, that struck him behind his left ear and exited behind his right ear.

On cross-examination, Dr. Choi also testified he found numerous needle marks — referred to as "tracks" — on Hall's arms, indicating he had been injecting himself with a hypodermic needle for some time.

The deputy coroner said no toxicological tests were made for amphetamines during Hall's autopsy, although the slain private investigator reportedly was using the same "speed" mixture mentioned in Egger's cross examination.

Dr. Choi said none of the needle marks was "fresh," meaning no injections in the 24 hours prior to Hall's death.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Legal Clash Delays Hearing for 2 in Detective’s Death

Defense Attorneys Object to Use of Eight Tape Recordings Made Without Defendants’ Knowledge

BY BILL HAZLETT
Times Staff Writer

The preliminary hearing for two men charged in the July 22 slaying of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall was postponed Wednesday after it became mired in legal wrangling.

Attorneys for Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and Gene LeBell, 44, voiced strong objections to eight tape recordings offered as evidence by the prosecution.

The recordings, made without the defendants’ knowledge before their arrest, reportedly contain self-incriminating statements made to former Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Egger.

Defense attorneys Norman Atkins and Charles Weedman objected on the grounds Egger had been acting as a police agent at the time the tapes were made.

"He was as much a police agent as if he had a badge and cap on, and a gun and club," Weedman said.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Jerry Bowes disagreed, saying Egger, who resigned under pressure Aug. 21, was a civilian and both defendants knew he was no longer a police officer. As an officer, Egger might have been required to have warned the suspects of their rights.

Burbank Municipal Judge Marion E. Gubler, after recessing for more than an hour to study cases cited by Bowes, overruled the defense objections and admitted the recordings into evidence on the basis of a 1975 California Supreme Court ruling.

Egger, who has been granted both state and federal immunity in the case, was the prosecution’s star witness and the target of slashing cross-examination by Atkins, Ginsburgs’ attorney.

Atkins suggested Egger had been derelict in failing to warn either Burbank police or the intended victim of the impending attack on Hall, even though Egger testified Ginsburgs had told him he planned to kill Hall about an hour before the private investigator was slain.

The defense attorney asked Egger if he was addicted to the use of "speed"—a concoction of methamphetamines and vitamins—reportedly used by Hall and others involved in the bizarre case.

The former police captain violently denied any such addiction.

Earlier, Egger testified he had known Hall for 15 years and that Hall had been a police informant—and more particularly a personal informant of his—during that time.

Gubler recessed the hearing—ordered to reopen at 1 p.m. Friday in Division 2 of Burbank Municipal Court—before Weedman, represent-
HEARING IN SLAYING DELAYED

Continued from First Page

ing LeBell, could begin his cross-examination.

A hint of defense tactics was revealed earlier when
Weedman said during a recess, "We are exploring some
lines of hard evidence toward another suspect in the Hall
murder."

He declined to identify the suspect, but added, "It is ob-
vious there are other viable suspects with any number of
strong motives for killing Bobby Hall."

Other witnesses called during the opening session Wed-
nesday included Lawrence P. Mathes, 42, who testified he
had been staying in Hall's Burbank home for several
months at the time of the slaying.

Mathes said he heard the shot that killed Hall and called
police after finding the victim.

At the same time he was calling police, Mathes said, he
also called George H. Yocham, former Los Angeles police
lieutenant now an instructor at Los Angeles Valley Col-
lege, on a second telephone.

Asked why he had called Yocham, Mathes explained,
"He was a good friend of Bobby's, so I told him somebody
had just killed Bobby."

Dr. Joseph F. Choi, deputy coroner, testified that Hall
was killed by a single .38-caliber bullet, fired at a range of
18 to 30 inches, that struck him behind his left ear and
exited behind his right ear.

On cross-examination, Choi also testified he found
numerous needle marks—referred to as "tracks"—on
Hall's arms, indicating he had been injecting himself with
a hypodermic needle for some time.

The deputy coroner said no toxicological tests were
made for amphetamines during Hall's autopsy, although
the slain private investigator reportedly was using the
same "speed" mixture mentioned in Egger's cross-examin-
ation.

Choi said none of the needle marks was "fresh," mean-
ing no injections in the 24 hours before Hall's death.
2 Held to Answer in Detective Death

BY BILL HAZLETT
Times Staff Writer

The two men accused in the July 22 slaying of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall were held to answer to murder charges Friday after a stormy preliminary hearing.

Attorneys for Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and Gene LeBell, 44, lost several legal encounters during the closing hours of a two-day hearing before Burbank Municipal Judge Marion E. Gubler.

Defense attorney Norman Atkins, representing Ginsburgs, attacked the testimony of the prosecution's principal witness, saying, "If that is the only evidence against my client, there are many others who also could be suspects in this murder."

Atkins renewed his earlier objections to the admission of eight tape recordings, and transcripts of conversations on the tapes, as prosecution evidence.

Gubler overruled the objection, saying the tapes and transcripts contain "some very important and relevant material ... which has great probitive value."

The jurist said he had not only listened to the tapes, but had compared them with the transcripts—"a task that took many hours"—to reach his conclusion.

Charles Weedman, in his defense of LeBell, argued that the evidence presented in the preliminary hearing, "at its worst," was not enough to order his client to stand trial for murder.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Jerry Bowes countered Weedman's contention by saying the recordings and transcripts contained "not only enough evidence to hold LeBell to answer, but enough to convict LeBell of murder."

The recordings contain certain incriminating statements made by the defendants before their arrest—without their knowledge—to former Beverly Hills Police Capt. Jack Egger.

Egger, the prosecution's major witness, spent seven hours on the witness stand during the two-day hearing under the close watch of his personal attorney, Robert K. Steinberg.

"He's beat, completely wrung out," Steinberg said after Egger completed his appearance.

Egger, who resigned Aug. 21 after 17 years on the Beverly Hills police department, volunteered to be wired for sound by Burbank detectives in an effort to elicit statements from Ginsburgs and LeBell. The recorded state-ements became the foundation for the prosecution's case.

Other witnesses called to testify Friday were investigator Richard Schmidt, who explained his part in attaching the hidden radio transmitter to Egger, and investigator J. V. Rodriguez, who detailed parts of the homicide investigation.

Gubler ordered Ginsburgs and LeBell to appear Oct. 29 for arraignment in Pasadena Superior Court on the murder charges.

LeBell was allowed to remain free on $50,000 bail, but the judge refused a motion to reduce Ginsburgs' $250,000 bail and he was remanded to custody.
Defense Attorneys in Killing of Detective Ask Access to Files

BY WILLIAM FARR
Times Staff Writer

Attorneys for two men charged with the murder of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall asked Friday to look at the personnel files of two former policemen closely associated with both the victim and the defendants.

Chatsworth pornographer Jack Ginsburgs, 37, and West Hollywood karate expert Gene LaBell, 44, have been charged with the July 22 slaying.

Pasadena Superior Judge Mary Good Rogan delayed her decision until Thursday on how much information the defense attorneys can have from the files of former Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Egger and former Los Angeles police Lt. George Yocham.

She instructed Murray Lertzman, representing Ginsburgs, and Charles Weedman, LaBell's lawyer, to submit a list of what items in the files might be relevant to this case.

Lertzman and Weedman said they are seeking information on any disciplinary actions taken against either of the former officers on incidents where Hall had some involvement.

Egger is the prosecution's key witness and already has testified in a preliminary hearing that both Ginsburgs and LaBell admitted to him their roles in the Hall killing.

Ginsburgs also reportedly told Egger that the murder weapon was registered to Yocham. Police believe it was a gun given to Ginsburgs as a birthday gift from Hall and Yocham.

Regarding the relevance of the personnel files, Lertzman pointed out that Hall had a long-standing relationship with both Egger and Yocham as a friend and an informant.

Egger, a 17-year veteran with the Beverly Hills police department, resigned shortly after Hall's death. Egger's departure was precipitated by Burbank detectives playing selected rape recordings for Beverly Hills Police Chief Edward Kreins.

Those recordings were among the more than 200 tapes found in Hall's apartment. The contents of the tapes played for Kreins have not yet been disclosed by authorities.

Yocham, who now heads the police science department in Los Angeles Valley College, worked with Hall as a private detective after leaving the Los Angeles Police Department in 1971.
Accused Slayer's Transfer Bid Rejected

WILLIAM FARR

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Dec 1, 1976;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. OC3

Accused Slayer's Transfer Bid Rejected

Suspect in Burbank Detective's Death Assails Jail Facilities

BY WILLIAM FARR

Times Staff Writer

Jack Ginsburgs, accused murderer of Burbank private detective Robert Duke Hall, failed Tuesday in his plea to be moved from county jail to a hotel room under the supervision of guards hired by former Police Chief Tom Redd.

However, after vowing that plan proposed by the Chatsworth photographer, Pasadena Superior Judge Walter R. Evans did lower his bail from $500,000 to $175,000.

But Ginsburgs' attorney, Murray Lertman, said he still would not be able to post the lower bail amount.

In other actions during Tuesday's court session, Evans set separate trial dates for Ginsburgs, 37, and his codefendant, Gene LeBell, 44, a West Hollywood karate expert and former professional wrestler.

Ginsburgs' trial is set for Jan. 10 and LeBell's is scheduled for Feb. 21 in Pasadena.

In asking that he be removed from jail and placed under the guard of Tom Reddin Security Service, Ginsburgs complained that being held in county jail made it impossible to effectively assist in preparing his legal defense.

His major complaint was that facilities at the jail made it difficult to listen to and fully concentrate on the estimated 400 hours of tape recordings which he plans to review prior to his trial.

These include the nearly 300 tapes seized at Hall's apartment after his July 20 murder.

Evans offered, as an alternative, to set aside a room at the Pasadena Courthouse for Ginsburgs to listen to the tapes if he continues to be unable to make bail.

Evans also ruled on the defense request to have certain information from the personnel files of ex-Beverly Hills police Capt. Jack Egger and former Los Angeles police Lt. George Yocham.

Both were closely associated with both the defendants and the victim over a long period of years.

Egger is the prosecution's key witness and already has testified that both Ginsburgs and LeBell admitted to him their roles in the Hall slaying.

The judge granted the defense permission to obtain Egger's Aug. 21, 1976, handwritten letter of resignation to Beverly Hills Police Chief Edward Kreins, who reportedly demanded it after Burbank detectives played several of the Hall tape recordings for him.

Other one document turned over to the defense dealt with a Feb. 20, 1979, disciplinary action taken against Egger.

The suspension was ordered because of Egger's relationship with Jerome Pierce, a man with a long arrest record and a key figure in a scandal that rocked L.A. Gov. Ed Reineke's office.

This disciplinary action stemmed from Egger accompanying Pierce on expense-free trips to Sacramento and Hartford, Conn. and accepting two guns from Pierce as gifts.

Egger also was instrumental in the issuance of an arrest warrant for a girlfriend who had jilted Pierce.

A top aide to Reineke resigned his post after it was revealed that he arranged for Pierce to obtain a concealed weapon permit and an Irwindale police lieutenant's badge

he used in the arrest of the girlfriend.

The judge said he could find nothing of relevance in the personnel file of Yocham, who is now a police science instructor at Los Angeles Valley College.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
TV Newsman Joel Garcia Slain, Ex-Wife Arrested

Television news reporter Joel Garcia was shot to death Monday night following a quarrel with his former wife, Burbank police said today.

Garcia, 39, a producer-reporter for KCET Channel 28, was found lying on the lawn in front of an apartment house at 624 E. Cypress Ave. by police officers investigating a report of shots being fired.

Garcia was dead on arrival at Burbank Community Hospital. He had been shot five times, police said, once in the head, once in the chest and three times in the left arm.

Garcia's ex-wife Lupe, 24, was arrested and booked on suspicion of murder, police said.

Burbank Police Sgt. Leon Lawery said that Garcia and his former wife, who had a 5-year-old daughter, had finalized their divorce two months ago.

Lawery said Garcia, who lived in Alhambra, had gone to the apartment house Monday to return the child to the custody of his ex-wife following the Memorial Day weekend.

The couple became involved in an argument over child support, Lawery said, and Garcia was shot with a .22-caliber pistol.

The child, who was asleep in her bedroom at the time of the shooting, was placed in custody of the woman's niece, police said.

Garcia had begun working at KCET in January according to a station spokesman, following five years on the staff of television station KTTV Channel 11 as a general assignment reporter.
Ex-Wife of Slain Newsman Joel Garcia to Be Arraigned

The former wife of slain television reporter Joel Garcia will be arraigned Thursday on murder charges in the death of her ex-husband, Burbank police investigators said Tuesday.

Garcia, 36, a producer-reporter for KCET Channel 28, reportedly was shot to death Monday night after a quarrel with his former wife, Lupe, 24, at her Burbank apartment.

Garcia’s body was found lying on the lawn in front of the apartment building at 624 E. Cypress Ave. by police officers responding to a report of shots being fired.

Garcia was dead on arrival at Burbank Community Hospital. He had been shot five times, police said, once in the head, once in the chest and three times in the left arm.

Burbank Police Sgt. Leon Lawery said that Garcia and his former wife, who had a 5-year-old daughter, had been granted a divorce two months ago.

Lawery said Garcia, who lived in Alhambra, had gone to the apartment house Monday to return the child to the custody of his ex-wife after the Memorial Day weekend.

The couple became involved in an argument over child support, Lawery said, and Garcia was shot with a .22-caliber pistol.

The child was placed in custody of the woman’s niece, police said.

Garcia had begun working at KCET in January, according to a station spokesman, after five years on the staff of television station KTTV Channel 11 as a general assignment reporter.

A family spokesman said a Rosary will be recited Thursday evening at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, East Los Angeles. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday at 10 a.m. at the same church, with interment to follow.
Man Held in 2 Hit-Run Deaths

A Burbank man was held in connection with the deaths of two women who were struck by a hit-and-run driver. Police said Debi Ann Milligan, 23, and Mary Ann Sergiadis, 27, both of Burbank, were struck as they stood beside Mrs. Sergiadis' car, parked on Magnolia Blvd. near Moss St. The driver sped away, but several witnesses described him and took the license number of his car, found parked in a lot two blocks away. Both women were pronounced dead at the scene. Burbank police subsequently arrested Gerald Rene Perron, 45, at his home in Burbank. He was held on suspicion of felony manslaughter and hit-and-run driving.

An Encino man was found shot to death at the wheel of his expensive car, parked at Mulholland Drive and Encino Hills Drive in the Santa Monica mountains. Police said Albert Rosen, 47, a self-employed investor, had been shot in the upper torso with a small-caliber gun. West Valley investigators said witnesses have told them Rosen was taken from his home at gunpoint between 8 and 8:30 a.m.

Thirty per cent of the 111 school bus drivers who serve the city of San Bernardino walked off the job, demanding that they be represented by the Teamsters Union. The Associated Charter Bus Co., which contracts with the school district to provide transportation for about 3,500 youngsters, said drivers who failed to report to work would be replaced. Parents were advised to provide transportation for their children during the interruption.

The district attorney's office in Riverside was investigating the case of an 85-year-old patient at San Gorgonio Pass Hospital who died from drinking what she apparently thought was grape juice but was a strong dist-

Four organizations urged Los Angeles-area officials to abandon plans for the stalled $615 million Century Freeway and redirect the money, most of it from the federal government, into transit development projects. One of these projects should be a transitway—but no freeway—along the 17-mile Century Freeway route between El Segundo and Norwalk, according to the Sierra Club, the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County and the Pasadena Urban Coalition.
A Burbank man accused of killing two women in a hit-and-run auto accident had been released from jail just eight hours before the accident occurred, after serving 146 days for driving while intoxicated, police said Wednesday.

George Rene Perron, 45, will be formally charged today in the deaths of Debi Ann Milligan, 23, and Mary Ann Sergiadis, 27, who were killed Tuesday morning on Magnolia Blvd. in Burbank.

Police said they will seek charges of felony hit-and-run driving, vehicular homicide and using false infor-

Please Turn to Page 6, Col. 3

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
seven times since 1972.

He was arrested Dec. 19, 1977, and found guilty on two counts of driving while intoxicated. Perron was sentenced to a total of 188 days, but got 42 days off for good behavior.

Perron was released from County Jail Tuesday at 2 a.m.

He got no sleep that morning. Perron told investigating officers. Instead, he visited a girlfriend and then an early opening bar.

Perron left the bar at about 9 a.m., officers said. The accident occurred about 90 minutes later.
Mary Tyler Moore’s Sister Dies

Elizabeth Moore, 21-year-old sister of TV star Mary Tyler Moore, was found dead Wednesday in a Burbank apartment.

The coroner’s office said she died of a “possible overdose” of medicinal drugs but gave no other details.

Burbank police said the apartment was rented to a relative.

An afternoon TV news report of the young woman’s death apparently was misunderstood by many distressed viewers who swamped the switchboard at KNBC-TV in Burbank with calls, thinking Mary Tyler Moore had died.

A spokesman for MTM Productions said the actress was in New York City making a TV film and was unaware of her sister’s death for several hours. She reportedly was flying back to Los Angeles Wednesday night, according to the spokesman.

The spokesman quoted Grant Tinker, the TV star’s husband, as saying the sister’s death was a private family matter and there would be no comment on it.
Off-Duty Officer Kills Burbank Holdup Suspect

An off-duty policeman shot and killed a holdup man early Sunday during a robbery attempt at a Burbank restaurant, police reported.

A Burbank police spokesman said that Burbank officer Jack Freer, 23, was one of six customers in Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 1300 N. San Fernando Blvd., when two men tried to rob it shortly after 1 a.m.

The two men were identified as Jack Bishop, 20, and Keith W. Murdock, 20, both of Van Nuys. Police said Bishop was armed with a revolver and Murdock with a knife.

Police said the armed pair were herding customers and employes of the restaurant toward a corner when Freer, who was not in uniform, drew his .38-caliber service revolver.

The officer wheeled, pushed a female customer aside, and fired four times at Bishop, hitting him once in the heart. The gunman did not return the gunfire.

Murdock was also hit by the gunfire, police said. He was wounded in the shoulder, apparently by a stray bullet, as he ran from the restaurant. No customers were hurt.

Murdock sped away in a waiting car driven by David P. Lopez, 26, of Reseda, officers said. The car was stopped and the two men arrested by a Burbank police unit a few minutes later less than a mile away.

Bishop was later pronounced dead at the scene.

Murdock was taken to the jail ward of the County-USC Medical Center, where he was booked on suspicion of murder and robbery. Lopez was booked into the Burbank jail on similar charges. Police said murder charges are usually filed in any case where a death occurs in connection with the commission of a felony.
Tennis Ace Held in Coach’s Death

BY JERRY BELCHER
Times Staff Writer

College tennis star Lori Andersen was arrested by Burbank police Friday on suspicion of murdering and burying the coach of her women’s tennis team at California State University, Northridge.

Police said the 21-year-old Northridge senior voluntarily led them to a vacant lot in Sylmar before dawn Friday and pointed out the shallow grave in which they found the body of 31-year-old Susan Hyde.

Miss Hyde, tennis instructor and coach at Northridge, was last seen alive Jan. 13, according to investigators, although she was not reported missing until several days later.

Police said they arrested Miss Andersen after she had been spotted lying in a Glendale street in an apparently dazed condition and with both hands tied in front of her.

They said she told a bizarre and unverified story of having been dumped in Glendale by a man who had kidnapped her from in front of her Granada Hills home 28 hours earlier.

Please Turn to Page 24, Col. 2
Continued from First Page

Burbank Police Sgt. Don Brown said the possibility that the kidnap story was true had been ruled out. He said it was entirely possible the suspect had tied her own hands and sprawled on the Glendale street for some purpose of her own.

She was found about 8 p.m. Thursday and taken to Burbank Community Hospital. Burbank police, who said they had been "interested" in talking to Miss Andersen even before the Glendale kidnap story, questioned her at length in the hospital.

Finally, police said, after she had been released from the hospital she voluntarily took them to the grave site near the intersection of the Foothill and Golden State freeways.

Nearby, according to investigators, they found another small hole in which the victim's purse had been buried.

Brown said he could not discuss any motive or the exact cause of death.

There was one report that Miss Hyde had been shot to death and that a bullet hole had been found in her Burbank apartment, but the sergeant would neither confirm nor deny it.

A coroner's investigator also declined to speculate on the cause of death until after tests are completed sometime today or Sunday. But he did say there were some indications the body had been burned.

Colleagues of Miss Hyde had reported to Los Angeles police on Jan. 16 that she was missing.

However, Burbank police did not get into the case until Jan. 24, when Miss Hyde's roommate, tennis pro Jan Hasse, returned from a tour and became alarmed.

Dr. Glenn Arnett, athletic director at the university, said although Miss Hyde technically was a part-time instructor, she had worked virtually full time as a physical education teacher and coach for the last seven years.

He described her as "cooperative, sincere and responsible" and said she had "good rapport" with both faculty and students.
Bittaker to Stand
Trial in 5 Deaths

A 39-year-old Burbank mechanic will be tried in the rape and torture deaths of five teen-age girls last year, prosecutors revealed Tuesday.

Lawrence S. Bittaker was held to answer to 28 felony counts—including murder, kidnaping and rape—after a nine-day preliminary hearing in Torrance that was closed to the press and public.

As a result of a gag order invoked by Municipal Judge William Hollingsworth, prosecutors were not able to discuss until Tuesday the outcome of the preliminary hearing that ended last week.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Stephen Kay said that among the more than 70 witnesses who testified at the hearing was Bittaker’s alleged accomplice, Roy Lewis Norris. In exchange for his testimony, the death penalty will not be sought for him.
Two Killed, Two Hospitalized by Toxic Fumes
NIESON HIMMEL; DAVID HOLLEY
Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 6, 1980;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. OC_A10

Two Killed, Two Hospitalized by Toxic Fumes

By NIESON HIMMEL
and DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writers

Toxic gases in a manhole at the Burbank Water Reclamation Plant Monday brought death to two city employees and left two other men in serious condition, the Burbank Fire Department reported.

Firefighters said two men were overcome while working in the manhole, and the other two lost consciousness when they attempted to rescue them.

The dead were identified as Bruce J. Burton, 25, a city water reclamation plant operator, and David R. George, 33, his assistant.

David Singleton, 63, and Willard Flinders, who attempted to bring them to the surface, were hospitalized.

Singleton, a civil engineer employed by the City of Burbank, was reported in stable condition at Burbank Community Hospital and Flinders, an employee of the Gerstenberger Construction Co., was reported in serious condition in the intensive-care unit at St. Joseph Medical Center.

Burbank City Manager James Algie said all four men were involved in replacement and repair work that is under way in the plant, located at Chestnut and Lake streets.

He said Burton and George were replacing wooden flumes used in sewage filtration.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
D.A. Probing Deaths of 2 at Burbank Water Plant

By DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office has opened an investigation into a May 5 toxic gas accident at the Burbank water reclamation plant that claimed two lives, Burbank officials have revealed.

The accident, which occurred five weeks after the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited safety violations at the municipal plant, led to another citation May 22 charging that "willful violation" of safety regulations led to the deaths. State investigators are looking into possible criminal prosecution arising from the accident.

The district attorney's investigation was initiated at the request of the Burbank City Council after some council members criticized a May 16 city attorney's probe on the accident because key management-level personnel were not questioned.

"There were some questions about the completeness of the city attorney's investigation," Mayor Leland Ayers said. "I think the council's position is we don't want a stone unturned. We want a complete and independent investigation, no matter how we get it, and we find (Dist. Atty. John) Van de Kamp's office has that qualification."


"I was very impressed with the preliminary report," Sills said. "It certainly provided this office with a good foundation upon which to build our investigation."

That report contained testimony that Bruce Burton and David George died after entering a manhole without testing for toxic gases or using safety equipment. Week-old sewage was being pumped through the manhole at the time.

In their earlier inspection of the plant, state officials had specifically warned plant management about the importance of using safety equipment and testing for toxic leaks.
Worker Sues Burbank Over Job Injuries

Brain Damage Feared From Rescue Attempt in Water Plant Deaths

By DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writer

Willard J. Flinders, a construction company employee injured in the May 5 toxic gas accident at the Burbank water reclamation plant, has filed a claim against the city charging it with responsibility for the accident.

The accident occurred five weeks after the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited safety violations at the plant. The state agency issued another citation May 22 charging that "willful violation" of safety regulations led to the manhole accident, which left two men dead and two injured.

Flinders, an employee of Gerstenberger Construction Co., spent five days unconscious in the intensive care unit of St. Joseph Medical Center after being overcome while attempting to rescue the men who had entered the manhole. He was released after 10 days of hospitalization.

Tests for Brain Damage

The sum to be asked from the city will depend on the results of tests made by medical specialists to determine whether Flinders suffered permanent brain damage from the accident, according to Barbara J. Penny, his attorney. The claim will seek punitive as well as actual damages, Penny said.

Flinders may well receive considerably more money from the city than the widows of the two men who died in the accident, according to John Siciliano, attorney for Carmella George, whose husband David died in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue Bruce Burton.

Under Workers’ Compensation law—which applies to city employees injured or killed on the job—benefits are paid according to a schedule that does not take into ac-

Please Turn to Page 4
count who is at fault in an accident, Siciliano said.

No lawsuit based on the employer's negligence can be filed, except that if a claimant can prove to the Workers' Compensation board that the conduct of the employer is such that it "shocks the conscience," a limited additional benefit may be won, Siciliano said.

The maximum death benefit under Workers' Compensation is $55,000.

"Flinders will wind up making a ton of money and it's very possible that the families of the men who died will recover very little," Siciliano said.

City Atty. Samuel Gorlick, however, indicated he felt Flinder's case against the city is weak.

"I do not believe that the city is liable for the injuries sustained by Mr. Flinders," Gorlick said.

"Mr. Flinders was employed by an independent contractor, not by the city, and happened to be in the area when the accident occurred. He sustained the injuries while attempting to rescue those in the manhole. This was done of his own free will and not under any compulsion by the city."

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Widow Says Mate Foresaw Fume Peril

DAVID HOLLEY

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 8, 1980;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. OC_A14

BURBANK MANHOLE DEATHS

Widow Says Mate Foresaw Fume Peril

By DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writer

The two men killed Monday by toxic fumes in a manhole accident at Burbank’s water reclamation plant repeatedly had protested the routine violation of safety procedures at the plant, the widow of one of the men said Wednesday.

After months of complaints failed to correct the problems, the two men—Bruce J. Burton and David R. George—informed the California Occupational Safety and Health Agency of the safety violations and requested an inspection, Anne Burton said.

A March 20 inspection by that agency resulted in a citation listing 11 safety violations at the plant that were to be corrected by April 20.

Arthur Carter, chief of the state Division of Safety and Health, Tuesday labeled the accident an “outrageous tragedy” that would not have occurred had the city responded promptly to the citation.

City officials said one man was working in the manhole and lost consciousness. A second man, George, then went down to try to rescue Burton, Mrs. Burton said. When he, too, lost consciousness a third man went to call paramedics and two other men tried to rescue the pair in the hole before the paramedics arrived, according to officials, who declined to say which worker was initially in danger.

The latter two men also lost consciousness. All four were rescued by paramedics and the first two were pronounced dead at the scene. The second two remain hospitalized, the officials said.

Anne and Bruce Burton were married only six weeks ago and George served as best man at the wedding, she said.

Dissatisfaction with safety conditions at the plant had led her husband to seek employment elsewhere, Mrs. Burton said. “We’ve been trying to get out of Burbank for months,” she said. “He’s gone on several job interviews.”

Mrs. Burton said her husband had told her of incidents in recent months in which employees at the plant flatly refused to do jobs they believed were dangerous. On at least one occasion, the plant supervisor reported the protests to a City Hall official but no action was taken to correct the conditions, she said.

“We all know the accident could have been prevented had all the safety equipment been available that was needed desperately,” Mrs. Burton said.

Plant employees knew they were violating safety procedures and that the breathing apparatuses at the plant before the March 20 inspection were not in working condition, workers said Wednesday. New breathing gear was in the plant office at the time of Monday’s accident, but no workers had yet been trained in how to use them, they said.

The lack of devices to detect toxic gases was cited as a violation after the March 20 inspection, but the plant still has no such devices, employees said.

Burton, 25, had received training in water treatment during three years in the Army. He began work for the city of Burbank in 1977.

City officials declined to respond Wednesday to either Mrs. Burton’s statements or Carter’s allegation that the accident would not have happened had the city corrected the safety violations.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Burbank Looks Back in Anguish at Tragedy

DAVID HOLLEY

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); May 11, 1980;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)

pg. GB1

By DAVID HOLLEY

Times Staff Writer

Everyone agreed it should not have happened.
But the asphyxiation deaths of two city workers last week also left a
widespread area of disagreement over why
it happened and who was at fault.
Anguished city officials were
in discussing the tragedy
that occurred Monday in a manhole at
the Burbank water reclamation plant.
A March 20 inspection of the plant
and the Beachwood pump station by
state safety officials turned up 11
safety violations that were to be cor-
rected by April 20, with that deadline
extended to May 1 for some of the vi-
olations.

A separate memorandum listed ad-
ditional criticisms involving require-
ments to test air in confined spaces
before and during entry by workers.

"The city of Burbank was given
sufficient time to obtain the appro-
riate respirator equipment and
adequate protective equipment and
adopt the required safe work prac-
tices," said Arthur Carter, chief of the
state Division of Occupational Safety
and Health. "Had it been done, the May
5 worker deaths and injuries could not
have occurred."

Senior Assistant City Atty. David
Rakov labeled Carter's statement
"premature" and based on an unfin-
ished investigation of the accident,
but said the city would withhold
further comment pending completion
of its own investigation.

Following release of Carter's state-
ment, the widow of one of the dead
men said her husband, Bruce J. Bur-
ton, and his best friend, David R.
George, who died trying to save him,

'I feel real bad about it. And it could have been me.'

had been ones who filed the com-
plaints that led to the March 20 in-
spection at the plant.

Before reporting the alleged viola-
tions to the state, Burton had for
months repeatedly protested unsafe
procedures to the plant supervisor.
Mrs. Anne Burton said. Other em-
ployees besides her husband and
George had at times protested viola-
tion of safety procedures, and on at
least one occasion the protests were
reported to a City Hall official.

"We were expecting another manhole to perform maintenance
such as trimming of tree roots and
adjustment of devices that control the
flow of sewage. Often they are under
pressure to clean and maintain a cer-
tain number of manholes in a day,
which is referred to as covering a
given amount of "footage," the man
said.

A man might be expected to "do 2-

000 feet" in a day, which would mean
working inside five or six manholes
spread out over 2,000 feet of sewer
line, he said.

Supervisors "are always bitching
about footage," he said. "And you're
not going to make any footage by
going at it like that (following all
safety regulations) ... I do it the
quickest way possible. But it's dif-
erent since the accident."

In years of work on sewer main-
tenance in Burbank, the man said, he
has often used a harness but has
never used a breathing apparatus.

Please Turn to Page 6

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
This memorandum, Dienstein said, reviewed requirements that air in any confined space be tested for toxic gases or oxygen deficiency before entry by workers, that breathing apparatuses and devices to extract for toxic gases were not available or were not in working condition. Breathing apparatuses had been purchased after the March 20 inspection, but employees had not yet been trained in their use at the time of the accident, they said. 

Rakov, who is heading up the city investigation of the accident, said it is his understanding that "specific instructions were given to employees...not to go down into the manholes without borrowing from sewer maintenance crews those toxic gas detection devices."

Published some safety violations B. James said he had not been informed of any complaints about safety procedures at the plant before the state inspection of March 20. He said his understanding was that the breathing apparatuses at the plant were in use to prevent the risk of oxygen deficiency, a violation of the law. The city is now investigating the case. 

The City Council, however, was not informed of the state citation until after the accident. 

Ayers said he did not know which of the two dead men entered the manhole first, but Mrs. Burton said she understood that her husband was first and George had died attempting to rescue him. 

Mrs. Burton said she and her husband were married only six weeks ago. George was best man at the wedding. 

Burtin had been working in engineering, but because of the recent layoffs he was not a student. Mrs. Burton said, "We've been trying to get out of Burbank for months," she said. "My husband wasn't stupid. He wouldn't have gone down 20 feet if he'd smelled gas. David also was not a stupid man. No matter how much he loved Bruce he wouldn't have gone down if he thought he was going to die."

Burton was born in New York, Va. He received training in water treatment with the Army and was enrolled in engineering courses at Valley College at the time of the accident. He began work for the city in 1977. 

After winning a promotion, her husband "felt that the city had done him a favor by making him a senior operator," Mrs. Burton said. "He was dedicated to them and he worked seven days a week for a long time for the city."

Funeral services for George and prayer services for Burton were scheduled Friday at Forest Lawn Memorial Park-Hollywood Hills. 

Funeral services for Burton were scheduled for tomorrow in Virginia, Mrs. Burton said. 

This memorandum, Dienstein said, reviewed requirements that air in any confined space be tested for toxic gases or oxygen deficiency before entry by workers, that breathing apparatuses and devices to extract for toxic gases were not available or were not in working condition. Breathing apparatuses had been purchased after the March 20 inspection, but employees had not yet been trained in their use at the time of the accident, they said. 

Rakov, who is heading up the city investigation of the accident, said it is his understanding that "specific instructions were given to employees...not to go down into the manholes without borrowing from sewer maintenance crews those toxic gas detection devices."

Published some safety violations B. James said he had not been informed of any complaints about safety procedures at the plant before the state inspection of March 20. He said his understanding was that the breathing apparatuses at the plant were in use to prevent the risk of oxygen deficiency, a violation of the law. The city is now investigating the case. 

The City Council, however, was not informed of the state citation until after the accident. 

Ayers said he did not know which of the two dead men entered the manhole first, but Mrs. Burton said she understood that her husband was first and George had died attempting to rescue him. 

Mrs. Burton said she and her husband were married only six weeks ago. George was best man at the wedding. 

Burtin had been working in engineering, but because of the recent layoffs he was not a student. Mrs. Burton said, "We've been trying to get out of Burbank for months," she said. "My husband wasn't stupid. He wouldn't have gone down 20 feet if he'd smelled gas. David also was not a stupid man. No matter how much he loved Bruce he wouldn't have gone down if he thought he was going to die."

Burton was born in New York, Va. He received training in water treatment with the Army and was enrolled in engineering courses at Valley College at the time of the accident. He began work for the city in 1977. 

After winning a promotion, her husband "felt that the city had done him a favor by making him a senior operator," Mrs. Burton said. "He was dedicated to them and he worked seven days a week for a long time for the city."

Funeral services for George and prayer services for Burton were scheduled Friday at Forest Lawn Memorial Park-Hollywood Hills. 

Funeral services for Burton were scheduled for tomorrow in Virginia, Mrs. Burton said. 

This memorandum, Dienstein said, reviewed requirements that air in any confined space be tested for toxic gases or oxygen deficiency before entry by workers, that breathing apparatuses and devices to extract for toxic gases were not available or were not in working condition. Breathing apparatuses had been purchased after the March 20 inspection, but employees had not yet been trained in their use at the time of the accident, they said. 

Rakov, who is heading up the city investigation of the accident, said it is his understanding that "specific instructions were given to employees...not to go down into the manholes without borrowing from sewer maintenance crews those toxic gas detection devices."

Published some safety violations B. James said he had not been informed of any complaints about safety procedures at the plant before the state inspection of March 20. He said his understanding was that the breathing apparatuses at the plant were in use to prevent the risk of oxygen deficiency, a violation of the law. The city is now investigating the case. 

The City Council, however, was not informed of the state citation until after the accident. 

Ayers said he did not know which of the two dead men entered the manhole first, but Mrs. Burton said she understood that her husband was first and George had died attempting to rescue him. 

Mrs. Burton said she and her husband were married only six weeks ago. George was best man at the wedding. 

Burtin had been working in engineering, but because of the recent layoffs he was not a student. Mrs. Burton said, "We've been trying to get out of Burbank for months," she said. "My husband wasn't stupid. He wouldn't have gone down 20 feet if he'd smelled gas. David also was not a stupid man. No matter how much he loved Bruce he wouldn't have gone down if he thought he was going to die."

Burton was born in New York, Va. He received training in water treatment with the Army and was enrolled in engineering courses at Valley College at the time of the accident. He began work for the city in 1977. 

After winning a promotion, her husband "felt that the city had done him a favor by making him a senior operator," Mrs. Burton said. "He was dedicated to them and he worked seven days a week for a long time for the city."

Funeral services for George and prayer services for Burton were scheduled Friday at Forest Lawn Memorial Park-Hollywood Hills. 

Funeral services for Burton were scheduled for tomorrow in Virginia, Mrs. Burton said. 

This memorandum, Dienstein said, reviewed requirements that air in any confined space be tested for toxic gases or oxygen deficiency before entry by workers, that breathing apparatuses and devices to extract for toxic gases were not available or were not in working condition. Breathing apparatuses had been purchased after the March 20 inspection, but employees had not yet been trained in their use at the time of the accident, they said. 

Rakov, who is heading up the city investigation of the accident, said it is his understanding that "specific instructions were given to employees...not to go down into the manholes without borrowing from sewer maintenance crews those toxic gas detection devices."

Published some safety violations B. James said he had not been informed of any complaints about safety procedures at the plant before the state inspection of March 20. He said his understanding was that the breathing apparatuses at the plant were in use to prevent the risk of oxygen deficiency, a violation of the law. The city is now investigating the case. 

The City Council, however, was not informed of the state citation until after the accident. 

Ayers said he did not know which of the two dead men entered the manhole first, but Mrs. Burton said she understood that her husband was first and George had died attempting to rescue him. 

Mrs. Burton said she and her husband were married only six weeks ago. George was best man at the wedding. 

Burtin had been working in engineering, but because of the recent layoffs he was not a student. Mrs. Burton said, "We've been trying to get out of Burbank for months," she said. "My husband wasn't stupid. He wouldn't have gone down 20 feet if he'd smelled gas. David also was not a stupid man. No matter how much he loved Bruce he wouldn't have gone down if he thought he was going to die."

Burton was born in New York, Va. He received training in water treatment with the Army and was enrolled in engineering courses at Valley College at the time of the accident. He began work for the city in 1977. 

After winning a promotion, her husband "felt that the city had done him a favor by making him a senior operator," Mrs. Burton said. "He was dedicated to them and he worked seven days a week for a long time for the city."

Funeral services for George and prayer services for Burton were scheduled Friday at Forest Lawn Memorial Park-Hollywood Hills. 

Funeral services for Burton were scheduled for tomorrow in Virginia, Mrs. Burton said.
Safety Violations in 2 Gas Deaths Found

But Burbank Study Fixes No Blame in Manhole Accident

By DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writer

A Burbank city attorney's report on the May 5 gas deaths of two workers in a Burbank water reclamation plant manhole fixes no specific blame for the accident but contains testimony that reasonable safety precautions were blatantly violated.

The deaths of Bruce Burton and David George resulted from the pumping of week-old sewage through the manhole in which the men were working, an employee who survived the accident said in the report released Friday.

Sewage in Burbank is normally treated so quickly—within about one hour—that toxic gases are not produced, David Singleton, a civil engineer for the city, was quoted as saying. This fact played a role in leading the men involved in the accident, including Singleton and plant supervisor Gerald Caglione, to let down their guard on safety procedures, Singleton told city investigators.

Five weeks before the accident, the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited safety violations at the plant, including lack of approved breathing apparatus and failure to train employees in its use. A memorandum accompanying the citation stressed the importance of testing for toxic gas before entering manholes.

Burton, according to his widow, was one of the men who had requested the state inspection because of dissatisfaction with safety procedures at the plant. Plant employees also said he had criticized unsafe practices at the plant.

Burton, according to the report, was present when the inspection was made, knew of the citation and was present at a meeting at which Public Works Director Edward James told the men not to violate any safety procedures.

When the accident occurred, new approved breathing devices were at the plant but the men had not yet been instructed in their use, according to the report. No one tested the manhole air for toxic gases the morning of the accident, the report said.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators are currently examining city compliance with safety regulations and the question of possible criminal charges arising from the incident.

Singleton, who was injured trying
Burton was soon overcome by toxic gases, at which point George entered the manhole to rescue him, according to all accounts of the accident. Singleton and Willard Flinders, an employee of a private contractor, then entered the manhole to rescue the first two men and were also overcome. Paramedics arrived on the scene and brought out all four men, but Burton and George were dead.

"If anybody had asked, 'Is it possible this might be poisonous?' anyone would have said yes, including Bruce (Burton) and Dave (George)," Singleton told investigators. "Everybody would have said yes... stay away from it, don't get near it. But no, none of us thought about it... It was all sitting there for a week, just generating some poisonous gases but none of us thought about it."

A key issue left unanswered by the report is to what degree Burton felt required to enter the manhole.

"There is no evidence that either of the deceased employees were ordered into the manhole without the use of metering devices or any other safety equipment," the report said.
Probe Asks Why He Entered Death Trap

Burbank Worker's Motive Sought; May Determine Liability, Criminal Charges

By DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writer

Careers, money and possible criminal charges resulting from the May 5 toxic gas deaths of two Burbank city employees may hang on the final answer to a question that grew in importance as investigators gathered evidence last week:

Why did Bruce Burton enter the water reclamation plant manhole that proved to be a death trap for himself and his best friend David George, who died trying to save him?

If it is finally ruled that Burton decided on his own to ignore required safety procedures and enter the manhole, the liability faced by the city and some of its employees or management personnel will be lessened.

But if city and state investigators, or eventually the courts, determine that Burton's superiors or city officials, actions or inaction played a significant role in the events leading to his and George's deaths, the city and some individuals could be in serious trouble.

Although much remains unclear about the accident—which occurred five weeks after the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited safety violations at the plant—evidence shows that Burton entered the manhole after pumps began forcing a flow of sewage through pipes connected to the hole.

In tests conducted by state investigators Thursday, the level of toxic gases in the manhole rose from safe to highly dangerous levels within minutes after the pumps were turned on. The same pumps were on when Burton entered the manhole.

On the morning of the accident—before the flow of effluent began—David Singleton, a civil engineer for the city, entered the manhole to make an inspection, according to Public Works Director Edward R. James.

Singleton heard the flow of sewage coming through the pipes, climbed out of the manhole and observed the flow from ground level, James said. Singleton determined that an additional "baffle" was needed to regulate the flow of effluent through the pipes, James said. Singleton confirmed James' version of events but declined further comment.

Later that morning, Burton went into the manhole while the pumps were running and effluent was flowing, James said. He declined comment on why Burton entered the manhole.

Singleton, along with Willard Flin- ders, an employee of Gerstenberger Construction Co., was injured trying to rescue Burton and George. Single- ton was released from the hospital after four days. Inflanders was in satisfactory condition last week and was expected to return home soon.

Mayor Leland Ayers has said that Burton entered the manhole to install a baffle, but has indicated uncertainty as to why Burton attempted the work when he did.

A strong and unpleasant odor was coming from the manhole when Bur- ton entered, according to an employ- eee who asked not to be identified, cit- ing instructions from the city attor- ney's office not to talk to the press. The employee said he did not know why Burton entered the hole.

Burton, according to his widow, Mrs. Anne Burton, was one of the men who had originally asked the Occupational Safety and Health Ad-

Please Turn to Page 3
Continued from First Page

ministration to inspect the water reclamation plant. He did so only after repeatedly protesting unsafe procedures to his supervisor, Mrs. Burton said.

About 10 days after the March 20 state inspection, which turned up 11 safety violations at the plant and the Beachwood pumping station, an incident occurred in which all the workers at the plant refused to do a manhole job in a way they felt violated safety procedures, according to Mrs. Burton, plant employees and James.

Plant supervisor Gerald Gaglione reported the protests to James, who came to the plant and met with the men, James and the employees said.

James, plant employees and Mrs. Burton all say that James stressed that the men should not violate safety procedures, and told them that required equipment such as approved breathing apparatus and devices to test for toxic gas had been ordered and was on the way.

James said last week that he also told the men to borrow toxic gas detection devices from sewer maintenance crews rather than enter manholes without testing the air inside.

Several plant employees said they attended that meeting and could confirm that James stressed adherence to safety procedures, but they said they could not recall James saying anything about borrowing devices from sewer crews.

Informed of those statements, James said that a few days after his meeting with the men, sewer crews were called in for a job requiring gas detection devices, in line with his instructions. Joel Embick, a public works leadman who works with sewer maintenance, said that Gaglione made the call to the sewer maintenance office.

James, Embick and Gaglione declined to comment on why no one called the sewer maintenance crews on the morning of the accident.

According to state safety regulations, workers are required to test manholes for toxic gas before entering them. Workers also must receive training in the use of breathing apparatus.

Failure to train employees in the use of breathing apparatus was one of the violations listed in the state citation issued before the accident. A training session was held last week in which Fire Department personnel demonstrated the newly purchased breathing apparatus to plant employees.
State Issues Citations in Burbank Workers' Deaths

BY DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writer

Citations charging that "willful violation" of safety regulations led to the May 5 deaths of two workers in a manhole at the Burbank city water reclamation plant were issued by state investigators Thursday.

A spokesman for the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which conducted an investigation of the tragedy and issued the citations, said they would "normally" be cause for consideration of possible criminal charges by the district attorney's office.

Such action, however, will probably have to await completion of a parallel investigation—also conducted by OSHA—of criminal liability in the accident, the spokesman said.

The citations were handed to Burbank city officials Thursday afternoon at the end of an hour-long meeting with OSHA officials at the water reclamation plant.

In all, six citations were issued.

Of these, two citations alleged "willful and serious" violation of state safety regulations, three more were for "serious but not willful" violations and one contained a list of four general violations turned up by investigators.

The "willful and serious violations" charged that:

- "Prior to employees entering a

Please Turn to Page 3, Col. 6
Continued from First Page

confined space, no test was made of the air to determine whether dangerous air contamination and/or oxygen deficiency existed."

—“Employees entering a confined space in which a safe atmosphere was not ensured were not equipped with appropriate, approved respiratory protective equipment.”

Two men, Bruce Burton and David George, were asphyxiated when they entered a manhole where toxic gases were backed up May 5. Two others, David Singleton and William Flinders, were made seriously ill when they tried to rescue them.

All were finally pulled from the hole by paramedics using respirator gear.

Burbank city officials had no immediate comment on the citations.

On March 20, an OSHA inspection of the Burbank water reclamation plant resulted in a citation for safety violations. The citation was accompanied by a memo stressing the vital importance of testing for toxic gas before entering a manhole at the plant.
Citations Issued in Plant Deaths

Citations charging that “willfull violation” of safety regulations led to the May 5 deaths of two workers in a manhole at the Burbank city water reclamation plant were issued by state investigators Thursday.

A spokesman for the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which conducted an investigation of the tragedy and issued the citations said they would “normally” be cause for consideration of possible criminal charges by the district attorney’s office.

Such action, however, will probably have to await completion of a parallel investigation — also conducted by OSHA — of criminal liability in the accident, the spokesman said.

The citations were handed to Burbank city officials Thursday afternoon at the end of an hour-long meeting with OSHA officials at the water reclamation plant.

In all, six citations were issued.

Of these, two citations alleged “willful and serious” violation of state safety regulations, three more were for “serious but not willful” violations and one contained a list of four general violations turned up by investigators.
Further Probe on Fume Deaths Asked

The Burbank City Council voted Tuesday to request that the district attorney or the Los Angeles County Grand Jury investigate the May 5 deaths of two city workers overcome by toxic gas in a water reclamation plant manhole.

The action was taken after council criticism of a May 16 city attorney's office report on the accident for failing to include interrogations of management level city personnel.

State investigators also are looking into possible criminal liability arising from the accident.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Council Quiet on Manager Ouster, Asks Independent Probe of Workers' Deaths

By DAVID HOLLEY
Times Staff Writer

The Burbank City Council last week discussed but took no action on a controversial push for the ouster of City Manager James Algie, a move spearheaded by Councilman Jim Richman.

The council did, however, unanimously approve a motion by Councilwoman Mary Lou Howard requesting the district attorney or the county grand jury to investigate a May 5 accident in which two city workers died from toxic gas in a water reclamation plant manhole.

Council members indicated that the call for an outside investigation was made both to ensure a complete examination of events leading up to the accident and to reassure critics who have questioned the ability of the city to investigate itself.

Richman said he is pushing for the dismissal of Algie because of his failure to inform the City Council of a California Occupational Safety and Health Administration citation of safety violations at the plant issued five weeks before the accident.

The Algie attempt, however, dates back to criticisms leveled at him by Richman and Howard during budget discussions a year ago. That controversy ended with Algie winning a 3-2 vote of confidence. Richman has indicated that his current attempt to get Algie fired is based largely on factors unrelated to the accident.

Discussion of Algie's position presumably took place during an hour-long executive session held behind closed doors following an hour of public comment during which nearly 20 persons spoke, most in support of Algie.

After the executive session Mayor Leland Ayers announced only that "the council discussed personnel matters and potential litigation and will continue to discuss personnel matters in the near future. There will be no action this evening."

Richman had stated prior to Tuesday's meeting that if the council failed to vote for Algie's ouster in executive session, he would make such a motion during the public portion of the meeting. He did not do so, however, and the council took no public vote on the issue.

Richman said he decided not to push for a vote at Tuesday's meeting because of the conversations held in executive session.

The council decision to request district attorney or grand jury investigation of the accident was taken following the submission to the council of a three-page memorandum from Richman listing questions left unanswered by a May 16 city attorney's office report on the accident.

Richman's criticisms focused on the failure to interrogate management-level personnel, the use of a private investigator who is also approved by the city's liability carrier and the failure to include in the May 16 report all police and fire department reports based on statements made immediately after the accident.

The report was prepared under great time pressure, Senior Assistant City Atty. David Rakov said in response to Richman's criticisms.

"We did the best we could, as objectively as we could, in the time allotted," Rakov said. "I think it's jumping the gun to start criticizing a report that was done in that time."

The council voted to refer Richman's memorandum to the city attorney's office.

Initiation of a district attorney's investigation is not automatic even upon request of a city council, according to Gilbert Garcetti, head of the special investigations division of the district attorney's office.

"We'd first have to analyze (Burbank's request) to determine if there is sufficient reason to conduct a criminal investigation," Garcetti said. "We can't possibly open investigations on every case that's referred to us."

Garcetti indicated, however, that his office would consider Burbank's request.

Jack Hourigan, a legal adviser for the county grand jury, said that to avoid duplication of efforts, "if the district attorney is going to conduct an investigation, it's doubtful that the grand jury would also investigate."

The grand jury is likely, however, to monitor any investigation by the district attorney, Hourigan said.

An investigation into possible criminal liability arising from the accident also is being conducted by the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
Man Accused in Son’s Death to Attend Rites

By TIM WATERS,
Times Staff Writer

A Burbank Municipal judge ruled Tuesday that a man charged with murdering his 4-year-old son can attend the youngster’s funeral.

Judge C. Bernard Kaufman ruled that Michael F. Corrigan, who was arrested Friday after his son’s body was found in a suitcase at the family home in Burbank, could go to the funeral today, provided that he is accompanied by sheriff’s deputies. After the services, Corrigan must return to jail, the judge said.

The judge’s decision came during arraignment proceedings for the 31-year-old unemployed photo lab worker, who pleaded not guilty to the murder charge. Corrigan’s attorney, Paul J. Wallin, asked that his client be allowed to attend the funeral and be given five minutes to discuss burial arrangements with his wife, Petranella, who was present in court.

Kaufman granted both motions, scheduled a preliminary hearing June 24 and set Corrigan’s bail at $100,000.

Reported Missing

At the same time, the judge granted a motion by Deputy Dist. Atty. Diane Goldman to seal police reports on the case because of possible “undue pretrial publicity.” The motion was not contested by Wallin.

Corrigan, who is being held at Los Angeles County Jail, was taken into custody after his wife discovered the boy, James Patrick Corrigan, dead in the suitcase two days after the father had reported the youngster missing. The father had told police he assumed his son had climbed out a window and wandered away after being sent into the bedroom to play with his 17-month-old sister, Monica.

According to police, the father ran from the apartment after the discovery, flagged down a passing sheriff’s car, and said, “We’ve found my son. My God, he’s dead.”

An autopsy concluded the boy died of suffocation caused by “mechanical compression of the chest and inadequate air supply in a confined space.”

After the arraignment, Wallin maintained that his client was not guilty of murder and that family
ACCUSED

Continued from First Page

members believed in his client's innocence.

Wallin theorized that the boy might have been playing hide-and-seek in the bedroom with his sister and was accidentally locked in the suitcase.

However, Deputy Dist. Atty. Robert Cohen said the suitcase, which was opened by the boy's mother as she searched for a lock of her son's hair to give to a psychic, was not in the home when police searched the apartment immediately after the boy was reported missing.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.
Doodles Weaver Dies; Apparent Suicide Victim

TED THACKREY Jr.

Comedian-character actor Doodles Weaver, 71, apparently shot himself to death in the living room of his Burbank home, the Los Angeles County coroner’s office said Sunday.

Weaver’s body was discovered Saturday night by his son, Winstead, of Sun Valley, who called police. He said he had become alarmed when he did not hear from his father for several days, and was unable to reach him by telephone.

Burbank police Sgt. Don Brown said Weaver was shot twice in the chest. A .22-caliber pistol and about $54 in cash were nearby.

There was no sign of foul play, Brown said.

Winstead Weaver told police his father had been despondent lately due to a heart ailment.

The son of an old Los Angeles area family, Winstead Sheffield (Doodles) Weaver was a brother of former NBC board Chairman Sylvester Weaver, and son of onetime Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce President Sylvester L. Weaver Sr.

A longtime character actor, much in demand for “hayseed” roles in the late 1930s and ’40s, Weaver was best known for his comic songs and routines with the Spike Jones band which featured comical musical arrangements and skits.

Weaver said he had “spent years developing a personality,” only to be type-cast as “a goofy . . . hick” in his first film role—a characterization that stuck with him throughout his career.
2 Restaurant Workers Shot in Robbery; 1 Dies
GEORGE RAMOS
Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Sep 19, 1983;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1987)
pg. OC_A3

2 Restaurant Workers Shot in Robbery; 1 Dies

By GEORGE RAMOS, Times Staff Writer

One employee of a Burbank fast-food restaurant was shot to death, reportedly execution-style, and another was critically wounded during a baffling midnight robbery, police said Sunday.

Burbank police Sgt. Harry Griffin said the two workers at a Taco Bell restaurant were apparently taken to the rear of the eatery sometime between 11:30 p.m. and midnight Saturday and then shot. There were no signs of a struggle, investigators noted.

Griffin likened the Taco Bell shooting to the Dec. 14, 1980, incident at a Bob’s Big Boy restaurant in Los Angeles in which four people were shot to death and five others were wounded for no apparent reason.

“That’s the first thing I thought of when I heard about it (the Taco Bell incident),” Griffin said. “I can’t see any reason for it. How much money can one get in a place like that? $500?”

Officers arriving at the Taco Bell said the restaurant’s cash register was empty. It was not immediately known how much money was taken.

The dead employee was identified by the county coroner’s office as 27-year-old Lindell W. Hunter of North Hollywood. The name of the wounded 16-year-old, who was reported in very critical condition at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, was not immediately released.
1 Slain, 1 Hurt in Robbery at Restaurant

2 Employees Shot at Taco Bell in Burbank; Police Lack Suspects

By GEORGE RAMOS,
Times Staff Writer

An employee of a Burbank fast-food restaurant was killed to death, reportedly execution-style, and another was critically wounded during a baffling midnight robbery, police said Sunday.

Burbank police Sgt. Harry Griffin said the two workers at a Taco Bell restaurant were apparently taken to the rear of the eatery, located at 4301 W. Magnolia Blvd., sometime between 11:30 p.m. and midnight Saturday—an hour before closing time—and then shot. There were no signs of a struggle, investigators noted.

Griffin likened the Taco Bell shooting to the Dec. 14, 1980, incident at a Bob’s Big Boy restaurant in Los Angeles in which four people were shot to death and five others were wounded for no apparent reason.

‘Can’t See Any Reason’

‘That’s the first thing I thought of when I heard about it (the Taco Bell incident),’ Griffin said, ‘I can’t see any reason for it. How much money can one get in a place like that? $500?’

Officers arriving at the Taco Bell said the restaurant’s cash register was empty. It was not immediately known how much money was taken. The dead employee was identified by the county coroner’s office as 27-year-old Lindell W. Hunter of North Hollywood. The name of the wounded 16-year-old, who was reported in very critical condition at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, was not immediately released.

Few Details Released

Investigators were reluctant to give out many details of the shootings. They refused to say what kind of wounds the victims suffered or what type of weapon was used. But a press statement read to reporters several hours after the incident mentioned that the two were shot execution-style.

Later in the day, officers backed away from any comments on the style of the shootings.

The two workers were discovered on the floor in the rear of the restaurant by the owner of a nearby bar when he was summoned by customers, who noticed that the restaurant’s counter was unattended. ‘He went to the rear and found them,’ Griffin said.

Officers have no suspects in custody and are asking for public assistance. Griffin said anyone who might have been in the area is urged to call Burbank police.
A 16-year-old boy who was shot and critically injured at a Taco Bell restaurant in Burbank on Sept. 17 died Wednesday night, becoming the second murder victim in the apparent robbery attempt.

An autopsy was scheduled later today in the death of James Falconio, a student at Burroughs High School. Lindell W. Hunter, 27, of North Hollywood was also shot to death in the robbery. A suspect in the slayings, William Kirkpatrick Jr., 23, pleaded not guilty to both murders in Burbank Municipal Court this morning.
Jury Recommends Death for Killer of 2 in Restaurant

By GREG BRAXTON,
Times Staff Writer

A Pasadena Superior Court jury Thursday recommended that William Kirkpatrick Jr., a transient who was convicted earlier this month in the murder and robbery of two Taco Bell employees in Burbank, be sentenced to death.

The seven-man, five-woman jury returned the verdict after almost two days of deliberation in the penalty phase of Kirkpatrick’s trial. The jury had earlier found Kirkpatrick guilty of a special circumstance allegation—committing murder during a robbery—which made him eligible for the death penalty or life without parole.

Judge Coleman Swart will pronounce formal sentence on Aug. 14.

Kirkpatrick, who participated as

Please see PENALTY, Page 8
PENALTY: Death

Continued from Page 1

co-counsel during the penalty phase, was impassive when the jury’s recommendation was read. His attorneys, Rayford Fountain and Albert DelGobbo, said he had been expecting the death penalty recommendation.

A family member of one of the victims who attended the verdict reading said he was pleased with the jury’s decision. “Kirkpatrick got what he deserved,” said the family member, who asked not to be identified. “He has no idea how many lives he has wrecked by what he did.”

Kirkpatrick, who insisted he was innocent throughout the trial, was convicted of the Sept. 17, 1983, slaying of James Falconio, 16, and Lindell W. Hunter, 27, who both worked at the Taco Bell restaurant at 4301 W. Magnolia Blvd. Investigators said Kirkpatrick, a former employee at the restaurant, took about $650 from the cash register, herded the pair into a rear closet and shot them both in the head.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Terry Green claimed Kirkpatrick “had a beef to settle with Hunter” and Taco Bell for firing him. “Mr. Kirkpatrick shot the two workers because he wanted to do it right,” Green said. “He didn’t want to leave any witnesses behind.”

When Kirkpatrick was given the opportunity to speak during the penalty phase last week, he blasted his lawyers for ignoring his suggestions for his defense, criticized the judge for not allowing him to participate actively in his defense and berated the jury for finding him guilty of murder—comments his lawyers said may have alienated the jury.

“I really believe those comments had an unfavorable impact on the jury,” Fountain said. “But Willie seems to accept the verdict.”

Jury Foreman Larry Gillman said Kirkpatrick’s comments were not considered by the jury. “We just considered his own story on the stand, and we found it unreasonable,” he said.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.