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Janitor's Act May Have Saved Others

HARTFORD CITY, Ind. (UPI)—Prosecutor Alfred Hollander said today he believes more than two school teachers might have been killed on a shotgun rampage if a janitor hadn't hurried a crowbar at the berserker principal who shot them.

"It may be that Si (Silas McCaffrey, the school maintenance man) saved some lives of other teachers," Hollander said.

Handsome, curly-haired Leonard O. Redden, 44, shot and killed Miss Harriett Robson, 52, assistant principal of William Reed elementary school, and Mrs. Minnie McFerren, 62, another teacher, Tuesday before the horrified eyes of their young pupils.

Redden's body, a suicide by the same gun, was found in a woods six miles from the slaying scene hours later.

Hollander said he believes Miss Robson and Mrs. McFerren were the victims only because Redden habitually went to their room first when he visited the school, one of three grade schools he supervised.

McCaffrey, after hearing the shootings and seeing the principal walk out with a gun, hurried a crowbar at Redden, and Redden stopped for a moment. Hollander said the crowbar may have deterred Redden as he headed for other classrooms he usually visited in a specific order.

Friends, acquaintances and townspeople generally expressed opinions that Redden's concern over gossip linking him romantically with Miss Robson was imaginary. They said they hadn't heard any gossip.

Redden was known as gentle, mild mannered and "very nice," until recently he complained of severe headaches and seemed less genial.

His wife, Hazel, 40, said he was suffering from a persecution complex and had made an appointment for him to see a psychiatrist Tuesday afternoon.

Breaking Point Comes

But even his wife had not known when the breaking point was reached. It came scant hours before the slender, dark-haired principal was to see the psychiatrist.

In 90 minutes, the two women against whom he had built up a resentment were dead and so was he.

Redden did not go to school as usual in the morning. Instead, he went to a hardware store and purchased a box of shells for his 12 gauge shotgun. Returning home, he armed himself with the shotgun and drove to the school, occupied by about 300 pupils and six teachers.

He stalked into Miss Robson's fifth grade classroom as she was grading the test papers of her 30 students. He pointed the gun at her, shouted "try to hang me, will you?" and fired.

Thought It A Joke

Some of the children related afterward that they thought it was a joke until they heard the roar of the gun. "Miss Robson fell on the desk, then rolled off to the floor, breaking her glasses," a pupil said.

"Some of the kids started screaming and started to run out but Mr. Redden pointed the shotgun at them and chased them back into the room."

Redden, ignoring the screams of the frightened children, walked paid a few days before.

Special Power To de Gaulle

PARIS (UPI)—The French Assembly today gave President Charles de Gaulle near-dictatorial powers to end the "tragedy" of Algeria and safeguard France's "liberty and democracy."

The government was expected to use the special powers almost immediately to launch a ruthless crackdown on rightwing extremists who oppose de Gaulle's "self-determination" program for the revolt-torn North African territory.

At 1:35 a.m. today, the assembly almost without a murmur handed over its authority to de Gaulle and his government. The deputies, by a vote of 441-75, gave him the power to rule France by decree for one year.

Senate Acts Next

The overwhelming vote of approval was expected to be reflected when the Senate acts on the de Gaulle request later today to conclude formal parliamentary action.

The only opposition in the assembly came from a handful of Communists and extreme right-wingers. Even the major leftwing party, the opposition Socialists, voted for the powers demanded for de Gaulle by Premier Michel

up a ramp to Mrs. McFerren's classroom. She was reading poems at the time.

"If anyone moves, I'll shoot you," Redden told Mrs. McFerren and her startled class.

Mrs. McFerren, a teacher at the school for 41 years, began screaming, "Leonard, don't shoot me! Don't shoot me!" Redden put the muzzle of the gun to her head and fired.

A Town Of Fear

Pandemonium raged through the school after Redden ran out the door and drove away in his 1952 car. Many of the children ran home without their hats or coats in freezing weather.

The community of 8,500, 60 miles northeast of Indianapolis became a town of fear. Police closed all schools and armed guards patrolled the town, fearing Redden might be stalking the streets with his shotgun.

Several hours later, Sheriff Gil Robertson, leading a 300-man posse, found Redden's body under a fallen tree in a patch of woods about six miles from town. His car was found abandoned a mile away.

Redden had propped the shotgun against his chest and used a stick to pull the trigger.

Mrs. Redden said her husband's trouble seemed to have begun with injuries received during World War II in Pacific fighting at Hollandia and Leyte.

"He came home just shot," she recalled. "But after awhile he seemed to be all right again. Then it began last spring."

"I realized he was a person with a persecution complex. When it kept getting worse, I made an appointment for him to see a psychiatrist. He knew he was sick and he seemed glad he was going to see a doctor."

Mrs. Redden had not been sure how sick her husband was and she had been trying to find out.

She had gone to Miss Robson's home the night before she shot her husband acting strangely.

Miss Robson said Redden had seemed preoccupied and not so friendly.

The Rev. David C. Neel, minister of the church attended by Miss Robson and the Reddens, said his Sunday School teacher "was withdrawn and seemed not to know what was going on." But Rev. Neel was new to Hartford City and thought perhaps Redden didn't like him.

"But then on Friday after an education committee meeting, Leonard toured the whole church with me and discussed the need of teacher training," the minister said. "He agreed to teach the high school class Sunday and on Saturday night he and his wife cut stencils for me before going to a ball game."

"On Sunday, however, he didn't show up. His wife told me afterwards that her husband was not quite himself and that his job seemed to be getting him down."

Another friend remembered that the principal had remarked on Monday that "I feel like doing away with myself."

Employees at the Hartford City water office recalled that Redden had come into the office several times in the last two months and tried to pay a bill that he had paid a few days before.

Donald L. Liechty Named As Policeman

Donald L. Liechty, 33, of 1316 High street, will replace Roy Chilcott, who retired recently, on the Decatur police force. Donald F. Gage, mayor, told the Decatur city council Tuesday night following a meeting of the board of public works and safety.

Liechty has lived in Decatur since 1933, moving here when he was five years old from his native city of Berne. He was graduated from Decatur high school in 1945, and entered the U.S. Navy, from which he was honorably discharged in 1946. He is married, and the couple has a young daughter. His wife is a beauty operator. They live at the rear of the home-stead development area.

He is currently employed by the federal government as a warehouse man and fork lift operator in Fort Wayne. The appointment as policeman is, of course, conditioned upon his acceptance, Gage explained to the council. Two other persons applied for the position vacated by Chilcott, who has completed 23 years on the force.

The new policeman weighs 220 pounds and is six feet, one inch tall, qualifying him physically for the job, chief of police James M. Borders explained. He has no previous police training, however, and will be trained in the near future.

Bus Schedules For Children To Circus

Parents of third grade pupils in Adams county schools are again urged to remember the hours that the buses will leave the various destinations for the Shrine circus Saturday morning.

More than 600 county school children will attend the morning performance at the Fort Wayne Coliseum, which is slated to start at 10 a.m., R. L. Mills, chairman of the sponsoring Adams county Shrine club, said this morning.

At least 11,000 school children from northeastern Indiana will attend the morning performance, with the local school children included in the total.

The bus schedule is: 7:45 a.m. from Geneva; 8 a.m. from Berne and Adams Central, and 8:15 a.m. from Monmouth, and Decatur schools. Buses will be furnished by the county trustees.

Parents are also reminded that the children will not return to the county until 1:30 p.m. A lunch schedule should be worked out accordingly. Parents are also asked to bring the children to the buses and meet them on return.

School Legislative Workshop March 1

The 1960 legislative workshop for region III of the Indiana school boards association will be conducted at the Decatur Youth and Community Center March 1, according to a release received from Milton D. Marx of Huntington, the regional chairman.

Participating in the workshop will be school board members, superintendents, legislators, press and radio-TV from Adams, Wells, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley counties. This regional meet usually attracts the largest group of any in the 11 regional meetings throughout Indiana, including the Indianapolis area.

Legislators To Attend

Dr. Marion A. McGhehey, of the Indiana University school of education, serves as executive secretary of the association and will attend this meeting. Besides local luminaries, state-wide known legislators will attend the workshop.

Especially important will be the evening session when discussion will center on possible school legislation for 1961. An evening dinner is also on the program, with an afternoon session slated for 4 p.m. This will include a panel discussion followed by a question and answer session.

Press Invited

A registration fee of \$3 will be assessed each person attending, which includes the meal. The fee will be charged each school board member and superintendent in attendance. Members of the legislature and of the press will be admitted with no fee.

The board of directors feels that this meeting will be one of the most important in years. The reason, of course, is the pending school reorganization act, which is currently being acted on in Indiana's 92 counties.

Late Bulletins

LONDON (UPI)—The Soviet Union officially informed Britain today that it will stop jamming British broadcasts to Russia immediately.

The government has been rounding up known rightwing extremists for the past 10 days.

President Eisenhower Raps Generals, Others For Attacking Program

Frank Allen Dies At Gary Hospital

Frank Hugh Allen, 89, of 4815 Massachusetts street, Gary, and a former resident of Decatur, died Tuesday morning at the Mercy hospital in Gary.

Mr. Allen was a member of the Glen Park Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include his wife, the former Eva M. Gault; two sons, James Allen of Crown Point, and Genaldi Allen of Ohio City, O.; one daughter, Miss Estaria Allen of Gary, and three grandchildren. There are three sisters-in-law residing in Decatur. Mrs. Frank Aurand, Mrs. Ervin Elzey and Mrs. Homer Brubaker.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Black funeral home in this city, the Rev. Hugh D. Dibble, of Gary, officiating. Burial will be in the Decatur cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home after 12 noon Thursday until time of the services.

Late Bulletins

CHICAGO, (UPI)—Wage contract negotiation groups for the nation's railroads today agreed to accept the National Mediation Board's offer dispute with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

No charge is made for the blood

Blood Program Meet Held Here Tuesday

Mrs. Cletus B. Miller, chairman of the Adams county Red Cross blood program, was elected vice-chairman of the district three organization for the coming year at the district meeting held in Decatur Tuesday noon.

Elected chairman of the district was Dr. R. W. Reed.

Dr. Harry C. Harvey, director of the Fort Wayne regional blood center, reported on the achievements of 1959. Collections were increased 2.5% during the year to 34,600 pints of blood in the region, which includes Northeastern Indiana and Northwestern Ohio. In 1958, 33,760 pints were collected, and in 1957, 31,666 pints. Hospital collections are not included in these figures.

The response during December was marvelous, taking into consideration the holiday season, Dr. Harvey explained. It was the best December since the founding of the program.

Volunteer Donors

Blood used in hospitals which take part in the Red Cross program, like the Adams county memorial hospital and the Fort Wayne hospitals, is secured from voluntary blood donors through the American Red Cross blood program.

No charge is made for the blood

itself, but the hospital is charged for the supplies which can be used only once, and the hospital also charges for the laboratory and transfusion service. The supplies charge on a pint of Red Cross blood is \$4, compared to the actual cost of \$12-\$13, and the usual cost to recipients of \$15-\$25, in addition to the blood if paid donors are used.

The processing cost for serum albumin, which is used for burns or shock and can be kept five or six years, is \$70, while Red Cross absorbs most of this, asking the hospitals to pay only \$10 a bottle for the materials used in addition to the blood.

The charge for packed red blood cells or fresh frozen donor AB positive blood, neither of which can be kept very long, is also \$4 for materials used, Dr. Harvey explained.

Always Open

The Fort Wayne center is open seven days and nights every week, Dr. Harvey continued, and the demand for blood usually increases when people are on vacation, and collections are down.

Alfred O. Schell, administrative director of the hospital, then showed a series of slides on a recent collection made in Lima, O. There are 900 paid employees in the administrative or non-technical end of the Red Cross blood program in the United States, as compared with 100,000 volunteers; there are 100 paid doctors and 2,000 volunteers; 650 paid nurses, and 4,500 volunteers.

Mrs. Helen McCrory, head nurse, then continued, explaining the importance of volunteers working in uniform, and the prominent display of the Red Cross emblem, so that people would realize that the blood program is part of the Red Cross. She recommended the use of a motor corps of two or three women, who drive home the car of anyone who has a slight reaction, and the other to take the donor home, and bring back the car driver.

In case of an accident while blood is being taken, and there has only been one in the past three years in the region, the local chapter is asked to see that immediate care is taken of the injured person by his or her own physician, and that livingston had been asked to furnish the court with three copies of the maps, agreements, surveys, balance sheets, profit and loss statements filed with the public-service commission, and other papers that would be needed by the appraisers.

G-E Sewer Discussed

City engineer Ralph Roop was questioned on the G-E sewer which will drain the yard, parking lot and plant of the General Electric company, as well as Ninth, Indiana and Short streets, and several private lots. He was instructed to discuss the matter with G. E. plant manager George Auer and engineer J. Clark Mayclin, and report back at the next council meeting.

Mayor Gage also announced that in a meeting just before the council meeting Consoer-Townsend was named Ralph E. Roop as resident engineer on the southeast sewer, the cement tile for which has been laid along part of the course of the sewer.

Citizens Present

A large delegation of private citizens, representing the industrial and rural groups, was present at the meeting. Louis Jacobs, president of the association for the betterment of Decatur, inquired about the date of an election on the power question, explaining that no industry would even consider Decatur until the issue was settled.

City attorney Anderson explained that the petition would have to be verified first, and that he had tentatively discussed the date of May 3, the primary date, with Livingston.

According to types the following numbers are needed: O positive, 30 pints; O negative, 30 pints; A positive, 15 pints; A negative, 15 pints; B positive, 10 pints; B negative, 10 pints; AB positive and negative, five pints each.

Canteen workers for next Monday will be Mrs. Lucille Miller, Mrs. Herbert Fravel, Mrs. Charles Beineke, Mrs. Bert Haley, Mrs. Stell Schnepp, Mrs. R. C. Hersh, Mrs. Woodson Ogg, and Miss Susan Custer. Mrs. Lee Fleming is canteen chairman.

This brought up the question of the wording of the petition which asked for a "special election" on the question. Anderson said that this was a new problem, and would be discussed with I&M's attorney.

Whatever is suitable with them, he explained, would satisfy the city.

At least 170 donors must be scheduled this week if Adams county is to meet its quota of 125 pints of blood next Monday, Feb. 8. Mrs. Cletus B. Miller, chairman, announced today.

Power Tuesday asked Congress to exceed the Eisenhower budget and provide funds for a continuous airborne alert. He warned that otherwise a surprise Russian attack with 300 missiles could demolish this country's striking power.

Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr., however, said this idea was "unrealistic."

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Eisenhower today sharply rapped generals and others for what he called a too parochial viewpoint of missile and space development. He said he still thought the present U.S. program was eminently capable of determining an enemy attack.

The President said the missile race with Russia might be a different matter three or four years from now if American progress in the meantime came to a halt. But he told a news conference that this would not happen and that in