

29 Dead in Quarter Holocaust

13 Fire Victims Are Identified

LSUNO Girls Raped, Shot; One Is Dead

By WALT PHILBIN

An 18-year-old LSUNO student was raped and murdered and another coed was raped and critically wounded on the lakefront campus early today.

Police said the dead girl was found with her hands and feet bound with her underclothes behind the backstop of the LSUNO baseball field on the campus about 2:40 a. m.

She had been shot once in the right temple about two hours earlier, police said.

The second girl staggered nearly 300 yards to Bienville Hall, a dormitory, to get help after she had been shot in the right jaw and pistol-whipped while trying to fight off the attacker.

THE DEAD GIRL has been identified as Helen Claire Kelly, Route 1, Box 25, LeCompte.

The second girl, also 18, is in Mercy Hospital in critical condition. She was not identified.

Police said the attack started out as a robbery attempt, but it turned out the girls had only \$1 between them.

Homicide detectives said they learned the girls had gone to the French Market to purchase peaches and cherries and were returning to their dormitory when the attack occurred.

Officers said the wounded girl told them they got off a bus at Leon C. Simon Boulevard and were walking across the open campus grounds toward their dormitory when the assailant came up behind them.

He then forced them at gunpoint to walk to the ball field, some 200 yards to their right, where he attacked them and shot them both.

THE WOUNDED girl waited until the gunman left and then made her way across an open field to the dormitory where she met the desk man, Roosevelt Watson.

The ball field where Miss Kelly's body was found was blood-spattered. The peaches and cherries lay on the ground where the attack occurred.

Miss Kelly was pronounced dead on the scene at 3:25 a. m. by Dr. George Bailey, an assistant Orleans Parish coroner.

An autopsy will be conducted today.



Helen Claire Kelly

Slain Coed Top Scholar And Tutor

By WALT PHILBIN

Helen Claire Kelley, an attractive, well-liked honor student at LSUNO, was dividing her time between tutoring classmates and summer school work when a rapist cut short her young life early today.

The 18-year-old coed from LeCompte, who was in her second year at the Lakefront campus, was raped and murdered and her roommate was attacked and critically wounded as they walked toward their dormitory room shortly before 1 a. m.

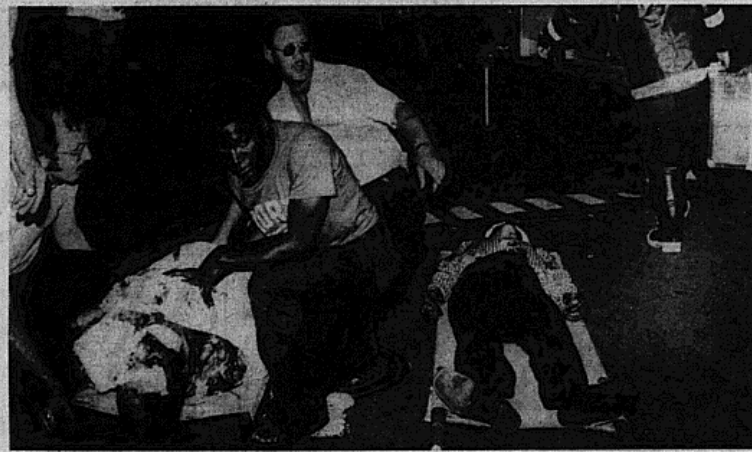
She became the third college coed in the New Orleans area to lose her life to murderers this year. The first was Elmire Duvignaud, an LSUNO student

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—States-Item photo by G. E. Arnold.

Scene of French Quarter fire which claimed 29 lives



—States-Item photo by G. E. Arnold.

Survivors of Up Stairs bar blaze receive first aid

More fire coverage on A-6A, A-6B
By ANGUS LIND, LANNY THOMAS and WALT PHILBIN

Police today tentatively identified 13 of 29 persons killed by the worst fire in the modern history of New Orleans. Chief of Detectives Henry M. Morris said the identities were made by a team working with scraps of charred drivers' licenses, credit cards and pieces of melted jewelry. Morris said that identities probably will not be confirmed until dental charts are obtained for the coroner's office.

THE LONG PROCESS of trying to identify what was left after a fast-moving, 16-minute inferno left bodies stacked like pancakes in a French Quarter bar was assigned to a Charity Hospital team today. Normal police policy is to withhold identities until they are confirmed, a police spokesman said. But since dental records will have to be rounded up from all over, police are changing their policy this time.

"At this point, the possibility exists that some of these people might never be identified," the spokesman said.

The bulk of the charred pile of human flesh was found near a set of windows that face Iberville and Chartres.

Because of the almost unbelievably fast spread of the fire, police immediately began checking reports that two persons earlier had been evicted from the establishment.

Maj. Henry Morris, chief of detectives, said there are hints of fire-bombing, but no evidence to support it. He said, however, arson is suspected.

The three-man team, headed by Dr. Monroe Samuels, chief of pathology at Charity, will take X-rays of dental plates and photographs in hopes of establishing identities.

Maj. Morris said that anyone who believes relatives of theirs may have been in the fire and would have knowledge of their dental records to contact Charity Hospital.

Tentatively identified as victims of the fire, without addresses, are Leon Maples, Louis Broussard, John Goldring, Donald Dunbar, George Mitchell, Clarence McCloskey, Inez Warren, Joe Bailey, Guy Anderson, David S. Gary, Norman Laverge, Kenneth Harrington and Jerry Gordon.

"We don't even know if these papers belonged to the people we found them on," Morris said. "Some thieves hung out there and you know this was a queer bar."

The coroner's office said McCloskey was positively identified as 48 years old, no address.

Another police source said it is not uncommon for homosexuals to carry false identification, which could complicate the identification procedure.

Fifteen persons were injured, six seriously, as the flames flashed through the Up Stairs lounge, 604 Iberville St., between 7:56 and 8:12 p. m., leaving the 29 victims barely recognizable as human beings. Doctors feared the death toll would climb.

Workers struggled late into the night pulling the bodies apart.

Fire Supt. William McCrossen, whose men arrived at the fire only two minutes after the first call was received at 7:56, said the fire had "a tremendous start."

"When our people arrived, several people had already leaped," McCrossen said. "We rescued one lady on the fire escape." The fire station is only three blocks away.

Asked about the possibility of a fire-bomb or explosion accounting for the swift spread of the fire, McCrossen said the fire "may come in the definition of an explosion. It was 'bang' and it was all over," he said.

Twenty-eight of the 29 killed were men and the place was packed for the weekly Sunday night beer bust, a kind of happy hour featuring all you could eat and drink for \$2.

About 20 men were led to safety through a rear exit by a bartender,

Turn to A-6, Column 1

Nixon Involved in Watergate, Dean Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ousted White House counsel John W. Dean III testified today that he believes President Nixon was involved in the Watergate affair but didn't realize the implications.

He said he hopes Nixon will be forgiven when all the facts are known.

"It's my honest belief that while the President was involved that he did not realize or appreciate at any time the implications of his own involvement, and I think that when the facts come out, I hope the President is forgiven," Dean said as he began testifying at the Senate's televised Watergate hearings.

Dean said two of Nixon's top aides,

H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, had been involved in covering up the wiretapping from the first day or two after the June 17, 1972, break-in at Democratic headquarters.

HE SAID a Haldeman aide, Gordon Strachan, told him that he had destroyed "damaging materials" in Haldeman's file after the break-in. He said Ehrlichman insisted that one of the wiretappers, E. Howard Hunt, be ordered out of the country. He said Ehrlichman told him to throw embarrassing material, found in Hunt's White House safe, into the Potomac River.

Dean also said he believes that former presidential counselor Charles W. Colson was more deeply involved in the affair than he admitted. He said former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell approved payoffs to silence the Watergate defendants.

A day or so after the break-in, Dean said, he told Asst. Atty. Gen. Henry Petersen, who was in over-all charge of investigating the wiretapping, that "I didn't think the White House could withstand a wide open investigation."

Dean testified involuntarily, under a grant of immunity. He admitted that he assisted others in giving perjured testimony and made personal use of

campaign money. He also testified about his personal efforts to cover up the affair.

Although Dean can't be prosecuted on the basis of what he told the Senate committee, he may be indicted and tried on the basis of other evidence. Federal prosecutors have refused to grant him immunity for trial testimony, and last week sealed their evidence against him to protect their case.

With his attractive wife sitting behind him, Dean opened his testimony by reading a 245-page statement at the rate of about a page a minute.

In the same opening comment, Dean admitted that he was involved in obstruction of justice, perjured testimony and "made personal use of funds that were in my custody."

conversations into the White House, and that Haldeman had ordered them destroyed.

Dean said he also suspected, but couldn't prove, that former presidential counselor Charles W. Colson knew more about the wiretapping than he had admitted.

Dean said another White House staff member, John Caulfield, once told him that Colson had ordered him to burglarize the Brookings Institution and to firebomb it if necessary to cover up the break-in.

Dean said Caulfield thought Colson's alleged orders were "unwise" and "insane." Dean said he flew to California especially to dissuade Ehrlichman from pressing forward with the plan.

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Private School Aid Ruled Out

Possible Arson Probed

Continued from Page 1

through a kind of theater and down a little-known fire escape.

The rest may have been trapped by the flames and smoke which forced them to the windows on the Chartres Street side. There, they may have had their only chance of escape thwarted by a large air conditioning unit and burglar bars which blocked their way.

McCrosen said it appeared the blaze began in the stairway which led to the second story bar from Iberville Street. The stairway was almost completely gutted by fire, forcing the evacuation of bodies to be made through a window with the aid of a hook-and-ladder truck.

The coroner's team will also attempt to use fingerprints to identify the dead, but doubted this would be useful in most cases.

None of the identification carried by any victims was sufficient in any case to supply definite identification. Some identification was found scattered near the bar but not near enough to any body to confirm identification.

Courney Craighead, a survivor of the blaze, said he believes somebody dashed an inflammable liquid on the stairway and lit it. "The fire came up so fast," he said. "There was an immense smoke in the room immediately."

McCrosen said homicide investigators and the state fire marshal would take a careful look at reports that "some people smelled gasoline just before the fire." He cautioned that such reports are unconfirmed.

Adolph Medina, 32, of San Antonio, who was cut when he jumped, said the lounge was engulfed in a short, panicky moment after flames erupted on the front stairway.

"I was small enough so I could get out," said Medina, who squirmed through the bars. "I was panicked about jumping but two guys urged me to jump and I was small enough. Some big guy on the ground caught me and I kept looking back but my friend never got out."

Linn Quinton, 25, said, "The place just went up. Everyone panicked and started running for the windows. I jumped to the window in the left corner, opened it, swung out, grabbed a pipe and slid down."

"I turned around and broke a couple of other people's falls but there were one or two who wouldn't jump."

Beneath the Up Stairs is another bar, the Jimani, located at 141 Chartres. Firemen said there was no one injured there and the bar suffered only water damage.

A rooming house on the third floor was damaged only slightly, firemen said.

Eighty-seven firemen answered the repeated general alarm fire. No injuries to firemen were reported.

The three-story building is located across Chartres Street from the Mar-

riott Hotel. Kenneth Maynard, a Marriott security guard, said, "It went up real quick. Flames were already at the windows when people started jumping."

"It was the quickest fire I ever heard of," said Louis Uhlich, a retired soldier who was in a bar next door to the stairway of the Up Stairs.

"I was on my first beer when this woman ran in and yelled, 'Come see! Come see!'" he said. "I ran out and two or three of the steps were on fire."

"I popped back into the bar and told the barmaid to call the Fire Department. By the time I got back outside it sounded like firecrackers going off in there. That stairway was gone."

Seconds later, he said, a window exploded next to a fire escape and a group of men tumbled out onto the rusty iron landing that did not extend to ground level.

"They just stood there a second," Uhlich said. "We hollered, 'Jump, Jump!' but they were panicked. A woman ducked out and ran up the fire escape to the third floor landing. Then, whoosh, a gush of fire came out the window and the men jumped."

The woman who ran up the fire escape made the right move. She was the one rescued by firemen in a matter of minutes. The fire was confined to the second floor.

On the street and sidewalk were pools of blood and pieces of flesh from those who jumped.

William White, 18, of Pineville, said he and Gary Williams, 19, also of Pineville, wandered into the bar while nosing around in the French Quarter. He said they might have stayed except for a bit of luck.

"There was a couple of guys quarreling at the top of the stairs," White said. "I don't like no kind of fights so we left. We weren't more than a block away when I looked back — the whole place was lit up by fire."

The injured included:

Michael Scarborough, 27, West Jefferson General, serious condition.

Sidney Estinache, 50, Charity Hospital, serious condition.

Luther Boggs, 47, Charity, serious.

Eddie Jillis, 52, Veterans Administration Hospital, serious.

Larry Stalton, 25, Charity, serious.

Jim Hembrick, 45, Charity, fair.

Fred Sharehwa, 22, Charity, fair.

Eugene Thomas, 42, Charity, fair.

Jean Gosnell, 36, U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, fair.

Roger Dunn, 36, Charity, ambulatory.

Adolph Medina, 32, Charity, ambulatory.

Bob Vann, Charity, ambulatory.

Francis Dufrene, 21, Charity, ambulatory.

Phillip Byrd, Charity, ambulatory.

Lindy Quinton, 25, Charity, ambulatory.



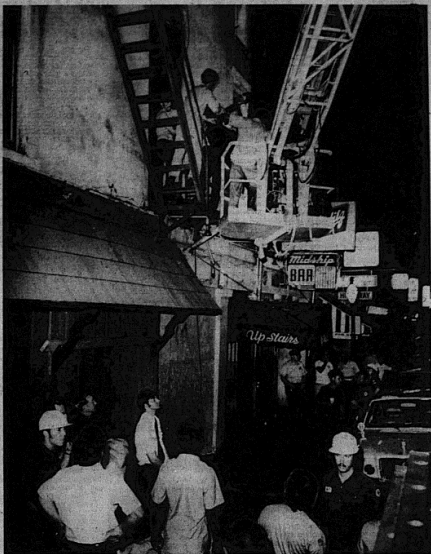
—States-Item photo by Pat Patterson.

Passersby try to aid burned victim of Up Stairs bar tragedy



—States-Item photo by Philip Ames.

Badly burned man shows horror of French Quarter inferno



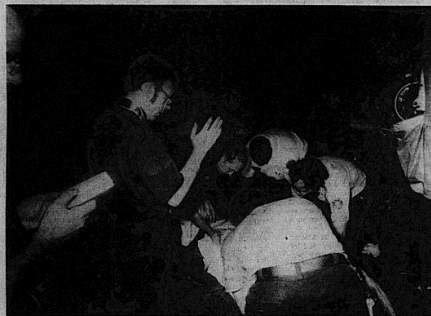
—States-Item photo by G. E. Arnold.

Fire Department snorkel used to remove blaze victim



—States-Item photo by G. E. Arnold.

Scenes inside the Up Stairs bar following flash fire



—States-Item photo by G. E. Arnold.

Priests pray for victims of night spot fire



—States-Item photo by Philip Ames.

Rescue workers carry canvas-wrapped body of fire victim

