

Associated Press Survey:

# Series of Slaughters Tabbed as Top Iowa News Story

DES MOINES (AP) — The brutal slayings of five women in Iowa last fall comprised the top Iowa news story of 1971, according to votes cast last week by the state's Associated Press editors and broadcast news directors.

The killings — all apparently unrelated — began in Cedar Rapids in late September and didn't end until more than a month later.

Even now, only two men have been arrested and charged with any of the murders. Each had been romantically involved with one of the victims.

The second choice of editors and broadcasters as top news of the year was the controversy that has raged for six months around the Iowa commerce commission.

That story involved a major shakeup in the ICC, missing files, an overnight lockup of heavily guarded ICC offices in downtown Des Moines and utility rates that affect hundreds of thousands of Iowans.

Voted the third best news story were problems that beset the Iowa legislature as it grappled with tax "reforms."

Placing fourth and fifth in the poll were President Nixon's two trips to the Hawkeye state.

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Rounding out the top 10:

(6) Indictments of eight business men and Johnson county officials.

(7) New Year's weekend blizzard, termed the worst in 29 years.

(8) Continuing coverage on legislative reapportionment in Iowa.

(9) Grand jury price fixing probe into activities of International Harvester dealers.

(10) Spring disturbances at the University of Iowa.

## Five Killings

The first in the series of five senseless killings of Iowa women came at Cedar Rapids Sept. 24 when the body of 17-year-old Maureen Farley was found atop the trunk lid of an abandoned car.

She had been dead about seven days and officials theorized her body had been thrown from a passing vehicle and crashed through heavy vegetation onto the car trunk. She died of a blow to the head.

Investigators have tried to find a possible link between Mrs. Farley's death and that of Karen Street, 21, a Cedar

Rapids housewife who set out hitchhiking to Iowa City to visit her husband. Her body was found six days later, on Oct. 24, in a stream near High Amasa in Iowa county. She had been shot in the head.

Jean Marie Christensen, 18, of Storm Lake was strangled and sexually assaulted. Her body was found in her bedroom Oct. 17. Buena Vista county officials have since lodged a murder charge against the girl's fiancé, Michael Dean Peterson of rural Alta. Peterson has pled innocent to the charge and is free on bail.

Karen Goers, 23, of Oskaloosa, who worked in her parents' cafe, was last seen alive Oct. 22 getting into a car in downtown Oskaloosa. Her body was found in a ditch outside of town two days later. She has been shot three times in the head with a .22 caliber weapon.

Authorities learned that Miss Goers had been seeing Charles Silvers, 31, of Oskaloosa. The two had discussed the possibility of marriage. In mid-November, he was arrested and charged with murdering her.

Miss Goers, Mrs. Farley

and Miss Christensen all were waitresses.

The last victim of unrestrained assault was Estelle Reubner, 78, of Muscatine. Her body was found in her home Oct. 28.

Authorities said she was bound and gagged with electrical tape while someone ransacked her home. She died of a blow to the head and either strangulation or suffocation from the gag.

## Commerce Commission

The storm over the Iowa commerce commission broke last summer when it was revealed the ICC had granted the Iowa Telephone Co. of Knoxville a rate increase substantially higher than one the firm had agreed to accept earlier.

That was followed by the resignations of ICC Chairman Kenneth Benda and the commission's executive secretary, Edgar Storey.

Both the governor's office and the legislature started probes into the ICC.

Benda was replaced by Maurice Van Nostrand, who made news when it was learned he was driving a taxicab in his spare time in Des Moines.

## Legislature

The 1971 legislature was the second longest regular session in history, owing much of its length to a determined drive for so-called tax reform.

The legislature enacted a new foundation plan of paying vastly increased state aid to schools, voted curbs on future increases in local school district budgets, and increased the state income tax rates by roughly one-third to supplant some of the property tax that otherwise would be necessary for school financing.

The foundation plan is to be "phased in" and won't be fully implemented until the 1974-75 school year. But the lawmakers partly answered the clamor for property tax relief by "freezing" property taxes for school purposes at their 1970-71 level for the 1971-

72 and subsequent school years.

## Nixon Visits

President Nixon, accompanied by his wife, four cabinet members and several aides, flew to Des Moines March 1, to kick off a campaign for his controversial legislative proposals.

His Iowa appearance was the first of a series of trips to the Midwest.

On July 31 the President returned to Iowa. He mixed speechmaking and reminiscing during his two-hour whirlwind trip to Lake Rathbun where, with an estimated 15,000 to 30,000 persons present, he dedicated the \$26.5 million Rathbun dam.

Indictments were returned Dec. 8, by the Johnson county grand jury against the same eight men who were charged by an earlier grand jury with violating Iowa's law prohibiting county officials from receiving gifts and gratuities. The first jury's actions were declared illegal.

Named in the indictments

were four business men, three Johnson county officials and a former county official.

## Blizzard

Thousands of travelers heading home last winter from the New Year's holiday were stranded across Iowa in the wake of a blizzard described by the National Weather Service as the worst to hit Iowa in 29 years.

At least 18 people lost their lives in the blizzard's wake, many of them heart attacks suffered while shoveling snow. Drifts reported to be up to eight feet high covered some state highways and interstate systems.

One of the biggest chores that faced the legislature was the necessity of reapportioning its 100 house and 50 senate seats on the basis of the 1970 federal census.

It was an agonizing chore since there was no way to avoid placing two incumbents together in the same district in some instances. A plan was derived that mustered enough

votes for passage, but the plan had barely become law when three lawsuits were filed challenging its constitutionality.

## Price-Fix Probe

An indictment charging conspiracy and naming 142 defendants — all representing International Harvester dealerships in Iowa — was returned by the Story county grand jury in Nevada, Iowa, early in December.

The indictment alleges the defendants conspired to fix prices on International Harvester parts by using a fraudulent price book.

Two hundred highway patrolmen were ordered into Iowa City May 11, in the wake of University of Iowa campus disorders that pitted police and students in war-game style skirmishes.

Scores of persons were arrested and some injured. At one point several college-age protesters hurled bottles at police, who retaliated by lobbing tear gas.

## Talks Man into Freeing Hostages

MANILLA (AP) — Father Bob Garon, an American priest who talked an armed Filipino into releasing two young women hostages Wednesday was doing what he is known best for in the Philippines.

Each night on radio and television, the 36-year-old Roman Catholic priest talks with Filipinos who phone him

their troubles. He listens, questions, advises and soothes. The hour is called "Father Bob and His Telephone".

Born in Manchester, N.H., Father Bob was graduated from Da Sallette seminary at Southbridge, Mass., and has spent the last seven years in the Philippines, where about 80 percent of the people are Catholics.

It apparently was his reputation as a problem solver that brought him into the hostage case.

Domingo Arcilla, 27, had been holding Tessie Dulay, 23, and her friend, Zenaida Mendoza, 26, at gunpoint in a bedroom of the Dulay family's apartment since noon Tuesday. He shot and slightly wounded a maid when he invaded the apartment.

Arcilla refused to discuss his motives; friends and relatives said he had courted Tessie's older sister but she married someone else.

After hours of futile appeals for Arcilla to give himself up, he asked for Father Bob after midnight. The priest answered the call quickly, and four hours of discussion followed, much of it picked up by a radio microphone slipped into the room.

The priest announced that Arcilla was willing to give up if he was not harmed.

Police promised, but then Father Bob reported that Arcilla had changed his mind.

"He feels so bad, he is em-

barrassed," the priest said. "He says he cannot face the world after all this. He says the girls and I can go now, but we are afraid he may take his own life. We are pleading with him."

Shortly before 7 a.m., the sobbing young women came down from the second-floor bedroom. Minutes later, down came Father Bob, his arm over the shoulders of Arcilla, who kept his head bowed and said nothing.

The priest said Arcilla had treated the girls well throughout their 18-hour ordeal. He accompanied the young man to a police precinct where he was detained.

## Auto Strikes Two C.R. Boys, Driver Charged

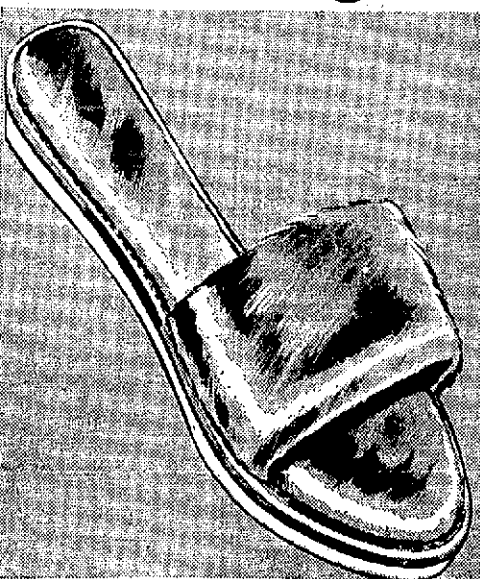
Two Cedar Rapids boys suffered minor injuries Tuesday afternoon when they were struck by a car as they stepped from a curb at First avenue and Drexel drive SW.

Authorities said the two boys, Scott Howard, 5, of 220 Hanover road SW, and Scott Budak, 6, of 208 Hanover road SW, were treated at St. Luke's hospital for bumps and bruises and released.

Authorities said the driver of the car was Martin L. Hayes, 4044 Cox avenue NW. He was charged with failure to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

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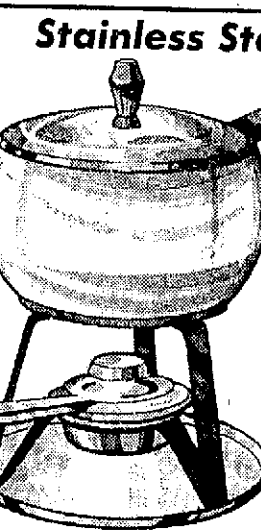
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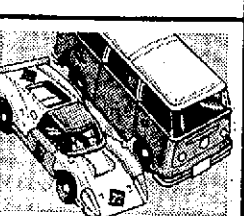
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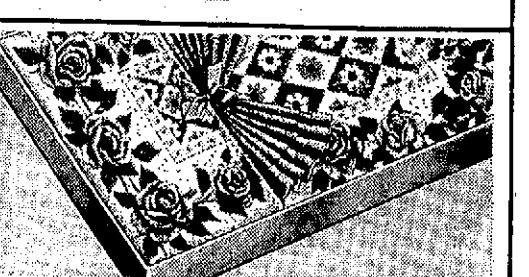
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