Shot and Set Afire

Mary DiRocco, 14, Minnesota Ave., E. Somerville, Niece of Hub Council G. E. Piemonte, Shot, Stabbed, Fired in Her Cellar

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BOSTON DAILY RECORD, TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1953

6 am edition

Hunt Girl; Lass Shot, Stabbed and Set Afire

Police throughout Greater Boston and New England were asked last night to search for Mildred McDonald, attractive 25-year-old Somerville girl, for questioning in the murder of Mary DiRicco, 14, also of Somerville, found shot and stabbed, her clothing soaked with oil in an attempt to set her afire.

The victim was the niece of Boston City Councilor Gabriel Piemonte, and the girl being sought is the former girl friend of the slain girl's brother, Joseph.

n a teletyped message that was sent through the si states Capt. Leroy D. Pierce of the Somerville police warned all officers to approach Miss McDonald with caution.

"She may be armed," he stated.

FOUND BY BROTHER

The grisly discovery of the body of the 14-year-old girl in the cellar of the Minnesota ave., Somerville, home of her parents was made by her brother, Robert, 17, who smelled the odor of smoke in the house.

He found the cellar door partly ajar and, getting no response to his calls for her, went downstairs. There he found her sprawled on the floor, face downward.

All about her were oil-soaked newspapers and her blue dungarees and red blouse had been saturated with oil. The charred newspapers and burnt matches were mute evidence that an attempt had been made to destroy the body by fire.

FIRED 5 SHOTS

Police questioned members of the family and placed the time of the murder between noon and 1:30 p m.

Miss McDonald who left her place of employment in the Unemployment Security Office at 9 Union sq., Somerville, at 10 a. m. was sought at her home and throughout the city last night, but without success.

She lives at 8 Lovell st. and is one of seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. McDonald. Her father is a teacher of printing in the Northeastern Junior High School in Somerville. He has also taught at Boston University.

Five shots were fired into the girl's body from a .22 calibre pistol.

GIRL SLASHED

There were also several slashes on head and body inflicted by a sharp knife or a razor blade.

A two-hour autopsy was performed by Medical Examiner Andrew Guthrie and Dr. Stefan Bjornson, the latter of the Harvard Bureau of Legal Medicine.

They reported death due to gunshot wounds and removed five

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Arlene Dahl, titian-haired film beauty, whose torrid romance with Fernando Lamas, South American screen Romeo, is at an end, their friends insist. Arlene was formerly wed to Lee "Tarzan" Barker. Lamas' wife, Lidia, divorced him a year ago in Nevada, after he romanced Lana Turner a year.

JOSEPH DiROCCO
Brother of Slain Girl

POLICE SGT. JOSEPH DOLE AT MURDER SCENE
Body of Girl Found on Floor in Front of Him
(Record-American Photo by Paul Guernan)

Grab Blonde, Pal in Break

A petite blonde, separated from her husband, and her male companion, were arrested on breaking and entering charges in Cambridge yesterday a short time after, police said, they interrupted looting a home on Chestnut st.

Booked on charges of breaking and entering in the daytime with intent to commit larceny were: Mrs. Elizabeth "Joan" P. Auch, 19, of 210 Main st. and Alton Hanscom, 19, of 51 Austin st., both Charlestown.

Police officers Allen J. Hayes and Henry S. Aceto arrested the pair in a spa on Prince, at Magazine sts., Cambridge, after Margaret Fraser, 23, a student at Framingham Teachers College, interrupted them ransacking her second-floor home.

Surprised when she walked into her home, she quietly said to them:

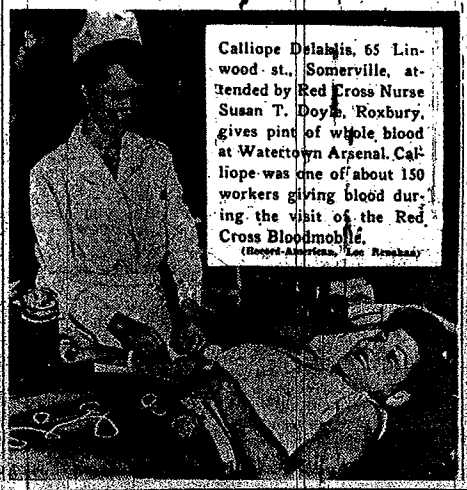
"Are you looking for someone?"

With that the blonde and her companion fled. After they were questioned at police headquarters and confronted by Miss Fraser, police said Hanscom broke down and admitted the break.

A search was being made of a Roxbury apartment which police said Hanscom and the girl had been visiting.

Dies Alone in Fire

EAST COLRAIN (AP)—Frederick Chadwick, 63, perished yesterday in a fire which destroyed his three-room cottage.



Calliope Delakis, 65 Linwood st., Somerville, attended by Red Cross Nurse Susan T. Doyle, Roxbury, gives pint of whole blood at Watertown Arsenal. Calliope was one of about 150 workers giving blood during the visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile.
(Record-American, Lee Renshaw)

Smith Girl Missing At Wellesley Home

Sylvia Plath, 20, a Smith College girl living at 26 Elmwood st., Wellesley, was reported missing to the police last night by her mother, Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath.

She left a note at her home stating she was going for a walk. Her favorite spots for walking are the Public Garden and the Esplanade along the Charles River where police of the Back Bay and Joy st. stations went to look for her.

Miss Plath was to re-enter Smith in the fall as a senior. She topped her junior class. Her mother said she has been under a doctor's care for a nervous condition.

She is five feet nine inches tall and weighs 140 pounds. Her hair is dark brown and her eyes are brown. She was wearing a light blue skirt and white sleeveless blouse when she left home.

DAD OF 2 FOUND DEAD FROM GAS

Edward Christopher, 34, of North Beacon st., Brighton, father of two, a railroad express employe recently discharged from the Mattapan State Hospital, was found dead yesterday on his kitchen floor, the room filled with gas fumes from four opened jets.

Bolts Hit 20 Homes In Squall

Lightning struck a score of homes last night as a driving thunder storm, accompanied by gusts of wind up to 50 miles-an-hour, swept over Metropolitan Boston. The wind-driven rains disrupted vehicular traffic throughout the area.

The storm, part of a squall line extending from Portland, Me., to south of Boston, struck between 6 and 7 p. m. and tumbled temperatures from a humid 83 to 67 degrees, within an hour.

Lightning started small fires in homes on Harvard st., and North Munroe ave., Dorchester, while in South Boston 018 persons were driven out of a three family house on Boston st., by a small fire in a roof cupola.

Trolley and bus traffic in Mattapan and Watertown was stalled when lightning burned trolley lines on Blue Hill ave., near Irwin st., and at Arsenal and School sts.

A Malden bus driver suffered minor injuries when his empty bus skidded and struck a pole on High st., Medford.

Mrs. Evelyn Stenstream, 28, was stunned when lightning struck a garage behind her home at 37 Bertwell rd., Lexington. She and her brother, Wayne, had just left the garage.

C. L. Smith, 30, of 40 Gilman st., Somerville, suffered critical internal injuries when he lost control of his auto and crashed a tree at Fellsway and Mystic ave., Somerville.

Traffic on all roads slowed to a crawl as the driving rain limited motorists' vision.

The weather bureau predicted fair weather with the temperature at 80 today.

NO WAC DRILL IF FIGURE OK

WASHINGTON (INS)—There's a four-page set of regulations issued for the Women's Army Corps and it all boils down to the fact that the Army wants its females "well-distributed" weight-wise.

The Army did not say WACs must substitute curves for bulges but made it clear that it hopes to keep enlisted women in shape by putting them through extensive drill exercises. The new regulations state that a "well distributed" figure will excuse a WAC from drill.

THESE NEW DADS GET A SURPRISE

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Two beaming fathers proudly watched through a hospital window as their newly-born daughters were put on display.

Strangers, they exchanged casual words. Then, comparing notes more closely, they learned:

Each was named Willa Smith, wives of both gave birth recently to daughters, each of whom was named Christine, the same doctor delivered both youngsters. And for that Smith, the new arrivals increased their families to two girls and one boy, with