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Check Pals

For Clue to

Smith Girl

Smith College girls throughout the nation today were being contacted by police in the hope they may furnish some clue to the whereabouts of pretty Sylvia Plath, 20, brilliant student who vanished mysteriously [mysteriously] two days ago. Wellesley Police Chief Robert B. MacVey said there was a small chance the missing girl may have got in touch with some of her school chums.

At the same time, police and scores of volunteers combed a five-mile stretch of woods that runs from the vicinity of the Plath home on Elmwood st., Wellesley [Wellesley], to the Weston line.

Sylvia, a senior who topped the list of juniors last year, disappeared [disappeared] after leaving a note for her mother, Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, Boston University professor, that she was "going for a hike." In the message, Sylvia said she would return the following day.

SLEEPING PILLS GONE

Officers said they questioned a neighborhood youth who had dated Sylvia occasionally, but found he had not seen the girl for a week.

Fears for the girl's safety mounted when it was disclosed that a bottle of sleeping pills was missing from her mother's room.

Chief MacVey said the girl took no more than a few dollars and only the clothes she was wearing when she left home.

A large group of Boy Scouts joined the search that so far has covered most of the woods in the Wellesley area. Earlier, posses followed state police bloodhounds through the Lake Waban and Morse's pond areas.

MIND SLIPPING

Mrs. Plath said she believed her daughter's actions were brought on by a temporary nervous affliction [affliction] induced by her intensive application to literary work.

"She recently felt she was unworthy of the confidence held in her by the people she knew," said Mrs. Plath. "For some time, she has been unable to write either fiction or her more recent love, poetry."

"Instead of regarding this as just an arid period such as every writer faces at times, she believed something had happened [happened] to her mind, that it was unable to produce creatively any more.

"Al though her doctor assured [assured] us this was simply due to nervous exhaustion, Sylvia was constantly seeking in which to blame herself for the failure, and became increasingly [increasingly] despondent."

OUTSTANDING PUPIL

Mrs. Plath was at first hopeful that her daughter might try to communicate with her sponsor, Mrs. Olive Higgins Prouty, authoress [authoress] who wrote "Stella Dallas" and other books, but learned that Mrs. Prouty is vacationing in Maine from her Brookline home.

The girl, daughter of the late B.U. Prof. Otto Plath, won two college poetry awards and had stories and poems published in several leading national magazines [magazines].

Among relatives and volunteers taking part in the hunt for Sylvia is a close family friend, Col. Rex Gary, a former Army intelligence officer.