

Title: *Boston Evening American* 8 Star Sports Edition

City, State: Boston, Massachusetts

Date: 27 August 1953

Page: 5

**Trace Moves
Of Girl Felled
By Sleep Pills**

[Photograph of SP's head, cropped from family photograph]

**SYLVIA PLATH
Found in Cellar**

While a brilliant Smith College senior was recovering from an overdose of sleeping pills, police [police] were seeking today to determine whether the pretty 20-year-old girl, missing [missing] for two days, had spent all of the time in the tiny cellar [cellar] recess in which **she was** found semi-conscious.

Sylvia Plath, Elmwood rd., Wellesley, was discovered lying behind a pile of kindling wood on a narrow ledge between the basement [basement] and a porch of her home. Beside her were a water container [container] and eight sleeping pills in a bottle which originally contained [contained] 50 tablets.

Although admitting it was possible Sylvia had been in the cellar throughout one of the most intensive searches in Wellesley's history, police pointed out that she wore different clothing than when she was last seen.

CONDITION GOOD

She was reported in satisfactory [satisfactory] condition at Newton-Wellesley [Wellesley] Hospital, where she was taken [taken] after she was removed from the tiny recess by Police Chief Robert MacBey and Patrolman Theodore McGlone. The officers had to crawl through a narrow opening to reach the girl.

MacBey said it was not determined [determined] whether Sylvia was in the cellar all the time or had returned [returned] home Monday and hid behind [behind] the pile of kindling that blocked the cellar ledge.

The girl's moanings led to her discovery by her brother, Warren, 18, after their grandmother, Mrs. Aurelia Shober, 60, heard guttural sounds in the cellar and traced them to the woodpile.

WAS 'GOING ON HIKE'

The girl, who topped the scholastic [scholastic] list in the junior class at Smith last year, had been missing [missing] since Monday when she left a note for her mother, Mrs. Aurelia [Aurelia] S. Plath, a Boston University [University] professor, that she was going for a hike.

All woods in the Wellesley area were searched by State and local police and scores of volunteers [volunteers]. Also officers contacted Smith College students throughout [throughout] the nation in hope they could furnish clues to her whereabouts.

It was feared the girl was on
the verge of a nervous collapse
as a result of despondency over
the fact that she believed she
was no longer able to write the
poetry and fiction which gained
her a national reputation.

Transcribed by Peter K. Steinberg, 11 September 2016.