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[Photograph of SP seated on grass with Warren Plath and Aurelia Plath]

MISSING COLLEGE GIRL—Sylvia Plath, 20-year-old Smith senior, shown with her brother, Warren, and mother, Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, at their Wellesley home.

### **Day-Long Search Fails to Find Smith Student**

WELLESLEY, Aug. 25—

After a fruitless all-day search for a brilliant Smith College poetess, missing since yesterday [yesterday], and believed suffering from nervous exhaustion, the girl's mother asked that a family [family] picture be printed in the hope it might encourage the girl to report her whereabouts.

Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, mother of Sylvia Plath, 20, of 26 Elmwood [Elmwood] st., said she believed her daughter's behavior was due to a temporary nervous affliction

Linked with her creative writing [writing].

"She recently felt she was unworthy of the confidence held for her by the people she knew," Mrs. Plath said. "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 that every

writer faces at times she believed [believed] something had happened [happened] to her mind, that it was unable to produce creatively any more."

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### **STUDENT**

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

The beautiful girl left her home at 2 yesterday afternoon wearing only a Summer skirt and blouse and taking a purse containing a bottle of 50 sleeping tablets.

She left a note to her mother saying she went for "a long hike" and would be back tomorrow.

Warren Plath, 18, Sylvia's brother, recorded on a map of the Wellesley area tonight the grounds searched by Wellesley police, State Police, Scouts, neighbors and volunteers.

In the search around Waban Lake and woods nearest the home, bloodhounds were unable to pick up a scent, due to yesterday's rain, and searchers found no clues.

Later, Post 80, Explorer Scouts, led by Bradford Gove, a neighbor, and Carroll Hunnewell, an expert on the South-Natick-Charles River area, combed the entire distance between the Dover road and the Sudbury River aqueduct.

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

The girl's mother, a Boston University [University] professor, also expressed doubt Sylvia would communicate with college or neighborhood friends, "because her mood was too much one of withdrawal."

Acquaintances and associates of the brilliant, gifted young writer called from Northampton, Newtonville [Newtonville], Natick and Wellesley to offer assistance and express sympathy.

Sylvia is considered "one of the most outstanding" Smith undergraduates [undergraduates], and the possessor of a powerful and promising writing future.

Transcribed by Peter K. Steinberg, 11 September 2016.