

Title: *The Lewiston Daily Sun*
City, State: Lewiston, Maine
Date: 27 August 1953
Page: 1

FIND SMITH GIRL UNDER HOUSE PORCH

In Semi-conscious Condition—Suffered [Suffered] No Injury

WELLESLEY, Mass., Aug. 26 (AP)
— A pretty 20-year-old Smith College [College] senior—who vanished Monday after telling her mother she was going hiking—was found today semi-conscious but apparently uninjured [uninjured] under the porch of her home.

While searched fanned out in a widespread search, Sylvia Plath was located by her brother, Warren [Warren], 18, and her grandmother, Mrs. Aurelia Schobar, 66, who heard moaning coming from the cellar of their home.

The girl was found behind a pile of lumber in a tiny space under the porch, through which entrance is gained by a 2½ foot opening about five feet above the cellar floor.

Police Chief Robert McVey said an empty water jar and a container [container] of eight sleeping tablets were found by the girl's side. He said the bottle had contained 48 tablets when full.

Her mother, Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, a Boston University professor [professor], said her daughter recently had been depressed because she felt "she was unworthy of the confi-

dence [confidence] held for her by the people she knew. For some time she had been unable to write either fiction or poetry."

Miss Plath was taken to Newton-Wellesley Hospital where a spokesman [spokesman] described her condition as "fair." The spokesman added that she had suffered "no apparent injury."

Chief McVey described the cubicle [cubicle] in which the girl was found as 20 by 10 foot area, surrounded on three sides by a cement wall, and floored with dirt. He said she apparently [apparently] moved considerable kindling [kindling] and scrap lumber, crawled into the tiny space and then replaced [replaced] the covering wood.

McVey said searchers passed up the sub-porch area in Monday's search of the house because the lumber looked as if it had not been disturbed. The family habitually [habitually] stored it there.

Miss Plath, editor of her college literary review magazine has been a frequent contributor of fiction and poetry to magazines and other publications

Transcribed by Peter K. Steinberg, 4 May 2022.