

# Car Crash Near Lyons Kills Five

## THE LINCOLN STAR

NEBRASKA: Increasing cloudiness north and fair south Monday; considerable cloudiness with few snow flurries extreme north and partly cloudy elsewhere Monday night; a few snow flurries northeast Tuesday; highs Monday 40s north to 50s south.

Five 2-2222

Telephone 2-1234

Police 2-2841

FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR

No. 33

LINCOLN, NEB., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1957

EVEN CENTS

## Two Autos Hit Head On

Four Killed Outright; Fifth Fatally Hurt; Two Injured Taken To Oakland

LYONS, Neb. (AP) — Five persons were killed and two others were injured seriously Sunday afternoon when two cars collided head on on highway 77, about 46 1/2 miles north of Lyons.

State Patrolman Dale Ruppert identified the dead as: Clyde Moncrief, 34, Elwood, Neb.; Ruth Miles, 47, Elwood; Janice Moncrief, 38, Elwood; Adolph Vonloh, 60, Smithfield, Neb.; Leonard M. Bantz, 29, Zimmerman, Minn.

Injured seriously and taken to an Oakland hospital were Deanna Carol Tallman, 21, of Minneapolis, Minn., and Burdett Moncrief of Elwood.

Ruppert said the northbound car driven by Clyde Moncrief was in collision with a southbound vehicle driven by the Tallman woman.

Ruppert said Bantz was riding

with Miss Tallman and the others were in the Moncrief vehicle.

Four were killed outright in the accident and Adolph Vonloh died shortly after reaching the Oakland hospital.

The deaths boosted the state highway fatality toll for the year to 258 as compared with 280 a year ago.



ROBERT GEORGE COLVERT



### Here's Where Body Was Found

Lancaster County Sheriff Merle Karnopp points to the spot where the body of Robert George Colvert was found.

Scene is about 30th and Superior Ave., outside the Lincoln city limits. (Star Staff Photo)

## Scientists Doubt Army 'Sighting' Of Sput-Rocket

Glowing Object Hit Alaskan Base Exactly On Rocket's Timetable

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — The Army reported Sunday the Sputnik I rocket was believed to have fallen 100 miles southeast of here, but scientists quickly called the flaming object a giant fireball.

The Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska described it as a "one in a million chance" that the fireball, or meteor, passed over Alaska at "plus or minus five minutes" of the time the rocket satellite was due over Fairbanks Saturday afternoon.

Al George, administrative assistant to the institute director, Dr. Christian T. Elvey, said calls came in steadily for three hours from persons who sighted the falling, glowing object.

He said several scientists at the institute also saw the object, and said its direction and speed put it in the meteor class.

The sighting was reported by the

institute to Vanguard Control, the Washington headquarters of the Office of Naval Research which is in charge of tracking the Russian earth satellites and their rockets.

George said the occurrence of fireballs of the size described here was extremely rare, and only two or three are seen throughout the world each year.

The Army report, in a prepared news release telephoned to the Fairbanks News-Miner from Ft. Greely 100 miles to the southeast, said the rocket was believed to have fallen on the military reservation at 7:20 p.m. CST.

One Minute Off

This was only one minute after the Geophysical Institute had said the rocket would pass over the Fairbanks area.

The Army report, relayed from the Geophysical Institute, said the rocket was "seen" by a number of eyewitnesses, said the glowing object whistled down from the skies, hit a grove of trees, ricocheted off one of them and fell to the ground.

Carrado, a civilian who lives at Big Delta near Ft. Greely, said he thought the "thing" was going to hit him, and came so close that he ducked.

Search Delayed

Darkness comes at 2 p.m. in these latitudes, so no search was possible until Sunday. At dawn, five men from the fort and Ladd AFB went aloft in a big Air Force helicopter to look for the object, but were forced to turn back because of high winds.

The search will be resumed at daylight Monday weather permitting.

The Army declined for security reasons to pinpoint exactly where the object fell, whether rocket or meteor—fell on the vast Greely reservation, which measures 20 miles each way.

Gold said he had been instructed to make the release public by his superior, Capt. Robert A. Wise. He said Wise, one of the searchers, had become airtight from the butte-firing he took in the helicopter.

Ft. Greely adjoins the Alaska highway as it cuts through the Tanana mountain range toward the Canadian border.

Dr. Whipple said the rocket was made by the radar telescope of Stanford Research Institute, Palo Alto, Calif., late Saturday.

A member of the Smithsonian's moonwatch team at Los Altos, in California, also reported a very bright object in the sky about the same time. It was not the sun reflecting on a high flying airplane it could well have been the rocket starting to glow as it neared its end, Dr. Whipple said.

If the rocket were starting to come down on this passage its course went over thousands of miles of open ocean where the possibility of its being sighted were nearly zero.

## REDS SAY IT'S STILL UP IN AIR

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—British and American scientists agreed Sunday that the rocket of Sputnik I must have plunged to its death.

However, Russia, the country that launched man's first artificial moon last Oct. 4, says the rocket is still circling the world.

Dr. Fred L. Whipple, director of Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory here, thinks the end of the rocket may have come on its 87th trip around the world.

Prof. Alfred Lovell, director of the huge radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, England, says the rocket no longer exists. He says his telescope failed to spot it on seven possible passages Sunday.

Gives Schedule

But Moscow Radio, broadcasting future schedules for the rocket, says it made more trips around the world Sunday.

Dr. Whipple, a world authority on comets, bases his belief on the death of the rocket on its rapidly shortening orbit in the past few days. This indicated to him that it was being drawn down into denser atmosphere, hastening its end.

The rocket was believed to have been below 100 miles at low point, fifty miles lower than when it was fired into an orbit.

Aln't Got No Body

The Smithsonian is in the position of trying to prove a death without the body. The last confirmed observation of the rocket was made by the radar telescope of Stanford Research Institute, Palo Alto, Calif., late Saturday.



## Attendant Worked Here Before Slaying

This is the Crest Service Station at 1545 Cornhusker Highway.

way, where Robert George Colvert of Lincoln was employed as a night attendant. (Star Staff Photo)

## IKE MAY ATTEND CABINET MEETING

... Returns To Capital Monday

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — President Eisenhower will return to the White House Monday and hopes to sit in for a time on an afternoon cabinet meeting.

In announcing this Sunday, White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty let newsmen know that the President still is in the recuperating stage from last Monday's minor stroke, even though he is reported making steady progress toward recovery.

Maj. Gen. Howard M. Snyder, the White House physician, said Sunday that "The President had another good night's rest and his progress continues to be excellent."

Day-To-Day Basis

But Eisenhower's future activities, Hagerty said, still are being charted on a day to day basis, subject to the wishes of his doctors.

That applies to whether the President will take part Tuesday in a White House meeting to brief congressional leaders of both parties on defense and international policies. It also applies, Hagerty added, to whether the chief executive will go to Paris for the Dec. 16-18 meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Council.

Still, the President has been showing a steady increase in activity in what has seemed to be a surprisingly swift comeback from the effects of a blockage of a small brain artery last Monday.

Monday's cabinet meeting originally was set for 9 a.m. But in deference to the possibility that Eisenhower will be able to participate for at least a while, it has been rescheduled for 2:30 p.m. No other appointments have been made for the chief executive Monday, however.

And as for Eisenhower's hopes of getting together with his cabinet, Hagerty told newsmen: "I use the words that he hopes to attend quite actively."

Gold's Open 'Til 9

Monday evening. Store-wide special 7 to 9. Enjoy dinner in 2nd flr. cafeteria—Adv.

## CANADIAN FIRE KILLS 8 CHILDREN

SHERBROOKE, Que. (AP) — Eight children burned to death Sunday when flames destroyed their home on the outskirts of Sherbrooke.

Their father, Lionel Denault, 32, suffered third degree burns, cuts and shock and was reported in critical condition in a hospital here.

Police identified the victims as Suzanne, 12, Jeanmarc, 9, Solanges, 8, Michel, 6, Yves, 5, Gaetan, 4, Carole, 2, and Richard, 18 months.

Mrs. Denault, 34, and a ninth child, Robert, 13, were at home when the fire broke out.

Police said it is believed the fire started from an explosion in an oil stove. By the time firemen reached the scene, the wind-fanned flames were out of control. Two hours later only two charred walls of the 1 1/2-story frame house remained standing.

Sherbrooke is about 100 miles east of Montreal.

Weather To Remain Warm

Cloudy skies were expected to move across Nebraska Monday modifying the Indian Summer weather of the holiday week end.

The Weather Bureau predicted that light snow would fall on northern Nebraska Monday night, but temperature highs Monday with most weather stations reporting highs in the 50s.

Temperatures Sunday reached 58 at Lincoln and Grand Island, but temperatures were in the 50s.

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## Shotgun Blast Takes Life Of Gas Station Attendant

R. G. Colvert Is Victim On Lonely Road

By DEL HARDING  
Star Staff Writer

A 21-year-old service station attendant—apparently a robbery and murder victim—was found dead on a gravel road north of Lincoln early Sunday morning.

Robert George Colvert of 7020 Platte was killed by a shotgun blast fired from close range, according to County Sheriff Merle Karnopp. The sheriff said "there is no question but that robbery was the motive" in the slaying.

Colvert was employed as the night attendant at the Crest Service Station at 1545 Cornhusker Highway. Karnopp said some unknown person or persons apparently came into the station between 11 p.m. Saturday and 4 a.m. Sunday, robbed Colvert of his night's receipts and then drove the youth to about 30th and Superior Ave. and shot him in the back of the head with a shotgun.

No Reason Found

Sheriff Karnopp said he could find no reason why Colvert was killed. He said the killer or killers may have believed Colvert had the combination to the station's safe and shot him after unsuccessfully trying to force him to reveal the combination.

But the station owner, Harold Lewis of Sioux City, Ia., and the station operator, Vernon Dopp of 1010 So. 10th, both reported that Colvert did not know the combination of the safe, which is mounted in concrete under a counter. The safe showed no signs of an attempted forced entry.

Dopp estimated that about \$160 was taken from the station and from Colvert.

Found At 5:15 a.m.

Karnopp reported that Wilbur Salas of 3330 S. 4th, operator of the Nebraska Detective Agency of Lincoln, found Colvert's body about 5:15 a.m. Sunday. Salas had just made his rounds of business houses on Cornhusker Highway and had driven north on So. 27th and turned east on Superior Avenue, planning to double back to the highway and again check the business houses.

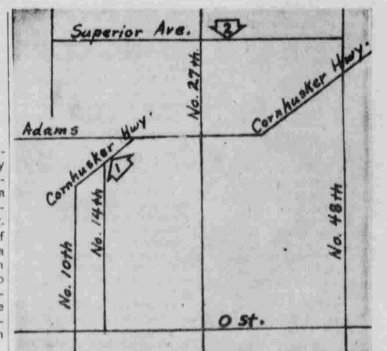
The nearest house to the place where the body was found is occupied by C. B. Hernandez, a farmer. Hernandez lives on the corner of 27th and Superior, and one-fourth of a mile from the murder scene. He reported to police that he hadn't heard anything unusual during the night.

Superior is intersected by 27th and then next by 40th St. Sheriff Karnopp and his men, assisted by the Safety Patrol, checked the entire area on foot for clues. Sal Creek passes under Superior at about 30th St., and it was checked. No sign of the murder gun was found.

Between 11 p.m. 4 a.m.

Karnopp said the time of the robbery-murder had been determined to be between 11 p.m. when Colvert went to work—and 4 a.m. when a customer came into the station and found it empty. The customer took a pack of cigarettes, Karnopp said, left money for them on the counter, and then left.

County Attorney Elmer Scheele said an autopsy performed on the



Map Of Slaying Area

The above map shows the spot where the body of Robert G. Colvert was found on Superior Ave. (Arrow 1 indicates the spot).

body confirmed the cause of death as being a shotgun blast fired from close range.

Colvert had been employed at the Crest Service Station since Nov. 7th. He worked alone from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. He had been discharged from the Navy in October, Colvert and his wife, an expectant mother, lived with his father, who is now

visiting in Denver, Colo.

Other survivors include one brother, John, 7004 Leighton; four sisters, Mrs. Virginia Bissey, Denver; Mrs. Alice Masilo, 3500 N. 62nd; Mrs. Winnifred Crawford, Beaver Crossing; and Mrs. Jane Fox, Beaver Crossing.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Bonn, British Ministers To Hold Parleys

BRONN, Germany (AP)—The foreign ministers of West Germany and Britain will meet in London this week to try to reach a union of mind on western defense issues.

Informed Bonn sources said the countries' leaders were "keyed up" about the scheduled meeting and did not want to cancel their talks at this time, even though Adenauer could not be present.

So Britain's Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd and his opposite number, Heinrich Von Brentano, will have two days of intensive conversations in London Wednesday and Thursday. Brentano will meet with Macmillan also.

In announcing the switch in plans, the British foreign office said the Brentano-Lloyd meetings would be no substitute for the Adenauer visit, but Bonn sources said it was clear the talks would follow the general lines originally planned.

The Weather

NEBRASKA: Increasing cloudiness north and fair south Monday; considerable cloudiness with few snow flurries extreme north and partly cloudy elsewhere Monday night; a few snow flurries northeast Tuesday; highs Monday 40s north to 50s south.

Lincoln Temperatures:  
1:30 a.m. 40  
2:30 a.m. 38  
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10:30 a.m. -698  
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12:30 a.m. -702  
1:30 a.m. -704  
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8:30 a.m. -718  
9:30 a.m. -720  
10:30 a.m. -722  
11:30 p.m. -724  
12:30 a.m. -726  
1:30 a.m. -728  
2:30 a.m. -730  
3:30 a.m. -732  
4:30 a.m. -734  
5:30 a.m. -736