



Associated Press
PASSER-BY COMFORTED DEAD WOMAN'S SON
Duluth mother died after being hit by car

Car hits store, kills Duluth woman, 26

By RANDY FURST
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

A 26-year-old Duluth woman was killed yesterday when she was struck by a car that went out of control and crashed into the side doors of a department store.

2 cars hit, kill Moorhead man

A Moorhead, Minn., man was killed yesterday when he was struck by two cars on U.S. Hwy. 75 in Moorhead, police reported.

The police said Marvin Rudd, 44, was walking along the side of the road at about 12:30 a.m. when a car that had just passed another car struck him. The second car also hit Rudd, police said.

In another accident, Stanley Vezina, 33, Eveleth, died when the car he was driving collided with another car on Minnesota Hwy. 135 west of Aurora. Vezina's wife was taken to Virginia Municipal Hospital and was listed in good condition.

Theodore Ewing, 46, Des Moines, Iowa, died in a Northfield hospital of injuries he received in a collision of two trucks. Ewing, who was driving a semitrailer truck, crashed into another truck from behind, the state patrol said. The accident occurred at 4:45 a.m. yesterday on Hwy. 1-35, about 12 miles north of Faribault.

Minneapolis man, 28, charged with murder in woman's death

A 28-year-old north Minneapolis man was charged yesterday with second-degree murder in the shooting death last month of Joan Crawford, 26.

The charge, filed in Hennepin District Court, accuses Wilthian W. Tucker, who lived with Ms. Crawford at 1300 Irving Av. N., of killing her sometime between Jan. 28 and Jan. 31.

Tucker told police he accidentally shot Ms. Crawford twice on Jan. 28 during a struggle in her car behind a high-rise apartment

near Fremont and 12th Aves. N., the complaint said.

The complaint said police were called by Ms. Crawford's father to check on her. When police arrived at the house on Jan. 31 she was dead, lying on a blood-stained upstairs bed, the complaint said.

The Hennepin County medical examiner said Ms. Crawford had been shot three times in the head and estimated she had been dead for about 48 hours before police discovered her body.

FORD: Leading Stenvig critic

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expanded budget and planning powers because of a city charter amendment. As chairman of the council's ways and means committee, Ford would be a logical choice as the head of Hofstede's budget staff.

"I'd consider the right job in Al's administration," he said.

FORD'S DECISION makes him the third alderman who will not be running for reelection. (DFL Aldermen Lee Munnich, 7th Ward, and Thomas Johnson, 2nd Ward, are running for other posts.)

Indications are that there will be some major changes in council leadership next year because of the number of councilmen who are not running again and because several are hoping for appoint-

ments in the Carter administration.

One 10th Ward DFLer noted that Ford barely defeated Independent-Republican Sally Howard two years ago and predicted that he would have a hard time defeating her again this year.

Bette Bedor, an unsuccessful DFL candidate for the state Senate last year, has been urged to seek Ford's seat.

A 10th Ward source noted that Bedor, a community organizer, did well in her legislative race in the 10th Ward and probably would do well in a race for alderman. However, he said, Bedor might have some problems in a crowded fight for the DFL endorsement.

Ford worked for former Gov. Wendell Anderson and the state consumer affairs office and is on leave from his post.

Willmar's night of tigers, gorillas, terror retold by sounder of alarm

WILLMAR, Minn. (AP) — People still talk about the day Morris Chargo, the poor man's Orson Wells, turned Willmar upside down.

It was 28 years ago Wednesday when Chargo adlibbed a story on his weekly KWLM radio program and sent panic-stricken parents into the streets for their children. He had broadcast that wild animals were on the loose in Willmar.

Wire services grabbed the story. Newspapers and radios across the country carried news about Willmar. It was the great circus-train hoax.

BUT CHARGO'S remarks about a fictitious circus-train stopover in Willmar were typical. He is a story teller, a country humorist who delights in hearing people laugh. "Everybody likes to tell jokes," he says. "I don't tell a joke on somebody else, I use me."

It all started when Chargo sponsored a half-hour radio broadcast advertising his business, the Willmar Produce Co. Chargo was the sponsor but others did the talking, until one day when he went on the air to pass along Christmas greetings to listeners.

Chargo was a bit nervous and the studio audience broke up laughing — laughing probably because a Ukrainian accent is somewhat rare in Little Scandinavia. "I always thought I talk perfect English," he said. "But my accent — I couldn't give it away, I couldn't bury it."

THE LAUGHTER sounded pret-

ty good and when Chargo discovered that "no matter what I said, people laughed" he began doing the show. There was a live dance band, jokes, dedications and stories.

On the night he turned Willmar upside down, Chargo had been to visit a friend, Emil Grams, hospitalized with pneumonia. Chargo promised he would dedicate a number to the friend but he didn't want to say that a cold had put Grams in the hospital. After all, he was a big man, a railroad detective. Chargo needed a story, a catchy opening.

"Something awful has happened tonight," Chargo began. "A circus train, caught in the South Dakota blizzards, stopped in Willmar tonight to get hay and meat for the animals."

"One of the cages fell down and busted. Three tigers got out and the railroad detective, Emil Grams, killed two of them but he used up all his ammunition and one got away. Grams is in the hospital with seven broken ribs and a broken leg and enough stitches in him to make a circus tent."

But that wasn't enough. He had to add a few more details:

"A GORILLA weighing about 300 pounds is loose. Turn out all the lights in your house, even the basement and attic and garages, because these animals aren't used to the cold and will try to seek shelter. Get your children off the streets."

Chargo then turned to his band and the group played a waltz.



MORRIS CHARGO
He ad libbed 1949 broadcast

It was the calm before the storm. But by the time the waltz ended, the radio station's phones were humming. The remarks were given added credibility when a fire whistle blew just after Chargo's announcement. A dairy was burning, but listeners assumed it was a wild-animal alarm.

What followed would have made a good TV script. When Chargo went out of the station, he noticed a crowd. Another crowd was at the police station. Several men had brought guns.

ELSEWHERE in town, children were being whisked off the streets and skating rinks. A church meeting of 250 was adjourned abruptly.

Around the country, the story was big news. A San Diego newspaper ran a front page banner headline announcing the jungle attack. For weeks afterward sightseers drove through Willmar.

To this day, Chargo insists that the remarks were spontaneous and that he had no idea the story would be taken seriously.

Surprisingly, most of Willmar was chuckling about the story the next morning — except for the police chief, who threatened to lock Chargo up. He also suggested that Chargo be banned from the air waves. Sixty-two people in Atwater, Minn., petitioned the station to take Chargo off the air. Chargo took a holiday from his show for several weeks.

TODAY, Chargo lives quietly in retirement in Hopkins, still sporting a pencil-thin mustache.

He reminisces about hiding in a pigpen to escape the Communists in the Ukraine and fleeing to America at the age of 16. He also recalls how his sisters were turned back at Ellis Island, New York, because of quota limits. They returned to Russia and after the Nazi invasion of Kiev, he never heard from them again.

Do people still talk about the circus train incident? "All the time," he says. "They will never forget it."

CORRECTION

The annual meeting of the South Hennepin Human Services Council will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Creekside Community Center, 98th St. and Penn Av. S., Bloomington. The Star incorrectly reported the day of the event in an article on Thurs-

ROSES

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said Tim Stewart at Greenleaf Wholesale Florists Inc., 1522 Hennepin Av. "They're a limited commodity that's in big demand."

A DOZEN roses today will cost you between \$15 and \$18 at most florists in the metropolitan area. The price is apt to be nearly twice that, however, if you live outstate.

"The added cost of packaging and freight really adds up," Stewart said. He said that roses are the highest in price this year that he remembers.

"They're roughly 20 cents a flower more than last year at this time," Stewart said.

"It's ironic," said Tom Herme, a local grower, "but this is a period of big demand and it's about the hardest time of year to fill orders."

"Rose bushes will bloom about every six weeks during the spring and summer," Herme said. "In winter, it's about every nine weeks—and it's been even longer this winter."

Herme said the shorter days during winter also inhibit plant growth and the rate of bloom.

INCREASED PRICES for roses in winter are routine, according to Stan Bachman, president of Bachman's florist shops.

"Production is at its lowest in February," he said. "And the demand is about the highest of any period during the year. The production of flowers just about doubles during spring and summer."

"But you can't plant more to deal with the shortage in winter, because that would leave growers with a surplus in summer."

Roses are cheapest, Bachman said, from May to November. A dozen roses will go for about \$12 to \$15 in season. During winter months, the price goes up about 20 percent at most retail stores.

"We don't raise the prices because the demand is bigger," one florist said. "It's just that Valentine's Day comes at the worst time of year if you want to send roses."

Former premier dies

UTRECHT Netherlands (AP) — Former Dutch Premier Louis J. M. Beel, 74, died here yesterday. He was premier in 1946-48 and in 1958-59.

Cheaper-medicine laws ignored, study claims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Although most pharmacists favored laws allowing them to substitute generic for brand-name drugs, few of them are taking advantage of these laws where they have been passed, a study says.

The National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons reported yesterday on their study of drug-substitution practices in 12 states.

In Michigan, for example, the study showed druggists substituting on fewer than two of every 100 prescriptions. It also showed that Michigan doctors refused permission to substitute on only six of every 100 prescriptions, although physicians fought the substitution laws.

MORE THAN 20 states and the

District of Columbia have enacted legislation allowing the substitution of generic drugs, which are chemically the same as the brand-name products but usually cost less.

The survey was conducted over the past three months in Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Virginia and Wisconsin.

It found that substitution is being more commonly practiced by state and federal agencies than by the general population, with the result that far more of the savings have been to public treasuries than to private pocketbooks.

California, for example, estimated that it can cut Medicaid drug costs \$2 million to \$5 million a year by insisting on substitution.

Minneapolis lawyer-hoax suspect arrested by Los Angeles police

Joel E. Handler, accused of impersonating a law school classmate so he could practice law in Minnesota, was taken into custody yesterday in Los Angeles.

Handler told police he will waive extradition to Minnesota, according to Robert H. Lynn, an assistant Hennepin County attorney. Handler is charged with aggravated forgery and perjury.

He is accused of assuming the identity of Thomas E. Hatten, a

friend who had passed the Minnesota bar examination, so he could change Hatten's name to Joseph Handler. Handler had failed the bar exam.

Handler then reportedly practiced law in a Minneapolis law firm from July of 1974 until September. Hatten, who was living in Iowa, says he knew nothing of the ruse. Hatten passed the bar exam and was licensed as an attorney in Minnesota in October 1973.

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