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Why Was the KGO Killer Free?

By Carolyn Anspercher

Thursday's attempt to kill Jim Dunbar, TV and radio talk show host, and the subsequent slaying of a KGO senior account executive by the same deviant young man focused attention yesterday on California's new method of treating the mentally ill.

Up until 1969 when the Lanterman - Petris-Short Act became state law, Kwong must have been a patient at Napa State Hospital, committed as a danger to himself and to others.

SUICIDE
But with deactivation of the state hospitals as "warehouses" for the mentally ill,

new emphasis was given to treatment at the local level. So, Kwong was not sent away when his behavior became bizarre.

When Kwong's illness became apparent is not known, again because of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which demands that the records of mental patients—alive and dead—be considered confidential documents.

HISTORY
However, it is known that he was not committed because that word has all but passed from the mental health lexicon. A mentally ill person may be held as an involuntary patient for 72 hours, a period that may be extended for seven days, and then for an additional 21. And after that, there must be legal justification for further hospitalization. Otherwise, in-patient care must be voluntary.

Kwong, 25, spent something less than three months

as an in-patient at St. Mary's Hospital. It is one of five institutions here that provide such care. The others are Pacific Medical Center, Mount Zion, Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute, San Francisco General and St. Francis Memorial hospitals.

It cannot be ascertained how psychiatrists at St. Mary's diagnosed Kwong's case, nor what prognosis was projected for him. He lived for a time in an apartment on California street and then became a resident of Westside Lodge Residential Rehabilitation Center at 1000 Fulton street, the city's only three-quarter-way house for mental patients. This is a facility for patients who have been hospitalized and who are still in need of close supervision and greater staff-to-patient care than is available at the city's six half-way houses. The lodge, which is run by

Pacific Medical Center for Westside Community Mental Health Center, will give out no information about Kwong—how long he was a patient there, how he was treated for him to keep a gun in his possession and why his persistent phobia about KGO and two of its primary talk show hosts, Dunbar and Jim Eason, failed to yield to treatment.

CONJECTURE
How many such mentally ill persons there are today in San Francisco is still a matter of conjecture.

Records maintained by Dr. Barry Decker, chief of the city's mental health services, show that the total number of San Franciscans in state mental hospitals now stands at 500, where there were 1000 in 1970, and more than 5000 five years before that.

During the past fiscal year, 31,428 San Franciscans received treatment of one

sort or another at the city's various public facilities for the mentally disturbed, and 2021 were hospitalized for varying periods of time within the city.

In addition, Decker estimates there were between 400 and 500 mentally ill who received less intensive care in licensed facilities such as the Westside Lodge during the year.

This is exclusive of the senile aged, the retarded and patients with drug-induced mental illness. Dr. Decker says there are 22 state and city health department licensed care facilities currently operating in the city, with another four in the process of being licensed and 70 more licensed by the welfare department.

But, however, many officials say there are not enough. One high ranking mental health authority said yesterday that the mentally ill are

"still falling through the cracks" because there still are too few facilities to find them and provide them with care and treatment.

He emphasized, however, that it is rarely a mental out-patient under professional care and supervision that turns murderous, as did Kwong.

"Most of our murders are committed by so-called 'same' people," he said. "This was a disaster and proves the absolute necessity for establishing more after-hospitalization facilities."

He said it also suggests that the state's mental hospitals should not be closed precipitously until such facilities are made available.

"The fact of the matter remains that mentally disturbed people who are under treatment are less likely to commit violent acts than those who wander at large," he said.

Arraignment In Slaying Of Ranger

Two men charged with murder in the death of a National Park Service ranger were ordered in U.S. District Court here yesterday to be arraigned next Friday.

U.S. Magistrate Owen Woodruff ordered Alan W. Veale, 24, to appear before Judge Samuel Conti at 10:30 a.m. that day.

Woodruff also issued an order that the other murder suspect, Verenza L.C. Bowers Jr., 27, be brought from Berkeley to Judge Conti for arraignment.

Both Veale and Bowers were indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury for the August 5 death of ranger Kenneth C. Patrick at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Bowers and others are being held on charges of possession of stolen property in Berkeley. Veale is in federal custody, charged with a September 6.

Federal judges have ordered both Veale and Bowers held without bail on the murder charge.

Gunman's Father Talks About What Went Wrong

By Duffy Jennings and Rose Pak

Gum Wah Kwong sat uneasily on the edge of his bed in a cluttered Chinatown studio last night, gazed about the room at all his worldly possessions and spoke candidly of his life.

"I am a sick and lonely old man," said the 70-year-old retired cook. "My younger sons have abandoned me."

A few hours earlier, he had learned that the day before one of his sons, Lawrence Kwong, 25, had taken three shots at KGO radio personality Jim Dunbar, had killed a station employee and then shot himself to death.

The station employee, advertising executive Benjamin A. Munson, 47, died at 3 p.m. yesterday at San Francisco General Hospital from bullet wounds in the chest and stomach and arm.

'MIXED UP'
"I'm very mixed up," said Kwong. "I'm sad that my son hurt somebody. I have not heard from him in six years."

"I have no deep affection for him. We had a good time together. He left so long ago... he never bothered to phone."

The old man paused, opened his shirt and proudly displayed a surgical scar and a large square protrusion beneath his chest—the heart pacemaker that keeps him alive.

"I'm sick," he said, and coughed lightly.

He said he had three sons and a daughter. His daughter, he said, is a physician living in mainland China, with whom he corresponds regularly.

LAWRENCE
He said Lawrence was born in Canton, China, the first offspring of his second marriage. The family moved to Hong Kong in 1949, when Lawrence was 2, then immigrated to the U.S. eight years ago.

He said Lawrence lived with him in their tiny studio and attended classes at Galileo High School.

"He was a good student for about two years," Kwong said. "But then he got lazy. I scolded him and he quarreled."

Fall Harvest Festival in Japan Town

Japanese Americans from all over California will gather at the annual fall harvest festival in Japan Town.

The festival, which honors the arrival of the fall season, is being held at the Japan Center, Post and Buchanan streets, and in the adjacent areas of the Nihonmachi.

Japanese folk dancing, singing, contests and tea ceremony performances will be featured. There will also be instruction in flower arranging, tea ceremony, and demonstrations of the martial arts—judo, kendo, aikido and karate.

The festival will also feature a food bazaar, historical displays, and a variety of other activities. It will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. tomorrow.

He said Lawrence moved out after the fight. He never contacted his father again.

Kwong said he had heard Lawrence had taken a job in a restaurant, but knew little else about his son's whereabouts, excepting what he learned from Lawrence's elder brother, Robert Kwong.

He said Robert, an electrical engineer living in San Francisco, visits him regularly.

It was Robert, he said, who visited him yesterday afternoon to tell him of the tragic events at KGO and of Lawrence's subsequent suicide.

IRONY
Ironically, he had read the story in a Chinese language newspaper, but because Lawrence's name was translated from the English, he was unable to identify it as his son's.

Lawrence's mother, he said, remains in China. "She's a little crazy, I think. I guess it's hereditary," he said.

At least six months ago, Lawrence consulted a psychiatrist.

vate detective, John Immenhardt, to spin an extraordinary tale. He told Immenhardt he had been kidnapped by "radicals," that a radio receiver had been implanted in his stomach and that he received broadcasts from Dunbar and Jim Eason.

He said he was in "agony" and wanted Immenhardt to sabotage KGO's transmitter.

RESPONSE
After numerous irrational phone calls from Kwong over a five or six-week period, Immenhardt said he communicated their substance to Eason, who felt Kwong was "just another crank."

Last August, Kwong went to Hawaii, ostensibly to get away from the "agony" broadcasts. Presumably, it was after his return from Hawaii that he became a resident at Westside Lodge. Kwong's obsession was never communicated to police.

The elder Kwong bowed his head briefly and brushed a single tear from one eye. Then he abruptly sat up, as though embarrassed at having displayed such emotion.

Again he scanned the small room. It was cluttered, like a pawnshop is cluttered, with a neat stack of cartons, newspapers, ashtrays, and suitcases.

There was also an antiquated vacuum cleaner, a microphone, piles of books, a mayonnaise jar full of buttons, countless pens, pencils, pins, and other items.

He said he also had lost contact with Lawrence's younger brother, William, 24, who reportedly lives on the Peninsula.

"I was a cook," he said. "And I've lived in Chinatown all the time. I don't know what happened to Lawrence and William."

"We never had a deep father-son relationship. There was so little time..."

Size of Soviet Atomic Blast
Washington

Sensory signals monitored in the United States indicate that an underground nuclear blast detonated Thursday by the Soviet Union in the 20-kiloton to 200-kiloton range, the Atomic Energy Commission said yesterday.

The AEC said the seismic signals originated in the Southern Novaya Zemlya region of the Arctic.

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Night Clinic Long Debate on Counseling Center



BENJAMIN A. MUNSON
Slain radio executive

Victim in Shooting at KGO Dies

Benjamin A. Munson, 47, the KGO radio advertising executive who was shot Thursday by the gunman who tried to kill Jim Dunbar, died at 3 p.m. yesterday at San Francisco General Hospital.

Hospital officials said Munson died from his wounds.

Deranged gunman Lawrence Kwong ran into the radio station and shot Munson five times after bulletproof glass had kept Kwong's shots from hitting Dunbar as he broadcast from his side wall studio.

Munson, an employee of the station for 14 years, had been in critical condition from wounds in the chest, stomach and arm. He lived in San Rafael with his wife and five children.

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