Northwood Police Department
Case Notes

Case No.
9649-2a

SUBJECT: Homicide of Dr. Eleanor Vance

CASE CLOSED

Summary:
Following a full investigation into the death of Dr. Eleanor Vance, the Northwoods Police Department has determined that the incident was the result of a deliberate act carried out by Margaret Vance. The case is now closed.

Findings:

- Dr. Eleanor Vance was discovered deceased in her laboratory on March 13, 2024.
- Initial reports suggested an accidental chemical exposure. However, subsequent review by an outside investigator highlighted inconsistencies that warranted reopening the case.
- Evidence revealed that Margaret Vance took Dr. Vance's security badge from her personal belongings earlier that evening, providing unauthorized access to the laboratory.
- Once inside, Margaret Vance administered a dose of Chloroxyline via syringe. The substance, not widely known at the time, was staged to appear as though it had been spilled accidentally.
- Margaret Vance confessed to the act, stating her intention was to incapacitate, not kill, her sister. She admitted to staging the laboratory to conceal her involvement.
- Security logs, parking lot records, and witness statements were critical in reconstructing the sequence of events.

Conclusion:
The investigation concludes that Dr. Eleanor Vance's death was a homicide caused by the intentional administration of Chloroxyline by Margaret Vance. While her stated intention was not to cause death, her actions directly resulted in the fatality.

Case Status: Closed – Homicide (Confession obtained from Margaret Vance).

OFFICE

Detective Harris, Northwood PD

Jean Harris

Northwood Police Department
Statement (Form S-349)

Case No.
9649-2a

WITNESS DETAILS

First Name:	Margaret	Last Name:	Vance
Occupation.:	-	Relation:	Sister
Address:	5938 Popler Way.		

STATEMENT

I have to tell the truth. I can't carry this with me any longer.

That night, Eleanor came over for dinner. We hadn't been close for some time, but she was still my sister. When she stepped outside to take a phone call she left her bag on the chair beside her — her lab notebook, her computer, and a spare security badge. Seeing that badge made something ache in me. For a moment it felt like a life I'd lost was sitting there: a place to go, a purpose. I took the badge because, selfishly, I wanted to feel like I belonged somewhere again. I wanted to feel like I had a job and a place in the world.

Seeing the lab book brought back the days we'd worked side by side — the excitement, the arguments, the breakthroughs. It made me miss the lab so badly it hurt. Tucked away I found a small vial of Chloroxyline I'd kept from those early days after our first paper. I'd never meant to keep it; scientists don't take reagents home. But I did, because it made me feel connected to what we'd built together.

Knowing that Chloroxyline wasn't widely known, I filled a syringe. My plan wasn't to kill her. I just wanted her to understand — to know what it feels like when your body fails you, when doctors shrug their shoulders because they don't know what's wrong. That's my life now. I thought that if Eleanor experienced even a fraction of it, maybe she'd finally understand my desperation, maybe she'd even help me.

WITNESS STATEMENT (continued)

Then I left the house late, thinking no one would notice. Of course, I'd forgotten Carol across the street — she notices everything. She thinks she's being helpful, but sometimes it feels like she's always watching.

I used Eleanor's badge to get into the lab. When I found her, I injected her with Chloroxyline. I dropped a glass jar on the floor so Eleanor would think she accidently knocked over a jar. She was unconscious, just like I intended, and I left. I never, never meant for her to die.

When I heard the news the next day, I was in shock. I measured the dose carefully — it should have only knocked her out temporarily. I thought the doctors would be confused but that she would recover. I wanted her shaken, not gone forever. I told myself it was an accident to keep from facing what I had done. I hoped, selfishly, that silence and time would make it smaller, that investigators would accept the accident and move on. But nothing makes this smaller. Nothing will bring her back.

I am sorry. I'm sorry to Eleanor, who was my sister and a brilliant scientist. I'm sorry to Ann, to her students, to everyone who loved her. I thought I was asking for understanding; instead I took her life. I will carry that for the rest of mine.

DECLARATION

I declare that this statement is made voluntarily, and I confirm that the information provided is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge and memory. I also understand that this statement may be used in legal or formal proceedings.

Margaret Vance PhD

OFFICE

Detective Harris, Northwood PD

Jean Harris

To the Northwoods Police Department and the Special Investigator,

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the tireless work you have put into Eleanor's case. While nothing can bring her back, I find comfort in knowing that the truth has finally come to light. For so long, there were more questions than answers, and that uncertainty weighed heavily on all who cared for her.

I now know that it was Margaret who was responsible, and while that knowledge is painful, it is also necessary. Eleanor deserved the truth, and so did all of us who loved her. I will carry the sorrow of that betrayal, but also the relief of no longer living in the shadows of doubt.

Your dedication, persistence, and willingness to look deeper when the easy answer was "accident" have made all the difference. Knowing how Eleanor's life truly ended brings me peace, even in sorrow. Justice, in its truest form, is not always about punishment but about truth — and now, at last, we have that truth.

Please know that your efforts will not be forgotten. Eleanor's memory is being honored not only by those who loved her, but by the students and colleagues who will carry her work forward. Because of you, her story is no longer defined by mystery, but by resolution.

With respect and gratitude,

Ann Calloway

Ann Calloway

Northwood Gazette

Scholarship Established in Memory of Dr. Eleanor Vance

By: Lydia Harper

NORTHWOOD — Northwoods Institute has announced the creation of a new scholarship honoring the late Dr. Eleanor Vance, a beloved scientist, mentor, and colleague whose contributions to biochemistry left a lasting mark on both research and education.

The scholarship, designed to support graduate students in biochemistry, is being made possible through a collaboration between three people who knew Eleanor best: Dr. Marcus Adler, fellow researcher; Catherine Rowe, former collaborator; and Ann Calloway, Eleanor's longtime partner.

Catherine Rowe and Marcus Adler worked closely with Northwoods Institute to finalize a new research partnership agreement that addresses many of Eleanor's priorities and concerns, ensuring her vision for responsible, impactful science will live on. A portion of the revenue generated from this partnership will be dedicated to funding the scholarship annually.

Meanwhile, Ann Calloway has taken on a pivotal role in outreach, helping with marketing and communications so that students across the region know about the opportunity. "Eleanor cared deeply about mentoring the next generation," Calloway said. "She believed science should be accessible, and this scholarship is one way we can honor her commitment."

Dr. Adler emphasized that the scholarship is not only about financial support but also about carrying forward Eleanor's values. "Eleanor demanded rigor, creativity, and compassion in her work. We hope this scholarship inspires students to pursue science with the same dedication she embodied."

Applications for the scholarship will open later this year, with details available on the Northwoods Institute website.

Through this initiative, Eleanor's colleagues and loved ones hope to ensure that her passion for biochemistry and her legacy of mentorship will continue to shape future scientists for years to come.