

TUMOR

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The first shot and then emptied his revolver into Whitman; Officer Houston McCoy, who followed with two quick blasts from a shotgun; Officer Jerry Day, close on their heels; and Allen Crum, University Co-Op floor supervisor; were credited with "the highest acts of bravery."

Until they got inside the tower and stilled his arsenal of guns, Whitman held the campus and streets ringing the University under siege. More than 50 law officers, maneuvering for an aim at a fleeing figure beneath the tower clock, were held pinned down by his rapid fire.

The dead, the wounded lay in the streets, on the Main Mall and in the tower itself. Students, ambulance drivers, policemen and other volunteers repeatedly risked their lives trying to reach those downed and get them out of range. Patrolman Billy Speed died trying to get a bead on the sniper from the Jeff Davis statue on the southwest edge of the south mall.

Most of the victims — dead and wounded — had never heard of Charles Whitman. Except for his wife and mother, they were probably all strangers to him.

Nearly 24 hours after the blood letting ended, there were lots of pieces but few answers to what turned an ex-scoutmaster and one-time Scout wonder boy into a mass executioner. When the battlefield was stilled in mournful silence Whitman took on an above average personality: A native of Lake Worth, Fla., where he was moderately popular in high school, a third year architectural student with better than average grades, an excellent Marine, a hard worker, a friend to all who knew him; and psychiatric patient.

Before commanding his executioner's post in the tower, Whitman had fatally stabbed his wife at their South Austin home and had mortally shot his mother — who moved here from Florida to be near her son — at her downtown Austin apartment.

He said the police investigation was not complete, but information which police have on the mass shooting will be turned over to the Travis County grand jury which meets in regular session Tuesday afternoon.

Asked whether the notes indicated what kind of stress Whitman was under, Miles told a jammed briefing room at police headquarters:

"He knew he was mentally distressed but seemed completely bewildered as to what his problems were."

Miles was accompanied at the press briefing by the three police officers and the bookstore employee credited with storming the tower fortress and gunning down the sniper.

The chief first declined to let reporters question the officers directly, saying that he would speak for the group.

Later he let Patrolman Ramiro Martinez, the officer credited with putting the first bullet into Whitman, speak.

Martinez said he was just doing the job "I had to do."

The patrolman spoke after Allen Crum, University Co-Op floor supervisor who went to the observation deck with the police officers, told the briefing he fired the first shot when they got out on the parapet.

In a called meeting of the City Council Tuesday morning, Mayor Lester Palmer led city officials in extending sympathy to the families of the victims and in paying tribute to the many acts of courage exhibited by citizens during the long, black day.

"So many of our citizens acted so courageously and at the risk of their own lives," Palmer said to the hushed Council meeting. He singled out Patrolman Billy Speed and Allen Crum, the civilian who assisted in the capture of Whitman.

The mayor and the councilmen were lavish in the praise of the police department and the staff and doctors of Brackenridge Hospital.

"While this dark day in history happened in our great city, I do feel in a broader sense that it happened in the City of Man," Palmer said. "The great minds will always search for answers as to why these things happen."

Councilman Travis LaRue, noting the valiant efforts of so many who worked with the victims, said: "Never have I been more proud of my community."

Whitman left behind a series of eerie notes detailing a gruesome 12-hour trail of murder and mental anguish aimed at climaxing just as it did.

Here is how police recounted the history of the last hours of Whitman's life — and the lives of those who innocently crossed the paths of his weapons:

Whitman picked up his 23-year-old wife Kathleen Leissner

Whitman sometime after 9:30 p.m. Sunday at Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. where she was employed until her teaching job at Lanier High School was to start.

Whitman and his wife went to their home at 906 Jewel, a small brick house. He had apparently already written a note saying "pressures are building up."

At that point, sometime around 9:30 p.m., Whitman was interrupted by friends. His writing did not elaborate. The note took up again in longhand at 3 a.m. with the announcement:

"Wife and mother both dead."

About 9:30 a.m. Monday Whitman purchased on credit a shotgun at Sears Roebuck. He sawed off the stock and barrel sometime before taking the weapon with the rest of his arsenal to the campus.

Monday morning Whitman called his wife's supervisor at the telephone company to say his wife would not be at work.

Quoting from a note Whitman marked as having been written at 9 a.m. Monday, Police Chief Bob Miles said "he killed his wife and mother, whom he loved dearly, because he did not want to leave them to face the embarrassment after he did what he was going to do."

Apparently about 11 a.m. Whitman took his arsenal, packed into his Marine Corps footlocker, to the tower. He reportedly packed the laden footlocker on a dolly by elevator to the 27th floor and carried it the final flight of stairs onto the observation deck — passing as a repairman past elevator operators and a receptionist inside the observation deck office.

The footlocker contained seven weapons, including a large Bowie knife, a military field pack filled with ammunition, a five gallon plastic bottle of water, another plastic bottle of gasoline, sandwiches, other food, and a towel.

Weapons in the footlocker included a 6 mm Remington-Union with a four-power scope, a .35 mm Remington rifle, a 30 caliber carbine, a 1.357 Magnum pistol, a 9 mm Luger pistol, and a 12-gauge shotgun with a sawed off barrel and stock.

Whitman must have opened fire on persons in the tower first. Mrs. William Lampert, of 2605 Cascade Dr., and her 15-year-old nephew, Mark Gambour, of Texarkana, were reportedly killed on the 27th floor before Whitman opened fire over the observation deck.

In all, police counted six bodies, not counting the dead Whitman, in the tower. Blood literally ran down the stair case between the 27th and 28th floors.

Whitman fired his first shot off the observation deck about 11:45 a.m. He fired from all sides of the tower, but his main field of fire was the spacious, open mall to the south.

His victims fell bleeding on the sidewalks and grass as he poured out as much as one well-aimed bullet every 30 seconds.

The bullets sprayed the south mall, business houses along the Guadalupe Drag to the west, and virtually every movement within two blocks of the tower.

Students who were missed by Whitman's initial blasts dived behind automobiles and any other available cover — often only scant feet from the broken bodies of their colleagues.

Every law officer on duty and many off duty officers went to the University to return Whitman's fire, but because of the height and the width of the observation deck ledge Whitman was shielded from their sights.

Many of the victims lay in the 98-degree sunshine on the hot sidewalk for more than an hour before an armored plated vehicle from Armored Motor Service was pressed into action as an ambulance to pick the wounded and dead off the exposed mall.

A helicopter from Aviation Training Center at Tim's Airpark took city police lieutenant Marion Lee above the tower. Whitman's pinpoint aim threatened the chopper before Lee could fire down onto the deck.

During the 90-minute-long pitched battle ambulances moved cautiously in the alley behind the Drag evacuating victims who had managed to stagger into the stores.

Among the first arrivals on the scene who returned Whitman's fire was Patrolman Billy P. Speed. He died instantly when Whitman fired on him on the Inner Campus Drive.

Whitman's aim was fantastic. Brackenridge Hospital authorities said later that most of the victims were hit in the chest.

The end to the costly high noon came when Patrolman Ramiro Martinez led a party of officers into the tower through an underground tunnel.

Martinez — later called the hero of the day by his chief — and fellow officers Jerry Day, Houston McCoy, Milton Shoggett and George Shepard found Allen Crum, a Co-Op salesman armed with a rifle, in the tunnel.

After getting inside the Main Building through the tunnel, the

partly took a service elevator to the sickening scene on the 27th floor.

They climbed the staircase, stepping over as many as four bodies in pools of blood, to the office of the observation deck. Martinez and Crum went out a door on the south side. Crum crawled along the south side toward the southwest corner.

Martinez crawled along the east wall to the northeast corner. As Martinez peered around the corner he saw Whitman in the northwest corner, looking south drawing a bead on Crum.

Martinez fired his revolver once at Whitman. The bullet hit its target, but Whitman whirled and fired at Martinez. He missed.

Martinez emptied his revolver at Whitman and officer McCoy stepped out of the door and fired two rounds from his shotgun and fired again.

The gunman fell dead, a .38 gun. Martinez took McCoy's slug in the neck, a shotgun pellet between his eyes and his left side "blown away" by a shotgun blast. Whitman's body was brought down from the tower just after 2 p.m.

As Whitman fell dead, bullets from lawmen on the ground continued to spray the tower.

Crum picked up and waved a blue towel Whitman had brought to the tower.

Until they killed Whitman, lawmen were not sure how many snipers were on the tower. Whitman delivered a massive volume of fire, dashing from one side of the tower to the other.

Just minutes after tentative identification was made from papers on the body, Austin police detective Donald Kidd received a telephone call from Whitman's father-in-law, R. W. Leissner of Needville, a small community in Fort Bend County southwest of Houston.

Leissner had heard of the tower killer and wanted officers here to check on his daughter. Kidd went to the South Austin home, broke a window to get inside and found the wife's body. She had been fatally stabbed as she slept.

While Kidd was at the Whitman home, police found the body of the gunman's mother, Mrs. Margaret Whitman, shot to death in her apartment at the Penthouse at West 13th and Guadalupe.

This slaying scene had all of Whitman's marks. A note on the door said "Do Not Disturb." Another note, written by Whitman and addressed to a "Roy" was found in the hall. It said "Mother ill and not able to come to work today."

Mrs. Whitman had been in Austin about six months since leaving her husband, C. A. Whitman, in Lake Worth, Fla. Police did not know where Mrs. Whitman was employed.

The elder Whitman, a plumbing contractor, told Austin police Monday afternoon that he would come to Texas to claim the bodies of his wife and son. But Monday night he and two of Whitman's brothers were reported in seclusion in Lake Worth.

Amy Jo Long of the University's News and Information Service said she received a call at 11:55 a.m. from personnel at the Humanities Research Center saying "someone is shooting at people from the tower."

"There is blood all over the place. Don't come here. We have locked ourselves in," Miss Long reported the callers as warning.

Elevator operator Mrs. Vera Palmer said that when she arrived at the 27th floor about 11:55 a.m. a "man in a white shirt with tennis shoes in his hand" told her:

"Lady, don't you dare get off this elevator. Go on down."

Mrs. Palmer was going to the top of the tower to relieve Mrs. Edna Townsley. Mrs. Townsley was shot to death by the gunman.

Chris Whitcraft, an American-Statesman reporter, was in Sutton Hall, southwest of the tower, when the shooting started. He said he counted "eight shots in less than three minutes."

"There were groups of students standing around in small knots on five and 10," Whitcraft said. "They were being very cautious. They were hovering in doorways and at the sides of buildings."

Whitcraft saw one woman trapped near the base of the U.S. flagpole, caught and pinned down between bullets of the sniper and police officers.

Whitcraft said he overheard one nearby police officer saying to another, "The captain said if I can shoot him, go ahead."

University student Richard Embry said there was a hull in the sniper's fire from 12:15 and 12:20 p.m., apparently while the gunman reloaded his weapons.

"There is this concrete and iron sort of barricade that he



IN THE AFTERMATH — A visitor to The University of Texas campus Tuesday morning did not have to look far to find this scene repeated over and over: a student sitting alone, reading a newspaper, within view of the tower. Forrest Prece

hides behind," Embry said.

"Then he pops his head over to take another shot. You can see the gleam of the gun. He is firing down and the police are firing up at him."

After the gun battle had raged for more than an hour, city police had to go to a restaurant more than a block from the campus where a private citizen with a high-powered rifle was returning the sniper fire. There were unconfirmed reports of other private weapons being fired at the tower.

Leland Ammons, a first-year law student living at 2002 Whitis, was at the side of Patrolman Billy Speed when the young police officer was shot and killed.

"Two policemen came up where we were behind the Jeff Davis statue on the southwest corner of the Mall," Ammons said. "Both had shotguns. Speed was peeking around the corner and the other officer was creeping up when Speed was shot. The sniper shot through the columns. There were three or four shots and it could have been a ricochet that hit him. I didn't think he was hit that bad. He was bleeding but it appeared to be high on the shoulder. Everybody did all they could. Got him to the shade and gave him water, exposing ourselves to the sniper to move him."

A workman at the Texas Theatre across the street from the campus, Orville Jansen, said he heard the first shots fired and dived behind a barricade.

Jansen said he saw a girl fall to the sidewalk. The girl, Jansen said, had been shot in the chest. He carried the girl to an alley where an ambulance evacuated her.

Shots were fired at Jansen while he ran to the girl, he said. He said he did not know how close the shots came, but that he heard them strike the concrete.

Bullets rattled the display windows at Sheftall Jewelers at 2268 Guadalupe. One of the shots found its mark in store manager Homer Kelly.

Three wounded University students staggered into the jewelry store also.

Ben Baldwin Jr., 2201 W. 9th, advertising salesman for the Austin American-Statesman, was walking down the Drag to his car when he heard "what sounded like firecrackers."

"I turned around and somebody said, 'they are shooting at you from the tower.' A bullet hit not more than three feet from me in front of Berkman's. A paper boy riding a bicycle on the mall across the street was shot.

CAUSE

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phrenic. "He is a very sick person with headaches, nausea, vomiting and loss of balance." ("This Whitman case may yet be a real service in helping the public to understand the complexities of human behavior and need for prevention, early detection and prompt treatment of mental disorders," Dr. Boston said. "It takes quite a bit to make a man go that berserk.")

Dr. Boston said no real diagnosis can be made for anyone who is not a patient.

"I have been very shaken up by this," said Dr. Boston. "I keep thinking what could we have done to prevent it."

Dr. Boston made these comments about the apparently carefully planned mass murder from the U.T. Tower following murders of the sniper's mother and wife:

Paranoid schizophrenia is a mental disorder or psychosis indicated by relatively poor contact with reality. There is a disturbance in the mental processes which does not prevent a degree of intellectual efficiency. But the psychotic person reaches the wrong conclusions and gives the wrong importance to the wrong facts.

In this psychosis the affected person usually feels persecuted, or faked upon. At the same time he has a feeling of grandiosity, that he is someone special. His behavior is based on fallacious thinking.

The likelihood of this student having another type of psychosis would be small.

It is not uncommon in paranoid schizophrenia for a man to be very close to his mother and hostile to his father. Frequently this is generalized to other authority figures. In this case Whitman as a Marine might have benefited from supportive forces of identification with his outfit or the Marine Corps during his service.

The separation of his mother and father and the mother's moving to Austin would have added stress.

It would be most interesting to know if this man had seen any doctor for any reason recently. Frequently such afflicted people will give clues or indirect cries for help, perhaps by going to a doctor with some superficial or imagined complaint.

The public often feels things like this result from some fine little wire snapping in the mind and it could happen to the rest of us.

This is not true. Persons bent on homicide or suicide ordinarily offer suffi-

of 4763 Sinclair, a junior student, sat on a wall in front of the Texas Union, reading—but perhaps, like others, not yet fully comprehending—the details of Monday's 90 minutes of terror and tragedy.

HORROR

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impossible," Whitman told a news conference in the front yard of his one-story frame home.

"He just snapped," said the father.

Whitman said the regret and sorrow he felt about the mass slayings was too great to be expressed.

"My son," he said, "has committed a crime that is a great horror to the whole world. I know you all realize that this boy is sick. I don't know what else to say about him."

Whitman said he felt great sympathy for the friends and relatives of the victims. But right now, he said, he did not know what he could do for them.

"This thing is just too big," he said.

Whitman said his son pushed himself to the breaking point "trying to make a point," but he added he was unable to put into words what the son was trying to prove by pushing himself to get good grades and hold down a job at the University.

"He's always been like that," Whitman said. "Why, he was an Eagle Scout at the age of 12—the youngest ever around here."

"He was under tremendous strain," he repeated. "I talked to him on the phone for 30 minutes just two and half weeks ago and I told him he was working too hard."

At that time, he said, there was no indication his son was depressed.

"In fact, we set up plans for a hunting trip to Texas and Mexico this fall," he said.

Whitman said he taught his son about guns at an early age. "I'm a fanatic about guns," Whitman said. "I'm a great hunter. My boys knew about guns. I believe in that."

Charles, he said, was the best hunter in the family.

"He was always a crack shot," his father said.

cient clues to others to recognize them as cries for help. When these are ignored, they go ahead and carry out whatever it is they were planning. This man went to great lengths to get himself killed.

Dr. Boston is on the board of trustees of Mental Health — Mental Retardation Community Center of Austin-Travis County. He is former director of Austin Child Guidance Center. He is an assistant professor for the special education department of U.T. College of Education.

TOLL

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his wife and children, to the Tower and was one of the first victims.

Mark Gabour, 15, was shot on the Tower with his aunt, Mrs. Lamport. Mrs. Gabour and another son, Mike, 18, were wounded and are in Brackenridge Hospital.

Mrs. Edna Townsley, 51, of 4203 Alice Avenue, was an elevator operator at U. T. Just before noon Mrs. Townsley was due to be relieved from her job atop the Tower. Her relief operator, Mrs. Vera Palmer was warned by a man not to get off the elevator. Mrs. Townsley died in Seton Hospital.

Thomas Ashton, a 22-year-old college graduate, was from Redlands, Calif. Ashton was in training with the Peace Corps and was to have been assigned to Iran.

Mrs. Kathleen Leissner Whitman, wife of the sniper Charles J. Whitman, was a 23-year-old public school teacher temporarily working as an information operator with Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. A native of Needville, Mrs. Whitman taught biology last year at Lanier High School and was a graduate of the University of Texas. Mrs. Whitman's body was found at the residence she and her husband shared, 906 Jewel.

Mrs. Margaret Whitman, mother of Charles Whitman, moved to Austin from Lake Worth, Fla. about six months ago. She was estranged from her husband C. A. Whitman, a plumbing contractor in Lake Worth. Police found her body in her apartment at the Penthouse Apartments, 11th and Guadalupe.

Thomas Eckman of 806 E. 23rd, of Barcelona, Spain.

Thomas Karr, 24, of 803 W. 28th in Austin, a Fort Worth native who died in the operating room.

Claudia Rutt, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Rutt of 3415 Cascadera, who dated young Sonntag.

Harry Walchuk of 385 Lake Austin Blvd., who died in the operating room.

Baby Boy Wilson, who died while surgery was being performed on his mother, Mrs. Claire Wilson.

THE WOUNDED

Roland Ehke, 21, of 1103 W. 24th, a Peace Corps trainee from Milwaukee, Wis., released to Student Health Center.

Irma Garcia, 21, of 2211 Leon, a university student from Los Angeles, Calif., fair condition.

Morris Hohmann, 30, of 410 Lightys Rd., manager of Hyllin-Mor Funeral Home, serious.

Billy Snowden, 35, of 2202 Woodmont, a teacher at the School of the Deaf, fair.

Mary Frances Gabour, 41, a Texarkana housewife, and mother of Mark Gabour, 15, who was killed; critical condition.

Mike Gabour, 19, also of Texarkana, serious.

Adrian Littlefield, 19, of Conroe, an evangelist, critical.

David Mattson, 24, a Peace Corps trainee for Iran from Minneapolis, Minn., fair.

Mrs. Brenda Gail Littlefield, 18, of 5513 Overbrook, good condition at Seton Hospital.

Robert Heard, 36, one of the first reporters on the scene from the Associated Press, fair.

Alex Hernandez, 17, of 190-B S. 1st, a student, serious.

John Scott Allen, 18, of 1510 Coronado, fair.

Avelino Esparza, 2047 W. Malone, a carpenter, serious.

Karen Griffith, 17, of 8210 Briarwood, critical.

David Gumbly, of 1112-B Brackenridge Apts., an electrical engineering student from Dallas, critical.

Nancy Harvey, 21, of 5201 Shoalercreek, fair.

Devereau Huffman of 1505 Ridgehaven, A. U. T. graduate student in psychology, serious.

Abdullah Khashab, 25, of Iraq, a graduate student in chemistry, fair.

Janet Paulas of 2100 Nueces, and native of Garland, serious.

Lana Phillips, 21, of 2100 Oldham, an employee of a Guadalupe St. store, fair.

Oscar Royvela, 21, of 2211 Leon, fair.

Claire Wilson, 18, of 806 E. 23rd St., critical.

Sandra Wilson, 21, of 2208 Rio Grande, serious.

Treated and released from Brackenridge were:

Miguel Solis, 25, of 2803½ Hemphill Park.

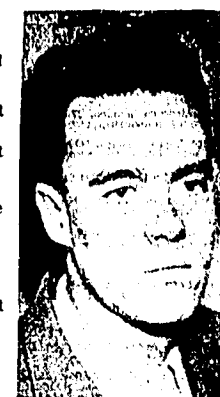
Robert Frede, a Kansas City, Mo. student.

Dolores Ortega, a graduate student in elementary education from San Antonio.

F. L. Foster of 5702 Majave Dr.

C. A. Stewart of Baytown.

Homer J. Kelley of Route 1,



UPI Telephone

1919 SNIPER — Howard Unruh, now a patient in the Trenton, N.J. State Hospital, historically performed the largest mass murder in the U.S. until Charles Whitman's deadly rampage on the UT campus Monday. Unruh shot and killed 13 persons in 12 minutes on a Camden, N.J. street, Sept. 6, 1919.

UNRUH

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was arraigned Monday, charged with the killings.

Another Chicago case that captured international attention was the 1929 St. Valentine's Day massacre in which seven members of the George (Bugs) Moran gang were lined up against a garage wall and machine-gunned by what was believed to be a rival underworld faction. The killers were never caught.

Six robbery victims died at the hands of Connecticut's "mad dog" killers, Joseph Taborsky and Arthur Columbe, in 1956.

Taborsky died in the electric chair and Columbe, who successfully appealed his first-degree murder conviction, is serving a life term.

The same year, William Bauer, fatally wounded six members of his family in their Parsippany-Troy Hills, N.J., home then turned a shotgun on himself.

Another mass murder case, that of Perry Smith and Richard Hickock, who killed four members of a well-known Kansas farming family, became the basis of Truman Capote's best-selling book "In Cold Blood."

Smith and Hickock were hanged for the crime in which Herbert Clutter, his wife and their two children lost their lives.

In 1961, Terry Jo Dupperault, 11, lived through a har