

At First Students Just Couldn't Believe Eyes

By DON VANDIVER
Staff Writer

"My God, he's shooting people," a U.T. coed screamed as she ran to shelter in the Texas Union. She ran sobbing down the hall, her dress spotted with blood.

Students on the campus scattered, running behind trees and bushes, wherever they could get out of the hidden rifleman's sight.

Students on campus Monday at noon couldn't seem to believe their eyes and ears. When other students who had taken shelter shouted "Run—or he'll blow your head off!" They stood for a moment before dashing for safety.

One coed who had heard the shooting came out of the Academic Center and started across the mall. Someone grabbed her and said "You can't go out there. Some guy is shooting people."

"Oh, my gosh, I only have an hour for lunch." She had thought the shooting was some kind of a celebration.

Persons who hadn't seen any blood joked about it at first, but they soon became serious.

Students were locked in wherever they happen to be at the time when it was realized that someone was trying to kill all who showed themselves.

At the University Academic Center, located next to the tower on the west side, students peered out the windows at first in an effort to see the sniper. They were soon warned away from the windows by campus police.

Don Bynum, a senior math major, was napping on the open patio on the roof of the Academic Center when the shooting began.

"I thought it was some kind of celebration at first," he said. "Then I saw him on the tower. I could see that he had at least two different rifles and was dressed in gray." Bynum said.

"When I first heard the shooting, I looked at the Tower

clock. It was nearly noon. If hadn't looked at the clock, I might not have seen him," he said.

James Damon, a graduate student, reacted quicker than most. He was walking on the Main Mall when the shooting began. He was on his way to pick up his wife for lunch. She works in the library stacks on the 12th floor of the Tower.

Damon rushed to his home near the campus and returned with a military carbine.

He was one of the first to begin returning the fire of the sniper. He began shooting back about 30 minutes after the first shots fired by the sniper.

Damon stationed himself on the roof of the academic Center with a detective and this reporter. Protected by a stone retaining wall, he and the detective

began to fire up at the Tower. The pair continued firing until Damon ran out of ammunition for his rifle. He said that he had more in his car, but it was across the campus.

"I don't know what has happened to my wife," he said. A large number of persons were trapped by the fire of the sniper in relatively open areas on the two main malls near the Tower.

An armored car moved onto the mall about 1:15 p.m. and began picking up the wounded and trapped.

The top of the tower was nearly obscured at times by the dust created by the impact of bullets. The sniper appeared to be shooting from drain holes that pierce the protective railing around the Tower observation deck.

A final flurry of shots occurred about 2 p.m. People began to move out in the open again a few minutes after the reverberations of the final shots faded.

Large crowds quickly gathered at the foot of the Tower to watch as one ambulance after another was filled with wounded and dead.

One boy, wearing blood-stained pants and socks, waved to the crowd as he was placed in the ambulance.

A deputy sheriff came out of the Tower finally. He carried a sawed-off shotgun and a pistol. His white shirt and his arms were spotted with blood. The way he was walking and holding his head needed no explanation.

"They're all dead up there," he said.



TOWER VICTIM—A woman is wheeled from the University Tower by ambulance attendants shortly after the sniping spree of Charles Joseph Whitman was ended by bullets from two policemen. This woman was the second of the victims re-

moved from the Tower. She was unconscious from head wounds, and blood covered her from her toes to her head. Her eyes, blue and swollen, indicated the seriousness of her wounds.

Secretary Hid Behind Flagpole

By DERRO EVANS
Staff Writer

By 11:45 a.m. Monday Charlotte Darchshori had begun to think of her lunch hour.

The pretty brunette secretary in the University of Texas graduate dean's office paused for a moment to gaze from a window on the east side of the Old Library Building.

She looked across the broad terrace which runs the width of the main Building. Although the air conditioning prevented her from hearing outside noises, Mrs. Darchshori could see trees and shrubs rustling in a light breeze.

She noticed several persons walking across the terrace in the bright August sunshine. As she watched, three persons fell, one after another, to the pavement.

Not fully realizing what had happened, Mrs. Darchshori rose quickly from her desk, dashed down a hall and headed for the door leading outside to the terrace.

Firmly lodged in Charlotte Darchshori's mind was the thought that she must learn what had happened and, if possible, assist the three persons who were sprawled motionless on the concrete.

She had no idea that on the other side of the door she would walk into a living nightmare of fear and death.

As she made her way toward the nearest body, a rifle shot rang out from above. Mrs. Darchshori looked up, and suddenly she was totally aware of the complete horror of that moment: A sniper was firing from atop the university's 27-story tower, murdering everyone in his range.

A few feet away from Mrs. Darchshori was the round concrete base of a flagpole flying the American flag. She sought shelter there.

For the next hour and a half, Mrs. Darchshori crouched behind the flagpole base, a structure about five feet in diameter and two feet in height.

Although many people in surrounding buildings saw the slender figure in the sleeveless blue shift, no one dared attempt to reach her. The sniper's bullets continued to bring a macabre madness to the tree-shaded, formerly tranquil atmosphere of the campus.

Mrs. Darchshori said later that she could not recall what thoughts raced through her mind as she hid behind the flagpole base, her legs folded beneath her and her head pressed firmly against the side of the hot concrete structure.

But surely she had time to remember her husband, a mining salesman and their 3-year-old daughter. She may have also recalled that only one month ago she had begun her new job at the university.

Later Mrs. Darchshori told a reporter, "I was in no danger. I am so small, and the base of the flagpole is so large."

But when her ordeal was over, and a group of co-workers led Mrs. Darchshori back to her office, the young woman was wide-eyed and trembling.

Family, Home Town Mourn Kathy Whitman

By RICHARD E. BEENE
NEEDVILLE, Tex. (AP)—Grim-faced and visibly shaken, residents of this tiny South Texas town joined the parents of Mrs. Kathy Whitman Monday in expressing grief and shock after she was slain by her husband before he shot 12 people to death in Austin.

Neighbors rushed to the huge brick house of Raymond W. Leissner, father of the 23-year-old school teacher, to offer comfort.

On main street, housewives and farmers crowded around radios and televisions, whispering silently among themselves and shaking their heads as they learned Charles Joseph Whitman apparently stabbed Kathy to death before dawn Monday in their Austin apartment.

Whitman also killed his mother in Austin before taking refuge atop the University of Texas tower where he rained bullets on passersby for more than an hour. Police later killed him.

Friends of the family, many who had known Kathy and Whitman before they were married four years ago, talked in subdued tones, almost refusing to believe what they had learned.

"She was a clean-cut girl," said H. F. Ley, a neighbor. Whitman, he said, "was a good kid" and both were well liked.

"The whole family is well liked. They're all just a good bunch of people," Ley added.

Leissner, president of the Needville Chamber of Commerce and active in many local civic

activities, was near tears as he told newsmen simply: "Well, she was our only daughter."

"He was just as normal as anybody I ever knew, and he worked awfully hard at his grades," Lessner said of Whitman.

"It's indeed a shock," Mrs. Willie Conrad, another friend of the family, repeated to herself after learning the news.

Mrs. Leissner, an elementary school English teacher, remained in her home as newsmen and officers swarmed outside.

Leissner, a rice farmer and realtor who has three young sons, said "There was nothing wrong with Whitman" that I

knew of. It's just a very sad tragedy that happened to a very nice family (the Whitmans)."

School superintendent Louis Ludwig, who knew Kathy when she graduated from high school in 1961, described her as "an outstanding student, a real fine girl, very pretty." Kathy was crowned queen of the annual Youth Fair several years ago.

Johnny Randermann, owner of a service station in this town of 968 people 35 miles southwest of Houston, said: "I just don't understand it." He last saw Whitman five weeks ago when he and Leissner borrowed gear to go frog goggling. Whitman "seemed fine then," Randermann said.

"Yes, he was a good looking boy, tall and blond. Kathy was real pretty."

Donald Ferguson, a former and friend of the Leissners, said Kathy was "as sweet a person as I have ever knew—I mean 11-100 per cent."

Slain Prof A Rhodes Scholar

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A Rhodes scholar from Johnstown was among those shot to death Monday by a sniper at the University of Texas in Austin.

Dr. Robert H. Boyer, 33, this city's only Rhodes scholar, was graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1953 and later attended Oxford University in England, where he was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree in 1957.

Boyer taught at the University of Liverpool in England four of the past five years. He had been on a leave of absence from Liverpool to teach at the University of Texas. He had worked for Westinghouse Electric Corp. in Pittsburgh for three years.

He was the father of two children. His widow is expecting her third child next month.

Bicycle Tells Tragic Story

An empty bicycle and a bag of newspapers were mute testimony to one of the sniper's bullets.

The bullet slammed home in the leg of Alex Hernandez, a newspaper salesman for the American-Statesman. Young Hernandez was struck as he rode along the Drag.



AMBULANCE COVER—An ambulance attendant takes cover behind his vehicle during the ordeal Monday on The University of Texas campus. One ambulance driver, Morris Holmann of Hyllin-Manor, was wounded while attempting to

rescue one of the sniper's victims. The sniper did not pick his victims. He shot at the young and the old, both men and women. Nobody who moved in line of fire from the Tower was in danger.

Visitors To Tower First Victims

An Austin woman and her 15-year-old nephew from Texarkana, who went to the tower to enjoy its once-magnificent view, apparently were among the sniper's first victims.

Mrs. Margaret Lamport, of 2608 Cascade Dr., had taken her brother's family, the M. J. Gabours to the tower about noon.

Gabour said later that the gunman "wheeled" and opened fire on the family before he began firing over the edge of the observation deck.

Killed were Mrs. Lamport, 45, and Mark Gabour, 15. Wounded, but not thought to be in serious condition, were Mrs. Gabour and another son, Mike, 18.

Mrs. Lamport was the wife of William Lamport.

U.T. Flags Were Flying Half-Staff

The United States and Texas flags on the quadrangle below the University of Texas tower to the south were at half-mast when the shooting began from the observation deck.

They had been lowered to half-mast in tribute to retired Army Reserve Lt. Col. Richard Bryant Pelton, 56, a research scientist associate for the U.T. Clayton Foundation Biochemical Institute. He died Friday night of an apparent heart attack after returning from Florida funeral services for his stepfather. Pelton's funeral was at 2 p.m. Monday with services at St. Michael's Episcopal Church.

Gunman Aimed For the Heart

A spokesman for Brackenridge Hospital said Monday night that sniper Charles Whitman "must have been shooting for the heart."

The hospital spokesman said victims of the gunman were predominately "wounded in the chest," although many were wounded in other places.



COUSIN OF THE SNIPER—Linda McGuire, cousin of Charles Joseph Whitman, sobs as she starts to enter the home of his father late Monday in Lake Worth, Fla. The father and Whitman's two younger brothers went into seclusion with a priest

shortly after they learned of the mass murders on The University of Texas campus and the deaths of the sniper's wife and mother. The father, C. A. Whitman, is a Lake Worth plumbing contractor.

Austinites Rush To Donate Blood For Shooting Victims

Volunteer blood donors answered Monday's urgent call for blood at the Travis County Medical Society Blood Bank in such great numbers that many were being sent home as early as 2:30 p.m.

Donors for those injured by the sniper fire from the University of Texas tower lined up outside the blood bank in great numbers and traffic near the bank's location was rerouted.

By early Monday afternoon

the need for A positive and A negative blood had been filled, and only those having O negative type were being admitted.

Austinites had answered the plea for blood donors so rapidly and in such number that one man who had originally arrived at the blood bank to donate had been asked to take on administrative duties—directing other donors to the proper line, taking information and giving assistance.

An estimated 1,000 donors had arrived during the first two hours after the call for volunteers was sent out.

The lobby of the Travis County Medical Society Blood Bank was filled with people. Mothers with babies in their arms, men in uniform, students in walking shorts, businessmen—all were there volunteering their blood for the victims of Monday's madness on the University of Texas campus.

Hospital Opens Wing For Crush

The crush of shooting victims on Brackenridge Hospital had brought about the re-opening of a 21-bed wing closed in May because of a shortage of nursing personnel.

Administrator Ben Tobias said Monday afternoon that "there is no problem" after transferring 10 patients from other floors to the shutdown west wing.

Tobias said off-duty nurses and nurses from other city hospitals had come to work in wake of the University murders.

Inquiry Due By Connally

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)—Texas Gov. John B. Connally left for home this morning to take personal command of the investigation into Monday's sniper slayings in Austin.

Looking drawn and haggard after an almost sleepless night, the governor, himself a sniper victim less than three years ago, left aboard Pan American Flight 442 for Miami, Fla.

He said he expects to transfer to a private aircraft there for the flight to Austin.

"As chief executive I just feel I have to be there," Connally told newsmen.

He described the multiple slayings as "the actions of one deranged individual."

Comparing the rush of sniper slayings to the kidnapping wave in the 30's, Connally said "unfortunately one crime of a certain nature begets others of the same nature."

"I, of course, am unable to analyze or account for the actions of a crazy, deranged individual."

Connally's departure cut short a scheduled three-week trip through South America to publicize the 1968 San Antonio HemisFair.