

Reeves, Superman of TV, Kills Himself in His Home



TAKES OWN LIFE—Actor George Reeves, 45, who killed himself yesterday in his home in Benedict Canyon, is pictured in the Superman role that made him known to young television fans the world over.

Actor Believed Discouraged by Slump in Career

Actor George Reeves, 45, known to children the world over as television's Superman, killed himself with a bullet through the head early yesterday in his Benedict Canyon home, police reported.

Although the motive was not completely clear, police said Reeves was discouraged over the slump in his acting career since he finished filming the Superman series, which is still running in many cities.

Element of Mystery
An element of mystery was injected by his fiancée, Miss Lenore Lemmon, 35, an actress from New York, who said they were to be married Friday in Tijuana. Seconds before the fatal shot was heard, Miss Lemmon explicitly predicted to visitors that Reeves was going to kill himself.

The husky actor, a wrestling, judo and boxing enthusiast, was scheduled for an exhibition bout with Archie Moore, the light heavy weight champion, in San Diego today, police said.

Miss Lemmon and Robert Condon, 45, a New York writer, were guests of Reeves at his home, 1579 Benedict Canyon Dr. Condon was writing a story about Moore, officers said, and was planning to do so on Reeves.

Two Visitors Arrive
The actor and Condon had retired to their rooms and Miss Lemmon was downstairs when, about 1 a.m., two visitors came calling. They were William Elias, 45, of 638 Robertson Ave., Beverly Hills, and Mrs. Carol Van Ronkel, 33, of 2300 Benedict Canyon Dr.

Reeves came downstairs, late at being disturbed by the late callers and declaring that he was "in no mood for a party," the others told police. He threatened to "throw Bliss out," but eventually both apologized and Reeves returned to his room.

"He's going upstairs to shoot himself," Miss Lemmon was quoted as saying. A noise was heard in Reeves' room and Miss Lemmon added, "See, he's opening the door to get the gun." Then a shot rang out and Miss Lemmon exclaimed, "See there, I told you; he's shot himself."

Body Sprawled on Bed
Bliss rushed to the room and found Reeves' head body sprawled on the bed, a bullet hole through his head. A 9-mm. German Luger was on the floor between his feet. Bliss called police.

Detectives said Reeves purchased the gun several days ago and kept it in a drawer in his bedroom. Miss Lemmon told police she was "only kidding" when she made the remarks about Reeves' plans to kill himself.

Two months ago, the actor suffered a concussion and a deep 5-in. gash in his forehead. Please Turn to Pg. 24, Col. 4

Hughes Co. Gets Big AF Contract
Hughes Aircraft Co. of Culver City has been awarded a \$3,363,700 Air Force contract to build components for an air-to-air atomic rocket fire-control mechanism. It was announced yesterday.

The Air Materiel Command Aeronautical Systems Center said the contract is to build components of the MG-13 fire-control system for the F-101 Voodoo interceptor.

RUBBER UNION WANTS GENERAL WAGE RAISE
The United Rubber Workers served notice on the rubber industry yesterday they want a general wage increase this summer to offset losses in a just-ended 58-day strike.

Wage boosts are a top goal for the union's 170,000 members, including more than 5,000 in the Los Angeles area, the URW policy committee said in Chicago.

Industry spokesmen said they have no comment on the union's demand for higher wages.

During the strike against three of the Big Four companies ending only last week, the URW won new contract provisions on pensions, insurances and supplemental unemployment benefits.

But its 58,000 members on strike lost an estimated \$35 million in wages—\$17 million alone by the 18,000 Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. workers who held out the full 58-day period from April 16 until last Wednesday.



RESCUE ATTEMPT—Members of rescue crew work to free Alfredo Duran, 25, trapped under 30-ton foundation of razed house which dropped on him in ditch. Times photo

Concrete Slab Falls in Ditch, Kills Worker

A 25-year-old pipelayer was killed yesterday when a 30-ton foundation of a razed house dropped 40 ft. into a ditch and crushed him.

The victim was identified by co-workers as Alfredo Duran, 601 1/2 E. 22 St., an employee of the Charles Birch & Sons Contracting Co.

Duran was one of three workers in the bottom of the ditch at Beswick and Concord Sts. which was being dug to install a storm drain under the Santa Ana Freeway.

The house was torn down when the freeway was built, but a huge foundation had been left partially buried in the loose soil.

Shortly after 4 p.m. the massive block of concrete plunged down on top of Duran. Fellow workers said Duran was unharmed.

Missing Boy's Body Found in Harbor
The body of a 5-year-old Wilmington boy was recovered from Los Angeles Harbor last night, four hours after he disappeared from his father's commercial fishing boat.

The victim was identified as Mark Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stevens, of 1151 W. St., Wilmington. He had been the object of a wide search by the Coast Guard, Fire Department and police since his father reported him missing at 8:30 p.m. The body was found by firemen using grappling hooks.

Atlanta Schools Get Action Order
ATLANTA, June 16 (AP)—A federal judge today directed the Atlanta board of education to submit a plan for desegregation of city schools.

U.S. District Judge Frank A. Hooper said he would allow time for legislative action on the plan if necessary.

Robertson Assails U.S. Recognition of Peiping

Herter Aide Says It's Up to Red China to Abandon Its Present Lawlessness

BY DON SHANNON, Times Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, June 16—Asst. Secretary of State Walter S. Robertson today angrily charged that those who advocate U.S. recognition of Red China are asking the free world to bow to Communist lawlessness.

Robertson, who retires June 30 after more than six years as assistant secretary for Far Eastern affairs, has vigorously opposed recognition of the Peiping regime.

Asked at a National Press Club luncheon what conditions the United States should require of the Communists, the Far East expert replied: "I think Red China should be thinking of that question. Those demanding recognition and United Nations seating for Red China are not asking that Red China change."

Speaks Heatedly
The assistant secretary said heatedly that the Communists—still under U.N. indictment as aggressors in Korea—are even now threatening war in the Formosa Straits.

"Ask them to adjust their policies to world order rather than ask the world order to change to suit them," Robertson concluded amid applause.

Robertson said he believes in the eventual collapse of the Chinese Communist government.

Assails Olympics
In reply to another question, Robertson said there are "many able and dedicated leaders" who can carry on the Nationalist Chinese government if Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek dies or retires.

Asked to name the single factor which led to the Communist takeover in China after World War II, he said: "In Europe we spent \$14 billion to stabilize the economies of our allies to keep the Communists out. In China, we withheld our funds at the only time we could have helped in order to... force the Communists in."

Robertson said it is a miracle that all Asia did not follow Communist China.

Canada to Start Pay TV This Year

Telemeter System Uses Coin Box; Quick Follow-Up in U.S. Seen

BY CECIL SMITH, Times Entertainment Editor
A working system of pay television will be in operation in Toronto, Can., before the end of the year, Louis A. Novins, president of International Telemeter Co., said here yesterday.

Novins hailed the announcement as the first real harbinger of pay TV and said he believes that "pay television will literally explode" across the land in the wake of the Canadian move.

Coin Box Used
The Canadian installation will use the Telemeter system of collecting for programs with an actual coin box on the TV set—that is, a box office in the living room. Telemeter is a division of Paramount Pictures.

Curiously, although a press conference was called here at Telemeter headquarters, 2000 Stoner Ave., Westwood, to announce the Canadian installation, actual details as to the number of homes to be wired, programs anticipated and the starting date will not be announced until today.

Supervisors to Start on Budget Cut
The Board of Supervisors yesterday reaffirmed its public pledge to cut the 1959-60 budget by at least \$5 million.

Supervisor chairman Frank G. Bonelli, who has proposed a slash of 2% in county departments' requests for money, declared that he is ready to cancel his vacation, to start Sunday, if the economy drive is delayed.

He won the support of his colleagues, however, and their votes reduced the attack on the preliminary budget to a timetable.

Capital Projects List
Today at 8:30 a.m. the board will meet to scrutinize items on the \$26 million capital projects list. Where possible, plans for construction will be trimmed or eliminated.

On Thursday County Manager L. S. Hollinger will bring in a broad revision downward of departmental requests for 1959-60 funds.

On board order, one exception will be made to the reduction drive. This is the huge department of charities and its administrative wing, the bureau of public assistance.

Its preliminary budget tabulation must stand, it was urged by Supervisor Ernest Debs and other board members, the General Hospital and other institutions being already understaffed and overcrowded.

\$203 Million Budget Again Unchallenged
Mayor Poulson's proposed \$203 million city budget for 1959-60 went unchallenged yesterday as the City Council continued its public hearings on the measure.

No private citizens appeared at the hearings for the second time. Council action on the budget is expected Friday. Daily public hearings will be continued throughout the week.

Medal Given for Shark Victim Aid
Illustrated on Page 3, Part I
PITTSBURGH, June 16 (AP)—A California state college coed was awarded a Carnegie silver medal today for saving a classmate from drowning after he had been attacked by a shark off Balboa Beach at San Francisco.

Shirley O'Neill, 19, also was awarded \$750 for educational purposes by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in a special action.

The silver medal was the first awarded this year. Miss O'Neill was credited with saving Albert C. Kogley, 19, from drowning last May 7. However, he died from shark bites two hours later.

In San Francisco, Shirley had just left her home for her vacation work as counselor with the Catholic Youth Organization when reporters called.

"She will be happy with the news," her mother said, then disclosed that Shirley had received a silver medal from the Carnegie Hero Fund apostolic delegates in Washington.

PUC Board Hears Pleas for Gas Rate Increase

Manufacturers Unit Claims Residential Users Are Not Paying Their Fair Share

A Public Utilities Commission board, continuing its hearing on a rate increase application by Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Co. here yesterday, heard testimony that residential customers of the Southern California Co. are paying some \$24.5 million less than their annual fair share of service costs.

The deficiency, said William W. Evers, San Francisco representative of California Manufacturers Assn., is being made up by industrial and commercial users.

A CMA study of Southern California Gas Co. operations reveals, Evers added, that granting of the full rate increase will still leave industrial and commercial customers paying some \$16.8 million too much in service costs.

The Southern California Co. seeks a \$9,440,300 annual rate hike and Southern Counties is asking for a \$4,720,000 yearly increase. Spokesmen for the two utilities claim the total \$14,160,000 a year increase is necessary to protect their rate of return in the face of a price rise on imported natural gas effective Aug. 1.

The price rise is on imports from El Paso Natural Gas Co., supplier of about 70% of natural gas the two utilities distribute among 2.25 million customers in 12 Southland counties.

Yesterday's hearing dealt solely with needs of the Southern California Co. and revealed company executives and PUC staff accountants split on the amount of rate increase necessary to offset the price rise.

Walter Herrman, SCGC vice-president, testified the rate increase will boost the company's sagging rate of return to 6.20% in the year ending July 31, 1960.

PUC accountants argue the new rate will give the firm a 6.41% rate of return in that time. Company and commission experts split, too, on the rate of return under the existing rate schedule. Company spokesmen claim their rate of return is now 5.11%; PUC men claim it is more like 5.14%.

The examining board is to take up the Southern Counties request today.

Third Mate Divorced by Singer Peggy Lee
Pop singer Peggy Lee, 35, yesterday played a return engagement—her third in eight years—in Santa Monica Superior Court, where she shed her third mate, Actor Dewey Martin, 35.

Dressed in a wide-brimmed French silk hat and coonskin dress, the blond singer told Superior Judge Edward R. Brand that Martin was extremely jealous of her family, friends and business associates.

"His attitude made me, my friends, even my sisters, feel unwell and they stopped coming to our home," she said.

She also testified that her husband after attempted to upset her just before singing engagements. She said his actions made it very difficult to go on after such tirades.

'Vile Language' Told
She added that on occasions he used "vile language" to me in front of my friends.

The testimony was corroborated by her secretary, Mrs. Dona Benson.

The singer told Judge Brand she was seeking no alimony. Under a property settlement each party retains personal property and



FREED—Peggy Lee, pop singer, who divorced third mate, actor Dewey Martin. Times photo

Miss Lee retains title to her home at 2345 Kimridge Dr., Coldwater Canyon.

The couple were married in Palm Springs April 28, 1956, and separated two years and two months later. Miss Lee previously had divorced composer Dave Bartholomew in 1951 and actor Ben Hunter in 1953.



ISRAEL SURGERY AIDS—Dr. Montrose Bernstein, left, sponsor of Israel project, seen with Los Angeles heart specialists Dr. Morse J. Shapiro, center, and Dr. Jerome H. Kay, who introduced the modern technique of open heart surgery in Israel.

Israel Task Described by L.A. Heart Surgeons

Two Los Angeles heart surgeons, said that he was overwhelmed by the large number of cases in need of operations.

The physicians are Dr. Morse J. Shapiro, a cardiologist, and Dr. Jerome H. Kay, an SC School of Medicine heart surgeon. They have just returned from a three-week stay at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Machine Use Taught

While there they performed the first open heart surgeries ever done in Israel. Purpose of the trip was to teach Israeli surgeons how to use the heart-lung machine, a device which makes it possible to perform surgery of a type never before possible in the Near East.

Dr. Shapiro, who diagnosed the patients prior to Bernstein of Beverly Hills.

The entire project, including donation of a machine to the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Center, was sponsored by Dr. Montrose Bernstein of Beverly Hills.

PAY TV PLAN

Continued from Second Page

ment to be used for a subsequent program.

It in no way interferes with the reception of free TV programs.

Costly to Install

Asked about the astronomical cost of installing a wire pay TV system, Paul Macnamara, Telemeter executive, said that the current figure is about \$100 a house or \$1 million for each 10,000 homes.

"The capital investment is quite a bite," he said, "but a theater today costs about \$550 a seat."

He does not believe that there will be any installation charge to the householder or, at worst, a nominal charge such as the charge for installing a telephone.

Four Men Saved as Boat Sinks

Four men were rescued yesterday when the 40-ft. live-bait boat Sunbeam II sank off Rocky Point in the Palos Verdes area.

Hauled aboard rescue vessels were John William James Carnal, Ed Gauley and Darrel Dustin, all of Long Beach.

The Coast Guard said the boat, hit by a big wave, later sank in 40 ft. of water when another vessel tried to tow her to shore.

Two Indicted on Charge of Estate Frauds

Indictments charging conspiracy to misappropriate unclaimed estates of four persons were returned last night against Phillip A. Adkins, 42, chief deputy public administrator, and Phil H. Lindsay, 41, Long Beach police sergeant, by the county grand jury.

The nine-count indictment returned before Superior Judge Lewis Drucker accused Adkins and Lindsay of conspiracy to violate the probate code, the government code and the penal code.

The estates and the amounts assertedly illegally collected by the indicted men were:

John Wheeler, \$3,242.50, paid Sept. 17, 1957; Harry Brown, \$2,941.50, dated Aug. 20, 1958; Richard Burningham, \$6,923.44, on Oct. 8, 1958, and Miss Louie P. Atkins, \$8,943.72 on Oct. 22, 1958.

Inquiry Conducted

The inquiry was conducted by Dep. Dist. Atty. James Kolts and Fred Henderson before the grand jury headed by foreman C. F. Van de Water.

The first witness was county public administrator E. A. Winstanley, who explained the procedures of his office to the grand jurors. Others among the 33 witnesses called included bank and postal representatives who reportedly told of the opening of post office boxes and safety deposit accounts in San Francisco, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Tucson and India to which the illegal payments from the four estates assertedly were sent.

Adkins and Lindsay, who were accompanied by their wives, were not called to testify in their own behalf. They are scheduled to surrender in Judge Drucker's court today.

Black Hills Picnic Set

Former residents of the Black Hills of South Dakota and friends will hold their annual picnic Sunday, June 28, in Section 8, Sycamore Grove.

The actor's mother, Mrs. Helen Bessolo, was notified yesterday in Galesburg, Ill., where he was reported en route here to take charge of arrangements.

SUPERMAN

Continued from Second Page

head when his sports car skidded into an embankment near his home. He was in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital several days.

Met Six Months Ago

In New York, Miss Lemmon's mother, Mrs. Arthur K. Lemmon, said her daughter met Reeves there about six months ago. She said the actor was "in beautiful spirits" when she saw him here about two weeks ago.

Miss Lemmon, well known in New York city society circles, has not worked as an actress for a number of years, her mother said. She was formerly married to Vanderbilt heir J. Vanderbilt Webb and Hamish Menzies of Scotland.

Reeves, whose real name was George L. Bessolo, was born in Woolstock, Ia., and grew up in Pasadena. He trained for an acting career at the Pasadena Community Playhouse.

Marriage Fails

There he met Eleanor Needles, a stage player, and a romance blossomed. They were wed in 1940, but the marriage ended in divorce.

Reeves' motion picture credits included many Hopalong Cassidy films, "Gone With the Wind," "Winged Victory," "So Proudly We Hail," "Till We Meet Again" and "From Here to Eternity."

Nine years ago he was picked from scores of actors for the television Superman role. His 6-ft-2-in., muscular frame, straightforward good looks and prowess in judo and wrestling (he was Pacific Coast light-heavyweight champion while at Pasadena City College) helped.

It was estimated that the series drew an audience of 35 million each year, 45% of them adults. It became one of the top programs in Japan and Reeves received a letter from the Emperor telling how much he enjoyed the series.

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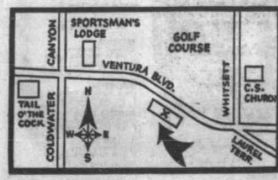
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Neckwear Pure silk, grenadine and England imported from Italy, Switzerland and France. Originally \$7.50—\$6.50—\$5.00—\$3.50 1/2 Price	Handkerchiefs Irish Linens, Swiss Woven and Handmade in Philippines. Originally \$2.00—\$1.75—\$1.25—\$1.00 1/2 Price	Ban-Lon Knit Polo Shirts Full fashion short sleeve Polo Shirts made of water-resistant Ban-Lon. High fashion leather weight content, long-lasting. Company's Washable. Originally \$13.95 1/2 Price

Don't Forget Father's Day, June 21st



DIRECTIONS: Take Hollywood Freeway to Ventura Blvd. — Traveling West. Traveling East, take Ventura Freeway to Ventura Blvd., located on Coldwater Curve between Whittier Ave. and Coldwater Canyon, 2 blocks East of Sportsman Lodge Restaurant. Triangle 7-5007

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