

# National

## Religious show holds record for longest-running program

**United Press International**  
ST. LOUIS — The longest-running television show isn't Johnny Carson or any network's version of the evening news, it's a religious drama called "This Is the Life."

The Sept. 20 edition of the show will open its 30th year on the air. The program has expanded greatly since its beginnings when the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, headquartered in St. Louis, set aside \$75,000 to explore ways of using television to spread the gospel. Jan Naji, who manages marketing and promotion for the

show, said it now reaches up to 49 million people a year and has an annual budget of \$2.5 million.

Naji said the show is produced on the West Coast, where crews and actors and actresses are more readily available. And she said many of them benefit by working on the series.

"Many actors, actresses and crew members find after working on 'This Is the Life' they have strengthened their faith," she said. "Many of them go back to church."  
Naji said the goal of the prog-

ram is to spark interest in Christianity by showing "real-life situations with such subjects as wife abuse, child abuse, and alcoholism."

"The show always comes to the conclusion you have life in Christ," she said.

Naji is Lutheran but said being a member of that faith is not a requirement for working on the show.

"Many of the crew members and actors and actresses aren't even Christians," she said. "We even have a few Jewish people who work with us."

## Alleged suicide investigated

# Inmate testifies at inquest

**United Press International**  
LOS ANGELES — A man who spent several hours in an adjoining cell with former Long Beach State football star Ron Settles, who suburban police said hanged himself with a jail mattress cover, has testified at a coroner's inquest the cells didn't have mattress covers. Settles was arrested June 2 and charged with assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer, possession of cocaine and refusing to identify himself. Three hours after he was booked, he was found hanging in his cell with a mattress cover around his neck, police said. Bernard Bradley, arrested on

March 30 — three days before Settles — said he distinctly remembered having a conversation with a man who was released from cell No. 1 in the suburban Signal Hill jail — the same cell in which Settles was found hanging — the day before Settles arrived.

"I was talking with the guy and I told him there wasn't a mattress pad or a blanket in my cell," said Bradley. "He told me there wasn't a cover or blanket in his cell either. None of us were ever issued mattress covers. I never saw one in that jail."

Bradley was taken out of the police station and into a Long Beach court for arraignment about 2 p.m. on June 2. Settles was found dead, police said, about 3 p.m.

"On my way out I walked past Settles' cell," Bradley said, "and he was sitting on his bunk, leaning back against the wall. I looked in and talked to him for a minute, and I'm absolutely sure there was

no mattress pad on that bunk. There was nothing on that bunk." Bradley also supported claims of Settles' relatives and friends the 21-year-old football star would never have considered taking his own life.

"He was asking me about how to get out of jail, posting bail and all that," Bradley said. "He said he'd never been in jail before and he was scared. He wanted to get out of jail. He sure never talked about killing himself."

During his booking, Settles was severely beaten about the head and neck by at least two Signal Hill policemen. Chief Gaylord Wert initially said Settles had only been struck on his thigh with a nightstick when he became violent inside the police station, but later recanted the story and admitted the beating occurred.

Earlier in the day, a witness to Settles' arrest said two police officers put their guns to Settles' head while picking him up for a minor

traffic violation. Gloria Zabala said she witnessed Settles' arrest while waiting for a bus on a busy street. She said Officer Jerry Lee Brown, the man arresting officer, asked Settles for his driver's license and car registration but the football star refused to give him either.

An argument then ensued, Zabala said, with Brown at one point calling Settles an "asshole." Moments later, another patrol car arrived at the scene and two more officers walked to Settles' car. After a brief "tug-of-war" with Settles trying to keep his car door closed and the officers trying to pull it open, she said, Settles was dragged out of his car.

"Then the two officers drew their guns and placed them on either side of his head," Zabala continued. "The guns were right against the man's temples."

Settles was then handcuffed, put in the second police car and taken away, she said.

## Woman says coal mining is easier than waitressing

**United Press International**  
SAINT CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio — After waiting on tables, Linda Sabo has found coal mining a piece of cake — despite the pits, the rats and the pinches from co-workers.

A veteran of more than three years at Saginaw Mines, Sabo, 38, is now the only woman at that mine and one of the few women miners in Ohio. She hasn't just adjusted to the grimy, back-bending work 4.5 miles underground. She likes it.

"Waitressing is much harder," she says. "You have to take a lot of abuse from the customers and the boss. They make you work overtime all the time, for no extra money."

As a waitress, Sabo says, she cleared \$65 every two weeks, plus maybe another \$100 in tips. Mining six days a week, she takes home \$725 every two weeks.

There's the sense of pioneering too. "It's funny how people react," she says. "I had to fill out some papers for a loan and the guy goes, 'What do you do?' I said, 'I'm a coal miner,' and he says, 'No, not what your husband does. You!'"

Sabo met the man who became her third husband at the mine. She says meeting Ray Sabo was

one of the fringe benefits of the job.

"I had to win him over," she says. "The first time we met he told the boss, 'Don't ever put me with her again.'"

"It was a Saturday and we were doing dead work, cleanup. It was my first time and the boss was overly protective. You have to lift these heavy bags of rock dust and throw it around, but he told me to just sit down and have some coffee."

"I kept saying 'Shouldn't I be doing something?' and he said, 'No, no.' So, I'm sitting there combing my hair and he (Ray) is sweating his head off throwing dust around."

Sabo remembers Ray "was the only man who never cussed at me. He never mistreated me. If someone else pinched or slapped, he told them they were rude and ignorant."

Sabo, the mother of six children, has gotten good at coping with rude behavior. She laughs about "dirty old coal miners" and shakes her head over the men who "turn off the lamps on their hats so you can't see who it is. Then they run up behind and pinch you on the breast or the rear."

When a miner on an earlier shift hung a nude pinup in the shuttle car, Sabo just penciled in a dress. She nicknamed the miner who insisted on calling her "Puss," "Boots."

She mostly avoids going to the bathroom underground, however, where the ladies' room consists of a curtain in an unused section.

"At first it bothered me, especially the language," Sabo says. "But you got to let it pass. If you called a man out every time something happened, the mine'd be down all the time. I laughed it off or stayed away."

She added, "You can understand it (the harassment). Coal mining is known as a tough job. When a woman is doing it, that makes the men look less tough."

"It is tough. But women can do the work with all the automation they have. In the pick and shovel days maybe not."

"I've got muscles," she says, rolling up a sleeve. "At first I had to drag the 50-pound bags of rock dust, because I didn't like to ask for help. Now I can just chuck them up under my arm and throw it out. I can carry two on my back."

She is practical about other inconveniences in the mine too — the rats, for example, "some of them are the size of small pups." She feeds them meat out of her lunch sandwich and recites what the "oldtimers" told her.

"Rats mean the area is safe. I'm happy to see them. If you see rats running, you better get going, too."

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