Photographer claims radiation ruined health

United Press International

APPLETON — A former Air Force captain who filmed nuclear explosions from the open door of a cargo plane says the government has finally agreed to tests to determine if radiation ruined his health.

Beverly Grunert, 67, took motion and still pictures of 15 nuclear explosions from 1952 to 1956, sometimes flying through the mushroom clouds from the blasts.

Since he left the service he has suffered skin cancer, emphysema, ulcers, aneurysms and blackouts. His weight dropped from 175 pounds to 110 pounds and he had to have most of his stomach removed. Grunert said Sunday that after 15 years of frustration and closed doors, the government finally has agreed to test him to see if radiation is what ruined his health.

Grunert believes it is.

"Within myself I'm pretty certain, but I can't get anybody to confirm it," Grunert said in a telephone interview. Veterans Administration hospitals turned him away, and private physicians said they were unable to link his maladies to radiation.

"They said they didn't have enough data at the time to link it to radiation," Grunert said. "We always question and they always say they don't have enough data on it."

The government has been no help, he said. His doctors have written the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. His wife wrote the surgeon general.

"Their letters came back saying there was no record of anything happening from exposure," Grunert said.

Grunert said he and others took pictures through the open door of a cargo plane and were given nothing by the Air Force to guard against radiation.

He said that in 50 percent of his missions they flew through the mushroom cloud.

"The only thing they gave us was a white garment — almost like a Ku Klux Klan uniform — to reflect off the heat," Grunert said. "But we never got the heat up that high."

Grunert said in a test known as Operation Castle at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands, there was a miscalculation of the blast and the plane rocked as it was engulfed in the mushroom cloud.

Three months later, at the age of 39, his dark brown hair turned white, he said.

He said he was given little warning of the dangers of radiation by his superiors.

Body found in stream identified as producer

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — A decomposed corpse found in a forest stream bed has been identified as variety show producer Roy Alexander Radin, who disappeared a month ago while arranging a multimillion dollar deal to finance a new film studio.

Working with dental records flown in Sunday from New York, the coroner's office determined positively that the gunshot victim listed as John Doe No. 94 was that of the Radin, 33.

The body was found last Friday by a forest ranger and a beekeeper in the Angeles National Forest near Gorman, just off Interstate 5 about 65 miles north of Los Angeles. An autopsy showed Radin died of a single gunshot wound.

Radin disappeared May 13 while en route to a dinner meeting in Beverly Hills. He was reported missing four days later by his secretary, Jonathan Lawson.

John O'Grady, a Hollywood private investigator hired by Radin's mother to find the missing man, said the family is in shock and was in seclusion in Cleveland.

O'Grady said Radin was in Los Angeles to find $35 million in backing for a new film studio and was reluctant to go to the dinner meeting.

The detective said Radin postponed the meeting once in attempts to find a restaurant with tight security measures. Radin was last seen leaving the Plaza Suite Hotel in Hollywood in a limousine with a woman not identified by police.

Radin never arrived at the restaurant. The woman told police they quarreled in the car. She said Radin got out on Sunset Boulevard and was not seen again.

Autralian talks with Reagan

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan welcomed Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke to the White House Monday for talks intended to reaffirm strong ties between their nations and stress convergent viewpoints on economic and security concerns.

Hawke and Reagan, during two hours of meetings that included a working lunch, were expected to concentrate on areas of general agreement that attest to what one senior U.S. official called the solid relationship between the two nations.

The two leaders posed briefly for photographers in the sun-drenched Rose Garden, as temperatures soared toward the 90-degree mark.

Although U.S.-Australian relations have not been free from tension in recent years, potential sore points were expected to be ignored during discussions intended to underscore friendship between allies.

Hawke and his Labor Party emerged victorious from national elections in March that ousted Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

The approach he used was not unlike the one used by Reagan in 1980, promising policies that he said would provide the best basis for his people to work together to come out of the depths of a serious recession.

Hawke also is a strong supporter of Israel. The agenda of his meeting with Reagan included the situation in the Middle East and such other foreign policy issues as East-West relations and arms control.

In the background lie concerns about competing trade interests, relations with Vietnam and an unsettling controversy over U.S. intelligence activities in Australia. Most are likely to be ignored or papered over.

Australia has a trade deficit of several billion dollars in its economic relations with the United States and is said to object to some of the countermeasures taken by the U.S. government in response to protectionist policies by other countries.

In foreign policy, the Australian Labor Party platform proposes resumption of aid to Vietnam. The Reagan administration believes that such a step toward normalization should not be taken until Vietnam is willing to moderate its behavior in Kampuchea, formerly Cambodia.

Slain couple found in Houston apartment

United Press International

HOUSTON — The dead bodies of a man and woman, apparently killed with a pickaxe embedded in the woman's chest, were found early Monday in their northwest Houston apartment, police said.

Police said the apartment may have been ransacked, but burglary or robbery were doubtful because valuables were left inside. Detective Ted Thomas said police had no clue as to motive or the killer.

Thomas said the bodies were found about 7 a.m. CDT by a friend who was supposed to ride to work with the man. The man went to the door, found it unlocked, went inside and found a radio running and the bodies.

Thomas said the man and woman apparently had been dead 10 to 12 hours.

The identities of the victims were not immediately released.

Warped by Scott McCullar

Nuclear protests planned

United Press International

The Mobilization for Survival and other groups opposed to nuclear weapons plan a new round of protests in the United States and Europe focusing on first-strike weapons.

Organizers said Sunday the protests would be held in at least 50 American cities in 30 states during Father's Day weekend, but one official warned that protesters will not be allowed to demonstrate at the nation's defense facilities.

"We recognize these demonstrators have a constitutional right to be heard. That's one reason we're here — to protect that right," said Col. Gary H. Mears, commander of Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. "However, we can't allow any political activity or demonstration to take place on Kirtland, and at the time of the planned demonstration Kirtland Air Force Base will take whatever security measures are appropriate."

Several nuclear weapons facilities are based at Kirtland, including Sandia Laboratories. Mears did not specify what measures might be taken to keep protesters away.

Protests were also planned in Europe, where the Defense Department intends to deploy Pershing-2 weapons this fall.

The Mobilization for Survival said demonstrations would be held June 20 — the International Day of Nuclear Disarmament — in Austria, England, Germany and France. In the United States, demonstrations were planned for Chicago; Minneapolis; Omaha, Neb.; Salt Lake City; Albany, N.Y.; Groton, Conn.; Orlando, Fla., and dozens of other cities.

In Los Angeles, the Santa Monica-Venice Alliance for Survival said the group would hold a Father's Day peace rally next Sunday at the West Los Angeles Federal Building during which demonstrators would sign a Father's Day card for Dr. Edward Teller, "father of the hydrogen bomb."

The protests center on a new generation of weapons with a first-strike capability, a Mobilization for Survival spokesman said. The spokesman identified four weapons systems as having first-strike abilities: the MX missile, the cruise missile, the Pershing-2 missile and the Trident submarine.

Baptists to debate school prayer

United Press International

PITTSBURGH — Voluntary school prayer will be a key issue at the national meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention this week, church leaders say.

Some pastors say the convention may try to repeal a resolution supporting a constitutional amendment that would allow voluntary prayer in public schools.

Opponents of the resolution, approved in the New Orleans convention last year, claim it takes away religious liberty.

But the Rev. Jimmy Draper, convention president, predicted Sunday a calm meeting this week in Pittsburgh, in contrast to the stormy sessions of recent years.

Church leaders hope the 17,000 messengers — what the Baptists call their convention delegates who represent over 13 million churchgoers — will avoid the heated battles of past meetings between conservative and moderate factions over biblical authority.

The conseratives believe in literal interpretation of the Bible which they deem infallible. Moderates say the Bible is subject to interpretation.

"We realize we still have some tremendous theological questions," said Draper, fundamentalist leader of the 7,000-member First Baptist Church of Euless, just outside Dallas.

"But I think there has been an easing of the tensions," he said.

Landing gear light alarms pilot, crew

United Press International

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Emergency equipment was put on standby status early Monday for an Ozark DC-9 flight en route from Las Vegas to Kansas City International Airport, but the plane landed safely, authorities said.

Ron Cop, regional duty officer with the Federal Aviation Administration, said the crew of Flight 601 initially thought that a tire blew out on takeoff from Las Vegas.

Chuck Ehlert, director of public affairs for Ozark Air Lines in St. Louis, said the plane carrying 96 passengers on take off from Las Vegas apparently threw rubber off a tire when it struck a switch in a wheel well.

When the crew attempted to lower the landing gear on approach to Kansas City International their controls indicated that the landing gear was not in place, although it was safe for landing, Ehler said.

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