

Warped

by Scott McCullar



# St. Helens activity predicted this week

**United Press International**  
VANCOUVER, Wash. — Scientists monitoring the rise of molten lava inside Mount St. Helens said Sunday a small explosion or landslide may occur in the next few days, but acknowledged that predictions about the volcano amount to a guessing game.

The volcano began a continuous dome-building, non-explosive eruption.

The year-old eruption is the longest period of continuous activity at Mount St. Helens since the May 18, 1980, blast that blew out the north face of the mountain. It felled trees 20 miles away, sent a mushroom cloud of ash drifting across several states and left more than 50 people dead or missing.

Geological Survey spokesman Steven Brantley said the deformation of the northern, less stable portion of the 800-foot-tall lava dome "has accelerated in the past few days."

"That, in turn, means the chances of a rockfall, landslide or avalanche on the dome or small explosions have increased, but we're not predicting a landslide or small explosion," he said.

Despite the new rumblings, the "red zone" around the volcano was open to those with permits, Brantley said, and a 24-hour pumping operation to keep nearby Spirit Lake from breaking through a dam of volcanic debris will remain in operation.

While Mount St. Helens has been erupting without pause a full year, the scientists say doesn't mean they have a better idea of just what will happen next.

The dome of hardened lava on the floor of the volcano has become as large as a football stadium. But the old eruption — a terribly violent one whenever the dome grows — is different from the big blast of 1980 and other violent eruptions.

"This kind of activity contrasts with the dome-building eruptions that occurred in 1980 and 1982, where you had distinct lava flow occurring some part of the dome. Eruptions would last from days to as long as two weeks. "Some of the changes we're observing now are difficult to interpret because ones observed before the dome-building eruptions because we don't have a clear pattern occurring here. Changes in this particular eruption."

## Car sales expected to rise

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Automobile dealers anticipate a strong year for sales and believe Walter Mondale will win the Democratic presidential nomination, a survey at the National Auto Dealers Association convention showed Sunday.

More than 150 dealers from 43 states attended the convention, and the survey showed that 66 percent added to their new car inventories and 83 percent expect to further increase their stock this year.

The poll showed 88 percent will augment their service department facilities in light of increased servicing in 1983.

The survey indicated 79 percent of the dealers polled believe Mondale will be the Democratic presidential nominee.

## Man to be arraigned in capital murder case

**United Press International**  
NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — A retired preacher who's been sharing his home with an accused murderer said Sunday he does not believe his roommate shot five women in an 11-day spree.

Syvasky Poyner, 27, a fast food restaurant worker, will be arraigned Monday on a capital murder charge in the shooting death of a Hampton woman. Police say they are confident they can link Poyner to four other Tidewater area slayings.

Each victim was shot once in the left side of the head at about lunchtime. Police will not discuss a possible motive for the killings, although all involved a cash robbery or car theft.

Willie Wilson, 79, a retired minister, finds the charges against Poyner hard to believe. Wilson has shared his small home with Poyner for the last five months.

"To tell you the truth, I never seen nobody better than that man," Wilson said. "Go all up and down the street, he never

bothered no one. He'd come in say 'Hi, Dad,' and never bother me a bit."

Wilson said Poyner moved in with him after Poyner and his wife, Theresa, fell on hard financial times. Theresa Poyner moved in with her mother, but there was no room for her husband.

Mrs. Poyner said she has talked to her husband since his arrest and he told her he did not kill anyone.

Wilson lives in a modest brick home in a working class neighborhood. Poyner's tiny bedroom, littered with girlie magazines and posters, has not been cleaned since police searched the room, looking for a .38 caliber pistol, among other items.

Police have not said what was recovered from the room.

Authorities disclosed Sunday that a patrolman with a knack for spotting stolen cars came up with the big break leading to Poyner's arrest when he spotted the car belonging to the last murder victim. The nude body of Carolyn Hedrick, 44, a candy

saleswoman, was found the day in a church parking lot.

A special 30-member police force had checked out hundreds of leads while trying to solve the murders. But patrolman Robert McCoy, a 21-year veteran who found four stolen cars in 1982, discovered the woman five minutes after leaving the police station for morning.

Investigators said they found evidence in the car that led to the arrest of Poyner, who had short distance from where the car was found.

Police believe he also was linked to the slayings of a Hampton beauty shop operator, Williamsburg motel employee and a Newport News ice store worker.

On Jan. 23, Joyce Baker, 45, was found shot to death in the Hampton beauty shop. The following day, Louise Parker, 72, and Christine Brooks, were discovered dead in the office of the Raleigh Motel, Williamsburg.

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