

SHOE



by Jeff MacNelly

Man linked to cabin killings declared fit for trial in Canada

Associated Press
CALGARY, Alberta — Charles Ng was declared fit to stand trial in Canada on Monday after a psychiatric examination, and U.S. officials said they would begin proceedings to extradite him to California where he is linked to the discovery of nine bodies at a remote cabin.

Before his arrest here Saturday, Ng, 24, had been the subject of a worldwide manhunt because of his connection to survivalist Leonard Lake, who committed suicide in police custody last month.

Lake lived in the Calaveras County cabin where investigators have unearthed nine bodies, 40 pounds of bones, videotapes of sexual torture and bloody tools. Police say Ng appears on some of the videotapes — including one in which he threatens a terrified woman with a knife — although his fingerprints have not been found at the house.

Ng, a former U.S. Marine, appeared briefly in a packed courtroom before Judge Hubert G. Oliver granted a prosecution request for a preliminary psychiatric examination.

Several hours later, prosecutors said government psychologists had declared him able to stand trial.

Ng faces Canadian charges of attempted murder, robbery of less than \$200 and illegal use of firearms. He was arrested at a Calgary department store during an alleged shoplifting attempt in which a security guard was shot in the hand.

Oliver scheduled a July 15 hearing when Ng will be asked to choose among a judge-only trial in Provincial court, a judge-only trial in a higher court or a jury trial in a higher court.

Ng's attorneys, who have promised to fight extradition, said they would recommend a jury trial.

In San Francisco, Claralyn Balaz, Lake's ex-wife, has been subpoenaed to appear Wednesday before a grand jury, Stan Rozanski, one of her attorneys, said. Rozanski said Monday the subpoena asked for a 1985 personal calendar and some letters from Lake.

At a news conference with California and Canadian authorities, Calgary police Inspector Ron Tarrant said Ng, who has a sister in Calgary, might have been camping in a city park for three or four days before his arrest.

Calaveras County Sheriff's Sgt. Ron McFall and San Francisco police Inspector Edward Erdelatz questioned him for about five hours Sunday.

They refused to give any details of their interview with Ng, but McFall said, "We found it beneficial. I can't say we're disappointed."

French train hits truck, killing eight, injuring 67

Associated Press
SAINT-PIERRE-DU-VAUVRAY, France — An express train going 100 mph smashed into a tractor-trailer trapped on the track between automatic crossing gates Monday. Police said eight people were killed and 67 were injured.

Police and fire officials said the locomotive and four front passenger cars of the Le Havre-Paris train jumped the track and one car plowed through part of a nearby house. The train carried about 600 passengers.

The U.S. Embassy in Paris said preliminary reports indicated five Americans were among the injured.

The embassy said four of the five Americans suffered minor injuries and the fifth was hospitalized in satisfactory condition. Identification of

the injured Americans was withheld pending notification of their families.

Witnesses said the frantic driver tried to raise the gate manually moments before the impact and was back in his cab, trying to crash his rig through the barrier when the train hit him.

Police said 10 of the injured were in "grave condition."

The accident occurred at about 9:15 a.m. in this community 62 miles west of Paris, on a regular run from the port of Le Havre.

National police and firefighters, called in from a 60-mile radius, struggled to free passengers from the tangled mass of metal, said officials of the department, or state, of Eure.

There was no immediate official

explanation of the accident's cause.

"Rocks began flying outside the window along with a lot of metal," 14-year-old Carrie Brezine of Yellow Springs, Ohio, told reporters after the accident. "Then the train began to swerve from side to side and luggage began falling. Several suitcases hit me on the shoulders before the train tipped over."

She was in the second passenger car and was not seriously injured.

"I passed out, but I remember hearing people screaming and calling for help," she said.

Brezine was in a group of young Americans who had spent three weeks in Le Havre and were traveling to Paris. None of them was seriously injured.

Watermelons

Official: Farmers may be responsible for poisonings

Associated Press
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's top agriculture official said Monday that he believes watermelon poisonings in California and surrounding states were caused by deliberate misuse of farm chemicals, not by pesticide residue from previous crops.

State Food and Agriculture Director Clare Berryhill said, "I'm not assuming it was a carryover. I'm assuming it was an illegal application."

He said his department had received information from informants to that effect.

The pesticide involved in the poisonings, aldicarb, sold by the Union Carbide Co. under the trade name of Temik, is banned for use on watermelon crops. But its use has been approved for other crops, including cotton, which is produced in the same area as watermelons, in many cases by the same growers.

Aldicarb-contaminated melons have been linked to illnesses of more than 200 people in four Western states and Canada.

The pesticide involved in the poisonings, aldicarb, sold by the Union Carbide Co. under the trade name of Temik, is banned for use on watermelon crops.

Some growers blamed Union Carbide for the contamination, saying the pesticide did not decompose in the soil as fast as they had been led to believe.

But Berryhill said at a news conference, "I'm not going to blame Union Carbide at this juncture."

"We believe there were violations of restricted materials laws, and we think there are some growers out there who violated that."

"And I'm here to tell you right now that I will not sleep until I find those growers, and I'm going to use all the police power I have in my power to put them away."

We cannot allow a few growers in this state to jeopardize our industry. We're out to find those people."

His deputy, Rex Magee, said violations of pesticide laws are misdemeanors with maximum criminal penalties of a \$1,000 fine and up to six months in jail. But he said civil penalties could be as high as \$150 per plant, which he said could total in the millions of dollars.

Berryhill added that other growers who have lost their crops because of orders to destroy suspect fruit also might have claims against growers who violated the pesticide laws.

Dr. Kenneth Kizer, director of the state Department of Health Services, said 149 California illnesses were linked to aldicarb poisoning and an additional 200 illnesses in 23 counties were under investigation.

At least 38 cases of aldicarb poisoning have been reported in Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia.

Tucson citizens to send Soviets videotape calling for peace

Associated Press
TUCSON, Ariz. — Sometime later this year, if all goes as planned, the good citizens of Novokuznetska, Siberia, are going to sit down in front of a video cassette recorder, slap in a tape and hear good tidings from a faraway place called Tucson.

One Tucsonian will say, "Hello, my name is Bill Preib. I just want to say that nobody wants war — and everybody wants peace."

"I love you," a Tucson woman will inform the Soviets, speaking their native tongue with a heavy American accent.

The spontaneous messages, a project of the Tucson-Novokuznetska Friendship Project, were recorded on videotape recently at a "Peace Fair" in Reid Park.

People attending the Tucson Peace Center's fair, which featured displays by numerous human rights and pacifist organizations, were invited to "Speak Your Peace to the Soviets on Video." They paid \$3 for doing so.

Anne Goldman, a member of the Friendship Project, said the 80-minute videotape is to be sent, along with a video recorder, to Tucson's sister city in the Soviet Union in an effort to let the Russians know that "we want peace, and we need to work together to get a world that works."

Proceeds from the participation fees will be used to pay travel expenses for students from Tucson and Novokuznetska to visit their respective sister cities, Goldman said.

Hannis Latham used donated equipment and gave his time to record the goodwill messages.

"It's not really what they say, but how they say it," Latham said. "It's their faces, their eyes, their expressions: These carry the message."

"We aren't trying to tell them (the Soviets) that our way is better. We just want to give them a 'hit' of Americans, and we think that the vi-

deotape is a beautiful way of doing that."

Four University High School students, all holding kittens, and their guitar-playing Russian teacher, Cindy Seaborg, went before the camera. They started off singing a Russian rendition of "Old MacDonald," and then they go on to a Russian folk song called "The Dream of Stenka Razin."

But why the kittens? Laurel Lamb, one of the four students, said, "Because kittens speak Russian. They say 'Meer,' and meer means 'peace' in Russian. It also means 'world.'"

Latham said the video project will continue in coming months. He said it will be necessary to send the Russians a video machine along with the tapes because their machines won't accommodate American-made cassettes.

Ecstasy

(continued from page 1)

"One man's death has been associated with the drug," Daugherty says. "The California psychoanalyst admittedly had a heart condition and died after taking a 300-milligram dosage of MDMA."

One study conducted at the University of Chicago indicates Ecstasy destroys nerve sensors, affects sleep, memory and mood regulators, causes aggressive behavior, impairs motor functions and may be toxic to nerves.

DEA officials currently are conducting public hearings about the drug in various cities across the United States. The officials are listening to Federal Drug Administration officials and psychiatrists who say they need the drug for their patients.

One of the hearings concluded last month in Los Angeles while a second is scheduled to begin Wednesday in Kansas City, Mo. Another hearing is scheduled in Washington, D.C. but a date has not yet been set for it.

Psychiatrists have been using Ecstasy for treating emotional disorders since the 1970s.

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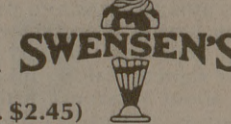


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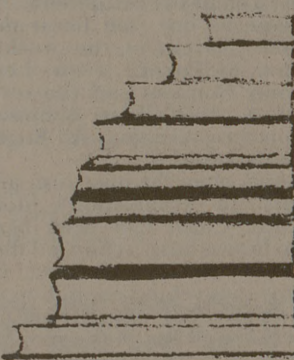
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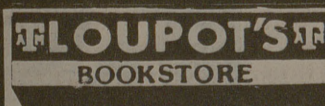
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