

Mother, 65, Finds Son Dead After 4-Mile Woods Hike

By EARL O. ANDERSON

GILMANTON — When her 26-year-old son failed to return from a rabbit-hunting trip, a 65-year-old distraught mother set out alone to find him. After an agonizing four-mile hike through the fields and forest, following his tracks, she found him—lying dead on an old woods road.

Mrs. Anastasia Green, after tracking her Merchant Marine son in four inches of snow yesterday, came upon his body lying face upward less than a half mile from home. The trail had led her over a four-mile circuitous route.

Died Instantly

The victim, Peter Paul Green, 26, had died instantly when the upper part of his head, above the right eye, had been laid open by the close range blast of a 12-gauge shotgun, officials said.

MOTHER

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MOTHER of Gilmanton shooting victim, Mrs. Anastasia Green, 65, who trudged nearly four miles through several inches of snow early Friday to search for her son, after he failed to return from Thursday rabbit hunting trip. She and the family dog, Micky, shown above, came upon body of the Merchant Marine officer, Peter Green, 26, face up on a woods road. (Photo by Earl O. Anderson)

MOTHER

(Continued from Page One)

Dr. Earl J. Gage, Belknap county medical referee, issued a tentative verdict of death by accidental gunshot wound. The investigation is continuing.

How the elderly mother accomplished the task of locating her son alone amazed investigators, because of difficulty with her legs which makes walking any distance an extreme hardship. Investigators theorized that the great concern felt for her son's safety undoubtedly gave her strength for the long trek.

Home for Visit

Peter came home Tuesday evening on a brief visit, his mother disclosed, and was to have returned to New York City Friday. He was a first class engineer on the Sir Franklin, a vessel operated by the Isbrandtsen Co., Inc. He had been a member of the Merchant Marine for nearly 10 years. Authorities said that he had borrowed an automobile from a staff officer on his ship with which to make the trip here alone.

"Peter left here about 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon," his mother related. "taking a shotgun which had belonged to his father, who died nearly two years ago. My son had used his own rifle on a rabbit-hunting trip Wednesday, but he said Thursday, as he started out again that 'it was no good, and he took the other gun instead.'"

Her son had done a lot of hunting, the mother said, and was accustomed to handling firearms.

Starts To Worry

When he did not return at dusk, she became worried, especially after hearing a shot about 4 p. m. She did not feel undue alarm, however, because of the knowledge he was well acquainted with the surrounding territory, and thoroughly versed in handling of guns. Her fears began to mount when time passed and he did not return.

Early Friday morning, as soon as it was light enough to distinguish the tracks made by her son in the snow, Mrs. Green started out in search of him. Accompanying her was the family dog, Micky, who reportedly had also acted as companion for young Green the day before.

After circling around in a wide arc—estimated by investigators to be nearly four miles—she came upon Peter's body sprawled on his back, partially on the right side.

Picked Up Gun

Speaking calmly, but with obvious effort, Mrs. Green related how she quickly realized what had befallen her son, found that he was beyond aid, took the shotgun from beside her son, where it had fallen, gathered a few papers from his pockets, and trudged back home. This was a distance of less than a half-mile authorities said.

Mrs. Green then hurried a quarter-mile further to the home of neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Konstant Shlaitas, who called Laconia police and the Belknap county sheriff's department. State Police were also notified.

The Green home is situated on a side road, about one mile from Route 107 in lower Gilmanton, and nearly 12 miles from Laconia.

The body was examined by Dr. Gage at the spot in the woods where found by the mother. It was then placed on a stretcher

and carried to the road by four men, Konstant Shlaitas and Robert Publicover, neighbors, and Arthur Simoneau and Hercules Lapointe, both of Laconia. It was removed to the A. W. Simoneau and Son Funeral home in Laconia.

Taking part in the investigation were State Trooper Joseph Bednarz, Belknap Solicitor Thomas P. Cheney of Laconia, Sheriff Homer L. Crockett and Deputy Sheriff Rodney S. Brockett, both of Belmont, and Dr. Gage.

Cause Not Determined

Solicitor Cheney said that while exact facts on what happened may never be known, officials theorized that the dog, Micky, may have been responsible.

Investigation determined, the solicitor said, that young Green was apparently standing in the woods road at the time, after having spied some rabbit tracks, and took up a waiting position. This was evidenced, he said, by a partially smoked cigaret found beside the body.

During their investigation Friday, Mr. Cheney said, officials found the dog would jump upon one quite readily, and felt this is what may have happened to the shooting victim. It would have taken but little to have thrown Green off balance by such unanticipated action of the dog, he said, causing the weapon to discharge.

Green may also have momentarily lost his balance by some other means, Cheney stated, although the dog angle appeared more likely.

Attended Pittsfield High

Peter was born in Randolph, O., on March 28, 1927, son of Peter and Anastasia Green and the family came to Gilmanton first in 1938, the mother disclosed. The son attended Pittsfield High school, and later Cambridge, Mass. High when the Greens moved there in 1943.

He enlisted in the Merchant Marine at the age of 17½ and finished his high school studies in that branch of the service. He was a member of Laconia lodge of Elks.

The parents returned to Gilmanton in 1950 and the elder Mr. Green died on April 9, 1952. Both of the parents were born in Lithuania.

A solemn high mass of requiem will be offered Monday morning at St. Joseph church, Laconia. Burial will be in St. Lambert cemetery in Laconia.

N. Y. Man Coming to Throw Light on Shooting



Mrs. Anaatasia Green who walked four miles in search of her only son, Peter Paul Green, when he failed to return to their Lower Gilmanton home from hunting. She found him dead of a bullet wound in the woods.



The body of Gilmanton Merchant Marine Engineer Peter P. Green, 26, is taken from the woods off Route 107 in Lower Gilmanton after the man was found shot. A tentative verdict of accidental shooting was given. Left to right are Arthur Simoneau, Hercules LaPointe, lifting the body into the Simoneau ambulance; Konstant Schlaitis, neighbor of the Greens; Robert Publicover and State Trooper Joseph Bednarz.

GILMANTON — A tentative verdict of accidental death was given by Dr. Earl J. Gage of Laconia, medical referee of Belknap county, in the death of Peter P. Green, Jr., 26, fatally wounded by a blast from a shotgun he carried rabbit hunting in woods near his home off Route 107 Thursday afternoon.

The investigation is still open as the authorities are awaiting the arrival from New York today of a man who telephoned that he was coming to give some light on the shooting.

Mr. Green, a first engineer in the Merchant Marine service, arrived home Thursday. He was found by his mother, Mrs. Anastasia Green, who went in search of him when he failed to return home from hunting Friday morning. Mrs. Green found her son after starting out at daylight and following his tracks in the snow.

Found in Field

He was lying in a field nearly a mile from his home and Mrs. Green rushed to the house of her neighbor, Mrs. Konstant Schlaitis to seek help. Mrs. Schlaitis called the State police who informed the Belknap county authorities and dispatched State Trooper Joseph Bednarz to the scene.

Belknap county Solicitor Thomas P. Cheney, Dr. Gage, Sheriff Homer Crockett and his son Rodney Crockett made the investigation. The body was brought to Laconia by A. W. Simoneau & Son who are in charge of funeral arrangements.

The police reported there was a small Spitz dog at the scene. They theorized the dog, which was very nervous, might have jumped on the man catching on the shotgun in some manner and discharging the 12-gauge weapon.

First Day on Leave

Green was thought to have been on leave from the SS Sir John Franklin, the ship on which he was serving at Christmas. It docked in New York and is believed to be a tanker of the Esso Oil company. He had been in the service several years. He drove home in a car registered to Ivan Lewis of 136th St., Flushing, L.I.

Mr. Green is survived by his mother. His father died two years ago in the Gilmanton home. The son was in Far East waters at the time, sailing from Singapore and his mother was unable to reach him. He was the only child. Mr. Green was married to Janet Jensen of Everett, Mass., and his mother said she believed he was the father of a son. The couple had since been divorced.

Green was a fine son as was



PETER P. GREEN, JR.

evidenced by a check of \$1200 he had given his mother a few days ago. She will not, of course, be able to cash it.

Peter was born in Randolph, O., on March 28, 1927, son of Peter and Anastasia Green and the family came to Gilmanton first in 1938, the mother disclosed. The son attended Pittsfield High school, and later Cambridge, Mass., High when the Greens moved there in 1943.

He enlisted in the Merchant Marine at the age of 17½ and finished his high school studies in that branch of the service. He was a member of Laconia lodge of Elks.

The parents returned to Gilmanton in 1950 and the elder Mr. Green died on April 9, 1952. Both of the parents were born in Lithuania.

A solemn high Mass of requiem will be offered Monday at nine o'clock at St. Joseph church, Laconia. Burial will be in St. Lambert cemetery in Laconia.

Friend of Shotgun Victim Arrives From Long Island

GILMANTON — Ivan Lewis, of Flushing, L. I., the pursuer of the SS Sir John Franklin of which Peter Green Jr., fatally shot Thursday afternoon, was the first engineer, came to Concord yesterday from New York and talked to state police regarding the affair.

Green had borrowed Lewis' car to make the trip to Gilmanton to spend a few days with his mother, Mrs. Anastasia Green. She discovered his body a mile from the house Friday morning.

Medical Referee Earl J. Gage gave a tentative verdict of accidental shooting. County Solicitor Thomas P. Cheney said that nothing that the pursuer had said in Concord changed his opinion of the affair. He said that all the footprints in the snow, in the vicinity where the body was found, were satisfactorily explained.

Bury Gilmanton Shooting Victim At Cemetery Here

Funeral services for Peter Paul Green, Merchant Marine engineer, who was found dead of a bullet wound by his mother, Mrs. Anastasia Green, on their Lower Gilmanton farm Friday, were held this morning at nine from the A. W. Simoneau & Son Funeral home. The vacationing seaman had gone rabbit hunting, and death was termed accidental.

Rev. Edward J. Knott was celebrant at a high Mass of requiem in St. Joseph church.

Bearers, all members of Laconia Lodge of Elks, were Bernard L. Boutin, Maurice A. Jacques, Noel Laurent, Dan Kiernan, Arthur Strathern and Henry Gaudet. Burial was in St. Lambert cemetery where Father Knott offered the committal prayers.

Saturday evening a Session of Sorrow was conducted at the funeral home by the officers of Laconia Lodge of Elks, #876, comprised of Exalted Ruler Bernard L. Boutin, Esteemed Leading Knight Joseph L. Killourhy, Esteemed Loyal Knight Francis Riel, Esteemed Lecturing Knight Maurice Jacques, Esquire Arthur Strathern, Inner Guard Howard Bowen, Organist Alger Sherman, Secretary Everett L. Lord, Chaplain Dan Kiernan and Soloist Edward Hubbell.

From out-of-town attending the services were Mrs. Peter Green, Jr., and Mr. William Jansen from Everett, Mass., Mr. and Mrs. Konstant Schlaitas, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Publicover and Mrs. Joseph Sidlauskas from Gilmanton.

Sept. 8-1979
Anastasia Green

GILMANTON — Mrs. Anastasia (Pocius) Green, 90, who lived in this area for many years, died yesterday at the Belknap County Nursing Home in Laconia, after a long illness.

Mrs. Green was born in Lithuania.

She was the widow of Peter P. Green.

She is survived by a grandson, Peter Green.

A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Monday morning in St. Joseph Church in Laconia.

Burial will be in St. Lambert Cemetery in Laconia.

There will be no calling hours.

The Simoneau & Son Memorial Home in Laconia is in charge of arrangements.