

# Sniper at Texas U.

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TEN CENTS

## Kills 13, Wounds 34

### Terrorizes Campus Till He Is Slain

#### Fires From Tower; Wife and Mother Murdered First

From News Dispatches

AUSTIN, Tex., Aug. 1  
A former Marine killed his wife and mother at home today and then, from a sniper's post high in the University of Texas tower, shot to death 11 other persons and wounded 34 before police climbed above him and finished him off with pistol and shotgun fire.

The sniper was identified as Charles Joseph Whitman of Lake Worth, Fla., a 24-year-old honor student in architectural engineering at the University and a former scoutmaster at an Austin church. He left a note saying he had been having psychiatric treatment.

Burst after burst from the sniper's rifles, shotgun and pistols poured from windows on all sides of the tower's 26th floor, keeping rescuers

from the victims scattered about the no-man's-land below. Police Chief Bob Miles said crowds of curious people "just kept going to the scene, of all the stupid things to do."

At 1:20 p.m. four policemen entered the tower through an underground tunnel, climbed to an observation deck just above the 26th floor and shot Whitman down as he swung his rifle toward them. Officer Ramon Martinez shot him six times with a .38-caliber six-shot revolver and Officer Houston McCoy fired one blast with a shotgun.

Chief Miles said the sniper was armed with a 6.1-millimeter rifle with a telescopic sight, a .35-caliber rifle, a carbine, a 12-gauge shotgun, a .57-magnum pistol, a 9-millimeter Luger, another gun on his body, and a long knife. He also had a footlocker crammed with food, water and gasoline.

Police Sgt. Donald Kidd said officers checked the Whitman home, a duplex several miles from the campus, after Mrs. Whitman's father "called me from Needville and asked me

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to check." Needville is a small town near Houston.

Kidd said he broke in a window and discovered the body of the wife, Kathleen Leissner Whitman, 24. She had been stabbed.

The mother's body was found in her fifth-floor luxury apartment, about two blocks from the campus.

Police Lt. Merle Wells said that a note was found saying Whitman's wife and mother were killed because he had been having severe headaches and had been undergoing psychiatric treatment. It was signed at 3 a.m.

R. W. Leissner, Whitman's father-in-law, said the last he had heard about his daughter before the deadly tower fusillade started was that Whitman called her employer today to say she would not be to work.

A young couple may have escaped death by chance. They stopped by Whitman's apartment and, when he greeted them at the door, they noticed he had been writing a note. They visited for a while, then left.

The total dead included 10 men and 4 women. They were, in addition to Whitman, his wife and mother, Thomas Eckman, Mark Gabour, 15, Texarkana, Tex.; Claudia Rutt, Roy Schmidt, Paul Sonntag, grandson of Paul Bolton, an Austin radio-television news executive; Billy Speed, an Austin policeman; Thomas Ashton, Thomas Carr, Marguerite Lamport, about 45, of Austin; H. Harry Walchuk, and Robert H. Boyer, an instructor.

The tower, a Texas landmark, is a slender, four-sided structure 30 stories tall in the center of the campus. It is Austin's tallest building and its upper stories command a view of the entire city.

An elevator operator said she went up to the observation landing of the tower shortly before noon to relieve an elevator starter at the top.

As she prepared to step from the elevator, a man confronted her. He carried a pair of tennis shoes in one hand. Behind him was some of his arsenal.

"Lady," he told her, "don't you dare get off this elevator. Go back down."

She returned to the ground floor.

Shooting broke out shortly afterward.

Denver Dolman, who oper-

ates a book store at the edge of the campus, may have seen the first wounded person fall.

He said a young Negro student was riding his bicycle toward the Texas Union Building, an entertainment and meeting center. The bicycle wavered and the boy appeared to fall off to the sidewalk, Dolman said.

Passersby came over and dragged the student away.

Then Dolman heard more shots.

"People started falling," Dolman said. "He's a fantastic shot. My God, he's shooting 200 yards linear distance. He couldn't do it with open sights."

Some of the students fell where they were hit, school books splattering to the ground.

When the shooting began persons ran out of a number of campus buildings to see what was going on. As bullets rained down they dashed for cover, some screaming in terror.

With rescuers pinned down by the steady fire, some victims lay untended for as long as an hour under the 98-degree sun. Finally armored cars used to haul money were pressed into service as ambulances.

Officers worked their way into the building, floor by floor, checking for the best place to rush the sniper.

Officers surrounded the tower from as far away as seven blocks and even got an airplane, which circled the tower, spraying shots at the sniper.

"All of a sudden they all stopped—it looked as if on signal," Rudolph said. "Then they all rushed the tower."

Martinez was one of the four officers who went out on the tower observation deck.

Chief Miles said that as Martinez rounded the corner of the deck, (the sniper) turned as though to shoot.

Martinez raised his pistol and shot six times.

It appeared most of the shots hit the sniper. He reeled back and Officer McCoy came up with a shotgun, which he fired once.

Martinez whipped the shotgun away from McCoy, raised it and shot once again, point blank at the sniper.

"Martinez was pretty well

shaken up," Miles said.

The sniper was carried over to the elevator, his head lolling back and appearing lifeless. Blood gushed from head wounds and splattered on the landing where others had been wounded earlier.

After the shooting ended, thousands of persons swarmed onto the plaza in front of the tower. Other wounded were recovered and a priest was called.

Whitman's body was carried from the tower at 2:15 p.m., his face covered with a blood-stained cloth.