

Man, Bride Found Dead; Murder-Suicide Is Seen

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

NEW CASTLE, N.Y., March 21—Richard A. Neiss, a Yonkers businessman, and his young bride were found dead last night in their \$150,000 Chappaqua home, an apparent murder and suicide, according to police and medical officials.

The District Attorney's office said that Mr. Neiss, who was 52 years old, had married his third wife, Margaret, who was in her twenties, last Friday night. Both had been shot in the head, with Mrs. Neiss having also suffered head cuts and a fractured skull, the police said.

Mr. Neiss was said by a colleague to have been a childhood friend of Robert Abplanalp, a close friend of President Nixon, and had maintained a business relationship with Mr. Abplanalp's Precision Valve Company in Yonkers for many years.

Mr. Neiss's company, Aromatic Laboratories of Yonkers, made the springs for the aerosol cans manufactured by Precision Valve. Mr. Neiss founded his own company 19 years ago.

Homicide Is Ruled

Thomas Facelle, chief assistant district attorney, said that the bodies had been discovered shortly after 6:30 last night by a friend of the couple who was concerned because he had been unable to reach them by telephone during the day.

The Chief Medical Examiner,

Henry Siegel, described Mrs. Neiss's death as a homicide but left her husband's cause of death "open" pending further investigation. Official sources said it appeared to be a suicide. A handgun was found at the scene, Mr. Facelle said, and the couple had been dead for "several hours" before the arrival of the friend who discovered them.

The large, Colonial-style house stood on a ridge at the northern end of McKesson Hill Road in a quiet, secluded section of Chappaqua. Homes in the area are separated by rolling lawns and screened by trees.

Neighbors Are Vague

A neighbor who said she had never met Mr. Neiss or his wife, reported that the home, worth approximately \$150,000, had been built a few years ago but had remained unsold for some time.

"The name—Richard A. Neiss—had been on the mailbox since last year," the neighbor said, "and I assume it was then that he, at least, had moved in." Others on McKesson Hill Road were equally vague about Mr. Neiss and his wife.

Mr. Neiss was described by an employe as a "good boss" who was easy to work with. A friend said he was outgoing and good-natured. Little was known about his wife, however.