

Notes on People

Ford Signs Grant of \$750,000 In L.S.D. Death in C.I.A. Test

President Ford has signed a law giving \$750,000 to the family of the late Frank R. Olson, who leaped to his death from the Statler-Hilton Hotel here 22 years ago after two agents of the Central Intelligence Agency laced his drink with LSD. The police here had called the death a suicide. Not until 1975, after the Rockefeller Commission's report on the C.I.A., did it become known that the agency had used Mr. Olson, a 43-year-old bacteriologist, as an unwitting guinea pig.

A month later, Alice Olson, his widow, and their three grown children went to the White House to hear an apology from President Ford. Yesterday's award was \$500,000 short of the 1.25 million in the private bill that had been agreed upon by the Administration and Congressional leadership. A private bill can be blocked by one dissent and Representative John H. Roussetol, Republican of California, objected to the amount.

In Frederick, Md., however, Mrs. Olson said the family was satisfied with the settlement as an "apology" by the Government "for the deceit and deception of 22 years," adding, "I'm very glad we made the effort to go public on this."

At a Waldorf-Astoria dinner last night for 1,000 guests, Harold S. Geneen, chairman of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Richard Rodgers, the composer, shared the fifth annual Communications Awards sponsored by the ICD Rehabilitation and Research Center (formerly the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled). Diahann Carroll and Richard Kiley, who co-starred in Mr. Rodgers' musical "No Strings," entertained with a presentation of Rodgers songs conducted by Emery Davis. The dinner was a benefit for communications research at the ICD's Speech and Hearing Institute, 340 East 24th Street.

Four-year-old Kyle Bendrat, whose parents moved back from the suburbs "so our kids can grow up in this city," was drafted from the crowd yesterday to help Mayor Beame plant seven "Japanese pagoda" trees on Jones Street, the little boy's new home in Greenwich Village. The street-tree program, stalled since 1974 by the budget crisis, is being resumed with an initial \$5,000 community-relations gift from the McDonald's Owner-Operators Association, presented by Chuck Mayer, president.

The Jones Street Block Association is one of 210 groups whose "tree money" has been held in escrow, with 2,164 trees "owed" them by the Parks Department matching program. The McDonald's gift will buy 80. Deputy Mayor Osborn Elliott was present as chairman of the Citizens Committee for New York City, which brought McDonald's and the Parks Department together and will try, he said, to raise more tree money from the private sector. Kyle Bendrat, a bit confused by the sound of "Mr. Mayor," looked at Mr. Mayer and said, "He's the mayor of McDonald's, right?" R. D. Bendrat, his father, an interior designer, and his mother, Holly, a buyer at Altman's, returned a month ago after eight years in Orange County, N. J. Mr. Bendrat said Kyle's 6-year-old sister, Heidi, was

at P.S. 41 yesterday and "will be so jealous."

It was not specified what elements of "the press" Stavros Niarchos was talking about but the 67-year-old Greek shipping magnate issued a statement yesterday concerning "reports circulating" that linked him with Princess Maria Gabriela of Savoy. She is the 36-year-old daughter of Italy's last king and the wife of Count Robert de Balkany of Paris, a Rumanian-born financier and real estate developer.

Mr. Niarchos said he had known the princess for 20 years "and they remain excellent friends, as always." In a passage that particularly suggester a lawyer's hand, the statement said, "The relations between the princess and her husband do not in any way involve or concern Mr. Niarchos," who went on to say that reports of a possible marriage between himself and the princess "are totally without foundation." It was recalled that Mr. Niarchos issued a similar denial shortly before his 1971 marriage to Tina Livanos Onassis Blandford, who died in 1974. His earlier wives included the late Eugenia Livanos and Charlotte Ford Forstmann, daughter of Henry Ford 2d.

At a White House dinner tonight in her honor, Martha Graham will become the first dancer to receive the Medal of Freedom. President Ford will present the nation's highest civilian award to the 82-year-old pioneer of American modern dance. First Lady, Betty Ford, is a former Graham student. Miss Graham will join her dance company, now in Madrid, early next week in Paris. The company opens Oct. 23 at the Theatre des Champs Elysees, following the New York City Ballet's season there.

In Paris the Duchess of Windsor won a \$32,000 court award yesterday in her suit for invasion of her privacy by a long-lens camera. The state television channel and France Soir, the newspaper, were each ordered to pay \$16,000 for using a picture of the 80-year-old duchess walking in her Neuilly garden in May with the help of a nurse and three other persons. A source close to the duchess said yesterday that her condition now is "neither better nor worse, just stationary."

In London, Roman Polanski, the film director, won a \$165 judgment and an official denial of any evidence that his late wife, Sharon Tate, the actress slain by the Charles Manson "family," had ever practiced witchcraft. The judge ordered that the \$165 be paid by the News of the World newspaper to the Cousteau Society, as designated by Mr. Polanski, to settle his libel suit on his wife's behalf.

Future wedding anniversaries may be a problem for Manuel Benitez, the bullfighter known as El Cordobes. He gave a 12-hour flamenco party in Cordoba to mark the first year of his marriage and gave his wife, Martina, \$15,000 worth of jewels and an airplane, the Spanish news agency reported yesterday. El Cordobes retired four years ago after earning a reported \$2.5 million.

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