

Albert M. Thompson (- 29 Sep 1951)

The Washington Post, September 30, 1951, p. M1

Jilted Suitor Kills Navy Girl And Himself

Pretty Marylander, 20, Shot to Death in Car; Police Find Slayer's Note

A pretty Navy Department stenographer was shot to death yesterday afternoon by a rejected suitor who then fired a bullet into his own head and died at her feet.

Prince Georges County police said Frances Mary Heilmeier, 20, of Cedarville, Md., was killed almost instantly in the driveway of a home near Brandywine when she was shot in the head as she struggled with her former fiance, Albert Milton Thompson, 26, of Beltsville, Md.

Then as she fell back into the front seat of Thompson's car, he put the .38-caliber antique pistol at his own head and fired, they said.

Detective Sergt. Wilson J. Purdy said an eight-page note telling of Thompson's plan to kill the young woman and himself was found in his car. It read in part:

"I love no one but Frances Mary Heilmeier of Brandywine, Md. I can't see her go out with anyone else but me. Because I love her, if I can't have her no one else will. I have been thinking about this a long time. Please don't blame anyone but me. Please bury us together, same church, same time, same place. Don't take it so hard. So long and God bless you all."

Purdy said he learned from the girl's father, Ludwig Heilmeier, 50, that she was terrified of Thompson because he had threatened to shoot her before if she didn't marry him.

Heilmeier told Purdy that just last Wednesday, when Thompson came to the Heilmeier home, Francis begged her father to send him away and breaking into tears, declared:

"I'm afraid of him. He takes me out on lonely roads and threatens me with a gun and says if I don't marry him, he will shoot me."

Yesterday, Frances had started to drive away from the home of J. Francis Summers at Westwood near Brandywine after dropping off a former high school classmate, Evelyn Anne "Nancy" Summers, when she found the driveway blocked by Thompson's car, Purdy said.

Forces Her Into Car

As the young woman got out of her car, Thompson grabbed her, hauled her to his car and forced her to get in. She struggled with him, broke loose and got outside the car, but he grabbed her again, according to Purdy.

As they tussled next to the driver's seat, Thompson fired at Miss Heilmeier, police said. She fell into the car with her feet still touching the ground. He fired again and slumped at her feet.

The young couple was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. James I. Boyd, a Prince Georges County medical examiner, who said he will issue certificates of murder and suicide.

The girl's father, who works as a brewer's helper at the Heurich Brewery in Georgetown, said his daughter and Thompson had "gone together" for about two years and had announced their engagement on her nineteenth birthday on September 18, 1950.

Engagement Broken Off

Frances, however, broke the engagement about six months ago, although she continued to see Thompson occasionally because he was "so persistent," the father said.

"He was crazy about her and wouldn't let her alone," Heilmeier declared.

He added that yesterday afternoon Frances and Nancy Summers had made a trip to Washington to take a test for enlistment in the Air Force. He said Frances told him she wanted to get away because of her fear of Thompson.

A graduate of the Gwynn Park High School in TB, Md., last year, Miss Heilmeier was employed as a stenographer at the Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland. She lived with her parents on their 25-acre farm at Cedarville, near Brandywine.

Besides her parents, she is survived by two brothers, Ludwig, jr., 21, a student at the University of Maryland, and Henry, 17, and a sister, Louise, 14.

Thompson, from Clinton, Md., roomed at Beltsville, where he was employed as a greenhouse worker at the Agriculture Department's experimental farm. He is survived by a brother, Pvt. Elmer Thompson, who is a member of the Hyattsville Town Police Department, Purdy said.

The Washington Post, October 1, 1951, p. B1

Navy Girl's Battle With Killer Told

The deaths of a Navy Department stenographer and her former fiance were officially listed yesterday by Prince Georges County police as murder-suicide, thus marking the tragic case "closed."

Frances Mar Heilmeier, 20, of Cedarville, Md., died of three bullet wounds in her head, while Albert Milton Thompson, 26, of Beltsville, Md., who shot her and then turned the gun on himself, died of a single bullet wound in the head.

Detective Sergt. Wilson J. Purdy said the struggle of the two beside Thompson's car, parked in the driveway of the home of J. Francis Summers near Brandywine, Md., Saturday afternoon, was witnessed by a neighbor.

The neighbor called police as soon as she heard the shots fired, Purdy said. He added that Thompson also left an eight-page note, telling of his plan to kill Miss Heilmeier and himself.

The young couple had been engaged, but Miss Heilmeier broke the engagement about six months ago.

The Washington Post, October 2, 1951, p. B2

Suicide Slayer, Victim to Be Buried Apart

Albert M. Thompson and the girl he shot and killed shortly before taking his life will not be buried together.

Thompson, 26, of Clinton, Md., will be buried in Congressional cemetery Wednesday immediately after funeral services at 2 p.m. in Gasch's Funeral Home, Hyattsville.

The girl, Frances Mary Heilmeier, 20, of Cedarville, Md., will be buried today in St. Peter's cemetery in Waldorf after a requiem mass at 9 a.m. in St. Peter's Church.

Bodies of the couple were found beside Thompson's car late Saturday on a lonely road near the girl's home.

An 8-page note left by Thompson in his car explained he intended to kill the girl and himself and said, "Please bury us together, same church, same time, same place . . ."

Thompson is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Balderson, Mrs. Velve Riley, Mrs. Alice Pickerall, and four brothers, Lawrence, Elmer, George and Ralph Thompson.