



Gloyd Vestal (Shirt And Tie) In Custody Of Greensboro Police
Detectives Eli Welch, Left, And John Barrow, Right, Escort Prisoner

Staff Photo By Larry Tucker

Meandering

By
Jerry
Bledsoe



A Lonely Little Girl Rides The Elephants

Bombay lay on her side having her back swept by some guy with tatoos all over his arms. She seemed to be enjoying it.

Donna Lockard stood watching. She wore a trenchcoat over her costume. Her costume was a fancy little affair with white bermuda-like shorts and a red vest with long, lacy sleeves. She also wore fringed knee boots. Donna Lockard is a small, olive-complexioned girl with short, dark hair and very wide brown eyes. She is 17. She rides elephants.

Bombay is an elephant, of course. About 27 years old. From India. Donna Lockard likes her a lot. Both Bombay and Donna are with the circus. Except this week they're at the Greensboro Fair. Doing two free shows a night ("free" once you've paid to get in). Along with four other girls. Girl elephants, that is. Boy elephants do not make good circus performers. Too ornery.

The guy who was sweeping Bombay's back finished and told her to get up. She did. Then some guy in droopy green pants brought a harness-like device over, poked Bombay with a stick and told her to get her head down and keep her trunk up. She did that too.

Finally, Bombay followed the guy in the droopy pants over to the ring. She kneeled and Donna Lockard climbed aboard. Then Bombay climbed up on a pedestal and stood on her hind legs and did things like that. They do other tricks, too.

So She Ran Away With Circus

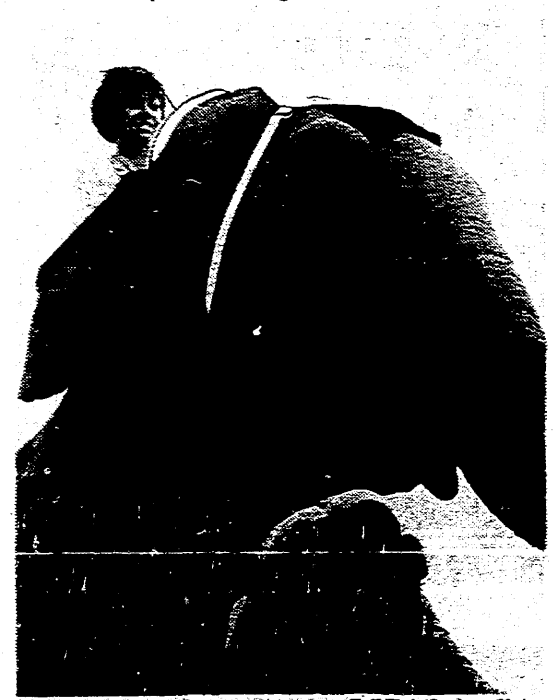
As a very little girl, Donna Lockard kept to herself; she was lonely, and she liked animals.

"I'm still very lonely," she said, sitting in a trailer on the fairgrounds. "I always liked animals when I was little, but I couldn't ever have them. Oh, I had dogs and cats, but the elephants just caught my eye."

No many little girls have elephants, of course. And in Donna's case it would have been even more difficult. Things were crowded enough as they were. She had eight brothers and sisters. Her father was a sewing machine mechanic in Altoona, Pa.

Donna finished the seventh grade, and when she was 13, she says, "I just ran away."

"Everybody really didn't like me in school," she



Donna Lockard And Bombay

Staff Photo By Jerry Bledsoe

Pennisi, An Ex-MP, Made Good In City

BY C. A. PAUL
Daily News Staff Writer

Angelo Salvatore Pennisi first came to Greensboro during World War II and was stationed here as a military policeman with the Army's Overseas Replacement Depot.

Here he met Montrose Brown, a local girl, and later married her.

After the war, Pennisi worked for a credit reporting company and an insurance company and in 1949 he established an insurance agency in ORD.

The agency prospered because Pennisi was a born salesman, a hail fellow well met, and quite good natured, according to those who knew him. As his many friends and acquaintances have said, "If you had ever been around him, you would remember him."

AFTER SOME years had passed, Pennisi took in a partner, Robert Mays, and the agency became the Pennisi-Mays Insurance Agency. Pennisi owned 80 per cent of the stock, Mays 20 per cent.

Mainly, Mays ran the office and Pennisi got out and mixed with people.

Pennisi was a big man, standing well over 6 feet and weighing around 210 pounds.

SEVERAL YEARS ago, Pennisi began to operate in fields outside the insurance business.

With Gloyd Vestal, who was accused Wednesday of his murder, Pennisi bought the Silver Sands Motel at Myrtle Beach. Subsequently, they sold it and Pennisi bought another Myrtle Beach property, the Town and Beach Motel.

A few years ago, Pennisi invested some money in an artificial flower business in which Vestal was engaged.

THEN, IN 1967, Pennisi and Maurice Miller, who lives on Hobbs Road, organized the Penn-Miller Corp. Its address was the same as that of the Pennisi-Mays Insurance Agency, 1033 E. Wendover Ave., and Pennisi and his wife and Miller and his wife were the incorporators.

According to Miller, the company owned a trailer park and a building in High Point in which there is a Kwik-Burger business. Miller is the owner of Bluff-Burger and Kwik-Burger places in Greensboro.

Last January, the Cumberland Development Corp., organized by J. Kenneth Lee and others to build a shopping center in East Greensboro, gave the Penn-Miller Corp. a mortgage for \$38,000, putting up some of the shopping center property as collateral.

The mortgage is due next Jan. 1, according to records on file at the Guilford County Courthouse.

AT THE TIME of death, Pennisi had planned to sell his insurance agency and had placed it with a downtown broker. A local company, engaged in insurance and other businesses, was a prospect.

Here are extracts from a resume Pennisi prepared for the broker:

"The Pennisi-Mays Ins. Agen-

cy founded in 1949 is one of the best operated and most profitably run agencies in the Southeastern United States.

"The agency did approximately \$600,000 of fire and casualty business in 1968 and for the first 4 months of 1969 our writings are over \$45,000 in excess of the same period for the preceding year."

"We write no assigned risk business and accept no brokerage business. We have purchased no other agencies and all the business been personally produced by either Mr. Mays or Pennisi."

"PRIOR TO Mr. Pennisi starting the agency in 1949 he was employed as district manager of the Woodmen of the World Life Inc. Before that he worked for the Hooper-Holmes Bureau, that being his first ci-

(See Pennisi: B-12, Col. 4)

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Bryan Clemmons, who now operates Clemmons Florist, said Vestal came to the shop where he worked one day during World War II, "when he was just a young boy, and told us he wanted a job. We said all right, and he went to work and

learned how to do everything that was to be done."

While still a teen-ager, Vestal went into the service, and suffered frostbite on both feet during the Battle of the Bulge during the closing days of the war.

Vestal still receives monthly compensation as a partially disabled veteran.

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ployers agreed to help him start his own business in Summit Shopping Center, which was then still under construction.

Two acquaintances described Vestal as an "excellent" businessman, at least in the flower business, and described his Summit Avenue shop as probably the most successful in the city. Recently Vestal opened another shop, this one in the Golden Gate shopping center.

Over the years, Vestal undertook several other business ventures, including a reportedly un-

successful one as owner of a used auto sales business. More recently, he joined Angelo S. Pennisi, whom Vestal is accused of murdering, in the purchase of the Silver Sands Motel in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

EARLIER THIS year, both men sold their shares in the motel, and Vestal subsequently bought the King's Inn in Greensboro from Dan Nicholas of Salisbury and Rudolph

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Greensboro Florist

Police Arrest Vestal In Pennisi Slaying

BY C. A. PAUL
Daily News Staff Writer

Gloyd Vestal was arrested here Wednesday for the murder of Angelo Salvatore Pennisi on June 15 a little more than half an hour after a special grand jury of Guilford Superior Court returned an indictment against him.

The grand jury convened at 9:30 a.m. and filed into the courtroom to return the indictment at 11:53 a.m. The foreman, William C. White of 509 Edney Ridge Road, handed the bill of indictment to Judge Robert A. Collier of Statesville, who read it aloud and added: "No bond will be set at this time."

JUDGE COLLIER ordered a warrant issued for Vestal's arrest and within minutes city police were looking for him.

Policemen went to Vestal's Flower & Gift Shop in the Summit Shopping Center and were told that Vestal had left about two minutes before, bound for his other shop, in the Golden Gate Shopping Center. However, police did not find him at the second shop.

Shortly before 12:30 p.m. Detective J. J. Hart reported seeing Vestal's car, a light blue 1968 Lincoln, headed south on North Elm Street, near the Northwood Street intersection.

Detectives John Barrow and Eli Welch overtook Vestal's car in the 500 block of North Elm Street, stopped it and arrested him. Two women were with Vestal, but Police Lt. W. J. Gibson said that Vestal was "just giving them a lift downtown."

THE ARREST was made about 12:30 p.m. and Vestal was taken to police headquarters, his hands handcuffed behind him, about five minutes later. As he was going into the rear entrance of City Hall, Vestal said:

"I can't understand why you're doing this to me when I've been in business all these years."

It was not clear whether he made the remark to police or to members of the press who were crowded around the knot of policemen accompanying him.

His blond hair was tousled. He was wearing a tan shirt, tan slacks and brown calfskin loafers.

His wife, Lois, appeared at police headquarters shortly after his arrest and conferred with detectives for some time.

Vestal is 42 and has two children, a 12-year-old son and a 19-year-old daughter. The Vestals live at 2205 Marston Road.

About 2:30 p.m., Vestal was taken from police headquarters to the Guilford County Jail, atop the courthouse.

THE INDICTMENT contained the first public statement of the date of Pennisi's murder.

An order calling a special grand jury into session was signed Monday by Judge Collier. The 18 jurors — including four women — were notified Tuesday to appear at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Three witnesses went into the grand jury room. Two of them were members of the Police Department. The third one was

Mrs. Pennisi, widow of the slain man.

PENNISI, 47, lived at 1601 Wilton Drive. According to his wife, he left home about 7 o'clock on the night of Sunday, June 15, saying he was going to fly to Wilmington, Del., on an overnight business trip. He was carrying a shaving kit, but no suitcase. Mrs. Pennisi said he told her he would return about the same time Monday night.

Kenneth E. Lewis of 1613 Wilton Drive, a neighbor and friend of the Pennisi's later told police that Mrs. Pennisi told him on Tuesday, June 17, that her husband had not returned and that she was worried.

Lewis said that on the following day, Mrs. Pennisi told him again that her husband had not

returned and he went to police headquarters and reported that Pennisi was missing.

THE FOLLOWING Saturday, June 21, a fisherman found a body floating in Lake Gaston, just over the North Carolina line in Mecklenburg County, Va.

The body was taken to the office of the state medical examiner in Richmond and on Sunday night, June 22, it was identified as Pennisi's. Positive identification was made by means of Army fingerprints.

An assistant medical examiner said that the body had been in the water about six days and that death was caused by blows on the head. Pennisi's body had been wrapped in a length of

(See Vestal Is: B-12, Col. 1)



Staff Photo By Dave Nicholson

Gloyd Vestal, In Handcuffs, Arrives At Police Station

Vestal A Top Businessman One Of City's Most Successful Florists

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Hospitals Will Hike Room Rates

Moses Cone Hospital announced rate increases Wednesday, and the other two Greensboro general hospitals expect to operate under higher rates by Nov. 1.

At Cone, the rate increase is being stimulated by a minimum wage increase from \$1.60 to \$1.50 an hour that the hospital will put into effect Sunday.

Trustee boards have not approved rate changes at Wesley Long and L. Richardson Memorial hospitals, but administrators of each said they anticipated approval and adoption of higher rates by Nov. 1.

Dr. J. Z. Smith, Richardson administrator, said, "Minimum wages increases will be reflected in a room rate increase. I'm hopeful the trustees will make them effective soon, certainly by Nov. 1."

JAMES PHELPS, Wesley Long administrator, said the hospital's budget was being compiled and the new room rates "probably will be in effect by Nov. 1."

Cone Director Harold Bennis said progressive care room rates would rise \$2, making the daily rate \$16 and \$20. Four and five-dollar jumps will affect other room rates. Four-bed wards will rise to \$30 and \$33; two-bed rooms, \$34 and \$37; and private rooms, \$41 through \$45.

Cone operating room charges will go up about \$20 per operation, based on a time schedule, X-ray examinations will be about 16 per cent higher. And fees in the laboratory will be increased about 12 1/2 per cent over-all.

Hospital officials report that price increases for materials used there also had an effect on the rate boost. Some of the things that have reportedly gone up in price are surgical instruments and dressings, intravenous solutions, linens and food.

(See Return: B-9, Col. 1)

2 Air Force Jets Crash, Explode In Robeson, Crewmen Are Killed

ROWLAND (UPI) — Two Air Force jets crashed and exploded in the woods about three miles east of here Wednesday afternoon, killing all four crew members.

"The planes are in bits and pieces," said Robeson County deputy Sheriff H. C. Edwards. "The largest piece is half the size of a car."

Pope Air Force Base, about 60 miles northwest of here, dispatched an emergency response team to the crash site.

An information officer from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base identified the two aircraft as an F-4D Phantom fighter assigned to the Fourth Tactical Wing at Seymour Johnson and an F-104 fighter aircraft from

the 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing at McConnell AFB in Kansas.

The planes were reported to be returning to Seymour Johnson after participating in Brass Strike V — a joint forces demonstration featuring the latest in military equipment and joint operating techniques for the Army and Air Force.

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