

**Beautiful Smith Girl  
Missing at Wellesley**

**Smith Girl Missing  
At Wellesley Home**

**Hunt Wellesley Girl 'on Hike'**

**Top-Ranking Student at Smith  
Missing from Wellesley Home**

**Smith Girl  
Missing in  
Wellesley**

**Sleeping Pills  
Missing with  
Wellesley Girl**

**Smith Student  
Listed Missing**

COLLEGE GIRL MISSING Missing Senior

Smith Senior  
Is Missing

**Posse Hunts  
Smith Girl**

**Smith Girl  
Missing at  
Wellesley**

Wellesley Woods Searched

**Police, Boy Scouts Hunt  
Missing Smith Student**

**Wide Search for  
Smith College Girl**

**Search Continued  
For Sylvia Plath,  
Missing Smith Girl**  
**FIND NO CLUES  
IN SEARCH FOR  
SMITH SENIOR**  
Police, Scouts, Bloodhound  
Scour Wellesley Area for  
Trace of Sylvia Plath

**Hunt Missing College  
Girl in Favored Haunts**

Fear Mounts for  
Safety of Smith  
College Student

**Missing  
Student  
Hunted**

**Day-Long Search Fails  
to Find Smith Student**  
**Missing Girl Sought**  
Smith College Senior Left Note  
Saying She Was Going for Walk

**Police, Kin  
Fear Smith  
Girl Suicide**

**Carry On  
Search For  
Plath Girl**

**50 Sleep Pills Vanish  
With Missing Smith Girl**

**Bloodhound Trails  
Lost Girl Scholar**

Smith College Student at Smith  
Senior Missing Reported Missing  
From Home

Smith College Girl Found  
Unharmed

**Hunt Continues  
For Smith Girl**

**Hunt For Missing Smith  
Honor Student Who Left  
On 'Long Hike' Fruitless**  
**Missing Smith Student Is  
Object of Statewide Hunt**

Wellesley Resident  
Described As Being  
Highly Nervous

Smith College Senior Left Note  
Saying She Was Going for Walk

WIDE SEARCH BEING CONDUCTED  
FOR SMITH COLLEGE STUDENT

Search Organized  
For Smith Girl

Note Saying 'Have Gone for a Hike' Found in Sylvia  
Plath's Wellesley Home; Under Doctor's Care

**Missing Girl Found**  
Smith Student Discovered Under  
Porch of Wellesley Home  
**College Girl Found  
In Cellar of Home**

**Smith Student Found Alive in Cellar**

**Missing  
Wellesley  
Girl Found**

**Missing Wellesley Student Is Found Alive**

• LATE BULLETINS •

**Missing Wellesley Girl, 20,  
Found Asleep in Her Cellar**

**Missing Girl Found**  
Smith Student Discovered Under  
Porch of Wellesley Home

**Sylvia Plath Found  
In Good Condition**

**Missing Smith Senior Found Under Porch**

**Smith Girl  
In Coma at  
Own Home**

**Honor Student  
'Out of Danger';  
Took Sleep Pills**  
**Wellesley Girl  
Found in Cellar**

**Sleeping Pill  
Girl 2 Days  
In Own Cellar**

**Missing Co-ed Found**  
**Girl Found  
Asleep in  
Basement**  
Ends Search for  
Sylvia Plath  
Of Wellesley

**Missing College  
Girl Found Alive  
In Cellar Of Home**

**Wellesley Girl's  
Condition Good**

**FOUND AT HOME,  
SMITH SENIOR IN  
'FAIR' CONDITION**

**Smith Student,  
Found Under  
Porch, Recovers**  
**Suffers from Overdose  
Of 'Sleeping' Pills**

**Search Ends  
Find Girl  
In Cellar**

**Missing Wellesley  
Girl Found Alive  
In Cellar Of Home**

**Missing Smith Girl  
Found in Own Cellar**

**Pill Girl  
2 Days  
In Cellar**

**GIRL STUDENT PILL  
VICTIM RECOVERS**

**Missing Girl**

**Sylvia Plath Is Located Under  
Porch; Sleeping  
Tablets Nearby**

**Trace Moves  
Of Girl Felled  
By Sleep Pills**

**Sylvia Plath  
Asleep During  
2-Day Search**

**Girl Recovering  
From Sleep Pills**

**Hunted Smith Student  
Slept in Home Cellar**

Smith College  
Girl Found  
Unharmed

**Condition Good  
Of Smith Senior**

**Who Took Pills**

**Smith Girl  
Recovering**

**SYLVIA PLATH  
LOCATED ALIVE  
IN WELLESLEY**

HOME ALL THE TIME  
HOME ALL THE TIME

Student's Condition  
Is Reported Good

Case Probed  
Student Recovering  
From Pill Overdose



## "They Had to Call and Call": The Search for Sylvia Plath

Peter K. Steinberg

Sylvia Plath first attempted suicide on August 24, 1953. For approximately two full days her whereabouts were unknown. Her disappearance sparked a major local and regional search. At first Plath was a missing person, but within a day it was discovered that her sleeping pills were gone. As a result, the police concluded Plath attempted suicide and updated the public via news sources. Her mother, Aurelia Schober Plath, was the only family member quoted in the papers at the time. "It sounds peculiar," she said on August 25, 1953, "but she has set standards for herself that are almost unattainable. She's made almost a minor obsession of fulfilling what she believes to be her responsibility to her sponsors, and I am gravely concerned for her" ("Wellesley Woods Searched" 9). The following day, Mrs. Plath added: "She recently felt she was unworthy of the confidence held for her by the people she knew. For some time she has been unable to write either fiction or her more recent love, poetry. Instead of regarding this as just an arid period that every writer faces at times, she believed something had happened to her mind, that it was unable to produce creatively anymore" ("Day-Long Search Fails" 1). Mrs. Plath's statement concludes: "Although her doctor assured us this was due to nervous exhaustion, Sylvia was constantly seeking ways for which to blame herself for the failure, and became increasingly despondent" (9).

Anne Stevenson suggests: "Almost every writer I know has severe depression...It's when you know you're not fulfilling yourself, when you know you're letting yourself down. To be an artist, you have to grant a certain authority to yourself" (qtd. in Malcolm 107). This statement, which Stevenson made some time after the publication of her biography *Bitter Fame: A Life of Sylvia Plath* (1989), mirrors those remarks made by Aurelia Plath's during her daughter's disappearance.

The similarity between Aurelia Plath's comments as a mother and Anne Stevenson's as a writer indicates the acuity in which Plath's mother evaluated her daughter's feelings. For Stevenson, alcohol was the way she chose to handle her depression and she compares her dependency on it to Plath's suicide attempt: "I think Sylvia took up suicide the way I took up drink." (107). Stevenson continues: "And if you're having a bad time in your life in order to produce this art the pain can produce intolerable strain—which can come out as alcoholism or

deep depression, or both" (107).

Critics often associate Plath's despondency and depression that summer with Frank O'Connor's rejection of her application for his Harvard Summer School course "English S-R -- Advanced Composition: The Short Story." The course catalog states: "Enrollment in the course will be limited and preference will be given to students who have already done some original work either in criticism or creative writing" (Harvard 63) Though well-published for a twenty year old, Plath's creative self – the "authority" to which Stevenson refers – was fragile and still forming. Plath anticipated a productive and creative summer after her guest editorship at *Mademoiselle*. She looked at O'Connor's course as an opportunity "to sell some of the stories I wrote for it" (Plath, *Unabridged Journals* 543). It was supposed to be "the summer where I built up a backlog" (543). While Plath took this rejection negatively, it is possible that she was too advanced a writer for O'Connor's course. Plath had, after all, published five stories and four poems in *Seventeen* and *Mademoiselle* before June 1953. In addition, she had three poems and three journalism pieces in *The Christian Science Monitor*, and more than two dozen articles published anonymously as a Press Board correspondent in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and *Springfield Daily News*. While she had no published criticism, it would be surprising if other candidates for O'Connor's class had such a résumé.

Although no biography of Plath is complete without covering her suicide attempt and trying to make sense of it, critics and biographers have never fully understood the extent of the coverage her disappearance received in the media.<sup>1</sup> Recent scholarship on Sylvia Plath in the field of modernist studies focuses attention on periodicals and in particular the contemporary context of periodicals to Plath's lifetime. Works by Marsha Bryant, Luke Ferretter, and Robin Peel come to mind as unique and valuable examinations in this research area.<sup>2</sup>

It is impossible to know how many radio stations reported the missing Plath, or just how frequently updates or appeals for information were broadcasted. Warren Plath confirms that his sister's disappearance aired on the television news.<sup>3</sup> In conjunction with the story, a family

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<sup>1</sup> While a comprehensive review of Plath's first three years at Smith College does not fall within the scope of this paper, a review of her life between September 1950 and August 1953 could be undertaken to further understand Plath's mindset at the time and what led her to attempt suicide.

<sup>2</sup> See Bryant's "Ariel's Kitchen: Plath, *Ladies Home Journal*, and the Domestic Surreal" in Anita Helle's *The Unraveling Archive: Essays on Sylvia Plath* and Peel's *Writing Back: Sylvia Plath and Cold War Politics* and other essays. Luke Ferretter's talk at the Sylvia Plath 75<sup>th</sup> Year Symposium discussed Plath's short fiction in relation to the *Ladies' Home Journal* and other magazines for women.

<sup>3</sup> WBZ-TV and WNAC-TV were Boston's television stations in 1953.



photograph appeared.<sup>4</sup> This is mostly likely the same photograph that ran in the Boston Globe on August 25, 1953. However, newspapers did run both locally written news stories and re-printed those sent over the wires courtesy of the Associated Press, the United Press, and the International News Service. In their biographies of Sylvia Plath, both Linda Wagner-Martin and Paul Alexander claim that Plath's disappearance was national news.<sup>5</sup> However, neither author provides any concrete evidence for such a claim.

Plath chose to attempt suicide while her mother watched *A Queen is Crowned* at the Exeter Street Theatre in Boston the afternoon of August 24, 1953.<sup>6</sup> She took a bottle of sleeping pills, filled the Friday before, along with a glass of water and a blanket into the basement. There was a crawl space, blocked by firewood, which was directly below the screened-in breezeway which connects the house to the garage. The "shoulder high" crawl space opening is "2 ½ by 2 ½" feet, is "twenty feet by ten," had "cement walls" and "a dirt floor" ("Find Girl in Cellar" 17). Plath was careful to replace the logs, thus concealing herself completely. Plath then swallowed forty of the sleeping pills. Police searched the house, but the basement was not as carefully examined as possible because "the kindling wood was in place and the family said it had been there for some time" ("Wellesley Girl Found in Cellar" 2).<sup>7</sup>

While Plath slept in the crawl space beneath the porch of her house at 26 Elmwood Road, another major news event swept Massachusetts and the nation. Mildred McDonald, a stenographer from Somerville, murdered the fourteen year old sister of her former boyfriend. A heavy rain fell that first night which served to frustrate the wide regional search effort for Plath, which made use of bloodhounds from the Andover State Police.<sup>8</sup> On the evening of August 26, 1953, Olive Higgins Prouty sent a telegram to Aurelia Plath to let Mrs. Plath know that she wanted to help. Prouty, on vacation in Maine, learned about her protégé's disappearance and discovery from a Boston newspaper. This telegram, which is held in the Plath materials at the

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<sup>4</sup> Email, Susan Plath Winston, 11 May 2010.

<sup>5</sup> See page 105 in Wagner-Martin's *Sylvia Plath: A Biography* and pages 124-125 in Alexander's *Rough Magic*. In three instances in *Rough Magic*, Alexander gives either the incorrect publication for an article or merges titles of different articles together. In *Sylvia Plath: Method & Madness*, Edward Butscher, and as a consequence Wagner-Martin, claims that Newton-Wellesley Hospital is in Framingham, which we know is not true.

<sup>6</sup> As it turns out, *A Queen is Crowned* began a seven day limited engagement showing at the Community Playhouse in Wellesley beginning September 13, 1953.

<sup>7</sup> Much of the information above was obtained from the newspaper articles on her disappearance.

<sup>8</sup> News ran concurrently to Plath's disappearance about the Andover State Police acquiring eleven new bloodhounds.

Lilly Library, was important to Aurelia Plath as it ensured the possibility of financial support in her daughter's recovery.<sup>9</sup> The telegram is reproduced here for the first time.

CLASS OF SERVICE	WESTERN UNION	1201	SYMBOLS
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.	W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT		DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter LT=Int'l Letter Telegram VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.
The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination			
BA144 SSN748		1953 AUG 26 PM 7 12	
B-BCA060 NL PD=TDBC SPRUCEPOINT ME 26=			
MRS EURELIA PLATH=			
ELMWOOD AVE WELLSLEY MASS=			
HAVE JUST LEARNED SILVIA HAS BEEN FOUND AND IS RECOVERING AT			
HOSPITAL I WANT TO HELP AM WRITING=			
OLIVE H CROUTY=			
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE			

In October 1962, after completing *The Bell Jar*, Plath stated in an interview: "I believe that one should be able to control and manipulate experiences, even the most terrifying, like madness ... I think that personal experience is very important" (Orr 169). While a response to a question about her poetry, this comment is particularly relevant to her fiction. Her position that "personal experience is very important" can clearly be traced from her earliest written and published short stories.<sup>10</sup>

In her journals, Plath cultivates and rehearses her attitude about writing and life to the point where it becomes first a mantra and ultimately a philosophy. Of her short story "Den of

<sup>9</sup> There is some unpublished correspondence in Plath Mss. II at the Lilly Library between Aurelia Plath, Olive Higgins Prouty and Sylvia Plath's doctor's. These letters illustrate the level of involvement Prouty took in Plath's recovery and treatment. Amongst others, Jacqueline Rose discusses this in "The Archive," chapter three of her *The Haunting of Sylvia Plath*. See pages 82-87.

<sup>10</sup> It can be seen also in what survives of her first attempts to write a novel in the mid-to-late 1950s. Pages from her first novel attempt *Falcon Yard* and a chapter drafts from it, "Venus in the Seventh" and "Hill of Leopards," are held by Emory University (See Ted Hughes Papers, Series 3: Sylvia Plath, Subseries 3.2 Prose, Box 139, Folders 19 and 24, and Box 140, Folder 11).



Lions," she felt that she "wrenched a piece out of my life, a piece of hurt and beauty, and transformed it to typewritten words" (Plath, *Unabridged Journals* 22). In two entries from May 1952 and January 1953, Plath states: "The fact remains that writing is a way of life to me...But to write you have to live, don't you" (107; 166)? She is clearly forming her *modus operandi*; and when she failed to end her life she set her sights on living to the hilt. After her breakdown and marriage, she orders herself: "All I need to do is work, break open the deep mines of experience and imagination..." (283). It would take time and practice, but after writing "Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams" she felt as though she finally tapped into a resource that enabled her to be more hopeful. Now, she asserts, "My life may at last get into my writing" (441). "Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams" and the other stories written and set in Boston, combined with her experience of working at Massachusetts General Hospital, encouraged Plath to seriously consider writing "mental-hospital stuff. I am a fool if I don't relive, recreate it" (495). This is not to suggest that she would be writing straight out of her life experiences, unfiltered. No, it would take a combination of "experience and imagination," and, as she said, the ability "to control and manipulate experiences" (283; Orr 169). This is the achievement of *The Bell Jar*.

As with much of the story of Esther Greenwood's "queer, sultry summer" (Plath, *The Bell Jar* 1), there are some embellishments in the thinly fictionalized story of her breakdown. The pivotal chapter in the novel is Chapter Thirteen, where Esther Greenwood attempts to take her life. After she is discovered and initially treated in the subsequent chapter, Esther Greenwood transfers from the city hospital to a private hospital with the financial assistance of her benefactress Philomena Guinea, who had "interested herself in my case" (208). Guinea's telegram and the help it promised was conditional: "Is there a boy in the case" (209)? It is clear from the image above that no such condition appeared in the actual telegram from which this episode in the novel derives. This is but one instance where Plath expertly manipulates her experiences in her creative writing.

In addition to the telegram, Esther Greenwood recalls newspaper clippings in *The Bell Jar*.<sup>11</sup> Joan Gilling, the "beaming double of my old best self" hands Esther "a fistful of clippings" (231; 223). Esther mentions four and lists the headlines for three. These fictionalized clippings have the headlines "SCHOLARSHIP GIRL MISSING. MOTHER WORRIED...SLEEPING PILLS FEARED MISSING WITH GIRL...GIRL FOUND ALIVE!"

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<sup>11</sup> The telegram and clippings are but two of many "real life" props traceable in *The Bell Jar*.

(223-224). Esther reads each headline, summarizes the connected story and describes the accompanying photographs.

As readers will see in the bibliography to follow, the headlines in the novel do closely match those which appeared when the real events occurred. Each summary is accurate enough and two of the four photographs described approximately depict those that ran during the ordeal.<sup>12</sup> While *The Bell Jar* is a work of fiction based on actual events, evidence strongly suggests Plath did not have access to any real clippings when as she composed *The Bell Jar*.

The Lilly Library holds three clippings on Plath's first suicide attempt.<sup>13</sup> They were included in the papers purchased in 1977 from Aurelia Plath. These were largely papers Sylvia Plath left behind in America when she and Ted Hughes returned to England in December 1959. The Plath Collection held by the Mortimer Rare Book Room largely consists of the papers purchased from Ted Hughes that came from those which Plath left behind in England. There are two clippings in the Plath Collection, but these are later accessions.<sup>14</sup> These were donated on November 14, 1985 by Plath's college classmate Enid Epstein Mark and were therefore not among Plath's working papers when she wrote *The Bell Jar*. Whether or not Plath had any clippings with her in England is not known; however, the absence of clippings in the Plath collection at Smith, suggests she did not.

Stephen Tabor's *Sylvia Plath: An Analytical Bibliography* lists only twelve articles on Plath's disappearance which appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The Boston Herald*, *The Boston Post*, *The Townsman* (Wellesley), and the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* (Northampton).<sup>15</sup> One of the two clippings at Smith College, "Find Girl in Cellar," is not included in Tabor's work. This article was the catalyst for my search, and over the last year I have tried to find as many newspaper articles as possible on Sylvia Plath's first suicide attempt.<sup>16</sup> This search was motivated also by the unsupported claims of national coverage in the two aforementioned biographies.

I conducted most of the research at the Microtext Department of the Boston Public

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<sup>12</sup> In the articles I found, no photographs showed either "A dark midnight picture of about a dozen moon-faced people in the wood" (to describe the bloodhounds) or one showing "policemen lifting a long, limp blanket roll with a featureless cabbage head into the back of an ambulance." (Plath, *The Bell Jar* 224)

<sup>13</sup> These are numbers 45, 50, and 51 in the following bibliography. They are held in Plath Mss II, Oversize 11.

<sup>14</sup> Numbers 51 and 57 in the following bibliography.

<sup>15</sup> These are numbers 43, 44, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 54, 125, 126, 127, 157 in the attached bibliography.

<sup>16</sup> In addition to searching for "Find Girl in Cellar," I have tried to identify full citations for each clipping held in the Sylvia Plath Collection at Smith College for which publication, date or page numbers are missing.



Library. Additional work was completed in the Widener Library at Harvard University. At first I looked through daily newspapers, from larger towns and cities in Massachusetts. I consulted newspapers from Worcester, Brockton, Quincy, Fall River, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, and Attleboro. I was encouraged at finding articles on Plath's disappearance in each of these newspapers, but I did not come across the one I wanted, "Find Girl in Cellar."

Yet one day, browsing through the list of newspapers on microfilm at the Boston Public Library, I noticed that Boston papers had a separate section. I browsed the available titles to see which newspapers were printing in 1953. There were three publications that I had never heard of before: *Boston Daily Record*, *Boston Evening American*,<sup>17</sup> and *Boston Traveler*.<sup>18</sup> I was familiar enough with the font used in the clipping I had seen to know that when I started the first reel of the *Boston Traveler*, that I had found my source. But this success did not satisfy me. While I had found several dozen articles from a dozen or so newspapers, all of these were local. Where were the national stories?

The BPL holds out-of-state newspapers for August 1953 for Portland, Maine; Hartford, Connecticut; Providence, Rhode Island; and Manchester, New Hampshire. While these are out-of-state, their proximity to Massachusetts may classify them as more regional than national. No article appeared in several searches of *The New York Times*; however, one had been published in the *New York Herald Tribune*. At Harvard, I had access to the ProQuest Historical Newspapers database. It was using this resource, finally, that I found Associated Press articles from the *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. Google also located additional newspaper articles from Schenectady, New York; Spartanburg, South Carolina; Baltimore, Maryland; Daytona Beach; and West Palm Beach, Florida. Now I'm a believer: Plath's first suicide attempt was national news.

In phase two of this search, I browsed randomly selected Massachusetts newspapers. After this, I had a total of seventy-two articles from twenty-nine newspapers; eleven newspapers ran no articles. I decided to dive off the deep-end and look at every daily and weekly newspaper on microfilm held at the BPL for this period. There were more than 100 additional Massachusetts

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<sup>17</sup> The *Boston Daily Record* and *Boston Evening American* each printed multiple editions through the day. I have tried to place the articles on Plath in order of appearance in my following bibliography.

<sup>18</sup> This newspaper, *Boston Traveler*, is not the same to which Plath refers to in her October 30, 1962 interview with Peter Orr of the British Council when discussing her first published poem. The poem was published in *The Boston Herald*. Plath had at least one additional publication in *The Boston Herald* before she was ten years old. On August 2, 1942, Plath won \$1 for a drawing competition she entered collectively titled "Funny Faces." This drawing appeared on page B10. A clipping is held at the Lilly Library.

daily and weekly titles through which to browse. At the conclusion of this search, which took nearly 300 hours, I found a total of 172 articles in 55 newspapers, which are all listed in the following pages. 101 newspapers consulted did not appear to print the story.

While much of the information in these articles is similar, this search was not without discoveries. An interesting find surfaced while I was looking through the *Boston Evening American*. In addition to the news story on Plath, this paper reprinted, with the permission of *Mademoiselle*, Plath's now famous poem "Mad Girl's Love Song."<sup>19</sup> In *Sylvia Plath: Method & Madness*, Edward Butscher alludes to this publication but does not list the source.<sup>20</sup>

The articles could not agree on the content of the note Plath left on August 24 and other details. Some articles report that the note read: "I am going for a hike and will be back tomorrow."<sup>21</sup> Others report that the note read: "I am going for a long walk." On August 26, 1953, the morning papers reported Plath still missing. At midday, Plath was found. The afternoon, late and final editions that day rushed the news into print. Several newspapers ran both an article about the continuing search and a brief update about her being found in the same issue.<sup>22</sup> Another discovery was that Plath's name and story appeared in some newspapers on August 28 and August 29 as news broke about the disappearance of another Wellesley girl who went missing in Marblehead, Massachusetts.<sup>23</sup> Several of these articles are listed in the bibliography below as each mentions a basic summary of Plath's case.

No bibliography is complete and the full extent to which Sylvia Plath's first suicide attempt received news coverage may never be known.<sup>24</sup> But the subject bibliography included with this article indicates the extent of what the Plath family, their friends and their community, and the search parties experienced over the course of those two days in August 1953. In my review of newspapers, many other missing persons notices were printed. While I did not attempt to read or follow story other than Plath's, few, if any, received the noticeable attention and space

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<sup>19</sup> The poem was reprinted in three separate editions of the *Boston Evening American*, as can be seen in items 35, 36, and 37 in the bibliography.

<sup>20</sup> See page 122.

<sup>21</sup> The language "going for a hike" is ironic when one considers the idiom "take a hike."

<sup>22</sup> See articles in newspapers from Attleboro, Gardner, Holyoke, and Milford, Massachusetts in the bibliography. These are different from those newspapers that printed multiple editions throughout the day that ran different stories in morning and evening editions.

<sup>23</sup> The missing girl, Penelope Protze, was found riding her bicycle in South Boston. Protze lived at 41 Martin Road, which is just two-tenths of a mile from the Plath house. The newspaper stories report Protze lived at 41 Martin Street; however, there is no Martin Street in Wellesley.

<sup>24</sup> This is a general call for others to search through available microfilm in their towns, cities, and states for additional news stories on Plath's disappearance in August 1953.



Plath's case did. The newspaper coverage raises many questions. Why did Plath receive so much attention? Was it her writing or her beauty that led to the interest? Was it significant that she was from Wellesley or attended Smith? Why then, in 1963, when Plath died and when she was conceivably better known and more widely published, was there comparatively so little written about her?

As Hughes saw Plath's poetry to print throughout 1963, death notices frequently accompanied the publications. As one would expect, the notices referred to her as "Sylvia Plath," just as A. Alvarez's "A Poet's Epitaph" from the February 17 issue of *The Observer* does. In her biography of Anne Sexton, Diane Middlebrook claims "American newspapers briefly reported on 12 February that the poet Sylvia Plath died in London" and that "In the Boston area it was a local story..." (*Anne Sexton* 198). I had the occasion to peruse the four daily Boston newspapers printing in 1963 and found no death notices or stories until late February. One full obituary ran in Wellesley's *The Townsman* on February 21, 1963.<sup>25</sup> *The Boston Globe* ran a death notice on February 27 and *The Boston Herald* (below) and *Boston Traveler* followed the next day. The death notices do not mention Plath's occupation as a writer and each is listed under the last name of Hughes.

In addition to the bibliography, I have created a collage of selected headlines that are arranged in chronological order. They tell, I believe, a version of story of the search for Sylvia Plath. I will also be placing compact discs containing PDF files of each of these articles in addition to an Excel spreadsheet of the bibliography (for ease in sorting) in the Plath collections at Smith College and Indiana University with hope that researchers looking at this period in Plath's life will benefit from their availability.

**HUGHES**—In London, England, formerly of Wellesley, Mass., Feb. 11, 1963. Sylvia Plath, wife of Ted Hughes and mother of Frieda and Nicolas, daughter of Aurelia (Schober) Plath, sister of Warren J. Plath. Services held Feb. 18, 1963, Heptonstall, Yorkshire England.

<sup>25</sup> On March 7, *The Townsman* reprinted A. Alvarez's "A Poet's Epitaph." However, this reprint did not include the four Plath poems that accompanied the original article. The poems were "Contusion," "Edge," "The Fearful," and "Kindness."

## Bibliography of Newspaper Articles on Sylvia Plath's First Suicide Attempt in August 1953

**Amesbury, Mass.**

1. "News in a Nutshell." *Amesbury Daily News*. August 25, 1953: 1.
2. "News in a Nutshell." *Amesbury Daily News*. August 26, 1953: 1.
3. "News in a Nutshell." *Amesbury Daily News*. August 27, 1953: 1.

**Athol, Mass.**

4. "Smith Honor Student Sought After Leaving Home for 'Hike'." *Athol Daily News*. August 25, 1953: 2.
5. "Search Continues for College Girl." *Athol Daily News*. August 26, 1953: 2.
6. "Girl Found in Cellar of Own Home, In Hospital." *Athol Daily News*. August 27, 1953: 5.

**Attleboro, Mass.**

7. "College Girl Missing." *The Attleboro Sun*. August 25, 1953: 5
8. "Search Continues for Wellesley Girl." *The Attleboro Sun*. August 26, 1953: 13.
9. "Late Bulletins." *The Attleboro Sun*. August 26, 1953: 1.
10. "Home All Along." *The Attleboro Sun*. August 27, 1953: 1.
11. "Wellesley Girl is Recovering." *The Attleboro Sun*. August 27, 1953: 17.
12. "Another Girl Missing from Wellesley Home." *The Attleboro Sun*. August 28, 1953: 2.

**Baltimore, Md.**

13. "Search for Girl Ends Under Porch." *The Baltimore Sun*. August 27, 1953: 1.

**Beverly, Mass.**

14. "Police Carry On Statewide Search for Smith Senior." *Beverly Evening Times*. August 25, 1953: 1.



15. "Express Belief College Student Suicide Victim." *Beverly Evening Times*. August 26, 1953: 6.
16. "Girl to Recover From Overdose of 40 Sleeping Pills." *Beverly Evening Times*. August 27, 1953: 12.
17. "Wellesley Girl, 19 Reported Missing After Staying at Marblehead Home." *Beverly Evening Times*. August 28, 1953: 1.

**Boston, Mass.***Boston Daily Record*

18. "Smith Girl Missing at Wellesley Home." *Boston Daily Record*. 6 a.m. Edition. August 25, 1953: 3
19. "Smith Girl Missing at Wellesley Home." *Boston Daily Record*. 6 a.m. Complete Edition. August 25, 1953: 3
20. "Bloodhound Trails Lost Girl Scholar." *Boston Daily Record*. 6 a.m. Edition. August 26, 1953: 5.
21. "Bloodhound Trails Lost Girl Scholar." *Boston Daily Record*. 6 a.m. Complete Edition. August 26, 1953: 5.
22. "Bloodhound Trails Lost Girl Scholar." *Boston Daily Record*. Payoff Edition. August 26, 1953: 5.
23. "Missing Smith Girl Found in Own Cellar." *Boston Daily Record*. 6 a.m. Edition. August 27, 1953: 4.
24. "Missing Smith Girl Found in Own Cellar." *Boston Daily Record*. 6 a.m. Complete Edition. August 27, 1953: 4.
25. "Missing Smith Girl Found in Own Cellar." *Boston Daily Record*. Home. Edition. August 27, 1953: 5.
26. "Missing Smith Girl Found in Own Cellar." *Boston Daily Record*. Payoff Edition. August 27, 1953: 5.

27. "Girl Student Pill Victim Recovers." *Boston Daily Record*. Home Edition. August 28, 1953: 5.
28. "Girl Student Pill Victim Recovers." *Boston Daily Record*. Payoff Edition. August 28, 1953: 5.

*Boston Evening American*

29. "Hunt Wellesley Girl 'on Hike'." *Boston Evening American*. 8 Star Sports Edition. August 25, 1953: 5.
30. "Hunt Wellesley Girl 'on Hike'." *Boston Evening American*. Cambridge Somerville Edition. August 25, 1953: 5.
31. "Hunt Missing College Girl in Favored Haunts." *Boston Evening American*. Final Edition. August 25, 1953: 5.
32. "50 Sleep Pills Vanish with Missing Smith Girl." *Boston Evening American*. Sports Charts Entries Edition. August 25, 1953: 5.
33. "50 Sleep Pills Vanish with Missing Smith Girl." *Boston Evening American*. Sports Entries Results Edition. August 25, 1953: 5.
34. "Check Pals for Clue to Smith Girl." *Boston Evening American*. 8 Star Sports Edition. August 26, 1953: 2.
35. "Police, Kin Fear Smith Girl Suicide." *Boston Evening American*. Final Edition. August 26, 1953: 2. (Prints Plath's "Mad Girl's Love Song")
36. "Smith Girl in Coma at Own Home." *Boston Evening American*. Sports Charts Entries Edition. August 26, 1953: 2. (Prints Plath's "Mad Girl's Love Song")
37. "Smith Girl in Coma at Own Home." *Boston Evening American*. Sports Entries Results Edition. August 26, 1953: 2. (Prints Plath's "Mad Girl's Love Song")
38. "Trace Moves of Girl Felled by Sleep Pills." *Boston Evening American*. 8 Star Sports Edition. August 27: 1953: 5.
39. "Trace Moves of Girl Felled by Sleep Pills." *Boston Evening American*. Cambridge Somerville Edition. August 27: 1953: 5.



40. "Pill Girl 2 Days in Cellar." *Boston Evening American*. Sports Charts Entries Edition. August 27, 1953: 5.
41. "Pill Girl 2 Days in Cellar." *Boston Evening American*. Sports Entries Results Edition. August 27, 1953: 5.
42. "Sleeping Pill Girl 2 Days in Own Cellar." *Boston Evening American*. Final Edition. August 27, 1953: 5.

*The Boston Globe*

43. "Beautiful Smith Girl Missing at Wellesley." *The Boston Globe*. August 25, 1953: 1, 9.
44. "Wellesley Woods Searched: Police, Boy Scouts Hunt Missing Smith Student." *The Boston Globe*. Evening Edition. August 25, 1953: 1, 9.
45. "Day-Long Search Fails to Locate Smith Student." *The Boston Globe*. August 26, 1953: 1, 11.
46. "Smith Student Found Alive in Cellar." *The Boston Globe*. Evening Edition. August 26, 1953: 1, 6.
47. "Honor Student 'Out of Danger'; Took Sleep Pills." *The Boston Globe*. August 27, 1953: 17.
48. "Second Wellesley Girl is Reported Missing." *The Boston Globe*. Evening Edition. August 28, 1953: 1, 6.

*The Boston Herald*

49. "Top-Ranking Student at Smith Missing from Wellesley Home." *The Boston Herald*. August 25, 1953: 1, 11.
50. "Sleeping Pills Missing with Wellesley Girl." *The Boston Herald*. August 26, 1953: 1.
51. "Wellesley Girl Found in Cellar." *The Boston Herald*. August 27, 1953: 1, 2.

*The Boston Post*

52. "Smith Girl Missing in Wellesley." *The Boston Post*. August 25, 1953: 7.
53. "Missing Smith Girl Worried." *The Boston Post*. August 26, 1953: 1, 13.

54. "Smith Girl Recovering From Pills." *The Boston Post*. August 27, 1953: 1, 4.
55. "Missing Wellesley Girl Found in South Boston." *The Boston Post*. August 29, 1953: 1, 3.

*Boston Traveler*

56. "Posse Hunts Smith Girl." Boston Traveler. Blue Streak Edition. August 25, 1953: 1, 26.
57. "Find Girl in Cellar." Boston Traveler. Blue Streak Edition. August 26, 1953: 1, 17.
58. "Missing Student Hunted." Boston Traveler. Blue Streak Edition. August 28, 1953: 1, 17.

**Brockton, Mass.**

59. "Missing Student in Own Cellar." *Brockton Daily Enterprise*. August 26, 1953: 18.
60. "Student Recovering From Pill Overdose." *Brockton Daily Enterprise*. August 27, 1953: 9.

**Chicago, Ill.**

61. "Missing Co-ed Found." *The Chicago Tribune*. August 27, 1953: 5.

**Clinton, Mass.**

62. "New England News Briefs." *Clinton Daily Item*. August 26, 1953: 1.

**Daytona, Fl.**

63. "Missing Girl Found Under Own Porch." *Daytona Beach Morning Journal*. August 27, 1953: 17.

**Fall River, Mass.**

64. "Home All the Time." *The Fall River Herald-News*. August 27, 1953: 23.

**Fitchburg, Mass.**

65. "Missing Girl Student Object of Police Hunt." *Fitchburg Sentinel*. August 25, 1953: 4.
66. "Continue Search for Missing Student." *Fitchburg Sentinel*. August 26, 1953: 1.



67. "Bulletins." *Fitchburg Sentinel*. August 27, 1953: 1.
68. "Second College Girl From Wellesley Reported Missing." *Fitchburg Sentinel*. August 28, 1953: 1.

**Framingham, Mass.**

69. "Smith Girl Missing at Wellesley." *Framingham News*. August 25, 1953: 1.
70. "Girl Found Asleep in Basement." *Framingham News*. August 26, 1953: 1.
71. "Sylvia Plath Asleep During 2-Day Search." *Framingham News*. August 27, 1953: 10.
72. "Another Wellesley Girl Disappears, Parents Report." *Framingham News*. August 28, 1953: 1

**Gardner, Mass.**

73. "Search Underway for Smith Senior." *The Gardner News*. August 26: 1953: 5.
74. "Late News Flashes." *The Gardner News*. August 26, 1953: 3.

**Gloucester, Mass.**

75. "All-Out Quest for Lost Smith Senior." *Gloucester Daily Times*. August 25, 1953: 1.
76. "Police Still Seeking Missing Smith Girl." *Gloucester Daily Times*. August 26, 1953: 1.
77. "Bay State Briefs." *Gloucester Daily Times*. August 27, 1953: 1.

**Greenfield, Mass.**

78. "Smith Student, Found Under Porch, Recovers." *Greenfield Recorder-Gazette*. August 27, 1953: 13.

**Hartford, Conn.**

79. "Missing College Girl Found Alive in Cellar of Home." *The Hartford Courant*. August 27, 1953: 5.

**Haverhill, Mass.**

80. "Search Organized for Smith Girl." *Haverhill Gazette*. August 25, 1953: 10.
81. "Fear for Missing College Girl Grows." *Haverhill Gazette*. August 26, 1953: 6.

82. "Home All Along." *Haverhill Gazette*. August 27, 1953: 6.

83. "Young Wellesley Woman Missing." *Haverhill Gazette*. August 28, 1953: 3.

**Holyoke, Mass.**

84. "Smith Girl, 20, Missing from Wellesley Home." *Holyoke Daily Transcript and Holyoke Telegram*. August 25, 1953: 1.

85. "Pills Missing in Wellesley Case." *Holyoke Daily Transcript and Holyoke Telegram*. August 26, 1953: 24.

86. "Bulletin." *Holyoke Daily Transcript and Holyoke Telegram*. August 26, 1953: 1.

87. "Smith Student Recovering from Drug Dose." *Holyoke Daily Transcript and Holyoke Telegram*. August 26, 1953: 15.

**Hudson, Mass.**

88. "Wide Search Being Conducted for Smith College Student." *Hudson Daily Sun*. August 25, 1953: 1.

89. "News Flashes." *Hudson Daily Sun*. August 26, 1953: 1.

90. "News Flashes." *Hudson Daily Sun*. August 27, 1953: 2.

**Lawrence, Mass.**

91. "Smith College Senior Missing from Home." *The Evening Tribune*. August 25, 1953: 1.

92. "Missing Wellesley Girl Found." *The Evening Tribune*. August 26, 1953: 1.

93. "Wellesley Girl's Condition Good." *The Evening Tribune*. August 27, 1953: 1.

94. "2<sup>nd</sup> Wellesley Girl Reported Missing." *The Evening Tribune*. August 28, 1953: 1, 8.

**Los Angeles, Calif.**

95. "Missing Girl Found Beneath Porch of Home." *The Los Angeles Times*. August 27, 1953: 18.

**Lowell, Mass.**

96. "Wide Search for Smith College Girl." *The Lowell Sun*. 6 o'clock and County Edition. August 25, 1953: 3.
97. "Wide Search for Smith College Girl." *The Lowell Sun*. 7 o'clock Edition. August 25, 1953: 3.
98. "Bulletin." *The Lowell Sun*. 7 o'clock Edition. August 26, 1953: 1
99. "'Missing' Girl Case Probed." *The Lowell Sun*. 6 o'clock and County Edition. August 27, 1953: 20.

**Lynn, Mass.***Daily Evening Item*

100. "Widen Hunt for Missing Smith Senior." *Daily Evening Item*. August 26, 1953: 1.
101. "College Girl Recovering from Ordeal." *Daily Evening Item*. August 27, 1953: 1.
102. "Marblehead Girl Worker Missing." *Daily Evening Item*. August 28, 1953: 1.

*Lynn Telegram-News*

103. "Missing College Student is Hunted." *Lynn Telegram-News*. August 25, 1953: 9.
104. "Fear Mounts for Safety of Smith College Student." *Lynn Telegram-News*. August 26, 1953: 13.
105. "Student's Condition is Reported Good." *Lynn Telegram-News*. August 27, 1953: 8.

**Manchester, New Hampshire**

106. "Greater Boston Policemen." *Manchester Union Leader*. August 26, 1953: 40.

**Marlboro, Mass.**

107. "Wide Search Being Conducted for Smith College Student." *Marlboro Daily Enterprise*. August 25, 1953: 1.
108. "News Flashes." *Marlboro Daily Enterprise*. August 26, 1953: 1.

**Maynard, Mass.**

109. "Seek Missing Smith Senior." *Maynard Daily Evening Mercury*. August 25, 1953: 6.

110. "Press Search for Missing Smith Girl." *Maynard Daily Evening Mercury*. August 26, 1953: 4.

111. "Smith College Girl Recovers." *Maynard Daily Evening Mercury*. August 27, 1953: 7.

**Milford, Mass.**

112. "Girl Missing from Home in Wellesley." *The Milford Daily News*. August 25, 1953: 2.

113. "New England News Briefs." *The Milford Daily News*. August 26, 1953: 5.

114. "Bulletin." *The Milford Daily News*. August 26, 1953: 1.

115. "Wellesley Student Out of Danger." *The Milford Daily News*. August 27, 1953: 9.

**New Bedford, Mass.**

116. "Missing Wellesley Girl, 20, Found Asleep in Her Cellar." *The Standard-Times*. August 26, 1953: 1, 12.

117. "Girl Recovering from Sleep Pills." *The Standard-Times*. August 27, 1953: 30.

118. "Second Wellesley Girl is Missing." *The Standard-Times*. August 28, 1953: 20.

**New York, NY.**

119. "Smith College Editor, 20, Hiding, Ill, Under House." *New York Herald Tribune*. Late City Edition. August 27, 1953: 32.

**North Adams, Mass.**

120. "Smith College Girl Missing After Hike." *The North Adams Transcript*. August 25, 1953: 1.

121. "Search Continued for Sylvia Plath, Missing Smith Girl." *The North Adams Transcript*. August 26, 1953: 1.

**North Attleboro, Mass.**

122. "Smith Senior is Missing." *The Evening Chronicle*. August 25, 1953: 5.

123. "Search Continues." *The Evening Chronicle*. August 26, 1953: 1.

124. "Missing Smith Student Found." *The Evening Chronicle*. August 27, 1953: 2.

**Northampton, Mass.**

125. "Hunt for Missing Smith Honor Student Who Left on 'Long Hike' Fruitless." *Daily Hampshire Gazette*. August 25, 1953: 1, 16.
126. "Carry on Search for Plath Girl." *Daily Hampshire Gazette*. August 26, 1953: 1, 3.
127. "Condition Good of Smith Senior Who Took Pills." *Daily Hampshire Gazette*. August 27, 1953: 3.

**Pittsfield, Mass.**

128. "Smith Senior is Found and Taken to Hospital." *The Berkshire Evening Eagle*. August 26, 1953: 1.

**Portland, Maine**

129. "Missing Smith Senior Found Under Porch." *Portland Press Herald*. August 27, 1953: 7.

**Providence, Rhode Island**

130. "Missing Girl Sought." *The Providence Journal*. August 26, 1953: 3.
131. "Missing Girl Found." *The Providence Journal*. August 27, 1953: 16.

**Quincy, Mass.**

132. "Fears Increase for Safety of Missing Wellesley Student." *Quincy Patriot Ledger*. August 26, 1953: 25.
133. "Missing Wellesley Girl Found Alive in Cellar of Home." *Quincy Patriot Ledger*. August 26, 1956: 1.

**Schenectady, N.Y.**

134. "2<sup>nd</sup> Wellesley College Girl Disappears." *Schenectady Gazette*. August 29, 1953: 9.

**Southbridge, Mass.**

135. "Top-Ranking College Senior Still Missing." *Southbridge Evening News*. August 25, 1953: 1.
136. "Bulletin." *Southbridge Evening News*. August 26, 1953: 1.
137. "College Student in Good Condition." *Southbridge Evening News*. August 27, 1953: 1.

**Spartanburg, S.C.**

138. "Missing Girl Found Under Porch." *The Spartanburg Herald*. August 27, 1953: 1.

**Springfield, Mass.***Springfield Daily News*

139. "Missing Smith Student Is Object of Statewide Hunt." *Springfield Daily News*. August 25, 1953: 1, 9.
140. "Missing Smith Student Is Object of Statewide Hunt." *Springfield Daily News*. 5 o'clock Late News Edition. August 25, 1953: 1, 9.
141. "Missing Smith Student Is Object of Statewide Hunt." *Springfield Daily News*. 5 o'clock Final Stock Quotations Edition. August 25, 1953: 1, 9.
142. "Sylvia Plath Located Alive in Wellesley." *Springfield Daily News*. 5 o'clock Late News Edition. August 26, 1953: 1, 6.<sup>26</sup>
143. "Sylvia Plath Located Alive in Wellesley." *Springfield Daily News*. 5 o'clock Final Stock Quotations Edition. August 26, 1953: 1, 6.
144. "Pretty Girl Missing from North Shore." *Springfield Daily News*. August 28, 1953: 1.
145. "Pretty Girl Missing from North Shore." *Springfield Daily News*. 5 o'clock Late News Edition. August 28, 1953: 1.
146. "Pretty Girl Missing from North Shore." *Springfield Daily News*. 5 o'clock Final Stock Quotations Edition. August 28, 1953: 1.

*Springfield Union*

147. "Student at Smith Reported Missing." *Springfield Union*. August 25, 1953: 27.
148. "Find No Clues in Search for Smith Senior." *Springfield Union*. August 26, 1953: 1, 10.
149. "Found at Home, Smith Senior in 'Fair' Condition." *Springfield Union*. August 27, 1953: 1, 6.

**Taunton, Mass.**

150. "Smith Student Listed Missing." *Taunton Daily Gazette*. August 25, 1953: 18.

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<sup>26</sup> Page 6 not seen on microfilm reel for this item and the next as that edition was incomplete.



151. "Hunt Continues for Smith Girl." *Taunton Daily Gazette*. August 26, 1953: 2.
152. "Smith Girl Recovering." *Taunton Daily Gazette*. August 27, 1953: 26.
153. "Home All Along." *Taunton Daily Gazette*. August 28, 1953: 1.

**Waltham, Mass.**

154. "Wellesley Girl Found in Her Home." *The News Tribune*. August 26, 1953: 1.
155. "Girls' Condition 'Good' Following Overdose of Pills." *The News Tribune*. August 27, 1953: 2.
156. "Girls' Condition 'Good' Following Overdose of Pills." *The News Tribune*. Newton Edition. August 27, 1953: 1.

**Wellesley, Mass.**

157. "Sylvia Plath Found in Good Condition." *The Townsman*. August 27, 1953: 1.

**West Palm Beach, Fl.**

158. "Search Ordered for Missing Girl" *The Palm Beach Post*. August 29, 1953: 4.

**Woburn, Mass.**

159. "Late News." *Woburn Daily Times*. August 25, 1953: 1.
160. "Late News." *Woburn Daily Times*. August 26, 1953: 1.

**Worcester, Mass.***The Evening Gazette*

161. "Police Seek Missing Smith College Girl." *The Evening Gazette*. Final Edition. August 25, 1953: 32.
162. "Continue Search for Smith Senior." *The Evening Gazette*. State Edition. August 26, 1953: 21.
163. "Continue Search for Smith Senior." *The Evening Gazette*. Latest Edition. August 26, 1953: 8.
164. "College Girl Found in Cellar of Home." *The Evening Gazette*. Final Edition. August 26, 1953: 8

165. "Hunted Smith Student Slept in Home Cellar." *The Evening Gazette*. Latest Edition. August 27, 1953: 32.
166. "Hunted Smith Student Slept in Home Cellar." *The Evening Gazette*. Final Edition. August 27, 1953: 32.
167. "Wellesley Blonde Reported Missing." *The Evening Gazette*. Latest Edition. August 28, 1953: 1
168. "Wellesley Blonde Reported Missing." *The Evening Gazette*. Final Edition. August 28, 1953: 1

*Worcester Telegram*

169. "Missing Girl Hunted at Wellesley." *The Worcester Telegram*. County Edition. August 26, 1953: 1.
170. "Missing Girl Hunted at Wellesley." *The Worcester Telegram*. Latest Edition. August 26, 1953: 13.
171. "Smith College Girl Found Unharmed." *The Worcester Telegram*. County Edition. August 26: 1953: 1, 14.
172. "Smith College Girl Found Unharmed." *The Worcester Telegram*. Latest Edition. August 26: 1953: 1, 14.

On the following pages are two articles that ran on August 26, 1953 in the discontinued *Boston Evening American*. They represent at least two of the four known editions that day. The second reprinted Plath's "Mad Girl's Love Song", which I have redacted due to issues of copyright and permission.

## Check Pals For Clue to Smith Girl

Smith College girls throughout the nation today were being contacted by police in the hope they may furnish some clue to the whereabouts of pretty Sylvia Plath, 20, brilliant student who vanished mysteriously two days ago. Wellesley Police Chief Robert B. MacVey said there was a small chance the missing girl may have got in touch with some of her school chums.

At the same time, police and dozens of volunteers combed a five-mile stretch of woods that runs from his vicinity of the Plath home on Elmwood st., Wellesley, to the Weston line.

Sylvia, a senior who topped the list of juniors last year, disappeared after leaving a note for her mother, Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, Boston University professor, that she was "going for a hike." In the message, Sylvia said she would return on the following day.

**SLEEPING PILLS GONE**  
Officers said they questioned a neighborhood youth who had dated Sylvia occasionally, but found he had not seen the girl for a week.

Fears for the girl's safety mounted when it was disclosed that a bottle of sleeping pills was missing from her mother's room. Chief MacVey said she took no more than a few dollars and only the clothes she was wearing when she left home.

A large group of Boy Scouts joined the search that so far has covered most of the woods in the Wellesley area. Earlier, police followed state police bloodhounds through the Lake Waban and Morris Pond areas.

**MIND SLIPPING**  
Mrs. Plath said she believed her daughter's actions were brought on by a temporary nervous affliction induced by her intensive application to literary work.

"I'm convinced that she was unworthy of the confidence held in her by the people she knew," said Mrs. Plath. "For some time, she has been unable to write either fiction or her more recent love poetry."

"Instead of regarding this as just an aid period such as every writer faces at times, she believed something had happened to her mind, that it was unable to produce creatively any more."

"All though her doctor advised us this was simply due to nervous exhaustion, Sylvia was constantly seeking ways in which to blame herself for the failure, and became increasingly despondent."

**OUTSTANDING PUPIL**  
Mrs. Plath was at first hopeful that her daughter might try to communicate with her sponsor, Mrs. Olive Higgins Prouty, authoress who wrote "Stella Dallas" and other books, but learned that Mrs. Prouty was vacationing in Maine from her Brookline home.

The girl, daughter of the late B. U. Prof. Otto Plath, won two degree poetry awards and had stories and poems published in several leading national magazines.

Among relatives and volunteers taking part in the hunt for Sylvia is a close family friend, Col. Rex Gary, a former Army intelligence officer.

**US Jets Collide,  
One Pilot Saved**

## 11 Injured In Saugus Collision

Eleven persons were injured today, one critically, in a two-car collision on Broadway, Saugus, that blocked the highway for two hours in a gigantic traffic jam.

Most seriously injured was Albert Moretta, 17, East Eagle st., East Boston, who suffered head and internal injuries. His name is on the danger list at Lynn Hospital.

Seven other East Boston teenagers, riding with Moretta, were admitted to the Lynn Hospital along with Harry E. Mahoney, 66; his wife, Katherine, 67, and Anna Reynolds, all of Orchard st., Salem.

The other injured youths are: Francis Harrison, 18, Princeton st.; Frank Cicciolo, 17, Princeton st.; Jennie Pettito, 16, Chelsea st.; Joseph Pompano, Chelsea st.; Annette Ziegler, 17, Lubec st.; Tony Bruno, 18, Brook st.; and Tony Vitale, 19, Lexington st., all of East Boston.

Police said both cars were wrecked in this crash. They said the accident backed traffic up for five miles and resulted in a bottleneck that kept hundreds of motorists stranded on the highway for two hours.

All available Saugus officers and auxiliary police were rushed to the scene to unseat the jam. Police said all of the victims suffered cuts from flying glass as the impact shattered the windows of both vehicles. The crash occurred near the Saugus town farm.

## Woman Clerk Fails Gunman

**BALTIMORE (AP)**—Mrs. Gertrude Peters, clerk in a Baltimore real estate office, won a war of nerves with a gun-toting bandit.

She told police the thug entered the office and ordered her to open the door to the cubicle separating office workers from the public.

"I won't do it," Mrs. Peters replied firmly. "If I shoot you if you don't," threatened the bandit.

"Go ahead, I'm going to call the police," announced Mrs. Peters. And when she picked up the telephone, the bandit fled.

**Two Venice Visitors  
Robbed of \$57,000**

**VENICE (AP)**—A Milan industrialist and a French film producer were robbed of \$54,000-worth of jewelry in separate thefts, police said today.

Industrialist David, Aug. 18,

## The Little Woman Is Excited About LUCKY BUCKS

By LUCKY HUNT

WHEN I got home the Little Woman was wearing an expression like the cake fell, the Joneses had a new Caddy and she'd found out about that horse I had—the one that finally won. Oh, oh, here we go, I said to myself.

"What's this money game you're starting in the paper Monday?" she demanded.

"Lucky Buck Treasure Hunt," I said with relief. "I told you about it."

"I didn't pay attention," she said, "but all the neighbors are talking about it. How does it work?"

"Simple. We take the serial numbers from a flock of \$1 bills, put those bills in circulation, print the lucky numbers and folks look at their bills and maybe come up with a Lucky Buck."

"Then what?"

"Then they just cash in their Lucky Buck with us—it may be worth \$200 or \$100 or \$50 or a measly little \$25."

"Imagine that," she sniffed, "a measly little \$25 for all that work?"

"What work?" I said.

"That tiresome, tedious drudgery of looking at the numbers on dollar bills. And you're going to put new Lucky Bucks in circulation every day?"

"RIGHT you are, Hon. The Record will put nine into circulation daily and print the numbers showing the cash-in value of each. Then THE AMERICAN puts a half dozen more into circulation each day and prints those numbers along with the Record's list, and so on. Then the Sunday Advertiser comes along with 10 more new numbers."

"So in a week's time there'll be Lucky Bucks all over the place."

"All over the place—\$600 worth every day."

"And I might pick one up?"

"Oh, oh, I thought. Here's the joker."

"Look, Hon," I said. "We can't play it. I work for the paper and no families of those who work for the paper can play the game. No Lucky Bucks for us."

"That's just what I figured," she said icily. "I knew it would be something like that. Everybody else in town gets to join in the fun and the money and we stand on the sidelines—cheering I suppose."

"I'm sorry, dear. I just can't do anything about it."

"You could if you wanted to," she said.

"How could I? What could I do?"

"You could give up your job. You could go to work on some other paper."

"I'm thinking that one over when the door opens and the five-year-old comes in bawling."

"What's the trouble, Timmy, you hurt?"

"Now," he said, "I wanna play Lucky Buck. Mom says I can't play Lucky Buck."

## DAILY ALMANAC

Fair tonight, lowest temperature in middle 60s. Tomorrow fair, hot. Moderate southwesterly winds.

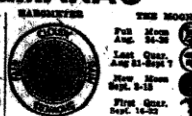
**FLYING CONDITIONS**  
All flights were operating on schedule at Logan International Airport.

**BOSTON TEMPERATURES**  
8 p. m. 67 2 a. m. 66  
5 p. m. 68 1 a. m. 65  
10 p. m. 69 11 p. m. 68  
11 p. m. 67 12 m. 66  
12 m. 67 1 a. m. 66  
1 a. m. 66 2 a. m. 65

Highest this date was 91 in 1943; lowest 56 in 1943.

**TEMPERATURE DATA**  
Maximum yesterday 71  
Mean yesterday 67  
Departure from normal 12  
Departure from record 12

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**SUNRISE**  
Sun rises 6:02; sets 7:23.  
High tide 1:15 p. m.; height 11.1 ft.  
Low tide 7:15 a. m.; height -1.0 ft.

**BOSTON PRECIPITATION**  
Total 24 hours ending at 8:00 p. m. 7  
Total this month 1.41  
Excessive from normal 1.41  
Total this year 37.25  
Departure this year +12.11

For later Weather Reports see the Daily Record on sale tonight.

**Return 200 Korea Dead**  
SAN FRANCISCO (INS)—The SS Maillon Victory arrived with the bodies of approximately 200 Americans who lost their lives in

a WORD from  
*The Publisher*  
about  
THIS SUNDAY'S  
ADVERTISER  
FEATURES

### ★ OUR FIGHT for OUR CAPTIVE CHILDREN

The story of a naturalized American family whose children are held hostage by Romanian Communists... a heart-breaking decision between loyalty to country and paternal love. In the AMERICAN WEEKLY.

### ★ WHEN TO STEP ASIDE

A bit of advice to elders who refuse to give younger men a chance... by former Metropolitan Opera star Giovanni Martinelli. In the AMERICAN WEEKLY.

### ★ IN PICTORIAL REVIEW

A two-page spread of story and pictures about Mary Wilson, the "Irina" of TV fame. She drives her husband cuckoo, too. And another TV "personality" yawn about rubber-faced Larry Storch.

### ★ TV PREVUE

Boston's biggest, easiest-to-read program lineup of all New England's TV stations... featuring news, pictures and programs for every day of the week!

### ★ ANTHONY LA CAMERA

One of America's best-read columnists on TV... his programs, his personalities, what's right and what's wrong. Don't miss it!

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With the big WOMEN'S SECTION telling the girls what's with whom on FASHION, BEAUTY, HOME-MAKING, FOOD for HAPPY, HEALTHY FAMILIES!

### ★ STAR COLUMNISTS

• AUSTINE • MAYFIELD  
• DURLING • CLARE  
• PEGGIE • VETERANS  
• PARSONS • FRIEND

### ★ On The SPORTS SIDE

• EGAN • LAKE  
• BROOKS • CASHMAN

★ 24-COLOR COMICS IN TWO BIG SECTIONS!

## Sports charts entire vol.

Reprinted from August, 1958, issue *Mademoiselle* by permission

1. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

2. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

3. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

4. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

5. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

6. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

7. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

8. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

9. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

10. I have been thinking about you a lot lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy.

## By LUCKY HUNT

Letters 24 Vets' Friend, 19  
Mayfield 16 Women SW, 31

**Mayfield** 16<sup>th</sup> Women 30, 31

SATURDAY NIGHT

NEW ENGLAND'S BIGGEST  
WEEK-END READING MEAT  
THE BOSTON  
SUNDAY ADVERTISER  
On SALE in Your Community  
SATURDAY NIGHT



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Telegram from Olive Higgins Prouty to Aurelia Plath, Plath Mss. II, Box 4, July 1953-1954. Used by permission and courtesy Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, and the Olive Higgins Prouty Foundation, Inc.

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