"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. 1 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. 2

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

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1 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.
3 WBZ-TV and WNAC-TV were Boston's television stations in 1953.
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. 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).

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. 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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4 Email, Susan Plath Winston, 11 May 2010.
5 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.
6 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.
7 Much of the information above was obtained from the newspaper articles on her disappearance.
8 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. The telegram is reproduced here for the first time.

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.

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

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9 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.

10 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.11 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!"

11 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.\(^\text{12}\) 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.\(^\text{13}\) 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.\(^\text{14}\) 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 Towsnman* (Wellesley), and the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* (Northampton).\(^\text{15}\) 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.\(^\text{16}\) 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

\(^{12}\) 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)

\(^{13}\) These are numbers 45, 50, and 51 in the following bibliography. They are held in Plath Mss II, Oversize 11.

\(^{14}\) Numbers 51 and 57 in the following bibliography.

\(^{15}\) These are numbers 43, 44, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 54, 125, 126, 127, 157 in the attached bibliography.

\(^{16}\) 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*, and *Boston Traveler*. 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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17 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.

18 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." In *Sylvia Plath: Method & Madness*, Edward Butscher alludes to this publication but does not list the source.

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." 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. 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. 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. 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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19 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.
20 See page 122.
21 The language "going for a hike" is ironic when one considers the idiom "take a hike."
22 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.
23 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.
24 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 lead 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, 1963.25 *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.

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25 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.**

**Athol, Mass.**

**Attleboro, Mass.**

**Baltimore, Md.**

**Beverly, Mass.**


**Boston, Mass.**

*Boston Daily Record*


*Boston Evening American*


*The Boston Globe*


*The Boston Herald*


*The Boston Post*


*Boston Traveler*


*Brockton, Mass.*


*Chicago, Ill.*


*Clinton, Mass.*


*Daytona, Fl.*


*Fall River, Mass.*


*Fitchburg, Mass.*


Plath Profiles


**Framingham, Mass.**


**Gardner, Mass.**


**Gloucester, Mass.**


**Greenfield, Mass.**


**Hartford, Conn.**


**Haverhill, Mass.**


**Holyoke, Mass.**


**Hudson, Mass.**


**Lawrence, Mass.**


**Los Angeles, Calif.**

**Lowell, Mass.**


**Lynn, Mass.**

*Daily Evening Item*


*Lynn Telegram-News*


**Manchester, New Hampshire**


**Marlboro, Mass.**


**Maynard, Mass.**


**Milford, Mass.**


**New Bedford, Mass.**


**New York, NY.**


**North Adams, Mass.**


**North Attleboro, Mass.**


Plath Profiles

Northampton, Mass.


Pittsfield, Mass.

Portland, Maine

Providence, Rhode Island


Quincy, Mass.


Schenectady, N.Y.

Southbridge, Mass.


Spartanburg, S.C.

Springfield, Mass.

Springfield Daily News


Springfield Union


Taunton, Mass.

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


**Waltham, Mass.**


**Wellesley, Mass.**


**West Palm Beach, Fl.**


**Woburn, Mass.**


**Worcester, Mass.**

*The Evening Gazette*


*Worcester Telegram*


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 E. MacVey said there was a small chance the missing girl may have got in touch with some of her schoolmates.

At the time police describe a scene of volunteer search and rescue organizations were fanatically eight of the still-born lives that may be in the vicinity of the place where Miss Plath was last seen. She was sitting on a tennis court with friends at the Smith College campus when she disappeared.

There is no word from a group of her friends who were last seen with her. The search has been stopped by the police, who have been unable to locate the girl. She was last seen on a tennis court with friends at the Smith College campus.

11 Injured In Saugus Collision

Eleven persons were injured in the collision, including a man in critical condition in Boston hospital. The other injured persons were: Albert Giunta, 11, East Boston; Robert Giunta, 13, East Boston; Annette Esposito, 13, East Boston; and Robert Esposito, 13, East Boston.

MRS. PLATH'S Profile

Sylvia Plath was a talented and charismatic young woman who had a strong influence on her contemporaries. Her work, which often explored themes of love, loss, and the struggles of the modern woman, continues to be widely read and revered. Despite her success, Plath struggled with depression and other mental health issues throughout her life. She tragically took her own life in 1963, leaving behind a legacy of powerful and enduring poetry.
Steinberg

**Smith Girl in Coma at Own Home**

Sylvia Platth, 20, brilliant Smith College student who has been the object of a widespread public interest since she was reported missing at 5 a.m. (Monday), was found after noon today in a semiconscious condition behind a pile of kindling wood in the cellar of her home in Elmwood st., Wellesley.

A near-empty bottle of Scotch was found in the room where the girl was found. The police believe she may have been poisoned.

**The Little Woman Is Excited About LUCKY BUCKS**

By LUCKY HASK

WHEN I got home the Little Woman was wearing an expression like the cake hill, the Juneman had a new Caddy and she'd found out about that house I had—the one that family owns. Oh, oh, hee, we go, 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 number from a Stock 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 Bucks with us—May it be worth $200 or $100 or $50 or a measly little $25."

"Evidently that," she said, "it's me likely little $25 for all that work."

"What work?" I said.

"First one, indigestion 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 mine 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 lucky 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."

"And all over the place—500 worth every day."

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

"Look, Hon. Here's the joke. We work for the paper and no families of those who work for the paper can play the game. No Lucky Bucks here."

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

"I'm sorry, dear. I just can't do anything for the family."

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

"How could I? What could I?"

"You could give up your job. You could go to work for a different newspaper."

"I'm thinking that one over when the door opens and four-year-old comes in hugging me."

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

"I wanna play lucky Buck, Mom says I can't play lucky Buck."

**DAILY ALMANAC**

**BOSTON AND VICINITY**

- Weather: Cloudy, chances of rain.
- Temperatures: High 50s, low 40s.
- Today's Events: No major events scheduled.

**FOOD AND HEALTH**

- Nutrition tips: Include more fruits and vegetables in your diet.
- Exercise: Regular walks can improve your mood.

**SPORTS**

- Boston Celtics: Won their last game.
- New England Patriots: Lost their last game.

**ADVERTISER FEATURES**

- Local events: Visit the local museum.
- Special offers: Discount on all purchases this week.

**OCCASIONS FOR OUR CAPTIVE CHILDREN**

- Birthdays: Celebrate with a special meal and games.
- Anniversaries: Donate to a charity in their honor.

**TV PREVIEW**

- New shows: Check out the latest releases.
- Old favorites: Don't miss your favorite shows.

**ANONYMOUS LA CAMERA**

- One of America's best-read columns on TV.
- Featuring news, pictures and programs for every day of the week.

**SUNDAY ADVERTISER**

- Local businesses: Support local businesses.
- Special offers: Look out for exclusive deals.

**WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- New couple: Congratulations to the newlyweds.
- Gift ideas: Suggestions for wedding gifts.

**OBITUARIES**

- Obituary: Remembering a loved one.
- Memorial service: Arrangements for a memorial service.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

- Church services: Check local churches for services.
- Religious leaders: Meet with religious leaders in your community.
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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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