Amy Vanderbilt dies in fall from townhouse

NEW YORK (AP) — Amy Vanderbilt, the final arbiter of social etiquette for millions of Americans, has died in a plunge from a second-story window of her Manhattan townhouse.

Police said Miss Vanderbilt, 66, jumped or fell from the window Friday night and apparently fractured her skull.

A passerby found Miss Vanderbilt lying near the steps of the front entrance of her 100-year-old brownstone on the fashionable Upper East Side shortly before 8 p.m., police said. She was pronounced dead on arrival at nearby Metropolitan Hospital.

Police said Miss Vanderbilt's husband, Curtis B. Kellar, a general counsel to the international division of the Mobil Oil Corp., and one of her sons by a previous marriage were at home at the time of her death.

Kellar noticed the open window and looked out just as the passerby discovered his wife's body.

A first cousin of railroad mogul Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, Miss Vanderbilt also claimed descent from the first Vanderbilt to settle in America, Jan Aersten van der Bilt.

Miss Vanderbilt wrote an internationally syndicated daily newspaper column, a monthly magazine column and books that sold a total of more than five million copies.

"What does Amy Vanderbilt say?" was the first question asked by millions of Americans faced with the details of planning weddings and formal parties or the problem of making funeral arrangements.

Considered by many to be the country's foremost authority on the subject, Miss Vanderbilt began her career in etiquette in 1952. Prior to that she was a journalist, advertising woman and publicist.

Miss Vanderbilt, who always described herself as "a journalist in the field of etiquette," once said of her work:

"I try to find out what the most genteel people regularly do, what traditions they have discarded, what compromises they have made."

"I always thought, for example, that it was improper for a lady to cross her legs. Yet recently I saw two very eminent ladies do just that. Now I must investigate and find out what is correct."

Recently, Miss Vanderbilt acknowledged that traditional etiquette was out of place in an age of social, philosophical and economic upheaval.

However, Miss Vanderbilt, who preferred being addressed by her professional name or as Mrs Kellar, took a dim view of the feminist "Ms" title.

"Ms is unbearable," she instructed. "Look it up in the dictionary It means 'manuscript'"

Born in Staten Island, N.Y., on July 22, 1908, she was the daughter of the former Mary Estelle Brooks and Joseph Mortimer Vanderbilt, an insurance broker.

Miss Vanderbilt attended the Institute Heubi in Switzerland, Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn and New York University where she studied journalism

She was married four times Her marriages to Robert S. Brinkenhoff in 1929, Morton G. Clark in 1935 and Hans Knopf in 1954 ended in divorce. She married Kellar in 1968. She had three sons.

Gov. Reagan was passenger in car

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — The California Highway Patrol chased a sedan for 17 miles at speeds up to 70 miles per hour through heavy traffic and when it was stopped the driver escaped a citation.

The driver was a Highway Patrol officer. His passenger was Gov. Ronald Reagan, the patrol said.

Patrol Sgt. John R. Jones said Reagan's chauffeur "was having difficulty reaching us on the mobile radio."

Jones said he could not explain why the driver of the vehicle was not issued a citation for speeding.

"It will be handled administratively," Jones added.

Hospital visitors barred in Auburn

AUBURN, Neb. (AP)—State Health Department officials recommended Friday that the Nemaha County Hospital be closed to visitors because of a local outbreak of intestinal flu.

Hospital Administrator Glen Krueger said 19 residents from the Good Samaritan Home here were admitted to the hospital Friday suffering from the flu.

Krueger said he hoped the ban on visitations could be lifted within a few days.

The Buck Ends Here

By IVAN D.E. BEAUMONT

Welcome home, Don Farson

Ten years ago Don Farson of 1554 North Tenth Street, received an award for saving the life of another.

Today, his eyes moisten when he tells how great he feels to be alive.

Mr Farson returned the other day from Clarkson hospital where he had some heart valves replaced. During the hours of surgery and the days later, he was in the hands of others

Mr Farson's surgery is done many times at the hospital There is a heart-valve surgery schedule, but for the Nebraska City man, there seemed to be only one patient and he was it.

Now comes recuperation It will be eight weeks or so before he is able to return to work as electric superintendent for Nebraska City Utilities. He's looking forward to getting back on the job

The doctor said he was not to be up for any long period. He has found that a trip down the hall in his home or standing and gazing out the door for a few moments are about all he can take for the present.

I suggested we photograph the incision and stitches and use the pictures as Christmas cards as a reminder of how Christmas 1974 was loused up

Don doesn't agree. He's so dingly-dangly hot-bam blasted to be at home and on his feet that he nixed the whole idea (His dad, Bryan, would probably have used a few more choice words to answer that)

Don is hopeful of gaining his strength back rapidly He wants to take his wife to Texas soon to see the new grandchild

Best wishes and a speedy recovery, grandpop!

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Larry Hyot, Omaha, was home for Christmas after six and a half months of walking. . .2,000 miles

The 24-year-old nephew of Mrs Ethel Larkin, rural Nebraska City, said he spent four years in the Navy dreaming of the day he could take a hike His "hike" went from Spring Mountain, Ga., to Mount Katahadin, Maine

The trek cost him about $1,000 He stopped once to earn money as a farm hand and again to work sacking and delivering groceries He plans to return to UNO to study biology

He hopes to use his hiking experience to encourage creation of hiking trails

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Congratulations to Jay Cohn, 16, son of Mr and Mrs Glen Cohn, for donating his first pint of blood Jay's dad donated 64 pints over the years and his son will take over the effort for the Cohn family.

The success of the Red Cross blood program depends heavily on people like the Cohns They not only account for the "sure-thing" donors each trip, but they do a lot of recruiting

If you've never given blood, then you've never experienced the real giving of which you're probably capable Call Wilma McIntire at 873-3481 You'll get answers to questions and personal attention from the Red Cross.

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The best joke we read over Christmas was about Santa appearing in court:

"You're charged with flying without a license, failure to file a flight plan, operating a vehicle without a state inspection sticker, 16 counts of violations of the Interstate Commerce Act, trespassing and failure to pay the national gift tax"

How's that grab you, bud?

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There were 1,150 people killed on bicycles last year, according to the Bicycle Institute of America and the cause of the deaths has not been the bikes. It's the rider who runs a red light, drives his bike into the path of an oncoming truck. It's also the motorist who doesn't know or care about cyclists and drives as if they were not there.

It's also shoulderless roads, narrow streets, congested traffic conditions and a traffic environment in which the bicycle cannot hope to compete, much less to win.

Safety is the answer and the one-shot PTA-sponsored yearly bike clinics are not enough. Bike safety, the Institute says, should be taught in schools Maryland and New York have similar programs now.

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The Christmas present I liked most came from daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Bryan Mabie — a family portrait at Burns Studio

You should haver heard the kids

"You mean we gotta get dressed up JUST for a picture?" No 3 daughter Jeannea asked.

"That's right kiddo. and dressed up means NO PANTS!" the king and master of the house said

"I suppose I'll have to get a haircut," the boy with the big feet said.

"No buster, your hair is fine, but if it isn't shampooed and combed neatly, you'll be in trouble right smack dab here in River City, the wise master advised

"D-a-d-d-y," said No 2 daughter Clarissa (I could tell it was something sneaky by the tone of her voice)

"Can I have Love in the picture?" (For all you folks who don't understand a teen-aged daughter, Love is the name of something super-precious, like an eight-week-old puppy

"Oh, no you don't," the boy with the beginner's beard said "I'm not getting my picture taken with any dog!"

(Does this sound like your home?)

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"Now, listen kids, this will probalby be the only family picture we'll have taken and we're going to do it right," the king said (Please notice that the Queen Bee did not interfere)

Bob and Nathalie Burns are very patient people They got the job done and in a short time despite the little conversations that took place at the studio

The conversations?

"You kids smile," the master said

"I'm not happy," was the anwer

"You're going to be a lot sadder if you don't smile"

Flash, flash, went the Burns camera. (They'll never forget that picture job).

Darwin will be rebuilt

DARWIN, Australia (AP) — Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam walked the devastated streets of Darwin today and vowed that Australia's northern gateway will be rebuilt

As Whitlam spoke, jetliners flew out of the town carrying thousands of residents displaced by the worst natural disaster in Australian history

The death toll stood at 48 today with the discovery of two bodies floating in Darwin harbor

"It is heartbreaking to see that all the effort since the war toward building housing in Darwin has been destroyed," Whitlam said after a three-hour tour of this isolated northern coast city About 90 per cent of the city was destroyed early Christmas Day in a four-hour cyclone that churned out of the Timor Sea

"The government is determined the city will be rebuilt and restored," he said "This is an essential port It has always been Australia's gateway"

Whitlam interrupted a European tour to return for a first-hand look at Darwin He called an emergency cabinet meeting for Monday

Australian, British, New Zealand and U S Air Force planes continued ferrying residents from the city Officials said 16,800 persons have been flown to cities and towns around Australia and 15,000 more are scheduled to be airlifted out in the next two days

The director of the Natural Disasters Organization, Maj Gen Alan Stretton, said he wanted to evacuate three-quarters of the city's 41,000 residents

Dr Bostwick dies

SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb (AP)— Services will be Tuesday morning for Dr Helen Bostwick, 76, a chiropractor who was long active in civic affairs

Mrs. Skrupa wants pay hikes rescinded

OMAHA, Neb (AP)—At least one of the newly-elected members of the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) Board of Directors is now calling for the district to rescind pay raises given OPPD managerial and supervisory personnel two weeks ago

The raises, some in excess of 20 per cent, have caused quite a stir among residents in the district, because they were being forced to swallow a 13 5 per cent rate increase at the same time the pay raises were winning approval

Mrs Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha, who will be seated during the next board meeting, has called for the rejection of the pay hikes

"Since the present OPPD board failed to act to resolve the crisis provoked by the exhorbitant pay and rate increases granted management, another solution must be found," said Mrs Skrupa in a news release

Mrs Skrupa said the rejection of the pay raises would be a "sacrifice made in recognition of their (those winning the raises) roles as community leaders who must be the first to set a good example m the fight against inflation"

Omaha Mayor Edward Zorinsky and Douglas County Commissioner P J Morgan have also come out strongly against the OPPD pay raise action

Governor Bumpers to take seat soon

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Gov Dale Bumpers announced today that he will resign at noon Jan 3 so he may take his seat in the U S Senate at the earliest possible moment without legal complications

Lt Gov Bob Riley will serve the remainder of Bumpers' term, which runs until Jan 14.

Bumpers' announcement at a news conference ended weeks of speculation over how he would handle the move from the state capital to Washington

Police answer Lincoln man

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—A Lincoln man who wrote a public letter of protest over what he believes is police harassment of persons stopped for driving while intoxicated, has now taken issue with the police department's response to his complaints

Roger Dickeson, president of Mid-America Webpress, continues to maintain that local police are erring in their failure to inform DWI suspects of their constitutional rights by administering the so-called Miranda warning

Police had responded by pointing to court rulings which held Miranda warnings are unnecessary in misdemeanor and traffic violation cases

However, Dickeson argued, in a letter dated Dec 26, that someone stopped for possible DWI also is liable to charges other than traffic violations, including at least two possible felonies

Dickeson's first letter cited six separate cases of alleged police harassment of DWI suspects Dickeson claimed suspects are being denied constitutional rights and that police conduct stakeouts of taverns along the Cornhusker Highway

Contacted Friday, Nebraska Atty Gen Clarence Meyer said flatly "The Miranda warnings are never required by law"

Meyer did say it is advisable to administer the Miranda warnings in the event that a DWI suspect is discovered to have committed some other crime

In the case of a DWI or related violation, such as refusal to submit to a breath test, Meyer said the Miranda warnings are completely unneeded because the police have no use for any statement from the suspect—the officer can observe the crime and his personal testimony is enough for a conviction without any statement

New horse barn at fairgrounds

LINCOLN, Neb (AP)—The State Fair Board has awarded a contract to Atco Construction Co of Lincoln for construction of a new horse barn complex north of the fairgrounds' race track

The Atco bid of $430,433 was the lowest of seven received, the board said

The board had asked for bids with a variety of options, then decided Friday upon its preference within budgetary guidelines The option chosen calls for a metal building with wooden horse stalls and wooden doors

Atco has assured the board the facility will be completed in time for the 1975 Fairgrounds race meet which begins in mid-July

All but three of the present wooden barns will be removed with the remaining three remodeled for continued use for about 200 stalls

The new barn complex will accommodate about 238 mounts and include 24 tack rooms

Omahan critical following fire

OMAHA, Neb (AP)—An Omaha man was listed in critical condition Friday after suffering smoke inhalation during an early morning fire that swept though his home

Hospitalized was Reuben Talbert, 63, who was alone, and apparently tried to escape from the flaming frame house Firemen found Talbert lying in front of a doorway

Fire investigators said the blaze may have been started by smoking in bed

The fire destroyed a bedroom, the attic and ceiling of the one-story house Damage was estimated at $10,000

Talbert s wife, Lydia, is recovering from a back injury at a local hospital, and was not at home when the fire broke out

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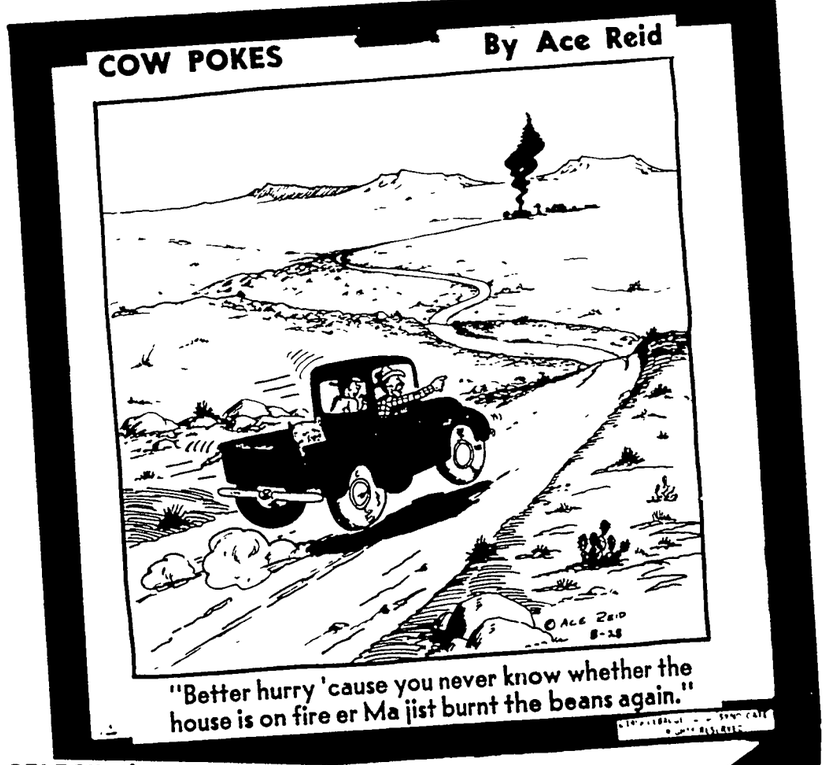
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