

# Man Found Dead In *Mon 13 Oct 69* Apartment

Death from natural causes was the finding of Coroner-Sheriff Ross Wilson after Albiny "Frenchy" Vaillencourt was found dead Sunday evening at the Fernwell Apartments. Mrs. Ralph Ertz discovered the body and called Kalispell police just before 10 p.m. Sunday.

After officers arrived they called for Wilson to check into aspects of the death.

The body was taken to the Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home.

# Eureka Man Killed In Accident

*28 March 1969*  
EUREKA — Nels Valcore, about 39, Eureka, was crushed to death shortly after 8 a.m. today in an accident at his ranch home near Glen Lake.

Valcore had hitched the tractor to a pickup truck bogged down in mud. He was attempting to pull it free when the tractor tipped and rolled with Valcore pinned under under it.

He was pronounced dead by a doctor summoned to the scene by authorities. He is survived by his wife and three children.

*D 14 Oct 1969*  
WHITEFISH — William Stirman Vaughan, 72, died at his home home on West 4th Street in Whitefish Tuesday.

Mr. Vaughan was born Sept. 4, 1897, at Owensboro, Ky., a son of William and Jimmie Vaughan. He had received his education in Kentucky and in 1919 moved to Whitefish.

In September 1922, he was employed as a brakeman for the Great Northern Railway and continued in this capacity until retiring Aug. 30, 1967. He was a member of the Whitefish Lodge AF&AM and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Nov. 27, 1927, he was married to Olive Whelan at Kali-

spell and is now survived by her at the family home.

He is also survived by one son, Robert Vaughan of Dayton, Ohio; two daughters, Mrs. Roger (Nancy) Scholten of Seattle, and Mrs. Edwin (Lucy) Sharp of Columbia, S. C.; one sister, Mrs. Leonard Moore of Whitefish; three grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Vaughan will be announced by the Austin Funeral Home. The family suggests friends who wish may contribute memorials to the Shodair Crippled Children's Hospital, Helena.

# Have You Seen Vivian?

• By Larry Stem

17 Jul. 1969  
LAKESIDE — For nearly three months a Kalispell mother has carried an intolerable burden.

Mrs. Ruby R. O'Lexey lives at 503 E. Oregon St. in Kalispell. Every time the telephone rings at her small neat home, Mrs. O'Lexey wonders if this is the call that will finally bring her some small shred of information about her daughter, 39-year-old Vivian O. Vlasak, who was last seen about 1:30 a.m. July 17, when she left work at the Tamarack Inn.

It's another reason why Mrs. O'Lexey constantly watches her mailbox, hoping, praying there will be a card or letter in a familiar handwriting. Mrs. O'Lexey is a confused mother. She fails to understand why there hasn't been some word, some small clue, some shred of evidence of what happened to her daughter.

Mrs. O'Lexey says, "This isn't like Vivian. Always in the past she has stayed in touch with her home, her family, her children. She has always gotten word to the family somehow of what was taking place, where she would be. Vivian has always lived a regular kind of life.

"It's the uncertainty of everything, the not knowing which is so hard to bear. I think I could bear knowledge of her death far more easily than not knowing what has happened," Mrs. O'Lexey relates.

The Daily Inter Lake in its standing policy of service to the community it serves, feels there is a special service which can be performed here, a service to the family of Mrs. O'Lexey, a service to Lake County Sheriff Bill Phillips.

As it has in the past, The Daily Inter Lake again asks the question, "Has anyone seen Vivian Vlasak?"

To refresh the memory of Northwest Montana residents, Mrs. Vlasak was a waitress at the Tamarack Inn. July 17 she failed to show up at the home of her mother. She was last seen when she left the inn after completing her work shift about 1:30 a.m.

Her car was found in the middle of the outbound traffic lane from the inn. The car was in good operating condition. The keys were still in the ignition which was turned off. All doors of the vehicle except the one at the driver's seat were locked. Her coin purse containing her tips from her Thursday work lay on the front seat of the car. There was absolutely no sign of a struggle of any kind. It was just as though Vivian Vlasak had been swallowed up in thin air.

In the days that followed volunteers formed searching parties in the area south of Lakeside and made a yard by square yard search of the immediate area around the Tamarack Inn. More than one search was made. Nothing ever developed from

those hunts, not even a sign of a footprint, a torn off button, a lost sandal or tennis shoe.

As the days of July faded into August, Phillips and his staff followed up every bit of information furnished his office. They checked out reports Mrs. Vla-

County authorities cooperated in further investigation. They had to return a negative report.

Literally hundreds of man hours have gone into the task of trying to find some trace of Vivian Vlasak. All have been for naught. The question Mrs. Ruby O'Lexey asks herself every day is still unanswered. Phillips has notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the incident.

McCullough summed up the work of nearly 90 days.

He said, "I said it July 17, I repeat it again today, this just doesn't make any sense. We haven't one shred of evidence to attribute to a felony. Is she a missing person? Is she a victim of kidnaping?"

"After these weeks, it becomes more unlikely.

"Is she the victim of an assault? Possibly her body might be in Flathead Lake but there's no point to start a search, no evidence of any kind from which to intelligently follow a path of clues. Vivian Vlasak has simply disappeared into thin air and we have no knowledge of how or why or where to turn next. We can only follow factual data or information that becomes available to us. Our investigation is by no means closed but each passing day makes it more and more difficult."

McCullough again described Vivian Vlasak. She is 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 118 pounds, had dark hair cropped short. When last seen she was dressed in a white jersey blouse and a

black skirt. She has scars on her left leg below the knee which are prominent and easily seen.

A birthday celebration was missed Aug. 4. Vivian Vlasak would have been 39 that day, or she is now if she is still alive and a possible amnesia victim.

The oft asked question where is Vivian Vlasak is still unanswered.

Perhaps some reader of The Daily Inter Lake in Northwest Montana has the answer that would still the anxiety and uncertainty of a mother. Perhaps that reader may not wish to contact authorities. Should this be the case, The Daily Inter Lake invites them to share their information in a confidential manner with the assurance it will reach the proper authorities.

Better yet, if you have seen Vivian Vlasak share your knowledge with Sheriff Phillips at Polson or any law enforcement agency in Northwest Montana. Mrs. Ruby O'Lexey's concern needs to be stilled with knowledge, however unpalatable it might be. It's preferable to uncertainty.

Have you seen Vivian Vlasak since July 17?

## No Peace Prize

The Nobel Committee decided not to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 1966. It was the first time in 10 years this prize was withheld and the 11th time since the award was established in 1901 under the will of Alfred Nobel.



VIVIAN O. VLASAK

sak had been seen in Libby, Great Falls, Seattle, Las Vegas. Everyone of the reports was followed out to a complete blank wall with no more information than was first ascertained July 17.

As recently as Oct. 3 Under-sheriff John McCullough, who did most of the investigation at the Tamarack Inn, followed up a report Mrs. Vlasak had been seen in Great Falls. Cascade

## Mrs. Voorhies Dies; Rites 13 July Pending 1969

Alma L. Voorhies, 52, passed away Sunday at her home in Kalispell.

Mrs. Voorhies was born Sept. 30, 1916, in Deloit, Neb., to John and Amy Latzel. She received her education in Ewing, Neb., and Sept. 27, 1938, was married to Everett W. Voorhies in Ewing.

During World War II they moved to Rockford, Ill., and following the war moved to the Flathead, settling for a time in the Evergreen and later moved into Kalispell.

She is survived by her widower at 1115 Third Ave. W.; two daughters, Gayle Church of Dillon, and Joyce Bell of Portland, Ore.; a granddaughter; three sisters, Helena Kalzor of Chambers, Neb., Doris Theile of Neeley, Neb., and Norma Jean Engbretson of Kalispell. Service arrangements will be announced by the Waggener & Campbell Funeral Home.

## Still No Trace Of Local Woman Gone Four Days

17 July 1969  
After four days of continuous investigation, Lake County Sheriff Bill Phillips is still no closer to an answer to the question of what happened to Vivian Vlasak.

The 38-year-old Kalispell woman was last seen at 1:30 a.m. Thursday when she finished work at the Tamarack Inn. Searches of the area around Table Bay have produced nothing. Phillips has questioned several persons to no avail. No information has been derived from friends and relatives.

Phillips said, "Everything we've tried to follow up to date has come up against a blank wall. We've found nothing to change our thinking there is foul play involved. Again we would ask any person having any information which would have some bearing on the continuing investigation to contact the Lake County Sheriff's Office."

## Skull Find Sent To Lab

THOMPSON FALLS — A skull with the lower jaw missing has been found west of Plains and sent to a crime laboratory for identification, Sanders authorities reported.

A spokesman for the sheriff's office speculated the skull may be that of Vivian Vlasak, 38, a waitress who disappeared July 17, 1969 after completing her shift at an inn south of Lakeside.

The woman's remains were found in the same general area in October of 1971, but no skull was located then despite an intensive search.

The skull was found along the Buffalo Bill road, between Plains and Thompson Falls, Sunday by Bob Heckman, Plains.

File Nov. 10, 1972