

MR POPHistory

Week of August 6, 1969



Near Beverly Hills, film actress **Sharon Tate** (26), another woman and three men are found slain around a Benedict Canyon estate Saturday morning, in what police are describing as a ritualistic mass murder. The bodies were shot, stabbed or throttled. On the door of the home at 10050 Cielo Drive, written in blood, was the work 'Pig.' Police have one suspect - 19-year-old houseboy William Garretson. A maid, Mrs. Winifred Champan, discovered the bodies at 8:30am. She went running to a neighbor's in a state of shock. Married to director Roman Pulanski who is working on a project in England, Sharon Tate was 8 months pregnant. The

others are identified as - **Abigail Folger** (26) heiress to the Folger's Coffee family ... Jay Sebring (35) - Miss Tate's former fiancé and a famous men's hairstylist in Hollywood ... Voityck Frokowski (37) who worked with Polanski in Polish films before they came to Hollywood ... Steven Parent (18), who was found stabbed in his car near the gate. The Tate home sits at the end of a winding, hilly street.



Telephone lines into the home had been cut, apparently by the murderer. According to some, the murder scene look like a battlefield. On the lawn in front of the ranch style home was the body of Frokowski. Twenty yards away under a fir tree, lay the body of Miss Folger, clad in a nightgown. In the living room - her pregnant body dressed in underwear, bikini panties and a brassiere, lay Sharon Tate. A bloodied nylon cord was tied around her neck. The cord ran over a beam and was tied around the neck of Jay Sebring, who layed nearby. Suspect Garretson was taken into custody "because he was on the premises where five people were murdered" according to police.



Supermarket owner **Leno La Bianca** (44) and his wife Rosemary (38) are stabbed to death Sunday in their home at 3301 Waverly Drive in the Silverlake section of Los Angeles. The house is 15 miles from the scene of the earlier crime. Detectives say the man's head was covered with a white hood, his chest pierced by a meat carving fork which had been used to cut the word 'war' and XXX" into his flesh. The woman's body, clad in pajamas was found in the bedroom - her back ripped to

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pieces by what police say may have been a knife or a whip. Detectives find startling similarities in both scenes, but say there is little evidence the slayings were committed by the same persons. They are calling the La Bianca murders "copycat" killings.

Steve Garretson, the sole-survivor of the mass-murder rampage is cleared of the Tate murders on Monday. It is learned by police that Garretson - was in his room in a guest house, listening to his stereo when the multiple killings occurred ... He said goodnight to an acquaintance, Steven Parent at about 11:30pm Friday night ... He didn't know there had been any crimes committed until police kicked in the door of his room shortly after 9am the next day.



Also murdered this week - William Lennon (53) - father of the famous "Lennon Sisters" seen weekly on "The Lawrence Welk Show." He was shot to death by a man who accosted him in the parking lot at a Marina Del Rey, CA golf course, where Lennon worked as an instructor. His daughters are to star in their own television series beginning September on ABC. The suspect - a white male who was sloppily dressed, was once arrested by the Secret Service after threatening the life of President Lyndon B. Johnson, claiming the

President had stopped him from marrying Peggy Lennon, a member of the quartet.

The Apollo 11 astronauts end a 21-day quarantine and return to their homes for the first time since making their historic voyage. Neil Armstrong told a gathering of lab workers who supported the isolation from the outside: - "I'd like to take this opportunity particularly to thank all those of you I see out there who are my gracious hosts here in the Lunar Receiving Laboratory." "I can't say that I would choose to spend a couple of weeks like that but I'm very glad we got the opportunity to complete the mission."

The French government devalues the frank by 12.5% in an unexpected announcement. President Georges Pompidou called the devaluation decision "unavoidable" and that "any other alternative would have imposed unbearable sacrifices and massive unemployment on the country, compromising our future." He's been on the job only seven weeks after succeeding Charles de Gaulle. According to the finance minister's figures - the French government owes at least

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\$2 billion in short-term loans and swaps, leaving it with uncommitted reserves of less than \$1.5 billion.

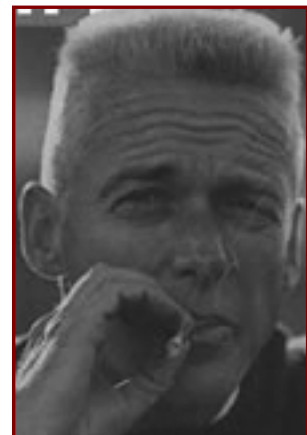
In a nationwide television address, President Nixon proposes that welfare aid be extended to families of the “working poor” - a move that could triple the number of families with children who are receiving assistance. He proposed that the government guarantee a minimum income to every poor family with children in which the father (or other breadwinner) is willing to register for work or job training. The only exception is families headed by mothers with children of preschool age.



Former football great-turned-actor **Jim Brown** pleads not guilty after being charged with felonious assault against a 52-year-old man and misdemeanor counts of assault and leaving the scene of an accident in Hollywood. According to the police, Brown rear-ended a car driven by an Arthur Brush. Brush got out and showed his ID to Brown, who refused to produce his driver's license. The actor then started to drive away and Brush stood in front of his car. Brush says he was struck with such force that he was thrown up on the hood of Brown's moving car where he grabbed the windshield wipers. After going about 75 feet, Brown got out of his car and threw Brush off of the hood. Brush wrote down the plate #s and identified Brown from police photos.

An “eternal life” brotherhood commune is abandoned by more than 30 “hippie-type” followers of Dr Timothy Leary in Riverside County, CA. Officers say that seven empty tepees which had been occupied by as many as 35 visitors are still standing. One of those leaving the ranch told authorities it was a “bad scene.” Leary reportedly left just before a sheriff's raid on July 24 and the arrest of five persons for marijuana possession. Dr Leary has become a champion of marijuana and LSD usage.

Vietnam news - Col **Robert B. Rheault** - former commander of the Army's 5th Special Group (Airborne), becomes the first colonel to be charged with murder in the Vietnam War. Similar charges are placed against two majors, three captains, a chief warrant officer and a sergeant first class. Officials say the act - a premeditated murder in the shooting of a Vietnamese man was near Nha Trang, the headquarters of the 5th Special Forces Group 200 miles northeast of Saigon.



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“The **Haunted Mansion**” debuts at Disneyland. Located at the edge of New Orleans Square - a ghost host and a skeleton staff run the place and tenants include 999 ghosts, specters and other restless spirits plus an assortment of bats, ravens, banshees, owls, cats and hounds. Thanks to the magic of Disney engineers, guests encounter a headless knight singing an operatic aria. Phantom

musicians accompany dancers drifting above a ballroom floor. Marble statues talk. Ghosts appear and disappear and even try to hitch rides with visitors. The voice of the mansion is provided by voice genius Paul Frees (Beware of hitchhiking ghosts ... of course, there's always my way!) Created at a cost of \$7 million, it's the 53rd major attraction at Disneyland. (Editor's note - Both Disneyland and Disneyworld still maintain the legendary voice of Paul Frees in the Haunted Mansion - into the 2000's). Paul Frees is also the voice of many pirates in the famous “Pirates of the Caribbean.” Paul Frees passed-away in 1986).

Radio news - New thinking for radio programming - talk radio for younger audiences? - Jack Thayer, formally of KLAC in Los Angeles and the architect of “two-way” talk radio on that station says the format can flourish elsewhere. KLAC fired him, so he began to find his own way as a consultant. WMCA, New York - not knowing much how to do talk radio, hired him earlier this year. The station use to lead the New York ratings with its top-40 format. WMCA's ratings began to slip and in August of 1968, they brought in a new program director - Terrell Metheny Jr. He modified the music and changed the station's familiar “goodguy” format. The ratings dipped even more, so management decided on a different direction. As of April, Thayer put into place a unique format at the station. WMCA didn't want to drop its music format entirely (it was still bringing-in ratings), so Thayer came up with something he calls “Music and the Words.” It's divided into 12 hours of music and talk, with music beginning at 10am and talk at 10pm. The music is contemporary hard rock - right from the charts. The average age of the caller is 28.6. The ages of the talk personalities range from 22 to 40. “The problem with most talk-oriented stations is the older audience” says Thayer. “My plan was to interest the younger audience, so we began with rock ‘n’ roll. The next step was audience control.” We control the topics as much as possible by using what we call stimulants on the air, or topical promotions. A lot of our programming is set up with conference calls. For example, we called John Lennon in Canada, and the young people in New York produced fascinating

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conversations with him." "The kids make it exciting because they want to challenge people." WCAU in Philadelphia just hired him to consult, where Thayer has just hired Joel Spivak to do mornings. Spivak use to work at KLAC. "Philadelphia is somewhat devoid of humor and I think Joel's approach will help the station. We're going to youthify it." (Editor's note - this is the first time commercial radio has addressed a younger audience for talk radio). The format never caught on. The talk portions of the broadcast day drove off the music listeners. A better way for this concept might have been to integrate talk and music at the same time. WMCA would add more music before the end of 1969 to its daytime hours. Eventually, WMCA became a full-talk outlet in September of 1970, much like the old KLAC. Interestingly, they hired talk show host Bob Grant the same month. Grant use to work at the old KLAC in Los Angeles.)



Gary Owens - who appears as the announcer on Rowan and Martin's "Laugh-In" is set to host his own daytime show on NBC. He'll begin a daily stint on NBC as host of the daytime "Letters to Laugh-In" which replaces "The Match Game." Says Owens: "This is really a daytime version of "Laugh-In" and I think it's the first time a network has tried zany, uninhibited comedy as a daytime program." "We're using real letters. Laugh-In gets more than 10,000 a week; most of them containing jokes, We'l do the jokes viewers send in. At least one member of the Laugh-In family - Arte Johnson, Goldie Hawn or Ruth Buzzi or one of the others - will be on each show." The show is set to debut September 29. Gary is the voice of many commercials and cartoon characters. You can also catch him on your drive around Los Angeles - afternoons on KMPC (710).

David Nelson - who co-starred in the "Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" forms Embroya Productions to produce commercial, theatrical and industrial films.

Film veteran Dana Andrews is signed to portray college president Thomas Bosell in the new NBC daytime serial "Bright Promise" - debuting September 29.

In sports - it's official USC running back **O.J. Simpson** turns professional this week - signing a contract with the Buffalo Bills that reportedly will make him the highest paid rookie in pro-football since the merger of the American and National Leagues in 1956. The four-year contract is for \$400 thousand and carries a no-cut clause. Simpson originally had sought \$600 thousand for five years, plus a \$500 thousand business loan. The impasse stretched into months and there was concern Simpson would sit out a year. "I'm awfully glad it's



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over. I never wanted to lay out a year and I have always wanted to play in either the AFL or the NFL the best level possible." O.J. will take the number 36.



Pitcher **Don Drysdale** (33) of the Los Angeles Dodgers calls it quits - his career ended by an injury to the rotary cup deep within his right shoulder. "Yesterday, when I went upstairs to meet Peter O'Malley, I sat in the stands to watch a few innings of the game and I heard a sound that I had not heard since I was a boy. In all the years that I pitched it was as if I became immune to the sound of bat hitting ball and ball hitting mitt. It had always been a magnetic click for me

and I saw my whole childhood again. I knew then that all my dreams had come true."

Passing - **George P Marshall** (72) - brought the Redskins to Washington and became a charter member of football's Hall of Fame. By his own admission, he was a frustrated actor, which may have been the motivating factor which drove him to stay in the public eye most of his life.



Frank Sinatra accepts an invitation from the Apollo 11 astronauts to host and perform at a homecoming party to be held for them in the Houston Astrodome on Saturday. The party, by invitation only, will salute all those connected with the Apollo 11 flight and the supporting Mission Control crews. Other stars are being line-up to honor Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins.



Another "Peanuts" special. "It was a Short Summer, Charlie Brown" - the sixth in the series of animated specials involving the Peanuts comicstrip characters airs September 27 on CBS.

Bestsellers -

The Love Machine - Jacqueline Susann
The Godfather - Mario Puzo
The Pretenders - Gwen Davis
Except for Me and Thee - Jessamyn West
Ada - Vladimir Nabokov
The Godfather - Mario Puzo
Portnoy's Complaint - Philip Roth

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Between Parent and Teenager - Haim G. Ginott
The Kingdom and the Power - The Gay Talese
The Peter Principle - Laurence J. Peter, Raymond Hull
Jennie: Life of Lady Randolph Churchill - Ralph G. Martin
An Unfinished Woman - Lillian Hellman
The Money Game - Adam Smith

Now at Sears - Capitol Records "Close-Up" series from some of your favorite artists:

Close-Up The Beach Boys
Close-Up Frank Sinatra
Close-Up The Lettermen
Close-Up Lou Rawls
Close-Up Nancy Wilson
Close-Up Buck Owens
Close-Up Sonny James
Close-Up Jackie Gleason
Close-Up Merle Haggard
Close-Up Nat King Cole
Stereo Albums each - \$3.49
Each 8-Track Cartridge Tape - \$5.89
Each Cassette Tape - \$4.89
Each Reel to Reel Tape - \$4.89



Regis Philbin is signed by RKO General to host a weekly 90-minute syndicated series "Philbin's People." It will air first and be produced at KHJ-TV (channel 9) in Los Angeles. Rick Rosner, who produced "Della" (The Della Reese Show) will produce this one.



CBS will launch "**The Leslie Uggams Show**" in place of the canceled "Smothers Brothers Hour" on Sunday evenings. She says her favorite show was the Smothers Brothers. "Our show will be as alive as theirs was. The people who don't want to be alive can watch Bonanza." Like the Smothers show, the program will include singing and comedic guests and "some social commentary." Impressionist David Frye will be a semi regular. His satiric comedy has a social bite. After appearing on the Mitch Miller show - Pretty Leslie Uggams obtained Broadway stardom in "Hallelujah Baby." She's

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married to Australian Graham Pratt.



Football season - CBS enters its 14th season as the National Football League network and will air a total of 110 games throughout the country this season. The post-season telecasts include the Eastern and Western Conference Championships, NFL Championship, Playoff Bowl, Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl. The network will employ the rotation system for its football announcers. Here they are as they are paired for broadcast - Chuck Thompson and Don Criqui/Jack Whitaker and Frank Gifford/Ray Scott and Paul Christman/Lindsey Nelson and Tom Brookshier/Jack Drees and John Sauer/Frank

Glieber and Eddie LeBaron//**Jack Buck** and Pat Summerall. Two new analysts have been added to the corps - Jerry Kramer (Green Bay) and Frank Clarke (Dallas).

Singer **Buck Owens** is much more recognizable now that he co-stars on "Hee-Haw" on CBS. "I really didn't know if anyone would laugh at all those corny jokes, but the more I learned about the show and that it was really just a big spoof, the more interested I became." "If you will notice, the music is treated straight. We don't joke around when we present the singers. They are doing their songs the same way they would do them on stage. The show is making a lot of new fans for country music."



Thursday Night Television -

CBS – CBS News With Walter Cronkite, Animal World, The Prisoner, Movie

NBC – Huntley-Brinkley report, Daniel Boone, Ironside, Dragnet-1969, Dean Martin Presents The Goldiggers

ABC – ABC News With Frank Reynolds, The Flying Nun, That Girl, Bewitched, Special-Masters of Pop: Innocence, Anarchy and Soul, Special-Summer Focus



Animal World - **Bill Burrud** narrates

The Prisoner - The Prisoner becomes a participant in a bizarre game of chess in which residents of the village are chess pieces. Stars Patrick McGoohan

CBS Movie - The Incredible Mr. Limpet (1964) - Don Knotts, Carole Cook, Jack Weston.

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The Goldiggers - guests Lou Rawls, Gail Martin, Paul Lynde. Lynde's comedy skits include a suave doctor, an aging waiter, a seedy detective and a dueling instructor.

At the movies this week in 1969...

My Cherie Amour - Stevie Wonder

Honky Tonk Women - The Rolling Stones

Crystal Blue Persuasion - Tommy James & the Shondells

In the Year 2525 - Zager & Evans

Sweet Caroline - Neil Diamond

Baby, I Love You - Andy Kim

My Pledge of Love - The Joe Jeffrey Group

Put a Little Love In Your Heart - Jackie DeShannon

What Does It Take (To Win Your Love) - Jr. Walker & the All Stars

Give Peace a Chance - The Plastic Ono Band

Quentin's Theme - The Charles Randolph Grean Sounde (From Dark Shadows)

Spinning Wheel - Blood, Sweat & Tears

Laughing - The Guess Who

Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet - Henry Mancini & his Orchestra

Get Together - The Youngbloods

A Boy Named Sue - Johnny Cash

One - Three Dog Night

Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town - Kenny Rogers & the First Edition

I'll Never Fall In Love Again - Tom Jones

Jean - Oliver

Love Me Tonight - Tom Jones

Yesterday When I Was Young - Roy Clark

Mother Popcorn (You Got to Have a Mother For Me), Part 1 - James Brown

Soul Deep - The Box Tops

Polk Salad Annie - Tony Joe White

Lay, Lady Lay - Bob Dylan

Moody Woman - Jerry Butler

It's Getting Better - Mama Cass

Moonflight - Vic Venus (real name - Jack Spector - a New York DJ) (break-in



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record)

Top albums -

Blood, Sweat & Tears - Blood, Sweat & Tears

Hair - original cast

This is Tom Jones - **Tom Jones**

Romeo and Juliet - original soundtrack

The Age of Aquarius - Fifth Dimension

Crosby, Stills & Nash - Crosby, Stills & Nash

A Warm Shade of Ivory - Henry Mancini

Tommy - The Who

In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida - Iron Butterfly

Johnny Cash At San Quentin - Johnny Cash

Best of Cream - Cream



At the movies -

Walt Disney's Rascal - Steve Forrest, Bill Mummy,

Pamela Toll, Elsa Lanchester, Henry Jones,

Bettye Ackerman

Walt Disney's Blackbeard's Ghost - Peter Ustinov, Dean Jones, Suzanne

Pleshette, Elsa Lanchester

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - Dick Van Dyke, Sally Ann Howes

The April Fools - Jack Lemmon, Catherine Deneuve, Peter Lawford, Jack

Weston, Myrna Loy, Harvey Korman, Charles Boyer

Midnight Cowboy - Jon Voight

Romeo and Juliet -

2001: A Space Odyssey

Once Upon A Time In The West -

The Wild Bunch - William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan, Edmond

O'Brien, Warren Oates, Strother Martin

Support Your Local Sheriff - James Garner, Joan Hackett

The Chairman - Gregory Peck, Anne Heywood

100 Rifles - Jim Brown, Raquel Welch

Run Wild, Run Free - Mark Lester, John Mills

Fantastic Voyage - Stephen Boyd, Raquel Welch

The Great Bank Robbery - Zero Mostel, Kim Novac, Clint Walker, Claude Akins,

Larry Storch, Sam Jaffee

The Great Race - Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, Natalie Wood, Keenan Wynn,

Peter Falk, Larry Storch, Ross Martin

Che! - Omar Sharif, Jack Palance, Robert Loggia, Barbara Luna

True Grit - John Wayne, Glen Campbell, Kim Darby

Castle Keep - Burt Lancaster, Patrick O'Neal, Jean-Pierre Aumont, Tony Bill,

Bruce Dern, Peter Falk

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Last Summer - Barbara Hershey, Richard Thomas, Bruce Davison, Cathy Burns

