

# Rabies Terror Of 1934 Recalled As Outbreak Continues

By WALDO E. PRAY  
Staff Reporter

July 28, 1934, was a typical mid-summer day for George Folson, 44, of New Sharon, as he and two companions labored on a town road project.

The temperature was in the high 70s and an occasional cloud drifted lazily over the Franklin County landscape.

George Folson, in the prime of manhood, had a date with destiny that day—a date that would start in terror and end in agony. He would be the last human being recorded in Maine to die of rabies, or "hydrophobia" as it was better known in those days.

FOR FOLSON and his companions, that day 31 years ago could have been today or tomorrow. The situation was the same.

All three had heard and read stories of rabid animals abroad in Franklin County, just as they are today.

They had heard stories of the incredible horror of death of the disease carried by animals. The area had been warned by the state health officials of the hazards involved.

But these things were distant from the minds of Folson and his companions as they bent their backs to the task before them.

It's possible that they weren't

even surprised as a big dog, known as "Starka," lumbered towards them.

BUT TERROR struck swiftly as the dog sprang at Folson, his fangs slashing repeatedly into his side and bared left arm.

It was only then that Folson and his companions remembered what they had heard and read. His wounds were cauterized within a half hour and he got his first shot of rabies vaccine six hours later. In all, 14 doses of the vaccine were administered to Folson.

The recommended treatment for a person bitten by an

animal suspected of being rabid is a minimum of 14 shots and a total of 31, depending upon the severity and location of the wounds. Vaccines and serum also have been greatly improved since Folson's death.

For a while it seemed he would recover. But three weeks later, one Aug. 14, Folson's wounds began to pain. The next day he couldn't swallow. Then followed the repeated convulsions typical of the last stages of rabies. Folson died Saturday evening, Aug. 18.

FOLSON'S DEATH shocked a nation out of complacency. A string of trappers' steel was stretched around Franklin and

neighboring counties to sid the area of any of the best known carriers, such as fox, skunk and raccoon.

Where traps left off, rifles and shotguns picked up. Feet were kept indoors or lethered in the yard. The populace was aware of the terror abroad. All were wary of strange-acting animals.

The precaution paid off. On Oct. 21, 1935, Maine was declared virtually free of rabid animals. The last rabid fox from the epidemic of 1934-35 was shot in New Sharon.

It ran into the village cemetery and died on a grave. The grave was that of George Folson.

Beyond his circle of friends and acquaintances George Folson's memory would be forgotten. Forgotten too would be the horror of the death that took him. But his memory would remind all that rabies is again abroad, ready to strike the careless and unwary.

THIS DOESN'T mean that it's epidemic in the true sense of the word. But there is a single rabid animal abroad there's always the potential danger of a true epidemic.

There have been 38 cases of confirmed animal rabies in Franklin, the northern half of Oxford and some townships in western Somerset Counties in

recent years. About 100 communities in Oxford and Franklin counties have been declared "epidemic areas" the only way in which immunization of animals can be required by the State Department of Health and Welfare.

Commissioner of Health Dr. Dean Fisher says Maine's current rabies outbreak is of Canadian origin, but ironically entered the state through Vermont and New Hampshire rather than crossing the international border directly.

In 1962 rabies was reported in Quebec near the northern and western Maine border. The Maine Department of Health Continued On Page 18A; Col. 3

# Portland Sunday Telegram

—AND—  
Sunday Press Herald

VOL. 79—NO. 4      Second Class Postage Paid at Portland, Maine      PORTLAND, MAINE, SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 1965      Published by Guy Gannett Publishing Co.      FINAL EDITION      THIRTY CENTS

## Death Threats From Hanoi Taylor On Cong 'List'

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — The Viet Cong have placed U.S. Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and other top U.S. officials in South Viet Nam on a death list, Radio Hanoi said Saturday night.

The North Vietnamese broadcast said the death list was drawn up Friday, the day a captured U.S. Army sergeant, Harold G. Bennett, 23, of Perryville, Ark., was executed by the Viet Cong and a fishing restaurant on the Saigon River was blown up, killing 12 persons, including 12 Americans.

The broadcast, quoting a Viet Cong comment, said also targets for death were the South Vietnamese premier, Brig. Gen. Nguyen Cao Ky, and his ministers, Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu. The other Americans on the broadcast list were Deputy U.S. Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Viet Nam.

Marking Taylor and the others for death, the Viet Cong said, "is a necessary step."

"We do what we say. We have enough strength to compel the U.S. imperialists and the Thieu Ky clique to pay for their crimes after they shot Tran Van Dang in cold blood."

This was a reference to the Viet Cong spokesman said radio broadcast earlier this week after being convicted here of trying to blow up a U.S. officers' billet.

Meanwhile, a Viet Cong unit overran a government-held hamlet 20 miles from Saigon but retreating South Vietnamese troops turned and launched a counterattack, a U.S. military spokesman said. The Viet Cong also overran another hamlet

near the Laos border, officials reported.

The attack near Saigon was believed to be a possible new major offensive.

The Communist forces aimed their first major strikes since the battle of Dong Xoai two weeks ago on the district town of Tou Marong, 43 miles north of Khammou, near the Laotian border; and on a battalion command post near Duc Hoa, 20 miles west of Saigon.

The spokesman said radio contact was lost with the 200 defenders at Tou Marong, in the central highlands. A low cloud ceiling prevented fighter-bomber attacks from providing air support for the defenders.

The spokesman said 44 Vietnamese infantrymen were killed and another 40 wounded at the command post near Duc Hoa. Viet Cong dead were given as 34.

Sgt. George D. Vanlandingham, Alexandria, Va., one of two U.S. advisers with the battalion, said the guerrillas swarmed across the Valco Oriental River and all the command post at a group of buildings near a bend in the river.

"We heard them and fired artillery on their positions, but it didn't stop them," Vanlandingham said.

One hour after the initial attack, Vietnamese officers decided to retreat from the battalion command post. The Viet Cong had moved right up behind the main command post building, the sergeant said. "We were firing at them almost point blank through the hours of darkness."

At the time of the attack, the Viet Cong also fired 20 to 30 mortar shells at the U.S. command post. The spokesman said 23rd Division. No Americans were injured, a spokesman said.

Vanlandingham called in armed helicopters and A1 Skyraider fighter-bombers. F105 jets joined in the attack later.

The sergeant said the two Vietnamese companies that had evacuated the command post moved back just before daylight.

"We caught them there and wounded. That is where we scored our biggest kill," Vanlandingham said.

Reinforcements moved in at

daylight and the Viet Cong broke off the engagement.

Six Americans and two Australian were killed in two separate incidents listed as accidents.

Five U.S. Marines drowned when the M16 tank in which they were riding plunged into a 12-foot dropoff in a stream bed, the spokesman said. Robert Martin escaped.

The other deaths resulted from an explosion in a crowded truckload of American and Australian servicemen at Thien Son airbase, just north of Saigon. A spokesman said a grenade exploded in other unreported developments.

At Da Nang, Maj. Gen. Steven M. Wynn, U.S. Marine Corps commander in Viet Nam, said there would be new measures to keep the Viet Cong off balance in the area around the city.

In Saigon, Friday issued a statement calling Friday night's bombing of the crowded river bridge. Continued On Page 18A; Col. 5

## Fate Writes Tragic End To Marine Cousins' Lives

PATERSON, N.J. (AP) — Robert J. Rhodes and James III were second cousins who grew up together. They lived within several blocks of each other, played ball together, and went to the same elementary school. And both came from large families. James had six brothers and sisters, Rhodes had eight.

James attended Central High School and joined the Marine Corps two years ago. Rhodes worked for a supermarket for two years. Then he decided to follow his cousin into the Marines.

He enlisted last year, against the wishes of his parents. On Thursday Jesse's mother, Rosina James, received a telegram from the Defense Department that he had been killed in Viet Nam. Further details were not available.

Robert's father, Clifford, was driving to his job at a clothing factory Friday when he heard over the radio that an Air Force plane carrying Marines to Okinawa had crashed in El Toro, Calif.

"I had a sinking feeling that Bob was aboard that plane," he recalled.

"I knew I had lost a son." His son, 19, was one of the 84 servicemen killed in the crash.

## Bangor High Gets 'Pacemaker' Award

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Bangor High School has been designated Maine's 1965 "Pacemaker" in educational improvement in a nationwide school recognition project sponsored by the National Education Association and Parade Magazine.

The award was presented at an awards luncheon Wednesday during the 100th annual NEA convention. It recognizes the school's accomplishments in bringing about educational reforms.

Parade, which is distributed with the Sunday Telegram, tells the story of the "Pacemaker" project in an illustrated article in this week's issue.

BANGOR IS the only large secondary school in the state to break up the 45-50 minute class period "lock-step." Classes run for 25, 45, 55, or 70 minutes in various combinations. This permits students to take additional courses and gives the vocational and science teachers extended 10-minute periods.

Each student within an overall program is able to take courses of his own choice. There are with his major. There are special programs for gifted students, and those qualified may take courses at nearby colleges.

There is programmed instruction in calculus for seniors. The school also offers a Fine Arts Survey course, an unusual humanities program which

## Adlai, Fedorenko Wrangle In U.N.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Soviet Union accused President Johnson Saturday of distorting the facts about Vice Nam in "an odd sermon." The statement drew a prompt rebuke from U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson.

Speaking at the conclusion of a two-day special session commemorating the 20th anniversary of the United Nations, Soviet Ambassador Nikolai T. Fedorenko charged that the United States was trying to undermine the United Nations.

In the only bitter words heard in the marathon speech-making, Fedorenko assailed President Johnson's Friday talk.

He asserted that American actions in Southeast Asia and in the Dominican Republic violated the U.N. charter.

He said Johnson's appeal to the United Nations to aid in solving the Vietnamese conflict was a distortion of the situation.

Fedorenko's attack, sparking an otherwise quiet ceremonial affair, alleged that the U.N. financial crisis was artificially created by the United States.

Stevenson, the concluding (Continued On Page 18A; Col. 4)

**Check Inside**  
For More Top News

**Weather**  
Sunny, warmer. Full report on Pg. 2A.

**U.S. and World Highlights**

- Afro-Asian summit postponed. 16A
- Auburn Grandma joins VISTA. 16A

**Maine News**

- Many merchant seamen get free medical care in Portland. 5A
- Riding, shooting, boating curriculum for new "soldiers." 6A
- Acadia Highway: road to beauty and history. 10A
- Fourth ain't what it used to be. 20A

**Special Features**

- Oward trends the Don: a look at U. of M.'s departing president. 1C
- A Rochester in Foverville. 1C
- Nancy Birknell tells about secret weapon in budget. 4D
- Everett Dikens: insight into an amazing senator. 12A
- 6,000 miles by train through Russia. 12A

**Arts** 6C Cohen 18B Landers 9D Sleeper 9B  
**Books** 6C Colton 14C Latourner 18B Speck 1-5B  
**Ridings** 24A May Cruise 18R Logrolling 12C Society 1-16D  
**Buildings** 6C Deaths 2A Maine Events Theaters 11C  
**Business** 9B Editorial 18B 11C TV 6-7C  
**Classified** Galtion 2C Pearson 18A Women's 1-16D  
 11-17 B Jumble 2C Politics 18B

**Viet Nam Action**

Viet Cong forces Saturday overran a Vietnamese command post near Duc Hoa (A) and the district town of Tou Marong (B) in their first major offensive in two weeks. Bomb bursts locate areas where U.S. planes carried out raids against North Viet Nam. (AP)

## State Takes Cue

**Maine Agency Will Weigh Birth Control Policy**

By MARION ROBERTO  
Staff Reporter

A Maine agency for the first time, may formulate a policy relating to the "prescription or proscription" of family planning.

Stephen P. Simonds, director, Maine Bureau of Social Welfare, said a July 21 meeting in Bangor may determine what role—if any—the State Department of Health and Welfare should play in such services.

A department-endorsed committee, headed by Dr. Green Sullivan of Waterville, will discuss the subject.

The state is taking its cue from changed attitudes on birth control.

Commissioner of Health and Welfare Dr. Dean H. Fisher put it this way:

"There's been a change in public attitude. Within the past year, the Ecumenical Council, the anti-poverty program, the federal government and the foreign aid program have all become involved in this."

"It has created an atmosphere in which people can talk about birth control more comfortably than they could a few years ago."

THE COMMISSIONER is encouraged by responses he has received in discussing the subject of family planning.

"We've talked to some very outstanding persons — among

**It'll Cost More For That Bottle**

AUGUSTA — Hard liquor prices in Maine will rise from 5 cents to 23 cents a bottle Thursday.

Half-gallons will go up 25 cents, quarts and fifths 10 cents, and all smaller sizes 3 cents.

Wines are not affected.

THE STATE LIQUOR Commission office said that if any rush on its retail stores develops to beat the price rise, no shortage is expected. The commission already has filled its inventory to the limit of available capital in preparation for the Independence Day holiday weekend.

Though New Hampshire prices still are lower than Maine's, commission sources do not feel that cross-border traffic in liquor will be sufficient to affect the estimated \$750,000 that the price jump is expected to return to the state.

SOME PRICE comparisons in popular brands between New Hampshire lists and the new Maine prices:

	N.H.	Maine
Seagram's 7 Crown whisky	\$3.90	\$4.25
Cutty Bark scotch	\$3.75	\$4.50
O.V. Hickey bourbon	\$3.80	\$4.10
Fleischmann's vodka 80 proof	\$2.90	\$3.10
Fleischmann's gin	\$3.15	\$3.40

(Continued On Page 18A; Col. 4)

**State Takes Cue**

**Maine Agency Will Weigh Birth Control Policy**

Commissioner of Health and Welfare Dr. Dean H. Fisher put it this way:

"There's been a change in public attitude. Within the past year, the Ecumenical Council, the anti-poverty program, the federal government and the foreign aid program have all become involved in this."

"It has created an atmosphere in which people can talk about birth control more comfortably than they could a few years ago."

THE COMMISSIONER is encouraged by responses he has received in discussing the subject of family planning.

"We've talked to some very outstanding persons — among

them the clergy—and haven't had any rebuffs," he said.

He added, however, that these people will be informed of the department's thinking prior to any policy it may set.

Dr. Fisher also reported that there are members of the clergy and of other professions serving in informal study groups on family planning. They number about 200 people.

Some of these people will be asked to serve on Dr. Sullivan's committee.

"But we've not yet committed ourselves to the point that we have a formalized program," said Dr. Fisher. "We want to decide in our own minds the extent of our responsibilities."

Simonds believes the department's responsibility could include aid to those who have difficulty having children as well as to those who might have too many.

"It's primarily a health problem, and the need is most felt in low-income families," he said.

THE PRESENT "tremendous surge of interest" in the topic is due largely to the contraceptive pill, federal interest, and a subtle shift of attitude within the churches, Simonds said.

He believes "it is good that the Maine legislature has moved in the direction of birth control."

(Continued On Page 18A; Col. 4)

The Late Show —  
"SLIGHTLY FRENCH"  
Featuring  
DOROTHY LAMOUR  
DON AMECHE  
11:30 P.M.  
Channel 13

DIAL  
775-3151  
Classified Advertising  
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
FOR ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS  
DIAL  
775-5811



**Proud Derby Winner**

Beaming Gaeton Paulin of Westbrook proudly displays first place trophies he won Saturday in the seventh annual Southern Maine Soap Box Derby on the Eastern Promenade. Globe-shaped trophy at right is for first place in the finals. Other trophy is for winning the class B event which qualified him for the finals. The 11-year-old boy defeated 55 other youths to win the fight to compete in the Ohio finals this summer. Story on Page 18A. (By Staff Photographer Olson)