



All Alone

Eighty-four-year-old Bill Causey describes his plight to a reporter in his small Reno apartment. He's an independent man, but finds being alone and ailing hard to cope with.

(Gazette Journal Photo)

He's Old, Sick, Proud A Victim of Red Tape

"I just can't see why I'm still here. If I hadn't been raised in a strong, Christian family... I've been on the verge of it several times... But they taught me that if you take your own life you can't get into heaven. I still believe that. So I guess I will just stagger on to the end."

Bill Causey, 84

By EARL BIEDERMAN

When this century was young, Bill Causey was young. He sailed the open seas and walked the cool foggy valley of France's Alsace-Lorraine. Today he is old and alone and it is all he can do to walk from one small room to another in the heat of a Reno summer.

A year or so ago he walked regularly to the corner of his alley behind City Hall — clinging to his friends, the bushes, for support along the way. But in mid-1977 even those are the good old days.

The front gate of Causey's little white house is about a dozen steps away. But as far as his tobacco-raped lungs are concerned, it's at the distant horizon.

Blind in one eye since four, the old man now can't see much out of the other eye. "The doctors tell me I won't go completely blind. But I only have their word for that. So I am trying to memorize things."

The good left eye was enough for a long time. It saw Causey through eight decades of ships and trains and horses. Lots of horses. Once, it saw the crowd at Madison Square Garden stand and applaud when a strong young cowboy jumped twin Palominos through a hoop of flame.

But today it sees little. And there is little to see. The old man stands bent over in the center of his kitchen. Lungs that once sucked in salt air now must be held low to draw at all. What air is available hangs hot and still in the small cabin. On the wall an orange corkscrew candle acknowledges that fact and bends in its holder, silently mimicking its owner.

Bill Causey is alone today, but it wasn't always that way. He came to Reno years ago following the woman he loved, Ann Cornelius of the BLM. But that love affair ended five years ago when she died of cancer. Causey says he hasn't and won't completely recover from her loss.

Living without her, Causey has gone slowly downhill under the twin burdens of emphysema and permanently hardened arteries. In 1976 he contracted pneumonia and survived with help from Medicare.

Under that federal program he regained what health he has left. In the process he grew dependent on the housekeeper Medicare provided. She did the

things an old, blind man with no wind finds difficult. But then the government decided that Bill Causey is as healthy as he will ever be and took her away. And the old man's income is too little to hire her back. But at \$410 a month it is about \$9 too high to qualify for state aid that might replace the crucial services.

Bill Causey gets along now with the help of his friends. They include 75-year-old "Walking Charley" who hikes to the store for groceries, and 86-year-old Jack who drops in twice a day "to see that I'm still living."

Donna Legg of the Washoe County Health Department which administers Medicare services recalls how Causey got in the bind he is in. She remembers that he was referred to her agency in early 1976 by a local Lions Club member.

The county found Causey at home, suffering from pneumonia on top of his other ailments. But the old man was stubborn and it took weeks to get him to go to the hospital. He came home in April and began receiving the 100 home visits authorized by Medicare after a hospital stay.

In short order Mary Morris of the Upjohn Co. became the home aide in charge of Bill Causey on contract with the county.

She visited him three days a week. She bathed him, cleaned house, cooked package meals he could heat up in the oven, shopped for him, took him to the doctor. She did jobs that friends might do and jobs that friends will not do, and she did them with an authority friends cannot muster.

"He gets depressed," she recalls, "and he needs someone to buck him up. Just like so many of them do." Mary Morris has been a home health aide for 13 years. She began before Medicare came along in 1965. "Sometimes," she says, "we are these people's only contact with the world."

Donna Legg and Mrs. Morris agree that the goal of their service is to teach clients to get along without help. And they agree that is seldom accomplished.

"Maybe," says Mrs. Legg, "we foster a dependency when we shouldn't. And people like Mr. Causey can be a little too eager to become dependent on us."

The Medicare workers know from the beginning that 100 visits is the maximum permitted. Ninety-eight, 99, 100 and good-bye. But often that message is difficult or impossible to get across.

Dennis Hoover, the Aetna Insurance Co. official in Reno in charge of paying Medicare bills, knows that only too well. He says the complexity of the

(See HE SAILED, Page 3, Col. 4)

'Cribs' Vital Plan Part

Sierra Arts Group Seeks Landmark for Center

By MARK OLIVA

Are the bricks coming down on the Reno-Sparks area's new arts center before the project's even begun?

Not quite, according to Sierra Arts Foundation President George Aker, who acknowledged Saturday that the landmark Reno "cribs" are one of the key sites under consideration, and the buildings, now being demolished, are a vital part of the plan.

Aker said the Sierra Arts Action Plan had designated the "cribs" and the adjacent old Riverside Mill complex as one of the two preferred sites among many for the proposed cultural center.

Ironically, Sierra Arts will make its pitch to the Reno City Council Monday for a \$1 million federal grant and the commitment necessary to buy the mill building and the one-time bordello complex from owner Harry Linnecke, even though demolition of the buildings has begun.

Aker is quick to add that Sierra Arts has no arguments or complaints, only praise, for Linnecke, in his dealing with the community arts council.

According to Aker, Sierra Arts began negotiating with Linnecke and his mother a month ago, over the possible purchase of the site.

The Linneckes, according to Aker, "reacted most

kindly when we showed them our plans," and agreed informally to consider doing business with Sierra Arts, if it could meet a financial deadline.

That deadline, according to Aker, came two weeks ago. Sierra Arts will not know whether it can act until after Monday's council meeting.

When Sierra Arts was unable to enter into an agreement with him by the deadline, Linnecke returned to his original plans for the site — demolition of the cribs and hopes for building a new, 40-unit, apartment unit on the riverfront.

Linnecke could not be reached for comment Saturday. Aker attributed the dilemma Sierra Arts is in — watching its plan crumble brick by brick — to timing.

As Aker explains it, Sierra Arts' six-month-long, community-wide action plan project is coming to its resolution perhaps a little too late to resolve Linnecke's financial needs.

At the same time, according to Aker, Sierra Arts hasn't given up hope yet. If the City Council reacts favorably Monday, and if only the back row of the "cribs" is demolished by that time, it still may be possible for Linnecke and Sierra Arts "to meet his terms and make the best possible deal for both of our interests."

(See CRIBS, Page 2, Col. 3)

Nevada State Journal

SUNDAY COLORADO

Deadly Revenge

Rifleman Kills Six in Oregon Car Lot

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (UPI) — A former bouncer bent on revenge because he was ejected from a bar restaurant sprayed its parking lot with a semi-automatic rifle Saturday, killing six persons.

Police chased Dewitt Dee Henry, 26, in his pickup truck to the neighborhood where his wife lived and engaged in a gun fight with him. Henry was captured after suffering superficial wounds from a shotgun blast.

State police said Henry, an unemployed truck driver, was booked on a charge of first-degree murder and will be arraigned Monday.

State Police Investigator Duane Simon said Henry got into a fight in Uncle Albert's bar and was thrown out. According to witnesses, the fight concerned salary Henry said was owed him from when he worked as a bouncer in the bar 1 1/2 years ago.

At another nightspot, Poor Ol' Dan's, Henry stopped for a drink and told a barmaid he would go back to Uncle Albert's for revenge, Simon said.

Apparently, only one of the dead was originally intended as a target. Police said the other dead, including an eight-months pregnant woman, and the wounded "unfortunately came out" of the bar at the same time.

They were struck with shots from a .223 caliber rifle, a model that an officer said could fire 10 shots in three seconds.

The one he wanted killed he hit right between the ears and he was killed instantly," a state trooper said.

"For the others it was a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The apparent target of Henry's first shot was Gary Lee Anderson, 27, of Klamath Falls. Also killed were Robert D. Seater, 26, of Klamath Falls, his pregnant wife, Carol Ann, 23, James L. Trueman of Kodiak, Alaska, and Andrew L. Walker, 23, of Medford, Ore., and Michael G. Mortenson, 23, of Klamath Falls.

A dozen other people were in the parking lot when Henry opened fire from his pickup truck.

"It looked to me like he was shooting at anyone he could hit," said Lyle Smith, Reno.

The gunfire erupted as about 50 bar patrons prepared to leave because of closing time. Still inside Uncle Albert's was former major league pitcher Dennis Bennett, operator of the Curiosity Boutique.

State and local police sirened to the scene and gave chase. Officers said Henry backed his truck into a patrol car and was stopped when officers rammed the pickup with another patrol car.

According to police, Henry shot out the windshields of two patrol cars as officers crouched below the dashboard. They returned the fire with two shotguns and a .357 Magnum, and Henry surrendered.

Inside

Amusements	39-41	Garden Column	38
Art Column	9a	Health Column	12
Erma Bombeck	19	Letters	5
Bride's Book	14-17	Markets	34, 35
Bridge	38	Nevada Life	1a-10a
Business	33	Observations	5
Classified	42-53	Oliva's Opus	5a
Cobwebs	2	Political Front	4
Crossword	38	Sylvia Porter	33
Dear Abby	8	Saddle Chatter	40
Deaths	6	Sierra Nevada	4a
Disc-covery	8a	Sports	23-31
Dixon Column	18	TV Log	39
Editorials	4, 5	Vitals	6
		Weather	3

Reno's Ex-Gay Ministry Preaches Forgiveness

LEVITICUS 18:22 — "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female: it is an abomination."
1. CORINTHIANS 6:11 — "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God."

By DOUG McMILLAN

Kevin Linehan tossed the pink-colored flyer onto the coffee table. It showed a cowboy... big boots, hat, hairy arms and legs and a growth of beard. Only one thing wrong: The cowboy had large, prominent breasts.

The flyer was advertising the Second Annual Reno Gay Rodeo Aug. 20 and 21 at the Washoe County Fairgrounds. In addition to the rodeo events, contestants were invited to enter contests: "King of the Rodeo" (male), "Queen of the Rodeo" (female), and "Miss Dusty Spurs" (male in drag).

"It's an abomination," Linehan said emphatically. Reno has a large and active homosexual community, Linehan said. And it's growing. Many gays are moving to Reno from the San Francisco area, he said. The Rev. Troy Perry's Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has opened a gay church in Reno. A drop-in center for gays has been started.

It's the work of Satan, Linehan says. "We see it (homosexuality) as sin. We see it as falling short of God's perfect order." Sound like Anita Bryant talking? Well, there's a big difference, Linehan says. He speaks on the subject from experience.

Linehan is an "ex-gay," specifically, an "ex-gay Christian." Known as "Pastor Kevin" in the Ex-Gay Ministry of the Reno Mennonite Fellowship, he preaches a message he says has not been coming out in the Anita Bryant crusade: The forgiveness of sin.

"We feel God loves gays and hates homosexuality," said Pastor Kevin. "We are trying to shatter what we believe is the myth: 'Once gay, always gay.'"

"I've left a homosexual background myself since I accepted Christ as my personal Savior," the fair-haired, short, slight young man of 29 said. "So have a lot of us."

Pastor Kevin described his former self as "a closet gay," one who practices homosexuality covertly.

He was attending the University of Nevada-Reno, majoring in speech. "I knew I was gay," he said. In March 1972, he was "born again."

"When I accepted Christ, I was not looking for an answer to my homosexuality," he said. "I was looking for the truth. But I discovered in the Bible God's prohibitions against homosexuality."

The Reno Mennonite's ministry to ex-gays started a year ago with the approval of Stanley Weaver of Phoenix, bishop of the Mennonite Conference for the Southwest. The congregation itself is five years old. It operates from an unimposing old house in a modest residential neighborhood east of the university campus, at 1645 Sterling Way.

An ex-gay ministry is not to be confused with a church for ex-gays, he emphasized. Only 20 to 25 per cent of the church's 60 or so members are ex-gay — not more than 15, and less than half the number who have joined the Rev. Perry's gay church in Reno, Linehan estimated. The remaining 25 per cent of the members are heterosexual.

The Reno Mennonites are "born-again, fundamentalist evangelical Christians," he explained. They believe in strict interpretation of the Scriptures, a conservative family life and baptism only after a person has accepted Christ of his own free will, not automatic baptism into the church as an infant.

The ex-gay ministry is one "outreach" of the Mennonite Fellowship, he continued. "We're trying to bring ex-gays into the mainstream of the church," he said. "We're not trying to be a little group of ex-gays off on our own weird

(See ONE MENNONITE, Page 3, Col. 1)



KEVIN LINEHAN
... accepted Christ