

Killer: 'I just shot John Lennon...

He gets ex-Beatle's autograph, returns & guns him down

NEW YORK (UPI) — John Lennon, leader of the legendary Beatles whose music defined the 1960s, was slain in front of his home Monday night by a "wacko."

Police arrested a suspect in the shooting, and said today they feared for his safety in a city filled with grief-stricken fans.

Lennon, 40, was shot five times as he walked with his wife, Yoko Ono, from his limousine to the door of the Dakota, an exclusive Manhattan apartment building on Central Park West where the couple lived.

"I'M SHOT," Lennon moaned as he fell mortally wounded.

Police arrested Mark David Chapman, 25, of Honolulu, Hawaii, and charged him with the slaying. A motive for the shooting was not immediately known.

"I just shot John Lennon," witnesses quoted Chapman as saying after Lennon fell. Blood was splattered on the Dakota's facade, and the building was pockmarked with bullet holes.

A witness to the shooting, Sean Strub, said Chapman had "almost a smirk on his face."

Police were keeping Chapman's whereabouts secret this morning, refusing to disclose when he was being held or processed.

"Remember a gentleman named Lee Harvey Oswald?" asked a police spokesman. "We're not going to permit that here."

Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby while in police custody two days after he was arrested for the shooting of John Kennedy.

POLICE SAID Chapman had been

in New York for about a week before the shooting, and had been seen hanging around the Dakota, a traditional pilgrimage stop for Beatles fans.

Hours before the shooting, Chapman reportedly got Lennon to autograph a copy of his latest album, "Double Fantasy," which features a cover picture of Lennon and Ms. Ono in front of the Dakota.

Chief of Detectives James Sullivan said Chapman was "apparently a wacko."

Chapman, who had no police record in Hawaii, had reportedly lived there since 1977 and may have come from Alabama.

Chapman, police said, was waiting in the courtyard, where the Dakota permitted fans of the ex-Beatle and other celebrity residents to congregate.

AS LENNON left his car, police said Chapman approached him, call-

ing out, "Mr. Lennon?" He drew a .38-caliber gun from his coat, crouched down in a combat stance and fired five times.

Lennon staggered about six steps to a small guard's office at the entrance of the building.

"I'm shot," he moaned, and fell face down.

While the doormen summoned police and doctors, witnesses said, Chapman waited calmly. They said he dropped his gun, which a guard kicked aside and saved for police.

"Do you know what you just did?" the doorman asked Chapman.

"I just shot John Lennon," the gunman said.

POLICE, NOT waiting for an ambulance, carried the dying Lennon to a squad car and, with his wife at his side, raced to Roosevelt Hospital. "Tell me it isn't true," Miss Ono screamed as the police car sped to

the hospital, a police officer said. "Tell me he's all right."

James Moran, an officer in the car, said the singer was bleeding badly from the chest.

"Are you John Lennon?" he asked over and over. But Lennon only mumbled and moaned. He was dead by the time he arrived at the hospital.

A hospital spokesman said Lennon suffered seven wounds to the chest, head and arm. "It was impossible to resuscitate him," the spokesman added.

Last year, the Lennons donated \$1,000 to help outfit city police with bulletproof vests.

AS NEWS OF Lennon's death spread, radio stations across the country were besieged by calls from fans, asking if the news was true.

Outside the Dakota, a crowd of more than 500 filled the street, holding up lighted matches and swaying as they held a spontaneous wake.

"All we are saying," they sang, "is give peace a chance."

"John loved and prayed for the human race. Please do the same for him," his widow said in a statement issued by David Geffen, a record producer and friend of the couple.

LENNON'S LATEST album, "Double Fantasy," which he made with Miss Ono, was seen as a comeback attempt by the singer in which he celebrated his new joys in home life and fatherhood.



FOR JOHN LENNON, the long and winding road from poverty in the back streets of Liverpool to world fame as a rock musician ended with a gun blast on the sidewalks of New York. He was wearing a beret over his long hair when this photo was taken recently. (UPI)

PAGE A-4: Stunned crowds gathered outside the Dakota.

Grieving fans mourn the end of an era.

Ringo leaves for the U.S., Paul is 'shocked,' and George is silent

Lennon: The Beatle who never really took off on his own.

World reaction: We loved you.

PAGE A-8: The Beatles were the music group that made the 60s.

PAGE A-11: Lennon was a rockin' role model for his son.

PAGE B-9: Lennon was a warm human being.

Photos of John as his image changed through the years.

Friend Lennon's death shocks and angers Elyria composer

By SHANNON JEWELL
C-T Staff Writer

Feelings of shock and mourning usually reserved for a head of state spread through the area today with the news that John Lennon had been killed.

"You're kidding?" "I don't believe it!" "But how?" were questions heard on the street or by radio stations handing calls from shocked listeners.

"What can you say, the man was a genius. It was a horrible waste. For a man who tried to promote peace with his music to come to such a horrible

end is an abomination," according to Ken Lucas, morning disc jockey for WOBL Radio in Oberlin.

ONE NATIVE Elyrian is feeling a special loss at Lennon's death. Composer Carman Moore, a graduate of Elyria High School now living and working in New York City, had been close friends with Lennon "for about 10 years. I can't even remember when or how we met anymore."

Moore was "very upset" when contacted at his New York home this morning. "I suddenly realized this is a very terrifying country. I'm upset

but I'm also afraid '1984' is going to follow...We don't know what to do with the crazy people in this society. I was really struck by how the forces of nature keep working in a raw way."

The composer reminisced about his friendship with Lennon about a half hour after receiving news of his friend's death, remembering the time a few years back when Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, were separated.

"They got back together at a concert when the New York

Philharmonic was playing some of my works. They both came to the concert and started talking again. They always came to my concerts...I've always felt very close to them," Moore recalled.

FANS WHO NEVER met the Beatles also felt close to the entertainers, as evidenced by the deluge of

emotional calls to the request lines of area radio stations.

"We've had a lot of requests for specific Beatles or Lennon songs to be played, but most of the calls have been of shock and disbelief," a spokesman for WMMS Radio in Cleveland said this morning.

Dave Popovich, program director

of WWWE Radio in Cleveland, said listener responses have been twofold: "shock and 'I can't believe it' and grieving — 'the demise of a hero' to a large portion of the people."

Popovich likened it to the death of Elvis Presley a couple years ago. "People ages 25-30 seem to be the hardest hit by this, but we've received

TURN TO PAGE A-4

Drug paraphernalia bans KO'd by appellate court

By CINDY LEISE
C-T Staff Writer

While acknowledging local officials' "laudable" efforts to control drug abuse, a federal appeals court nevertheless has overturned drug paraphernalia ordinances in North Olmsted, Parma and Lakewood.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled Monday that ordinances prohibiting the use, sale and manufacture of drug paraphernalia were unconstitutionally vague.

The case is now expected to go before the U.S. Supreme Court.

REVERSING A district court decision, the three-judge appellate panel stressed it did not question the ordinances' purpose but the means of carrying out that goal.

"We are most cognizant of the serious problem of drug abuse long existing in our nation," wrote Circuit

Court Judge Nathaniel Jones in the unanimous decision.

"We hold only that the drug paraphernalia ordinances fail the test of precision demanded by the First and 14th Amendments of the Constitution."

A clear definition of drug paraphernalia is critical, Jones added, because the ordinances "seek to ban in certain circumstances only the sale of everyday items that have a myriad of innocent, lawful and beneficial uses."

LORAIN POLICE Chief John today Malinovsky was not surprised by the court's decision. "Apparently it's down the tubes," the chief said.

After the ban was passed by Lorain councilmen in May two downtown businesses whose business depended on sale of paraphernalia closed their doors.



The wall came tumbling down

Spectators and a maintenance worker survey damage caused by a heavy wind which ripped out a section of the east side of the Elyria Family Discount Center building at 430 Oberlin Rd. in Carlisle Township late

Monday afternoon. In foreground are Christmas trees in the abutting garden section. Story on Page A-4. (C-T photo by John G. Kenney)

Christmas soldiers

Patriot granted his Yule wish

By BARBARA CRAIG
Special to the C-T
One of a series

He was one of the youngest soldiers in the nation's first Army.

He was a drummer boy who, at the age of 9, stood on the Village Green in his home town of Arlington, Mass., the morning of April 19, 1775, and sounded the alert as the British approached enroute for a date with destiny in nearby Lexington.

His name was Samuel Wilson and he spent most of his life in Troy, N.Y., where he operated a meat packing business.

WILSON WAS an intensely patriotic man. In fact, he was the inspiration for the character of Uncle Sam



SAMUEL WILSON ...trousers and gold coins

— the most famous American of them all.

There is a remarkable story about Sam Wilson and a neighbor who hated President Thomas Jefferson. It seems the neighbor wanted to resume the colonial arrangement with England.

A few days before Christmas,

after cursing Jefferson soundly in a Troy tavern, the story goes that the neighbor turned to Wilson and declared: "If people do give money to other people, as they say, I'd love to find some gold in my pocket this Christmas morn. I'd use the gold to flee to Canada."

WILSON SIPPED his brew and didn't say a word, though it was obvious to others in the tavern he was boiling inside.

On Christmas morning, the neighbor is supposed to have found a pair of old trousers hanging on his back door.

In one of the pockets, there were some gold coins, plus a note from Sam Wilson suggesting the neighbor use the money to purchase a ticket on the first available boat to Canada.

The neighbor did!



Santa main attraction at park party

Jodi Sturino, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hutchinson, 438 Cleveland St., smiles as she talks to Santa at the Party in Ely Park Saturday, sponsored by the Elyria Merchants Association. For story on winners of contests held, see page B-2. (C-T photo by Rave Zapotosky)

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Outside	
Cloudy tonight, with rain changing to snow flurries and a low in the low 20s. Mostly cloudy Wednesday, with a chance of snow flurries and highs in the low 30s.	
The probability of precipitation is 40 percent tonight and 30 percent Wednesday.	
Winds will be from the north at 10-20 miles per hour through tonight.	
Details on Page A-3.	