

Police Say Woman's Fatal Jump Was Triggered by Nixon's Death

Concord Resident Had Worked for an Aide to Former President

By FRANK BAKER
Associated Press Writer

CONCORD — A Concord woman who once worked for Richard Nixon and held him in high regard died by jumping from a building on Monday night, police said.

"I just talked to her (Saturday) night and she was distraught over Nixon's death. He was a hero to her."

Terry Abood

SHAFTSBURY, VT 05262

Matthews was an assistant while Nixon was Vice President from 1953-61 and after Nixon returned to California when he left that office, Murphy said. She said she apparently hadn't had contact with Nixon for at least two decades but kept track of his endeavors.

We found scrapbooks and photos she had for many years. She obviously felt very close to the man," Murphy said.

Abood said Matthews lived in the building for about eight years. She shared an apartment with and took care of a male friend who had suffered a stroke, Murphy said.

The roommate saw her watching television at about 4:30 a.m. Sunday when he went to sleep in an adjacent room, Murphy said. An officer drove by the building at about 5:35

a.m. and saw no body. At about 5:45 a.m. an officer saw Matthews' body on the sidewalk, Murphy said.

The death was ruled a suicide Monday by deputy state medical examiner Dr. James Kaplan.

Though she apparently was grief-stricken by Nixon's death, "there was no warning anything was going to happen," Murphy said.

Abood said Matthews had been hospitalized recently but returned with a desire to get her life back on track. It was not clear what the illness was.

"We were in to help her clean her place a little bit ago," she said. "She was bound and determined to get her life back to normal.

"She was very intelligent. And very interested in politics and world events."

Next-door neighbor John Williams recalled Matthews as a woman kind enough to finish his laundry and deliver it clean and folded to him after he left it unattended at a laundromat.

"She loved everybody," he said.

Williams believes Nixon's death prompted Matthews to take her life.

"There's no doubt about it. If Nixon didn't die she'd be alive today," he said.

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THE UNION LEADER, Manchester, N.H. — Tuesday, April 26, 1994

From FR

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By FRANK BAKER
Associated Press Writer

CONCORD — A Concord woman who once worked for Richard Nixon and held him in "extremely high esteem" jumped to her death while grieving over his, police said yesterday.

Marilyn Matthews, 61, apparently was watching television programs recapping the former President's career before she jumped from her fifth-floor apartment early Sunday, Police Lt. Paul Murphy said.

"When we got to her apartment, C-SPAN was on and it was showing a program about Richard Nixon," Murphy said. "We understood she was depressed before President Nixon suffered a stroke and we feel his passing very much affected her."

"She held President Nixon in extremely high esteem."

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Roger Amsden Photo

DANIEL DeHART and Howard Lewis are looking for superior trees to add genetic strength to the seed orchard at the State Forest Nursery in Boscawen. They are standing beside a balsam fir whose needles display a bluish hue, making it extremely popular with Christmas tree growers.

netic strand from which a seed orchard is developed. The process is a long one, taking several years before the new cuttings produce pollen and cones to start the seedlings. "Sometimes we are able to get pollen from the original tree where we got the cutting in order to speed things up," says

Lewis.

People who believe they have located a superior tree specimen are asked to contact DeHart or their county forester. The State Forest Nursery is located on the Daniel Webster Highway here, just north of the Merrimack County Home.

evil people; they may need a heck of a lot of help."

Daschbach does not know exactly what is to be done toward that end but has said he will personally explore how other, significantly larger institutions try to achieve that goal.

The jail has been the scene in the past year of a suicide, several escapes, including three made while a riot was under way, and, just this month, a self-mutilation: a prisoner cut off his penis with a razor blade.

In some instances, jail officials have complained of a shortage of staff, which runs into the issue of county spending. Some at the county courthouse in Keene have criticized the commissioners' penny-pinching, as well.

Daschbach said the part-time county commissioners should not always be looking over people's shoulders to see how they are doing the job and spending money, "but the public goes to the com-

Lyndon Johnson's term.

He came to New Hampshire first as an attorney in January 1968, having been named to a federally funded post of state attorney for the Southern New Hampshire Legal Services Association. He left in October 1969 to serve on the maritime counsel of the U.S. Senate. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission. He remained there as a commissioner after Ronald Reagan was elected President in 1980.

He said New Hampshire is where he plans to spend the rest of his life, and said he can be happy in the role of county commissioner.

"It seems to me that life in the valley can be as serene and pleasant as life on the mountaintop," he said. "But those years in Washington, D.C., were all experiences that could be put to good use here."

NH News Notes

Landfill Passes Teacher's Sheep Test

NEWPORT (AP) — An unusual study by a Cornish science teacher has turned up no evidence of dangerous contamination at a dump.

Four sheep that had been grazing at the landfill were found to have only slightly higher lead and selenium levels when compared with four other sheep that hadn't grazed at the site. The levels were considered safe.

The test, which is considered unscientific, was the brainchild of teacher Sandra Redlands. She wanted to settle a dispute between environmentalists and supporters of the New Hampshire-Vermont Solid Waste Project that dumps materials from its incinerator at the dump.

She took eight sheep fathered by the same ram and placed half on her farm and half at the landfill. After a year, the sheep were slaughtered and examined by scientists at Cornell University.

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