

More Deaths!

Aspirin-cyanide Epidemic continues Total Deaths at Seven

By Cecil Lode

Two more are dead. Now there are seven. And there are the fifteen lucky ones who barely escaped dying from the lethal cyanide.

Death leers from cyanide-poisoned aspirin bought at local pharmacies and retail stores. The authorities are stymied.

Now dead are 17-year-old Chris Ellerman, honor student and football star at Marshall Central High School, and Darcy Kelly, 26, an accountant with Ott Industries. The only thing they had in common was that they swallowed a national brand of aspirin laced with cyanide.

Police spokesperson Daniel Profit stated, "The culprit is out there; we are working day and night to crack this case."

Ellerman took some aspirin he had kept in his locker at school. A classmate told the Marshall City News, "Right after he took the aspirin he said he was lightheaded, then he just passed out. He is the quarterback of the football team, how did this happen?"

Efforts to revive Ellerman failed. The poison had already run its course.

Ms. Kelly apparently died Saturday evening. When she didn't show up for a party, her friends became concerned and tried to contact her.

"It's not like Darcy to stand us up so I knew there had to be a problem," cried Sally Johnson a close friend.

Family members finally broke into her apartment and found her still body.

Yesterday police announced the two deaths were linked to aspirin laced with cyanide, and sent repeat messages to all citizens and retail establishments to beware of any name-brand medications manufactured before July 15 this year.

These are the sixth and seventh deaths in Marshall City linked to aspirin tainted cyanide.

Local merchants have stripped their shelves of over-the-counter pain killers, and have replaced such merchandise with newly-processed replacement medications.

"We have spoken with all pharmacies, grocery stores and other establishments that distribute national brands of aspirin. Return all medications on your shelves. If it isn't new, don't sell it.

Federal investigators are questioning the national manufacturer whose brand name is associated most with these poisonings. What is most remarkable, commented an FBI investigator, is that the people in Marshall City have decided not to panic. He noted that the recent deaths all apparently occurred after the victims took tablets that were sold some weeks ago, and that new stocks of medication were moving off the shelves.

[This article, clipped from the newspaper, is inventoried in Evidence Envelope C]