

# Thousands of Fans Scream, Weep As They Mourn Death of Presley

still 30,000 persons outside the gates. He said the total crowd since 11 p.m. exceeded 75,000.

When the announcement of the death was made, there was an enormous collective sigh and the crowd surged forward against the gates. Two officers with bullhorns stationed on the brick walls yelled, "Do not push and shove! You are hurting small children!"

Twenty policemen took up positions directly behind the gate. "I think of my first love when I hear his songs," Sandra McElhan, 32, sobbed. She flew in from Birmingham when she heard that Presley was dead. "I was a beautiful two-year-old when he was."

Mary Murphy of Memphis, supported by her mother and her friend, cried uncontrollably. She had fainted at least once before getting to see the body.

"Please don't say he was fat," she gasped to a reporter. "They made him look fat in the coffin. People must know he doesn't look like this." And, clutching at a pendant with Presley's picture, she said "He looks like this."

**Praise From Carter**  
Flags were at half staff throughout much of the South. Major radio stations were reported planning a moment of silence at the time of his funeral today. President Carter lauded Presley as a symbol of America's "vitality, rebelliousness and good humor."

Many in the crowd had driven all night and much of the day to say farewell to the 42-year-old Presley, who thundered to fame and fabulous wealth in the mid-1950s.

Before the crush became too severe, those who waited at the gates weaved flowers through the iron guitar and musical notes adorning them.

Vans full of flowers drove up steadily, and floral arrangements were placed on the lawn under oak and magnolia trees. Ann Smith, 40, of Jackson, Tenn., came with her mother and her three daughters and was still waiting six hours after she began her vigil. "He's the king, and he has been for 20 years," she said. "I just had to come."

**'Looked Very Old'**

Teri Toth, 20, East Brunswick, N.J., was at Memphis, staying with her mother and waiting for Presley's August 27-to-28 concert, when he died. She was astonished when she left the foyer.

"I couldn't look at him. I caught one glimpse. He looked like he was made out of wax. It was not what I expected. He looked very old."

The white hearse that returned Presley's body from a funeral home slipped through a rear chain link gate while hundreds of weeping mourners, some of whom kept a nightlong vigil in front of the mansion, raced to catch a glimpse of it.

Mr. Carter's statement said the singer's death "deprives our country of a part of itself," and noted that "his music and his personality, fusing the styles of white country and black rhythm and blues, permanently changed the face of the American popular culture." Memphis was in mourning.

**Flower Shortage**

"The whole city is getting calls, there may be a shortage of flowers here," Mrs. Anita Coghlin, owner of a florist shop across from Presley's mansion, said.

One flower arrangement, from British pop singer Elton John, stood in front of the gates, a card on it reading, "For all the inspiration."

An airline put on a special flight from Atlanta to Memphis to accommodate fans streaming into the city, and every motel at Memphis was reported booked.

## Teenyboppers, Haircut Recalled by Bodyguard

HARTMAN (AP) — For four days in the spring of 1958, Alan Deaver's job was to watch over Elvis Presley.

Deaver, 56, of Hartman (Johnson County), now retired, was one of several military policemen assigned bodyguard duty for Presley near Fort Smith at Fort Chaffee. The drattee's first stop in his two-year Army stint.

Taking care of Presley was an easy job, Deaver recalled.

"I just woke him up in the morning, and put him to bed every night."

"By 5:30 when I got there every morning he usually had already showered and shaved, and had made his bunk."

"The only time we had any trouble was when he first came to Fort Chaffee. A number of teenyboppers were trying to take pictures of him."

Other than having personal bodyguards, Presley got no special privileges at Fort Chaffee, Deaver said.

And Elvis didn't balk. "I remember he laughed when he got his regular GI haircut. He said he 'would just grow some more hair some day.'"



Banner Headlines for Presley

Banner headlines Wednesday in London's daily newspapers, regularly large, announce the death of Elvis Presley, 42, died Tuesday of a heart ailment.

Private family services will be held this afternoon with interment at Forest Hills Cemetery, where Presley's mother is buried. Officials predicted the route to the cemetery would be lined with tens of thousands of people.

**Precise Cause Unknown**

Presley collapsed and died Tuesday on the red-carpeted floor of a bathroom near his bedroom on the second floor of his ornate, 13-room mansion. County medical examiner Dr. Jerry Francisco said an autopsy indicated the cause of death was "cardiac arrhythmia," or a severely irregular heartbeat.

Dr. Francisco, the same medical examiner who performed the autopsy on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he was assassinated at Memphis in 1968, said, however, the precise cause of Presley's death "may never be discovered."

Dr. Francisco said the rock singer suffered from high blood pressure and "some coronary artery disease." He said the two diseases could have caused the cardiac arrhythmia.

**No Sign of Overdose**  
Dr. Francisco and Presley's personal physician, Dr. George C. Nichopoulos, said there were no signs of drugs in Presley's body, other than those he had taken for his illnesses.

Miss Ginger Alden, 20, who was soon to have been Presley's second wife, told her mother, Mrs. Joe Alden, that she was watching television in a second-floor bedroom of the mansion while Presley read in the bathroom, according to the Associated Press. But the Memphis beauty queen began to worry.

"She knocked on the bathroom door and she got no answer, so she opened the door," Mrs. Alden said. "He was on his face with his face buried in the carpet. She turned his face over and it was purplish-red."

Joe Exposito, Elvis' road manager, summoned an ambulance and Dr. Nichopoulos when he was unable to detect a breath or a heartbeat.

Presley's father, Vernon Presley, said, "We worked with him and worked with him up there [in the mansion]. We tried to get him to speak. We tried to get him to breathe and did everything we

had a drug problem that was so severe that 'I'm convinced he is in danger of losing his life.'"

Delbert West, who helped guard Presley for 16 years, said the singer needed drugs to get up, drugs to perform, and drugs to go to the bathroom.

Other reports said the body of the singer was discovered by Esposito at 2:30 p.m. (CDT) Tuesday, but doctors said he may have died six hours earlier.

Minutes after the world was advised of Presley's death, the Memphis telephone system was overwhelmed with thousands of calls from persons asking the same question. "Is it true?"

Fans gathered outside Baptist Hospital to weep and dance jockeys around the world hauled out Presley's hits in a tribute to the former \$35-a-week truck driver who changed the musical tastes of much of the world.

After the singer was pronounced dead at the hospital, the doctor returned to Graceland to inform Presley's father, Vernon, that the rock star had died. The father broke the news to Presley's only child, Lisa Marie, 9, a daughter born to Presley by his divorced wife, Priscilla.

The elder Presley said his son was feeling fine Monday and was ready to start another sell-out tour with another song at the top of the country charts.

(AT Indianapolis, a spokesman for RCA Records, for which Presley had recorded since 1956, said the plant there had sold 250,000 copies of "Moody Blues" alone Wednesday. The plant, which had been pressing about 100,000 copies a week, went on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week schedule. RCA said that in 1975 Presley's lifetime sales surpassed 500 million records.)

possibly could till the ambulance got there. There was never a sign of life after he fell, I guess."

**Tells of Drugs**

Just hours before Presley died, however, one of the singer's former body guards told the Chicago Sun-Times that Presley



Family plot at Memphis cemetery where Presley will be buried.

## Record Dealers At LR Sold Out Of Elvis Albums

By the Associated Press

Most record dealers at Little Rock said Wednesday that they had sold out of records by Elvis Presley, who died Tuesday at Memphis.

A spokesman for Davey's Locker, which has one store each at Little Rock and North Little Rock, said he had received a fairly large shipment of Presley albums Wednesday afternoon. "We got some collections of his 50s stuff, and we got one copy each of from 20 to 30 of his other albums. But these will be the last copies anybody will get for a long time."

A spokesman for Musicland at McCain Mall at North Little Rock said that he had only two cassette tapes left. "We had a large selection, but after today and last night, we're just sold out."

The owner of Discount Records, Jack Garner, said he had had about 100 copies of Presley's albums and tapes but that they were gone shortly after the announcement of his death.

He said reworking could take a long time. "I've been trying to call RCA all day, and you can't get it," Garner said. "It's hopeless."

Jim Ledbetter, manager of Peaches Records, said he was not sure how many he sold, but that he was out of Presley records. "It's not how many we sold, it's how many we could have sold," Ledbetter said.

A spokesman for Sieberts, a record distributor, said his company was out of Presley records. He said he sold about 1,000 copies of the album "Moody Blue" after he died. He said he could have sold 10,000 to 15,000 records if they had been available.

# BILL ATKINSON FALL SHOWING

presented by **Jeanne Atkinson**

The "renaissance man", up and coming American designer! His sporting looks have won fashion acclaim throughout the country. For the newly self-accomplished woman of many horizons, uncontrived new put-togethers of soft suedes leathers, whisper weight mohair, soft cowl knits, the tender touch of cholis. Deep, rich colors. Dirndl skirts, the short boxy jackets, cowls, pants. Innovative layerings you love! See them in our sport shop.

Thursday, August 18, 10 'til 5 at University Mall.

*Wm. Cohn*