

Bandleader Dorsey Dies In His Sleep

Medical Examiner Rules He Choked; Cause of Illness Unknown

Greenwich, Conn. — (P) — Bandleader Tommy Dorsey, the bespectacled "sentimental gentleman of swing," is dead at 51.

A medical examiner said Dorsey, who was ill, choked to death about 2 a. m. Monday while sleeping.

Dorsey's third wife, Janie, who was suing him for divorce, was in the house when he died, as were their two children, but it was 12 hours later before the death was discovered.

Finds Body.

His booking agent, Vincent Carbone, got no answer to a knock on the bedroom door at Dorsey's \$130,000 home, and went in through a window.

Carbone found the body of the famed trombonist sprawled over the bed. The rest of the family had thought he was sleeping late, as he often did.

Dorsey's saxophonist brother, Jimmy, two years younger, was in New York at the time. So was their mother.

What made Dorsey ill was not known. He ate a heavy Italian meal with his wife and mother-in-law, Mrs. Ruth New of Atlanta, in his home the night before. Tino

Barzie, his personal manager, said Dorsey was told recently at Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore that he was developing an ulcer.

Left Note.

A note Dorsey left added to the mystery when police refused comment. Finally the text of the note was disclosed by Barzie.

In the note (Barzie said Dorsey had a habit of leaving notes, often by the dozen) Dorsey thanked his wife for the dinner and added, "I am leaving early in the morning. Kiss Susie for me before she leaves for school." Susie is his 6-year-old daughter.

Besides Susie, Dorsey leaves a 4-year-old son, Steve, by his present wife, and two grown children by his first wife, the former Mildred Kraft. Their children are

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TOMMY DORSEY

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Tommy Dorsey Passes in His Sleep

Mrs. Lester Hooker of Richmond, Va., and Thomas F. Dorsey, 3rd, in the navy stationed in Hawaii.

His second marriage was to Actress Pat Dane. His third wife, Janie, sued for divorce last month, charging intolerable cruelty.

Forced to Practice.

Services will be held Thursday in a New York city funeral home. Tommy will be buried beside his father in the hills of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.

Of their father, Tommy and Jimmy said he gave them cornet lessons when they were 5 and 7. Although he made only \$10.20 a week in the coal mines, the father played with a local band and used to lock the two children in their room to make them practice.

Later Jimmy and Tommy had their own local jazz combo, the "Wild Canaries." Tommy said he made 68 cents the first time he played. Later he made \$116,000 in 16 days.

Dorsey played with his brother Jimmy in Paul Whiteman's band, later with Vincent Lopez and in recent years again in a joint orchestra with Jimmy.

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