

# Elvis Presley dies: 'erratic heartbeat' blamed by doctors

By CRAIG SCHWED

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Elvis Presley, the gyrating king of rock 'n' roll who forever changed the face of music two decades ago when he grooved "You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog," died at his mansion Tuesday of an "erratic heartbeat."

The 41-year-old singer — "Elvis the Pelvis" when he burst upon the world in the mid-1950s — died face down on the floor of a bathroom at his Graceland mansion.

He was found there by his road manager, Joe Esposito, at 1:30 p.m. But Shelby County Medical Examiner Dr. Jerry Francisco said Presley may have been dead since 9 a.m.

Francisco told newsmen after an autopsy that Presley died of "cardiac arrhythmia," which he described as a severely irregular heartbeat. He said it

was brought about by "undetermined causes."

Both Francisco and Dr. George Nicholson, Presley's personal physician, said there was "no evidence" of any illegal drug use.

Efforts to revive Presley were abandoned at Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m.

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Rumors of his death raced from coast to coast. When it was confirmed, the mourning began.

Radio stations throughout the world played the King's music. Politicians and entertainers eulogized him. Record shops, which in his 22 years of recording sold 400 million Elvis Presley albums, were jammed.

Presley brought rock 'n' roll to the world with "Hound Dog," "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Blue Suede Shoes." Teenagers went into a frenzy and adults, seeing his long shaggy hair, sideburns, hooded eyes, and most of all his grinding hips, went into shock.

He was, as Gov. Cliff Finch of his home state of Mississippi said, the "personification of the American dream." He rose from poverty to incredible wealth.

But one of his best friends, singer Pat Boone, said he lived as a "haunted man — an exile" afraid to fly, afraid of the massive and frantic demonstrations that greeted his every public appearance right up until the last. He lived in seclusion, appearing only on his concert tours.

Francisco said at a news conference

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# Clue to rapist at last?

By VEDA FEDERIGHI  
Staff Writer

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department is asking a letter-writer who signed himself "Afraid," to call the detective bureau to elaborate on inside information about the East Area Rapist.

It could prove to be the first break in a case that has stumped dozens of investigators since the ski-masked rapist began his attacks nearly two years ago.

"We've been given information, possibly valuable information," said sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller, "in a well-written, typed letter. It's not from a kook."

The information, which Miller indicated could only be known by someone familiar with details of the case that are not generally known to the public, "gives no clue to the identity of the suspect. We assumed the letter-writer knows the person he or she is writing about.

"Our detectives want to talk to 'Afraid,'" Miller said, adding that "Afraid" wrote that if detectives wanted more information, "you should indicate you do in The Sacramento Union or other local media."

Miller emphasized that the information may not necessarily mean a break in the case. "We're not sure of the information. It requires contacting all of the victims and taking time to check things out."

"But there is a statement in the letter of something that the letter-writer is aware of that is very, very interesting," Miller said.

Miller said that informants can be guaranteed anonymity and urged "Afraid" to call the detective bureau, 443-3441.

The man known as the East Area Rapist began his string of 24 unsolved known attacks on Oct. 21, 1973.

All but two of the rapes have been in

the county, and until the last attack on May 28, the rapist concentrated in a huge, 70 square-mile section of the east area, encompassing the communities of Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, Orangevale, Carmichael, and the Del Dayo, Glenbrook and College Greens neighborhoods.

On May 28, the rapist, who had earlier broken an established pattern of attacking women alone by beginning to break into homes where men were present, again changed his method of operation and struck in the south area. He has not struck since May 28, the longest hiatus since the first few attacks.

More than \$30,000 in rewards have been offered, and police and sheriff's detectives have sifted through thousands of calls, followed up hundreds of leads and interviewed several dozen potential suspects.

## Rock fans

... In Europe, Radio Luxembourg announced Presley's death and then in a long program of his music. Many stations played his "golden oldies." Fans wept outside Baptist Memorial Hall, where the singer who made "rock 'n' roll" music famous was brought to rest after suffering an apparent heart attack.

Leading the mourners were the teenagers of the 1950s, who grew up on his records.

In his hometown there was nothing but grief.

Archie Loesser of Memphis, who was singing a patient at Baptist Memorial, told of Presley's death by a waitress in a coffee shop.

"My first reaction was disbelief," she said. "I couldn't believe it. I asked other people and they couldn't believe it."



## Carter's FBI choice: noted federal judge

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter has chosen U.S. District Judge Frank Johnson, whose decisions have boosted civil rights in his native Alabama, to become FBI director, administration sources said Tuesday night.

The White House planned to announce this afternoon that Carter will nominate Johnson, 58, a Republican, to succeed Clarence M. Kelley as chief of the beleaguered investigative agency. Kelley has announced plans to retire at the end of this year.

Johnson, a lifelong Alabamian, has

his appointment to the bench in 1955 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Before that, he was a U.S. attorney.

The nomination will be subject to Senate confirmation.

The choice of Johnson ends Carter's search of more than six months for a new director to take charge of the FBI at a time when it is still suffering from disclosures of allegedly illegal intelligence-gathering tactics in the past.

The sources said Carter and Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell settled on Johnson as their choice and rejected the four candidates

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