

THE
GEORGE REEVES
NEWS ARTICLES
FILE

COLLECTED BY
LOU KOZA

JUNE 27, 1959
(events of the 26th)

Superman's Mother and Atty. Giesler Confer

The mother of George (Superman) Reeves conferred with Atty. Jerry Giesler yesterday about the actor's reported suicide, but they missed an appointment to inspect the residence where the shooting took place last June 16.

The attorney and Mrs. Helen Bessolo said they will try to make arrangements to visit the home at 1579 Benedict Canyon Dr. with a private investigator sometime today.

Dissatisfied With Decision

Mrs. Bessolo, dissatisfied with the police and coroner's finding of suicide, retained Giesler to investigate the case and contest her son's will, leaving the bulk of his estate to Mrs. Toni Mannix wife of a film executive.

Giesler made arrangements yesterday with Arthur Weissman, Reeves' business manager and executor of the estate, to have Mrs. Bessolo visit the house at 2:15 p.m. Weissman was there at the appointed time.

When the others had not arrived by 3:40 p.m., Weissman left to keep another appointment. Giesler and Mrs. Bessolo showed up a few minutes later, but found themselves locked out. They were accompanied by James Leahan, an investigator, and

Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Marchin, Pasadena friends of Mrs. Bessolo.

Giesler explained he had been delayed attending a funeral and Mrs. Bessolo had visited the Gates, Kingsley & Gates Mortuary in West Los Angeles. There she viewed her son's body but did not decide on funeral arrangements.



Helen Lescher Bessolo

Image added

Lou Koza
Collection

Giesler Enters Tv Superman Suicide Case

HOLLYWOOD—(UPI)— Attorney Jerry Giesler said Friday he was not satisfied with the suicide ruling of police and the coroner in the death of TV Superman George Reeves because the case has too many "angles."

"You have to look for a motive in this kind of a situation," said Giesler, famed attorney for movie stars. He said he was considering calling in private investigators to inquire into circumstances in the case.

However, Giesler said he wasn't overly optimistic that his investigation would shed any new light on the death. "Of course, we'll try to the best of our ability," he said, "but so much time has elapsed and there has been such a mixup—so many untied ends."

The attorney said he would be "delighted to talk with police officials if it would be of any benefit."

Declining to criticize the police, he said officers "did what they believed to be a thorough job."

Reeves was found shot to death in his home on June 16. Police ruled the death a suicide at that time, and although the case was reopened this week, Chief William Parker said he saw no reason to change the findings.

Coroner Theodore Curphey conducted a second autopsy Tuesday which he said convinced him Reeves, who played Superman on television, took his own life.

However, Parker disclosed yesterday the discovery of two bullet holes imbedded in the wall at the actor's home and said one of the shots was fired "several days" before the Reeves' death by Lenore Lemmon, the dead man's fiancee. Parker said he expected an attempt would be made to interrogate the New York society playgirl for more detail about the incident.

Miss Lemmon, in New York, said she was examining Reeves' luger pistol — the death instrument — when it discharged in his bedroom.

Giesler was hired by Mrs. Helen Lescher Bessolo, mother of the dead man, because she said she couldn't believe her son took his own life. He conferred with her for two hours this morning and again this afternoon.

Mrs. Bessolo said Reeves appeared in good spirits when she last heard from him, and repeated she did not think him capable of suicide.

Giesler said he was "very interested" when detectives failed to find fingerprints on the gun. Parker said yesterday the weapon was covered with oil and that was the reason no fingerprints were found.

Giesler said this "sounded very strange."