

# Exclusive photos: Prelude to tragedy

THE EVE OF THE MASSACRE dawned warm and lovely in Jonestown, Guyana. Visiting the People's Temple compound, however, were four men on a mission that turned out to be the trigger of one of the gravest tragedies in modern times. They were Rep. Leo Ryan, lawyers Mark Lane and Charles Garry, and an official from the Guyana Ministry of Information. The photographs on this page, obtained exclusively by The Chicago Tribune, are a record of Friday, Nov. 17, 1978, the day that Rep. Ryan and his party sought permission from People's Temple leader Jim Jones to allow disgruntled relatives of cult members to visit

their kin. The pictures were taken by Don Jackson, 44, the camp's photographer. They were discovered in a camp darkroom by Guyanese military officials attempting to identify victims of the massacre-suicide that took place Saturday. The subjects in the pictures were identified by cult member Tim Carter in an interview with Tribune reporter Michael Sneed. Jackson is believed to have died in the tragedy. Carter was arrested after he fled into the jungle with a suitcase containing \$500,000 earmarked for the Soviet Embassy in Georgetown.

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Beverly Oliver, seated between sons William (left) and Bruce.

● In the pavilion where the ritual suicide was to begin the next day, Beverly Oliver of San Francisco pleaded with her two sons to leave the sect. Mrs. Oliver's motives were attacked by cult members, who told the sons that she could come into a certain inheritance only if she wooed them away from their religion. They refused to go. Mrs. Oliver was wounded in both legs the next day in the airport ambush, but escaped with her life. Both sons died.

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Rep. Leo Ryan talks to People's Temple member Brian Bouquette, 23.

● As the story is pieced together from sources on the scene, Rep. Ryan is pleading with Bouquette, who had left his home in Burlingame, Cal., last December to journey to Guyana to join Jones' group. The plea is from Bouquette's mother, who awaited him in Georgetown, and wished desperately to see him. Bouquette's reply: "I only want to see her through the sights of a rifle." They are in front of the pavilion where 910 cult members died the next day. Bouquette was among them.



Richard Dwyer and Jackie Speler.

● The negotiations between Rep. Ryan and Jones over whether relatives would be permitted to visit with their kin were underway. Waiting were his administrative assistant, Jackie Speler, and a member of the visiting party, Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown. Both were wounded in the ambush next day at Port Kaituma.



From left: A Guyanese official (foreground), Mark Lane, Maria Katsiris, Patty Cartmell (facing camera), Kay Nelson.

● On the surface at least, it was a tranquil tropical afternoon. Jones' mistress, Maria Katsiris, was talking to a representative of the Guyanese government. But the woman facing the camera on the right, Patty Cartmell, had already undergone a prelude of what was to come. In the San Francisco temple, she and others

had been persuaded to drink a potion by Jones, who then told them it contained poison. She ran from the temple, screaming "I don't want to die!" But on Saturday, she drank with the rest and perished with the rest, including Kay Nelson, a cult leader [right foreground]. Mrs. Cartmell's husband, Walter, and her daughter, Patricia, also died.



Jim Jones, Mark Lane and Charles Garry.

● Consulting with his lawyers, Jim Jones betrayed what cult members had come to know as a sign of his nervousness. His hand went to his mouth again and again. By Saturday, when relatives were in the camp and cult members were talking of leaving, the stage was set for the astounding tragedy.