

Grief links survivors of 8 area victims

By Ken Guggenheim

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But for a leg broken in a fall, a 75-year-old Lawrence County woman and her two daughters would not have been aboard Pan Am Flight 103.

The leg injury, however, led Ann Gorgacz to cancel her planned Christmas stay in England and start a journey back to New Castle, where she could see her own doctor.

And so Mrs. Gorgacz, a widow, and two daughters — Loretta, 46, and Linda Gordon, 39 — were among the eight people with ties to the Tri-State area who died in Wednesday's crash of the jumbo jetliner in Scotland.

The other victims with ties to the area were:

- Barry Valentino Jr., 28, a Pleasant Hills native visiting Europe for the first time.

- Valerie Canady, 25, a Morgantown native who works for the H.J. Heinz Co. in London. A West Virginia University graduate, she was enroute to

visiting her parents for Christmas, according to her mother, Louie Canady. Her father, William, is a biochemistry professor at WVU.

- David Gould, 45, a University of Pittsburgh professor described as being "on a mission for peace."

- Beth Ann Johnson, 21, and Elyse Saraceni, 20, Westmoreland County college students who had studied in England.

Also killed was Bernt Carlsson, 50, a Swedish diplomat on his way to visit relatives in State College.

Carlsson, the United Nations commissioner for Namibia, was heading to State College for the holidays to visit his sister, Inger Musser, and her family. Carlsson often visited State College over the holidays, according to family members.

"He loved State College, the community, the atmosphere here and the campus," said Harold Musser, his brother-in-law.

Because they shared the ill-fated New York City-bound jumbo jet that crashed in Lockerbie, the victims will be forever linked through the common

grief of their friends and families.

It was the first visit to Europe for Mrs. Gorgacz and Miss Gorgacz, both of New Castle, who were visiting Miss Gordon, and were supposed to stay until Jan. 31.

But Mrs. Gorgacz fell and broke her leg. Instead of spending Christmas in England, all three decided to return to the United States, where Mrs. Gorgacz could see her doctor, said Clara Sarko, Mrs. Gorgacz's sister-in-law.

Friends and relatives described Ann Gorgacz and her daughters as simple, decent people.

Mrs. Gorgacz, a widow for more than 20 years, enjoyed crocheting and going to church.

She would sometimes fly to Newport Beach, Calif., and stay for a month with her other daughter, Barbara Richardson, the mother of Mrs. Gorgacz's four grandchildren.

Mrs. Gorgacz shared an apartment with Miss Gorgacz, who worked for a luggage company in Ellwood City, Lawrence County.

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Grief

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Miss Gordon, a Pennsylvania State University graduate, had left New Castle about 20 years ago. She was temporarily working in London as a clothing buyer, her relatives said.

For the Gorgacz's family, the sorrow of the loss of three family members is compounded by the possibility that the crash was caused by terrorists.

"That's what hurts, what really hurts," said Joseph Chabak, Mrs. Gorgacz's brother. "Why should someone suffer because of someone else?"

Valentino, a former Pleasant Hills resident who was living in San Francisco, also was visiting Europe for the first time.

Valentino — whose parents, Barry Sr. and Jean Valentino live on Old Lebanon Church Road, Pleasant Hills — had toured England and West Germany with his sister, Lisa, 23, an elementary education major from Penn State, until they parted earlier this week.

Miss Valentino, who did her student teaching at Chichester, England, returned home on another flight Tuesday.

Valentino, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and Wheeling College, had been a volunteer with the Pleasant Hills Fire Department. He had moved to San Francisco about five years ago.

"He always wanted to tour Europe. He had a motorcycle and loved to ride it. He was interested in people and was a great person and wonder-



Loretta Gorgacz
Visited sister in London

ful son, brother and grandson," Mrs. Valentino said.

Valentino worked at Exploratorium, a San Francisco museum of science, art and human perception. He was project manager for the artists-in-residence program.

"He was very creative, talented and bright," said Hillary Adams, special events coordinator.

Gould, an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, was on his 10th trip this year to Africa.

Pitt Chancellor Wesley Posvar described Gould's last journey as "a mission of peace."

Gould, of Bartlett Street, Squirrel Hill, had been to Djibouti and Burkina Faso, two African nations, as part of an Agency for International Development project of the State



Ann Gorgacz
Broke her leg in London

Department.

He had stopped for a meeting in Frankfurt, West Germany, where he barely made the flight as it left for London, said Juli Gasperi, his administrative aide at Pitt.

Gould, who came to Pitt in 1976, was a native of New York City. His wife, Terri, works with ACTION Housing. The couple have two children, Daniel, 19, and Debbie, 21.

On the sedate campus of Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, yesterday, the Rev. Stephen West found it difficult to consider the possibility that terrorism was responsible for the deaths of Miss Johnson and Miss Saraceni.

Said West, the college chaplain, who had just offered a noon mass for the two Seton Hill students:



Barry Valentino Jr.
A Pleasant Hills native

"The hardest thing is that you look at the TV and you see things like that but you think, well it's over there. It's not here."

Miss Johnson, a senior psychology major from Hempfield Township, and Miss Saraceni, a junior music major from Salem, were returning from Regents College in London, where they had spent a semester.

About 100 people gathered in the chapel for the mass that was originally scheduled to be offered for the faculty and staff.

About half were students, who are now home for Christmas break. A memorial service will be held for the two girls on Jan. 18, after the students have returned.

(Pittsburgh Press staff writers Robert Baird, Dan Donovan, Ellen Perlmutter and Mary Niederberger contributed to this report.)