

# ***Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden***

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## **Dog Kills Family Then Self**

Cloverdale, Maryland

A tragic story emerged from the sleepy township of Cloverdale, Maryland. Though shocking and unimaginable as it seems, a loving family pet committed murder, then suicide. Authorities are still piecing together the unbelievable incident. Since there are no surviving witnesses or readable suicide paws prints; grieving is the only thing left to do, and burying the bodies.

The Wilkins family pet Collie, called Muffins, “simply snapped a milk bone.” This observation according to Sheriff Williams, who says he knew the family for well-over 30 years and the dog since it was a pup.

“He was well-fed and loved by all five Wilkins family members. I cannot believe for the life of me, excuse my choice of words, that that mongrel had it in him to destroy innocent human beings and then stoop to take his own life after that. Muffins had one too many milk bones if you know what I mean! Wagged his tail a little too wide, you might say.” The sheriff grumbled, “Maybe something got into his water dish.”

The Cloverdale coroner said that he had never, in all of his years, heard of canine-a-side. He volunteered that little Susie Wilkins, only ten years of age, had “Muffins leash in her cold, dead fingers at the time of death. This needed to be pried from her young hand.”

A next door neighbor, Luella Jones, added her guesswork concerning how the tragedy might have developed saying, “That dog spent the same amount of time in front of that dern television as Frank did! Mr. Wilkins always watched the 6 o’clock news and the occasional special reports on political developments.” Tearfully, she added, “Muffins would always be by his side watching TV too! I think that no good murderin’ mutt understood politics and our lame justice system better than most of us—and that’s what brought on all this killin’!”

When quizzed by law enforcement officers about her theory, Luella put it this way. “I’d come over to the Wilkins to bring them a pie or borrow a cup of nutmeg, that sort o’ thing. I’d hear Mr. Wilkins, Frank, howlin’ bloody murder about our no-good-nik president, politicians, judges n’ elections. That dog picked up on all that corruption and funny stuff. After this last election Muffins became an angry, bitter, growling dog. Muffins and Frank became two mad creatures, both nearly foamin’ at the mouth. Dog and his master both got barkin’ at the TV – at the same time! It’s true! I guess Frank just didn’t have the sense to turn off his TV set and walk away. Though, I must admit, on Muffins behalf, more than once I’d seen the dog with the remote control in his jaws, like he was beggin’ for Frank to change the channel or perhaps turn it off.

Mrs. Jones claimed that on one occasion, only two days ago, Muffin lifted a hind leg and peed directly on an unnamed politician during a press conference. The television set was unharmed by the urine.

So, an angry dog who saw and knew too much? Too many fleas to scratch all at one time? But, why kill his beloved family? Was it his lack of faith in our election system that caused Muffin's fur to go very much the wrong way? Did the dog do these heinous crimes as mercy killings? Should citizens who watch TV news isolate their pets so they won't spy or overhear the daily rhetoric from elected, public officials and government wannabees? Many are asking such questions.

A Cloverdale authority who spoke on the condition of anonymity said, "Barns are for animals, but our nation should set aside some stalls for these fancy, fast talkin', overly-paid, government types who want to make pets of us all. Muffin's actions might be the beginning of one very ugly, hair raising revolt the likes of which this country has never seen!" He advised, "Keep you dogs and cats far away from the TV; if not, turn the sound off and use subtitles."