

Girl, 15, Named; Meyer Hospital Tests Are Next

JUL 4 1961

By MARTY O'NEILL and JOHN LaHOUD

A 15-year-old North Buffalo girl, described by police as a "very logical and prime suspect" in the kidnap-slaying of Andrew T. Ashley, was identified last night by two children as their abductor.

The girl, Chyrel Jolls of 21 Leroy Ave., was "positively" identified by Richard Edgington, 5, of 81 Saranac Ave. and Susan Benedict, 5, of 299 Tacoma Ave., as the girl who abducted them before the Ashley abduction-murder.

The girl's mother, Mrs. Georgia Jolls, appeared at Police Headquarters shortly after midnight and signed papers authorizing her daughter's confinement to Meyer Memorial Hospital for psychiatric examination.

Chyrel was still being questioned at Headquarters shortly before 2 this morning. Authorities said she would be taken to the hospital shortly.

The teen-ager was interviewed for nearly seven hours at Headquarters by a psychiatrist, Dr. Samuel Yochelson.

Det. Chief John J. Whalen said a witness placed the girl at the scene of the Ashley murder in Delaware Park before and after the crime. He did not reveal the name of the witness.

Whalen said the girl has a history of mental illness and has been confined in at least two mental hospitals. She was not charged, pending further investigation.

Police Commissioner Frank N. Felicetta, Dist. Atty. Carman F. Ball and Mayor Frank A. Sedita were at Headquarters during the investigation. Police will consult with Ball's office today on the matter of placing charges against the girl.

Shuttle Back, Forth

Frequently during the night, reporters were shuttled between Commissioner Felicetta and Dr. Yochelson for information on the progress of the investigation.

When Felicetta referred reporters to Dr. Yochelson for information, the psychiatrist said "This is a police case" and sent reporters back to the commissioner for information.

Whalen said she denied being involved in any of the three abductions or in the Ashley slaying.

The Jolls girl had been questioned three times previously before being taken into custody yesterday for interrogation in connection with the murder of the 3½-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Ashley of 195 Jewett Pky.

Andrew disappeared Friday, June 23. His body was found Sunday, June 25, in Delaware Park Lake partially disrobed and with the hands and feet bound with nylon stockings. Medical evidence indicated the



Dr. Samuel Yochelson
... questions suspect



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MURDER
ANDREW T. ASHLEY
6-23-61

Girl Is Identified In Abduction Cases

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of the daily proceedings of the investigation into the murder of the Ashley boy.

The girl was taken to the Colvin Station at 6 last night. Richard was waiting there and immediately identified her as his abductor.

She was taken to Police Headquarters where she was placed in two showups with four volunteer women. Her position was changed in each showup but both Richard and Susan and the unidentified adult witnesses pointed her out as the abductor.

Previous descriptions placed the abductor's age at between 30 and 35. She was described as a blonde who wore her hair in a pony tail style.

Chyrel has brown hair which she usually wears shoulder-length. Police said she does not resemble a composite sketch made from descriptions of witnesses. They said, however, that she is big for her age and could pass for 17 or 18.

She was graduated from School 54, Main and Leroy, last month.

Dr. Yochelson, in declining to comment on his talks with the girl, said "I consider my talk with the girl a confidential relationship between a doctor and his patient."

Says She Watched Program

He was medical director of the Jewish Family Service here until appointed recently as di-

rector of criminal research at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington.

He was a member of a television panel which analyzed aspects of the Ashley crime on Ch. 2 Sunday. Police said the Jolls girl watched the program.

Police Commissioner Frank N. Felicetta expressed hope that a solution of the case is near, but cautioned that the girl "may not" be the abductor of the three and slayer of Andrew.

"I've been excited too much on several previous possibilities which have fallen through," he said.

Investigators in the case have made clear they believe the Ashley boy's killer is the same person who lured Richard Edgington, from his home last June 23.

The boy was left gagged, hooded and tied on railroad tracks which run through that sector of North Buffalo. However, he managed to work himself free and seek safety.

Asked for Dr. Yochelson

Chyrel asked for Dr. Yochelson when she was taken into custody by Lt. Hennessy. Police said she told them she was impressed when Dr. Yochelson emphasized the fact that the woman involved in the crimes was sick and needed help and that it was his duty to see that she received help.

It also is understood the girl read a Page One story in Thursday's Courier-Express urging the abductor to surrender, since she was mentally ill and would benefit from subsequent treatment.

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Andrew disappeared Friday, June 23. His body was found Sunday, June 25, in Delaware Park Lake partially disrobed and with the hands and feet bound with nylon stockings. Medical evidence indicated the boy died by drowning within 30 minutes of the time he was taken from in front of his home.

Richard Edgington was abducted the day before Andrew was taken. Susan Benedict was kidnapped April 23. Both children were bound and gagged in the North Park section, but freed themselves and escaped unharmed.

Had Been in Custody

The Jolls girl was first picked up by police the day before Andrew's body was found. She was taken into custody on complaint that she was bothering some other children.

Police noticed at the time that there were some similarities between her and preliminary descriptions of Andrew's abductor, but not enough to hold her.

She was detained again the next day about an hour before Andrew's body was found while she was making a phone call to Mrs. Ashley.

She admitted telling Mrs. Ashley that the boy was safe and unharmed and would be returned if the police search was ended.

Mrs. Ashley talked to her while the call was traced. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation picked the girl up while she was still in



Dr. Samuel Yochelson
... questions suspect



Lt. Thomas P. Hennessy
... suspicious of Chyrel

a phone booth in the Leroy-Fillmore area.

She told police then it was "a hoax" and that she simply called to console the mother. The police description of the woman suspect did not relate to the Jolls girl, and they released her again.

Lt. Thomas Hennessy, head of the Auto Theft and Robbery Squad, yesterday decided to bring the girl in again for questioning. More than 50 women had been questioned during the investigation and released. Police began a recheck in an effort to turn up something they might have missed.

During the showups, she wore clothing found in her home which matched the description of the clothes worn by the woman seen with Andrew.

This included a medium-gray gabardine overcoat and a blue plaid dress. She also wore in the showup a hair clip found in her home which makes the hair appear like a pony tail.

Lt. Hennessy also found a notebook in the home in which the girl had kept a notation

GIRL IS IDENTIFIED
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