

Murders.
June 23,
1961

Murder Probers To Intensify Check

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Commissioner Felicetta leads conference of medical and scientific experts
... a group attempt to interpret actions of a killer

4 BUFFALO COURIER-EXPRESS, Wednesday, June 23, 1961

In Boy's Death

Murder Probers To Intensify Check

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medical examiner; Dr. Thomas J. Murphy, a police surgeon. Dr. Vincent J. Capraro, an obstetrician at Meyer Memorial Hospital; Dr. Joseph Amico, an oral surgeon; Dr. William Roberts, of the Medical Department of the Bethlehem Steel Co. and William Payne, secretary of the scientific staff.

The police scientific staff was reinstated several years ago by Commissioner Frank N. Felicetta. It has about 40 members but many were unable to attend yesterday's meeting be-

xpert, Assistant Detective Chief Joseph DiVincenzo, Acting Assistant Detective Chiefs John Schott and John Stumpf, Lts. John T. Dugan, Kevin C. Harmon, Thomas P. Hennessy and Kevin R. Connors, all were assigned to the investigation.

This was the first time the scientific staff has been called in to assist in the early days of a major investigation. In the past members have met to discuss various causes and to advise members of the department concerning future handling of different aspects of certain types of crimes.

Police Will Sift Records On Patients

Conference Held On Boy's Death

By BILL CALLAHAN

Buffalo police yesterday approved a suggestion of medical and scientific authorities to check thoroughly records of institutions caring for mental patients in the search for the killer of little Andrew T. Ashley.

Nearly 30 members of the Police Department and physicians met for two hours in the Police Academy to discuss all aspects of the vicious slaying of the North Buffalo youngster.

They agreed that a more intensive investigation of patients' records in mental hospitals, institutions, nursing homes and rest homes is necessary. The experts also advocated a close check of mental patients released by institutions to serve as domestics in homes, particularly those in the north Buffalo section.

Members of the scientific staff attending yesterday's session where Dr. Alfred Ulrich, a

\$1,000 Reward Offered by C-E

The Courier-Express is offering a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer of little Andrew T. Ashley.

Persons with such information are urged to telephone the Homicide Bureau at Police Headquarters, TL 6-7000.

member of the psychiatric staff at Meyer Memorial Hospital; Dr. James J. Creighton medical examiner in the Ashley case.

The meeting was closed to the press but Felicetta released the following statement after the session:

"I called this meeting today to discuss the entire Ashley case with our medical and scientific staff. We went over all the physical evidence and facts in the Ashley case as we know them and to try to interpret the actions of the person responsible.

Group Approves Methods Used

"The purpose of this is to obtain any assistance which might help our investigation and result in making an apprehension. I am happy to report the scientific staff agrees with the methods used to date in conducting the investigation."

"We agreed on several points along which our investigation is presently proceeding. The two previous incidents were discussed at length and it was agreed all of the crimes were most likely committed by a woman and the same woman."

"Several valuable suggestions were made by the scientific staff which must of necessity be kept confidential at this time. We agreed that a more extensive investigation must be made of mental institutions, hospitals, nursing homes and rest homes."

"A suggestion was made to appeal to the public regarding information about domestics who may have left their places of employment since Friday and who fit the description of the wanted woman."

"It was determined that mental institutions do release inmates for domestic work and we are desirous of knowing of any such cases in the area of the crimes and particularly of any such person fitting the description."

"The scientific staff agreed to cooperate fully in this investigation and are willing to meet with us at any time."

Members of the Police Department who attended the meeting besides Commissioner Felicetta were Deputy Commissioner John F. Mahoney, Detective Chief John J. Whalen, Assistant Detective Chief John D. McCarthy, head of the homicide Bureau, Capt. James J. O'Donnell, commander of the Colvin Station.

Harold E. Schmidt, director of the Police laboratory, Robert G. O'Connor, police chemist, Robert E. Perrigo, police ballistics

Meanwhile, police continued to receive a constant stream of new tips from citizens.

Augmented headquarters units and special squads working out of the Colvin Station followed up each piece of information looking for solid clues.

Many Questioned

Many women answering the description of the wanted woman were questioned throughout the city. However, none was held.

Deputy Commissioner Mahoney, a veteran police officer, termed the investigation "much more intensive than the search in South Buffalo in 1935 for the murderer of Mary Ellen Babcock.

"We are using more manpower in the search and also for the protection of the affected section than we did in the Babcock case," said Mahoney. "And, I believe this investigation is being very well coordinated."

To coordinate the investigation, Lt. Thomas Hennessy, head of the Auto Theft & Robbery Squad, was detailed to the Colvin Station with members of his unit. He will supervise the plainclothesmen there. The additional manpower will augment the precinct staff for round-the-clock coverage.

Officials said they are satisfied that there is no body lodged in the water of Swan Lake near Elmwood Ave.

Police spent several hours yesterday dragging that section of the lake after three youths reported they had seen an object in the water which resembled a body. No body was found.

A special two-man detail was assigned to check records at Buffalo State Hospital. Another team was assigned to check the name "Johnson" as well as the address 2290.

The name "Johnson" entered the case because the woman had told 5-year-old Richard Edgington, of 81 Saranac Ave., when she abducted him last Thursday to tell anyone that stopped them that his name was "Davey Johnson." The Edgington boy escaped unharmed.

The other victim of the woman, Susan Benedict, 5, of 299 Tacoma Ave., told police the woman stated her address was 2290 but gave no street. She also told the child she lived in a large blue house.

Dr. Edward H. Egan, also

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