

Wants Others Spared

June 26, 1961

Murdered June 23, 1961

Find Killer Soon, Is Mother's Plea

JUN 26 1961

By DICK BATZER

"I hope whoever did this to my son can be found soon so that no other family will have to suffer a tragedy like this."

These were the softly spoken words of Mrs. Donna Ashley less than two hours after she was told by her husband, Francis, that the body of their son, Andrew, 3½, had been found.

Speaking to a Courier-Express reporter in the family's small, neat basement apartment at 195 Jewett Pky. at the corner of Parkside, Mrs. Ashley added:

"I'd like to thank everyone who was so wonderful in the search. Everybody did all they could. We are grateful."

Ashley, standing near his wife who was seated on a couch between her mother and mother-in-law, said his sentiments were the same as those of his wife.

Det. Sgt. Charles A. Quinn, head of the Headquarters "B" Squad, had the task of informing the Ashley family of their boy's death.

He was at the Colvin Station discussing the search with Capt. James J. O'Donnell and two FBI agents when Capt. Charles

E. Devoe of the Police Underwater Recovery Team, entered and told them the body had been found.

FBI Agent in Home

Capt. O'Donnell told Sgt. Quinn to notify the family. The sergeant was accompanied by Lt. Milton Speidel, head of the Radar Squad, who was working on the case on his day off.

An FBI agent, who declined to be identified, was posted in the Ashley apartment yesterday to intercept telephone calls on the chance the abductor might try to contact the family.

The agent had arranged with Mrs. Herbert H. Cloy, who lives in the apartment above the Ashley's, to accept personal calls for him from Quinn. They were working as a team on the case.

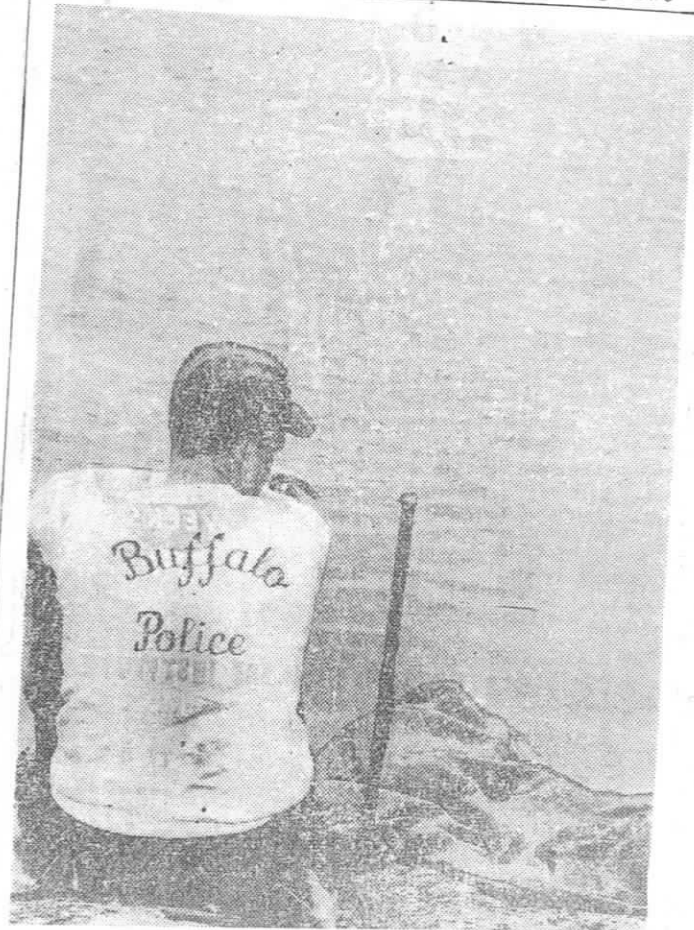
Mrs. Cloy said she heard a radio bulletin that the boy's body had been found, and by pre-arranged signal, tapped on the floor to summon the FBI agent from the apartment below.

The agent met Quinn who arrived shortly after 3, and they went downstairs to the Ashley apartment. They asked Ashley

FIND KILLER

Continued on Page Two

42



Find Killer Soon, Is Mother's Plea

43

★ From Page 1

to accompany them upstairs where they told him of the discovery and asked that he tell Mrs. Ashley. They all returned to the apartment.

Mother Screams

The police officers waited in the living room while Ashley took his wife into a bedroom and told her.

"Who killed my baby," she screamed repeatedly.

A physician and a priest were summoned by relatives and

friends who had been at the apartment all day. Among the friends were two nurse acquaintances of Mrs. Ashley, who is a nurse.

"I had to break the news. I didn't like it," was Sgt. Quinn's comment when he came outside with Ashley and Mrs. Ashley's father, Frank Ellis of Emporium, Pa. They were on their way to identify the body. Ashley, stunned, said nothing.

A physician, who declined to be identified arrived at the home at 3:25 and emerged from the apartment five minutes later.

"She is doing remarkably well," he said.

The Rev. James F. Chambers, an assistant pastor of St. Mark's Church, Amherst and Woodward, arrived a minute after the doctor and stayed with Mrs. Ashley until 4:45.

"She is very brave," Fr. Chambers said as he left the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard H. Smith of 37 Phelps Ave., friends of the Ashleys, heard the news while they were on their way home after taking their children to a downtown theater. They drove to the Ashley's apartment.

"We got there and I knew immediately they had not been told of Andrew's death," Smith said. "I just started to talk about something else and kept

talking until the police arrived," he added.

After Andrew's body was found, a parade of the curious began passing the Ashley apartment.

Families, including children, came in cars. Others walked by and looked in at the apartment building. Boys came on bicycles. Auxiliary policemen, assigned to the vicinity, kept everyone moving.

The Ashleys have another son, Mark, A., 20 months. Ashley was graduated from Canisius College June 11. Mrs. Ashley formerly was employed at Genesee Memorial Hospital.

They had lived in Batavia and LeRoy before coming to Buffalo more than three years ago and moving into their present apartment. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ashley are 26.