

Girl Knew Andy

MURDER
ANDREW T. ASHLEY
JUNE 23, 1961

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Dead, Uncle Hints

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Fifteen-year-old Chyrel Jolls
... at police headquarters early yesterday

Predicted Lake Would Yield Body

Suspect Denies She Killed Boy

By PAUL WIELAND

Fifteen-year-old Chyrel Jolls predicted Andrew T. Ashley would be found floating in Delaware Park Lake a few hours before his bound body was recovered on June 25.

Chyrel, of 21 Leroy Ave., prime suspect in the kidnap-murder of the 3½-year-old boy, called an uncle the Sunday morning Andrew's body was found, and told him it would be recovered from the lake.

This was revealed yesterday by Police Commissioner Frank N. Felicetta, who said the uncle related the details of the phone call while at police headquarters early yesterday.

According to Felicetta, the uncle, John Palmer of 510 Tacoma Ave., sobbed as he said: "Why did you tell me he would be found in the lake if you didn't do it?"

The girl hysterically cried: "I didn't kill him, I didn't kill him."

Felicetta said Chyrel has not admitted killing the Ashley boy, or the earlier kidnaping of two other North Park children.

"We are by no means positive she is guilty," Felicetta said.

"A web of circumstantial evidence points to her, but we have nothing definite at this time. Much of what may be our case rests on results of hair strand comparisons now at the FBI laboratory in Washington," he added.

Police believe the Ashley murderer was the same person who abducted 5-year-old Susan

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Uncle Says:

Girl Predicted Lake Would Yield Body

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placed in foster homes," Felicetta said.

Felicetta said Chyrel has a record of treatment for mental disturbances. He said she told him she had undergone shock treatment once. She just finished seventh grade in public school, three years behind her age group.

"She says she hates policemen, and said 'those dirty cops are always following me and bothering me,'" said Felicetta.

When police picked up the girl for questioning late Monday morning, her parents gave their permission for her to be taken. Later, her mother, Mrs. Georgia Jolls, signed a release allowing her to be committed to Meyer Memorial Hospital for treatment and observation.

Although she was here for several hours Monday, and until almost three yesterday morning, Chyrel's father never came to Police Headquarters to enquire, or to aid her," Felicetta said.

The girl will remain in Meyer Memorial Hospital for "two or three weeks," according to the commissioner. He described her as being extremely antagonistic. Felicetta spent more than 3½ hours questioning Chyrel early yesterday, both at Police Headquarters and at her bedside.

Early yesterday, Dr. Yochelson took 5-year-old Richard Edgington into a room with the girl at headquarters and allowed her to question him at will. Felicetta said he did not sway from his first positive identification of her, saying repeatedly: "That's the one that took me."

Although Chyrel is a juvenile, Felicetta said she is liable to certain charges, according to law.



Andrew T. Ashley

"In this state," he said, "a juvenile over 15 and under 16 can be brought to trial on murder, treason and certain kidnaping charges."

It is believed that if any charges against the girl are forthcoming, they hinge on the result of the FBI's hair strand analysis.

If charges are brought against Chyrel, the case may never go to trial. A judgment on her mental condition would be given by a three-man board of psychiatrists, and then submitted to a county judge for his final decision.

Dist. Atty. Carman F. Ball is already weighing information in the case to see if charges can be brought.

Chyrel had been questioned three times previously before being taken into custody Monday, and each time was tentatively cleared of any connection with the murder of the Ashley boy.

Lt. Thomas Hennessey, head of the Auto Theft and Robbery squad, decided to

bring the girl in for questioning once more on Monday, when police began rechecking the more than 50 women already quizzed in an effort to turn up something they might have missed.

The Edgington boy immediately identified Chyrel as his abductor when she was taken to the Colvin Station Monday night. She was later placed in police showups at headquarters with four volunteer women, and Richard and two unidentified adult witnesses continued to point 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, she is big for her age, and could pass for 17 or 18.

It had been earlier reported Chyrel graduated from School 54, Main and Leroy, last month. Commissioner Felicetta yesterday said she has only completed the seventh grade there.

"She has a tremendous memory and a vivid imagination," the commissioner said, "but she doesn't spell well at all."

He was referring to a sort of diary police found in the girl's home.

"It's really more just a batch of notes," the commissioner said. "They contain random jottings about her activities during the last few weeks with several references to the Ashley murder."

Felicetta said the girl asked for Dr. Yochelson after she was taken downtown.

"She explained she had seen him on a Sunday television pro-

gram about the Ashley case, and thought he was nice," said the commissioner.

While at headquarters early yesterday, the girl continually lashed out at newspaper reporters and photographers, voicing a threat to several of the photographers, to "break your camera if you take a picture."

The commissioner said the girl has continuously maintained she is completely innocent of any involvement in the case.

"She says she loves children and wouldn't do anything to harm them," he added.

Police are sure Chyrel is the woman who called up Mrs. Francis Ashley about 1½ hours before her son's body was found in the lake, and told the mother that Andrew would be returned safely if police were taken off the case.

While Mrs. Ashley was on the phone with the 'woman' believed to be Chyrel, the call was being traced, and FBI agents took the girl into custody while she was in a phone booth in the Fillmore-Leroy area.

She was released later in the day, and was questioned twice more before she was picked up again Monday.