

JULY - 1961

Mrs. Jolls 'Very Sorry For Ashleys'

'Can't Believe Chyrel Did It'

By AL SPINDLER

"I'm very, very sorry for the Ashleys."

In this humble way, the distraught mother of Chyrel Jolls yesterday extended Jolls yesterday extended Jolls yesterday extended Mrs. Francis C. Ashley whose 3½-year-old son, Andrew, was kidnaped and drowned in Delaware Park Lake June 23.

But Mrs. Georgia Jolls also expressed some doubts that her daughter, being held as the prime suspect in the Ashley kidnap-slaying, could have done "this horrible thing."

"I just can't bring myself to believe she did," the mother of the 15-year-old North Buffalo schoolgirl said.

Mrs. Jolls made the comments to a Courier-Express reporter yesterday afternoon. With her in the second-floor flat at 21 Leroy Ave., were her husband, Howard; their daughter, Nora, 14; and Mrs. Joll's sister, Mrs. Estelle Ott of Welland, Ont.

Mrs. Jolls was interviewed after she and her sister returned from Meyer Memorial Hospital where Chyrel was committed early yesterday for psychiatric examinations.

She said Chyrel appeared to be "very upset" during their visit to the hospital.

Mrs. Jolls continued: "She told me, 'Now I've hurt you, and you must be mad at me.'" The mother said she assured her daughter that she was not angry, but did not give any other details of the hospital visit.

Chyrel lived in several fos-

MRS. JOLLS

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Mrs. Jolls Doubts Guilt Of Daughter

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ter homes in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties before coming to Buffalo. Chyrel and her sister, Nora, lived with the parents on Leroy Ave. while three younger brothers and sisters still are in foster homes. Two older Jolls children do not live at home and their whereabouts were not given.

"I've said there was something wrong with Chyrel for 10 years," Mrs. Jolls said. She and Mrs. Ott said Chyrel was brought to the attention of various welfare agencies, but "nothing was ever done about her."

Three or four years ago, Mrs. Ott recalled, Chyrel was sent to Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester "for observation because of difficulties she was having in the foster homes." The difficulties were not specified.

Mrs. Ott said that when Chyrel was released from the hospital she tried to bring her to Welland to live with her family. But, she explained, the Canadian immigration authorities refused to admit her to Canada because "I had too many responsibilities with my seven children."

Chyrel's father, Howard Jolls, is a middle-aged man of small build with greying hair. He described himself as "a former alcoholic but I don't drink now." He is unemployed.

Jolls said he questioned his daughter about the Ashley case after she was brought home by FBI agents after being caught making a phone call to Mrs. Ashley Sunday, June 25, shortly before Andrew Ashley's body was found.

"I tried to pump it out of her," Jolls said. "She told me a few things, but there was quite a lot she was covering up."

What was she covering up? Jolls was asked.

Without answering, he walked out of the living room and remained in the kitchen until the reporters left.

The Rev. Donald A. Swartz of the Prospect Ave. Baptist Church spent most of the afternoon at the Jolls' home consoling the perplexed parents.

He said Mrs. Jolls has been a member of his church for about two years. Neither Chyrel nor any other member of the family attended services there, he added.

Mrs. Jolls works in the cafeteria of Buffalo General Hospital, the same hospital where Mrs. Ashley worked as a nurse before her son was abducted and killed. Mrs. Jolls said she did not know Mrs. Ashley.

MURDER
ANDREW T. ASHLEY
JUNE 23, 1961

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