

Strands in Helmet

JUL 6 - 1961

SHLEY

MURDER

ASHLEY

6-23-

Like Chyrel's Hair

Hair Test Bolsters Case

Chyrel Facing Kidnaping Charge

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Andrew T. Ashley one day after the Edgington abduction.

However, neither the Ashley murder nor the kidnaping of another 5-year-old, Susan Benedict, last April 23, is mentioned in the warrant.

Chyrel, 15, has been considered by police as a prime suspect in all three cases since Monday, when she was taken into custody for the third time.

Three Cases Cited

The Ashley boy's body, bound and gagged, was found floating in Delaware Park Lake June 25. The Edgington boy had been led by his abductor on a tour through the park before he was left bound and gagged in a railroad right-of-way June 22. The Benedict girl, who lives at 299 Tacoma Ave., was left bound and gagged near some railroad tracks April 23.

Dist. Atty. Carman F. Ball advised issuance of the Edgington kidnaping warrant at the conclusion of a lengthy meeting in his office last night.

However, the district attorney said:

"In the cases involving the killing of Andrew Ashley and the kidnaping of Susan Benedict, I advised them (the police officials) that at this stage of the investigation I do not feel there is sufficient evidence to secure a warrant for her arrest."

3 1/2-Hour Conference

The top-level conference at County Hall lasted 3 1/2 hours. Chyrel's 14-year-old sister, Norma, was taken into the conference room during the session, but no explanation for her appearance was given. Another girl, believed to be a cousin, also was interviewed.

Attending the session were Commissioner Felicetta, Detective Chief Whalen, Assistant Detective Chief McCarthy and Lt. Thomas Hennessey.

Earlier, at Police Headquarters, Whalen said he was "positive" that Chyrel was the mystery woman who took Andrew Ashley from in front of his home at 195 Jewitt Pk.

Felicetta said the investigation is still centered around the Jolls girl. Whalen said the evidence gathered, while not enough to secure a murder warrant, still makes her "the prime suspect."

Crude Map Captioned

The crudely-sketched map recovered by police in Chyrel's home was captioned: "The way I went last Friday." It traced a path from the girl's home to Delaware Park Lake and back—a path which took her by the Ashley home. Police believe the Friday was June 23, the day Andrew was abducted and murdered.

Whalen's opinion was echoed by McCarthy, who is head of the Homicide Bureau. Both officers also expressed the belief that Chyrel was responsible for the Benedict abduction two months earlier.

Also examined was a book entitled "Claudia & David," by Rose Franken, which police said contained several marked passages about people falling into water and drowning, and several more notations about strangulation using a plastic bag.

The abductor of Richard Edgington wrapped his head in a plastic cleaning bag, but holes in the bag kept the boy from suffocating.

Also found was a pencil-scrawled beginning of a letter. The letter, addressed to an unidentified clergyman, is reported to have begun:

"Dear Rev. . . . I am writing because I am in trouble and would like to talk. . . ." The letter and the sentence were apparently never finished.

Two color pictures, clipped from a brush company catalog, were found in Chyrel's room. The pictures portrayed a man washing a baby in a small tub, and another domestic scene with a father and an infant.

Other Items Examined

Police closely examined other items found in the Jolls home, in addition to the crude map.

The other items included two sheets of paper, of the type used by school children for

yesterday gave a statement to police. In it, she reportedly said Chyrel, who occasionally stayed at the Ott home weekends took one of her children for a walk and later reported the child missing.

Mrs. Ott said her child, a small boy at the time of the incident a few years ago, was later found bound hand and foot in a small rear room of the Ott home. Chyrel denied she tied the boy, but Mrs. Ott told police she was sure the girl had done so.

Mrs. Ott also said the girl became violent on one occasion when told there was no mail from her father, hospitalized at the time.

Chief Whalen said psychiatrists have reported the girl, if she is guilty of the murder and abductions, may never admit them because "it is entirely possible she consciously may never remember them."

Whalen said he questioned the girl at great length and found her to be antagonistic. He said she showed no emotion when she looked at photos of Andrew Ashley's body on the banks of the lake, but turned and said:

"What am I supposed to do—jump up and down?"

Chyrel, who recently completed seventh grade at School 54, is about three years behind her age group. She has received treatment for mental illness at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester; Newark State Hospital and the Good Shepherd Home.

She was questioned about any implication in a \$200 fire started at the Good Shepherd Home when she was there as a 12-year-old. Arson Squad Det. Sgt. Fred Thomasula described her attitude at that time as "very antagonistic."

FBI Report On Lab Test Is Received

Girl to Face Kidnap Charge

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said last night that hair strands found in the play helmet of abducted 5-year-old Richard Edgington have the same characteristics as Chyrel Jolls' hair.

The report from the FBI laboratory in Washington, D.C., was made as Buffalo police assembled evidence to obtain a warrant charging Chyrel with kidnaping Richard on June 22.

The warrant will be sought in City Court this morning in the wake of a lengthy conference of police officials and the district attorney's office yesterday.

The FBI report said the hair strands found in Richard's helmet have the same characteristics as Chyrel's hair, but added that they could match identical hair characteristics from another person.

Buffalo police, however, accepted the FBI report as further evidence in their case against the 15-year-old North Buffalo girl.

Service of the warrant will be withheld pending completion of psychiatric examinations of

DA Asks Aid Of Camera Fans

District Atty. Carman F. Ball yesterday appealed to camera hobbyists for help in the investigation of the abductions of Susan Benedict,

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reference room during the session but no explanation for her appearance was given. Another girl, believed to be a cousin, also was interviewed.

Attending the session were Commissioner Felicetta, Detective Chief Whalen, Assistant Detective Chief McCarthy and Lt. Thomas Hennessey.

Earlier, at Police Headquarters, Whalen said he was "positive" that Chyrel was the mystery woman who took Andrew Ashley from in front of his home at 195 Jewitt Pky. and threw him into Delaware Park Lake.

Court Move Set

At the request of Dist. Atty. Ball, Detective Chief Walden said he will appear in City Court this morning to obtain a warrant charging Chyrel with kidnaping. He will lay information, including statements taken from the Edgington boy and three adult witnesses, which Ball says will be sufficient to obtain the warrant. It will charge the Jolls girl kidnaped Richard Edgington.

No charges will be placed against Chyrel until such time as she is released from Meyer Memorial Hospital. She was sent there on the request of the girl's mother for examination.

Should a group of at least three psychiatrists find she is insane then she will be taken before a County Court judge, the only person who can commit her to a mental institution. If this happens, it is possible the kidnaping warrant may not be served.

Should the judge decide the girl could be held on the charge, then and only then will police be able to take her into custody and book her on a charge of kidnaping.

Meanwhile, Det. Chief Whalen said the Ashley murder investigation will continue just as vigorously, but both he and Police Commissioner Frank N.

when she was as a 12-year-old. Arson Squad Det. Sgt. Fred Thomasula described her attitude at that time as "very antagonistic."

Two color pictures, clipped from a brush company catalog, were found in Cheryl's room. The pictures portrayed a man washing a baby in a small tub, and another domestic scene with a father and an infant.

Other Items Examined

Police closely examined other items found in the Jolls home, in addition to the crude map.

The other items included two sheets of paper, of the type used by school children for compositions, upon which Chyrel had written a sort of diary of her activities for several months before, and several days following the Ashley murder. It was entitled "An account of my life . . . and why I do things," and included her name, age, birthdate, place of birth and parents' names. Police sources said the notes contained the girl's personal opinions that she was a "good girl" and that to prove it "she would even die."

In one passage police reported the girl wrote: "I did call the home of the Alishys (Ashleys) and I told them their little boy was fine."

Police believe the call referred to was the one the girl admitted making before the boy's body was found. She was apprehended at that time by FBI agents, who had put a tracer on the Ashley phone shortly after the boy was reported missing. She was questioned at that time, and two additional times, but was released on each occasion because she did not fit the existing police description of the killer.

Put In Hospital

Chyrel, taken into police custody three times before she was picked up by Lt. Hennessey, was committed to Meyer Memorial Hospital by her mother, Mrs. Georgia Jolls, early Tuesday. Police believe a charge, if one is placed, will come after her release in "two or three weeks."

As the case against Chyrel mounted, several more persons who claim to have seen her the days Richard and Andrew were taken, made statements to police.

Yesterday, two 12-year-old Colvin Ave. boys told homicide police they saw Chyrel walking along the New York Central tracks near Greenfield toward Amherst. The boys, Paul A. Clarke, and Cyril Tayler, both of 98 Colvin Ave., and schoolmates of Chyrel's at school 54, Main and LeRoy, said they saw and recognized her as she walked along the tracks holding a little boy by the hand. They said they saw her the afternoon of June 22, the day Richard Edgington was kidnaped and left tied near the tracks not far from where the boys say they saw her.

Police already have taken several statements from several unidentified witnesses who say they saw Chyrel in the Delaware Park Lake area on the day Andrew Ashley was murdered.

An aunt of the girl, Mrs. Estelle Ott, of Welland, Ont.,

against the 15-year-old North Buffalo girl.

Service of the warrant will be withheld pending completion of psychiatric examinations of

DA Asks Aid Of Camera Fans

District Atty. Carman F. Ball yesterday appealed to camera hobbyists for help in the investigation of the abductions of Susan Benedict, Richard Edgington and Andrew T. Ashley.

His plea:

"I urge anyone who took photos in the general area of Delaware Park or Starin or Taunton on April 23, June 22 or June 23 to closely examine their prints to determine if they show anyone with a child in the background.

If they do have such prints, they should submit them to the Buffalo Police Department for study as the photographs might prove valuable in the investigation."

the girl being conducted at Meyer Memorial Hospital, the officials agreed.

Meanwhile, a pen-scratched map on a piece of blue paper, found in the girl's home at 21 Leroy Ave., has convinced Det. Chief John J. Whalen and John D. McCarthy, Homicide Bureau chief, that she was responsible for the kidnap-slaying of 3½-year-old

CHYREL FACING
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