

MURDER
ANDREW T. ASHLEY
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Uncle Believes Girl Innocent of Killing

58

By DICK BALDWIN

The 15-year-old chief suspect in the Ashley kidnap-murder has appeared emotionally upset for at least the last two years, her uncle said yesterday.

John W. Palmer, uncle of Chyrel Jolls of 21 Leroy Ave., said he has been unsuccessfully attempting to arrange psychiatric aid for Chyrel almost from the time the Jolls family moved to Buffalo two years ago.

Palmer added, however, that he does not believe Chyrel was involved in the slaying of little Andrew T. Ashley nor in two earlier kidnappings here. The suspect's uncle said he has been trying, in his own way, to help Chyrel. He explained:

"I know she needs help; but where is the help coming from? I have asked in lots of places for help, but everyone seems to pass the buck to someone else; they just want to wash their hands of it."

The uncle said he had asked public, private and religious groups, United Fund agencies and private physicians to provide help or to refer Chyrel to a psychiatrist. However, he said, he didn't know of any psychiatrist whom he could consult.

Urges State Facility For Care of Children

Palmer said:

"This is society's problem. Chyrel was in a hospital for about a month just before she came to Buffalo, but I guess they couldn't find anything wrong with her.

"There should be a state hospital for children with problems like little Chyrel's. She shouldn't be sent to Buffalo State, with a lot of adults who have been there 20 years or more. She needs someone who understands her and who will try to help her, instead of someone who just wants to collect a paycheck from the state."

Chyrel's uncle said the girl spent alternate weekends with Palmer and his wife, Jean, in their neat, second-story apartment at 510 Tacoma Ave. "This is her second home," he said.

Palmer said Mr. and Mrs. Jolls and their seven children lived at Dayton, South Dayton, Ellington and other place in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties before moving to Buffalo. Mrs. Jolls, who is Palmer's sister, is a cafeteria employe at Buffalo General Hospital.

Chyrel's father, an electrician, has been unemployed for several years because of illness,

Palmer said. He added that Jolls is recovering, and is seeking work. Police said three of the seven children are in foster homes.

Advised Her Against Working As Babysitter

Although the suspect never has been in any serious trouble nor connected with any violence, her uncle said Chyrel often appeared nervous and withdrawn. "She sometimes would wring her hands violently while she was talking; her problems were too deep for me," he said.

Palmer said Chyrel spent considerable time at his apartment because he had offered her help "whenever she needed it." He said she sometimes would take the couple's year-old dog for walks around their North Buffalo neighborhood, and she was friendly with several children in the area.

Boys sometimes called at Palmer's home to take Chyrel on "milkshake dates" when she was spending a weekend with the Palmers, her uncle said.

However, he said he had advised her not to accept jobs babysitting for neighbors because he felt she was "too young" to take responsibility for anyone else's children. "There are plenty of 18-year-old girls around to do babysitting," he explained.

Palmer said he and Chyrel regularly attended Calvary Gospel Tabernacle, 1722 Main St. "When she was particularly upset, I sometimes would read to her from the Bible, and that would make her feel better," her uncle said.

Reports Niece Said She Gave Condolences

Although Chyrel never mentioned the two earlier child abductions in North Buffalo, she appeared interested in the Ashley boy's disappearance, Palmer said. Chyrel said she did not understand how anyone could "do such a thing," according to her uncle.

Palmer said his niece told him she had called the Ashley family to offer condolences after the boy disappeared.

"She said she didn't know who did it, but that she felt the boy would be returned unharmed," the uncle said. "Maybe she thought she might be able to help find him, but she wasn't among the volunteer searchers."

"Chyrel said she had talked with a woman resembling the description in the newspaper, but I think that was a figment of her imagination," Palmer said. He added that he never knew his niece to have had a lapse of memory.

"One reason I don't think Chyrel was involved is that I

... HAVE BEEN HER CALLING
candy on the street, and she
doesn't even like the kind of
candy which was offered to
Richard Edgington by his kid-
naper," Palmer explained.

59