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Front page
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Pretty Girl Stabbed And Garrotted

A tight-lipped young railroad switchman maintained a stubborn silence Tuesday about the reason for the sudden burst of rage in which he strangled his pretty ex-wife with an electric cord Monday night.

"She'd been lying to me," the 25-year-old killer, Daniel Pleas Parker, said over and over again to questioners at the police station, where he is held on a charge of murder. He would add no further explanation.

His victim was Mrs. Evelyn Allene Parker, also 25, a blue-eyed, blonde beautician, who had

also once worked as a night club photographer.

Her body, in a bright crimson strapless and beanie gown, was found on a bed in Apartment 2 at 1219 West Gray by Homicide Detectives B. Porter and W. W. Walker, who were led to the scene by Parker.

Completely around her neck was a thin blue discoloration, and beside her on the rumpled sheets was a six-foot-long cord to an electric fan. The fan had toppled to the floor from a chair beside the bed. Her dress and undergar-

ments had been pulled down to her waist.

Also on the floor, the homicide officers said, was a small, black-handled kitchen knife—its blade bent slight askew and bloody. There was a small knife wound in her back on the left side.

Justice W. C. Ragan, in whose court the murder charge against Parker was filed, said his inquest indicated the young woman first had been stabbed in the back and, when the knife blade bent, the killer grabbed up the electric cord, still attached to the fan, and choked her to death with it.

There were small bruises about her chin and on her hands, as if she had fought vainly to prevent the cord from cutting off life-giving breath.

"Death was due to strangulation," Judge Ragan said. "It was a killing in a burst of sudden rage."

Although Parker kept his own counsel as to the reason for his rage, he orally admitted to police and reporters that he had killed his ex-wife and told how he did it.

"I guess I did it on the spur of the moment," he told The Chronicle. "We were in the bedroom. Suddenly I pushed her on the bed. I grabbed one end of a cord to a fan she had sitting on a chair nearby and I wrapped it around her and tightened it. I don't remember seeing or using a knife."

"The next thing I recall was I came out of the apartment and I was sweating. I stood outside on the pavement I don't know how long."

He stopped and calmly puffed on a cigarette and a newsmen interrupted:

"Do you think you will get the chair?"

Parker looked judiciously at the cigarette tip.

"Could be," he said easily.

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Presidential Campaign

Ike Seeks Support In Minnesota

Cheered by standing-room-only crowds in Illinois and Indiana, Dwight D. Eisenhower Tuesday carried his campaign into Minnesota.

The Republican presidential nominee made 13 speeches before some 250,000 persons Monday. Top topic was what he calls Adlai

Mrs. Evelyn Allene Parker, electric fan cord on a bed in about midnight Monday.

Cervantes Still Sought in Slaying

DON HINGA
wing Editor

Alice, Sept. 16.—The hunt for Redo Cervantes, named last week as the trigger man in the assassination of Jacob S. Floyd, continued Tuesday despite the fact that charges of assault to which he was charged were dropped Monday by District Attorney Horace S. Dean, Jr.

Charges were filed against Nago Cervantes, law partner of District Attorney-Elect Raeburn Norris, and Mario Sapet, San Antonio tavern proprietor, are generally considered part of the legal maneuvering of this sensational murder case, which folks agree has its roots deep in political bitterness.

The new charges accuse Sapet and Cervantes of being accomplices of and conspiring with an "unknown person" to kill Floyd in the belief that he was killing the youth's father, prominent attorney and bitter foe of the Sheriff George DeVal political machine in Duval county.

Officers are tightlipped about this "unknown man" is.

Does this new charge mean you are hunting someone else besides Cervantes in this case?" District Attorney Dean was asked.

Do you dropping the hunt for Cervantes mean that?" Dean said. "I wouldn't say that." Dean said Sheriff Halsey Wright would say he took his orders from



USED IN SLAYING—Detective D. M. Fults above holds in his left hand an electric fan cord, which Daniel Parker, 25, said he used in strangling his pretty ex-wife in her apartment Monday night. Officers found a knife wound in her back and a small, black-handled kitchen knife, with bloody and bent blade, beside the dead woman's bed. Detective Fults holds the knife in his right hand.

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Beautician Strangled

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"I guess the state is going to spend some money on me."

"Old Man Ellis (Prison Director O. B. Ellis) will meet me at the gate and say, 'I've been waiting for you a long time.' I guess I'll get the reserved seat. I guess I'll have to pay. We'll see."

Then resuming the conversation, he and Mrs. Parker were married October 15, 1951.

"She got a divorce about three months ago, after we separated," he added. "Then about a month ago we made up and I came to her apartment to live with her. We planned to get married again."

Mrs. Parker had shared a two-bedroom apartment with Miss Joyce Marie Atkins, 24-year-old telephone operator.

Miss Atkins in a written statement to police said that she and his ex-wife had been reconciled about six weeks ago and moved into Mrs. Parker's room.

She gave a dramatic account of how she reached the apartment in a taxicab, apparently shortly after Parker's wife was strangled.

"I saw Daniel standing in front of the apartment," she

said. "He was calm and asked me to take him to Kelley's cafe in my cab. We both got in the back seat of the cab and I told the driver to take us there."

"While we were riding alone Daniel said, 'Well, Joyce! I did it.' I asked what he meant. He said, 'I killed Allene.'"

"I did not know what to think about what he had told me and was reluctant to believe him. When the cab got to Kelley's he got out without saying anything and went in. I told the cab driver to take me to 1930 West Dallas to the home of Allene's mother."

"But she was not there. I then went to her grandmother's house on Pecore and got her to come back with me to my house."

"When we got there, the police were already there. I went in and saw Allene lying on the bed and Daniel sitting in a chair. I asked why he did this and he just looked at the floor and didn't say anything."

Homicide Detective Porter, an acquaintance of Parker for a number of years, said he received a personal call from Parker short-

ly before midnight as he was on duty at the police station.

"Parker told me," Porter said, "to come to Kelley's cafe at 910 Texas to get him. I asked why I should. He replied, 'I murdered my wife about 30 minutes ago and I am now at Kelley's drinking coffee and I want you to come after me.'"

"I asked him over the phone why he had killed her and he said, 'Oh! She was lying to me.' I then asked how he killed her and he replied calmly, 'I choked her to death with an electric cord and left her in our apartment at 1215 West Gray.'"

Detective Porter said he told Parker to wait for him and, without knowing whether the man's story was true or false, sped to the cafe with his partner. Detective Walker. Officer Porter added:

"We found Parker seated on a stool in front of the restaurant drinking coffee. He was neatly dressed in a light tan, small-checked suit and tan hat. He did not look to me like a man who had just killed his wife."

"When he saw us, he asked if we wanted coffee. We told him it could wait until we finished our investigation, as we didn't know if his wife was really dead. Then he said, 'Well, come on! Let's go out there and get it over with.'"

"We asked how he knew she was dead. And he replied that he had been in service in Europe in the last war and had seen a lot of dead people."

The officers added that they drove out to the West Gray apartment with Parker sitting calmly and silently between them; that he led them straight to the first floor apartment, threw back the French doors to his wife's bedroom, and stepped back and pointed.

"There she is," the two officers quoted him as saying to them.

In his account of the events leading up to the slaying, the railroad switchman told the Chronicle that he and his wife had argued several times during the day Monday, and early in the night went to a grocery store and then returned to the apartment, where they argued again.

"I went to town," he continued, "and spent several hours. I had a couple of beers and I got home between 10 and 10:30 p.m., and we had another argument."

It was then, Parker added, that in a sudden rage he strangled her.

"Why?" he was asked then.

"She'd been lying to me," he said calmly, puffing on a cigarette.

Parker told reporters that Mrs. Parker had been married and divorced once before he met her. He said they met when he got out of the army in 1948, after serving four years, most of it in Europe.

The young woman's grandmother, Mrs. Mollie M. Hafer of 523 Pecore, confirmed that her granddaughter had been married and divorced twice. She, too, said the Parkers recently had been reconciled and planned to remarry.

Cervantes Still Sought In Slaying

(Continued from Page One)

found, but probably for different reasons."

Meanwhile, Alaniz and Sapet remained in Jim Wells County Jail—Alaniz in a private cell and Sapet in a tank with a dim-witted youth awaiting commitment to state mental hospital, a man accused of assault and another with a second offense of swindling against him. Though both in identical charges, conspiracy to commit murder, accomplice murder and murder, there apparently is a degree of caste, involvement in where they wait for their examining trials, which are set Wednesday.

The defense expected to prove at the examining trial that Sapet met Cervantes casually in the Crystal Bar in Corpus Christi on the afternoon of the day that young Floyd was killed.

Sapet is reported to have been feeling badly—he suffers from epileptic fits—and to have decided to take a bus back to San Antonio, lending his green Packard automobile, which is said to have been the getaway car of the killer, to Cervantes.

Sapet is said to have left Corpus on a corner in Corpus Christi and walked to the Ways Bus Station. He got there around 5 p.m. and waited until the 5:40 bus left for San Antonio.

Sapet has told officers that he loaned Cervantes the car for a trip to Laredo. The most direct route from Corpus to Laredo passes through Alice.

A green Packard is reported to have been seen near the Flo home during the afternoon of September 8 and also reported to have been seen leaving the Flo neighborhood immediately after the killing that night.

Sapet is said to have left the bus station in San Antonio to go to a friend, Night Sergeant Arthur Villareal.

The next morning a friend who hangs around the sheriff's department telephoned Sapet that Tex Ranger Zeno Smith was looking for him.

Sees Ranger

"I'll come right down and see what he wants," Sapet is quoted as saying.

When he walked into the sheriff's office, he is reported to have walked up to Smith and said, "Are you looking for me?"

"No," Smith is said to have replied. "But this fellow is."

"This fellow" was a deputy sheriff from Alice who put Sapet in his car and drove him to Georgetown, where Sapet was placed in jail. It was there that District Attorney Homer DeJr. took a written statement which told in detail of Sapet's movements on the day of the killing.

Fred Semman, attorney for Sapet, said "Sapet has a very good reason for landing his case to Cervantes and we will explain this reason at the proper time."

Semman said that if Justice Fuller refused to grant his appeal at the examining trial Wednesday, he will immediately seek a writ of habeas corpus free him.

If there is any of what Semman terms "undue delay" in ruling the habeas corpus writ, Semman said, "We will go to Austin. They can hear a writ there."

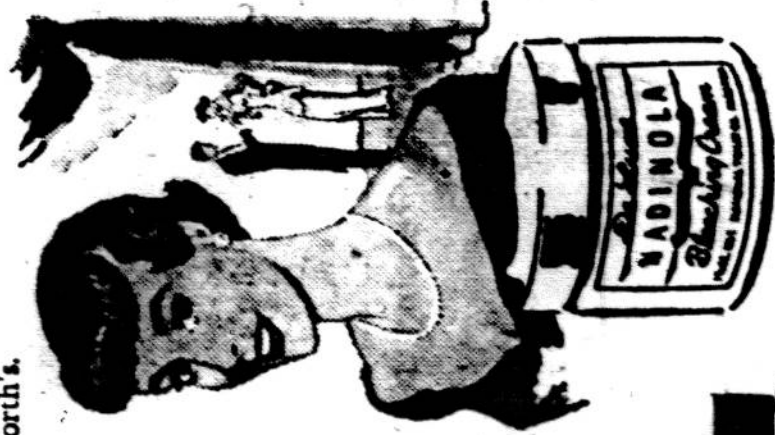
"What would you call an undue delay?" he was asked. "I would consider anything over

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