

2 Women Entertainers Slain In Motel

Accused Ex-Con Says Both Owed Him Money

SEP 21 1954 E

A 40-year-old Peoria man who has served two jail sentences in recent years for soliciting for prostitutes is charged with murdering two women who he says owed him money.

Arthur (Shoeshine) Anderson, 616 W. 6th Ave., has been identified as the man who shot two women in the head about 6:15 a. m. yesterday at the Heights Motel, 4016 New York Ave. The place has been raided on an average of once a year since 1957 as a house of prostitution.

THE VICTIMS have been identified as Mrs. Dorrie Coley, 25, a Negro entertainer at Mike & Mike's Show Lounge, and Marjorie Hurd, 30, a white woman, believed to have been working here as an entertainer.

The Coley woman is said to have come here from Little Rock, Ark., about a year ago, and the Hurd woman from Hurley, Wis.

Sheriff Ray Trunk said today that he has tried to question Anderson about the shooting, but hasn't had any success. Anderson has been arrested nearly 100 times in Peoria and vicinity since 1940.

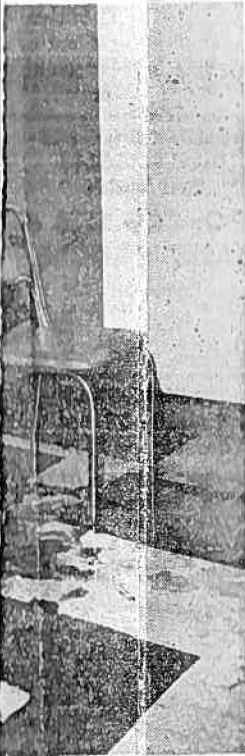
Trunk said "He (Anderson) won't admit anything. He just shuts up and says 'I've got nothing to say.'"

He doesn't believe prostitution was involved in the case, Trunk said.

ANDERSON was arrested about 9:30 last night at a Peoria Heights service station where he had gone and called a cab. He did admit to Trunk that he had been hiding "near the railroad tracks" all day yesterday.

Both women were shot in the head at close range with what Trunk says was a .45-automatic pistol.

The weapon hasn't been found.



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Trunk said he doesn't know where it is, and Anderson won't tell him.

TRUNK SAID Anderson did tell him that Mrs. Coley owed him "some \$40." Trunk said Anderson admitted that he had told the women in two or three places, prior to the shooting, that she owed him money.

The sheriff has questioned Carbristo (Bris) Collins, ex-convict who owns the property, and his wife, Ernestine, who held the liquor license which was revoked.

Trunk said Collins and his wife told him they weren't in the place at the time of the shooting, so they couldn't shed any light on it.

THE SHERIFF also has questioned Shirley MacDonald, 27, sister of Mrs. Collins and known as the manager of the motel, and her brother, Agnew McDonald, 35, described as a motel resident.

County deputies were told McDonald was seated with the two women at the table when Anderson entered through a rear door.

Witnesses told the deputies that Anderson walked up to the women, and demanded that they give him money which he said they owed him. They said when the women told Anderson they didn't have any money there was a brief argument, and then Anderson pulled the pistol.

Mrs. Coley was shot twice in the face, and Miss Hurd in the head.

THE WITNESSES said they ran for cover, and that Anderson ran from the room, and tried to start a car owned by Collins. When he couldn't get it started, he jumped out and fled between the houses, they reported.

The McDonald woman called county police. They found Mrs. Coley slumped in a chair, bleeding from a massive head wound. She was pronounced dead at St. Francis hospital about 6:40 a. m.

The Hurd woman was found lying on the floor, about four feet from the table. She died at the hospital at 6:55 a. m.

A search began immediately for Anderson, and city police dogs were brought to the scene but weren't able to pick up Anderson's trail.

A rumor that Anderson had left Peoria by bus was checked by state police, but it was found that he wasn't on the bus at Pontiac where it was halted.

ANDERSON WAS caught about six blocks from the motel.

He went into the Clark service station at 4430 Prospect Rd. and called for a cab. The cab driver, upon reaching the station, recognized Anderson and instead drove on and called the city police, who in turn notified Peoria Heights police.

Peoria Heights policemen Ned Pendleton went to the station, and took Anderson into custody without trouble. Pendleton said Anderson wasn't armed, and didn't resist arrest.

Trunk said three spent cartridges and two slugs were found at the scene. The bullets had gone through the women's heads.

Two bullet holes also were found in the walls of the small barroom. Witnesses said Anderson fired at least four times.

ANDERSON today was taken into Police Court and ordered held for the grand jury.

A man who got his nickname from the days of his youth when he was a shoeshine boy Anderson has been arrested three times in the past year at a half for carrying guns on shooting them. He was fined for two of these crimes.

In the third case, last Octo-

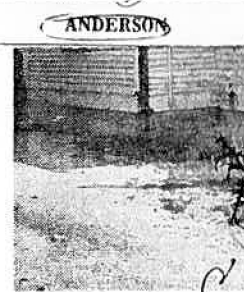
ber, Anderson and an operator of houses of prostitution when Anderson pulled out his .38 pistol and fired a shot into the woman's head. This happened in the heart of the Go-Round district, Peoria. The State's Attorney's Office, the State's Attorney's Court said to show why for this offense Anderson was sent to jail in 1962 when he finished serving the second of two terms for soliciting for prostitutes.

In 1956 he was released from prison after serving five years for robbery.

He also has been punished since 1940 for stealing, gambling, posing as a soldier, vagrancy, and for carrying guns.

Mrs. Coley's body was removed to Simons Mortuary where funeral arrangements are being made.

MISS HURD'S body was taken to Gauss Mortuary and will be transferred later to Merrill. Wis.



THE SCENE of a double murder at the Heights Motel (above) at 4016 New York Ave. Two women, were sitting at the table when they were shot.