



—Bert Winford Photo

Oceanside police detective, Don Brown, inspects bullet hole through windshield of taxicab of Raymond Davis, 29, whose body was found in alley.

BODY FOUND IN ALLEY

Oceanside Cabby Slain In Mystery

OCEANSIDE—A 29-year-old cab driver was found shot to death early yesterday in an alley in the fashionable St. Malo Beach area.



Davis "Dance with the Dead," a paperback book, was discovered on the front seat of his taxi when it was recovered 15 blocks away in the same alley nearly five hours later.

Police Chief William H. Wingard said neither a motive nor a suspect could be established in the slaying of Ray Davis of 525 S. Tremont St.

Patrolman Terry Stephens found the body at 1:45 a.m. lying in the middle of an alley behind the home of former Mayor Joe MacDonald at 1926 S. Pacific St.

Across the street are the homes of Mayor Erwin Sklar and Thomas W. Braden, president of the state Board of Education.

An autopsy revealed that a .22-caliber pistol bullet fired at close range into Davis' back caused death. A second bullet in the back of his head would have proved fatal. Both bullets were recovered from the body.

A third shot went through the windshield on the driver's

side. All apparently were fired from the back seat, police said.

Wingard said Davis radioed the cab company dispatcher, Lowell Sikes of 161 Hillcrest Drive, Leucadia, at 11:10 p.m. to say he was driving a fare to south Oceanside. The cab driver did not specify whether his fare was a man or woman or more than one person, Wingard said.

Residents in the area where the body was found have not reported hearing shots, the chief added.

Davis' wallet containing \$9 and apparently not rifled was found in the cab. Thirty cents and a bloody trip ticket were lying by Davis' body.

Detective Don Brown said the meter showed \$2.20, the approximate fare from downtown to south Oceanside and back to the point where it was abandoned.

Brown said Davis was separated from his wife, who lives in Pomona.

Police Search For Clues In Taxi Slaying

OCEANSIDE — Police searched the St. Malo Beach area yesterday for clues in the slaying of a 29-year-old cab driver in his taxi about midnight Tuesday.

Police Capt. Ward Ratcliff said every available man has been assigned to solve the shooting of Ray Davis of 525 S. Tremont St. Davis was shot in the back and head with a .22-caliber pistol as he sat in the driver's seat of his cab.

Ratcliff said an autopsy established that Davis was killed shortly after radioing his dispatcher he had picked up a fare at Mission Avenue and Hill Street and was bound for the beachfront area. The abandoned cab was found 15 blocks away five hours later.

Detective Don Brown said the likelihood of robbery is being investigated. Davis' pants pockets appeared to have been rifled and 40 cents was near the body, found in an alley behind the 1900 block of S. Pacific St. However, \$3 in a shirt pocket was untouched.

Davis' wallet was found in the cab, in an alley behind the 400 block of S. Pacific St.

Davis, who was separated from his wife, lived with a brother, Jack, a Camp Pendleton civilian employe, and his wife. Mrs. Ray Davis lives in Pomona.

NORTH COAST

Oceanside Gets 2nd Bus Threat

OCEANSIDE — Security for city buses was tightened yesterday as a second threat to kill a driver was made by an anonymous caller who claims he murdered a cab driver here April 10.

Sentries, meanwhile, for the third night rode city buses operating in Camp Pendleton to the north, where 27,000 Marines are stationed.

"Tonight's the night I'm going to kill that bus driver," the caller was quoted as telling a housewife yesterday. "Call the police," he told her.

Cab driver Ray Davis, 29, was shot to death in an alley late last Tuesday or early Wednesday. Motives and suspects have yet to be established, according to police.

Police Chief William H. Wingard said his department lacks the manpower to assign officers to buses traveling 3,000 miles daily in the Oceanside-Carlsbad area and to Vista, Fallbrook and Escondido.

Patrol units were alerted to keep buses and taxi cabs under surveillance, Wingard said.

Oscar Hatle, bus lines superintendent, said drivers would have companions assigned from the city Transportation Department beginning last night "wherever necessary."

Most buses making night runs also have two-way radios, Hatle said.

The last bus from Camp

Pendleton returns to the city about 4:30 a.m.

Two dozen military policemen were detailed to ride buses inside the base beginning Sunday night. A base spokesman described the assignment as a "temporary" measure.

City Mgr. Franklin W. Lilley said Hatle had been given "blanket authority to take whatever steps necessary."

Hatle said all schedules are running on time.

Bus Guards Ended At Camp Pendleton

OCEANSIDE — Guarding city buses operating at Camp Pendleton was suspended yesterday by the Marine Corps as tension over the threatened killing of a bus driver slackened.

A base spokesman said military policemen on buses in the 195-square-mile camp at the north city limits would not be resumed "unless the

situation changes radically."

An anonymous caller told police Sunday night he killed cab driver Ray Davis, 29, in South Oceanside April 10 and planned "to get me a bus driver."

Officers believe the same man called police the night before Davis was shot in the back and head to say he planned a crime which would never be solved.

Police Chief William H. Wingard issued a warning to cab and bus drivers and sentries were posted on the buses Sunday night.

Wingard said yesterday the investigation into Davis' slaying was continuing, but detectives had discovered no enemies of the cabbie.

"There is an absence of any reason for the killing," he said.

Wingard said surveillance of buses and cabs by patrol units would continue.

"We have no reason to disbelieve the calls," he said.

Oscar Hatle, city bus lines superintendent, said, "The situation still exists . . . We are taking no unnecessary chances."

Two drivers are being assigned to buses on lonely runs. City buses run from Escondido on the south to San Onofre near the Orange County line.

Hatle described drivers' reaction to the situation as "more alertness than tension. I'm proud of them."

He added that the calls "probably came from a crank caller."

A third call received by police Tuesday warned that a bus driver would be killed that night. Police reported no incidents.

Marine Identified In 2 Cab Holdups

By PETER EDEN

OCEANSIDE — A Camp Pendleton Marine charged with six cabbie robberies in Compton was identified yesterday as the bandit who robbed at least two taxi drivers here, police said.

Detective Floyd R. Flowers said the latest two victims here identified Riley Andrew Coates, 20, Joseph Dean Hart, 23, of Encinitas, robbed Saturday night, and Chris J. Van Essen, 47, who lives here, viewed the suspect at Los Angeles County Jail, Flowers said. Van Essen was robbed Aug. 7.

A series of seven cabbie robberies started here March 28 when a young Negro armed with a razor held up a driver. All robberies were at night after drivers picked up a single fare in downtown Oceanside.

The second robbery ended in the murder of Ray Davis, 28, whose body was dumped in a south Oceanside alley April 10.

Davis' killing set off telephone calls to police by a man threatening "to get me a bus driver next." Marine military police rode city

buses to Camp Pendleton as a precaution and police patrols were tightened.

Flowers said Coates has admitted nothing. Six victims in Compton also have identified him. He was arrested Sunday night in Compton when he ran through a police "stake out" for auto thieves. When Coates refused to halt at police warning, the officers gave chase.

Coates was found hiding under a bush with a .45 caliber pistol. Detective Sgt. E. C. Michel said the pistol was stolen from Camp Pendleton April 17. Davis was killed with a .22-caliber pistol, ballistics tests showed.

Police Chief Ward K. Ratcliff said fingerprints taken from Davis' cab, abandoned two miles from the body, will be compared with Coates'. The cab had been washed by an attendant a few hours before the shooting, eliminating many prior fingerprints.

Ratcliff said at least a two-count felony complaint will be sought against Coates. He is held in Los Angeles pending preliminary hearing Nov. 29 on the Compton charges.

Prints Fail To Match In Slaying Case

OCEANSIDE —Fingerprints of the prime suspect in the unsolved Ray Davis cabbie murder did not match any taken from the taxi the night of the slaying.

Detective Sgt. E. C. Michel said yesterday that prints of Riley Andrew Coates, 20, a Camp Pendleton Marine, were compared to several from the cab at the state crime laboratory in Sacramento.

Coates, meantime, is being prosecuted for five Compton cab robberies. A separate complaint was filed here charging three more.

Michel said Coates confessed to three here, two at Camp Pendleton and 10 in the Los Angeles area. He denied shooting Davis April 10 and dumping his body in a South Oceanside alley.