

SAN DIEGO

December 31, 1968

15.05.1

Thomas E. Joyce  
Sheriff  
Solano County  
1350 Virginia Street  
Vallejo, California

Attention: Detective Sgt. Lundblad

Reference: 14 FFB 12-23-68 APB BC-10

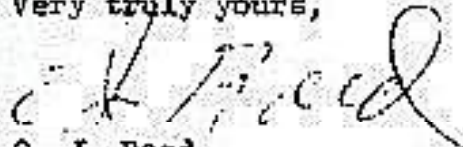
Dear Sir:

This is in reference to the telephone conversation of December 24, 1968 with Sgt. C. R. Schilder regarding a double homicide occurring in your city on December 20, 1968.

Enclosed is a synopsis of a similar case occurring in San Diego on February 5, 1964. The weapon used was apparently a 22 Remington-Union Model 550-1. Please forward one of the cartridge cases recovered so that it can be compared with ours.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,



O. J. Roed  
Chief of Police

Enclosure

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICER'S REPORT concerning INVESTIGATION AND ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING MURDER CASES.

AL-3161 and AL-3162

Victims: Joyce and Johnny SWINDLE

Johnny Ray SWINDLE was a twenty year old third class Radioman attached to the USS Chevalier, DD 805, currently operating out of the U.S. Naval Station, Bremerton, Washington.

Johnny was born in Towley, Alabama on July 4, 1942, the son of Mary and the late Alava SWINDLE. He enlisted in the Navy at Birmingham, Alabama on December 14, 1960. He was at Recruit Training at U.S. NTC, San Diego from December 15, 1960 until March 6, 1961. He then attended Radioman School at U.S. NTC. It was during this period that he became friendly with Murray and Peggy , who own and operate the Sandy Dollar Cafe at 2173 Abbott Street. Johnny spent much of his leisure time there while attending radio school.

In October, 1961 he was transferred to Naval Communication Station, Kodiak, Alaska. On January 5, 1960 he reported aboard the USS Hanson in San Diego. In the spring of 1963 the HANSON was on a cruise of the Far East and returned to San Diego in November, 1963. Johnny stayed at the San Vicente Inn at 5080 Newport from November 24th through November 30th. Lowell J. , who stayed in the adjoining room during the same time period, saw Johnny several times. On each occasion he was alone and watching television. never met or talked to SWINDLE and never saw anyone in his room. He has been described by everyone who knew him as a quiet, inoffensive, likeable person, not much of a conversationalist, a typical small-town boy.

Johnny spent much of his leisure time during December in and around the Sandy Dollar and at the apartment of Vickie and Margaret , two Canadian girls described as world travelers. Johnny and a friend, Doug , visited the girls numerous times; however, both girls and state that there was no sex activity. Vickie says she was somewhat older than Johnny and it is more like a brother and sister relationship. Miss returned to Canada on February 11, 1964 due to immigration difficulties but will return to San Diego in the spring. She left town before sufficient information was available to question her extensively about her relationship with Johnny SWINDLE. She will be interviewed on her return.

Johnny was also friendly with Ashley , an admitted homosexual. denies any involvement with Johnny and an intensive investigation along this line has thus far failed to develop anything to the contrary.

On January 3, 1964 Johnny rented the apartment at 5073 Voltaire and a shipmate, Marvin , helped him move in. On January 10, 1964 Johnny SWINDLE re-enlisted in the Navy for six years. He was paid \$976.00 reenlistment pay. He immediately left on thirty days leave for Jasper, Alabama to marry Joyce KEY, his sweetheart for several years and to whom he had been engaged since ~~January~~ February, 1961. While in Jasper Johnny bought a 1957 Buick in his mother's name. On January 18, 1964 Johnny and Joyce were married and on January 23rd left Jasper en route to

Officer's Name..... Badge..... Division.....

Officer's Name..... Badge..... Division.....

Date of Report..... Time.....

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAGE TWO

OFFICER'S REPORT concerning

San Diego. They stopped in New Orleans to visit Johnny's sister and left there on January 26th. They arrived in San Diego on January 29th and set up house-keeping at their apartment on Voltaire Street.

Joyce was fascinated by the ocean and she and Johnny went for nightly walks along the beach. They also went fishing on the beach with gear obtained at Navy Field, 5th and Harbor. As near as can be determined, the SWINDLES had no visitors at their apartment and kept pretty much to themselves. They did very little socializing except for a nightly coffee stop at the Sandy Dollar on the way back from the beach.

On the morning of February 5th Johnny paid the landlady, Marie , the rent and mentioned he would be glad to work for her around the apartments for a little extra money. As a result of this conversation, Mrs. put Johnny to work painting one of the apartments. They finished around 3PM and agreed to start painting again at 8AM the following morning. Johnny returned to his apartment and apparently he and Joyce remained there until they walked to the Ocean Beach business area around 7PM. Between 7 and 7:45PM Johnny bought a box of Valentine candy at Adler's Drug Store at Bacon and Newport.

From this point the SWINDLES' movements are unknown until they were found on the cement patio at the rear of the Silver Spray Apartments at approximately 8:40PM.

At approximately 8PM or shortly thereafter John parked his car at the foot of Newport and walked south on the boardwalk to the patio area where the SWINDLES were later found. While standing on the patio he observed a man about 50 or 60' south on the rocks. He paused for two or three minutes, then walked back to his car and left. states he at no time saw either Johnny or Joyce SWINDLE.

Shortly after 8PM Steve left his home at 4922 West Pt. Loma and drove to the 5000 block Newport where he bought a package of cigarettes. He then parked his car at the foot of Niagara and walked to the area at the rear of the Silver Spray. He observed the victims' bodies but due to his being there primarily to make a homosexual contact and not wanting to become involved with the police, he did not report the incident. He drove to the home of a friend, Salvador , 4971 Santa Monica. told about seeing the victims and suggested he return to the scene to see if he could help them. returned to the foot of Niagara and on seeing a crowd in the patio area he returned home, arriving shortly before 9PM. was questioned extensively and was given a polygraph examination which showed no deception regarding the murders.

At approximately 8:16PM Linda of 5062 Del Monte observed a man running full speed east on Del Monte in the 5000 block. This man probably was a witness to the shooting or the actual perpetrator. The SWINDLES were apparently shot after left the scene and just prior to 's arrival. This would coincide with Miss seeing the man running and fix the time of the murders

Officer's Name ..... Badge ..... Division.....

Officer's Name ..... Badge ..... Division.....

Date of this report ..... Time .....

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICER'S REPORT concerning..... PAGE THREE

at between 8:10 and 8:15PM.

At approximately 8:40PM Edward Taylor of 3652 Wawona Drive found the bodies and contacted Robert , who is the maintenance man at the Silver Spray. He in turn notified the manager, Mrs. , who called the police. After the police arrived, Bill , a resident of the Silver Spray and a casual acquaintance of Johnny SMITH, identified the bodies and indicated that Murray at the Sandy Dollar was well-acquainted with the victims. was contacted and he returned to the scene and identified Joyce. He also showed Officer BOYETTE where the SMITHS lived.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ACTUAL SHOOTING

The killer was crouched next to a concrete projection above the patio where the victims were standing. He was in total darkness and well hidden from any angle. The patio was illuminated enough to make identification of the victims by the killer a possibility and leave no doubt he knew the sex and approximate age of both victims.

An examination of the victims' wounds and considering the trajectory of the bullets, it is indicate that Joyce was shot first. The first or second shot struck her in the outer aspect of the upper left arm, going into the chest area and the other struck her in the left back area with the projectile going at a downward angle through the spine between thoracic vertebrae 8 and 9 (according to Dr. Robert Eggen, Chief Pathologist, the latter described wound would have caused paralysis to the victim). This explains why one of Joyce's feet was still partially in one of the sandals she was wearing and indicates that she never moved after being shot through the spine. At this point Johnny apparently turned toward the general direction of the killer and started to bend over Joyce. Johnny was then struck by two bullets. One entered the upper left arm at a downward angle and exited approximately 1 1/2" below the entrance wound. The projectile continued and entered the left thigh and lodged just beneath the skin in the rear lower thigh area. The other bullet struck him in the top of the head about 5" above the right eye at a downward angle, piercing the brain and coming to rest in the lower rear part of the head.

The killer then approached the fallen victims and shot them at close range. Johnny was shot in the left ear, leaving powder burns, with the projectile coming to rest just beneath the right lower eyelid. Joyce was shot almost squarely in the back of the head.

Two expended .22 cases were found near the victims heads on the patio. There were two lead smears on the seawall behind the victims at in a direct line from where the killer crouched. Also a lead fragment was found on the patio several feet from

Officer's Name..... Badge..... Division.....

Officer's Name..... Badge..... Division.....

Date of this report..... Time.....

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAGE FOUR

OFFICER'S REPORT concerning.....

the marks on the wall. The following morning five expended .22 cases were found adjacent to the concrete projections where the killer had been when he started shooting. The victims were struck by a total of six bullets. There were seven empty cases found and the two lead smears and the lead fragment behind the victim. This indicates that the killer fired at least seven times and probably eight. He missed at least once and probably twice.

According to witnesses, Johnny was still trying to lift himself up when the bodies were discovered which suggests the possibility that the coupe de grace was administered so that the assailant could complete the crime of robbery without resistance and/or to eliminate the possibility of identification by the victims. It is also possible that it was an entirely motiveless murder with robbery either a secondary motive, an afterthought or an attempt to confuse investigating officers.



Officer's Name ..... Sgt. E. C. Stevens ..... Badge ..... Division ..... HOMICIDE .....

Officer's Name ..... Badge ..... Division .....

Date of this report ..... 5/21/64 mjb ..... Time ..... 1:25PM .....