Psychopathic Sniper Hunted In 2 Slayings

Help Find Couple's Killer, Public Asked

By PLINY CASTANIEL

Police said yesterday a young sailor and his bride may have been shot to death by a psychopathic killer.

Because the sniper slayer may still be at large in San Diego, Police Chief Wesley S. Sharp requested the public to help find the slayer. The couple was killed Wednesday night in Ocean Beach.

"Everything in the investigation of this double murder points to a psychopathic killer," Sharp said. "We need all the help we can get from the public to locate the killer and his weapon."

SNIPER MOVES IN

Detectives said the two were first shot from a distance. Then, they said, the sniper moved in close to fire fatal shots in the head with a .22-caliber weapon.

The victims were Johnny R. Swindle, 20, and his bride, Joyce Ann, 19, of 5073 Voltaire St.

NEAR SEA

They were found on what is called a patio area of the Silver Spray apartments at 5116 Narragansett Ave., overlooking the sea. She was dead. He died two hours later in a hospital.

An open box of Valentine's Day candy was found on a ledge above her body. Detectives found the dead man's body on the beach three hours later.

Last night 18 detectives headed by Lt. Raymond Hoobler, continued the search for weapons and clues. Hoobler was called into the investigation after recently being promoted to lieutenant and transferred from homicide to the narcotics detail.

BULLET IN HEAD

An autopsy revealed Mrs. Swindle died instantly when a bullet struck her in the back of her head. Other bullets hit her under the left arm and in the left side of the back.

Detective Capt. Edwin De Bolt said relatives of the victims in Jasper, Ala., reported they knew of no enemies of the couple.

The relatives said Swindle married the girl next door whom he had known eight years, and they left five days after their wedding for San Diego, arriving here Jan. 30.

Sniper-Slayer Hunted

(Continued from a-17) where the victims were found. Two other casings were near the bodies.

These shell casings gave police some indication of how the couple was slain. Detectives said the sniper fired five shots from the cliff. Then the sniper approached and at close range fired fatal wounds into the heads.

"It is a possibility they were killed by someone they never knew," Homicide Lt. William Schenck said. "The landlord where they lived said they had no visitors since they moved in, and were a quiet couple.

The couple were married in Alabama Jan. 18 and were honeymooning here awaiting his reporting for duty aboard the radar picket ship Chevalier (DDR 805), now in Bremerton, Wash. They lived there a week at 5073 Voltaire St., nine blocks from where they were shot.

Police homicide investigative teams concentrated all night and through yesterday on Ocean Beach for clues and for the missing weapon.

Detective Capt. Edwin De Bolt said relatives of the victims in Jasper, Ala., reported they knew of no enemies of the couple.

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DUBTS ENEMIES

Everyone Liked Son, Mother Says

"I don't see how anyone could be his enemy. He was a good boy, someone that everyone liked..."

Mrs. Mary Swindle of Jasper, Ala., was speaking of her son. A newspaperman in Jasper had broken the bad news: Her Johnny Ray, 20, and his bride, Joyce Ann, 19, were dead of a sniper's bullets in San Diego.

"I just got a letter from Johnny Ray today," Miso Swindle sobbed in a telephone interview with The San Diego Union. "It arrived after we knew he was dead."

Mrs. Swindle said her son and his childhood sweet-heart were married Jan. 18 in Parrish, Ala., after he flew home from San Diego for the wedding. The couple got a car for a wedding present and drove to New Orleans to visit one of his sisters. Then they motored to San Diego. He was to start a new six-year hitch in the Navy in July.

"He didn't quite finish high school," his mother said. "He had to help support the family—I've been a widow 17 years and there were six children. He joined the Navy at 17."

"He said he and Joyce Ann did everything together—even to washing the dishes and making the beds. They walked everywhere together."

And they were gunned down together on a beachfront patio.
Hunt Pushed For Sniper Slaying Clues

Guns Tested, Copters Scan Roofs; Police Chief Lauds Public Aid

Police yesterday used ballistics tests, helicopters and old-fashioned shoe leather in an effort to uncover clues to the unsolved slaying of a young Navy couple at Ocean Beach Wednesday night.

Police Chief Wesley Sharp said the shootings apparently were committed by a psychopathic killer. For this reason, it is important for the public to provide information which Sharp said.

The body of a man fatally wounded by a gunshot was found on the Admiral Baker Field golf course in Mission Valley last night. The naval Criminal Intelligence Division was unable to determine if the death was a homicide. Naval Hospital officials notified San Diego police last night, but no evidence could be found yesterday that the man was dead but gave no details.

The body was found on the 200 block of Nagata Avenue, Swindle, 33, was shot four times and his bride twice.

The lack of a motive or anyone to blame made the finding of the death weapon doubly important, Detective Inspector O. J. Roed said.

Police were still checking yesterday. None appeared to be the death gun.

ROOMS SCANNED

Two detectives scanned rooms in Ocean Beach from a Coast Guard helicopter on the chance that the killer threw the gun on a roof. A search of the house of Nagata by Navy personnel from the Amphibious Base has failed to find the gun.

It was a group of two blocks from the same address.

The neighborhood is like a hundred other beach neighborhoods: a hamburger stand on the corner, small groceries and quick service stores, the unmistakable smell of salt water in the air and a never-ending "swish" in your ears from the white waves.

Johnny and Joyce Swindle were typical of the many young Navy couples who move to San Diego.

They were married young - in a small Alabama town, 33, he was 19, and Joyce 30. Johnny had not finished high school before joining the Navy, but had worked hard to help support his widowed mother and her five other children.

Like many couples, he had been in the Navy here for more than two years, then had flown back to Alabama to marry his high school sweetheart.

The couple left for San Diego soon after their marriage, for Johnny was to go to Alaska for duty. In July he planned to "re-up" for six more years.

Johnny and his bride of less than two weeks lived in an inexpensive furnished apartment near the ocean, which were both loved.

They had been there a week Wednesday night. The couple took many walks on the beach in that week. It gave them a chance to be alone in a cool sea breeze. And they could talk freely and stretch, even if they wanted.

Johnny and his blonde wife were standing together, leaning on a rail, high, wall and looking towards the ocean as they were shot and killed by a sniper. Apparently they had no warning. No one has found a reason.

Early Thursday their three-room apartment was filled with policemen. All were in plain clothes except a big sweatshirt, whose head nearly reached the low ceiling. His crash helmet hung awry in his big left hand as he talked in a low voice.

The couple poured over the couple's belongings — on the chest of drawers, an end table, in the closet. A big stuffed, blue bear sat on the floor beside a folded towel. The bear — the kind you win at amusement parks for knocking over wooden bottles — was still wrapped in cellophane.

In front of a rough lounge chair in the living room was a painting-by-numbers set. One of the paintings, a posed ballerina, was filled in on the head and an out-stretched arm, but the rest of it was a maze of blue lines and tiny numbers.

The painting was propped against the chair on the floor.

A used brush lay flat across the other painting and beside it, with the tip on to keep from drying out, was a small glass jar of brown paint.

The ballerina will never be finished.
Detectives Sift Leads In Slayings

A squad of detectives assigned in the search for a psychopathic sniper who killed a young Navy couple in Ocean Beach yesterday concentrated on a mass of information supplied by the public.

"We now have 10 detectives following leads supplied to us by citizens," Detective Sgt. Edward C. Stevens of the homicide detail said. "This information centers in Ocean Beach and concerns reports on persons and their movements in Ocean Beach Wednesday night, when the slayings occurred."

AID SOUGHT

Police Chief W. S. Sharp has asked the public to assist by supplying any information persons may have which will help the police investigation.

Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, and his bride, Joyce Ann, 19, of 5073 Voltaire St., were killed by bullets from a sniper's .22 caliber rifle on a walk along the ocean at the foot of Narragansett Avenue.

Stevens said the house-to-house canvass in Ocean Beach by detectives has been completed.

RESPONSE GOOD

"We have detectives in the area but they are investigating on information supplied us by citizens. The response has been wonderful. We are particularly interested in finding all .22 caliber guns in the area, for ballistics testing," Stevens said.

Mrs. Swindle was found dead from three bullet wounds and her husband was found dying from four wounds. Police have been unable to find the weapon nor learn the motive, and clues have been meager."
Double Killing Probe Turns To 7 Bullets

By PLINY CASTANIEL

Police homicide investigators yesterday were leaning heavily upon their only physical evidence in hopes of solving the slaying of a young Navy couple in Ocean Beach.

Seven hollow nosed bullets may hold the key to who killed Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, and his bride, Joyce Ann, 19, of 5073 Voltaire St., the night of Feb. 5 as they strolled on a sidewalk at the foot of Narragansett Avenue near the beach.

The seven bullets cost less than 14 cents. A box of 50 shells sells for 90 cents.

They are .22-caliber long-rifle hollow-point bullets of the type commonly used by hunters. At 50 feet they would be deadly.

It is the hope of police now that modern criminal investigative methods, in the absence of the death weapon, will reveal the type and make of weapon.

Police have the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory in Washington.

They have reached the opinion that the death weapon probably cost $50 to $60 new. The ammunition was made by the Remington-Peters Co.

Police yesterday asked Phoenix, Ariz., police to send them one of two .22-caliber shell casings found at a motel where a retired Illinois man was killed Friday night.
Ocean Cliffs Searched in Sniper Deaths

Five police officers spent yesterday walking along the ocean cliffs in an effort to uncover any new evidence in the sniper slayings of a young Navy couple in Ocean Beach.

Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, and his bride, Joyce Ann, 19, of 5073 Voltaire St., were shot as they strolled on a patio walk above the ocean at the foot of Narragansett Avenue the night of Feb. 5.

Sgt. Edward C. Stevens of the homicide detail said the officers searched in the general area of the slayings for any additional shell casings.
PROBES CONTINUING

Police Still Baffled
In 2 Murder Cases

By PLINY CASTAÑE

Police homicide detectives
are working to solve two
murder cases.

1—On the morning of Jan.
7 a maid found the body
of Dr. Alex S. Barnum, 40,
a neurosurgeon, in the bat-
tub of his home at 2715
Reservoir Lane, Point Loma.
An autopsy established that
Barnum was strangled.

2—On the night of Feb. 5
a sniper's bullets killed
Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, and
his wife of three weeks,
Joyce Ann, 15, as they
strolled along the beach
at the foot of Narragansett
Avenue in Ocean Beach.

CASE RECALLED

Until these two cases the
police homicide detail had
only one unsolved murder
in four years. This involved
a 1965 robbery of the Crow's
Nest Locker Club, 104 F
St., on Sept. 21, 1962. An
employee, Weldon Thompson,
34, who was assaulted,
probably with a hammer,
died of head injuries Oct.
6, 1962.

In the 12 years from 1950
through 1963, of the 169
murder cases in San Diego, all
but 13 were solved—an average
of one unsolved murder
case a year.

Detective Inspector C. J.
Rood is the officer in charge
of the investigations into
the Barnum and Swindle
homicide cases.

Rood in an interview indi-
cated the Barnum case in-
vestigation is continuing.

A suspect arrested on a
murder complaint later was
re-leased on grounds of insuf-
ficient evidence.

SUPECT RELEASED

This suspect, David A.
Henson, 21, a former San
Diego, was arrested Jan.
11 in Salt Lake City. He
was released Jan. 28. On
Feb. 6 Henson was arrested
in Salt Lake City on charges
of robbery and grand larc-
ency.

Lt. Norman D. Hayward
of the Salt Lake City police
office said Henson was ar-
rested on a complaint charg-
ing him with robbing a serv-
vice station at 877 on Feb.
8, 1963. Hayward said the
victim identified Henson
as the bandit after seeing
his picture in a Salt Lake
City newspaper when he
was arraigned in connection
with Barnum's slaying.

Rood said: "We are not
looking for anyone else in
the Barnum case.

Rood said police have
never found two things stol-
en from Barnum at the time
of the slaying — a wallet
and the keys to the doctor's
sport car which was found
parked outside the $4,000
residence when the body
was discovered.

The Swindle murders still
are being intensively investi-
gated by a team of detec-
tives.

In a special press confer-
ence yesterday afternoon po-
lice released a diagram of
the Swindle murder scene,
with special markings show-
ing location of five persons
known to have been in the
immediate area, location of
the sniper-killer, and of two
areas where cars were
parked.

"This could be the begin-
ning of a solution to the slay-
ings," Detective Capt. Ed-
win De Bolt said in the con-
ference. "The public assis-
tance to date has been of
utmost assistance to this
case. If these people shown
on the diagram will come
forward and tell us what
they know, we will be well
ahead on our investigation."

The diagram shows the
spot where the Swindles
died; the position of the kill-
er on a bluff above them;
a man who was standing on
the rocks to the south; a
man a citizen saw running
on Del Monte Avenue
through a backyard carry-
ing something in his right
hand; a man walking on
Narragansett Avenue; a
couple walking on the beach
north of the slayings; and
cars parked at the foot of
Niagara Avenue and in an-
other parking lot to the
north.

"At this point all we can
say is in the Swindle case
we have fewer clues to work
with than in any other mur-
der case in recent years."

Rood said. "All we actually
have is two bodies and the
seven bullets that killed
them."
Sniper Slaying Probers Seek Ex-Resident

Man, 42, Wanted For Questioning But Isn't A Suspect

Police disclosed yesterday they are looking for a 42-year-old man who moved away from Ocean Beach on or near the day a snipers' bullets killed Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, and his bride, Joyce, 19.

Detective Sgt. E. C. Stevens of the homicide detail issued a bulletin to all San Diego officers containing a description of the man.

He was identified as Charles Thomas Mirich, also known as George Woodside, with the nickname "Woody."

NOT A SUSPECT

Stevens emphasized that Mirich is not a suspect in the unsolved sniper slayings.

He said the bulletin was issued for two reasons: because Mirich moved from Ocean Beach on or near the day of the slayings and because police have not been able to locate him for questioning.

Stevens also disclosed for the first time that Swindle's wristwatch and his wallet, containing his Navy identification and an Alabama driver's license, are missing.

Police believe Swindle was wearing the wristwatch and carrying the wallet when he and his bride of one week were shot from ambush near the seawall at the foot of Narragansett Avenue in Ocean Beach.

REQUEST MADE

The bulletin issued by Stevens asked officers throughout San Diego to contact the homicide detail if they knew of anyone with access to a .22-caliber automatic rifle or .22-caliber hollow-point ammunition.

Both victims were shot repeatedly with an unidentified .22 caliber weapon. After 18 days of investigation, detectives have found no motive for the slayings.

Police also are trying to locate four persons whom witnesses saw at the beach around 8:15 p.m. Feb. 5, when the Swindles were shot. They include a young couple on the beach at the foot of Newport Avenue, a middle-aged man at the foot of Narragansett Avenue, and a man wearing tennis shoes who was standing on the rocks near the death scene.
Sniper Slaying Probers Quiz 4 Beach Visitors—Futilely

Four persons who were in the Ocean Beach area where a sniper killed a Navy couple Feb. 5 were questioned yesterday by police but could give no new clues to detectives.

The four contacted police after reading a story in The San Diego Union that police were seeking persons known to have been near the scene but not identified.

RIFLE USED

The victims, Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, and his bride, Joyce, 19, were shot repeatedly with a .22-caliber rifle as they strolled along the beach at the foot of Narragansett Avenue.

Detective Richard D. Ewens said the two couples intimated with yesterday told him they were at the beach that night, Feb. 5.

Ewens said they added no information.

Police also are trying to locate two other persons seen killed.

for two reasons: because Mirich moved from Ocean Beach or near the day of the slayings and because police have not been able to locate him for questioning.

ON BEACH, IN CAR

Ewens said one couple was on the beach next to the scene and the other in a car in a parking lot at the foot of Newport Avenue.

A 42-year-old man who moved away from Ocean Beach on or near the day the Swindles were killed is still sought by police. He was identified as Charles Thomas Mirich, also known as George Woodside, with the nickname "Woody."

Detective Sgt. E. C. Stevens of the homicide detail emphasized that Mirich is not a suspect in the unsolved slayings.

He said the man is sought
Sniper Killing Quiz Asked In Ax Death

San Diego police yesterday requested that a Marine who is absent without leave from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot be questioned about the double murder of a Navy couple here last month. He is being held in Decatur, Ill., after admitting the triple ax murder of his family.

The Marine, Pfc. Michael Lee Gambrill, 19, was arrested Monday in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was armed with a .22 caliber pistol and a switchblade knife. Decatur police returned Gambrill to Illinois last night.

He is charged with the murder of his father, Everett, 49; his mother, Eileen, 46, and a sister, Annabelle Lora, 13. The victims were murdered with an ax while asleep in their beds.

San Diego police became interested in Gambrill as a possible suspect in sniper slaying of Johnny Ray Swindle, 19, and his wife, Joyce Ann, also 19, when they learned Gambrill had been on liberty from approximately 7 to 11 p.m. Feb. 5. That night the Swindles were slain on the patio of the Silver Spray apartments, 5116 Narragansett Ave.

"All we know is that Gambrill was in San Diego when the double murder happened, and he was armed with a .22." Sgt. Edward C. Stevens, of the San Diego homicide detail said. "There is nothing connecting him with the murder."

Stevens said the Illinois police will interrogate Gambrill.

A Marine Corps spokesman said Gambrill signed out on liberty at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and reported back to the base at 10:30 p.m.

Police said the Swindle couple was found at 8:55 p.m. The killer shot his victims from a distance of 50 feet from atop a sloping hill, police said. He then walked up to the wounded couple and shot them at point blank range. Police found five .22 caliber shells on the hill and (Continued on a-12, Col. 1)

Sniper Death Link Sought

(Continued from a-9) two more near the dead woman's body.

Police have been unable to find a motive for the slaying.

In Boynton Beach, Police Sgt. William R. Hamilton said Gambrill told him, "I killed my mother first and then my sister, and then went to the rear bedroom and killed my father."

After the killings, Gambrill said he drove the family car to Fort Pierce, Fla., then abandoned it and started hitchhiking.

Hamilton said Gambrill told him he pleaded with his parents to get him a passport so he could get out of the Marines and return to his native Ireland. His parents refused.
Sniper Slaying Of 2 Denied By Marine

The young Marine accused of killing his parents and a sister with an ax in Illinois has denied he killed an Ocean Beach couple Feb. 5, police here were told yesterday.

San Diego police had asked Decatur, Ill., authorities who are holding Marine Pfc. Michael Lee Gambrill, 19, in connection with the ax killings to question him about the double slaying here.

SHOT NEAR BEACH

Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, a sailor, and his wife, Joyce Ann, 19, were shot to death as they stood near the beach at the foot of Narragansett Avenue.

Gambrill is listed absent without leave by the Marines.

A Marine Corps Recruit Depot spokesman has said Gambrill was on liberty Feb. 5 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Police here say there is nothing to connect the Marine with the shootings.

Decatur police reported yesterday that Gambrill denied the slayings. Detective Lt. William J. Schenck said last night.

BULLETS MAILED

He said Decatur Police have mailed expended bullets from a .22-caliber pistol found on Gambrill at the time of his arrest for comparison here with bullets used in the sniper slayings. Gambrill was reported to have told Decatur officers he had obtained the pistol from his father and did not have it in San Diego.

Gambrill's parents and sister were killed with an ax while asleep. Decatur police said. They said Gambrill admitted the slayings.
Ballistics Link Ruled Out In 2 Killing Cases

Ballistics tests show a pistol found on a young Marine charged with killing his parents and his sister with an ax in Illinois was not used in the sniper slayings of an Ocean Beach couple, police said here yesterday.

Tests run in the police laboratory here show two shells and casings sent here by Decatur, Ill., authorities do not match the bullets which killed Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, a sailor, and his wife, Joyce, 19, detective Sgt. Edward Stevens said.

Stevens said the expended bullets and casings were from a .22-caliber pistol found on Marine Pfc. Michael Gambrill, 19, when he was arrested in connection with the ax killings.

Gambrill, who is listed as absent without leave from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot here, has denied he killed the Swindles. They were shot Feb. 5 as they stood near the beach at the foot of Narragansett Avenue.

"Gambrill can't recall his whereabouts the night the Swindles were killed," Stevens said. "We believe he was alone while on liberty. We are still trying to trace his movements that night."
Recluse Checked
In Sniper Killings

A man picked up in a hobo jungle in Santa Ana is being investigated in the ocean front sniper murders of young couples in Ocean Beach and Santa Barbara.

The man, held in Santa Barbara, is George Edward Gill, 50, a recluse, sought since the bodies of Linda Edward, 17, and Robert Dominguez, 18, Lompoc High School students, were found June 4, 1964, in a shack on a lonely beach 35 miles north of Santa Barbara.

Capt. Edwin De Bolt of the San Diego Police Department said he wants to know where Gill was the first five days of February this year.

On Feb. 5 Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, a sailor, and his bride, Joyce Ann, 19, of 5073 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach, were killed as they stood at the foot of Nar.

ragansett Avenue looking toward the ocean.

In both cases the victims were killed by bullets fired from a .22-caliber rifle. Ballistic tests have proven the bullets did not come from the same rifle.

Sheriff's Detective Gil Chayra of Santa Barbara said Gill has been sought because he is known to have said he built the shack where the bodies of the Lompoc teen-agers were found.

Santa Ana police said they arrested Gill Tuesday night during a routine check of vagrants in hobo jungles there. He was taken to Santa Barbara where he is being held in the county jail.

Chayra said Gill has said he was not at the scene at the time of either of the murders, and his whereabouts are being checked.
Sniper Slaying Still A Mystery After A Year

By JERRY MARCUS

The week before Valentine's Day last year a 20-year-old sailor bought a $1.75 box of candy and walked two blocks with his bride to admire the ocean.

They walked to the end of a patio at 5116 Narragansett Ave., Ocean Beach, where the swirling surf laps at the base of the cement wall.

One of the last things Johnny Ray Swindle, 20, ever did was to place the box of candy on the retaining wall behind which the couple was standing. It was a moonless night as they looked upon the ocean.

SHOT FIVE TIMES

Alot a hill covered with ocean plants about 50 feet away from Johnny and his 19-year-old wife of two weeks, Joyce Ann, someone aimed a rifle at their backs and began pulling the trigger.

The killer shot them five times from his vantage point on the hill. He then moved down to the patio to shoot them twice more at close range.

Swindle was shot four times and his wife was shot in the left arm, the back and the head. The couple was found at 8:35 p.m., 40 minutes after Swindle.

(Continued on a-32, Col. 1)

Sniper Slaying Of 2 Remains Mystery

(Continued from a-15)

purchased the candy from an Ocean Beach drugstore.

A woman in the area, Mrs. Marci Shields of 5014 Santa Monica Ave., told police she heard two shots and a man scream “No, no” about 8:30 p.m. Police said she probably heard the last two shots, the ones fired from close range.

Mrs. Swindle was dead when a resident in the area came upon the scene. Swindle died in Doctor's Hospital at 10:15 p.m. He never uttered a word, leaving the police nearly clueless.

Police made a house-to-house search in the Ocean Beach area and collected dozens of rifles. The Navy sent frogmen scouring the ocean bottom in search of a murder weapon and hundreds of leads were followed and dropped.

Today the police are still looking for the killer, the weapon and a motive.

Swindle's mother, brother and three sisters, who live in Jasper, Ala., and another sister in New Orleans, could not give any reason why anyone would kill the couple.

Everyone police questioned who had known Johnny and Joyce Swindle said the same thing:

They were a happy, quiet pair. They had been sweethearts from Childhood in Alabama. Johnny was kind to his widowed mother and helped support her.

Seven empty casings from a .22-caliber rifle at police headquarters here are the only threads the police have in trying to connect the double murder with the killer.

Missing Teacher, Student Safe

A San Mateo high school teacher and one of his students, reported missing in Baja California, have been reported safe.

James N. Hobson, father of the student, Bruce W. Hobson, 15, said he received a letter from his son saying that he and the teacher, David B. Werner, 29, had difficulty with their Jeep.

Hobson had reported the two missing Thursday. He said the teacher and student had been expected to return Monday from a study of whale mating waters 400 miles south of San Diego.
7 HOLLOW CLUES

Beach Slayings Of Couple In '64 Still A Mystery

EDITORS NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles on unsolved homicides in San Diego County.

By JIM WATKINS

The young couple walked on the beach as they had done the day before. She liked to watch the surf and listen to the sound of the sea pounding against the sand. He liked to be with her and stand silent in the moonlight.

It was Feb. 5, 1964. At about 7:15 p.m. the first of several bulletins rippled into the back of her head. Johnny, 39, died two hours later at Doctor's Hospital.

The stinger first fired and hit the victim from about 30 feet away. Then, police believe, he walked up to his victim and fired four bullet holes into each of them at close range.

Two bodies were discovered and one victim from about 50 feet away. Then, police believe, he walked up to his victim and fired four bullet holes into each of them at close range.

The victim was discovered covered by a blanket. The murder scene is next to their home, which they lived at 2073 Ventaire St.

Joyce, wearing a black leather jacket and gloves, was walking on the concrete patio. Johnny was on his side between her and the patio's 4-foot retaining wall.

The only physical evidence police have is a seven hollow point .22-caliber bullet taken from the body — the seventh fired from the gun — and an open box of Valentine's Day candy found sitting on the snow-covered ledge.

Police and any hope of finding further evidence on the snow-covered hill was slim because snowmen and spectators had trod the scene before police entered the home. The two bullet holes came from the hill. Those were the footprints which could be identified as the killer's — corroborated by witness who have told a story by themselves.

There was nothing to the background of either Johnny or Joyce Swindle that gave the slightest possible motive for their murders. Both had spotless reputations. That was supported by Sheriff Omie Donnell of Walker County, Ala., where Johnny and Joyce had been childhood sweethearts.

Johnny enlisted in the Navy at Birmingham, Ala., on Dec. 14, 1944. From Dec. 15, 1945, until March 6, 1946, he attended recruit training at San Diego's Naval Training Center.

Navy authorities gave the San Diego police complete cooperation. Johnny Ray Swindle had been a good soldier and he and Joyce were anxious for the killer to be found. Sobbing women from the Navy's underwater detection school searched the waters offshore in vain attempts to find the murder weapon. They had no success.

Detectives searched the neighborhood in the door-to-door canvass. They called Coast Guard helicopters over rooftops looking for clues — perhaps the killer had abandoned the rifle — but the search proved fruitless.

Johnny Ray Swindle died without regaining consciousness.

$2,000 KEYS, KNIFE

In his right front trouser pocket they found a key chain with pocket knife and car key, a large pocket knife, a key ring with assorted tools, a cigarette lighter, two $1 bills and $1.65 in coins.

On his left hand he was wearing a wedding band, bearing the inscription "JAN" in JHS 1-64.

Days went by and they soon became morose — then quiet. Police had no more leads to the crime months later than they did the day after the murders.

What were they publishing and asked the public to help them piece the crime puzzle together.

Several weeks after the murder a map was published in The San Diego Union. It dramatically showed what police knew about the area at the time of the slayings.

The map was reported seen standing on rocks above the area, another walking on Rancho San Diego Avenue, a man standing on Del Monte Avenue at 1:15 p.m., a couple walking on the beach adjacent to the Silver Spray Hotel, occupants in several cars at the foot of Niagara Avenue, and there were people in cars in a parking lot near the oceanfront walk.

Two couples and three men known to be at the vicinity at the time of the killings came to police but could offer no leads. The two couples in a car two blocks from the scene had heard nothing over the roar of the surf.

Police also knew there were three girls in the area who claimed there were several cars and a Jaguar XK parked on Morning Drive.

Sometimes, in the night, a lone figure makes its way down a darkened but familiar corridor to police headquarters. Duty and tired from the day's work, the solitary shadow climbs the narrow wooden stairs. Plum colored drawers are pulled open and contents of thumb-stained files reveal...