

The Tar Heel

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1965

Prime Suspect Found, Not Charged

200 Men Needed To Hunt Weapon

Some 200 men are needed this afternoon to search Coker Arboretum for the weapon used last Friday in the slaying of UNC coed Suellen Evans.

Male students should assemble in front of Graham Memorial at 1 p.m. where they will receive instructions for the search. Old clothes should be worn.

Student Government Presidential Assistant Bob Wilson said students will be divided into teams and assigned a specific area to comb.

Campus Police Chief Arthur Beaumont, a representative of the Chapel Hill Police Department and Wilson will speak to students before the search begins.

The object of the search will be a knife or a similar instrument with a long blade. Town police said yesterday that any student finding what they think might be the weapon should not touch it, but call one of the policemen who will be on hand.

Virtually all of the five-acre garden will be searched. Police have determined what they think was the route of exit used by the killer, but the search will extend to other areas.

A shoulder-to-shoulder method will be used by student teams to comb the thick undergrowth in the Arboretum.

Plans for the search came about as the result of an offer by Student Government to aid police in the case.

Town police have requested other help from students. Stu-

dents who have been approached in the Arboretum area any time this summer are asked to report the incident to police.

All names will be kept in what police called "the strictest confidence." Police said they would talk to students who have information "at any time and at any place."

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Changes Viewed For Arboretum

Is the Arboretum a threat to the safety of students?

This question arose soon after the slaying of University coed Suellen Evans last week as she walked through the campus botanical garden.

Dean of Women Katherine Carmichael commented yesterday: "Perhaps electrical lighting could be installed in the Arboretum. With the cooperation of students the campus could be made safer."

A plan to alter the present Arboretum setup may be forthcoming from the administration.

Student Bobby Presidential Assistant Bob Wilson issued this statement yesterday:

"Last week, the loss of a member of our student body resulted, in part, from the thickness of certain shrubs

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Police Press Wide Search For Slayer Of UNC Coed

By ERNEST ROBL
Tar Heel Asst. Editor

The Negro male sought as a prime suspect in the fatal stabbing of 21-year-old University coed Suellen Evans has been located and questioned by the Chapel Hill Police, it was announced late Wednesday.

The suspect, whom police declined to identify, was brought in for questioning at 7 p.m. and released four hours later. Police said that the man was under surveillance and could be located at any time for further questioning.

Police said that the man was brought in both as a witness and a suspect since a student placed him in the area of the Arboretum where the stabbing occurred on Friday.

The student has positively identified the suspect.

Police said that the man did not have any scratches or other injuries. The man was located with the aid of a telephone tip.

Police declined to say whether the suspect had a criminal record. The man is employed in Chapel Hill but is currently on vacation.

The man denied being in the area of the botanical garden at the time of the murder but offered no alibi. The man's wife is a University employee.

Capt. Coy E. Durham, acting as spokesman for the police, said that the location of the suspect did not eliminate other "active suspects," and



SUELLEN EVANS

...victim

that the investigation would continue.

Durham declined to comment on the State Bureau of Investigation crime lab report which the Chapel Hill Police have received. He said that the report was "lengthy" and was now being studied.

Durham also refused to speculate on when further developments might be made public.

The man was said to be 30 years old.

According to Police Chief William Blake, the student who provided the description walks through the Arboretum "just about every day," and

had seen the man on several occasions.

Blake said that the student saw the suspect walking toward the Arboretum at approximately 12:15 p.m., shortly before the fatal stabbing, and again at 1 p.m. leaving the vicinity of the botanical garden.

There were no witnesses to the stabbing, although two coeds and two nuns reached Miss Evans shortly before she collapsed and died on an Arboretum path, just inside the exit across Raleigh Street from McIver.

One of the coeds who rushed to the scene told police that she saw the arm of a "dark skinned man," who was leaving the scene. A janitor working in Davie Hall also told police that he saw a Negro man coming out of the botanical garden near the time of the attack.

Police records show that Miss Evans' only words before collapsing were, "He tried to rape me . . . I believe I'm going to faint." Blake said that Miss Evans had not been raped.

Blake said that the autopsy showed Miss Evans died of a stab wound through the heart. Police are continuing their search for a dull knife, with a blade of four and a half to six inches in length, believed to be the murder weapon.

Miss Evans was also wounded in the neck, presumably by the same weapon.

The police said that an area in the Arboretum showed signs of a violent struggle. Miss Evans' screams summoned the coeds and the nuns who were first to arrive at the scene.

A telephone call reporting the screams also brought two police cars to the scene. Policemen immediately summoned an ambulance.

While waiting for the ambulance to arrive, one of the nuns administered artificial respiration, but Miss Evans was pronounced dead on arrival at Memorial Hospital.

Chapel Hill police immediately began a widespread search, calling extra shifts to speed the effort, but hitting dead ends until they located the student who provided the complete description of the suspect.

The Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen has given the police department an additional \$500 to cover expenses in the investigation. Most of this amount will be used to defray traveling expenses for officers going out of town for interviews with suspects.

Miss Evans, who was staying in 256 West Cobb, was using the Arboretum path as a short cut back to her dormitory when she was attacked by the unknown assailant.

Funeral service for the home economics major from Mooresville was held Sunday in her home town. Some 800 people

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SCENE OF CRIME: Items carried by Suellen Evans at the time of her death are placed into a bag by policemen shortly after her slaying Friday in the Arboretum. The 21-year-old coed was stabbed to death on the

side of the botanical garden near Raleigh Street. Police roped off the area while they conducted an intensive investigation of the scene.

— Photo by Tom Rogers.

Dean Urges Precautions

Dean of Women Katherine Carmichael this week again warned coeds to avoid going alone through isolated areas of campus.

Miss Carmichael said that this was not a policy but a reminder. All coeds are told during orientation to walk in pairs during the day and in larger groups at night when in isolated areas of the campus.

Terming the brutal murder of 21-year-old Suellen Evans on campus Friday as "something that couldn't happen," the soft-spoken Miss Carmichael urged all women students who had been followed or approached to report to authorities.

"We'll keep all names anonymous," she said, indicating that if students did not wish to talk to city police, they could report incidents either to their respective dormitories, the office of the Dean of Women, or the campus police.

"No students will be embarrassed in any way," Miss Carmichael promised.