

Murders: Bangor Asks, 'Why?'

By BOB TAYLOR

Why did violence strike in a quiet residential neighborhood?

Friends and relatives agree that Edward and Harold Morris were extremely unlikely subjects to become involved in a vicious, brutal crime of murder.

They lived simple, uncomplicated lives.

The old man was still agile at 84. He worked almost daily at his trade of tailoring, but had slowed down to the point where he worked more for personal satisfaction than for profit.

The son was a successful, self-employed accountant. Unmarried, he lived quietly at home with his father and performed the bulk of the household chores. Neighbors recall that the pair spent most of Saturday afternoon raking leaves.

Robbery was termed by authorities as undoubtedly the motive for the crime, but why was that particular house singled out to rob?

The pair lived comfortably, but there was nothing about the house to suggest that it contained any great treasure. Certainly other houses in the same neighborhood would have been more appealing to a random burglar.

As it turned out, there probably was a considerable

sum of money in the house, much to the surprise of close relatives. A leather satchel, locked but slashed open by the killer, still contained \$109 in cash. The housekeeper said the satchel was usually kept in a closet in the father's bedroom.

The question arises, if close relatives didn't know about the satchel, then how could a prowler? Or, if the killer did know about the money, why did he waste time ransacking the entire house?

Since the elder Morris carried on his tailoring business at his home, anyone might have gained access to the house. Yet, police said they don't believe the killer was a customer.

It's possible that the killer was a prowler who had gained entrance through an unlocked door or window. It's hardly possible, however, that a burglar could have gone undetected long enough to ransack the entire second floor of the home as thoroughly as he did.

It has been fairly well determined that both the father and son were at home all evening. So, it's unlikely that they returned unexpectedly to surprise a prowler in the house.

If the murderer wasn't a prowler, he could have gained admittance by posing as a customer. But this theory also brings up a number of unanswered questions.

Police said they believe the murder weapon was a shotgun. Early in the investigation they believed the weapon belonged to the younger Morris. Later developments seemed to indicate that the killer brought the gun with him.

If the first theory were correct, how could the intruder posing as a customer gain quick access to the weapon? Even if the second theory is true, why was it necessary to use the gun at all?

If the killer were simply caught ransacking the home, it seems he could have made his escape without murdering the pair. The younger Morris was described as a big man, although not well and certainly not physically aggressive.

It doesn't appear reasonable that the 84-year-old father or the son could have prevented a determined intruder from escaping.

Police also have determined that the younger Morris was gravely wounded in the leg by a shotgun blast before the killer clubbed him to death with the butt of the weapon.

Seriously wounded, he could not have posed any great immediate threat to the intruder. Therefore, why did the killer feel it necessary to finish off in such a vicious manner a man already safely out of his way?

This also leads to the con-

clusion that the killer calmly ransacked the house for several minutes after disposing of his victims.

Also unanswered is the question: Why did the murderer take the shotgun with him when he left the house? Why should he risk being caught with such an incriminating object?

Police have a number of theories, but they don't like to make them public without solid facts.

Capt. Clifton E. Sloane said Sunday that the investigation is "starting from scratch." Without disclosing any information that might help the killer, however, he admitted that police have a number of "good clues."

Father And Son Slain In Home On Center Street

By ED McKEON

A killer described by authorities as "some kind of a demon" entered a home at 363 Center Street Saturday evening and bludgeoned to death an elderly tailor and his son.

Neighbors in this quiet, middle-class residential district and police were unaware of the crime until Sunday morning when a housekeeper coming in to clean the home stumbled upon the two bodies.

Bangor police worked throughout Sunday in an effort to nail down leads to the double murder, described as rare in this city.

Dead were 84-year-old Edward I. Morris, a Polish immigrant who operated a Main Street tailor shop for 40 years here; and his son, Harold L. Morris, 52, a public accountant, unmarried. The two lived alone in the house.

The apparent motive, police said, was robbery, although authorities could not say by early Sunday evening just what was missing.

The house was ransacked. Dressers, night tables, desks and closets had been searched.

A gladstone bag, which was locked, had been removed from a closet and slit open. Police found an unsealed envelope inside containing \$109 in bills, possibly overlooked.

Mrs. Virginia M. Ryder, 48, of Central Street, employed by the Morrises since summer as part-time cook and housekeeper, discovered the bodies when she arrived for work Sunday morning shortly after 9 a. m., police said.

She opened the front door to find the elder Morris laying lengthwise on the floor of the foyer, police reported. She searched upstairs for the son and then discovered him downstairs on the kitchen floor.

Mrs. Ryder raced to the home of Donald P. Johnston, retired Bangor water district superintendent, at 366 Center Street and police were summoned. County Attorney Howard M. Foley declared later, "Whoever did it is apparently a demon."

Edward Morris died after four "massive blows" to the head, Foley said.

"His skull was caved in," he explained.

The head lay in a pool of blood near a hall heat register. Blood spattered the floor and walls.

In the kitchen, just off the foyer, Harold Morris, described as a large, though retiring man, about 6 feet 3 inches tall and 220 pounds, was crumpled on the blood-spattered kitchen floor. He had been struck in the head several times. A post-mortem later showed that a long gash in his right thigh was

the result of a shotgun wound. The kitchen was a mass of blood and included numerous bloody footprints into a rear entry way.

Foley and Bangor Police Detective Captain Clifton Sloane reported that pieces of a shotgun stock, believed to be the weapon used in the beating, were found on the floor. The shotgun was missing.

Police said the weapon had been identified as a shotgun from the small pieces found. Foley said one shot had been fired from the singleshot weapon.

Foley also reported the post-mortem results showed the elder Morris died of the head beatings. The younger victim died from his multiple wounds.

The younger Morris' coat was pulled down over his arms.

Police established the time of the double murder as sometime after 7 p. m. Edward Morris' sister, Miss Etta T. Morris, Bangor, had called the house at that time.

"I talked to Harold," she told The NEWS, "and asked how Edward was. He told me he was busy doing some sewing."

Edward Morris, though retired, still did some tailoring in a downstairs room.

Police said Edward Morris failed to show up for a nearby appointment later in the evening.

The two were last seen alive about 4 p. m. Saturday raking leaves outside their gray and cream-trimmed, two-story wooden frame home. The house is a few steps from the new St. Joseph Hospital on Center Street. The Mary Snow School is in full view on Broadway behind the home.

About 25 feet away stands the fashionable home of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Goodstein. The Goodsteins were out for the evening, but their sons, Larry, 15, and Kenney, 9, were in the house. The boys said they heard nothing next door, but had noticed the light on.

Sunday morning, the television in the Morris home was found still turned on.

On the other side of the house is the unoccupied Kirstein estate.

Police were trying to obtain further leads on the one-or-more assailants who might have possessed or were disposing of blood-stained clothing and a shotgun. A fingerprint check of the entire house fixtures and furnishings was under way.

Public Asked For Clues In Murder Case

Police investigating the slaying of 84-year-old Edward I. Morris and his son, Harold, 52, have appealed to the public for possible assistance.

Capt. Clifton E. Sloane said that the killer must have been splattered with blood when he fled from the Morris home at 363 Center Street Saturday evening. Also, the murderer probably was carrying a blood-stained shotgun, police said.

Any witnesses or persons having information concerning the above facts should contact Bangor police.

Sunday night, Bangor residents were publicly shocked. Members of the Morris family were shaking their heads with disbelief.

A relative - in-law of Edward Morris, Frank Glazier, Bangor, commented, "Those two wouldn't have harmed a soul, even if they were physically capable."

Police on the scene called it

the ugliest crime they had seen.

The elder Morris was described as a small, frail man who had recently undergone major surgery. He retired from regular tailoring duties. He had left Poland to reside a time in England before coming to the United States nearly 50 years ago.

He was well-known locally as a peaceful, friendly man. The family said they never understood the two had kept any large amounts of money in the house.