

Police seek pair's extradition

Brothers are linked to slaying

By MARY LOU CALLAWAY

West Bloomfield Police will continue to press for the extradition of two Pontiac men, convicted in Texas this week of armed robbery, to stand trial in Michigan for the brutal slaying of a township woman last June.

The paper work is in progress. We'll be bringing them back," says West Bloomfield Det. Sgt. Wayne Allen.

The Meyers brothers, Daniel and Charles, are charged in Michigan with first degree murder in the beating death of Mrs. Gladys Smith, a 72-year-old West Bloomfield widow who lived in a modest home on Pontiac Trail near Haggerty.

Daniel Meyers, 21, was found guilty of armed robbery last summer before a jury in Bosque County, Texas. He was sentenced to 99 years in jail.

His brother, Charles, 23, was sentenced to 25 years in jail.

"They don't fool around in those Texas courts," commented another West Bloomfield officer involved in the investigation.

The brutality of the Smith murder shocked police and kept neighbors terrified until the suspects were located.

IT TOOK MORE than two months of investigations and the questioning of more than 200 persons before police compiled sufficient evidence linking the brothers to the Smith murder.

West Bloomfield police eventually tracked down the brothers after the duo's arrest in Texas on the armed robbery charge.

Allen then made two trips to Texas on the case. He expects to be one of the officers sent to Texas to bring the suspects back to Michigan for trial early next year.

Apparently, the Meyers left Michigan for Texas in July. Keego Harbor Police Chief William Holloway is credited with the first substantial break in the case. He suspected the Meyers brothers' involvement while he was investigating another armed robbery in Keego Harbor.

Rewards totalling \$2,500 were offered for the arrest and subsequent conviction of the two suspects. Police will not reveal if anyone is eligible to collect the reward.

Two television sets and some jewelry were taken from Mrs. Smith's home. Police believe she tried to fight off her attackers.

At the time of the murder, Daniel Meyers was living in a halfway house in Pontiac where he had only 21 days left to serve on a grand larceny conviction.

His brother Charles was on parole to Michigan from Alabama on an armed robbery conviction.

Mrs. Smith's body was found June 29 by West Bloomfield Ptl. Patrick Monte, called to the home when neighbors alerted the police department of unusual conditions at her home.

ONE NEIGHBOR noticed Mrs. Smith's dog tied outside the back door after dark.

The medical examiner reported she had been bludgeoned to death during the day and died of a compound skull fracture.

The Meyers parents' home, 37 Edwards in Pontiac, was searched and several of the stolen items were recovered.

Three two-man West Bloomfield teams, Michigan State Police, state crime laboratory personnel and polygraph operators worked on the case, which led to warrants being issued for the brothers in August.

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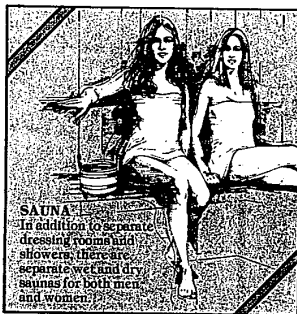
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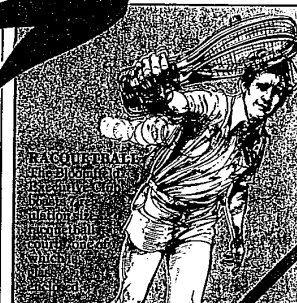
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