

No clear clues in Palm Springs slaying of trio

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — (AP) — The shooting murders of a financier, his wife and their maid at their pink stucco home was the worst crime in the recent history of this affluent desert resort town, police said Sunday.

"We've been contacting a few of the family members," Lt. George Neesan said. "We've just been accumulating information — there isn't much to go on."

The bodies of Edward Friendly, 74, his wife, Sophia, 71, and their housekeeper, Frances Williams, 67, of nearby Desert Hot Springs, were discovered Friday. All three had been shot to death in the Friendly's home in the posh Las Palmas section of Palm Springs.

A pool worker summoned police after seeing Mrs. Williams lying in a pool of blood when he glanced into a kitchen window.

Neesan said it had not been determined if the slaying occurred during a burglary attempt. There was no sign of forced entry or a struggle, although officers said bureau and desk drawers throughout the home were found open and their contents scattered about.

AUTOPSIES SHOWED FRIENDLY died from .45-caliber gunshot wounds to the brain and chest, while his wife and the maid were killed by single bullets in their heads.

They were killed sometime after 6:30 p.m. Thursday, the coroner's office said, apparently as they prepared for dinner.

The Friendlys, who moved to Palm Springs several years ago, had just returned from a vacation in northern California.

He was a former manager and part owner of the old Tanforan Race Track outside San Francisco and was part of a group that later bought that track and now runs Golden Gate Fields and Bay Meadows tracks in the same area.

Friendly's brother, Alfred, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a former managing editor of the Washington Post.

Rumors link Paris to Quebec pullout

Washington Star

OTTAWA — Reports of French intelligence operations aimed at breaking Quebec away from Canada, shrouded so far in official secrecy, are plaguing the government of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at a time when its economic policies are in disarray.

The cabinet has refused comment on reports that the French equivalent of the CIA, the Service de Documentation Extérieure et de Contre-Espionage, or SDECE, is keeping active an operation begun in 1958 to split Quebec from Canada.

The French agency is accused of running the operation from Paris under the direction of a senior intelligence officer named Alexandre de Marenches, under the code name "Operation Ascott."

AT LEAST THREE CANADIAN newspapers received copies of Royal Canadian Mounted Police messages on the operation, and Conservative member of Parliament Tom Cossitt, who was nearly charged under the Official Secrets Act last spring, has been adding information to that contained in the documents.

Earlier Cossitt's charges about Soviet espionage in Canada proved extremely accurate, and only his parliamentary immunity saved him from being charged, as was Toronto Sun newspaper editor Peter Worthington, who published the same material.

The most recent security scandals, concerning SDECE operations with Quebec separatists, are being ignored by the government.

State Police stop abduction

Michigan State Police troopers who stopped a car for a minor traffic violation south of Monroe early Sunday foiled an apparent kidnapping attempt and arrested four persons.

Two troopers on a routine patrol spotted a car with an expired temporary Ohio license tag in a rest area off I-75 about 5:10 a.m., they said. When they stopped to question the driver, they heard a man calling for help in the trunk.

Inside the trunk police found a middle-aged man from Rossford, Ohio, who said he had been abducted about two hours earlier.

The victim, whom police would not identify, said he had been drinking in Mike's Bar in Toledo when he was approached by a woman who wanted a ride home.

At the woman's home, he

was asked to wait outside. Soon a man who claimed to be the woman's brother appeared. He pulled out a knife and robbed the victim of a small amount of money and a ring, police were told.

The victim was placed in the trunk of his own car and driven north until he was freed, he told police.

Police charged four Ohio residents with the kidnapping. They were identified as Joan McCoates and Ronald Shelton of Toledo and Hansome Ayers and Wanda Allen of Akron.

Detroit cop kills suspect in robbery

An off-duty Detroit police officer shot and killed a man Sunday after the man fired several times at a party store owner police said he robbed and twice at the officer.

Police said Michael Urquhart, 25, had held up the Whittier Party Store, 10310 Whittier, at about 1 p.m., and fled on foot along side streets in the northeast Detroit neighborhood.

Urquhart had fired several times at party store owner Dennis Zielke, 31, who was chasing him, police said.

OFFICER William Fraser, a seven-year veteran of the department and a resident of the neighborhood, was napping at his home when his son awakened him to tell him about the chase.

Fraser pursued Urquhart in his car and identified himself as a police officer, but Urquhart fired twice at Fraser, police said.

Fraser shot once, striking Urquhart in the chest. He was dead at the scene.

Police said they recovered \$150, several lottery tickets and some beer Urquhart had taken from the store.

Man slain over wallet

A 57-year-old Detroit man was stabbed to death early Sunday in an east side cafe in a dispute over a wallet, police reported.

Charles Brown, of 4595 Beniteau, was dead on arrival at Detroit General Hospital shortly after 6 a.m. after being stabbed once in the chest at the Fulton Cafe, 4711 St. Jean, police said.

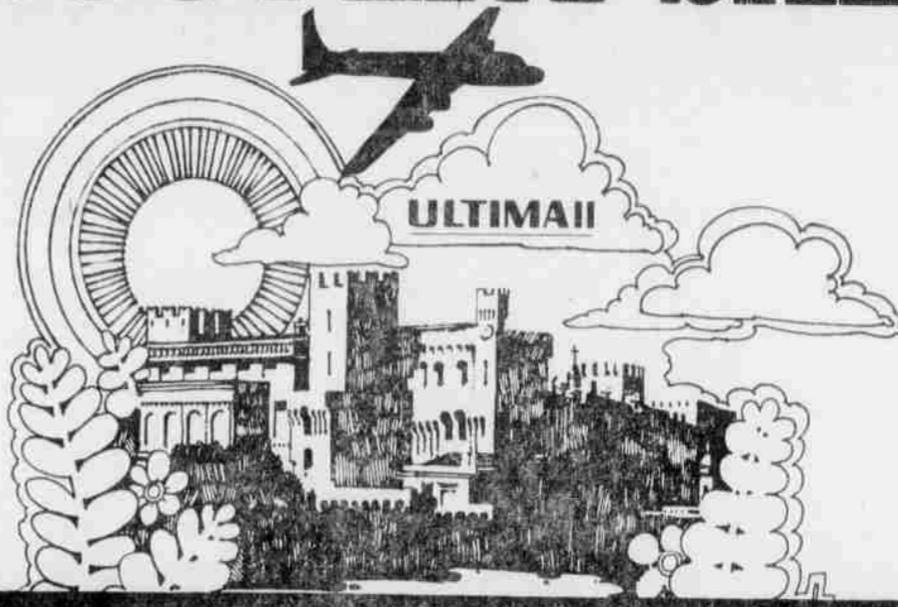
Police are holding a 65-year-old man in connection with the stabbing and say he will be charged with murder.

Investigators said the assailant argued with Odessa Morgan, 42, in the cafe about 5:30 a.m. After accusing her of stealing his wallet, he struck her in the face with his fist. (She was taken to Detroit General with minor injuries.)

Later, in the cafe, the assailant confronted Brown, Ms. Morgan's ex-husband, and asked him about the missing wallet, police said. Police said he then stabbed Brown.

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