

Priest Murdered In Motel In Sullivan

The body of Msgr. Howard Clinton Teacle, age 46, of Shreveport, La., was found in a bathroom at the Holiday Inn at Sullivan last Friday about 3:00 p.m. Two socks tied tightly around his mouth and lower jaw indicated strangulation. Authorities are seeking two men of hippie description and have no clues as to their whereabouts. One is a white male about age 35 with long, reddish brown hair, long beard, last seen wearing a blue shirt with short sleeves, faded blue wash trousers, white socks, gray suede shoes lace type. The other is a white male about 25, long dishwater blond hair, long sideburns, quiet, perhaps a mute or foreigner according to the records of Sheriff H. Bill Miller at Union. They disappeared with Msgr. Teacle's automobile and all means of identification of him, apparently overlooking that he had registered in the motel under his own name.

The story begins on Thursday, when Msgr. Teacle, who made it known he enjoyed immensely the beauty of the Ozark scenery, arrived in a dark street suit at Holiday Inn and bought lunch. Restaurant personnel noted that he seemed extremely nervous. After his lunch he stated he "might as well rent a room," and took Room 108. Shortly thereafter the bearded man with the reddish brown hair approached a motel maintenance man (apparently avoiding the front desk), asking to be directed to Room 108. The direction was given and the man's description noted.

Room service dinners for three were ordered brought to Room 108 about 2:30 p.m. Thursday and were charged to Msgr. Teacle on his charge card. That would indicate three were in Room 108, but the room, equipped with the usual number of glasses, needed two more drinking glasses which Msgr. Teacle asked for when he bought some "hard liquor." He explained he "had a couple of friends visiting."

Though he is a Monsignor by lifetime Catholic title, and serves Alexandria parish in Louisiana, he was teaching at Villa Duschesne high school, St. Louis county, according to records in the sheriff's office. He resided with two priests at the Immacolata Rectory, 8900 Clayton Road, St. Louis county.

When Msgr. Teacle failed to appear at Villa Duschesne Friday morning for his teaching assignment the Richmond Heights Police Department was notified. His car was also missing.

The story shifts back to Franklin county. One of the employees at Holiday Inn used a master key for Room 108 Friday morning but when he saw the bath room door partially ajar and

feet and lower legs visible, he closed the door and went on down the corridor. Tenants had complained repeatedly late Thursday night because the television set in 108 was blaring loudly. A maid used her master key at 3:00 p.m. to clean the room (checkout time). She also had entered the room earlier Friday but saw the lights on, bathroom door partially ajar, and left. When she returned at 3:00 p.m. she came to do a thorough cleaning. Opening the bath room door wide, she saw the man's body lying on the floor, sock tied about the throat, clad only in a brilliant orange pair of under-shorts. The sheriff's office was notified and Deputy Sheriff Paul Bruns sped to the scene.

The coroner, Stanley Meyer of Gerald, was called.

To the experienced observer, it was obvious that the sock did not cause strangulation. The sock acted more as a gag. There were no visible exterior injuries, and Coroner Meyer cannot hold an inquest until fingerprint and pathology tests are completed by the F.B.I., who is leading the investigation. Another newspaper of the area states that the hyoid bone of the neck was broken. It is a movable bone that can be broken only by exertion of exact pressure on the right spot, or by a blow. That paper also states that the left larynx was broken, but Coroner Meyer states only that the sock were not a means of strangulation, no inquest can be held until returns from the F.B.I. at Washington, D.C., and officially until that time, the death is attributed to "asphyxiation." Among other tests is one of the liquid in the drinking glasses found in Room 108; tests of body tissues, etc.

The two priests with whom Msgr. Teacle lived came to Sullivan Friday to identify the body, which was returned to Shreveport, La. for burial after a high requiem mass.

**DEPUTY SHERIFF COLLIDES
EN ROUTE TO MOTEL**

Deputy Sheriff Paul Bruns put in a call to the office in Union for another man to help on the murder investigation, and Deputy Sheriff Don Schroeder needed no second request. Leaving Union, he had reached North Park on Highway 66 at Sullivan at 5:15 p.m. when his car, with the twirling red lights on, skidded into the rear of a truck driven by James Burns, 38, of Sullivan. Burns was turning left off the left lane of the highway. The truck hit the side of a car driven by Vicki L. Sohn, 16, also of Sullivan. The deputy sheriff's car then skidded into a truck driven by Dorsey Brockes, 21, of High Ridge. Trooper Armfield's report shows no serious injuries, though Deputy Schroeder has a few lacerations of the chin.