

# Texarkana ★ Gazette

NEA Telephoto Pictures  
AP Telemat Pictures

TEXARKANA, U. S. A., —(TEXAS and Arkansas) —MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1946

UP—United Press  
AP Features

## GE COUPLE SHOT TO

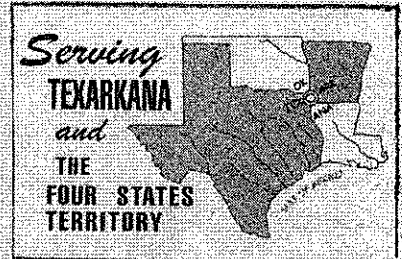


**SLAYER'S VICTIMS**—Betty Jo Booker, 15 (left), and Paul Martin, 17 (right) were slain early Sunday morning and their bodies were left approximately a mile apart on roads behind Spring Lake Park. Both had been shot to death. The photograph of Betty Jo is a recent one which she had given one of her friends in the Delta Beta Sigma sorority. The photograph of Paul was taken about four years ago, when he was a resident of Texarkana. His mother, Mrs. Inez Martin, and family moved to Kilgore two years ago. Betty and Paul had been friends since kindergarten days.

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# a Gazette



(TEXAS and Arkansas) — MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1946

UP—United Press  
AF Features

AP—Associated Press  
Special Features

★ PRICE: FIVE CENTS

## LE SHOT TO DEATH

### Betty Jo Booker, Paul Martin Killed In Double Slaying

#### Tension Grips City as Investigation Launched to Solve Second Twin Murder



Paul Martin, 17 (right) were slain early Sunday morning and pads behind Spring Lake Park. Both had been shot to death. had given one of her friends in th Delta Beta Sigma sorority. when he was a resident of Texarkana. His mother, Mrs. Inez ty and Paul had been friends since kindergarten days.

Texarkana was shocked by the second double murder in three weeks Sunday when the bodies of Betty Jo Booker, 15, and Paul Martin, 17, were found a mile apart on the winding roads behind Spring Lake Park. Both had been shot to death.

Betty Jo is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Brown of 3105 Anthony Drive, Sussex Downs. Paul is the son of Mrs. R. S. Martin, Sr., of Kilgore, formerly of Texarkana. They had been friends since kindergarten days.

Sheriff W. H. Presley said that the crime coincided in many details with the double slaying March 24 of Polly Ann Moore, 17, and Richard L. Griffin, 29, whose bodies were found in a parked automobile off Highway 67 a mile west of the city limits. They had been shot through the back of the head.

The body of Paul Martin was found at 6 a. m. Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Weaver and their son, of the Summerhill road. They were en route to Prescott and saw the body lying beside the road. Martin was lying on his left side on the north side of North Park road, the road running around the park to Summerhill road.

He had been shot four times. One bullet entered the back of the neck and emerged through the front of the skull, another entered the face, a third entered the body through the left shoulder, being fired from the back, and a fourth struck the right hand.

The Weavers notified Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Word, who reside approximately 200 yards from where Martin's body was found, and officers were summoned.

prior to the time of his death, or that he had any enemies.

Friends of the couple said that they had been friends since kindergarten days. They were members of Beech Street Baptist church.

Betty Jo was a junior at Texas senior high school. She played a saxophone in the band and was prominent in other school activities. She was a member of Delta Beta Sigma sorority. She was well known as a dancer, appearing on programs and at recitals here for a number of years.

She is survived by her mother and step father; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Booker of Texarkana and W. H. Tinnell of Minden, La.; and three aunts and three uncles.

Paul completed the ninth grade at Arkansas junior high school here and then attended Gulf Coast Military Academy at Gulfport, Miss., last year before entering school at Kilgore. He was a junior there, and would have graduated next year.

He is survived by his mother and three brothers, Jack and Hugh Martin of Kilgore and R. S. Martin, Jr., a student at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

The bodies were removed by an East Funeral Home ambulance to the funeral home pending completion of funeral arrangements.

While city, county, state, and federal officers gathered there all day Sunday to investigate the slayings, several hundred Texarkana residents assembled in the vicinity of the sheriff's office to be on the spot in the event the killer was apprehended. The entire city was tense Sunday, and throughout the day hundreds of cars lined



## Story jump from replica edition

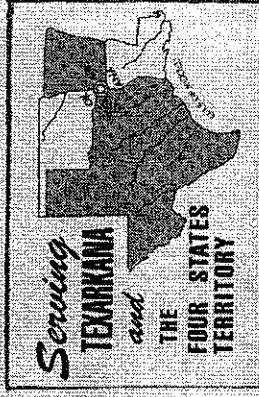
(Continued from page One)

gins, Lieutenant Alen Templeton and Sergeant Carl Miller of the Arkansas State Police; Chief F. V. Haynie of the Hope, Ark., police; Sheriff Jim Sanderson of Little River county; Sheriff Ose Griffin of Lafayette county; Sheriff W. H. Presley and his force of deputies from Bowie county and Captain M. T. Gonzales and his staff of Texas Rangers.

A 30-year-old suspect held for a week in connection with the slaying of Martin and Miss Booker was released Saturday night in Corpus Christi.

Texas Ranger M. W. Williamson reported that the man had been cleared of all suspicion in the case.

# Arkansas Gazette



TEXARKANA, U. S. A., —(Texas and Arkansas)— SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1946

UP—United Press  
AP—Features

AP—Associated Press  
Special Features

★ PRICE: FIVE CENTS

# CHUNTED IN MURDERS Area Patrolled By Large Force



**SHE SURVIVED SLAYER'S BULLETS**—Mrs. Virgil Starks, attractive brunette whose husband was slain by an assassin who fired four shots through the window of their home on Highway 67 Friday night, was in a serious condition Saturday night at Michael Meagher Hospital. She was shot twice, once through the right cheek, the bullet emerging in back of the left ear, and once through the left ear.

A diabolical killer, believed to be a sex maniac, who blasted the peace of a modest farm home into a nightmare of blood and horror Friday night, remained at large Saturday night and it was feared he might strike again at any moment, at any place, at any one.

A great force of officers prowled the secluded lanes in both Bowie and Miller county Saturday night in an effort to halt another possible attack on innocent persons by the killer.

Amid pools of congealing blood, smudged fingerprints and bloody footprints, lawmen labored throughout Saturday in an effort to turn up one concrete clue that might lead to a phantom gunman who struck without warning at 8:50 p.m. Friday, killing Virgil Starks, 36, and seriously injuring his pretty, brunette wife.

Although none of the 47 officers involved in the case would be quoted directly, it was the general sentiment of the majority that the motive for the murder was one of sex mania. "I believe that a sex pervert is responsible," one of the officers said.

The death of Starks brought to five the number of persons who have met sudden, violent death here in the past

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# Killer's Slugs Blasted Idyllic Domestic Scene

Friday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Starks was similar to other nights when the couple, tired from a day of work, relaxed in their modest, but modern ranch-style home.

Starks was seated in the sitting room just off the kitchen and bedroom listening to his favorite Friday night radio program and reading the Friday edition of the Texarkana Gazette when he was shot.

An ironic note was that the paper he was reaching bore the headlines "Man in Corpus Christi is Freed of Suspicion in Murder Cases." When he was shot, the paper fell to the floor and the story of the murder was splattered with his blood.

Mrs. Starks, an attractive brunette, had already undressed and was lying on the bed in the bedroom adjoining the sitting room when she heard the shot. The only garment she wore in her panic-stricken flight through the house, across the highway and railroad tracks to the home of her sister and on to a neighbor's house was a nightgown. She was barefooted. On the floor under the old-fashioned wall crank telephone, which Mrs. Starks rang twice in an effort to summon aid after she found her dead husband were several teeth, that had been splintered from her mouth by gunshot.

Scattered through the bloody path she took through the house were several other teeth.

In her hand she carried another, one with gold filling, which she handed to the driver of the car who brought her to the hospital.

In the house was the evidence of her work during the day. The dining table was covered with material and dress patterns which she was using to cut out a dress. In the front bedroom, on a dressing table stool where a large pool of blood was found was a white eye-

let embroidery material. It, too, was stained with blood. Authorities thought that it was at this spot that she probably debated whether or not to write a note, as the pool of blood here was larger than the other trail of blood left behind in her flight.

One officer stated that she might have stopped in this room to get a .45 calibre revolver which was in the dresser drawer, but decided that she did not have time to find it and so continued her flight for help.

Captain M. T. Gonzaulas of the Texas Rangers said at the scene of the crime. "This is an outrage! I only wish the jury that will try this man could see this house as it is now. This woman possessed tremendous moral courage." As he looked at the heavy trail of blood he added, "It is beyond me why she did not bleed to death."

The courage and stamina of Mrs. Starks was further verified at the hospital where an attending physician said that she showed no evidence of suffering from shock. He said that her pulse at all times since the shooting had been normal. T. A. Clark and A. P. Cox, neighboring landowners, were aghast at the horror of the crime. They knew of no enemies that Starks had and described him as a neighbor of an excellent reputation.

W. H. Presley, Bowie county sheriff, toured the house of death and shook his head. "This killer is the luckiest person I have ever known. No one sees him, hears him in time or can identify him in any way."

Presley knew the Starks family well. He recalled that the couple had gone to school together when their families lived on neighboring farms in Red Springs, in Bowie county. He said that Mrs. Starks was the daughter of Jim Strickland, long time resident of Bowie county.

Dr. Hubert Shull described Mr. and Mrs. Starks as two of the best people he has ever known. He said that Starks was a progressive farmer, respected and trusted by everyone who knew him. He and his wife have been members of the First Methodist church, Sixth and Laurel streets, for years.

A majority of the officers, in off-the-record comments, placed their belief in the theory that a sex maniac was responsible for the murders.

Only in the Moore-Griffin case was there any indication that robbery might have been the motive. Griffin's pockets were turned inside out by the slayer in what officers said might have been an attempt to cover up the real motive behind the brutal murders.

A considerable amount of money in the Starks home was not bothered. Mrs. Starks purse, lying on a bed in full view and containing money and jewels, was not disturbed, and there was no evidence that anything was taken from the home.

Sheriff W. E. Davis of Miller county said that the latest murder could not be definitely linked to the other two double slayings because of a difference in the calibre of the gun used. However, all six persons have been shot in the head.

"It is possible," he said, "that the killer is one and the same man."

Officers declared that the killer apparently shot Starks in the back of the head, waited calmly until his wife ran into the room and discovered the body, and then fired two shots into her face as she rang the rural telephone to give the alarm.

Sheriff Davis, taking up reins of an investigation which has proved to be the biggest manhunt in Texarkana's history, declared Saturday afternoon that three clues had been turned up.

Davis said that the bullets which struck and killed Starks were a .22 calibre, possibly fired from an automatic rifle.

A flashlight was found by officers in the hedge beneath the window from which the killer took careful aim and pumped two slugs into the rear of Starks' head, killing the popular farmer almost instantly.

The flashlight was being checked for fingerprints but there was no announcement Saturday night of any success.

A third clue which officers hoped might assist them in finding a solution to the crime was the discovery of bloody footprints on the kitchen linoleum. These were left by the killer after he had entered the house through the back porch and a kitchen window, and had gone into the room where Starks' body lay. As the killer inspected Starks' body, Mrs. Starks was staggering across the road for help.

The killer was believed to have stepped in a pool of blood flowing from the wounds in Starks' head. Sheriff Davis, who questioned Mrs. Starks soon after the shooting, pieced together bits of jumbled information as it poured from her lips into the operating room of Michael Meagher hospital. She told officers a story of

I got up and went into the room where he was.

"When I reached the doorway, he was standing up. Suddenly, he slumped in the chair, and I saw the blood. I ran over to him, and then I ran to the telephone. I rang it twice," she said.

At this point, Mrs. Starks was shot twice. She crumpled to the floor.

Sheriff Davis said that the killer, after firing the two shots that struck Mrs. Starks, ran around the rear of the house and bounded up the steps.

By this time, Mrs. Starks had recovered somewhat and got up to her feet. She started stumbling toward her bedroom near the front of the home. According to statements made to Sheriff Davis, Mrs. Starks declared that her first thought was to "leave a note."

However, she heard the intruder apparently "coming in through the kitchen window," and she started making tedious, painful headway toward the front of the house.

Blinded by blood spurting from two head wounds, Mrs. Starks' progress could be traced by officers in a virtual river of blood through her bedroom, through a passageway, through another bedroom, through the living room, onto the front porch and out the front door. The trail of blood continued across the highway as Mrs. Starks made her way to the home of her sister, Mrs. Jeff Allen.

Finding no one at the home, Mrs. Starks turned and fled from the porch of the empty house and started running toward another neighbor's home.

Still bleeding profusely, Mrs. Starks arrived at the home of A. V. Prater, about 60 yards from Mrs. Allen's farm. Prater answered the woman's call for help, and grabbed a rifle, which he fired into the air to summon additional aid from neighbors.

Prater, his wife and child, and Elmer Taylor, who heard the rifle shots, rushed the bleeding Mrs. Starks to Texarkana for emergency treatment. She was described as being "in a semi-conscious condition" during the entire trip to this city. "She slumped over in the front seat," Taylor said.

The Miller county sheriff's department was notified minutes after the alarm reached the Hope city police. Charley Boyd and Max Tackett of the Arkansas state police, who received the report by radio, were the first two officers to arrive at the scene of the crime.

One of the officers reported finding Starks still slumped in the blood soaked chair, which had been set afire by the heat from the hot pad.

"Smoke was filling the room, and was coming up all around the man and between his legs."

Immediately after the reports of the slayings spread, blockades were thrown up on Highway 67 several miles northeast and southwest of the murder scene.

Blood hounds were also brought into the case early Saturday

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## Arabs May Ask USSR to Champion Cause Before UN

LONDON —AP— Several Arab groups are reported planning to send a delegation to Moscow to ask the Russians to champion their cause in Palestine before the United Nations, an Arab League spokesman said Saturday in Cairo.

The Arab delegation would not only ask the Russians to bring the subject of Palestine before the United Nations, but would also request the Soviet Union to "support the Arabs in Palestine against the British-American report," the spokesman said, quoting Palestine reports.

Musa Alami, second in command of the majority Arab party in Jerusalem, refused to deny or confirm the Cairo report. Unofficial Arab sources said they did not know of any appeal to Russia to place the Palestine issue before the United Nations.

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To stay in the pink, watch the red and green. "Running-a-light" is an expensive prac-

## Weather

TEXARKANA AND VICINITY: Partly cloudy Sunday. Little change in temperature and scattered showers. Fair and cool Monday.

OKLAHOMA: Generally fair Sunday and Monday. Slightly cooler.

LOUISIANA: Partly cloudy, not much change in temperatures Sunday and Monday. Scattered showers Monday. Gentle to moderate variable winds on the coast, mostly northeast to east.

ARKANSAS: Partly cloudy Sunday and Monday, warmer Sunday.

EAST TEXAS: Partly cloudy, scattered showers and thunderstorms in southwest and extreme south portions Sunday and in south and west portions Monday. Gentle to moderate northeast to southeast winds on the coast.

The following readings show maximum temperatures for the preceding 12 hours and minimum temperatures for 24 hours ending at 6:30 p. m.

City—	Temperatures		
	High	Low	Rain
Abilene	76	57	.00
Amarillo	75	48	.00
Ardmore	73	33	.00
Austin	52	53	.00
Dallas	77	58	.00
Fort Smith	68	57	Trace
Little Rock	62	57	.00
Memphis	72	58	.00
Oklahoma City	70	49	.00
Shreveport	75	58	.00
Sulphur Springs	74	57	.00

U.S. Weather Bureau  
Municipal Airport  
Telephone 5076

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Municipal Airport  
Telephone 8076

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Ardmore	73	53	.00
Austin	82	53	.00
Dallas	77	58	.00
Fort Smith	68	57	Trace
Little Rock	69	57	.00
Memphis	72	58	.00
Oklahoma City	70	49	.00
Shreveport	75	58	.00
Sulphur Springs	74	57	.00
TEXARKANA	72	58	.00
Tulsa	70	55	.00
Waco	76	61	.00

Highest 72 degrees at 3:30 p. m., lowest 58 degrees at 8 a. m. Mean 68 degrees.

HOURLY READINGS			
10 a. m.	65	8 p. m.	70
Noon	67	8 p. m.	68
2 p. m.	65	10 p. m.	62
4 p. m.	70	11 p. m.	61

Meteorological Report—	a. m.	p. m.
Temperature	58	70
Humidity (per cent)	36	59
Precipitation	.00	.00
Precipitation since January 1, 1946, 19.56 inches.		

THIS DATE LAST YEAR			
Maximum temperature	82	minimum temperature	54
Rainfall	.06	Precipitation since January 1, 1945, 26.07 inches.	

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The killer was believed to have stepped in a pool of blood flowing from the wounds in Starks' head.

Sheriff Davis, who questioned Mrs. Starks soon after the shooting, pieced together bits of jumbled information as it poured from her lips into the operating room of Michael Meagher hospital.

She told officers a story of tragedy so sudden, of death so swift, that even she was unable to realize exactly what had transpired until her husband was dying and she had been shot twice.

"I had given Virgil a hot pad to put on his back. He was sitting in a chair, with his back to the window. He was listening to a radio program which he always listens to on Friday nights."

"I was lying in the next room on the bed. I heard a noise in the backyard, and asked Virgil to turn the radio down a bit."

"The next thing I heard sounded like the breaking of glass. I thought he dropped something, so

rang it twice," she said. At this point, Mrs. Starks was shot twice. She crumpled to the floor.

Sheriff Davis said that the killer, after firing the two shots that struck Mrs. Stark, ran around the rear of the house and bounded up the steps.

By this time, Mrs. Starks had recovered somewhat and got up to her feet. She started stumbling toward her bedroom near the front of the home. According to statements made to Sheriff Davis, Mrs. Starks declared that her first thought was to "leave a note."

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"Smoke was filling the room, and was coming up all around the man and between his legs."

Immediately after the reports of the slayings spread, blockades were thrown up on Highway 67 several miles northeast and southwest of the murder scene.

Blood hounds were also brought into the case early Saturday morning, following a faint trail which led to the highway. When the hounds reached the highway, they lost the trail.

Several men who were found in the general vicinity of the house were picked up for questioning by officers, along with occupants of cars which were known to have been in the area at the time of the slaying, Davis said.

The Miller county sheriff called in officers from the entire area to assist in the investigation. They included H. S. Hallett and Dewey Presley of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Captain Earl Scog-

(Continued on Page Seven)

## Arabs May Ask USSR to Champion Cause Before UN

LONDON —AP— Several Arab groups are reported planning to send a delegation to Moscow to ask the Russians to champion their cause in Palestine before the United Nations, an Arab League spokesman said Saturday in Cairo.

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To stay in the pink, watch the red and green. "Running-a-light" is an expensive practice—move with caution instead. If you race to hit the light, you may hit it all right, along with another car or a pedestrian.

## TRAFFIC TOLL

Killed this year	15
Injured this year	56
Killed this month	0
Injured this month	3
Days since last death	25

+ + + + +

# Phantom

Continued from Page 3A

them have fizzled out with thorough investigation.

"We are required to follow all leads, regardless of how thin they might be, in the hope that they will lead to something tangible in the eventual solution of the mystery," Sheriff Presley said.

"All citizens should be assured that we will appreciate any information they have which might help us in the case," Sheriff Presley said. "Rangers and deputy sheriffs will be on duty at this office, telephone No. 97, 24 hours of the day."

The officers are working in relays now after many of them became exhausted in the initial phases of the probe.

Heavy rain added to the gloom of Texarkana Tuesday as citizens crowded into Beech Street Baptist church for separate funeral services for Paul Martin and Betty Jo Booker.

Funeral services for Paul were held at 10 a.m. The Rev. Bruce Price, pastor of Beech Street church, officiated, and burial was in Hillcrest cemetery. Final rites for Betty Jo were at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Mr. Price officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn cemetery.

Several hundred young people, friends and classmates of the popul-

lar teen-agers, filled the church for both services. Many of them left the church crying, and their grief was shared by the adults who were their teachers, Sunday school teachers, and friends of their families.

Heavy rain fell throughout the service for Paul. His mother, Mrs. R. S. Martin, was heavily veiled and as she left the church she was supported by her three other sons, Jack, Hugh, and R. S. Jr. They came here from their home in Kilgore when they were notified that Paul had been killed. The family resides in Kilgore, and R. S. is a student at the University of Arkansas.

Betty Jo is survived by her mother, Mrs. Clark Brown, and step-father, Clark Brown, grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Booker of Texarkana, and W. H. Tinnell of Minden, La., and a number of aunts and uncles.

**H&N Floral**  
Full Service Florist  
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# ARKANSAS DAILY NEWS

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TEXARKANA, U. S. A., — (ARKANSAS and TEXAS) — TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1946

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PR

## Phantom Killer Eludes Officers Investigation of Slayings Press

### Gen. Marshall

### Hopes to Stop Chinese War

#### Will Fly Direct From Tokyo to Peiping To Take Action

By Associated Press  
General Marshall, recognizing the urgency of the Manchurian fighting, Wednesday will fly direct from Tokyo to Peiping, the Sino-American truce headquarters, to again throw his powerful influence into peace negotiations.

Marshall, President Truman's special envoy to China canceled an important conference with Chinese Premier T. V. Soong in Shanghai to go direct to the truce headquarters city.

There he will meet the important Sino-American committee of three which—with substitutes for all three original members—has not had authority to carry out the assigned mission of effecting a truce between warring Chinese government and Communist forces. He expected.



### No Reward Given For Any Truce

#### Reward F \$2200 as Contribution

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# TEXARKANA DAILY NEWS

TEXARKANA, U. S. A., - (ARKANSAS and TEXAS) - TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1946

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## Phantom Killer Eludes Office Investigation of Slayings Pre



**ANOTHER CHAPTER IN TEXARKANA'S SAD STORY**—Teen-age friends of Paul Martin, 17, who with Betty Jo Booker, 15, fell victim to a brutal murderer, carry his casket down the steps of the Beech Street Baptist church Tuesday morning after funeral services. His mother and three brothers follow. Services for Betty Jo were held in the afternoon.

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# DAILY NEWS

CITY FINAL

ARKANSAS and TEXAS) - TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1946

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PRICE: FIVE CENTS

## Killer Eludes Officers as on of Slayings Pressed



### No Break in Case Expected Any Time Soon

#### Reward Fund Rises to \$2200 as More Contributions Made

Texarkana's Phantom Killer continued to match wits with some of the best investigative brains in Texas Tuesday as the investigation of the brutal murder of Paul Martin, 17, and Betty Jo Booker, 18, trudged along methodically and laboriously Tuesday with no break in the case anticipated immediately.

Texas Ranger Captain M. T. Gonzallus said that it was one of the most puzzling cases he had encountered in his 30 years of criminal investigation.

The reward fund was swelled to \$2200 by \$200 offered by the Texarkana Gazette and Daily News, \$250 by the Rotary Club, and \$50 by Robert McDonald, owner of the Yellow Cab company. Captain Gonzallus and Sheriff Presley expressed their appreciation of the spirit of local businessmen and firms in offering the sum as stimulant to information in the case.

Contributions to the fund should be mailed to John Holman, chairman, Reward Fund, in care of either the Texarkana National Bank or the State National Bank.

In addition to the above contributors to the fund, others include, Otis Henry Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, \$250 for the last crime; Texarkana Lions Club, \$250, with \$125 for each crime or the entire sum for both; F. P. Matthews of 1000 Lincoln street, \$100; Oliver Dreyer, \$100; three anonymous businessmen, \$500; and Sheriff Presley and Chief of Police Jack N. Runnels, \$500 for the first slayings.

Although the prospects for solving the mystery were not bright

**IN TEXARKANA'S SAD STORY**—Teen-age friends of Paul Martin, 17, who with Betty Jo Booker, brutal murderer, carry his casket down the steps of the Beech Street Baptist church Tuesday services. His mother and three brothers follow. Services for Betty Jo were held in the

were dealing with a shrewd criminal who had left no stones unturned in concealing his identity and activities.

Sheriff Presley and the Rangers said that very little information had been obtained from the many suspects quizzed during the last two days and nights of ceaseless work on the case.

Many clues have been obtained from citizens trying to be helpful in the case but the majority of

(Continued on page two)

# Phantom

Continued from Page 5A

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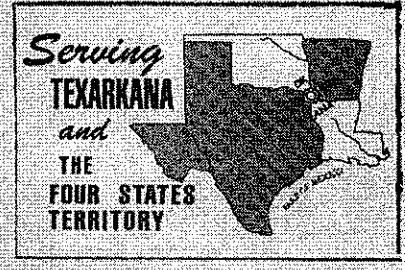
their attacker. She said in spite of rumors to the contrary, he had not suffered any other injury. She said he was now in Shreveport where he is considering taking a job as an accountant and bookkeeper.

(Hollis was expected to return to Texarkana from Shreveport Thursday night, but had not arrived at a late hour.)

Mary Jeanne talked freely to me Thursday night because she believed what she had to say might help the people of Texarkana to understand the kind of killer and madman they are trying to catch.

I came here in an airplane piloted by Paul Burns and will return to Texarkana Friday.

# a Gazette



Arkansas) — FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1946

UP—United Press  
AP Features

AP—Associated Press  
Special Features

★ PRICE: FIVE CENTS

## Mary Jeanne Larey Declares Man Who Attempted to Attack Her on Feb. 22 Was Phantom

### Two Suspects Still Being Hunted in Area

### Klan's Crosses Burn Again on Mountain Side

#### More Than 500 New Members Initiated in Atlanta Ceremony

By LUCILLE HOLLAND  
Gazette Staff Writer

FREDERICK, Okla.—Special—Mrs. Mary Jeanne Larey, 19, safe in the haven of the home of her uncle and aunt in this small Oklahoma town, told me the story Thursday night of what she believed was the first attack of the Phantom Killer who later took the lives of five Texarkana residents.

Mary Jeanne, a lovely brunette whose appearance does not betray her terrible experience but whose nightmares do, came here a month ago because she found living in East Hooks courts so near the scene of her experience almost more than she could bear. She told me that she is sure beyond any doubt that the man who attempted to criminally assault her on the night of February 22 was the murderer.

She also is sure that he is a negro, although she said her companion, Jimmy Hollis, 24, does not believe so.

"I would know his voice anywhere," she said. "It rings always in my ears. Why didn't he kill me too? He killed so many others."

And in her dreams Mary Jeanne sees her attacker almost every night.

She said Thursday night that she could not understand why officers did not believe her when she told them of the night of the attack that the man was a negro and that she did not know who he was. She said that officers had tried to make her say she knew who the attacker was but that she positively did not know except that she believed he was a negro.

Officers have not publicly linked the attack on February 22 on Jimmy Hollis and Mary Jeanne Larey with the five recent murders in Texarkana.

Mary Jeanne said that she has been questioned in Texarkana by the Texas Rangers following the murder March 24 of Polly Ann Moore and

then I knew he was going to kill me.

"I stopped because I was so scared, and he hit me again. I fell to the ground."

Then Mary Jeanne told a tale of horror as she described a brutal assault on her by the man. She said that he did not rape her, but that he abused her terribly. She said that she did not know how she got up, but that she had strength somehow as she rose to her feet and told the man, "go ahead and kill me."

Officers worked and waited Thursday night in an atmosphere charged with tension and disappointment, while two suspects in the brutal murder of Virgil Starks and possibly four other persons continued to elude police who hunted them in four states.

Even as officers searched the Lufkin area for the red-headed, stocky suspect who robbed and threatened a negro who gave him a ride, citizens of that East Texas town were flushed with the same fear that Texarkana has known when the alarm spread that this city's phantom gunman might be in the vicinity of Lufkin.

Lufkin residents were reported to be arming themselves with shotguns, pistols, knives and in some instances, axes.

As police hunted the Lufkin suspect, officers in four states sought an escaped German prisoner of war whom Federal Bureau of Investigation spokesmen in Oklahoma termed a "routine suspect."

A "heartbreaking" blow was dealt Thursday morning to the investigation of Starks' death, when Sheriff W. E. Davis of Miller county was notified that the flashlight which the killer is believed to have dropped beneath the window of the Starks home, contained no fingerprints. The flashlight, looked upon as a prime clue in a probe for what police believe is a sex maniac, was sent to Washington for scrutiny by FBI technicians in the nation's capital.

Officers investigating the murders admittedly were in possession of little that might lead to the killer's identity.

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga.—UP—Five fiery crosses blazed atop historic Stone mountain Thursday night, fired by white-robed members of the revived Ku Klux Klan heralding the rebirth of the secret organization.

It was the Klan's first public demonstration since Pearl Harbor. The public had been invited through advertisements in Atlanta newspapers.

More than 500 new members of the Klan were initiated by more than 700 robed and masked klansmen while approximately 1000 wives and children of the brethren watched them take their degrees.

Forming a huge oval inside which burned four wooden crosses, the Klansmen went through their ritual to the raucous order barked by a man carrying a small burning cross.

At the peak of Stone mountain, quart cans of oil had been placed to form a burning cross 300 feet high and 165 feet long. It could be seen for miles. In the flickering shadows of the flames, the new klansmen were initiated in the same manner as were their forefathers in 1865.

Dr. Samuel Green, of Atlanta, grand dragon of the Klan, said Thursday night's ceremonies had

believe the man who forced the negro to take him to Lufkin was the man responsible for the five recent murders here. The man, Gonzaulas said, "Is going to have a lot of explaining to do."

"We don't believe that the man who killed the five people here in the past six weeks would boast about his crimes, and then let the negro go," the Ranger Captain said. Texarkana was a solid bundle of nerves Thursday as rumors continued to make the rounds, exciting many persons into believing that the killer had been apprehended. One rumor stated that the German prisoner of war had been captured in Shreveport, and had "confessed" to the slayings here. The rumor is groundless, local officers said.

Several residents in North Texarkana were alarmed Thursday evening when telephone service was disrupted for a short time.

Ranger Tully Seay reported that a negro woman residing near the Macedonia school west of Texarkana was frightened Thursday afternoon when a bullet, presumably from a .22 calibre rifle, crashed through her window. The bullet had spent its force before it struck the window, according to officers, and was probably fired by hunters who were known to be in the vicinity.

The portable police radio station, which arrived Wednesday afternoon from Austin along with 10 prowler cars, was reported to be in operation Thursday night. The prowler cars, which are equipped with the latest three-way radio equipment, has been manned by 20 state police, sent to Texarkana by the Department of Public Safety to aid in the crisis here.

a Georgia affair." However, he said, since the Georgia Klan was the "mother Klan" of all KKK units throughout the nation, "Klansmen are here from just about everywhere."

Scores of automobiles were parked in the area and five chartered buses brought Klansmen and their families to Stone Mountain.

The Klan a few months ago was chartered with the secretary of state in Georgia as an organization "for white gentiles only."

Green, wearing a green robe and mask of durette cloth, was the only Klansman not clad in white. He said some Klansmen were not robed tonight because of the shortage of durette cloth, also known as Indian head cloth, and the Klan code forbids use of any other material.

"We ceased our activities after Pearl Harbor," said Green, an Atlanta physician with a small, Hitler-like mustache. "All Klansmen devoted their efforts to winning the war. But now with the war ended, we are revived."

Asked by a reporter if the klan would enter the political field in Georgia, Green said the Klan would wait until entries had closed.

**NAVY LAUNCHES "DRONES" OFF CARRIER**

ABOARD USS SHANGHAI-LA off San Diego—AP—The Navy launched radio-controlled fighter planes from a carrier for the first time, publicly, Thursday.

The "drones" fighters were sent away shoreward under control of "mother" planes in a preview of one phase of the aerial observation of the Bikini atomic bomb July 1.

Richard L. Grimm. She said she made the trip to Texarkana from Frederick, Okla., then in the hope that officers would connect the crime, and that her story might help to apprehend the killer. She was disappointed, she said, when they continued to insist that she knew the name of the man who attacked her and Hollis, but was shielding him. She said that after the murder of Betty Jo Booker and Paul Martin on April 12, Texas Ranger Joe Thompson flew here and questioned her again.

"I believe now that the officers connect all of the crimes," she said.

Mary Jeanne is trying to lead a normal life, according to her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Long. Mrs. Long said, however, that for the first time in the girl's life, she is extremely nervous. She will not sleep in a room alone and will not go upstairs in the attractive Long home by herself.

Mary Jeanne cannot forget the night of February 22.

It lives in her memory as the most horrible experience she has ever had and the most terrifying brush she has had with death. Although she told me that some of the things that happened are not too clear in her mind, she does remember this:

"Jimmy and I and his brother Bob and Bob's girl had been to the show. They did not want to go all the way out to where I lived, so we took them home," Mary Jeanne said.

"Jimmy and I parked about 11:45 p. m. just off the Richmond Road about a mile north of Beverly. We had been there about ten minutes when a man walked up. He wore a white mask over his eyes and mouth. He was pointing a flashlight and pistol at us. He came up on the driver's side of the car and told Jimmy something like this, 'I don't want to kill you, fellow, so do what I say.'"

"We both got out of the car on Jimmy's side and stood by the man. The man then told Jimmy, 'Take off your ——— britches.' I told Jimmy to please take them off because I thought if he did, we wouldn't be hurt. After Jimmy had taken off his trousers, the man hit Jimmy twice on the head. The noise was so loud I thought Jimmy had been shot. I learned later that the sound was his skull cracking. I picked up Jimmy's pants and took his billfold out of his pocket. I said, 'Look, he doesn't have any money.'"

"The man told me I was lying. He said that I had a purse but I told him that I had not. Then he hit me. I thought with a piece of iron pipe. He knocked me to the ground, but I managed to get up. He told me to run and I started to run for the ditch. He told me not to run that way, but go up the road. I started running down the road, and as I ran, I could hear Jimmy groaning. The man was beating and stomping him.

"It was hard for me to run because I had on high heeled shoes. I saw an old model car parked on the road facing our car. I stopped and looked inside, hoping that someone could help me, but there was no one in it. Just after I got past the car, the man overtook me and asked me why I was running. I told him it was because he told me to

she told me she remembered little that happened after that. She said that she didn't know why the man did not kill her because he had his gun and every opportunity. As well as she remembers, the man turned and left her there in the middle of the road. She was sure, she said, that he intended to force her to get into his car and later kill her, but that something must have gone wrong with his plans.

"Jimmy made it to the Richmond Road and stopped a car. He might have seen the lights and been frightened away," Mary said.

"I ran about a half a mile to a house and screamed for them to help me. While I was pounding on the front a car passed and I screamed for it to stop, but it didn't. It was not the car I had seen earlier on the road. I ran to the back of the house and woke the people up and they called the sheriff."

Mary Jeanne was taken to a Texarkana hospital where stitches were taken in wounds in her head. Then she was taken home by officers.

Mary Jeanne said Thursday night that she asked the man to kill her because she would rather he did that than to touch and abuse her. She said that all the time she was running, she thought he was behind her, and she thought she had to escape him in order to get help to Jimmy.

Hollis, an insurance salesman until the night of February 22, had been ordered by his doctor not to go back to work for six months, because of the extent of the injuries he had suffered.

Mary Jeanne said that he left last Thursday after having spent a week here. She said that his skull had been fractured twice and that he had been kicked and beaten by

(Continued on Page Two)

**Weather** U.S. Weather Bureau Municipal Airport Telephone 5076

TEXARKANA AND VICINITY: Mostly cloudy and warmer Friday with scattered showers and thunderstorms.

LOUISIANA: Considerable cloudiness with scattered thunderstorms Saturday and in west and north portions Friday, cooler north portion Friday night and Saturday. Moderate south to northeast winds on the coast.

ARKANSAS: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms Friday and in east portion Saturday, cooler northwest portion Friday and in east and south portions Saturday.

EAST TEXAS: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms Friday and near the coast Saturday, cooler northwest and extreme north portions Friday and in interior of east and south portions Saturday. Moderate to fresh southeast winds on the coast.

The following readings show maximum temperatures for the preceding 12 hours and minimum temperatures for 24 hours ending at 6:30 p. m.

Table with columns: City, High, Low, Rain. Lists cities like Abilene, Amarillo, Ardmore, Austin, Dallas, Fort Smith, Little Rock, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Shreveport, Sulphur Springs, TEXARKANA, Tulsa, Waco with their respective temperature readings.

Highest 81 degrees at 3:30 p. m., lowest 59 degrees at 4:30 a. m. Mean 70 degrees.

Table with columns: Hourly Readings (10 a. m., Noon, 2 p. m., 4 p. m., Meteorological Report, Temperature, Humidity, Precipitation) and values.

THIS DATE LAST YEAR: Maximum temperature 84, minimum temperature 54, Rainfall .05. Precipitation since January 1, 1946.



**HICSWA READ WIRE**—The family of Pfc. Joseph E. Hicswa, whose death sentence imposed for slaying two Japanese civilians has been commuted by President Truman to 30 years in prison, read a telegram in their Wallington, N. J., home from Senator Albert W. Hawke's (N.J.) informing them of the president's action, left to right (rear): Joseph Hicswa, the father; Eleanor and Thomas, and (front), William, Anne, the mother; Geraldine and John.

## Couple Found Shot to Death

(Continued from page One)  
resided with his mother, Mrs. R. H. Griffin, Robison Courts.

Relatives of the slain couple stated that they had been going together for about six weeks. Miss Moore was described by friends as "homey," tending to date boys very little.

Griffin attended school in Linden, Texas, and Union Chapel, Cass county.

Miss Moore is survived by her mother, Mrs. Lizzie Moore, Cornet, Texas, one brother, Malton Moore, also of Cornet, and a grandmother, Mrs. Della Malton, Cornet.

Griffin is survived by his mother, two brothers, Welborn Griffin, Dallas, Texas, and David Griffin, of this city, two sisters, Miss Eleanor Griffin, Texarkana, and Mrs. Merle Curtis, San Pedro, Calif.

The body of Miss Moore was sent to the Hanner Funeral Home, Atlanta, Texas, for funeral services and burial.

The body of Griffin will be removed from the Texarkana funeral home Tuesday for funeral services to be held at the Union Chapel Methodist church in Cass county at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday. The Rev. Mr. Everett, a former pastor of the church will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Curtwright, present pastor.

# Texarkana Gazette

Serving  
TEXARKANA  
and  
THE  
FOUR STATE  
TERRITORY

TEXARKANA, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1946

UP—United Press  
AP Features

AP—Associated Press  
Special Features

## Shot to Death in A



**VETERAN SLAIN**—Richard L. Griffin, 29-year-old war veteran, was found shot to death in his Oldsmobile sedan along with the body of his girl friend one mile west of this city on Highway 67 Sunday morning.



**YOUNG VICTIM OF MURDERER**—Miss Polly Ann Moore, 17-year-old Red River Arsenal worker was found shot to death early Sunday morning. This picture, taken at her home in Douglassville, Texas, while she was attending high school in Atlanta, Texas, was found in her purse beside her body Sunday morning.

### Chinese Government, Reds Near Agreement on Using Truce Units in Manchuria

HUNGKING—AP—The Chinese government and the rival communist regime were reported Sunday on the verge of agreeing to send dications there have been no serious clashes, but United States representatives feared that only a spark was needed to send the flames of civil war spreading over the area.

### British Mission Arrives in Indian Capital City

### No Compulsory Training Bill

### Polly Rich Mur

### Few She Poch

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# Death in Auto

## Polly Ann Moore, Richard Griffin Murder Victims

### Few Clues Found, Sheriff Says; Man's Pockets Rifled

A 17-year old girl employee of the Red River Arsenal and her 29-year-old war veteran escort were found shot to death Sunday morning in a car parked off Highway 67 approximately one mile outside Texarkana's western city limits.

The bodies of Polly Ann Moore, 1215 Magnolia street, and Richard L. Griffin, 155 Robison Courts, were found dumped in the rear of Griffin's 1941 Oldsmobile sedan. Each had been shot once in the back of the head. Both were fully clothed.

The death car was discovered by a passing motorist who became alarmed at the sight of the two persons who "looked like they were asleep." The motorist investigated, and, discovering the bodies, sent the alarm to city police who relayed the message to W. H. (Bill) Presley, Bowie County sheriff.

The automobile containing the bodies was about 100 yards from the highway.

Sheriff Presley immediately launched a city-wide investigation along with the Texas and Arkansas city police, the Miller and Cass county sheriffs' departments, the Department of Public Safety, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The bodies were taken to the Texarkana Funeral Home. Sheriff Presley, who examined the automobile, said that the veteran was found on his knees between the front seats, head resting on his hands. The girl was found sprawled in the rear seat of the machine, face down.

The couple was seen around 10 p. m. Saturday night in a West Seventh street cafe, where they had supper with the sister of the slain man, Miss Eleanor Griffin and her escort, J.A. Proctor.

The couple was also seen earlier at 2 p.m., Sheriff Presley reported, by friends in another West Seventh street cafe.

Sheriff Presley, who led the investigation, declared that no break in the case was in sight. Officials spent most of Sunday exploiting the meager clues.

Very few clues were uncovered, according to Sheriff Presley, who led the investigation. Among them was the discovery of a patch of ground saturated with dried blood about 20 feet from the car. The automobile was spotted with blood



Richard L. Griffin, 29-year-old war veteran, was found in the Oldsmobile sedan along with the body of his 17-year-old daughter in this city on Highway 67 Sunday morning.



**YOUNG VICTIM OF MURDERER**—Miss Polly Ann Moore, 17-year-old Red River Arsenal worker was found shot to death early Sunday morning. This picture, taken at her home in Douglassville, Texas, while she was attending high school in Atlanta, Texas, was found in her purse beside her body Sunday morning.

## Government, Reds Clash on Using Troops in Manchuria

Chinese communists Sunday would send Manchurian troops to the government and Russia. The source close to the government said it was likely that the

Chinese communists Sunday would send Manchurian troops to the government and Russia. The source close to the government said it was likely that the

## British Mission Arrives in Indian Capital City

### Barrage of Statements Promise Civil War or Full Cooperation

NEW DELHI—AP—The British cabinet mission charged with the task of negotiating self-government for India arrived in New Delhi Sunday amid a barrage of state-

## No Compulsory Training Bill Seen This Year

### House Committee Will Toss Subject to New Congress Next January

WASHINGTON—AP—There will be no universal military training legislation this year, House Military Committee members predicted Sunday.

The couple was seen around 10 p. m. Saturday night in a West Seventh street cafe, where they had supper with the sister of the slain man, Miss Eleanor Griffin and her escort, J.A. Proctor.

The couple was also seen earlier at 2 p.m., Sheriff Fresley reported, by friends in another West Seventh street cafe.

Sheriff Fresley, who led the investigation, declared that no break in the case was in sight. Officials spent most of Sunday exploiting the meager clues.

Very few clues were uncovered, according to Sheriff Fresley, who led the investigation. Among them was the discovery of a patch of ground saturated with dried blood about 20 feet from the car. The automobile was spattered with blood throughout, and congealed blood was found on the running board, where it had flowed through the bottom of the door of the machine.

Officials discounted the possibility of a murder-suicide angle in the case, declaring that facts surrounding the case indicated double murder.

The pockets in the slain man's trousers were turned inside out in an apparent attempt at robbery.

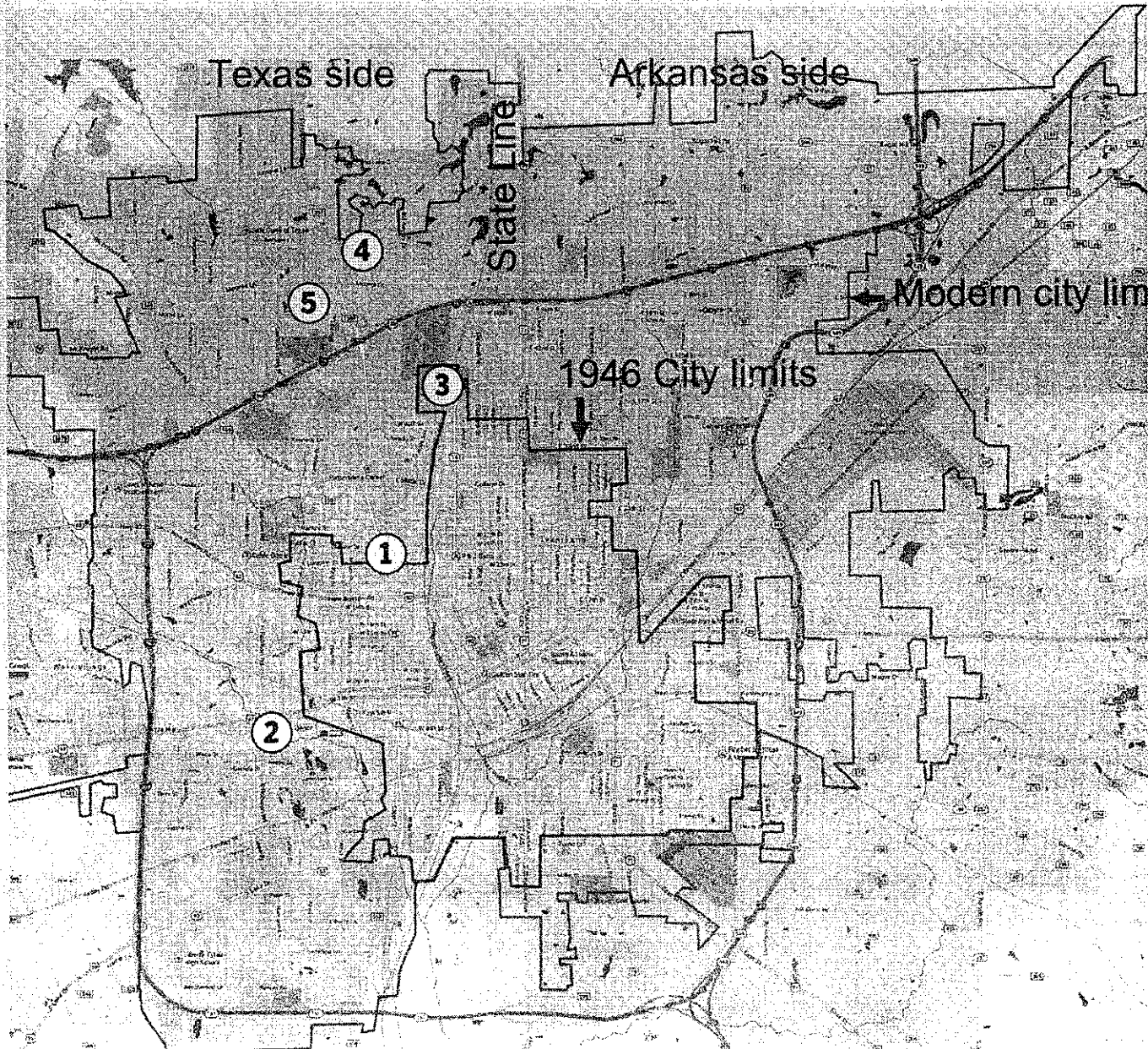
Miss Moore was employed as a checker at the Red River Arsenal since July, 1945. She graduated from Atlanta, Texas, high school in 1945, and immediately took up residence in this city, along with a cousin, Mrs. Ardalla Campbell at the Magnolia street address.

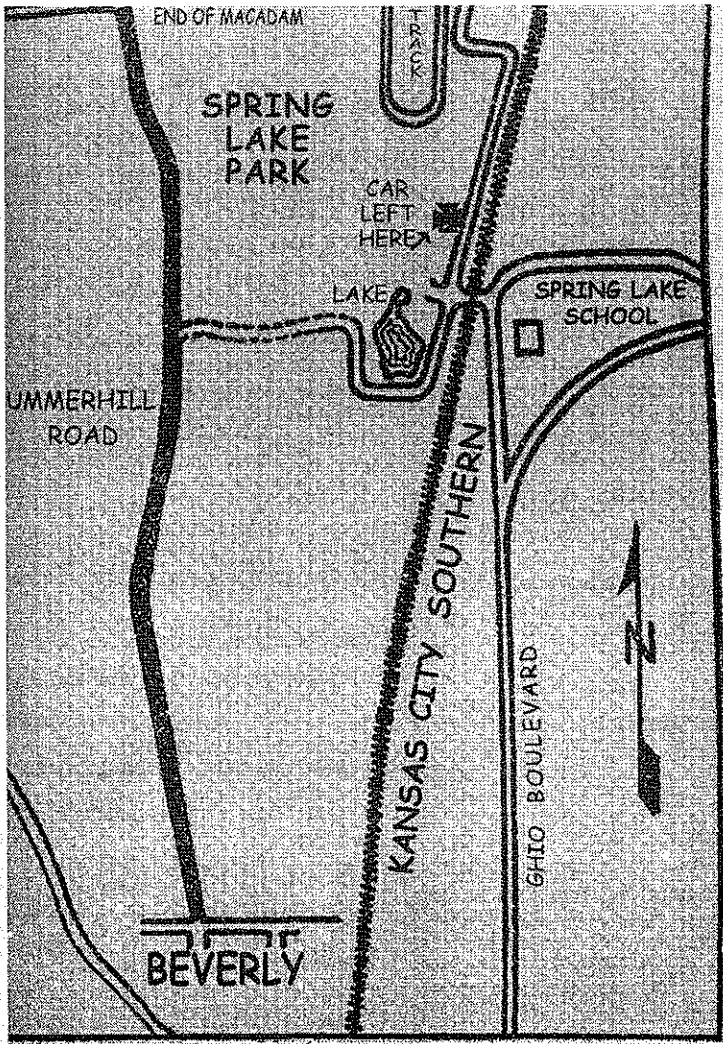
Griffin was discharged from the Seabees in November 1945, and

(Continued on Page Six)

# Where it all took place

There are at least 36 relevant places associated with the murders. These locations were derived from archived local news articles, old city directories and remaining police reports on the Phantom Killer cases. Five of them are gone, and four have been so altered and modernized as to render them unrecognizable. Our first map locates where the attacks took place.





the spots at which the bodies of Betty Jo Booker and Paul Martin abandoned in the Spring Lake Park area.

Boyd, of East Ninth street, who had joined in the search because they were friends of the girl's family.

She had been shot through the heart, the bullet entering the body from the front, and through the head, the bullet entering through the left cheek by the nose.

Sheriff Presley said that early investigation of the crimes indicated that the bodies of the victims had not been abused. No attempt had been made to conceal the bodies, he said. He said that it was impossible to tell who had been shot first.

One of the most baffling phases of the slaying was discovery of Martin's automobile a mile from the spot where his body was found. It was parked with the keys in it on the road beside the park near the KCS crossing. Betty Jo's body was found approximately two miles from the automobile.

Betty Jo and Martin were last seen alive by their friends at 2 a. m. Sunday, when they left the Veterans of Foreign Wars building at Fourth and Oak. Betty Jo was a member of Jerry Atkin's orchestra, which plays for weekly dances at the building. She was picked up at the VFW building by Martin after the dance, her friends said. They did not know if the couple planned to go directly home.

Tom Albritton, 1119 Locust street, said that Martin had come to Texarkana Friday, and that he and Martin had spent Friday night at the Martin residence at 1222 Locust. He said that Martin had a date with Betty Jo Saturday afternoon, spending part of the time at her home, and then was to pick her up after the dance. He said that he did not believe that Martin had been involved in an argument

to work on the crimes. Various county and city officers came from Bowie, Miller, Little River and Cass counties. Also assisting were members of the Texas and Arkansas state police, the Texas Rangers, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Five Texas Rangers from Company B, with headquarters in Dallas, are here working under the direction of Captain M. T. Gonzallas. They are Stewart Stanley, Jim Geer, Dick Oldham, Earnest Daniel, N. K. Dixon, and Tulley E. Seay. Four technical experts from the Bureau of Identification and Records and technical laboratory of the Department of Public Safety, Austin, were en route here Sunday night.

**SHOWDOWN ON PRICE CONTROLS LOOMS TUESDAY**

WASHINGTON -AP- Southern senators critical of OPA restrictions on farm products began forming a bloc as the House prepared for a showdown over price controls starting Monday.

With the administration playing for its biggest stakes, House action appeared likely to consume most of the week and to produce a somewhat curtailed extension of the price authority that President Truman has said must be alive to avoid runaway inflation. The present law expires June 30.

**WORKERS END STRIKE**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.-AP-Striking transportation employees of the Birmingham Electric company voted at a mass meeting Sunday to return to work immediately pending arbitration of a wage dispute that has paralyzed the city's street car and bus service for four days.

**MARSHALL IN HONOLULU**  
 HONOLULU-AP-General Marshall, special United States envoy to China, arrived by plane here Sunday en route to Chungking from Washington.

**Gen. Chou Charges Troops Cause of China's Civil War**

CHUNGKING-AP-Communist Gen. Chou En-Lai charged Sunday that Chinese government troops had plunged all Manchuria into "a general civil war" in which Communist armies must counter-attack.

Government dispatch said Changchun's government garrison commander had placed the Manchurian capital under martial law as Sunday's deadline for the Russian withdrawal found powerful Chinese Communist forces encircling the city.

Chou, China's second-ranking Communist and chief negotiator, would not say his party's armies planned to occupy Changchun because "I'm not a field commander," but asserted that "politically we have every right to do so."

Chou declared at a press conference that government armies had turned the occupation of Manchuria into a campaign of open warfare against the Communists.

**Offered for Bringing Conviction**

is was offered by Texarkana business leading to the arrest and conviction to murdered Betty Jo Booker and Paul

to offer \$500 for solution-breaking in murder.

country home on North Spring Lake as found, offered \$100 for information in the Booker-Martin case or in the March 24.

ward were paid in one of these cases, offered for information in the other case. Chief of Police Jack N. Runnels have information bringing a conviction in



**NO STONE UNTURNED**-Chief of Police Jack N. Runnels and Sheriff W. H. (Bill) Presley were the first officers to arrive at the scene of the double murder of Betty Jo Booker and Paul Martin early Sunday morning, and they worked closely together collecting every bit of evidence in an effort to solve the second slaying of this type in three weeks. During the day the sheriff and police chief assembled a collection of city, county, state and federal officers experienced in breaking murders to lend support in the search for the killer.

**KEY:**

- 1. Richmond Road and Stevenson Street—Mary Jeanne Larey and Jimmy Hollis were parked here and attacked by a masked assailant Feb. 22, 1946.
- 2. South Robison Road—Richard Griffin and Polly Ann Moore were found shot to death Nov. 24, 1946, about 100 yards south of U.S. Highway 67 at Robison. At the time, Robison connected U.S. 67 at what is now Wagner Street.
- 3. Spring Lake Park—Paul Martin and Betty Jo Booker were abducted here; their car was later found not far from the entrance.
- 4. North Park Road—Paul Martin was found slain on North Park near Summerhill Road. North Park was a dirt road then and has since been paved.
- 5. Morris Lane—Betty Jo Booker's slaying took place in a wooded area close to this roadway which is a little south of where Fernwood and Galleria Oaks drives intersect. The lane is being rebuilt and may have overtaken the area where she was found.
- 6. Old U.S. Highway 67—Katie and Virgil Starks' home was on the highway in 1946 about 11 miles from the city limit. The house is gone, but parts of the old highway still exist 10 miles or more.

**Still Standing: Check in later in this series for more map locations of buildings and other sites related to this horrific chapter in local history.**

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