



New Zealand Police

2014

CREWE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION REVIEW



Chronology of Events

APPENDIX 2

CREWE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

Key Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
On or about 20 March 1959	Allan THOMAS purchased a trailer from Gordon WHYTE.
December 1962	Arthur THOMAS gives Jeannette a brush and comb set as a Christmas present.
5 November 1964	Arthur and Vivien THOMAS were married in Wellsford.
On or about 26 July 1965	About one week after Allan THOMAS' trailer was modified by Roderick RASMUSSEN, Richard THOMAS again took the trailer to RASMUSSEN as it had been overloaded causing the new axle to bend. Repairs were made and the trailer was collected by Richard.
1 June 1966	Arthur THOMAS entered into a contract for the lease of his father's farm at Mercer Ferry Road, Pukekawa where he and Vivien THOMAS took up residence.
18 June 1966	Harvey and Jeannette were married in Epsom, Auckland and moved onto the Highway 22, Pukekawa farm previously owned by Jeannette's uncle, Howard CHENNELLS.
29 July 1967, evening	The CREWES' house was burgled while Harvey and Jeannette were having dinner at Lenard and May DEMLER's home. Items belonging to Jeannette, including a brush and comb set, were stolen.
December 1968	Harvey and Jeannette's only child, Rochelle, was born.
7 December 1968, evening	After having dinner with Lenard and May DEMLER, Harvey returned to his home to find that it was on fire. Twenty percent of the total house was damaged. At this time Jeannette was in hospital after giving birth to Rochelle.
28 May 1969, approximately 9.00pm	The CREWES' hay barn was discovered to be on fire. The barn and 800 bales of hay were destroyed.
26 February 1970	May DEMLER died of a brain tumor after a long illness.
15 June 1970, approximately 10.00am	Lenard DEMLER visited Sturrock & Monteith Solicitors, Tuakau, where he met with Colin STURROCK. DEMLER signed a document relating to the death duties incurred by May DEMLER's estate.

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16 June 1970, 9.45am	Jeannette visited Sturrock & Monteith Solicitors, Tuakau, where she met with solicitor, Douglas MONTEITH, regarding her mother's estate. Jeannette signed the estate duty account and was given a statement of the estate's assets and liabilities.
16 June 1970, between 6.30pm and 10.00pm	Lenard DEMLER had dinner with Harvey and Jeannette at their home.
17 June 1970, 9.45am	Stock agent John GRACIE visited the CREWES' home and had a cup of tea with Harvey and Jeannette before GRACIE and Harvey left the property and travelled to Keith KENYON's farm in Glen Murray, where Harvey viewed a bull that was for sale.
17 June 1970, between 10.30am and 12.00 noon	Acquaintance Thyrle PIRRETT went to the CREWES' home with her three-year-old daughter to visit Jeannette. Harvey returned to the house, after going to look at the bull, and joined Jeannette and PIRRETT for a cup of tea.
17 June 1970, between 12.00 noon and 12.30pm	The CREWES' vehicle was seen at a vegetable stall on Hamilton Road, Buckland.
17 June 1970, between 12.30pm and 3.00pm	Harvey, Jeannette and Rochelle attended a stock clearance sale at John LOCKHART's farm in Bombay. It was raining fairly heavily at the time, and Jeannette and Rochelle remained in the car.
17 June 1970, between 3.30pm and 4.30pm	Beverley BATKIN, a friend of Jeannette's, was inside her home in Buckland Road, Tuakau, when she saw the CREWES' vehicle drive past in the direction of Pukekawa.
17 June 1970, 4.45pm	Craig FULTON, a Glen Murray resident, saw the CREWES' vehicles parked at the gate one mile past the CREWES' house. FULTON stated that Harvey often attended to stock in that area.
17 June 1970, 5.10pm	Alexander IRVINE, a Glen Murray farmer, saw the CREWES' vehicle parked on the side of the road near the cemetery (approximately two kilometres south of the CREWES' house). IRVINE did not see Harvey, but assumed that he had been shifting sheep.
17 June 1970, between 7.00pm and 9.30pm	Harvey and Jeannette were murdered in their home.

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18 June 1970, 9.30am	Local delivery man Emmett SHIRLEY left one-and-a-half loaves of bread, two quart bottles of milk and one <i>New Zealand Herald</i> newspaper in the CREWES' delivery box at their front gate.
19 June 1970, just after 9.00am	Bruce RODDICK stated he saw a woman and a vehicle on the CREWES' property while he was feeding out hay in the paddock opposite the CREWES' property.
19 June 1970, 9.30am	Local delivery man Emmett SHIRLEY left two-and-a-half loaves of bread, three quart bottles of milk and one <i>New Zealand Herald</i> newspaper in the CREWES' delivery box at their front gate. He noted that the deliveries he had made the previous day were still in the delivery box.
19 June 1970, 4.30pm	Lenard DEMLER attends appointment with solicitor Colin STURROCK to sign new Will bequeathing two thirds of his Estate to daughter Heather SOUTER and one third to Jeannette CREWE (as suggested by STURROCK the previous Monday).
20 June 1970, 1.40pm	Queenie McCONACHIE stated she saw a child and a vehicle on the CREWES' property while she and her husband, Maurice McCONACHIE, were driving past on Highway 22.
20 June 1970, 4.35pm	Maurice McCONACHIE stated he saw a child in the front paddock of the CREWES' property while he and his wife, Queenie McCONACHIE, were driving past on Highway 22.
22 June 1970, 6.55am	Joseph MOORE, a stock agent for National Mortgage Association, telephoned the CREWES' house. The telephone call was unanswered.
22 June 1970, immediately after 6.55am	Joseph MOORE telephoned Lenard DEMLER enquiring if the CREWES were away. DEMLER told MOORE that as far as he knew they were at home. MOORE told DEMLER he might visit the address later that day.
22 June 1970, between 8.45am and 9.00am	Joseph MOORE and John DAGG, stock agents for National Mortgage Association, visited the CREWES' property. DAGG knocked on the back door to which there was no answer. He noticed that the light inside the room to the right of the back door was on. He did not hear any movement inside the house. MOORE and DAGG left the property.

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22 June 1970, 9.30am	<p>Local delivery man Emmett SHIRLEY opened the CREWES' delivery box intending to leave their usual order of bread, milk and a newspaper; however, as SHIRLEY found that the deliveries from Thursday 18 June, Friday 19 June and Saturday 20 June had not been collected, he did not leave any further items.</p> <p>SHIRLEY stated that he thought the CREWES' had gone away and said he threw some, or all, of the bread in the delivery box into the paddock, so as not to attract rats to the box.</p>
22 June 1970, between 12.35pm and 1.00pm	Ronald WRIGHT, Transport Foreman for Tuakau Transport Limited, telephoned the CREWES' house several times. These calls went unanswered.
22 June 1970, about 1.00pm	Ronald WRIGHT telephoned Lenard DEMLER and asked if he would go and tell Harvey to get his sheep ready for collection.
22 June 1970, 1.00pm	Lenard DEMLER went to the CREWES' house looking for Harvey and discovered blood stains on the carpet in the lounge and the couple's daughter, Rochelle, abandoned in her cot. DEMLER left the address to telephone Ronald WRIGHT and cancel the sheep collection.
22 June 1970, 1.45pm	Lenard DEMLER returned to the CREWES' house with friend and neighbour, Owen PRIEST. The pair looked around the house and property. DEMLER uplifted Rochelle from her cot and took her to the home of Barbara WILLIS.
22 June 1970, 2.20pm	Owen PRIEST telephoned the Tuakau Police Station to report the disappearance of Harvey and Jeannette and the presence of blood stains in the house.
22 June 1970, 2.55pm	Constable WYLLIE from the Tuakau Police Station collected Owen PRIEST from his home before travelling to the CREWES' property. Constable WYLLIE made a cursory search of the house.
22 June 1970, 3.15pm	Constable WYLLIE telephoned Senior Sergeant MELVILLE from the CREWES' telephone and informed him of the situation. Constable WYLLIE exited the house, locked the rear door, and waited outside with Owen PRIEST.
22 June 1970, 3.45pm	Senior Sergeant MELVILLE and Constable ROUNTHWAITE arrived at the CREWES' property.

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22 June 1970, 4.00pm	<p>Detective Sergeant TOOTILL and Constables METCALF and ABBOTT arrived at the CREWES' property.</p> <p>A search and area enquiries commenced.</p>
22 June 1970, 5.10pm	<p>Detective Inspector HUTTON, Detective Sergeant DEDMAN, Detective Senior Sergeant SCHULTZ and Police Photographer arrive at scene and commence enquiries into the disappearance of the CREWES.</p>
23 June 1970	<p>The CREWES' house was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and samples of blood stains were taken for analysis. As a result of discussions with Pathologist Doctor CAIRNS, searchers of the section immediately around the house were told to look for blunt instruments, a knife, or something similar which could have caused injuries to the victims.</p> <p>Under the supervision of Detective PARKES, Detective Constable HIGGINS and Constable MEURANT conducted a search of the garden beds within the house enclosure and a pattern search of the grass area surrounding the house. Nothing of significance was found.</p>
23 June 1970	<p>Area search base set up by Inspector GAINES in CREWE farm woolshed. Seventy four Police and civilian searchers involved, thirty two of whom were Police uniform branch members. Nine naval divers and Police dog section teams arrived to assist soon after the search parties were dispatched.</p>
23 June 1970 1.45pm	<p>Rochelle was taken to Doctor FOX's office, where she was examined.</p>
24 June 1970	<p>The search of the CREWES' house and property continued. Area enquiries continued.</p>
24 June 1970	<p>Lenard DEMLER signed a statement (made on 23 June 1970) witnessed by Detective Sergeant SEAMAN. DEMLER gave descriptions of Harvey and Jeannette, detailed how Harvey and Jeannette met, their financial position, the last time he had seen the CREWES, the circumstances surrounding him discovering the crime scene, what he had noted while going through the house and previous events (two fires) which had occurred at the CREWES' house.</p>

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24 June 1970	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Inspector HUTTON and asked to account for his movements from Monday 15 June 1970 to Monday 22 June 1970.
25 June 1970	Jeannette's sister, Heather SOUTER, arrived in New Zealand from California, United States of America (USA), where she had been residing.
25 June 1970	The search of the CREWES' house continued. Lenard DEMLER's property and vehicles were searched. Enquiries were made with Sturrock & Monteith Solicitors with regards to their dealings with the CREWE and DEMLER families. Area enquiries continued.
26 June 1970, 1.45pm	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Inspector HUTTON and asked to account for his movements on Monday 22 June 1970. He was also asked about his apparent lack of interest in assisting Police with the search for Harvey and Jeannette and was told by Detective Inspector HUTTON that he thought DEMLER had removed Harvey's body from the house.
26 June 1970	Lenard DEMLER's vehicles were driven to the investigation HQ and further searched. Area enquiries continued.
27 June 1970	Lenard DEMLER was taken to the CREWES' house by Detective Sergeant HUGHES and asked about the positioning of furniture and window coverings in the home. Searches continued in the greater Pukekawa area, including the Waikato Riverbank.
28 June 1970	Searches continued in the greater Pukekawa area, including a search of the rubbish tip at Tuakau Bridge. Fingerprint officers returned to the CREWES' house.
2 July 1970, 3.00pm	Detective Sergeant HUGHES visited Arthur THOMAS at his Mercer Ferry Road farm. This was a result of information received from Jeannette's friend, Beverley WILLIS, who stated that Jeannette was, at one time, pestered by a local boy (prior to 1961). It was established through Lenard DEMLER and Heather SOUTER that this person was THOMAS. THOMAS' Hillman car was examined by Detective Sergeant HUGHES and no traces of blood were found. THOMAS was fingerprinted.

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5 July 1970	Lenard DEMLER made a statement to Detective Sergeant HUGHES to expand on his previous statement (signed on 24 June 1970) in which he detailed his movements between Monday 15 June 1970 and Monday 22 June 1970.
8 July 1970, 1.30pm	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Senior Sergeant SCHULTZ and provided information relating to the history of his family. DEMLER was also questioned about blood of the same blood grouping as Jeannette's being located in his car. Detective Senior Sergeant SCHULTZ told DEMLER that he believed that DEMLER was responsible for removing Harvey and Jeannette's bodies from the house and for the apparent attempt to clean up the crime scene. DEMLER denied these accusations.
8 July 1970, 3.15pm – 4.25pm	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Inspector HUTTON about his visit with the CREWES on the evening of Tuesday 16 June 1970, why he had left Rochelle in the cot after his first visit to the house on Monday 22 June 1970, his late wife, May DEMLER's Will and blood identified as the same blood grouping as Jeannette's found in his vehicle. DEMLER's body was examined and a scratch mark was located on his back to the left of his neck – which he stated occurred when he was cutting inkberry.
10 July 1970, 2.30pm	Lenard DEMLER was spoken to by Detective Craig DUNCAN, in the presence of Graeme HEWSON at the CREWES' wool shed.
15 July 1970	At a Police Conference, Doctor CAIRNS stated: <i>"As to possible injuries, I think that to get brain tissue spattered around would need some injury to fracture the skull severely. This, of course, could be caused by a bullet wound but there is no evidence to suggest that anywhere. But heavy blows from any weapon, say a hammer or axe or even a very heavy piece of wood, with sufficient force could cause injuries to the head which would result in pieces of brain tissue being spattered around."</i>
23 July 1970, 10.30am – 11.30am	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Inspector HUTTON and Detective ABBOTT at his Pukekawa home. DEMLER was questioned about what he had observed at the crime scene and he also told Police of a dispute Harvey previously had with a neighbouring farmer, Roy KILLCOLLY.

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7 August 1970	Colin HARVEY, the Trustee of Harvey's estate, wrote to Detective Inspector HUTTON stating that while he was removing the CREWES' personal items from the house he came across "...a duchess set which includes an expensive brush and mirror with this card. This article was in a box and never been used. We found it in the junk room where all the old furniture was stored."
12 August 1970	<p>Detective PARKES visited Arthur THOMAS at his farm and showed him the card that had been found attached to the brush, comb and mirror set found in the CREWES' house.</p> <p>THOMAS stated that he had given this to Jeannette as a gift years before (in 1962).</p>
16 August 1970, about 9.26am	Jeannette's body was located floating in the Waikato River by two whitebaiters, Joseph Charles ADAMS and John Henry GERBOWITZ, approximately 9.7 kilometres west (downstream) of the Tuakau Bridge. The body was wrapped in material (Police Exhibits 245 and 246) and tied with copper wire (Police Exhibit 237). A post-mortem examination established that Jeannette had been killed by a single .22 shot (Police Exhibits 234 and 257) to the head.
16 August 1970, 2.15pm	<p>Detective Sergeant HUGHES, together with Detective DUNCAN, collected Lenard DEMLER from his home and took him to the Waikato River, where Jeannette's body had been located.</p> <p>Lenard DEMLER viewed the body located in the Waikato River and positively identified it as being Jeannette.</p> <p>DEMLER was then taken to the Auckland Central Police Station where he was interviewed by Detective Sergeant HUGHES for three-and-a-half hours. DEMLER strongly denied any knowledge of the murders.</p>
16 August 1970	Police began to collect .22 firearms. Such firearms were seized from residents of the Pukekawa area within a five mile radius of the CREWES' property, relatives and associates of Harvey and Jeannette, and others who had featured in the investigation.
17 August 1970, 12.30pm	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Sergeant HUGHES in a paddock outside his Pukekawa home. DEMLER was questioned about whether or not he had ever owned or used a .22 firearm, and also whether or not Harvey had owned a .22 firearm.

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17 August 1970	Scene search inside CREWE house by Detective Sergeant JEFFRIES, Detective GEE, Detective Constable HIGGINS and Constable MEURANT for trace of bullet remnants or similar. Nil found.
18 August 1970	Detective Sergeant JEFFRIES, Detective GEE, Detective Constable HIGGINS and Constable MEURANT again searched the section surrounding the house. At this time the group were looking for: (i) lengths of wire, (ii) bullet lead, and (iii) cartridge cases. A Police Jobsheet by Detective Sergeant JEFFRIES commented that <i>"all gardens were cleared and the earth sifted and examined."</i> However, in evidence at the first trial, Detective Sergeant JEFFRIES said that a search was only conducted from the back door to the end of the front bedroom (across the north and east sides of the house). No bullet lead or cartridge cases were located.
18 August 1970	Twenty-one firearms which had been collected by Police were test-fired by Doctor NELSON, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).
19 August 1970	After an examination of the test-fired bullets from the seized firearms, Doctor NELSON concluded that two of the twenty-one firearms could not be excluded as the murder weapon.
25 August 1970	Detective Inspector HUTTON and Detective PARKES visited Lenard DEMLER at his Pukekawa home and spoke about Jeannette's funeral. DEMLER was also asked if he had any idea where Harvey's body might have been, to which DEMLER replied he did not.
26 August 1970	A further 27 firearms which had been collected by Police were test-fired by Doctor NELSON. All of these were excluded as being the murder weapon.
7 September 1970	Jeannette's funeral was held at a church in Tuakau.
7 September 1970	<p>Arthur THOMAS was interviewed at the Tuakau Police Station by Detective Sergeant SEAMAN and Detective PARKES. THOMAS was told that his rifle was that which fired the bullets which killed Harvey and Jeannette. THOMAS denied any involvement in the murders.</p> <p>As a result of this interview, Detective PARKES stated: <i>"...both Detective Sergeant SEAMAN and myself are convinced that he is not involved in this inquiry."</i></p>

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8 September 1970	As a result of his interview the previous day, Arthur THOMAS' rifle (Police Exhibit 317) was returned to his wife Vivien THOMAS.
8 September 1970	The 'EYRE' rifle was returned to the EYRE family.
8 September 1970	Heather SOUTER returned to California, USA, where she lived.
16 September 1970, 11.25am	<p>Harvey's body was located, snagged in the Waikato River, by Constables WYLLIE and MILLER, approximately 4.8 kilometres west (downstream) of the Tuakau Bridge.</p> <p>The body was wrapped in material (Police Exhibits 294 and 295) and tied with galvanised wire (Police Exhibits 288(1), 288(2)).</p> <p>Located in the river under Harvey's body was a vehicle axle (Police Exhibit 293), which had been used to weight the body down. This had been attached to the body with copper wire (Police Exhibit 288(3)).</p> <p>A post-mortem examination established that Harvey had been killed by a single .22 (Police Exhibit 289) shot to the head.</p>
16 September 1970, 6.30pm	<p>Lenard DEMLER viewed the body that had been located in the Waikato River and positively identified it as being Harvey.</p> <p>DEMLER was then interviewed by Detective Sergeant CHARLES who told him that he considered DEMLER was involved in the deaths of Harvey and Jeannette, or at least the disposal of their bodies. DEMLER denied any involvement.</p>
18 September 1970, 12.15pm	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Sergeant TOOTILL at his Pukekawa home. DEMLER was asked about the note Police had found in DEMLER's coat pocket detailing his movements for the period Monday 15 June 1970 to Monday 22 June 1970.
18 September 1970	Detective JOHNSTON joined the CREWE homicide investigation.

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18 September 1970, evening	Detective Sergeant JEFFRIES appeared on a television news program with the axle (Police Exhibit 293). Detective Sergeant JEFFRIES pointed out various aspects of the axle, such as welding and cutting and asked any member of the public who could assist in the identification of the axle's origin to contact the Otahuhu Police Station.
19 September 1970	Charles SHIRTCLIFFE approached Police and provided information about a 1928 Nash front axle he purchased in about 1956. SHIRTCLIFFE stated that he had used this axle when making a trailer which he sold to a man who worked at the Meremere Power Station in 1956 or 1957.
19 September 1970, 3.45pm	Police Exhibit 293 was identified by David KERUSE as a 1928 or 1929 Nash Standard 6 420 series car axle.
22 September 1970, 11.00am	Detective Sergeant TOOTILL fired two shots, using a Gervarn rifle, from near the back steps of the CREWES' house (not using Police Exhibit 317), while Detective Inspector HUTTON stood near Owen and Julie PRIESTS' residence. Detective Inspector HUTTON stated that he did not hear these shots.
6 October 1970	Fifteen further firearms which had been collected by Police were test-fired by Doctor NELSON. All of these were excluded as being the murder weapon.
10 October 1970	<p>A photograph of Charles SHIRTCLIFFE's old trailer was published in the <i>New Zealand Herald</i> with details of the circumstances regarding its sale.</p> <p>Detective Inspector HUTTON appealed for the person (from the Meremere Power Station) who had purchased the trailer to come forward.</p>
11 October 1970	Patricia WHYTE contacted Police stating that she had previously owned a trailer similar to the one sought, which had been sold in 1959. A statement was later taken from Patricia and her husband Gordon WHYTE (on 18 November 1970) which established that Gordon, while working at the Meremere Power Station, had purchased the trailer from Charles SHIRTCLIFFE.
11 October 1970	While looking through crime scene photographs, Detective JOHNSTON noted that the louvre windows in the kitchen were open. He suggested that Harvey could have been shot through this window from outside the house.

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12 October 1970, 4.00pm	Roderick RASMUSSEN was shown Police Exhibit 293 by Detective JOHNSTON. RASMUSSEN was unable to recall the axle, but stated that the method used to cut one end of the axle was similar to the way he removed stub axles from an axle.
13 October 1970	Heather COWLEY, Charles SHIRTCLIFFE's step-daughter, contacted Police and said that she remembered a 'Mr THOMAS' of Mercer Ferry Road owned SHIRTCLIFFE's trailer at some time after SHIRTCLIFFE sold it.
13 October 1970, 3.35pm	Lenard DEMLER was interviewed by Detective Inspector BAKER, Detective Senior Sergeant O'DONOVAN and Detective Sergeant TOOTILL. The purpose of this interview was for Detective Inspector BAKER and Detective Senior Sergeant O'DONOVAN to 'assess' DEMLER. DEMLER was asked about the burglary and two fires which had previously occurred at the CREWES' property, whether or not the kitchen louvre windows were usually kept open and previous managers at the CREWES' farm.
13 October 1970, 4.00pm	<p>Arthur THOMAS was visited by Detective JOHNSTON and Police Exhibit 293 was shown to him. THOMAS stated that he had never seen the axle before. THOMAS was shown a photograph of Charles SHIRTCLIFFE's old trailer and he stated that this looked similar to the trailer his father owned.</p> <p>Detective JOHNSTON collected four samples of wire (Police Exhibits 328A, 328B, 328C and 328D) from different parts of the THOMAS farm.</p> <p>Police Exhibit 328D was found by Harry TODD, DSIR Scientist, to be in 'quite good agreement' with one of the wires attached to Harvey's body (Police Exhibit 288(1)).</p>
13 October 1970, evening	Detective Inspector HUTTON, Detective Inspector BAKER, Detective Senior Sergeant O'DONOVAN, Detective JOHNSTON, Doctor NELSON, Rory SHANAHAN, DSIR Scientist, Grant HANSEN (unknown person) and a DSIR technician, attended the CREWES' house and carried out a reconstruction with a .22 rifle in relation to the louvre window theory. This theory was found to be feasible.

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<p>14 October 1970, 11.15am</p>	<p>Detectives PARKES and JOHNSTON visited Allan THOMAS' Matakana farm. Allan was shown Police Exhibit 293 but could not identify this as the one that had come from his trailer.</p> <p>Richard THOMAS was also seen and said that he recalled taking his father's trailer to Meremere for repairs on a few occasions. He said the man who carried out these repairs was the same person who built Allan's current trailer.</p>
<p>15 October 1970, 10.45am</p>	<p>Roderick RASMUSSEN was visited by Detective JOHNSTON.</p> <p>RASMUSSEN stated that after the name THOMAS had been mentioned to him, he recalled building a trailer for Allan THOMAS. He said that he removed the axle assembly from this trailer and replaced it with a new assembly.</p>
<p>15 October 1970, 2.00pm</p>	<p>Detective JOHNSTON, in the company of Arthur THOMAS, searched parts of THOMAS' farm for Allan THOMAS' old trailer. Detective JOHNSTON took possession of two pieces of hardwood, 3x3 and 3x2 (Police Exhibit 395) from a garage of the property.</p> <p>The 3x3 was identified by Roderick RASMUSSEN as the draw bar he removed from Allan THOMAS' trailer.</p> <p>Arthur THOMAS gave a statement to Detective JOHNSTON about his schooling and employment history, his past association with Jeannette and his whereabouts on the evening of Wednesday 17 June 1970.</p>
<p>20 October 1970, 12.15pm</p>	<p>Detectives PARKES and JOHNSTON visited Arthur THOMAS' farm and collected eleven samples of wire (Police Exhibits 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326 and 327) from nine different locations.</p> <p>A search of a tip on the farm located two stub axles (Police Exhibits 330 and 331) which had once been joined to the axle (Police Exhibit 293) located with Harvey's body.</p> <p>THOMAS' rifle (Police Exhibit 317) was again collected by Police.</p> <p>Harry TODD found that Police Exhibits 320A, 323, 325 were in 'excellent agreement' with wire from Harvey's body (Police Exhibit 288(1)). Furthermore, Police Exhibit 324A was in 'excellent' to 'good' agreement with Police Exhibit 288(1).</p>

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21 October 1970, 11.00am	<p>During a search of Arthur THOMAS' farm, Detective KEITH located a .22 cartridge (Police Exhibit 343) in a garage on the property. This was later found to contain a bullet with the number '8' embossed on the base.</p> <p>Detective KEITH took two samples of wire (Police Exhibits 334 'clean' and 334 'rusty') from THOMAS' farm. Harry TODD found that Police Exhibit 334 'clean' was in 'excellent agreement' with wire from Harvey's body (Police Exhibit 288(1)).</p>
21 October 1970	Detective KEITH stated that the bullet from Police Exhibit 343 was removed by Police at the Otahuhu Police Station and the cartridge case from Police Exhibit 343 was fired in a rifle (not Arthur THOMAS') to remove the powder inside it.
22 October 1970, 1.00pm	Roderick RASMUSSEN was visited by Detective JOHNSTON. RASMUSSEN stated that he was still positive the old parts from Allan THOMAS' trailer had been returned to Richard THOMAS.
22 October 1970, 3.00pm	Lenard DEMLER was spoken to by Detective Inspector HUTTON and Detective JOHNSTON at his Pukekawa home. DEMLER was questioned about the past association between Arthur THOMAS and Jeannette.
22 October 1970	Detective Inspector HUTTON and Detective JOHNSTON visited Arthur THOMAS at his Mercer Ferry Road farm. THOMAS was again asked about his father, Allan THOMAS', trailer. Arthur THOMAS signed an authority for Police to view documents held by his solicitors.
25 October 1970, 2.20pm	Arthur THOMAS made a statement to Detective Inspector HUTTON about his previous association with Jeannette; his movements on the evening of Wednesday 17 June 1970; the axle found with Harvey's body; his .22 Browning rifle; samples of wire that had been taken from THOMAS' farm; blood found on overalls in the boot of his vehicle; and why he did not assist Police in the search for Harvey and Jeannette.
26 October 1970	The 'JOHNSTON theory' of the shot which killed Harvey being fired through the open louvre window, was discussed at a Police Conference. Detective Sergeant JEFFRIES informed Detective Inspector HUTTON that a garden, along the fence by the back gate, at the CREWES' property had not been sieve searched. Detective Inspector HUTTON directed this area to be sieve searched.

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27 October 1970, 10.00am-1.00pm	Detective Sergeant CHARLES and Detective Sergeant PARKES carried out a search of the flower bed opposite the kitchen window at the CREWES' house. Detective Sergeant CHARLES located a .22 cartridge case (Police Exhibit 350) which had been fired from Arthur THOMAS' rifle (Police Exhibit 317).
27 October 1970, 11.45am	Arthur THOMAS was interviewed at his home by Detective Inspector HUTTON. THOMAS was asked about his movements on the evening of Wednesday 17 June 1970, specifically concerning the cow that he had said he was tending to.
29 October 1970	Detective Inspector HUTTON, Detective Sergeant CHARLES, (then) Detective Sergeant PARKES and Detective JOHNSTON went to the Boystown range where Rory SHANAHAN carried out further test-firing with Police Exhibit 317. The purpose of this was to: (i) obtain test-fired brass cartridge cases, and (ii) test ejection distances.
11 November 1970	Arthur THOMAS was interviewed by Detective Inspector HUTTON and Detective JOHNSTON before he was arrested and charged with the murders of Harvey and Jeannette.
12 November 1970	Lenard DEMLER made a statement to Police. DEMLER detailed Jeannette's schooling, employment and travel history, the brush set that Arthur THOMAS had given Jeannette, the burglary and fires that occurred at the CREWES' house and the blood of the same grouping as Jeannette's that had been located in DEMLER's vehicle.
14-22 December 1970	The deposition case against Arthur THOMAS was heard at the Otahuhu Magistrates Court before Stipendiary Magistrate McLEAN. A prime facie case was established and a plea of not guilty entered. THOMAS was committed to trial at the Auckland Supreme Court.
15 February 1971 - 2 March 1971	The first trial was held at the Auckland Supreme Court before Justice HENRY and jury. Arthur THOMAS was found guilty on both counts of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.
28 February 1971	A reconstruction was carried out at the CREWES' property with Police Exhibit 317. Those present were: Detective JOHNSTON, Defence Counsel Paul TEMM and Brian WEBB, Percy BRANT, John McKENZIE, Richard DRAPER and a surveyor (identity unknown).

CREWE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

4-6 May 1971	Justice NORTH, Justice TURNER and Justice HASLAM of the Court of Appeal dismissed Arthur THOMAS' appeal against his conviction. The judgment was given on 18 June 1971.
3 July 1971	Harvey's funeral was held at the Anglican Church, Tuakau.
15 November 1971	A petition was submitted by the Arthur Thomas Retrial Committee Inc. to the Governor-General, Sir Arthur PORRITT.
2 February 1972	Sir George McGREGOR was commissioned by the Acting Minister of Justice to review petitions which had been submitted by the Arthur Thomas Retrial Committee Inc., Stephen BIRD and 22,650 members of the public seeking a re-trial for Arthur THOMAS. McGREGOR concluded that <i>"...no further reference to the Court should be granted. In my opinion there has been no miscarriage of justice."</i>
14 February 1972	Governor-General Arthur PORRITT declined to take any action regarding petitions submitted, based on the assessment by Sir George McGREGOR.
26 June 1972	Police Exhibit 317 was test-fired at the Boystown range by Rory SHANAHAN for the purpose of comparing pin impression marks against the rounds test fired in 1970.
29 June 1972	Police Exhibit 317, along with other ballistics exhibits, was sent to the Home Office Forensic Science Laboratory, Nottingham, for examination. These exhibits were returned to New Zealand Police on 22 August 1972.
21 August 1972	Governor-General Arthur PORRITT referred Arthur THOMAS's application for the exercise of mercy in respect of his' convictions to the Court of Appeal.
19 October 1972	Arthur THOMAS lodged a second appeal against his conviction for the murders of Harvey and Jeannette.
5-8 and 16 February 1973	Governor-General Arthur PORRITT's 21 August 1972 Order of Council was heard before Justice WILD, Justice McCARTHY and Justice RICHMOND of the Court of Appeal. A judgment delivered on 26 February ordered that there would be a new trial for THOMAS.

CREWE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

22 March 1973	<p>Detective JOHNSTON was present at the CREWES' property with Kevin RYAN, Patrick VESEY and Percy BRANT when bullets were fired from Police Exhibit 317 and the distance of ejected cartridges measured.</p> <p>The results varied, with one shell bouncing over the lawn and landing within two feet of where Exhibit 350 was found.</p>
26 March 1973 - 16 April 1973	The second trial was held at the Auckland Supreme Court before Justice PERRY and jury. Arthur THOMAS was found guilty on both counts of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.
27 March 1973	Doctor NELSON test-fired Police Exhibit 317 at Boystown.
8 May 1973	Arthur THOMAS lodged an appeal against his conviction for the murders of Harvey and Jeannette.
3 July 1973	Court of Appeal hearing before Justice WILD, Justice McCARTHY and Justice RICHMOND. A judgment was then issued on 11 July 1973 dismissing Arthur THOMAS' appeal against his conviction.
27 July 1973	(Then) Detective Sergeant KEITH disposed of 135 Police Exhibits in the Whitford Tip at the direction of Detective Inspector HUTTON.
1 July 1974	Governor-General Denis BLUNDELL referred Arthur THOMAS' petition to the Court of Appeal.
4 November 1974	Governor-General Denis BLUNDELL again referred Arthur THOMAS' petition to the Court of Appeal.
9-18 December 1974 and 6-9 January 1975	<p>Court of Appeal hearing before Justice WILD, Justice McCARTHY, Justice RICHMOND, Justice MacARTHUR and Justice McMULLIN.</p> <p>A judgment was then issued on 29 January 1975 which stated that the appeal was dismissed.</p>
11 June 1975	Detective KEITH took Police Exhibit 317 to Doctor SPROTT's laboratory where 15 empty cartridge cases were ejected from the rifle. Seven bullets were then fired from the rifle.
13 September 1976 - 27 October 1976	Police Exhibit 317 was in the possession of Doctor SPROTT.

CREWE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

4 July 1978	Arthur THOMAS petitioned for special leave to appeal to the Privy Council regarding an opinion from the Court of Appeal of New Zealand. Lord WILBERFORCE, Lord HAILSHAM, Lord EDMUND-DAVIES, Lord FRASER and Lord SCARMAN were of the opinion that they had no jurisdiction to entertain the petition.
26 October 1978	Robert ADAMS-SMITH QC was commissioned by Prime Minister Robert MULDOON to conduct an enquiry in to aspects of the CREWE murders.
16 January 1979	Robert ADAMS-SMITH QC's first report was submitted to Prime Minister Robert MULDOON. ADAMS-SMITH QC recommended that further enquiries were necessary.
17 December 1979 12.45pm	Embargo on the publishing or broadcasting lifted from Robert ADAMS-SMITH QC's second report which was submitted to Prime Minister Robert MULDOON. ADAMS-SMITH QC stated that based on the Crown's contention that the murders were committed late at night on 17 June 1970: <i>"...I have real doubt whether it can properly be contended that the case against Thomas was proved beyond all reasonable doubt."</i>
17 December 1979	Arthur THOMAS was granted a free pardon by Governor-General Keith HOLYOAKE.
24 April 1980 - 11 November 1980	The Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI) into the circumstances of the convictions of Arthur Allan THOMAS for the murder of Harvey and Jeannette was held by Justice TAYLOR, John GORDON and Reverend JOHNSTON.
19 June 1980	Police Exhibit 317 was test-fired at the Kauri Point range and the ejection distances of cartridge cases were measured.
15 October 1980	Police Exhibit 317 was in possession of the RCOI.
26 February 1981	Arthur THOMAS' rifle was returned to him.
21 December 1981	At the request of (then) Commissioner WALTON, Solicitor-General Paul NEAZOR QC presented an opinion as to whether (retired) Detective Inspector HUTTON should be prosecuted, in light of the RCOI findings. NEAZOR concluded: <i>"My opinion is that on the evidence available there is no occasion for prosecuting Mr Hutton ..."</i> As Detective JOHNSTON was then deceased (he died in 1978), a prosecution against him was not assessed.