



New Zealand Police

2014

CREWE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION REVIEW



**1970 CREWE Homicide
Investigation Conference
Notes**

APPENDIX 6

APPENDIX '6' - CONTENTS

Daily Information Sheet Homicide Enquiry, Pukekawa	Mrs Jeanette [sic] Lenore CREWE & Mr Harvey CREWE
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1.	Conference Notes	23 June 1970, 7.45pm
2.	Conference Notes	24 June 1970, 6.00pm
3.	Conference Notes	25 June 1970, 6.00pm
4.	Conference Notes	26 June 1970, 5.30pm
5.	Conference Notes	27 June 1970, 5.00pm
6.	Conference Notes	28 June 1970, 6.00pm
7.	Conference Notes	29 June 1970, 5.20pm
8.	Conference Notes	30 June 1970, 5.15pm
9.	Conference Notes	1 July 1970, 4.30pm
10.	Conference Notes	2 July 1970, 5.00pm
11.	Conference Notes	3 July 1970, 5.00pm
12.	Conference Notes	4 July 1970, 4.45pm
13.	Conference Notes	6 July 1970, 4.30pm
14.	Conference Notes	13 July 1970, 4.45pm
15.	Conference Notes	14 July 1970, 4.45pm
16.	Conference - Auckland Central	15 July 1970, 1.00pm-5.00pm
17.	Conference Notes	17 August 1970, 8.00am
18.	Conference Notes	17 August 1970, 5.30pm
19.	Conference Notes	18 August 1970, 5.30pm
20.	Conference Notes	20 August 1970, 4.30pm
21.	Conference Notes	28 August 1970, 8.00am
22.	Conference - Auckland Central	2 October 1970 (No notes)
23.	Conference Notes	19 October 1970, 1.30pm
24.	Conference	26 October 1970 (No notes)

DAILY INFORMATION SHEET

HOMICIDE ENQUIRY.....

PUKEKAWA... Mrs Jeanette Lenore CREWE
Mr Harvey CREWE

PERSONS INVOLVED

Mrs Jeanette Lenore CREWE
Age: 31 yrs approximately
Housewife

Mr Harvey CREWE
Age: 35 yrs approximately
Farmer

Miss Rochelle CREWE
18 months old

LOCATION

The above three resided in a modern dwelling on a 360 odd acre farm running mainly sheep situated on State Highway No. 22, approximately 4 miles south of Pukekawa as one travels towards Glen Murray.

SITUATION

Mr and Mrs CREWE resided on the above mentioned farm which they owned. Up until at least 6.30pm on Tuesday 16 June 1970 the couple and child appeared to be happy and there was no sign of domestic discord. The subjects have been married for the past four years and at this stage of the enquiry it is believed that the marriage was a happy one.

At 6.30pm on Tuesday 16-6-70 Mrs CREWE's father, Mr Lenard William DEMLER, a sheep farmer residing on State Highway 22 a short distance from the CREWE's farm, visited them. Mr DEMLER had an evening meal with the couple and then watched television until 9.30pm. He and Mr CREWE then talked until about 10pm at which time Mr DEMLER returned to his own farm. He is satisfied that the couple appeared in no way upset or in disagreement with each other. Their child, Rochelle, was also happy and was put to bed in the front bedroom in the cot.

Nothing further was seen or heard of the CREWE family by Mr DEMLER until 8am on Monday 22 June 1970, at which time he received a phone call from the National Mortgage agent, Mr Jerry MOORE. This person stated that he had been unable to contact the CREWE's by telephone over a wool valuation.

At 1pm the same day Ron WRIGHT of Tuakau Transport telephoned Mr DEMLER re picking up some sheep, belonging to Mr CREWE. Mr WRIGHT stated that he was unable to raise Mr CREWE by telephone. Mr DEMLER went to the CREWE's residence shortly after 1pm. On arrival he looked around the house from outside and heard baby Rochelle calling out. He went to the back door and noticed the rear outside light and the inside kitchen light were still on. He went inside into the living room and saw blood on the chair (lounge) and on the carpet on the lounge floor.

...ctd

Mr DEMLER next checked the ~~the~~ main bedroom of the dwellinghouse which is normally occupied by Mr and Mrs CREWE. He found it unoccupied. He then checked the front bedroom of the dwellinghouse and found baby Rochelle in her cot. There was indication in the child's appearance that it had been unattended to for some days. Apart from this the child was in reasonable health and is at present being cared for by relatives. Mr DEMLER and a neighbour Mr PRIEST then carried out an immediate search of the house and outbuildings but did not discover anything of note.

POLICE INFORMED

Time: 2.20pm Monday 22 June 1970

Mr PRIEST contacts Constable WYLIE of Tuakau Police and informs him of position as known at the time.

2.55pm Constable WYLIE arrives at scene.

3.15pm Sen. Sgt. MELVILLE, Pukekohe Police, informed.

3.45pm Sen. Sgt. MELVILLE arrives at CREWE's farm.

4.00pm Det. Sgt. TOOTILL and Detectives METCALF and ABBOTT arrive at CREWE's farm.

5.10pm Det. Insp. HUTTON, Det. Sgt. DEDMAN, Det. Sen. Sgt. SCHULTZ and Police photographer at scene.

5.30pm Dr CAIRNS and Det. Supt. ROES arrive at scene.

SCENE EXAMINATION

An inspection of the delivery box at the front gate to the CREWE's farm on State Highway 22 revealed five quart bottles of milk and newspapers delivered by the local 'RURAL DELIVERY' man relating to deliveries for Thursday 18-6-70 and Friday 19-6-70. There were also 5 1/2 loaves of bread which presumably relates to the same deliveries.

Inside the house on the sideboard in the kitchen were two unopened quart bottles of milk relating to deliveries for the morning of Wednesday 17-6-70.

Information to hand at present indicates that when Mr DEMLER arrived shortly after 1pm on Monday 22-6-70 the front gate at State Highway 22 giving access to a small enclosure around the house, was closed. There were a considerable number of sheep in this paddock enclosure presumably having been previously mustered by Mr CREWE to leave for the freezing works at about 2.30pm on 22-6-70.

It also appears that the gates giving access to the lawn enclosure around the CREWE's house were shut at the time Mr DEMLER called. DEMLER feels sure (at present being interviewed further re this) that both the front and back doors of the house were closed when he arrived.

The scene examination firstly indicated what appears to be human blood on the brick wall of the house some 3 ft up from the first and second steps as one enters via the front door. On the concrete path at this point appears what may be human excreta. On the top step near the front door and immediately inside the front

door in the short hallway on the carpet was evidence of what appeared to be drag marks of blood.

Inside the lounge there were several large pools of blood on the carpet in front of the fireplace. There was a large pool plus other stains of blood in the lounge chair situated just to the right of the fireplace as one faces it. On the front left castor of the lounge settee was what appeared to be blood and there were indications that this settee had been pushed back from the other large blood stains in front of it and closer to the fireplace.

In the kitchen itself on the tile floor appears to be blood or blood plasma and there is also signs of similar staining on the bench to the left of the sink. There is also a knife in the kitchen which may have blood on it but this article was covered in dust and at this stage is not considered of any real significance. In considering this article and also the stains on the floor one must remember this is a sheep farm where no doubt they do their own home killing. In addition to this on the table in the kitchenette which is part of the lounge were two plates with the remains of flounder which had been eaten. The knives and forks had been neatly laid on each plate with the remains of the flounder indicating a meal had just been consumed. What appears to be blood plasma in the kitchen may bear some relevance to the flounder.

Inspection of the T.V. set in the lounge revealed the switches were still turned-on the set itself. The extension lead leads from the set through into the front passage and then to a power point in the main bedroom. The extension lead had firstly been disconnected approximately half way along the passage-way and then the three point plug itself had been pulled out of the socket in the main bedroom and the switch turned off.

Apart from the knife mentioned above there was no sign of any other blood stained article or any other weapon for that matter.

In the lounge was found two slippers presumably belonging to Mrs CREWE. One of these was situated just to the rear of the blood soaked lounge chair, the other was found under a crumpled blanket near the door giving access to the rear bedroom of the house.

Mrs CREWE's knitting was to be seen lying on the lounge settee. It was obvious that she was using three needles and that one of these had been removed and was lying on the carpet near the blood stains. There was evidence of five stitches having been dropped as the result of the third needle being removed.

As previously stated there is no evidence at this stage that there were any other lights on in the house other than the kitchen light and the rear exterior light as found by Mr DEHLER.

There was also evidence in the lounge of a recent fire in the open fireplace.

Inspection of the main bedroom which is the second bedroom back from the front of the house and is obviously the one occupied by Mr and Mrs CREWE reveal the eiderdown deposited on the floor near the woman's dressing table to the left of the double bed. There appeared little cover on the double bed and the top blanket was slightly turned back, perhaps giving the suggestion that a blanket had been removed.

The interior of the house suggested that Mr and Mrs CREWE were a normal farming couple. When one considers this, the general tidiness of the house would be at a level one would expect in the farming community. Although there was considerable blood in the lounge there was no indication that a struggle had taken place. The lounge scene as found perhaps suggested that the lounge settee was much further forward towards the fireplace at the time the person or persons therein received their injuries and then had been pushed back leaving a slight trail of blood which was very likely made by one of the castor wheels of the lounge settee.

The CREWES are the owners of a late model Hillman car and also a farm tractor. This is believed to be their only means of transport. The car was found in the unlocked garage which is situated just to the right of the main farm gate on State Highway 22. The car was unlocked and although a cursory examination only was made of the interior and the exterior of the car there was no indication of a struggle therein or any deposits of blood. The keys to the car have not been found at present. The tractor has been examined with like results.

Further to the actual house examination --- examination of the main bedroom located some money and at this stage there is no evidence that robbery or theft has been committed.

MOTIVE

At this stage of the enquiry it can only be said that we have a scene displaying a considerable amount of what appears to be human blood indicating that foul play is likely to have occurred. At present the search has revealed no trace of any body or bodies or any indication as to how a body or bodies was removed from the house. The child Rochelle apparently could hardly stand when found, suggesting that she had been unattended to for some days. Although homicide is indicated this is yet to be established and therefore no motive has appeared at present.

O/C
INVESTIGATION:

Mr GAINES, the O/C Search, is not here. He has held his debriefing. Very briefly the progress has been quite good. They have covered most of the bush on Mr and Mrs CREWE's farm to the extent that he expects the search of the bush will be completed by about midday tomorrow. From then on, in relation to the CREWE's farm, there will still be sweeps across the paddocks just to ensure if any body or bodies there or if they have been buried out in the open away from the bush areas. He is extending his search by 30 Army men and a further request for 30 extra Police as well tomorrow which we hope and expect will be met. These extras will sweep across in opposite direction to which the search parties have been working today just in the hope of coming over any body or bodies or any evidence.

O/C SCENE:

We started off with C.R. Section under Det. Sgt. DEDMAN fingerprinting the premises and a number of fingerprints have been found and photographed. Further photographs were taken inside and outside the house. Some blood exhibits were taken from the carpet and forwarded in for examination by Dr STAVELEY. Dr NELSON of D.S.I.R. and his associate, Rory SHANAHAN came out and conducted a number of tests as far as blood throughout the house, and a number of smears and marks which could have been anything. He tested these and confirmed they were traces of blood. Checked the boots and shoes inside the house without any trace of any blood. The external search of the immediate enclosed area around the house has been completed without finding anything significant. The interior is going to take some considerable time as far as checking property and making an inventory of property in there as there is a considerable amount of stuff. As far as exhibits go, they consist mainly of blood samples from carpet, in the kitchen, water from drains and one other significant item which what was thought to be human excreta at the bottom of the steps has turned out to be rust which is possibly off a wheelbarrow from round the back of the house and this was where the blood trail ended and it is presumed that the body, if there was a body, was taken away on the wheelbarrow.

Mr DEMLER was brought to the house and taken through it. The only thing he could say that was possibly missing he thought was a fawn/light brown candlewick bedspread off the double bed. There is a mat missing from just in front of the fireplace. There are remains in the fireplace consistent with a mat being burnt in there. Other remains are consistent with a cushion being burnt there. In the chair where the blood stains are could have been a cushion on that particular chair. Mr DEMLER was not able to help with the number of cushions. There does not seem to be anything else missing from the house. Her purse is intact with a certain amount of change in it. Cheque book, deposit slips and papers there indicate everything was normal up until the 17th anyway. I have got the books here with me. There was a cheque issued - I would say by the look of it it was issued by Mrs on the 17th, issued to the Farmers for \$1.58. There is a draft copy of a letter here in which she mentions the sum of \$1.58 and she has ordered a pair of Stardust plastic pants. It is presumed it is her writing as other writing in the stock books appears to be his. It is just a draft rough letter. Presumably she sent letter on to Farmers where she ordered this pair of pants but apart from that there is nothing.

O/C SCENE:
(ctd)

The chief exhibits taken were blood - samples from the carpet and from the kitchen. We have got samples from the fireplace of burnt material. There are samples of rust from the concrete path outside and control sample from the wheelbarrow, and we have got samples of liquid from the kitchen sink and trap, the wash-house and the bathroom. Also blood samples out of the chair, and wherever blood was found. These were numbered with pegs and were photographed with these numbers so the photographs tally with the numbers. There are three lots of dirty napkins - two are on top of the fridge and one on the washing machine. I would think it would be normal for the average woman to throw them into a bucket and let them soak but she was not a tidy and house-proud woman from the dirt and dust around the place.

Note: Lands and Survey officer to attend for plans.

Det. ABBOTT

Det. Sgt. DEDMAN took full quart bottle of milk off bench marked 17th and quarter full bottle of milk from kitchen - fingerprints found on that. Mr DEDMAN has not taken the bottles from the road yet.

Note: Check the dates on those bottles tomorrow and report accordingly.

Det. PARKES

We searched ground around house by going along marked lines. The area is basically fairly clear. He was average farmer - cut everything aside. Found nothing except remains of last night's supper. Then examined all of garden area. Again found nothing at all. Have not been under the house yet. Have still got the outhouses to do yet. Have searched along fence and nothing there at all.

AREA CANVAS:

Have checked everything between Brewsters Road and Oritua School. This is a distance of roughly five miles either side of the CREWE farm and all of the side roads, in between. The majority of people living in this area have been seen with one or two exceptions. These should be finalised tomorrow. Questionnaire laid down to National plan is being used. Arising out of these enquiries we have one fairly reliable sighting of a female in the CREWE garden at about 9.30am on Friday morning and there was a green car at the front gate of the house.

Det. ROBERTS

RODDICK, casual labourer who picks up work where and when he can. Not too brilliant by any means. I took him to where he saw the woman from and he could show me exactly where he was. Her description 5' 9" - 5' 10" tall. She seemed relatively attractive, medium build, would not say slim. Said her hair was light brown but by no means blonde, cut fairly short but not particularly short and it curled up a little at the back and sides. I have confirmed from this man's employer, CHITTY, that he was where he said he was at the time. This is confirmed beyond all doubt because CHITTY sent for him on that particular day for a particular job. I think despite the limitations of this man it is probably an accurate sighting. He was in the field just across the road from the scene itself. He did not feed out hay to the beasts any other day but that day. Apart from this I have no sightings whatsoever. In spite of what Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES said, on the overall description given me by other people who have known these people she would have been pretty meticulous and a pretty spotless sort of woman. That is the view most people have. The CREWES have been known so little by so few people that we are having a lot of trouble. There seemed to be a very considerable

Det. ROBERTS (ctd) degree of reserve more due to CREWE himself than Mrs CREWE. I have spoken to several women - Mrs CREWE seemed popular, attractive, bright, artist, sports woman. The only chap I have spoken to who knows CREWE at all is CHITTY who said CREWE drove a hard bargain and was a hard man to deal with, very conservative, very meticulous in everything he does, very cautious too.

Det. Sgt. TOOTILL We have a report from Mr McCONACHIE who told us that he had attended a football match in Tuakau; when they passed the CREWE farm at 1.30pm they allegedly saw a small child by the front gate run up towards the house. The green car was parked by the front gate of the farmhouse. No sighting of any adults at that time. The football match was played between Pukekohe and Tuakau at Tuakau and this has been verified by Const. WYLIE and also from the daily press. Telephone calls from stock agents were over the weekend and Monday.

Const. PAYNE Had some calls on Friday. One agent, Mr Ron WRIGHT, stock agent for Tuakau Transport, tried to ring Mr CREWE between 1pm and 3pm on Thursday without any answer.

Note: See if any tolls sent out through Pukekohe exchange.

Also with regards to what John ROBERTS has just said the man who last saw them both together, Mr John GRACIE, he also mentioned that she was perhaps not the tidiest housewife but he did say that Mr CREWE was probably the more reserved of the two. He was a good farmer and lived for nothing else but his farm and was a very tough but fair businessman.

Det. ROBERTS I did get the impression that he has to a degree inhibited her and that probably she would not be so reserved if it wasn't for him.

Mr ROSS Any enquiries where they deal for groceries or petrol for the car.
(To be followed up.)

RELATIVES: I started off by interviewing old dad-in-law DEMLER. Covered most aspects of the matter to date. I am convinced that he is well above board and I stake my reputation on him. He is a good solid type of bloke I would say. I don't think he has really realised what has happened yet, don't think shock has hit him. Sort of putting on a bit of a front at the moment. Story he told me today ties up well with what he told Murray yesterday. He went right through the house again - positive about rug on bed, mat in front of fire being missing. He seemed to think the mat was part of an off-cut of that body carpet which had been turned upside down and put in front of the fire. He is not certain about this but seems to think it was a different colour.

Mr HUTTON Tomorrow will you see him again briefly and cover aspect whether Mr CREWE had a wallet.

Det. HUGHES I will be tied up with TE NANA. I think if Murray could get him up to the house and go through house again.

Det. Sgt.
JEFFRIES

I went over certain things with him in the house - shown clothing that CREWE normally wore and nothing he could see that was obviously missing as far as clothing went. He said he can't remember seeing him with a wallet. Whenever he wanted money he would go to his wife and she would give him some money.

Det. HUGHES

Craig Melias FULTON, 5 R.D., (Tuakau, p. 864) Glen Murray. About quarter to five came home from Tuakau and saw CREWE's motorcar parked at gate exactly one mile past house, right on boundary which leads down to his property. Not unusual to see CREWE's car there as he often attends stock in that area - about quarter to five on Wednesday night. This chap had only been out on Wednesday, got to Tuakau at 4.20pm, stayed there about 10 minutes, drove from Tuakau along No. 22 Highway to Glen Murray and saw Hillman Hunter that colour at that gate where he has seen it before. Knows Harvey and girl Jeanette well.

Note: Get someone to have a look down there tomorrow.

RESERVE
OFFICER:

I only have what the doctor says to add. I saw the farmer PRIEST who went up with Mr DEMLER to the house and his statement is pretty clear. The child was taken by the grandfather to a Mrs WILLIS who says that when he arrived he was he was crying and appeared very distressed and in her opinion was quite cut up about it. She took the baby child, washed it, destroyed the napkins and called in a District Nurse to treat some rashes which were around her private parts and the inside of her thighs. We took the baby into Dr FOX, child specialist, this afternoon and he says that taking everything into consideration and what Mrs WILLIS says about the state of the napkins when she took them off and explained the rashes on her body, that they would have been on her for at least 48 hours, possibly more, which would take us back to Saturday afternoon. With regards to whether opnot she has had any food or not and could survive for a period of five days, it is unlikely that she has not been fed over the last five days but says it is possible, bearing in mind that she is a robust child, although he would expect some dehydration to some extent in his opinion he would say that it would be a period of two or three days that she has not been fed. He said if she had dehydration she would not be capable of knowing what was going on. Mrs WILLIS said the baby could not stand up. Apparently she had been walking for three months and yesterday afternoon could not stand up or did not want to. She felt she was too weak to stand up. The child is picking up today and stood up this afternoon. Dr Grahame FOX, 11 Mount Street - his report will be obtained. I have finished that angle of enquiry. Mrs WILLIS has given a statement. Dr FOX is going away tomorrow but he wrote out his notes at the time he saw her.

D/S/Sgt.
SCRULTZ

As you know, today we have not had a chance to spread very far afield. Enquiries have mainly concentrated on people who last saw him, such as LOCKHARTS, KENYONS, GRACIE, WRIGHT and MOORE, plus other neighbours. Several job sheets are out for further enquiries. Some of those people who were seen last night will have to be seen again. There is a further sighting of her driving the car on Thursday which has yet to be checked out, which is down in Glen Murray area. As Mr TOOTILL said regarding the football match, I thought they went to Tuakau for football not Waiuku. They said Tuakau and Pukekohe were playing and the game was on that Saturday. Said it was first time she had been out for

D/S/Sgt.
SCHULTZ
(ctd)

a fortnight and she knows it was definitely last Saturday but those points have yet to be tidied up.

Note: Authority to Commissioner to employ typists on overtime.

COMMUNI-
CATIONS:

Radio men there all day and at 5 o'clock managed to get a squeak out of it and got half message to base and cut out. They are going back to town tonight to work on it and put it in working class order for tomorrow.

CLERK:

Biggest problem is poor lighting. We have arranged for bigger bulbs for tomorrow so we should be fixed then. I think Mr SCHULTZ has covered everything else. I have been on a clerking course.

Mr ROSS

Anybody come up with motive?

Det. HUGHES

He was always bloody complaining. Reckoned everything was happening to him. His mother had a bit of mental history, was at Kingseat Hospital - might be in the family - 18 months ago. She is out now and kindergarten teaching. CREWE made a point of going there every day, and going through to see his wife every day when she was having the baby.

Det. ROBERTS

According to what people think, although he might be a hard businessman and might be a bit dour, he doesn't seem to be a bad fellow.

Mr ROSS

Seems he was a fairly neat and tidy fellow and she was the opposite.

Const. PAYNE

He was particularly fussy about the farm.

Det. HUGHES

Operation on Mr CREWE's hernias carried out 18 months ago just before lambing season last year, in April 1969. He is as fit as a trout. His doctor is Dr ALLEN, Pukekohe.

Mr SCHULTZ

He has been seen over her blood.

Det. HUGHES

Dr Barclay INNES was the doctor who did his hernia.

Note: Telephone message from Detective COOK re blood grouping of mother and child to be checked out.

Det. ROBERTS

I think domestic best bet. From description people have given there seemed to be some degree of incompatibility between them. The woman is sort of artie, quite pretty, used to play golf, likes to play sport. I wouldn't say she was exactly an extrovert but was a companionable woman and he seems exact opposite from her - reserved, dour, very hard to talk to at all except on business. Must have been fair degree of incompatibility. I think domestic at this stage is a fair assumption.

O/C

EXHIBITS:

There has been some attempt made to clean this mess up - bloodstains at the left hand side corner of the fireplace in the lounge because the bloodstain on the corner about 2" away from it there are little drops, like water drops, which are very diluted and the fact that from the kitchen floor we had 14 or 15 blood drops on the floor, diluted, which signifies I think, and also on the hot water tap, which signifies somebody got cloth wet, lifted it up, drops

fallen off on to carpet, gone back into kitchen and water from cloth has been dropped on the floor as they have been going.

Mr ROSS Slippers out on back porch. Anybody examined them for blood stain?

Det. Sgt. Done by Dr NELSON - no sign of blood.
JEFFRIES

Det. ABBOTT There are socks in bathroom and out in passage-way leading up to wash-house.

Mr ROSS To be checked out whether he wore socks, slippers, or had bare feet at night.

Mr SCHULTZ Women said Mrs CREWE would not mix locally - she said her friends were out of Pukekawa.

Note: Mr CHITTY to be interviewed re name and address of previous occupants of CIB H.Q., also re a Mr. WILLIS allegedly a close friend of Mr CREWE.

Note: Check house for Plunket book - view to ascertaining previous weigh-in of Rochelle CREWE re enquiry from specialist Dr FOX.

Note: Information from Mr John FORREST, 3 Michelle Place, Mangere Central, per telephone call to Det. JOHNSON, No. Mangere 5776.

"Check cess pit measuring 15' x 4' which he dug on farm in September 1969 - located on Glen Murray side of the shearing shed. Has concrete lid 4' 6" around with steel trap door measuring about 1' 9".

CONFERENCE NOTES 24 JUNE 1970 - 6 p.m.

O/C Scene
Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

I've had to make a detailed Inventory of all property in house and it should be completed tomorrow. Mr. SLY Lands & Survey Dept. has been out and he will prepare a plan from his measurements today of the house and immediate section. This includes from the front gate through to the back and the orchard at the rear of the house. He didn't put the paddock at the side of the house. Has put in a very detailed plan of the lounge, the two bedrooms and the kitchen. General plan.

Ronald Arthur STABLER, Franklin Electric Power Board inspected the clothes drier today. The motor fan had seized and it was obvious from the cobwebs on the fan it had not been going for some considerable time and this would cause the heat. The elements were going but the fan was not moving air and when it was switched off and with the cooling down it caused a short circuit of the heat and when he tried to operate it he found it kept on blowing fuses but this was not as a result of the fan being jammed. This was as a result of overheating. When it was switched off by Mr. WYLIE with the cooling down it has blown.

How long did it take the new ones to blow?

Just put in new fuses and kept on blowing. There must have been a short there somewhere.

General Comments - see report.

Nothing of any apparent importance has turned up, that has been brought to my notice and I'll be checking straight after the Conference. The searchers found an open culvert in paddock where some papers have been burnt.

How far up the back?

A matter of 50 yards from house between the implement shed at back of house.

One general comment - as regards clothing, there is an excess amount of clothing of certain articles which are generally very expensive - fairly expensive tastes.

What about the hair that was found?

On the floor underneath the fender of the lounge chair where all the blood has been found are brief strands of hair found there. It was hard to ascertain where they were from. Just kept as exhibit. Tomorrow when we have finished the inventory I will go over complete floor with vacuum cleaner. This could be arranged from D.S.I.R. tomorrow. Someone is going into D.S.I.R. and pick it up from there.

Another point, going back to the burglary in 1967, (I think Mr. Toottill had the complaint on this) among the property stolen was a sapphire and diamond engagement ring worth over \$400. In that property there is a sapphire and diamond engagement ring. Whether this has been replaced identically from the one that was stolen is not known, but Stewart Dawsons will have it checked.

Ctd.....

AREA CANVASS:
Det. ROBERTS

I went to visit some people called JUDGE's at Pukekohe. They know CREWE very well. Mrs. JUDGE said that last month probably half way through month she saw Mrs. CREWE with the engagement ring and said to her that it could be identical with the one that she lost. Mrs. CREWE said "Oh no, we've had another one made up at a Jeweller" and Mrs. JUDGE said "How were they able to make it up so accurately." Mrs. CREWE said "My husband kept the specification of the original one. Mrs. JUDGE thought this was a bit unusual.

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

There's a strong possibility because there's an empty ring box and identical ring box is indicated on original C.O.R. and the ring that I found is in a different box and they are both Stewart Dawson boxes. It is identical with the description on the C.O.R.

CREWE was a methodical man. Dealers keep specifications themselves. If you lose from the insurance they can have another one made through their specifications - Receipt with number on it.

C. J. EXHIBITS
Det. SGT. ABBOTT:

Apart from a hair, we found a green comb on the bathroom window-sill with some hairs in it. We took possession of that together with bag of hair curlers on dressing table in master bedroom and a lady's nightcap with hairs in it which will tell us what these hairs which we found under the chair were....If they are human hairs or hairs from the cat. The cat is grey. I don't think it is cat fur. Taken possession of 3 knives that were in knife drawer. All those showed positive indication of blood through Dr. NELSON testing the knives yesterday. One was a bread knife, one was a bone handled carving knife and the other one was a fairly sharp wooden-handled meat knife. The blue drinking glass that was on the table in the dining room beside the meal was found to contain three of her fingerprints i.e. on the right-hand side of the dining table. Going to check tomorrow with D.S.I.R. as to results. In the China cabinet there was a part bottle of Lion Beer with the top just put back on which would indicate possibly that this could be what they were drinking.

How do we know they were her fingerprints?

Mr. DEDMAN checked with fingerprint comparison set when the burglary was committed when her fingerprints were taken. No comparison sets were obtained from him.

Det. Inspector
HUTTON

Refers to exhibits previously sent to Dr. STAVELEY.

What we must remember is the piece of carpet in front of the fire-place was no doubt well covered with blood and the cushion very likely out of Harvey CREWE's chair had been burnt. There is no doubt I should think (and I think you will agree) that the amount of blood there from Harvey CREWE, if not fatal, wouldn't be far from it. Moving on to the blood stain shown as Exhibit 11 this has been identified as the blood group of Mrs. CREWE. The blood groups from Exhibits 1 and 3 is the same group as that of Mr. CREWE

Det. Sgt. TOOTILL

The staff on this enquiry have been engaged in checking the cemetery at Glen Murray and the business houses in Tuakau, taxis, also the Tuakau Post Office for toll calls emanating from the CREWE residence. No results from these enquiries. There has not been a toll call going out within the period or prior to it for some days. Also, we have had enquiries made at the airport to establish whether or not either of the parties have left the country. Enquiries at Immigration and Passport Offices to see if any Passports have been obtained but they have not, and we have one more

Otd..

enquiry to make regarding the baby weight. According to the Doctor the baby has dropped about 2½ lb. over last 11 days. Baby Rochelle CREWE lost 2½lb. in weight since 11 June to the day after she was found in the house when she was examined by Dr. FOX. Further to that the staff have been engaged on enquiries arising out of information coming in. Nothing concrete has been established apart from some description by one or two people who put Mr. DEMLER in a fairly poor light as a husband and a parent, but again nothing concrete. Apart from that enquiries are just continuing as they come in.

Det. ROBERTS

Referring to my visit to JUDGE's, they know all the family very well. They did say that DEMLER was extremely callous at the time his wife was dying. He was absolutely steaming drunk at times and they detested DEMLER. They said he was purely and simply interested in keeping up appearances. They said he is inclined to be very mean, tried to defraud Income Tax. They hate DEMLER. They said that DEMLER contacted the CREWE's every day, sometimes on business over farming, sometimes just in passing. If DEMLER said that he wasn't there for 3 or 4 days, he was telling lies. They suspect DEMLER. They point out that the death falls exactly on their wedding anniversary. CREWE's could have had an Anniversary row. Mrs. CREWE had hoped to go on expensive honeymoon to Australia. Mr. CREWE ruled it out as he was not prepared to be away from farm. Subject of holidays with CREWE family was a very sore point and they had rows from time to time because Mrs. CREWE liked to go away on holiday. Mr. CREWE prepared to be away for couple of days and no more. It seems it would be the subject of some tension. Mrs. JUDGE knew Mrs. CREWE very well when she was younger and she does admit that although not becoming slovenly, her standards have declined considerably. Mrs. JUDGE spoke very briefly about baby and said that when she has looked after the baby she found it has drunk more than any baby she has ever met. Therefore it would suffer very badly if not given liquid frequently. My opinion is that DEMLER killed the two of them. As regards drink, they have met the CREWE's socially on many occasions and they have never seen either CREWE drink anything. On the question of the various fires and burglaries both the JUDGE's say that whenever this subject has been mentioned the CREWE's have rather shied away from it and although normally very accurate in everything he does, Mr. CREWE is very hazy when asked if the Insurance Company had paid out. He had said "We don't worry about it very much" and the subject was dropped.

When I saw Mrs. HAWKINS she said that the blinds were down at 2.30 pm on Friday afternoon. I spoke to Mrs. JUDGE about this and she said that this was uncharacteristic. She said she virtually had never seen the blinds drawn.

Mention was made that it may well have been that the child was having a sleep and it would be natural to draw the blinds.

Det. METCALFE

I had a chat with old Mr. HAWKINS. He's 66 and owns about 700 acres which run from the back of Harvey CREWE's property and also bounds on to DEMLER's property. Prior to him buying in there has been about 3 previous owners there and everyone of them have crossed swords with DEMLER about the grazing on the roadway on Sharp's Road. He is described by Mr. HAWKINS as hot tempered and he also mentioned that he seemed very careless at the time that his wife was dying. He went away and left her for a fortnight to go to Tauranga and Rotorua and had no regard for his wife. In respect of Jeanette CREWE, his daughters went to school with her at St. Cuthbert's and his wife and DEMLER's wife used to talk quite often and Mrs. DEMLER passed the comment to his wife that even she could

Ctd...

not get the baby to go to her and the baby and Mrs. CREWE were virtually inseparable. He's certain that there's a third person involved and he is amazed that Mrs. CREWE would leave the baby in the house. He feels that somebody has taken the bodies away and that they are in some of the surrounding country but not on the CREWE farm. He went on about DEMLER being bad tempered and gave an incident over top dressing and heard DEMLER swearing profusely while on horseback and good distance away from him. He did mention that all the burglaries and the thefts at the house were most unusual - not in any other part of district. Mr. DEMLER had very little money. Mrs. DEMLER (her maiden name was SHINNELL and old man SHINNELL was the man with the money and he left the farm to DEMLER.

Stock: He noticed that he was feeding his own cows on the back of his farm, feeding out cows on Friday morning and Harvey CREWE's cows (only a few). Came quite a distance away from CREWE's and they were bellowing for some time when he was feeding his own cows. They would never normally come near him indicating that they were not fed on Thursday or Friday.

C. Sgt. SEAMAN

I took another statement from Raymond Leslie FOX. He had already been seen and he had stated that on Thursday at about 11.30 am he had seen a blue Hillman car going past his property as he was driving north to his homestead and the other thing was that at about 3 am on Friday morning his 3 dogs started barking and he couldn't shut them up. He said that they parked for about 20 minutes and in the end he got out of bed and moved them from where they were at the front of the house to the cow shed at the back of the house. He said they carried on barking after he went back to bed. With regard to the car sighting, he was definitely where he said he was when he saw the car because this has been cross-checked. He describes the car as a blue Hillman and I think that the CREWE's car is a green Hillman. He said there were 2 females in it, one of whom he thought was Mrs. CREWE but he couldn't be sure and I don't put much weight on this sighting at all.

Det. HIGGINS

McConachie came in this morning and he said that on Saturday he went to Tuskau with his wife to football. On his return at 4.35 pm when passing this residence heading towards his home at Glen Murray looking ahead at the CREWE's residence he noticed a small blonde-haired girl at the gate. The girl was inside the exterior gate, the one by the road and had her hands on the mesh and McCONACHIE states that when the child saw his Landrover she turned and ran back towards the house. He is adamant that she did not walk - she ran. As he passed the residence he then lost sight of her. Regarding her clothing, he stated that she had a dark-coloured, possibly brown overall type outfit on and 2 white buttons, possibly braces over the shoulder. He could not describe any other clothing or footwear. His wife disagrees with him and stated verbally that when they saw the child they were going from their home to the football at 1.30 pm and not going back at 4.30 pm.

Det. Sgt. CHARLES

Re Rochelle CREWE's clothing at the time she was found:-

Pyjama Top
Singlet
2 Nappies
Plastic cover

Det. Sgt. SEAMAN
& Det. Inspector
HUTTON

Relations: We both interviewed Mr. DEMLER concerning this enquiry. He was first of all allowed to read a statement through which had previously been taken down by Mr. HUGHES. He read this through. He started reading his statement at 3.50 pm and it took him 18 minutes to read his statement through which he then signed and he was fingerprinted for elimination

Ctd....

HUTTON

purposes. He was then interviewed by Detective HUGHES for some considerable time and he was actually interviewed as to whether he himself could have been responsible in any way for what happened in the CREWE household or concerning the removal of body or bodies from the room. He previously denied that he had at any time visited the CREWE household after he had tea there on the Tuesday night until he went there last Monday morning following a phone call from a Stock Agent to the effect that the Agent had been unable to contact the CREWE's per telephone. He was then interviewed concerning his movements starting on the morning of Monday 15 June up to and including Sunday 21 June. Job Sheets will be submitted concerning what he had to say there.

Det. Sgt. CHARLES The baby could drink from bottle

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES Bottle in use on the bench. Baby's cup with one of mouth pieces.

Has cup been touched? Could we have it for fingerprinting and also baby's bottle if you find it?

Insp. HUTTON If someone went back and fed this baby after the Wednesday night we can well come up with prints there.

NOTE: To check DEMLER's elimination fingerprints against fingerprints on milk bottle from sink.

Det. Senior Sgt. SCHULTZ On the morning of Wednesday, 17 June, Mrs. PIRRIFF went and had morning tea with Jeanette and only Jeanette and the baby were there. Harvey had gone to look at bull further down road. Mrs. PIRRIFF said that Jeanette was depressed and worried about something but she did not say what. She thought it could have been as a result of discussion with STURRICK and MONTEITH over signing of papers and realisation of assets, but she didn't know what could have caused it. After changing his will or just prior to changing it DEMLER called her and went over this with Harvey and daughter and he denied this strenuously. He said that they wouldn't know about this, that he had changed his will.

Det. Inspector HUTTON One thing I felt was a slip during the interview, if this man is in any way a suspect, I let him have a look at a photo... Did he see them etc. At that stage he was off guard and he said "I can't see how she could have been killed". This is the only time during the interview that he may have known that she was dead. At no time did I mention she was dead. He is either a good liar or a real psycho type. He gave me the impression that he is more like McKAY type of a man.

Det. ABBOTT Regarding the Job Sheets of the interview with Mr. DEMLER, it appears to me that from Monday through to Friday morning he only did one positive thing - went to tea on Tuesday night. If he is the offender, everywhere he went he knew people. We can't check very much out between Monday and Thursday.

Mention was made that DEMLER's recollection of events was too clear and he was on his guard.

Det. Inspector HUTTON I find it hard to believe (whether he is involved or not) when he was in the drunken state he was in on Friday or Saturday that he did not go to CREWE's house. Second-hand information from Tuakau that a chap was talking to someone (no name). He thinks that he came past here on Sunday and saw car parked in the driveway and the outside light on. This could be DEMLER's car - a Cortina.

Ctd.....

Det. Sgt. CHARLES

STURRICK said that Jeanette did not have any money and that she was cut out from her mother's will and said that her old man could have helped her out. She was alone when she went to Solicitor on Tuesday morning and she was seen to drive off with the baby on the front seat. All other sightings on Tuesday - call at Bank. One woman said there was a man in the car at some stage either in the morning or later. The way Mrs. CREWE spoke to MONTEITH, Harvey had been left at home on the farm. Could be on Wednesday.

Could the old man be sorry at all on not inheriting brother's farm?

Extraordinary change in will from nothing to two-thirds.

Two lots of Death Duties to pay on two farms. He said that everything was left for the children. I don't think there would be any animosity.

CONFERENCE NOTES 25 JUNE 1970 6 p.m.

O/C SEARCH
Inspector GAINES.

Today we had 30 Police and 48 civilians. Included in the party were 30 Army personnel. They were briefed at 0845. Their task today was threefold. The first party was under Sergeant HUNTER and they did the bush areas to the north-east of Sharpes Road bordering part of the farm of Mrs HOSKINGS and Mr DEMLER. The remaining Army, civilians and our own members under Senior Sergeant MELVILLE completed a search of the open area above these reaches, including Mr HOSKINGS' farm. The third party under Sergeant EASTWOOD was detailed to do a repeat search of the roadside two miles north and two miles south, including both sides of the road from the entrance to the Search Headquarters. To date they have only completed half this task. There were a quantity of articles found of no significance reported and handed into the Exhibit Officer at this Headquarters. There was a further attempt to get a co-ordinated search of the Waikato River from a point of the Opuatia Stream where it joined the Waikato River which is approximately south-east of our Headquarters here to search to the mouth of the Waikato River. This is a total distance of approximately 41 miles. A Sioux helicopter was ordered for the purpose of assisting the search each side of the heavily willow covered verges of the banks which, fortunately for us, are leafless and can easily be viewed from the area. However, weather conditions prevented use of helicopter. We obtained the services of Ground-Air Radio from the Army, 6 sets in all. We placed these, one each, in six boats we had, each with Police personnel and three civilian observers each. Their task was to thoroughly search both sides of the bank and investigate any floating object whatsoever. They kicked off about 1330 hours and accomplished approximately 10 1/2 miles of their object. The result of their search was negative.

It is expected tomorrow there will be a repeat attendance of personnel, except civilian assistance will be up about 48-50 mark. There will be also six boats and their crew, Army support of 30 men and one officer and our own men are fluctuating 30-32. Helicopter support has been approved from the Air Force but long range weather forecast will probably be the same weather conditions as today.

Is the river clear or muddy?

We expect it to be muddy.

What are your future intentions?

We have already surveyed the area together yesterday morning per the helicopter as to the general locality. There are a considerable number of waterways down to the south-east of us which are logical spots and we did a pretty close search of these. There are a lot of holes in the limestone around the area and each side of the actual river bank there are low-lying flood areas, reasonably deep sort of ponds, not fast moving.

What about equipment?

It was mentioned that we have arranged this from town. We are carrying a fair bit of equipment. They have been told to bring it.

We have been operating mostly on dry land. Now I foresee that we will have to do part of the riverbank.

Det/Inspector HUTTON.

We have surveyed the area around the countryside from the air and there is no doubt the search of the CREWE farm and the adjoining two farms has been quite thorough considering the drain and bush involved. These tunnel holes are a worry. Going over in the helicopter, there were hundreds of these on the CREWE farm alone.

What is the general nature of the soil?

Sergeant HUNTER.

Pretty firm yellow clay. If disturbed shows up very quick but after night wet, found patch of fresh yellow clay. Yesterday we went back there and it was completely brown, indistinguishable from the ground beside it. This is a problem. With the rain last week, anything turned over would now be brown.

Inspector GAINES.

There is an area just about half a mile down the road on the CREWE farm where CREWE himself has spent some considerable time, more time than necessary - Cuia grass. He has spent four days down there.

Satisfied with the turned over ground on CREWE farm and other one. Not completely satisfied with bush area which is terrifically dense and sighted from the area, it is a logical place. There is a stream which runs through the back of the farm and there is bush to the left and the right. This was done by a combined party, sweeping one way. My tentative suggestion at this stage is I would like it to be gone through slowly because a lot of it was steep and they were spending more time trying to keep upright than looking.

Det/Sergeant SEAMAN.

Mr FOX said that at about 3 a.m. on Friday morning his dogs were barking away for 20 minutes at front of house. Investigated but could see nothing and so went back to bed. He is quite a way from the CREWE property.

O/C SCENE.

Det/Sergeant JEFFRIES.

We have completed an inventory of all rooms with the exception of the baby's room which should be completed tomorrow fairly early. Nothing of any apparent significance has turned up today. We are still finding a lot of correspondence which could have some significance once it is checked on by the Inquiry boys later on. The spare room, which we have classified as a junk room was in a shockingly untidy mess. This consists mostly of Mrs CREWE's property - mostly items from her Training College and school teacher days and her trip overseas. Since this time there does not seem to be any organised keeping of records. We are finding letters, cards and receipts in all sorts of places, scattered around everywhere. No sequence of dates. We are taking time and checking for any significance.

What about accounts?

There were a lot in the main lounge there which were given to Mr TOOTILL for checking through. These are being kept in the lounge for transmission to the Accountant. The Accountant may have other papers at the present moment. There is no obvious sign of hardship. Well-off financially as far as bank accounts go. I found a number of passbooks and Auckland Bank passbooks where they were fairly well off. Accounts have not been operated on over the past recent period. Apart from that nothing of any apparent significance whatsoever.

Detective ABBOTT.

This morning I took into Dr NELSON and Mr SHANAGHAN who were working on this case some hair which was found on the chair with a blood sample on it, together with a packet of hair curlers and a nylon night cap, also a green comb that we found on the bathroom windowsill. We had a bit of a problem with the search team in regards to the exhibits but this, after talking to Mr HUTTON and Mr GAINES today, will sort itself out regarding continuity of evidence with exhibits. I have been engaged in typing my own exhibit sheets this afternoon because the typists have been tied up in other work. I still have not completed them. Result received from Dr STAVELY this afternoon.

Det/Snr Sergeant SCHULTZ. (Photographs as detailed).

Det/Sergeant JEFFERIES.
O/C FINGERPRINTS.

We found a large number of fingerprints on bottles and these had been left in position. Mr STEVENS will be out tomorrow morning. There are so many exhibits, it would be impossible to take them into town without spoiling them in some way.

Is he going to photograph them there?

Yes. There are fingerprints on the interior of the car. These will be photographed as well.

O/C AREA CANVAS.
Det/Sergeant TOOTILL.

Staff engaged on this place of inquiry continue with routine inquiries arising out of alleged sightings of the CREWE family over the period and in particular those people who made statements regarding what we consider significant sightings have been brought in and closely interrogated and I think I will ask Mr CHARLES to speak on them.

Det/Sergeant CHARLES.

I have spoken to Mrs McCONACHY who is adamant that on Saturday on the way to the football match and not returning (her husband thinks otherwise) she saw a child of the right age down by the front gates. I have driven her up and down in a Landrover in which she was driven or driving on the Saturday and she cannot picture seeing the girl coming home. She tied it down to 1.40 p.m. as she left home at 1.30, arriving at the football match soon after.

What was the child dressed in?

Light blue pair of overalls with a bib top with straps over the shoulders. She said that she would have had something else over the top of her body because she appeared to her to be well-dressed but she cannot say exactly what it was but assumes it would be a jersey underneath the overalls. Someone else has confirmed this description.

This has been confirmed.

Someone else describes these same overalls.

There are photographs of her playing in her pushchair wearing the same overalls etc.

Det/Inspector HUTTON.

Follow it up.

Det/Sergeant CHARLES.

The other person I spoke to was Bruce Michael RODERICK who is a simple soul but has good eyes. He again is sure that it was Friday morning at about half past nine that he was feeding out about 75 yards in this paddock beside the house here. He now tells us that Mr CHITTY was with him and he will have to be seen in case he saw the car parked up near the house and a woman inside the fenced off section around the house. He does not know Mrs CREWE but from the wedding photograph, he says the woman is similar in appearance but her hair is slightly lighter than what the photo suggests. This is Friday 9.30.

Mr HUGHES has another alleged sighting.

Det/Sergeant HUGHES.

We were down at the Waikato Bridge at 9 a.m. when Keith McKenzie BROWN stopped and spoke to us. He is a Stock Agent for WRIGHT STEPHENSONS at Tuakau. At 8.30 a.m. on Sunday morning he passed CREWE's home while he was going to Ross FLEMING's home a mile further down the road. He noticed that the blinds were drawn and that the back porch light was on. He said it has been worrying him all week and he is pretty certain now that Harvey's car was parked outside the house gate. He thought at the time that Harvey must have had a late night and left the car there. He was on his way to FLEMING's to draft 20 head of cattle for the Freezing Works. Recalls 8.30 because he was due at FLEMING's farm at that time. Cattle taken away by TUAKAU TRANSPORT late that morning. Checked with Ross FLEMING. He confirms dates and times. BROWN also said that he mentioned this fact to FLEMING on Tuesday when making a search of CREWE's property. Both were volunteers. He did not place a great deal of importance on it at that time but stopped us and asked had anyone else seen the car parked outside that morning. He seems a reliable sort of bloke.

Det/Sergeant CHARLES.

With regard to nappies, these were destroyed by Mrs WILLIS as soon as the baby was handed over to her, but as she described the state she found them in to the doctor, he is of the opinion that they would have been on the baby for at least 48 hours. This he is convinced in by the state of the rash which this child had which was at the state where she was blistering. With regards to food, he said she had lost some weight but could not say how much, perhaps 2 1/2 lbs. He thinks it unlikely a child could survive five days without food or water. He would have expected some dehydration and in his opinion he would say about two to three days as regards to not having had food. This is up to the Monday. He took into account that he had been seen and that she had been fed.

Det/Sergeant TOOTILL.

I think we should ask, through the papers, for information from the public regarding sightings of any vehicles in this area. As a result, we got three vehicle sightings. Last Monday a grey Chrysler Valiant at 9.30 outside the CREWE wool shed. At 10.30 a.m. on Sunday an old Maori type car where the occupants were changing a wheel. At midday on Sunday a 50 cwt green International panel van. This was given publicity today and shortly after the midday news broadcast, we had a ring from the owner of the car where the wheel was changed. This turns out to be Mr MARSHALL, a nearby farmer. He has been checked and cleared. Inquiries are proceeding regarding the Valiant and International panel van.

Det/Sergeant TOOTILL.
(Contd).

We also have personnel working on relatives under Detective Sergeant SEAMAN. He has been busy all day on them.

Det/Sergeant SEAMAN.

Our job tonight was to see Mr DEMLER and endeavour to obtain from him details of both families in order to work out a family tree and also to search his house in the immediate vicinity and the outbuildings. Mr HIGGINS spoke to DEMLER about the family and got quite a few details but DEMLER apparently does not know that much about his own or CREWE's family and we are waiting to see his daughter who should have arrived today to confirm what he told us. She should actually have arrived this morning but the Airport was closed with the fog. She is in Auckland now. She is being picked up by a niece of DEMLER's. With regard to the search, DEMLER has two motorcars at his farm, one a red Cortina - his own, white interior upholstery, and the other is a Morris 1100 which belonged to his wife. He has got a tractor and contrary to belief, he has not got a Landrover. It belongs to a neighbour who was helping him out the other day, and he also has a horse. The Cortina was searched by Mr HIGGINS and on the back of the front seat there is a blood stain in the middle. It would be about four inches long $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. There are no signs that there has been a body or anything of that nature placed in the boot and it is highly unlikely that a man the size of CREWE would be able to be put in the boot. This is the Cortina.

Det/Inspector HUTTON.

This will have to be discussed with Dr STAVELY as to how to get it off.

DENROSE offered to take it into town to be done in the morning.

Det/Sergeant SEAMAN.

The only thing suspicious is the piece of blood. Body and rest of car all right. I looked at the 1100 myself and that seems all right. Nothing suspicious about it. Would not get a body in the boot of that.

Det/Inspector HUTTON.

Dr NELSON to examine all vehicles.

Det/Sergeant SEAMAN.

We had a look at the tractor and that appears to be all right. The only place where I could see he could carry a body would be over the front. It is a Ferguson tractor - an old one. He has three trailers he could use. None have been used lately. As to the saddle, could not see into that with naked eye.

Det/Sergeant HUGHES.

Contacted Mr and Mrs FAUCETT, West Road, Clevedon. They came here in June 1966. They were here about four years and had only spoken to the CREWES not more than half a dozen times. Mrs FAUCETT thought Mrs CREWE was a snob, a bit above everyone else. Attempted to get her to attend functions and women's organisations with no result. She did attend a cocktail party put on by Ron CHITTY three years ago and the CREWES were there partaking of drink and enjoying themselves. Ron FAUCETT used to do CREWE's hay and thought CREWE was a decent sort of bloke. They used to have beer after they had helped each other. They had not seen either of the CREWES in the past twelve months.

Went and saw Mrs HOLT. She is a wool spinner and lives in Dominion Road, Papakura. She advertised in the "N.Z. Farmer" some time ago and as a result of this, Mrs CREWE has taken fleeces of wool for her to spin. She was last there on 12 June when she picked up some wool and was to return sometime last week with more wool to be spun. We picked it up today.

Det/Sergeant HUGHES.
(Contd)

She is knitting a jersey in this type of wool.
CREWE was always with her when she called to pick up
the wool etc.

Interviewed a chap called CHANDLER who was nominated
by DEMLER as being the only person who he would think
would have had a tiff with CREWE. This was over a paint
job that DEMLER said they had a bit of a fight.
CHANDLER struck me as being an upstanding citizen,
the principal partner in the firm of CHANDLER & MILLER,
Painters & Paperhangers of Tuskau. He did a job for
CREWE in 1967 before the fire. He knew of this fire
because another mate of his, a painter, Brian HAGAN,
got the job. The job that CHANDLER did was for
approximately \$100.00 and they haggled over a small
defect which CREWE pointed out in the wallpaper and
it was eventually settled with about \$20.00 off the
original price. The account was paid up about 14 months
ago and he has never seen or heard from CREWE since.

Det/Sergeant TOOTILL:

To finalise on documents, there are several documents,
bankbooks, deposits and withdrawals and a fair amount
of personal correspondence. I have perused all of this.
Nothing significant in any of the personal letters.
The bank documents show a very healthy financial
situation. There are quite a large number of cheques
yet to be banked. No sign of any major withdrawal
of recent times. I have been in touch with the family
Solicitor, Mr MONTEITH and he said to hold them in the
meantime and when finished, he stated he will carry on
with things. I also made arrangements with him for
someone to care for the stock and the farm.

Det/Sergeant SEAMAN.

We were told to search the house but not to itemise
all property in house at this stage. In the first place,
a search was made of the washhouse. In Washhouse found
a pair of brown shoes which I thought could have had
fibres of blanket on them but Mr DEMLER said there were
usually sheep here. The only dirty washing in the
washhouse was one pair of underpants, one towel and a
pair of trousers. We moved then into his bedroom
and we found a pair of brown shoes underneath the bed
which would appear to have blood on them. Also found
a sportscoat which seems to have two or three blobs of
blood on the sleeve and one on the front. Mr DEMLER
was asked about these and he said he wore the shoes and
the coat to a do he went to on Saturday night and that the
marks on them were just liquor. He said it was not blood
and he said it was just dirt on the coat. He had noticed
this on the next Sunday morning. I asked him what else
he was wearing that particular night. He said a pair
of grey trousers and a grey cardigan which I took possession
of. These don't show any marks at this stage. I asked
him whether he carried a knife as I understood most sheep
farmers carry a knife on a belt. He said he never did
as he used to lose them and all he carries now is a small
pocket knife which he uses for skinning and a knife which
he keeps in the kitchen drawer which he uses for killing
sheep. He said he does not kill the sheep for the table,
that they did not eat much mutton. He normally eats
beef which he buys and he only kills sheep for the shearers.
I took possession of both the knives and that is all I can
see in the house that is of any value. We might have to
go back and take more clothing but at this stage I did
not want to rub him up the wrong way.

O/C INVESTIGATION:

We will start the conference again with perhaps a few remarks that Mr GAINES passed on. Their search today, land and water search, has not revealed anything of note apart from the finding of a knife in Mr CHITTY's property on the ridge as one enters Mr CHITTY's farm from a gateway opposite the gateway to Mr GREWE's wool shed. About 150 yards on in from that gateway on Mr CHITTY's property a large skinning knife was found. It gives the appearance to me that it has been out there for six weeks to two months I should think by the handle although the blade of course is stainless steel and looks very new in appearance. Mr CHITTY viewed this knife. He has told us it is definitely not the one he had lost or thought he had lost but there is a possibility it may belong to a previous employee of his working on the farm here. This has yet to be checked out.

ROSS:

I think this has been checked out.

Con. MEURANT:

A bloke who assisted in sowing grass seed, a Mr BUDGE - said it was not his knife. He has a skinning knife but did not take it with him, and didn't lose knife there then.

Mr ROSS:

It has not been cleared up as to whose knife it is.

O/C INVESTIGATION:

Therefore knife will be subject of fingerprint testing when it dries and an examination by D.S.I.R.

The search tomorrow will continue along the road frontage to a Raglan County Council rubbish tip at the Port Waikato Heads, a search of the surrounds of the bach at Port Waikato belonging to DEMLER, a rubbish tip near the Tuakau Bridge, and gravel and surrounding area near the Rangiriri Bridge. These areas were surveyed today by helicopter and it was decided that these were likely areas which should be searched, and other areas have also been selected for the projected search in the next few days.

Con. MEURANT:

Through another constable, one of the civilians suggested the boiling down pit would be a good place to hide a body.

O/C INVESTIGATION:

That has been listed.

O/C SCENE:

Apart from a very small portion of kitchen, an inventory of all property in the house has been made. I have started to take the hessian covers from the base of the sofa and matching chairs should a weapon of any sort have slipped down the back or side. Nothing of any significance has turned up.

Mr ROSS:

Was she a hoarder?

O/C SCENE:

In various stages of decay in one of the kitchen cupboards was found 14 pieces of loaf, half cut up, and in a box underneath I found the equivalent to another 7 complete loaves which would vary I would say anything up to six weeks old. From the general things here and

O/C SCENE:
(cta)

there she is a bit of a hoarder with certain items, e.g. in one of the kitchen cupboards there are a number of empty cans which I presume she was saving for the purpose of putting fat in it.

There were various visitors at the house today - there was Mr and Mrs SOUTER. I don't know what Mr CHARLES' impressions are of this couple but Mrs SOUTER (Beather) certainly did not seem to be upset that anything could have happened to her sister. That is just my observation.

Dr NELSON and his associate were also out again today for further examination and Dr CAIRNS made an examination.

Apart from this I have not got anything to report.

O/C EXHIBITS:

Just for your information we have now received 108 exhibits. Today I have been tied up all morning in Court and handing exhibits to Dr STAVELEY, which were a pair of brown leather boots obtained by Det. Sgt. SEAMAN and a green coat taken from DEMLER's house yesterday. These were passed on to Dr STAVELEY. Dr NELSON took certain exhibits from the Cortina car. Det. Sgt. DEDMAN took numerous bottles of liquor found in the cocktail cabinet for fingerprint purposes, also the baby's bottle and an empty quart milk bottle from off the bench. There was very little on the baby's bottle but he took it anyway and is going to photograph it. There was nothing on the small drinking cup that was found on the sink. Yesterday we found a couple of hairs adhered to a couple of drawers in the kitchen and it looked as if they were adhered to the drawer with blood or something similar. These have been taken as exhibits.

Mr ROSS:

Has anybody taken a sample from the cupboard which was thought to be blood?

O/C EXHIBITS:

Yes, as well as other stains on cupboard and they were blood. I also took possession of this green loose cover over the left hand arm of the chair. There is a piece of skin tissue on it. It looks a bit like skin tissue and I will be taking this to Dr CAIRNS on Monday. I have nothing further to report.

O/C AREA
CANVAS:

The staff have followed up enquiries arising out of information coming in, such as people ringing up saying they have something to tell us. We have been engaged on that kind of thing most of the day. So far nothing of any import has come in. In addition, we had PRIEST uplifted and taken through the house to see if he could assist with anything at all and a lengthy statement taken from him but there again nothing of any evidential value resulted apart from the fact that prior to Mr DEMLER arriving to tell him about this news he had not heard the car and when he did go out DEMLER's car was facing towards GREWE's house, whereas if he had come from GREWE's house to call on PRIEST the car should have been facing the other way.

D/C. METCALF:

Didn't he go home and ring stock agent first and could be coming back this way on his second trip.

O/C AREA
CANVAS:

That is covered in his statement that he found the blood, went home to stop truckie from coming out for the stock and went to PRIEST's.

Det. Sgt.
HUGHES:

That is what he said. He went home first and rang Tuakau Transport and told him not to come and pick up the stock as something serious had happened. Then he turned round and went up and saw PRIEST, leaving the kid in the cot.

O/C AREA
CANVAS:

In addition, we had following that publicity regarding motor vehicles sought, the Chrysler Valiant, which is one of the three vehicles publicised. That owner came forward and he has been cleared.

Warrants were taken out in respect of the DEMLER property and vehicles and it was not found necessary to execute either warrant. The vehicles were brought down here and examined by D.S.I.R. and a blood stain on the red Cortina was taken for analysis. The other car was cleared and both have been returned. As you know, Mrs SOUTER of course has been seen and is still being interviewed by Det. Sgt. CHARLES. She has been through the house but at this stage she cannot really assist much. We have not had anything of any evidential value come in through enquiries carried out or from the people who have called in.

Det. Sgt.
CHARLES:

I allowed the SOUTERS to be together all the time so that the husband could give the girl some moral support. The girl is DEMLER's favourite, likewise Jeanette used to be the mother's favourite. With regards to the house, she only went there on three occasions during her visit. Once she baby-sat and wrote letters by the window facing towards the hay barn. She feels pretty sure that there was not a curtain there. However, she is not happy of the fact that there is no curtain on the window to the left of the fire place because she feels that Jeanette would have had something there in view of the fact that the room faces the street, which was in full view of passers-by. She cannot help regarding kitchen utensils. She only washed up once. I have got pages of her impressions of Harvey and Jeanette, most of which we know about, and a couple of pages of her impressions of her father whom of course she, I don't think, has considered could possibly be involved in this, and she is on her father's side at present. One thing which came out shortly before she left tonight is in connection with the death duties and it appears that she has learnt since her arrival that the father did not expect his wife's share of the farm to be nearly as high as it was - he quoted \$40,000 when it is in fact nearly \$70,000. He has made some comment of the fact the farm has been revalued as a result of which higher death duties than he considered would have to be paid. It was by arrangement that Jeanette was going to hand over the mother's car to him. Heather says that when her mother died and her estate was left to Jeanette that a number of people, friends, thought well at least Jeanette will hand over the car. And something over to Heather to balance things up but Jeanette didn't. Jeanette was going to call at her father's farm to sign certain papers and her father was apparently going to leave out, I understand, ownership papers or something to do with the car so that the car could be handed over to him, that is the mother's car. He apparently forgot to leave the papers out and was going to bring the subject up again the next time he went to dinner but of course he cannot go.

Det. Sgt.
CHARLES:
(ctd)

I spoke to her about the way her father re-acted to her mother dying and she said that in the first instance he was a good loyal husband, went fairly regularly to hospital to see her and as time went on he went more to bowls and apparently comment was made by various people why he was not going so often to the hospital. She said she thought him a typical farmer in that he treated death in the way of animals the same as humans and she thinks well it may be on this occasion as well, that he apparently is accepting the fact that they are both dead and if that is the case that is the case. Her frame of mind is still fairly good towards the Police. Her father bitched to her about the way he was spoken to the other day and he was told well we are doing our job. The only thing she thought was Harvey had a fit and has carted Jeanette out of the house. She cannot visualise Jeanette pulling him out of the house. I don't think she has thought about a third person, least of all her father. She said as far as she knows Jeanette and Harvey have never had a word against each other or had words. Bob SOUTER said they were so attached to each other in that way that it was slightly unnormal and cannot visualise what has happened.

Mr ROSS:

What about the bed-spread?

Det. Sgt.
CHARLES:

It was summer time when she went. She only went into the bedroom once, when her sister was getting dressed to go into town together, and on that occasion there was no bed-spread there. This was summer time and they probably wouldn't need it anyway.

Det. Sgt.
SINTON:

Did she know anything about baby's habits?

Det. Sgt.
CHARLES:

She has not been here since March and has only been there once to baby-sit and when she got there she had to go and look for the baby.

M. ABBOTT:

Somebody might find out how Jeanette tied nappies on baby - could it be followed up tomorrow?

Det. ROBERTS:

Mrs WILLIS said baby was offered baby bottle and seemed to be accustomed to drinking out of cup. On the subject of nappies, the nappy was on the way Mrs WILLIS would have put it on. There was an inside bit as well - double duty performance. Mrs WILLIS said the nappies had been put on pretty well and in the same way that she would have done it herself.

Det. Sgt.
JEFFRIES:

There was a carton of disposable nappies underneath the cot and in the cot underneath the sheet was a dirty nappy as if someone had changed it and left it there.

D/C. METCALF:

Mrs IRVINE said she was at the house 5 weeks ago and the cot was against the window and not against the wardrobe door, so if baby was against window she may have played with the blinds. I noticed on Monday the cot was back against the wardrobe.

O/C INVESTIGATION: DEMLER mention anything about blinds missing from the window in the lounge?

Det. Sgt. HUGHES: No.

D/C. METCALF: Mrs IRVINE is not certain on diagram of furniture in lounge and she is pretty certain there were curtains to the left of the fire place where it is vacant now.

O/C RELATIVES: You have mentioned the cars - they have been done. We got out the two warrants this morning from Mr HOSKING, J.P. in Sharp Road. We tried to make it sound routine. He gave us the warrants and we had to wait until the solicitor had been - he didn't leave until 11 or so. Then we had to wait until the two SOUTERS were out of the place. We finally got round there about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. We had previously run into Mr DEMLER up in the paddock with a Mr HIGGINS, and we said we would like to go back and have a look. He was not concerned at all about our search and told us to go ahead and in fact he said he would not be there as he was going to muster some sheep over the back paddock. We had the house to ourselves for a good while and went through it very thoroughly and could not find anything at all that was suspicious. It seems a very tidy house, quite expensively furnished, quite a lot of valuable clothing there and it is obvious, of course, they are not short of money at all.

Mr ROSS: Any sign of any burning?

O/C RELATIVES: There was only one patch in the back garden where sort of household fire where you burn papers but it seems to be old burning and I would say it was old as it had rained on it, perhaps more than once, nothing recently burnt there.

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES: Mrs SOUTER said she had burnt a lot of her mother's property in March before she went.

O/C RELATIVES: We searched the garden thoroughly, fowl house, barn and wool shed, and could not find anything there that looked the slightest bit suspicious. There was a bit of paddock turned up but it was only a rabbit burrow.

Note: Members of Onewhere Bowling Club to be seen re association with DEMLER.

Det. Sgt. HUGHES: Graham HEWSON said to me he was not happy with DEMLER's attitude towards the missing couple and he said when the Police left each night DEMLER would sort of laugh it off and reckon they were just a bunch of bastards. Last night for instance he had Graham on and said "You didn't give them a bloody cup of tea did you". He said in the mornings DEMLER looked very nervous and upset when the Police arrived. He said DEMLER is always running Bob SOUTER down.

Det. ROBERTS: One of the first things the doctor said is did we want a second opinion. I said at this stage I didn't think we did. He said he had no objection and recommended Dr COSTELLO. He examined the baby again and said there was no terrific change in the baby's appearance - some slight skin characteristics there he had seen before and which would probably stay that way. Thinks Friday night is the very longest time that baby could have gone without something to drink, putting ~~has~~ emphasis on food. Doctor said baby had put on 2½ lb since he had last seen her. He

Det. ROBERTS:
(ctd)

thinks it quite significant in a way because he says this is a very small increase and had the baby been in bad shape for some days without nourishment and drink, he thinks increase would have been a great deal more. The doctor does not seem to stress food side at all - seems lack of drink.

O/C CARS:
Det. PARKES:

We have checked the two cars of DEMLER's - already been dealt with, and we have eliminated the Chrysler Valiant. I have seen a Mrs Margaret HUNTER, who is not a good witness, and she said on Wednesday night, she thinks about 9pm, the lights of the wool shed were on as she was passing CREWE farm.

Mr ROSS:

Some enquiries should be made in Wanganui on background of woman and background of CREWE himself.

r HUTTON:

I am calling for every person who knew the couple themselves to come forward if they have not been seen.

1. Family tree to be established as quickly as possible with follow up enquiries. Each relative to be interviewed concerning their knowledge of deceased and other associates. All known friends and relatives to be interviewed as to when they last saw Mr and Mrs CREWE and as to their own movements from 17-6-70 to the morning of Monday 22-6-70.
2. The solicitor, Mr STURROCK, to be seen by Det. Sgt. CHARLES and also the accountant as it is believed that either or both of these persons could supply further material information to the enquiry.
3. Further enquiries to be made concerning possible land transactions between DEMLER and CREWE and Mr HOSKINGS, or any other person.
4. Stock agents - movements to be checked out over relevant period.
5. Enquiries be made in an attempt to confirm whether CREWE intended to purchase DEMLER's farm or any other land.

CONFERENCE NOTES 27 JUNE 1967 COMMENCED 5 P.M.

O/C INVESTIGATION
DET. INSP. RUTTON

I spoke to Mr. GAINES, O/C Search, and he gave me a brief verbal report on the country search team to date and they were mainly false. The rubbish tip at Port Waikato Heads was searched and nothing of any note was found there. The baches around Port Waikato were searched and in particular, Mr. DEMLER's bach, but nothing of any importance was found. Regarding the rubbish tip at Tuakau Bridge, this will be the subject of a further investigation tomorrow when a drag line will be called in and everything will be moved. Around the Rangitiri Bridge a visit was made to the Boiling Down Works. Yet to check out if they have completed their enquiry. They searched miles and miles of the banks on the Waikato River in the vicinity of Tuakau with little real success apart from finding:-

2 nappies
1 bib
1 sock
a pair of panty hose

No apparent relevancy to the case. The search will continue tomorrow with the addition of approximately 60 to 70 farmers from the Pukekohe area.

Fingerprints photographed. Little to do today but a further visit to the house will have to be made. Not satisfied with overall fingerprinting and the fingerprint expert will return tomorrow and go over with close guidance.

AREA CANVASS -
DET. SGT. TOOTILL

Mr. SINTON visited the boiling down works, Tuakau Farmers By-Products, Buckland Road, Tuakau. It would have been impossible for some person to enter the firm on the Wednesday night. It would have been possible for bodies to have been put into the boiling down works but most unlikely because it was full of meat. The next morning employers threw other bodies of meat in and would have noticed if bodies were there. There is no need to follow this any further.

DET. J. HUGHES -
SUSPECTS

I picked up DEMLER at 10 am and he was very friendly. I took him to the house and went through it stage by stage as to his approach to the CREWE's on Monday afternoon last. We went through it exactly how we did before. There's nothing else that will assist except that he states that the cot has always been, as far as he is aware, in the spot which it is now in. It is likely that someone else said it was under the window. He was asked about the curtains or drapes missing from the windows near the TV set. He gave a lot of thought to this but seemed to think that there was a curtain or drape there at some stage. He's not certain on it. He later took us over his farm and showed us two holes. These were searched but no trace of anything was found and they weren't very deep holes.

I later made enquiries for nominated suspect Derek George BOOTH and have now traced him as being Transport Manager for HARDIE BROS. subsidiary of WESTONS LTD., at Whangarei. A telephone message has been sent to Whangarei.

DET. SGT. CHARLES

Heather says that there was a make-shift curtain hanging by TV set. She has talked it over with her father at length and she thinks it was a sheet, probably white, hanging up as a temporary measure.

NOTE Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES to examine blanket found over chair and 1 slipper at scene, re possible use as blind and for blood.

Ctd..

DET. SGT. CHARLES Charles RODDICK has been interviewed and denies. We're quite satisfied that he is all right. He's not to be treated as a suspect.

DET. CONST. HIGGINS RELATIONS

Family tree from both sides has been completed. Ready for Job Sheets.

AREA CANVASS Decided to canvass a number of houses within a given area
DET. SGT. TOOTILL and Mr. SINTON compiled a list.

DET. SGT. SINTON It was difficult to compile a list and so far it has not been indexed. A rough list has been prepared which will need to be going through to see just who has been at CREWE's farm frequently and who has not. Some have been checked already and they haven't been in the house for about a year and I don't see that we have to go much further with those. This will be carried on tomorrow.

DET. SGT. SEAMAN I went to see Mr. PRIEST this morning about an old lady that was seen in his cottage and he said that his mother-in-law has been here recently. She came last Wednesday and left last night. He said that a couple of months ago a Mr. Brian HANSEN was thinking of renting a house but he turned it down and didn't move in to it. I spoke to Mr. HANSEN on this and he said that he didn't go back there last Saturday - definitely not - and he hasn't been there for two months.

O/C SCENE I can't make any comment about scene. We're taking exhibits
DET. SGT. JEFFRIES all the time

DET. INSP. HUTTON There's no criticism as to JEFFRIES concerning scene. He's doing a good job.

DET. ABBOTT We've taken up to 128 exhibits now. Nothing of any evidential value coming in apart from small blood stains, some on a fish slice on bench and another on a saucepan on the bench. It looked as if it was used to cook potatoes in as there's a slight brown ring around bottom - it could be blood. Most of the exhibits taken today were by Barry STEVENS with fingerprints on them and of course the other exhibits that Mr. CHARLES has spoken about.

T. INSP. HUTTON Carry out test fire tomorrow with pillow and a piece of carpet to see if you can simulate same.

RECEPTION & SUPPLY Most of the supplies have been quite good and the Army are
DET. CONST. REVELL treating us very well.

DET. SGT. TOOTILL Nothing really worthwhile has come up at this stage that we can get at. It's just a matter of continuing plodding away. We may get some more next week when enquiries start coming back. I can only say that when they do come we might have to work harder and quicker.

DET. SGT. SEAMAN I went out with Graham HEWSON and we saw some tractor tracks. He said he could smell something and it turned out that what he could smell was a dead sheep. There's no doubt that the bush has been searched well but there's still some ground to cover.

DET. INSP. HUTTON MOTIVE

The likely motive appears to be that it is tied up in the Will of Mrs. May Constance DEMLER, now deceased, previously the wife of Len DEMLER. Under the terms of this Will Len DEMLER and his wife were jointly declared the trustees. The jewellery and

Ctd...

silverware and articles of personal clothing were left to Mrs. Jeanette CREWE, and under the joint Trusteeship Len DEMLER was allowed the use, occupation and income arising from the farm during his lifetime. Further terms of the Will was the sum of \$400 to the Anglican Church at Tuakau, the sum of \$2,000 to baby Rochelle and the balance of the Estate for her daughter Jeanette CREWE for her own use absolutely, or if she should pre-decease me (Mrs. DEMLER, which does not apply in this case) or die before attaining a vested interest (which of course Mrs. Jeanette CREWE did not). She actually attained her vested interest and actually signed for this on the 16th.

Further to that it must be remembered of course, that Len DEMLER went over on Monday and gave instructions to STURROCK to make out a new Will for him, leaving one-third of his assets to Jeanette and two-thirds to Heather.

DET. SNR. SGT.
SCHULTZ

He might have thought that not knowing what was in old lady's Will he thought that he was getting more as long as he lived but finished up with nothing as property interest.

T. INS. BUTTON

There is mention from a witness since the disappearance of Mr. & Mrs. CREWE that DEMLER uttered the words "Oh, I won't have to move now." Taking in the terms of this Will it appears that although Jeanette received no income from Mrs. DEMLER's property during the life of DEMLER, she nevertheless as Joint Trustee would have a considerable say in the running of the farm.

Therefore, we think the likely motive is that Len DEMLER became upset over the terms of his wife's Will very likely as a result of these terms Jeanette being able to interfere with the running of the farm and possibly wanting to put a Manager on it therefore necessitating DEMLER to leave the farm.

CONFERENCE NOTES 28 JUNE 1970 - 6 p.m.

Det/Inspector HUTTON:

Search - Inspector GAINES.
Inspector GAINES informed me that the search conducted today has been negative with no results of any particular note. Articles have been found and preserved in case they become exhibits in the future. We have resurveyed the bush clad gullies on the CREWE farm as it is now considered that a more thorough search should be made of them with the possibility of the bodies being buried in the soft ground. Inspector GAINES will sectionalise selected areas in the gullies to start with and these areas will be roped off and thoroughly searched as will the rest of the gully following those selected areas. Tomorrow also the Navy divers will return and endeavour to search the Waikato River in the vicinity of Tuakau and other bridges and also an area at the Port Waikato Heads. It would appear at this stage of the search that local farmers can be of little further use and we may well dispose of their services on Monday or early during that week.

SCENE.
Sergeant JEFFERIES.

Carried out experimental fire in the fireplace of the lounge with wood in the house. The fire was going for an hour and a quarter before we put on the cushion and the carpet and the two conclusions we came to were: The fire must have been going a lot longer in the house before the carpet and cushion were burnt on the night in question and secondly it is obvious to me that a cushion and carpet were burnt in the fireplace that night.

For what reason?

The only reason I can obviously give was to dispose of blood in an attempt to clean up. After cleaning up the hearth prior to setting the fire, we vacuumed all ash and debris out of it and there were a number of large blood spots on the hearth which were not watered down at all. They were original blood stains. The hearth to me does not appear to have been washed clean.

What about the blanket?

We carried out an experiment with the blanket or sheet that was found in the lounge and it does not appear to have been over the window that does not have a curtain. This sheet which is blood stained could have come from anywhere in the house.

What stage reached in fingerprinting?

Detective Sergeant DEDMAN and Mr STEVENS carried out fingerprinting all today and I am satisfied now that I have done all there is to be done.

O/C EXHIBITS.
Detective ABBOTT.

A number of exhibits have come in today. We have now reached 146 exhibits. Detective Sergeant HUGHES passed to me a piece of timber which was taken from the back of CREWE's tractor which appears to have some red splatter marks on it. It could be blood. This will be analysed.

Det/Sergeant TOOTILL.

Area canvas carried on. Continuation of previous inquiries arising out of information coming in. Inquiries made for past tenants in this cottage. Messages have been sent to Ohakune and Taupo regarding two tenants. One seen at Pukekohe and one yet to be seen at Manurewa. The shearing gang back to 1959 employed by CREWE has been seen by Mr DUNCAN. Interviewed and comparison prints obtained.

Det/Sergeant TOOTILL:

Elimination prints covering the area previously resided in have been continued but yet to be completed. The family trees in relation to the DEMLER and CREWE families to be completed and Job Sheets forwarded for all of the people mentioned to be interviewed. Toll calls from the DEMLER house to be checked tomorrow.

Det/Sergeant SEAMAN:

I was given this job this morning of going to see Mrs SPRATT. She says very little of interest. She does not know the DEMLERS very well, nor the CREWES. She saw Harvey CREWE on the 16th and it would be some months since she saw Jeanette. There is very little of interest that she said. Her husband, Mr SPRATT, was seen and it is obvious he thinks a lot of DEMLER. Describes him as an ideal neighbour, always willing to help, would say nothing detrimental about him and would not if he could. Described CREWE as being a moody sort of bloke. I was there from about 11.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hard to interview but she was easy to talk to. Cannot tie them down to anything at all.

What about the old lady in the red jersey?

Det/Constable PAYNE:

On Thursday last she walked up the road about 11.30 to vacant house to pick some flowers. Not confirmed yet, but probably Mr PRIEST's mother-in-law. McCONACHIE said that on Saturday he did go into town at 11.30 on Thursday with Dave QUINN. He is yet to be seen. If QUINN says Thursday then this is certain.

Det/Sergeant HUGHES:
SUSPECTS:

Mr and Mrs HUGHSON and I had a look first of all down in the pump shed which is to the left of CREWE's home. Seemed to them this was not working right. Had a good look. Goes down about 4 or 5 feet into fairly heavy mud. Don't think body could be concealed there. Looked at CREWE's tractor. On tray at rear of tractor there are stains which could be blood. Took whole board out and handed this to the Exhibit man.

I saw DEMLER again this morning. He seemed a bit upset that we are interviewing him again and again. Later saw him at 3.30 p.m. and he had no hesitation in signing a statement of authority authorising the Police to consult his firm of Solicitors, authorising them to make available for perusal, Wills, and documents relating to any transactions concerning himself, his late wife and his two daughters. He had visitors this afternoon so I was not able to obtain another statement from him. Agreed to meet me at 10 tomorrow morning. A further set of fingerprints were also obtained from him.

I also saw "Speedy" MARTIN, established as being John Lyall MARTIN, aged 23 years, farmer, living in Kauri Road, Pukekawa. Not a bad young bloke, fat with a squeaky voice. He and two other blokes knocked off local bowling club and got probation. He was fingerprinted three years ago. States he was home every night of the week preceding 22nd. No-one can confirm this but he appears all right.

Talked to Graeme HUGHSON again today and he reckons DEMLER is chuckling away at night. He is now of the opinion that DEMLER could not have done it, despite some of the silly things that DEMLER does say. I will obtain a full statement from HUGHSON tomorrow afternoon before he gets Limited train for home tomorrow night.

Detective PARKES:

Saw Mr Kestwen SAXTON. He drove past here on Wednesday night, the 17th, about midnight. He is quite sure that the outside light was burning then. He seems quite a good witness. I am quite sure he is right in what he says. Still chasing other vehicles without much success at the moment. When he was travelling home he passed three cars going north which is unusual at this time of night. The first one he does not know what it was. The second one was a 1965 Falcon, which he thinks was a lightest grey colour, the third one a Hillman Hunter or Cortina which he thinks was a buff colour, somewhere between CREWES' place and Tuakau.

Det/Sergeant CHARLES:

With regards to being sent to scenes of findings of exhibits, we are going to have to be careful about not receiving every bit of rubbish that is on the roadside. One of the river searchers wanted to give me an axe found down the road from a farm and they were told to get it identified by the local farmer as it was probably his. I have checked the corroborated RODDICK's story and his movements for the week. His parents both say that as soon as the news flash came over the TV he made comment that we were up the shute because he did see a woman on on the Friday. He is not the kind of kid to make up stories so we cannot break down his statement that there was some woman similar in appearance to Mrs CREWE but not identified as such, standing in front of the house on Friday morning.

Constable REVEL:

At the present time I am making out a schedule of sightings of Harvey and Jeanette CREWE, Baby Rochelle, cars involved and suspect, DEMLER. These sightings will be recorded from Monday through to the following Monday. Should be completed mid morning tomorrow.

CONFERENCE : 29-6-70, 5.20pm

O/O SEARCH:
Insp. GAINES

The field search took four phases. The first was the river search by boats with civilians and Police and Army personnel from Tuakau Bridge up to the Rangiriri Bridge with negative results. Navy divers airborne by Iroquois helicopter searched the two bridges at Rangiriri and fore-shores with negative results. They searched the sand bar, the eastern and western banks of the Waikato River at its mouth and the area most probably where the bodies or clothing will end up with negative results.

A group of farmers combined with one of our blokes continued road searching on the main road, bringing a total of main road road searching to 9½ miles with negative results.

We devised a system of square searching the bush. The areas we are searching are completely strung off and will remain so, again so far negative results.

Tomorrow the bush search will continue, three boats on the river will continue from Tuakau Bridge to the heads, and also the Navy divers will complete a minute inspection of the Tuakau Bridge and an area about half a mile downstream from the Tuakau Bridge which has high potential for bodies or heavy objects.

SCENE SQUAD:
Det. Sgt.
JEFFRIES

We should finish at the scene tomorrow. A report has been submitted today regarding scene examination. The soil specialist, Mr Garry Edward ORBELL from the D.S.I.R. Soil Division and based at Pukekohe came out today. He examined the soil visually in the wheelbarrow and his visual observation was that it had been either discoloured with cement in the wheelbarrow and rust to make it look different or it was a totally different soil from the local area. The general impression is that it is discoloured from the rust in the wheelbarrow. He suggested that the sample be sent to the D.S.I.R. Division at Lower Hutt for a chemical analysis of the minerals. He gave us a very technical run-down of soil in the area, I won't attempt to explain it, but he will be available should we require him later on as far as his local knowledge of the soil in the area is concerned.

That is basically all that we have got to report over at the scene.

3 I/C
INVESTIGATION:
Det. Sgt.
TOOTILL

The staff today were engaged again, full personnel, on area canvas. There was a shop to shop enquiry at Pukekohe and Tuakau with emphasis on dry-cleaning, and fish shops. Also the same staff are verifying uncompleted sighting reports. I understand we have had some information from a fish-monger.

Det. ROBERTS:

I went to see Mrs JUDGE first. Before going to see Mrs JUDGE I have myself been to the scene and drawn up a reasonable plan of the lounge. I didn't show this to Mrs JUDGE at all. She drew for me what I think is a very good plan of the room and it is quite remarkably accurate. She even goes so far as to mark the junk in the corner which Mr JEFFRIES has told us about. She, however, places one of the arm chairs at the other end of the room, that is the one with the pink seat and the wooden arms at the other end of the room, and the other

Det. ROBERTS:
(ctd)

two arm chairs were where we did find them. However, it should be borne in mind that this placing of the chairs was when the CREWE family had a much smaller television set. Mr JUDGE is biased and says they hate DEMLER.

From there we went to the nearest shop, which is a place called Rob and Anne's Take-aways. Here I saw the proprietor called Colin MASSEY. He told me that on the night of Wednesday the 17th, just before 6pm, a woman whom he identified very positively from my photographs had come there and he is quite sure of the time, ten to six, and had bought chips and two cooked flounders. I took a statement from him.

I then went to Pukekohe High School and there I saw his son Richard MASSEY, aged 15½. He told me about the same thing, confirming time and date. He told me the car was a modern style green Hillman. He had seen the man, and had picked Mr CREWE from the photograph without any hesitation. He said there was nobody else in the car apart from the family.

Mr SCHULTZ:

Mr Lester PAYNE has seen a roadside vendor who said on 14-6-70 Harvey CREWE bought six flounder in a packet.

Det. Sgt. SEAMAN:

Some people named HARRISON said at about 8.45pm on the night of Friday 19-6-70 they were travelling through this area when they saw a woman carrying a baby by the Runciman service station. They had spoken to her and taken her to the garage at Ramarama where she got out of the car. Enquiries established that this woman is apparently Mrs MASON from Whangarei.

RELATIVES:

Det. HIGGINS

I interviewed Mrs CREWE and obtained a statement from her, briefly on the history of the family. She is unable to throw any light on the incident across the road. With Mr JEFFRIES we took her through the house. It has been some 18 months since her last visit there. She describes the bedspread on the bed as beige-brown in colour, consisting of two single bedspreads sewn into one. This is now missing. The drapes in the lounge - the window nearest the T.V. and the window by the table which now have no drapes - she states had drapes identical to the ones in the lounge at the moment on the third window.

Regarding cutlery she states it is about the same. The carving knives they used were bone handled - one bone handled carving knife and one bone handled carving fork.

The mat in front of the fireplace was identical with the carpet. It was the length of the hearth and from 28" - 36" wide, square.

She said the three windows had the same drapes on but is not sure if they were plain or lined.

SUSPECTS:

Det. Sgt. HUGHES

I got a statement today from Graham HEWSON regarding the odd aspects in behaviour of Mr DEMLER since he, HEWSON, arrived to stay with him on Tuesday night, 23-6-70. Mr HEWSON returns to Eketahuna tomorrow.

A man named OTTO who has been nominated as a suspect has yet to be seen.

Mr HUTTON and myself again interviewed Len DEMLER, firstly about his movements from Monday 15-6-70 up until Monday 22-6-70. He was interviewed again regarding possible

Det. Sgt. HUGHES: involvement in the murder and later the disposal of the two bodies. He strongly denies, having any association with the matter in hand. I am going to continue the interview with him tomorrow morning.

VEHICLE SQUAD:
Det. PARKES

We spent the day checking vehicle movements on Wednesday - most of these at an indoor bowls evening at Glen Murray and a rate payers meeting. We have an account of most of those.

We have another firm sighting of the outside light on at 11.15pm Wednesday night.

Con. MAURANT:

Also a report by Mr HOSKING (jnr) that the light was on at 7.20pm.

ENQUIRY OFFICER:
Det. Sgt.
CHARLES

The first thing we did was to clear DEMLER's toll calls for the last two months and there is nothing we don't know about.

A photograph of the baby Rochelle and two further professional opinions will be sought tomorrow along the same lines as the first.

With regards to our visit to the solicitor, it appears that DEMLER would have had no financial gain by disposing of these two. The death duties would have been adequately met by cash in Mrs DEMLER's savings account plus a Morris car.

With regards to my visit to Heather and Bob SOUTER this afternoon, they were informed that two different blood groups were found in the house, that we strongly believed that both the CREWES were injured, that the sighting of the baby on Saturday intimates that a person, if there is a third person involved, is closely associated with the CREWES. They now appreciate how we are looking very closely at Heather's father. It was also emphasised to them the possibility that he may have merely just come across the two bodies and disposed of them to keep the family name good as opposed to murdering them, and if that was so this enquiry could be curtailed very quickly if the bodies could come to hand. I think the message sunk in.

Det. Sgt. TOOTHILL: There was a further message that Mr CHARLES checked out. We got a message from Mrs Beverley WILLIS who said that prior to their departure to England some years ago Jeanette had a very persistent boyfriend in the area. Mr CHARLES checked that out. He is a local boy, and Mr HUGHES is going to have a word with him. I think he has settled down and is married now. He is one of the THOMAS'.

Det. Sgt. CHARLES: Heather told me that the significance of the wheelbarrow has cropped up between her and her husband. He made some comment that he (the father) has never touched it. He feels if we have got our eye on the wheelbarrow he is safe there because he has not touched it.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

A number of exhibits have come in today - nothing exciting or we think involved.

Regarding samples, there were four samples taken - four bags of earth - two from outside in the back lawn and two from the side of the deep gully on the left of the house. Now what Mr ORBELL will be able to tell us is if the soil in the wheelbarrow is similar in texture to the soil from the back lawn - that type of soil would probably cover 50,000 acres in this area, but if the soil contained in the wheelbarrow is similar in texture to the soil found on the side of the deep gully he will be able to give us some indication of where to look if we think the soil in the wheelbarrow is tied up with the soil around where the bodies were buried. In other words we will be looking for sides of gullies where this type of soil is.

Regarding the blood samples - if anybody takes blood samples in future I have got some clean linen over there. They are to be taken with a small piece of clean linen on the end of a pair of tweezers, moistened with water, the blood sample is to be wiped, it is then to be allowed to dry before being placed in a container to take into Dr STAVELEY. Apparently some exhibits that were taken last Tuesday, I was instructed how to take them, when I took them into Dr STAVELEY this morning for examination they were still damp and moist and he said that he would be very surprised if we could get the blood group off them because of bacteria attacking the blood so in future if there are any blood stains to be taken I will take them myself.

SG. & SUPPLY OFFICER:

Const. REVELL:

The sightings with regard to Len cannot be completed until his full story has been checked out. Apparently not everyone has been seen yet.

Det. ROBERTS:

CREWE's car was last serviced on 13 May at ORNSTIEN & GREENWELL's garage, Pukekohe. The mileage then was 11030, the present reading is 12,500 miles, approximately.

CONFERENCE NOTES FOR 30 JUNE 1970

Commenced 5.15 pm

O/C SCENE

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

Scene examination and Inventories now completed. All exhibits taken and secured at Otahuhu Police Station. CREWE's motor car garaged at Inquiry Headquarters garage and CREWE house secured. Incidental inquiries at the CREWE house may crop up from time to time as the inquiry progresses.

AREA CANVAS

This was continued by Detectives METCALFE, BELL and PAYNE in the form of interviews of persons who knew or dealt with the CREWE family. A further canvas of Pukekohe shops was made with emphasis on Drycleaners. Mr. PAYNE has visited all Drycleaners and there was nothing of note.

Detective HUGHES

I interviewed the owner of that coat. It belonged to Mervyn Lee RICHARD who has a P.G. reference. He lives at 25 Mason Avenue, Pukekohe, in the weekends and 7 Stirling Avenue, Manurewa, during the week. He attended a party on the 20th June and separated two chaps who were fighting there and was splattered with blood. I interviewed Mrs. PRIME who put on the party for her daughter who was 21. She confirms that the fight did take place and that RICHARD acted as referee.

Detective PAYNE

The Pukekohe main street has been done and it was definitely established Mrs. CREWE was there on the morning of the 16th. She went to RYAN & POLLOCK, Dress Fabric Specialists, and also went to a Camera Shop and one other shop.

Det. Inspector HUTTON

Did they all know Mrs. CREWE previously?

Detective PAYNE

One knew Mrs. CREWE very well.

Detective BELL

I went over to Mangatangi and saw a chap there who saw Harvey CREWE at the sale on Wednesday afternoon. They had a chat about stock and the weather. There was nothing of interest.

Det. Inspector HUTTON

What was CREWE wearing?

Detective BELL

He didn't really say.

Det. Insp. HUTTON

You'll have to check again. I'd like to establish, if I can, what clothing Mr. & Mrs. CREWE had on at the time they disappeared. There is no doubt that their night attire was still under their pillows and that the clothing over the door was the clothing Mr. CREWE wore to the sale, but at this stage we haven't got any information at all as to what clothing they wore when they disappeared from the house.

RELATIVES & ASSOCIATES

Det. Sgt. SEAMAN

I called at Mrs. MARTIN's house on the way here. She was not at home and it looks as if she has gone to stay with relatives. I sent a TP message to Whangarei yesterday. No reply to date. I am chasing a fellow named Tutu HOETA who lives in Pukekohe and his father lives at Waikaratu. HOETA came past the farm on the 20th and he saw a 2-tone green Chrysler Valiant motor car parked facing the gate. He went out to his father's place and went back into Pukekohe that night. He went to his father's place on Sunday and left there about 1 o'clock on Monday afternoon, and as he came past the CREWE's place he saw a red motor car which seems to tie in with what Mr. DEMLER said.

NOTE: BROWN & DAG to be seen re type of car used.

Ctd...

Detective PAYNE

Today I did all the cemeteries between here and Pukekohe and right up the peninsular. There is nothing to report. I had a second look at where Mrs. DEMLER is buried. The grave has not been disturbed. The Franklin County Council area is to be checked. Tomorrow we have got 3 or 4 to check south of river at Onawhereo and Wainaru near Springs. That will just about complete them all.

I have seen Mrs. CREWE's Doctor who also treated the late Mrs. DEMLER. He has never treated Len in any way. He confirms the blood groupings and he feels that he has given his personal opinions of all the family. Jeannette would go and discuss things with him and then go back and discuss them with Harvey. He said she was a very intelligent girl. On the 1 April she was suffering from the usual women's troubles and he told her that it would be better for her to get pregnant again and it is quite on the cards that she was pregnant.

SUSPECTS

Det. Sgt. HUGHES

This morning I made inquiries and located Cecil Robert GURR alias OTTO. He was a convicted murderer and was imprisoned in 1949 and released in 1961. As a result of information sent in by Detective Sergeant NUNAN of C.I.S., OTTO was traced to his home at 263 Panama Road, Otahuhu. He was off work sick today. He was interviewed by me regarding his movements and possible implication in this matter. I am satisfied as to his movements and satisfied that he is not in any way connected with this offence. He is now married and living with his wife at that address and employed on the Mutton Floor at Westfield Freezing Works. Today was the only day that he had off work in the past 2 months. Originally, information had it that he worked on or owned a farm in this district but this is incorrect. He was actually employed on a farm at Morrinsville where the murder was committed and he stood trial at Hamilton.

Information has been received from Wanganui Police that Victor Melbourne MILLER, a brother-in-law of DEMLER, could be responsible for this offence. He has a long history of mental illness and at times becomes troublesome and violent. He has been traced to a flat at No. 2 Eden Crescent, City. He is at present on bail and further inquiries will be made tonight to locate him. I will complete interview with DEMLER tomorrow afternoon.

ICLES
Det. PARKES

I spent the day trying to locate flat top Landrover. Almost every farmer in the area has one.

Det. Sgt. CHARLES

I executed a Search Warrant on the Solicitors, STURROCK & MONTEITH this morning and I've seized all documents relating to all members of the DEMLER and CREWE families which I am now perusing. STURROCK mentioned to me that he has heard from Tuskau townfolk who the suspect is and I pointed out to him that unless this mystery is cleared up by which bodies are found, an unpleasant stigma will remain in the area. He is the sort of country Solicitor who would like to see the whole thing cleared up. I will report findings on the documents when I have finished those. Tomorrow Rochelle is going back to Auckland to be examined by two further Child Specialists, Dr. LUDERBROOK and Dr. CAUGHEY so as to obtain independent opinions from those that have already been obtained.

Otd..

Det. Insp. HUTTON

Information from Detective WHITE that Len DEMLER's blood group is Group A RH positive which is the same group as Rochelle. Starting from tomorrow there will be daily sightings by staff of Lenard William DEMLER on the wall. This will be kept in Mr. SCHULTZ's room. What we want on this is every member of the staff when ever you see Len each day, who he's with (within reason) and conversation you have heard beside this building, to be entered on these sheets. Also looking back at previous sightings of him from the day we first came here - enter this on sheet as it could be quite important.

NOTE: Staff absent

ROBERTS
DUNCAN
MEURANT
SINTON

Supreme Court
Sick
Sick
To replace Det. Sgt. HUGHES
for Wednesday and Thursday

CONFERENCE : 1 July 1970, 4.30pm

O/C SEARCH:
Insp. GAINES

The search today was continued in two phases only. The rubbish tip down at the Tuakau Bridge which I neglected to mention the other night was finished on Monday night, a two day job. It was taken right back to the hard plug with negative results.

The river search continued today from the Tuakau Bridge down to the heads, again negative results. A rather significant fact on the river today and yesterday was the considerable number of objects which appear to be now floating as a result of the height of the river going down. It is considered by those working the river that should anything be floating it should be sighted. There has been a considerable number of sheep found floating, and as far as anything concerning this case - negative.

The bush probe - we have been reduced in numbers due to illness but the bush probe continues at a reasonable rate and on present predictions I would say that to completely probe out the bush area we have got 8 - 10 days work in the bush. So far there has been negative results.

Tomorrow the river search will continue as well as the bush search. No other activities are envisaged at this stage.

Are there any particular areas which the blokes, during the course of their enquiries, consider a likely possibility over and above what we are already doing in the immediate locality?

Reply: Negative.

Are there any streams, dams or holes anywhere where there is water which requires the services of Constable BREWIS for checking out?

Reply: Negative.

The Glen Murray bridge has been done. We have all the diving points marked on the map at Search H.Q.

O/C SCENE:
Det. Sgt.
JEFFRIES

As far as the scene is concerned, the house has been locked up and we have moved from the house to the Enquiry H.Q. I am going through all the correspondence and documents found in the house and this is going to take some considerable time. Nothing of significance has been found so far.

3 I/C
INVESTIGATION:
Det. Sgt.
TOOTHILL

We have had a communication from D.S.I.R. via Otahuhu C.I.B. requesting permission for Mr SHANAHAN to take the knife to the Blood Transfusion Service.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

This is the green River knife that was found in the paddocks.

Det. Sgt.
TOOTHILL

Area canvas - staff today have completed checking the list of empty houses in the area; also a tip at Glen Murray which was mentioned by Mr BELLAMY of the Raglan County as being smelly was checked out with negative results.

Det. Sgt.
TOOTILL
(ctd)

Mr L. PAYNE has been engaged on checking businesses at Pukekohe and he said another two hours should cut him out.

Det. ROBERTS:

I took the baby Rochelle to two further specialists. Both say without the slightest doubt that the baby could have lasted without the slightest difficulty during the period mentioned and, if necessary, longer. They say that the physical decline in a baby of that age and height and as well as that baby would be negligible. They both say they have studied previous research on similar subjects and they find that four or five days is well within the possible limit. They were Drs CAUGHEY and LUDERCOCK. Both will supply reports on their findings and opinions to the Chief Detective, Otahuhu.

Det. Sgt.
TOOTILL

Det. Sgt. SEAMAN has been checking out a sighting of a Valiant motorcar seen up here on the Saturday morning at 6.30, and he has come up with the name Tony INSOLL, residing in Tirau. Tirau Police are now checking this out. The name INSOLL are residents here and he has been mentioned before.

Mr J. PAYNE has completed his cemetery check in the area and is now job sheeting to other areas to complete the final check. Suspect category was carried out by Mr SINTON today in the absence of HUGHES at Court and DUNCAN sick.

Det. Sgt.
SINTON:

I spoke to Mr DEMLER and Mr SOUTER very briefly this morning. They were repairing a water trough on the CREWE farm. They mentioned they were going into Auckland today, for what purpose I don't know. They were going at 12 and would be home at 6 this evening. He did collect a petrol tin from the garage over there for petrol for his tractor and this was covered with Mr JEFFRIES.

Det. Sgt.
TOOTILL

Mr PARKES on vehicles - has still been engaged on correspondence today writing newspaper releases for cars we are seeking. At the present time the only major car outstanding is the Valiant sighted on the Saturday morning at the CREWE household.

MEURANT off sick.

ENQUIRY OFFICER:
Det. Sgt.
CHARLES

I have been engaged on documents today and have nothing to report on that. I should be finished by mid-morning.

Det. Sgt.
TOOTILL

Mr JEFFRIES saw Mrs PIRRETT and Mr GRACIE and took them through the house. They were unable to assist in any material way.

Det. Sgt.
JEFFRIES:

They both indicated where they thought furniture was but they both differed.

Det. Sgt.
SEAMAN:

Today I again saw Tutu HOATAI, who allegedly saw this Chrysler Valiant. I saw his wife to check out his story a little bit. She said he is not the type to make up stories and if he said he had seen the car he would have seen it. I also saw a friend of his who said the same sort of thing.

CONFERENCE NOTES 2 JULY 1970

Commenced 4.45 p.m.

O/C SEARCH:
Det. Insp. GAINES

Carried out further searches on date and said he had nothing to report to the Conference.

O/C SCENE:
Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

As far as the correspondence side of it goes, it is almost completed. There is nothing in any correspondence to connect any known enemies or persons with a grudge. It will be completed in about an hour tomorrow morning.

Detective ABBOTT

We have sent in 31 exhibits regarding blood samples to Dr. STAVELEY and have only received a few replies back. For your information, the blood stain found in DEMLER's car is an A group. Mrs. Jeannette CREWE is an A negative and Mr. DEMLER and baby CREWE are A positive. It will take another few hours to sort that out whether negative or positive. Once we get that result we will know where we are heading. Some exhibits that have come in that are not blood as follows:-

Timber from CREWE's tractor was not blood

Stain in CHITTY's car was not blood

3 knives found in kitchen drawer on which Dr. NELSON carried out a check for blood which he said were positive, found to be no blood at all.

The possible blood stains on DEMLER's brown leather shoes and green sports coat, not blood.

The shoe that was at the corner of the lounge near the telephone table belonged to Mrs. CREWE.

AREA CANVAS:
Det. Sgt. FOOTILL

Staff today have been engaged in tidying up. Mr. METCALFE was mostly in the City area on administration matters. Mr. BELL was checking out a Physiotherapist but so far has not been able to trace him. Mr. ROBERTS checked out one Darryl REID - similar description to a person seen frequenting a Hillman Hunter in Tuakau on the afternoon of the 22nd. The Rural Delivery Contractor informed us that he had not been sighted for a considerable period and Mr. ROBERTS checked that out and interviewed the man who, it transpires, is an alcoholic.

Mr. PAYNE completed his canvas of the shopping centre at Pukekohe. Arising out of that the CREWE's Dentist has been located and he stated he would be able to identify completely the dental work on the bodies when we find them.

RELATIVES &
ASSOCIATES:
Det. Sgt. SEAMAN

Interviewed one Rodney PERFECT who has previous convictions for rape, and resides at Wairamarama. He is a small fellow and would not be able to handle CREWE.

Det. Sgt. SINTON

Today interviewed Mr. HANDCOCK who was the Manager of the CREWE farm until the CREWE's took over. He would probably know the two and Mr. DEMLER as well as anybody else. He does not think DEMLER is capable of this but he does provide a lot of valuable background information about the family. Assisted in the search and mentioned a couple of places on the CREWE farm which he thinks will bear further searching. I mentioned this to Mr. GAINES.

Ctd....

Det. Sgt. HUGHES

I had another talk this morning to Len DEMLER. There's nothing further to report. He still appears to be nervous and he laughs about most things. I think his son-in-law is getting offside with him over battle with baby, and Heather has suggested to her father that Bob SOUTER take over this farm and DEMLER is a bit annoyed about it. I located Arthur THOMAS, a local lad, and he was rather keen on Jeannette after they left school. He rang her a lot and wrote to her while she was in England. He acknowledges the fact that she would not go out with him and did not reply to his letters. He is now married and I do not think he is implicated in this matter. However, he will be fingerprinted tomorrow. I also located and interviewed Rex Leonard SCOTT, a former boyfriend of Heather's. He took Heather out for about three years in 1961, 1962 and 1963. He is now married and living at Matira and could tell me nothing that would help. I do not consider that he is implicated and has not seen either girl for some years. Jeannette had two boyfriends prior to Harvey to his knowledge. One was Gary BROUGHTON and a Tim SEVILLE. They are both local boys who live in the Glen Murray/Tuakau area. They are to be seen.

VEHICLES:

Detective PARKES

Engaged on correspondence today.

MEURANT - still sick.

ENQUIRIES:

Det. Sgt. CHARLES

I have completed going through the documents seized from STURROCK & MONTEITH and points arising out of them have been job sheeted. There were some incidents back in the late fifties involving a few sheep being killed, but in most cases the owners of dogs were responsible and settlements were made. With regard to the Will made by Mrs. DEMLER, as known before, Mrs. CREWE received statements of accounts and balance sheets on the Tuesday and a couple of points regarding Morris 1100 and a mortgage could possibly have caused disagreement. Nothing else of importance relating to correspondence.

CONFERENCE : 3 July 1970 - 5 p.m.

O/C SEARCH:
Insp. GAINES

Today's activities were divided into two phases. The first was a continuation of the search of the bush area to the north east of CREWE's household, continued on a pattern search and lasting the entire day - negative results. The second phase was an aerial reconnaissance of the coastline immediately outside the Waikato Heads for a distance of about five miles each side of the heads, using an R.N.Z.A.F. Sioux helicopter, piloted by Squadron Leader G. DERBY, right up to and including the Rangiriri bridge. The area search was extended in the afternoon to all irrigation channels immediately to the east and north of the CREWE farm and surrounding district, again with negative results.

The R.N.Z.A.F., through Squadron Leader McDAVITT, has offered the use of one Sioux helicopter for Saturday and Sunday for a minute search of all islands in the Waikato River and the bank area in conjunction with surface craft - should be completed by 1500 on Sunday.

O/C SCENE:
Det. Sgt.
JEFFRIES

Mike CHARLES and I went down to Hamilton today where we spoke to Mr DEMLER's previous solicitor and we obtained copies of previous wills of both Mr and Mrs DEMLER and a mortgage relating to half share in the property from Mr DEMLER to his wife.

We then went and saw the DEMLER family accountant, had a lengthy interview with him but this didn't turn up anything really new in relation to motive. His general comment at the end was that on the last occasion that DEMLER saw him, which would be about a month ago, DEMLER left with a clear understanding that he is neither losing and was gaining very little as a result of the new will his wife made out.

Most of the action that DEMLER has carried out recently as far as a new will is concerned was done on the advice from his accountant. As far as motive goes we have not found anything.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

I contacted Dr STAVELEY this afternoon. Exhibit 34, which is a blood stained saucepan which was on the bench which contained blood, is the same type as Mrs CREWE. Exhibit 51, the white blanket or sheet that was found near the door of the passageway is blood the same type as Mrs CREWE. Exhibit 90 is the blood stain from DEMLER's Cortina - it was blood and it is the same group as Mrs CREWE. That is all we have to date.

There are about 10 other exhibits but they have not got any tests on them yet.

3 I/C
INVESTIGATION:
Det. Sgt.
TOOTILL

Area canvas - this is just about completed and I suggest the staff on area canvas be redisposed. Checks today included the interview with the schoolmaster at Pukekawa who organised a drive of school-children for 20 June and the children interviewed

Det. Sgt. TOOTILL
(ctd)

state they only came as far as the CHITTY farm. The CREWE farm is in the Opuatia School area so they didn't visit that far. It was only organised from Pukekawa.

ASSOCIATES:
Det. J. PAYNE

I have still got several of Len DEMLER's bowling mates to see. There is a total of 35 in the club and I have seen two or three and there is no point in seeing any more than a few more - they all have the same opinion of him - he is niggly, and curses and swears when he puts one off the right spot.

Det. Sgt. TOOTILL

Mr SEAMAN has gone to Torbay where a woman is alleged to have seen a green panel van driven by a fat Maori and she alleges that in this van she saw a man wrapped in a chenille bedspread which is blood stained, and beside him was a woman who allegedly had her hands tied behind her. She was also blood stained. Dates and times and subsequent movements as yet are vague and this is being checked by Mr SEAMAN who has gone to Torbay for that purpose.

SUSPECTS:
Det. Sgt. HUGHES

Today we interviewed a chap called Norman Wilfred GASKELL. This was as a result of an anonymous letter received today alleging that this man was a peeping tom a few years ago, was apprehended by the writer and her husband but not prosecuted. John ROBERTS and I interviewed him this morning and he admitted knowing both Jeanette and Heather some years ago - he puts it down in the late 50's/early 60's. He said that he had only met Harvey at sales, had not spoken to him for months, had never been into their home, but he did admit that he had been apprehended on two occasions peeping into windows, firstly at the home of the local Pukekawa schoolteacher (BROWN) and also the home of Mr HOSKING, local J.P. I don't think there is anything in this. He said that he was having trouble with his domestic side of life at that time - had no children for three years - coupled with drink.

VEHICLE SQUAD:
Det. PARKES

We have had a sighting of a Volkswagen car, possibly involved in an attempted burglary at Pukekawa on Friday the 19th. The area is saturated with V.W. cars. This one is of a light colour. If you see any cars of this description would you take the number and I will check them out in due course.

CONFERENCE : 4 JULY 1970 - 4.45 p.m.

O/C SEARCH:
Insp. GAINES

The search continued today in three phases. One was confined to the 40 acre bush area north east of the CREWE's farm. The only find was a section of intestine thought possibly to be possum. However, this was taken as an exhibit by Det. Sgt. TOOTILL.

On the water there was one boat searching the lower Waikato River; one Sioux helicopter from the R.N.Z.A.F. has made a minute search of all islands from the heads to Tuakau bridge, with negative results in both cases.

Tomorrow it is intended to use six boats on the river, and the Sioux helicopter to complete the remaining portion of the river and take the diver, Constable BREWIS, to a number of water holes for sounding and searching, and the bush search will continue.

O/C
INVESTIGATION:
Det. Sgt. TOOTILL

Area canvas - this phase of enquiry is now complete and all papers shall be submitted on Monday when a re-disposition of staff will take place. Staff today were engaged on searches of logical spots close to the road in a southerly direction for a distance of about three miles.

Suspects - no enquiries on suspects today. The DEMLER farm was visited but there was no sign of life - all persons and vehicles absent.

Relatives and associates - only outside enquiries are continuing on this phase of enquiry.

VEHICLE SQUAD:
Det. PARKES

We have eliminated one report of a prowler. We still have a sighting of a Volkswagen to eliminate but I don't think it is connected with the enquiry. There are a few other ones outstanding.

INQUIRY OFFICER:
Det. Sgt. CHARLES

A shopkeeper in Tuakau, whose name he does not want to give, suggests we could search in the soil shed at the bowling club re bodies, and Mr EYRE, local farmer, has mentioned under the grating at the wool shed belonging to DEMLER.

Job sheets are being submitted concerning the Hamilton enquiries and a further visit to STURROCK & MONTIETH on Monday will be made to clarify a couple of small points only regarding the administration of Mrs DEMLER's estate.

Det. PARKES

I saw William YEABURY (Jnr). He has worked at both DEMLER and CREWE's sheds on a number of occasions. He has eaten meals in the CREWE house. He is a bit simple and considers the CREWE house well kept, meals excellent. Saw no discord either between Harvey and Jeanette or Harvey and Len. He found Harvey easy to get on with but very particular about the wool. He cannot really help about the placing of furniture in the room. No likelihood of him being a suspect. One more shearer to be traced, interviewed and fingerprinted.

....ctd

Det. Sgt. CHARLES

With regards to the alleged sighting of a woman outside the CREWE's house on the Friday by Bruce RODDICK, one of his employers, Mr Ron CHITTY, says that he is a very simple type of soul and considers it doubtful that he saw the woman on that day but may well have on a previous occasion. He said that RODDICK cannot remember previous events with regards to time.

CONFERENCE NOTES 6 JULY 1970

Commenced 4.30 p.m.

O/C SEARCH:
Inspector GAINES

We are still searching the bush area immediately behind CREWE household. Continued today with only one jumper being found. It belonged to a previous searcher. We have the name and address of the owner. Sergeant CLAGUE-CHRISTIAN said that the knife that was found yesterday belongs to Constable SMITH which he dropped during the first two days of the search. He has not seen it but can identify it by the description. We estimate that the bush search will be finished in two days time. Together with Detective METCALFE I had a full reconnaissance of the CREWE farm and part of DEMLER's farm. We have established an area right down on the north-eastern end of his farm which when it was originally searched was the day of the dense fog. It is apparent to me that to do a full land search of this is going to take a considerable number of people. There is an offer by Camp for 200 searchers to be made available for us to do this and I suggest that we do this search of this land and then the Police can follow through. The south-eastern corner of this property covers approximately 80 to 90 acres. I think that the best way would be the land sweep and then the air to follow. The helicopter is continuing reconnaissance and searching the Waikato river towards Tuakau Bridge and inland to west of river and the purpose of this is to track every water way that there is for life etc. The actual exercise is fairly minute because they were able to establish another pool today which was darker in colour so they pulled out a sheep that had died. Their search is very thorough. They will be continuing this particular area tomorrow.

Det. Sgt. CHARLES

I saw STURROCK re queries about the Morris car, the death duties and whether or not DEMLER would have had any knowledge of Harvey CREWE's Will, and in respect of the third matter the answer would have been nil. An aerial search of the swamp was made and a carcass of a sheep sighted. Further enquiries were made regarding club members of the local Bowling Club. None of those seen said that DEMLER has drunk excessively or acted in any way other than his normal behaviour recently.

Det. Sgt. HUGHES

I visited DEMLER again and it appeared that both he, his daughter and son-in-law had gone to Auckland City to keep an appointment with a Solicitor, Mr. ENNOR, regarding the adoption of Rochelle. We made an inspection of the remains of a fire at the back of his home. We took possession of the embers and these will be examined.

Det. J. ROBERTS
AREA CANVAS:

I attempted to contact Mrs. WHITE who has been dealing with Rochelle. She was unavailable. The two blankets which Mrs. CREWE ordered from Keven & Sons were never in fact delivered because the variety wanted were not obtainable.

Det. Insp. HUTTON

Did the District Nurse ever visit the CREWE's. It would be interesting to see if she has.

STAFF AT PUKEKAWA AS FROM 7/7/70

HUTTON, SCHULTZ, TOOTILL, KEITH, CHARLES, HUGHES, DUNCAN, PARKES, ABBOTT.

STAFF RETURNING FOR DUTY AT AUCKLAND C.I.B.

SEAMAN, ROBERTS, MEURANT, BAILEY, CHITTENDEN, PAYNE J. PAYNE L. REVELL.

STAFF RETURN TO OTAHUHU JEFFRIES, METCALFE, HIGGINS.

They could be recalled at a moment's notice if anything breaks.

2 I/C INVESTIGATION:
Det. Sgt. TOOTILL

Search - The search party completed a search of caves in limestones in Matira Road at the back of Matira Hall. They completed searching likely spots in Chapman Road. They also did the boundary between SPRATTS and DEMLERS where there are supposed to be some likely places. They finished off the searches under the bridges with the divers. They will be continuing on similar activities tomorrow but so far nothing of any importance has been located as a result of these searches.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

Today some exhibits went into town. We sent fibres found on the brick-work at the corner of the verandah of the CREWE house, together with the old sports coat belonging to DEMLER, to the D.S.I.R. We sent the majority of blood stains, or stains found in the DEMLER house, to Dr STAVELEY. We picked out two or three to make them priorities. They checked the pair of brown leather shoes and found that the stains on them were blood but not known whether human or animal. These are going to be done as soon as possible.

Note: Consideration to be given to having contents of -
(a) fire
(b) gully traps in the sink
examined by D.S.I.R. or Dr STAVELEY.

ENQUIRIES:
Det. Sgt. HUGHES

I last saw DEMLER at about 9.30am on Saturday, 11-7-70. I had a good talk to him in his car outside the H.Q. He seemed very weary. I put it to him in no uncertain terms that the case was building up and he said he was innocent. He would appear to be suffering from lack of sleep and looked very drawn. He said he was on his way to the Ardmore-Onewhero rugby game at Ardmore. From there he was going back to the club for a few beers and later on to one of the pubs.

I spoke to him again this afternoon at 1.30pm. He appeared to be very drawn, his eyes were red, and I had heard that he was very upset. He thinks that the locals are playing practical jokes on him - someone had apparently wired up his fence gate on the Saturday. He found this when he arrived home about midnight on Saturday night and was very upset about it. Graeme HEWSON had told me that DEMLER had blamed him for the practical joke.

His son-in-law, Bob SOUTER, was in attendance at all times while I was speaking to DEMLER - no doubt under instructions from Mr Brian SHEENKIN.

...ctd

ENQUIRIES:
Det. PARKES

I went to the Power Board this afternoon. There were no power cuts in this area on Wednesday night. The first one was on the Saturday night between 9-10pm - they cannot pin the time down.

I went and saw Dr ALLEN's receptionist. Heather was last treated there in 1960. They have no blood grouping for her. They have a blood grouping for Harvey and Jeanette. I have further enquiries to do to find who took the blood and who grouped it in Papatoetoe.

I went and saw Ron WRIGHT of Tuskau Transport again. His times are fairly vague but he says he tried to ring Harvey between twenty to one and getting on to 1 o'clock two or three times on the Monday, 22-6-70. He then rang Len DEMLER and asked him to go up - he thinks about 1 o'clock but we cannot pin him down. He then went out the back of the yard. He was away somewhere between 10-20 minutes. While he was away DEMLER rang back and got the receptionist, a Susan TWIDDLE. She is very vague and can only say that DEMLER said something about stop the truck. She took DEMLER's name and number and gave it to WRIGHT when he came back. He then rang DEMLER - this he thinks was about twenty past one. DEMLER said briefly it looked as though there had been trouble in the house. He had seen blood in the kitchen and was too scared to go into the bedroom or didn't like to go into the bedroom. WRIGHT got the impression he thought the baby was all right because it was crying but thought he didn't go near it. WRIGHT suggested he get hold of the local constable and he said he might. He said he was going to get somebody and go back to the house. When WRIGHT rang the phone rang for about 30 seconds before it was answered - DEMLER's phone. Susan TWIDDLE thinks it was about 10-15 minutes after she got the call before she told WRIGHT, when he came back. She did not make any jottings. She knows it is between 1 and 2pm because the others were at lunch. On Friday I took Bob SOUTER to Dr CAIRNS and he took his blood.

O/C INVESTIGATION:
Det. Insp. HUTTON

Mr Brian SHENKIN, solicitor, called this morning and said that himself and Mr Lloyd BROWN had been briefed by Mr DEMLER to act on his behalf. He said that Mr DEMLER had had enough. He also requested that no member of the Police speak to Mr DEMLER unless Mr SHENKIN or Mr BROWN was present. He was given no such assurance. Mr SHENKIN also wanted to inspect the interior of the CREWE household but this was declined as further scene examination has yet to be carried out.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

Exhibit 120, which was another saucepan situated on the right hand side of the sink on the kitchen bench - Dr STAVELEY has to check it again but it looks as though it is going towards an O grouping,

...ctd

Det. ABBOTT:
(ctd)

which would be the same grouping as Harvey CREWE's, because Exhibit 34, which was the other pot on the left hand side of the sink, was obviously the same grouping as Jeanette's.

Staff at Pukekawa as from 13-7-70 -

Det. Insp. HUTTON

Det. Sgt. TOOTILL - 2 I/O

Det. KEITH

Det. Sgt. CHARLES

Det. Sgt. HUGHES

Det. DUNCAN

Det. PARKES

Det. ABBOTT

Det. Sen. Sgt. SCHULTZ on sick leave.

O/C SEARCH:
Insp. GAINES

A search was made at the Waikato Heads in the sand dune area on the southern side of the Waikato River using a 400 yard strip nearest the houses and a similar strip around the complete fore-shore. The only exhibit of interest that was found was one suede rubber soled shoe which has obviously been in the water for some time. This was found on the sea-ward side of the beach about 450 yards from the surf club house.

Indications from today's search reveals that debris from the river has been found in considerable quantities along the fore-shore and it is intended to make a search of the fore-shore on the northern side at the mouth of the Waikato Heads.

2 I/C INVESTI-
ATION:
Det. Sgt. TOOTILL

Tomorrow DUNCAN and HUGHES are to interview Jerry WILLIS and his wife, and then continue an area canvas in a northerly direction as far as time will allow and to note the area covered for map reference.

Mr CHARLES and Mr PARKES can do the same thing in a southerly direction, including enquiries they may have to finish off.

Mr ABBOTT will be communicator.

O/O EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

All the exhibits taken from the DEMLER house which were regarded as possible blood stains have proved to be negative apart from an oven cloth found in the DEMLER kitchen which has a small blood stain on it, and a pair of gumboots found in the DEMLER garage, the left gumboot having a considerable amount of blood on it. It is not known at this stage whether the blood is of human origin or not.

ENQUIRIES:
Det. PARKES

I had Heather seen by Dr CAIRNS. He took a sample of her blood, which will be handed to Dr STAVELEY for grouping.

I then went to the Laboratory Diagnostic Service in Papatoetoe who took a sample of Harvey's blood on 6 June 1968, which is O Positive. Jeanette was tested on 26 April, 4 October and 22 November 1968 for the whole three - her grouping is A Negative. They are going to check out their records and they will be able to prove the whole thing right there.

I went and saw Mr REEVES, who did the repairs after the fire. He had a lot of trouble with Harvey, didn't get on at all. They had literally to go in and out through the window when they went to the job. Harvey dithered for three months with the insurance before they could get started on the work. He appeared to be very concerned and wanted to know how and where the fire started. The chap wouldn't come to a conclusion but thinks it must have been fed by something. He is a bit of the opinion that some-one had a go at the place.

...ctd

Det. PARKES
(ctd)

He still has not been paid in full. Harvey did not tell him what he had not done but would not pay him until it had been done. They got to the stage of arguing through their solicitors. He did not mention the sum. I am quite sure he is not the offender. He is married with a family and is mixed up in the church somewhere. He has not seen Harvey about this account for some time, and it is being done through the solicitors. Harvey rang him in the first instance and asked for a quote to do the job. He did not say when he was last working there.

Det. Sgt. TOOTILL

As part of our whole area canvas, Mr HUGHES is doing the sighting at the sale at Bombay - Mr JOHNS.

Mr CHARLES worked on the CREWE file today preparing a schedule of available evidence with regards to DEMLER to be used for the conference.

Mr GREER to be interviewed by Det. Sgt. HUGHES and Det. DUNCAN.

CONFERENCE NOTES

CREWE HOMICIDE

CONFERENCE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 7TH FLOOR
AUCKLAND CENTRAL POLICE STATION, AT 1.00 PM TO 5.00 PM
ON THE 15TH JULY 1970

CREWE HOMICIDE

PRESENT: Assistant Commissioner G. S. AUSTING
Assistant Commissioner R. J. WALTON
Chief Superintendent P.A. BYRNE
C.I.B. Regional Supervisor M.J. ROSS
Detective Chief Inspector W. T. COOK
Chief Inspector C.D.M. PENTECOST
Detective Inspector B. T. N. HUTTON (Officer in Charge -
Homicide)
Inspector P.J. GAINES (Officer in Charge -
Search)
Detective Sergeant J.W. TOOTILL
Detective Sergeant M.H. DEDMAN
Mr. D. S. MORRIS (Crown Solicitor)
Dr. F.J. CAIRNS (Pathologist)
Dr. D.P. NELSON (D.S.I.R. Scientist)
Mr. SHANAHAN (D.S.I.R. Scientist)
Detective S.R.H. KEITH (Records)

Assistant Commissioner G.S. AUSTING opened the Conference by welcoming members and then calling upon Detective Inspector B.T.N. HUTTON (Officer in Charge of Homicide) to summarise the enquiries made to date :-

HUTTON: Well as you know the scene of the disappearance, which we now believe to be a double homicide, is at Pukekawa, a country district on a 366 acre mixed farm, semi volcanic country, fully developed mainly due to the hard work of CREWE himself and it would appear that this family, prior to their disappearance, were living in happy circumstances. They were obviously both devoted to baby Rochelle. At this stage of enquiries we would doubt very much indeed a possible theory that either Mr. or Mrs. CREWE killed the other and then committed suicide.

The theory that appeals to us most now is that a third person well known to both Mr. & Mrs. CREWE, visited the household on the evening of Wednesday the 17 June 1970. Most of your will be familiar with the scene as such from the photographs which have been produced and which have been brought along here to-day.

The actual part of the scene which has caused us to re-visit it and re-visit it again in attempting reconstruction is the lounge of the dwelling house. One sees the numbered exhibits of blood stains shown on the carpet and on the chair and the

the drag mark on the carpet which carries on out through the door of the lounge into the front hallway onto the front step, obviously the drag mark of a body.

A further photograph of the kitchen itself shows many blood stains on the floor and other blood stains running down from the sink and, of course, further blood stains found on two pots. One situated to the left of the sink and one situated to the right of the sink.

Taking the checking of exhibits from the scene itself, we have come up with blood grouping from the pot to the right of the sink, being the same group as Mr. CREWE and the pot to the left being the blood grouping of Mrs. CREWE which, I might add, was quite unusual in that it is Group A. R.E. Negative, which Dr. STAVELY has told us is only five percent of our population.

Moving back to the lounge, we have exhibits taken here; (1) a big pool of blood on the lounge chair; (3) the seepage of blood from that pool through the chair where it ran out at the bottom; and (5) the start of the large drag mark in the lounge. These three exhibits plus another one taken from blood spillages on the brickwork just to the right of the bottom step as one goes to enter the front door, all of these four returned the same blood grouping as Mr. CREWE. Taking exhibits (9), (10) and (11), these returned the same group as Mrs. CREWE, indicating obviously that both have been injured and no doubt Dr. CAIRNS will elaborate further on that.

Baby Rochelle, 18 months old, was as you know discovered in her cot allegedly by Mr. DEMLER, father of Mrs. CREWE, at 1.00 pm on Monday the 22 June 1970. She was obviously in a starving condition and it is known that prior to this incident she was able to walk but when found she was not able to stand without support. The child has been examined by three Specialists. The one that appeals to us most is Dr. FOX who had the advantage of examining the child on the Tuesday, the day after that she was found by Mr. DEMLER. He has given us a very full and detailed report and he is not prepared to go back any further than the Saturday previous to the Monday on which the child was found as being the time the child last received nourishment. In fact, he does not feel it was even that long before the child was last fed.

CONTD/...

The other two specialists who saw the child some days later feel, not concerning this case, that a child of that age in a robust condition could survive from the Wednesday to the following Monday without having received nourishment. But I would point out that they did not have the advantage of seeing the child until some time after she was discovered.

WALTON:

Why do you prefer Dr. FOX ?

HUTTON:

Because he saw the child earlier. At the time Dr. FOX examined this child he said that he would have expected, had the child not been fed from the Wednesday to the Monday, considerable dehydration which he did not find at all. The child certainly vomited the first nourishment she received from Mrs. WILLIS soon after DEMLER took the child from the cot to her place, but from then on the child had little trouble in retaining fluids and soon started to increase body weight again. As you will probably be aware she only lost 2½ lbs from a weighing-in which was eleven days before this incident.

ROSS:

She had been fed in the meantime before the second feed was taken ?

HUTTON:

Yes.

WALTON:

One pound or so in eleven days ?

UTTON:

Yes. Of course, as Dr. FOX and other Doctors say, this of course depends on the child at 18 months. Some at that stage don't seem to gain and others gain considerably.

CAIRNS:

The problem here is the lack of food. Everybody agrees that this is no big problem at all, a child of this age could go that long without food. I think the problem that was worrying Dr. FOX was whether or not it could go that long without fluids and I think the other people who have examined the child have said that a child could go for 4½ days without fluids and survive, which is slightly different I think from the problem of whether the child could go 4½ days without fluids and be in the condition in which Dr. FOX saw her. I think this is the important difference between seeing her later and seeing the child at the time. I have had opinions from people in America on this but all they can say is that a child could survive 4½ days without fluids.

CONFID/....

HUTTON:

Taking the scene examination a little further, the CREWE bedroom itself suggested that some bed coverings had been removed and enquiries suggest that a chenille bedspread and very likely some blankets were taken off the bed. At the time the bed was examined by the Police there was only the sheets and two very light Airtex woollen blankets thereon. The eiderdown itself was for a three-quarter size bed and gave the appearance of having been tossed to the left of the bed.

There is no sign of a struggle at all in the house as far as I am concerned. Others support this reconstruction. It is obvious that Mrs. CREWE herself was a poor housekeeper from the amount of dust throughout the house and food which had obviously gone off some days before this enquiry commenced.

On examination of the exterior of the house, I have already mentioned the bloodstains which are the same group as Mr. CREWE to the right of the front step, and immediately below these bloodstains were rust deposits which we now believe to have come from the chassis of Mr. CREWE's wheelbarrow. The wheelbarrow itself was found near the rear door of the house. On our reconstruction, from what I have already said, we moreover had the bodies has far as the front door and possibly in the wheelbarrow to either gate. There was no sign of any tyre marks at the rear gate going out on to the farmland at the time we inspected it. Unfortunately, any pattern in front of the small front gate to the dwelling was not preserved at the time the Police first arrived at the scene. This was due mainly to local farmers rushing up when they first heard about the incident, obviously wishing to help in the search for their neighbours. Some ten or twelve sheep which had been left locked up in the little paddock no doubt contributed to obliterating any marks inside this paddock.

From the night I took over there, Inspector GAINES with a large team of Police, Services and local farmers commenced a massive search which he will outline at this Conference. The C.I.B. team have been engaged mainly in local enquiries and in so many cases during this enquiry we have found our attention being directed back towards Mr. DEMLER. Things like the possibility of the baby being fed; the obvious attempts inside the house to clean up the blood spot (9) which was quite a large blood spot obviously Mr. CREWE's near the hearth.

Further attempts to clean up when the offender has removed a carpet which was in front of the hearth and also a cushion from Harvey CREWE's chair and burnt in the open fireplace. A simulated exercise with an identical cushion and carpet produced identical results. And, of course, we have the pots in the kitchen with not just pure blood in them but diluted blood and the many spots of diluted blood over the floor of the kitchen.

These too, in our minds, point back to someone who knew the CREWES very well indeed and who wanted to remove all signs of anything having happened inside the house. From the commencement of the enquiry DEMLER has shown little interest. He stated he arrived in the CREWE household at about 1.00 pm on the Monday, following a telephone call from a trucking agent who said he couldn't get any reply to Mr. CREWE's 'phone. DEMLER has told us in interviews that he went into the house; that he noticed the blood stains in the kitchen, which I might add were hard to see; he noticed the blood stains in the lounge. He said he became frightened that someone might be lurking in the house and attack him. He then went into the main bedroom and then into Rochelle's bedroom, which is the front bedroom of the house, and noticed that the child was in a stinking condition and smelt something terrible. He then tells us that he left the child in the cot; left the house, which I might add had a telephone in it, drove past a neighbour's house just across the road, Mr. CHITTY; drove past the next neighbouring house above Mr. CHITTY, a Mr. PRIEST, who he knows very well; and drove on some distance above the road to his own house set back well from the roadway. Allegedly, he tells us to ring this truck agent to tell him not to come out to get Mr. CREWE's sheep that afternoon. He then tells us that after doing this, and we have confirmation that he did ring, the call was accepted by a girl. He then went and picked Mr. PRIEST up and returned to the house.

Further enquiries concerning his telephone call to this trucking agent have revealed that when he first telephoned he did not get the agent but spoke to the girl Receptionist and he told her to stop the truck from collecting Mr. CREWE's sheep as something had happened. Some ten or fifteen minutes later this Agent arrived back in his office. The girl told him this and he telephoned DEMLER and strangely enough after a short time DEMLER answered his own telephone and again told the agent not to send the truck out.

It is obvious that during the short period of time, between telling the girl and the Agent ringing him, he was in his own house, despite the fact that he had already told the girl.

He then picked Mr. PRIEST up and returned to the house and carried out another search of the house and some of the outbuildings. PRIEST tells us that during this search DEMLER kept saying, although this could be in keeping with his normal language, such phrases as "Where are the bastards" and "Where have the bastards gone?" PRIEST tells us that DEMLER was quite upset when he first went to speak to him but by the time he had got to the house he had recovered his normal manner and even laughed at times. I might add that this man DEMLER is known to be a person who does laugh nervously. A search of the house and the surrounding buildings failed to locate the missing couple. DEMLER then uplifted Rochelle and went in his own car to Mr and Mrs WILLIS' place, some distance away, and he asked PRIEST to ring the Police and this was done.

DEMLER then dropped the child off at the WILLIS' place, which was about four-five miles away, and he then returned to his own farm and he then went about drafting 250 sheep which he tells us he had previously yarded. He drafted some 46 ewes with eczema out of the 250 prior to coming back down to the CREWE household to see if the Police had arrived.

DEMLER turned up for the brief search conducted prior to darkness on the Monday. At no time after that evening did he arrive at Search Headquarters to offer his assistance and at no time throughout this enquiry has he called at the C.I.B. or Search Headquarters enquiring as to what progress we had made or if he could help. Whenever we have wanted to see him we had to go and get him.

Soon after the search started, a Mr. HEWSON came up, as a personal friend of Harvey CREWE, to see if he could help at the farm and we had him staying with DEMLER during the early part of the investigation. HEWSON, who is to our mind a reliable person, has told us that DEMLER did make such remarks about the Police as "There goes the bastards", when he heard us leaving to go home at night. "They haven't found the bodies yet" and he would laugh his nervous laugh.

CONTD/....

He also mentioned at one stage that we wouldn't find the bodies now when he read in the newspapers that we had finished the search of the CREWE farm.

DEMLER stood up to the interviews quite well. He surprised us, a man of his age having turned 61 the other day, that after a couple of fairly solid interviews he was spot on times, 9.40 pm, 2.35pm, etc., concerning his movements, but this was rather explained at the last interview I had with him when we took possession of the old coat he was wearing to obtain some fibres from it and we found in the coat an old envelope^{on} which he had recorded set movements for the relevant period, Monday to Monday inclusive, that he was questioned on each time. He has not been spoken to concerning this as it was discovered after he left. Since the last interview he has retained Mr. Brian SHENKIN and Mr. Lloyd BROWN as Legal Advisers and Mr. SHENKIN has informed me that he does not wish^{us} to interview DEMLER or "speak to DEMLER" were his words, without himself or Mr. BROWN being present.

Mr. GAINES will tell you that although DEMLER has not turned up for searches he has been seen daily moving about on his horse watching the searchers at work and not working at all on his farm, apart from occasionally yarding the stock. At this stage of the enquiry, of course, he has been treated as a suspect concerning the disappearance of the couple although all avenues have not been overlooked. Other persons, such as peeping toms, persons with Gazette references, have all been interviewed and thoroughly checked. At no stage during the enquiry to date has there been the slightest indication of any other person being involved or having a grudge against the CREWES. Prior to coming to that district some four years ago, after CREWE married Janet DEMLER, both used to go out frequently to social evenings, etc., and CREWE himself was a good footballer and 'just one of the boys', if I can use that term. Since coming there, there is no doubt that both have withdrawn from any social activities within the district. They have no friends in the district and from enquiries into this incident there is every indication that the person who visited them on the evening of Wednesday, after the couple had obviously dined by themselves, having a fish meal, it is obvious that this person must have known them well. Local enquiries have indicated quite clearly that very few people were invited inside the CREWE household and it was Mr. CREWE's normal practice to talk to them on the back door step.

CONTD/....

As you know, at the time the scene was discovered, the rear outside light was on and the kitchen light was on. No other lights were on in the house, suggesting again that this third person entered through the rear door.

Apart from DEMLER's demeanour, which to my mind points to him being the person who could help us in the enquiry, was a blood exhibit which was taken from DEMLER's car. This blood was taken from the front seat of his red Cortina car and the only blood found in his car, either in his or his wife's car, a Morris 1100 which he is still in possession of. That is the actual blood at the time Dr. NELSON removed it - indicates blood from Photograph. Dr. STAVELY's return from that is A,RH Negative, which of course is the same grouping as Janet CREWE.

On groupings themselves, we have Janet CREWE with A,RH Negative. Then we have Leonard DEMLER and Rochelle CREWE with Group A, RH Positive. David Harvey CREWE, Robert SOUTER (married to Heather DEMLER) and old lady DEMLER, who is now of course deceased, as Group O, R.H. Positive. Heather SOUTER, as she is now, returned from America with her husband Robert SOUTER. We have yet to receive Heather SOUTER's grouping.

The blood was noticed on the seat of DEMLER's car at the very start and prior to the return of SOUTER and his wife Heather from America. It is some four and a half months since Heather was here and it is a lot longer since Robert SOUTER has been here. Not that it really applies.

When DEMLER was questioned about this blood he maintained that he had cut his finger one day and that it had bled onto the seat. I might add that prior to that questioning, a statement was obtained from him the previous day just tying up the fact that Janet CREWE had not been in the car for some 4½ months and when he was told that it was not his blood grouping, he was obviously alarmed and has since been saying that he noticed it there some months ago. He was obviously taken back at the time he was informed that it was not his blood grouping as he obviously did not know the blood grouping of Janet.

That is as far as we have gone.

CONTD/....

WALTON:

When he was told it was her blood grouping in that car - any explanation ?

HUTTON:

He was told this after he said he had cut his finger and this is how the blood got there, and he just shrugged.

ROSS:

What about the wheels, have they been checked ?

HUTTON:

Yes, everything checked.

During the week commencing the 16th, and two days later when the couple obviously met their fate, there was considerable activity with wills. On the Monday DEMLER, having previously received a Balance Sheet from DEMLER and his wife's estate, went to their Solicitor, STURROCK, and made a new will, leaving two-thirds of his assets to his daughter Heather and one-third to Janet CREWE. On Tuesday, the following day, Janet CREWE went to the same Solicitor and signed the papers concerning the Balance Sheet from her mother's estate in which she had been willed a half-share in the farm which DEMLER is on and which adjoins their property. This farm was originally DEMLER's. During his marriage he gave half to his wife May DEMLER and written into the Agreement, to beat gift duties, was a \$22,500 mortgage which he can call up at any stage on demand. Now Mrs. DEMLER at the time she made that will was very annoyed with Heather marrying SOUTER, who is a 'Con' man to put it mildly, and she cut Heather out and gave half to her husband and half to Janet in the event of her death which did of course occur. Janet and DEMLER became joint trustees but DEMLER, under the terms of the will was given use, occupation and income from the farm, apart from personal items of jewellery which went direct to Janet. Included in her assets which was in some way overlooked, was her car, a late Model 1100, which DEMLER had purchased for his wife.

This could have some significance and I mention it for the reason that after the Solicitors had looked at the will they felt that the position was, in regard to the car, DEMLER could use it throughout his life or he could sell it at any time. If he sold it he had to give the proceeds to Janet.

This was the subject of some discussion between DEMLER and Janet, and possibly Harvey, on the subject of death duties on Mrs. DEMLER's estate to the extent that DEMLER tells us, and the Solicitors confirm this, that Janet had agreed to the car being sold and the money being used towards the payment of death duties.

After that the Solicitors posted a Transfer Form to DEMLER. We have that Transfer Form. He signed it and returned it to the Solicitors and they returned it saying that it required the signatures of both trustees. We are in possession of the Transfer Form and it has not been signed by Janet. This could have possibly been the start of an argument between Harvey, Janet and DEMLER.

Also in the will was some \$12,000 in shares which DEMLER took out but which were unfortunately registered under the joint estate. Under the terms of the will, of course, Janet became eligible for half of the shares DEMLER paid for and took out and this also could have been the subject of an argument between DEMLER and the CREWES.

MORRIS:

Any suggestion of any discussion with the Solicitors over that when the will was being prepared. Any complaint by the old man ?

HUTTON:

No complaints. The only thing, when he went over on the Monday and he made this new will, he queried about the shares with STURROCK, and he then went straight on to Hamilton to his Accountant and again queried the same thing.

As you know, he made the will on the Monday and Janet went to the Solicitors and signed the Balance Sheet on the Tuesday, and he goes to the CREWE household and has tea. He tells us he had corned beef and onions and this is corroborated by the fact that we found used corned beef in the fridge.

WALTON:

Balance Sheet of ?

HUTTON:

Her mother's will. Draft copy posted out to both.

MORRIS:

When he was at the Accountant's, was he complaining ?

HUTTON:

No just queried and accepted. Whether he carried on with this a bit later we don't know. Now, he says he went to the CREWE household for tea on the Tuesday night and we believe him. At the first interview he maintained that the subject of the wills was not mentioned at any stage that evening, yet at the second and third interviews, when he was pressed on the point, he eventually admitted that it was briefly mentioned between him and Janet about going to the Solicitors and signing the Balance Sheets, etc., as he went to leave that night.

CONTD/....

Also the subject of interest during the enquiry was why was not DEMLER in contact with the CREWES between the Tuesday night when he visited for tea and following Monday, when he was just about pushed into going there. He admits that after his wife's death he was in daily contact with Janet at least. Now he maintains that he didn't see or contact the CREWES after the Tuesday night when he went there for tea.

On the Saturday and Sunday of that week at Onsgere, he was at the local Football Jubilee, quite an event in a country district. He had a double ticket to go to this and when I questioned him closely about why he did not ask Janet or Harvey to go with him as was his usual practice, he made the remark that he thought he would ring him on the Friday and ask him to go with him but didn't do anymore about it. He went to the Jubilee on the Saturday and Sunday on his own.

On the Friday of that week he returned to the Solicitors and signed the new will that he had told them to make out on the Monday. He drank quite heavily that night until about 10.15 and on the Jubilee night he drank until about 2.00 am and arrived home about 2.35-2.40 am.

At the first interview he was openly aggressive towards me. At the second, third and subsequent interviews he has been quite subdued and has a habit of looking at the floor and constantly plucking at the old coat he wears.

That brings me pretty well up to date.

CAIRNS: Were there any dogs on the farm ?

HUTTON: Yes. Three dogs locked in good kennels, some 150 yards from the rear door of the house.

CAIRNS: Had they been fed ?

HUTTON: It appeared to us that they had.

CAIRNS: Didn't they make a lot of noise ?

HUTTON: Yes. Of course it is some distance to the neighbours.

DEDMAN: I didn't hear the dogs barking.

TOOTILL:

Yes, I did.

WALTON:

The wheelbarrow could have been washed ?

HUTTON:

Problem here - there was a lot of rain and there is a hole in the wheelbarrow and water could run out. A small deposit of volcanic soil was found in the wheelbarrow which appears foreign to any soil inside the property. This is being sent to D.S.I.R. at Lower Hutt with other samples taken from the farm. Mr. ORBELL from that Division returned to get further data that they require on it at Lower Hutt.

GAINES:

On the question of the dogs, I think it was the first or second day we were assembled in the Search Headquarters in the Weolshed on the CREWE farm and DEMLER came in there about 8.40 and said "Where is the dog's dinner ?" which were biscuits in a bag situated in the north western corner of the shed. Whether this was indicative that he didn't know where the food was or hadn't fed them.

MORRIS:

The Jubilee DEMLER went to on Saturday - ticket or by invitation ?

HUTTON:

He belonged to that Club. The tickets were sold in doubles only.

MORRIS:

Where did he get that ticket ?

TOOTILL:

On the previous Thursday from a farmer called John NICHOLSON.

MORRIS:

Did the CREWES have a ticket ?

HUTTON:

No.

Regarding bread, paper and milk deliveries. One R.D. delivery man. Thursday and Friday's was still in the box. He didn't clearly recall the Thursday's but clearly recalls on the Friday finding the previous day's deliveries and he also remembers he looks up and always sees Mrs. CREWE feeding Rochelle in the front bedroom. When he looked up on this morning he noticed the blinds were down and no sign of the CREWES.

There have been no sightings of the CREWES after the Wednesday night. One sighting of a woman in the little paddock in front of the CREWE house on the Friday. This is unreliable and we have decided to disregard that altogether. There was a reported sighting of the child in that paddock on the Saturday which I find hard to accept.

CONTD/....

The sighting of the CREWE's car parked up near the front gate in that paddock on the Sunday and the Saturday following that Wednesday, one views with suspicion. What worries us is the Sunday sighting in this position of a Stock Agent at 8.30 on the Sunday morning when he drove from Tuskau towards Glen Murray. He knows CREWE and his place because he is a Stock Agent for the farm and he knows CREWE's car and he swears that the car was parked up at the little gate at 8.30 on the Sunday morning. He is a very reliable sort of chap.

BYRNE:

On the roadway or inside ?

HUTTON:

Inside near the house.

We had another stock agent, BROWN, who went on the Monday with his young apprentice, Dag, and both were certain the car was ~~not~~ in CREWE's garage and they went up to the house and the light at the back door was on.

Dr. CAIRNS, perhaps you would like to say a few words.

CAIRNS:

In that photograph, I think this arm (pointing to chair arm), a piece of cover was found which had two pieces of brain tissue on it. Also blood stains on the cover which have been identified as belonging to Mr. CREWE. Immediately below the two pieces of brain tissue there were some blood stains and Dr. STAVELY is examining those as well as the larger stains.

One of the problems is to try and decide if from the amount of blood present these people must necessarily be dead. I think it fair to assume that the cushion, which Mr. HUTTON mentions, was on the chair and if there were other pieces of brain tissue around they could have been on that cushion. But the fact that we did recover some brain tissue would mean very serious head injury and I would think from the amount of blood that was in the chair and had run down right through the chair to appear at the side (3) I would think that Mr. CREWE could be assumed dead. That is, assuming that the blood found, which is the same group as his blood, is his blood.

As for Mrs. CREWE, I think it is fair to assume that there was a mat in front of the fireplace and that this mat was bloodstained and I think you can say that it is likely that a material similar to this had been burned.

CONTD/....

HUTTON:

I might mention another find we have is a blood stain on the hearth well in towards the grating which returned the same blood grouping as Mrs. CREWE.

CAIRNS:

This would suggest that something bloodstained had been tossed there.

To die from acute hemorrhage it is fair to assume you need to lose about one-third of your blood quickly. In terms of volume, I don't know anything about Mrs. CREWE.

FOOTILL:

Height 5'8", statistics 34", 27", 40".

CAIRNS:

It would be reasonable to assume she would need to lose two litres of blood, for her approximate build, to die quickly. Assessing the area of the known blood stains it is much less than that, but assuming that a mat was heavily bloodstained, I think that, in view of the fact that she had lost a lot of blood and she is still missing, it is a fair assumption that she too is dead.

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 an 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. The scalp bleeds very easily and it could be quite severe bleeding, but in view of the amount of blood lost I would think it more likely that there has been additional wounding, and I would think the blood lost from Mrs. CREWE would suggest wounds rather than the simple head injury.

I think it is presumable that Mr. CREWE suffered head injuries and then wounds and that Mrs. CREWE also suffered some injury followed by wounding. This is assuming of course that the blood, the same grouping as Mr and Mrs CREWE, is in fact their own blood.

The nature of the blood stains outside the front door suggest blood travelling through the air and one suggestion was that Mr. CREWE had been dragged to the front door and then lifted to be placed in something, say the wheelbarrow for instance, and as he was swung around this blood had flown out and had caused the pattern by the front door. The stains in the kitchen would suggest more diluted blood after an attempt to wipe up the blood.

BYRNE:

I would like to suggest, was the blow sufficiently hard on the skull to cause spattering on the walls and on clothing ?

CAIRNS:

I am suggesting that the cushion which is missing absorbed that brain tissue. I don't think it need be a wide spread of tissue.

HUTTON:

How do you feel personally about having dragged CREWE's 16 stone out of the lounge down the steps to the path. Do you feel that if a vehicle was parked just 30 feet away at that small gate that a wheelbarrow would be used for that distance ?

CAIRNS:

I really don't know the strength of the man in question.

HUTTON:

He is very strong even for his age. We have seen examples of this during enquiries, with full grown sheep, hay bales and heavy farm gates not swung, whereas, Policemen, quite strong ones, have struggled with these, he has handled them with ease.

CAIRNS:

The suggestion is that in swinging him around in the lift that this blood has flown around and he could have walked down the back without necessarily wheeling him down.

SHANAHAN:

Exhibits were from the floor and a comb and hairnet and women's curlers from the bathroom. We have looked at the hair on all the exhibits except the curlers and they seem to be from the one person.

HUTTON:

This hair exhibit is this the one from DEMLER's ?

SHANAHAN:

This is taken from the CREWE's house:

- (55) Hair on the lounge carpet
- (58) Nylon nightcap found beside the hair curlers
- (56) Blue comb found on window sill of the bathroom.

HUTTON:

Hair out of DEMLER's car ?

SHANAHAN:

No.

ROSS:

Sample of baby's hair ?

SHANAHAN:

No. We also looked at DEMLER's jacket brought in yesterday or the day before and some fibres on the brick wall from the blood stains and they are all wool fibres and are not human.

CONTD/....

HUTTON: Possibly a blanket ?

SHANAHAN: Mixture of fibres.

NELSON: Fibres similar to a woman's angora jacket.
Did Mrs. CREWE have a woolly jacket of the material
which used to be popular ? (angora).

HUTTON: We can, of course, try to establish this.

Comments on the scene itself Mr. SHANAHAN ?

SHANAHAN: No, I don't think I can at all from what has been said.

HUTTON: What about you Dr NELSON ?

NELSON: No, it has already been mentioned about the carpet, cushion
and fireplace..

HUTTON: On the subject of the remains in the fireplace, is it
possible to come up with some evidence from the remains
in any specific examination.

NELSON: Only that the cushioning and carpet in the room have been
burnt.

HUTTON: Any signs of blood or brain tissue on the mat ?

NELSON: No, too charred and carbonised. One point I wondered about,
say he was shot in the head with a .22 would it be possible
to have brain tissue ?

CAIRNS: Yes, if it went straight through.

HUTTON: We made a very detailed examination of this yesterday or
the day before for this very reason. We have been over
every inch of the walls and furniture looking for a bullet
and bullet holes.

WALTON: The chair ?

HUTTON: Could possibly have gone right in, you would get that
puckered hole straight away, it is a satin type of covering,
doesn't close over the hole. Even now we intend to go over
these chairs again to try and eliminate this possibility.

COOK: Do you think the person shot in the head there would be
that amount of blood ?

CAIRNS: Yes.

CONTD/....

GAINES: Any result from the vacuumings from the floor ? If there was brain tissue on the chair it could be possible that there was brain tissue on the floor.

HUTTON: Not examined yet.

BIRNE: A wound administered from above and behind caused the brain tissue on the cushion and also the remnants of the bullet and cushion subsequently burned. There might have been traces of lead in the fireplace.

CAIRNS: By the time it went through the skull and cushion, I think would have stopped them.

HUTTON: The chair will have to have a thorough going over.

CAIRNS: If you are really worried about the chair you could get it commercially X-rayed.

HUTTON: Where would this be done ?

CAIRNS: Probably get it done through one of the hospitals.

WALTON: What firearms has DEMLER got ?

HUTTON: Shotgun which belonged to his mother and father who are still alive here in Auckland and an exhaustive firearms check of CREWE and DEMLER and his people has come up with the fact that way back the old DEMLER had a .22 and this is the subject of an enquiry at this time. They have to be seen as to what happened to that firearm.

WALTON: Nothing found during the search of his house ?

Searched to that degree ?

HUTTON: Well and truly. No trace of any .22 ammunition. Harvey CREWE's shotgun was in his house.

PENTECOST: From the position of the stains would it be possible for the wife to have been out of the room when her husband was attacked ?

HUTTON: When the scene was first discovered there was a bent knitting needle here and her knitting over here (indicates on photograph). I don't know what Dr. NELSON and Dr. CAIRNS think, I got the distinct impression first, as a result of blood (11) and blood on right front castor of the lounge settee, being identical and being Mrs. CREWE's with little doubt, that obviously the settee was right forward in this position

CONTD/....

with the castor in there and there is evidence of that castor being pushed back and a streak of blood back with it. She was seated and knitting when this ^{third} person approached and and rather successfully attacked Harvey CREWE. This is the position we would expect them to be in - Janet where Mr. SHANAHAN is, Harvey where Dr. NELSON is and the third person where Mr. ROSS is. You will see Mr. SHANAHAN has the actual knitting - two needles intact as it was found, with five stitches dropped in front and the third bent knitting needle of the same number lying in front on the carpet which would have been just in front of the lounge settee. The third needle is for carrying six stitches for cabling and she was obviously at this stage of taking six stitches on to the third needle and knitting the extra six and bringing the six back on when something happened. This third needle was pulled out and bent in the process.

WALTON:

There is a photograph here where the knitting is on the back of the sofa, right up on the back - where actually was it ?

DEDMAN:

The first photograph taken, the one without the numbers.

AUSTIN:

With the knitting right up at the top.

WALTON:

There is a piece of knitting on the cushion.

HUTTON:

There were two or three pieces of finished knitting lying about. The knitting was in the middle and the finished articles were up to the right, as shown in this photograph which was taken some days later on reconstruction.

WALTON:

It would be nice to know exactly where it was in this reconstruction.

HUTTON:

That is the photograph without the scene disturbed, remainder taken some days later. That is where I recall seeing the knitting quite clearly when I went in (indicates on photograph).

WALTON:

What was your reconstruction about the bent knitting needle again ?

HUTTON:

She was sitting there knitting - where Mr. SHANAHAN is, with the third needle, down here lying horizontally, holding those six stitches. I feel it is possible she bent it as she saw him being attacked. I can't see that knitting falling out even if she jumped up. That is the first sort of sign which sent us off on a possible murder-suicide theory, her knitting and the husband grabbed it.

CONTD/....

WALTON: Somebody walked in or she was out of the room ?

HUTTON: She walked back into the room when her husband was attacked - no, I say she was seated there knitting.

WALTON: She wouldn't have moved even with her husband being knocked around ?

HUTTON: I don't think she got off the sofa. As I see this, possibly from this pool of blood, her head lying up against this castor. My feeling is he has got her across into here - although it never got through that piece of mat. This is where a possible attempt to wash up with hot water was made - it is really pinky. If you got down and looked at the carpet - as soon as you hit that patch the hair was really white.

BYRNE: If you are going to infer that she never had time to move before she was attacked that would put two people in the position of attacker.

HUTTON: Or a firearm. I will go along with Dr. CAIRNS on another injury, to account for the pool of blood. He has got to take about four steps.

CAIRNS: What about slippers ?

HUTTON: One over here and one right to the other end - indicates on photograph.

PENTECOST: My reason for asking - she may have gone out to attend to the baby and then he got to work on CREWE himself and when she came in there was no sign of a struggle. As you say, after he had hit Harvey she is about 3-4 feet away.

HUTTON: No other way of explaining the knitting needle - no other explanation than that she was knitting when something happened.

WALTON: What do you think happened ?

PENTECOST: I think the pile of wood here - he grabbed a piece of wood or the poker and got a solid smack here (temple) and which would drop him and she would no doubt leap up and start screaming - something to that effect. If that happened between her father and her husband she would stand up and be petrified and lifted her knitting when she jumped up.

HUTTON: If it was a stranger who attacked her husband or anyone but DENLER, I feel she would make some attempt to get out of that room.

CONTD/....

WALTON:

Before we get on to the search. Your reconstruction why have the bodies gone ?

HUTTON:

Well I think that the offender felt, firstly, that there was need to remove all trace of something happening in that house so that there is nothing there to point towards him. A chap like DEMLER would know that they didn't have visitors. They did not have enemies and we have gone into their background deeply - there is no suggestion of enemies. First thing, in terms of a burglar going in there, I could discount that completely because why set about removing the bodies if you were a burglar - there is the possibility of being nabbed and there would be no link with you in that house.

Any other person but DEMLER - a relative with a bad grudge against them or a person concerning a debt from outside the immediate district of Pukekawa. Again, like the burglar, this would be the last thing he is going to do - to cart the bodies with him.

WALTON:

I agree so far.

HUTTON:

Persons in close proximity - fingerprinting and close examination of all motor cars of all local residents has been made and there is no suggestion of human blood in any case. No suggestion of a difference with relatives - only one man - DEMLER. If something happened and it appeared to be a local thing, I feel that it must point towards him.

WALTON:

Why did he take the bodies ?

HUTTON:

I think his mind worked like this - he would remove the bodies as his one thought would be to remove possible tracing of evidence - maybe the .22 and the bullets in the bodies. If he moved the bodies and the weapon and cleaned the scene up there would be nothing to point to him.

You have heard me consider these other people who may have committed this crime and you cannot convince me that any of those were going to clean up the scene. If you let them commit the crime, I can't see them cleaning up the scene - taking pots of water back and forwards to the kitchen. DEMLER - certainly. He is living on the adjoining farm knowing that evidence is here that a third person has committed this and it can't have been a murder-suicide. This would be the thing, whether a third person - DEMLER - came in and gunned both or put the injuries on the body, we would know then it was murder.

CONTD/....

If he removed the bodies to start with we would not know whether Harvey had done it and DENLER is the one who said "Harvey's done her in". We would not know the injuries if he got rid of the bodies and made a good job of cleaning up.

WALTON:

The one blood spot?

HUTTON:

Possibly, as I see it, he thought we wouldn't know what was there and we wouldn't know what was on the cushion so he tried to wipe the cushion or this pool. We wouldn't know a cushion was missing and after trying to clean it up he then burnt it.

ROSS:

His attitude to the child ?

HUTTON:

Before the murder, very little indication. All he said was when he moaned about the child stinking when he took her to the WILLIS'. Thought a bit of the child alright.

WALTON:

What is he doing about the child now ?

HUTTON:

He visited her after church on Sunday. Mrs. CREWE is going to have custody.

WALTON:

Dr. CAIRNS, what is your opinion ?

CAIRNS:

I tend to agree with Mr. HUTTON, I don't think necessarily fatal blows were delivered but disabling blows. Mr. CREWE could have been hit on the head with something and Mrs. CREWE could have received blows on the head and when unconscious they could have received wounds.

MORRIS:

This reconstruction has DENLER seated in one chair for a while. There is a lot of blood there and on your reconstruction he has handled bits of the carpet. He has gone through to the kitchen and dragged the bodies out - the only spot of blood on him or articles or vehicles is possibly one in the car.

HUTTON:

Definitely one in the car.

MORRIS:

He must have surely had some blood stains or brain tissue on him, on his hands or clothing.

HUTTON:

No, we have gone over that. He is a very clean man, washes himself and keeps the house quite clean, fanatic for washing - and he has had five days.

MORRIS:

This is worrying me. No blood on him at all. Why wasn't that one in the car wiped away.

HUTTON:

Always mistakes made. It is quite possible that he didn't immediately remove the bodies and when he went home in his Cortina and washed the blood from his clothing. The best I can come up with as to removing of bodies is that they went out the front gate. When he went for tea to the CREWES' Harvey would go out if he had sheep in the little front paddock, he would then be out there, and he would open the big gate at the road and DEMLER would drive in to the little gate and park his car. When we arrived there were sheep in that paddock which would give rise to the very real possibility or suggestion that that night he could have parked at the front gate at the road and of course this in turn gives a very real purpose for using the wheelbarrow to get to the main road.

AUSTING:

He could have put the sheep in the paddock afterwards.

NELSON:

Still in the car - Cortina - it was actually a bit grubby inside and this stain which we sent to Dr. STAVELY was only one of many likely looking stains we examined. On the doors of the car and around the seat were quite a few other stains, so that in the midst of other brownish looking stains and smears this could have been overlooked. On a preliminary examination of the car there seemed to be lots of brown stains and we spent over an hour looking for blood. This was one of the first we checked and only this and one on the flat part of the seat gave positive results.

MORRIS:

When DEMLER went to the house the first time after the incident and found the baby, did he go into the sitting room ?

HUTTON:

Yes.

MORRIS:

What does he say he saw ?

HUTTON:

I must say we were there for some time before we noticed the stains on the kitchen floor. If you looked hard but a person in a hurry would not see them. He saw them when he first entered.

MORRIS:

What did he say to his neighbour PRIEST
Did he mention the bloodstains ?

HUTTON:

He did mention there was blood in the house. They wouldn't have been there on the night he was there for tea.

CONTD/....

He mentioned "Something has happened over there - there is blood".

CAINES: When did he first mention about the stains in the kitchen ?

HUTTON: He mentioned that later since he has been interviewed.

SWETILL: What did he say to WRIGHT - something about 'blood all over the place' ?

ROSS: They did not have a very substantial meal.

HUTTON: They had been to a Sale. DEMLER himself said that this was common, just a fish cash.

WALTON: What about the bread, and the milk ?

HUTTON: Thursday's and Friday's milk at the gate - two bottles. Two Monday to Thursday inclusive; three on Friday delivered. Wednesday's two bottles on the sideboard, untouched. Tuesday's, half a bottle of that had been used and another bottle in the fridge, plus the day's before in the fridge. They are big quart bottles, obviously they got a lot of extra bread and milk for the dogs.

WALTON: You hadn't traced the flounder ?

HUTTON: Buying flounder at \$6.00 - little bit suspect. Previous purchase of 6 flounder which I discount. Not particularly impressed with these people or the identification, although they contacted the Police.

I go with the two flounder left from the previous 6, also the flour on the mixer for the batter and a bit of potatoes, obviously suggested that she made her own batter and cooked the fish.

WALTON: What significance has the envelope alongside the armchair - the one in the photograph by the chair. What had he been reading there ?

DEDMAN: There was a lot of bills there.

WALTON: Is that a note on the floor ?

DEDMAN: That was a small card - a baby's birthday card - underneath the chair.

CONTD/....

WALTON:

What significance has the mail - anything which would cause an upset ?

HUTTON:

No, definitely not. To my way of thinking it looked as though he had had that fish and she perhaps was watching T.V. and he started on the morning's mail. You can probably see one slightly open.

WALTON:

When did they go and see their Solicitor ?

HUTTON:

She went on the Tuesday.

WALTON:

What sightings since the sale ?

HUTTON:

Nothing definite. The car was sighted after he had got home. He usually did two hours work before breakfast and work all day and then he went to a sale he would then put the extra time in for that day - he didn't sit around the house.

WALTON:

Has anyone got theories as to why the bodies should go - apart from what Bruce has said.

COOK:

Obviously this was done to hide the evidence of the crime.

MORRIS:

To hide the method.

CAIRNS:

Something left on the bodies which would lead to the offender's identity.

WALTON:

No worries about wood being identified or the poker. Offender used something to hit, apart from a rifle, that he personally carried that he had got to hide because the weapon identifies him.

GAINES:

Wouldn't a medical examination, if the bodies were left there, show that there was a third person involved and nullify a suicide-murder.

NELSON:

If one person came there and murdered those two that night, might it not have been a better plan to remove CREWE's body and leave Mrs. CREWE, this would give a false trail.

HUTTON:

The only reason I can give and can't go past is again the angle that he did know them and that he felt that with bodies in there and then both obviously murdered by a third person, it was going to point back to DEMLER.

CONTD/....

I say he thought "If I remove the bodies they won't know if it is a murder-suicide". The attempted clean up only goes with that theory. If only a firearm or weapon angle, the removal of bodies and weapon, without the cleaning up.

WALTON:

Very poor attempt made to clean up. I feel he would immediately give it away - the idea of cleaning up - it had soaked through the chair. The only attempt I saw was by the fireplace - only one very small patch right alongside the fireplace.

HUTTON:

Plenty of water used - we have taken it up. He would use something loose to start with, the cushion goes and immediately throws that and the mat in the fireplace, and at this stage he is kneeling by the hearth. What would you do when ^{you struck} trouble?

WALTON:

He is hiding some identifiable weapon.

MORRIS:

Part of your theory - he anticipated someone would be coming by Thursday or Friday - he knew they were coming.

WALTON:

When was someone due to come?

HUTTON:

Friday.

MORRIS:

He would know they would decompose.

WALTON:

Why couldn't DEMLER find them Friday - any different from finding them on Monday - he had every chance of going there Friday.

HUTTON:

I feel, knowing the man as I knew him, he wanted someone else to discover that and take him there - had perhaps a certain amount of revulsion of going back and finding them.

WALTON:

Must have been an odd sort if he left the scene and the baby and rang the truck agent and then went back again.

HUTTON:

As far as I am concerned regarding the feeding of the baby, I accept Dr FOX's report. He examined the child within a reasonable time of this happening. To some extent he is supported by the local doctor who saw this child regularly knowing the child as he knew her he is right behind Dr. FOX all the way.

WALTON: She was lying in the cot, could she get up ?

HUTTON: No. There were dirty napkins in the cot and dirty napkins on the fridge.

MORRIS: Accepting this baby was fed - but when you get to Court you are not going to get that proved.

HUTTON: We ran up against this sighting - you wont shake the two McConachies.

WALTON: One saw her on the way to the football and one on the way home.

HUTTON: Defence problem; the sighting of the child.

MORRIS: How obvious was the bread, etc.; from the road ?

HUTTON: The door was shut, could not see that.

DEDMAN: Fairly obvious something wrong if you opened it.
Neither the breadman or the milkman appeared to have done anything about it.

CAIRNS: When the stock agent was up, he didn't hear the child crying ?

HUTTON: The boy went to the front gate and round to the back door and noticed the light on and knocked and there was no answer.

MORRIS: He could possibly have seen the bodies through the window.

WALTON: Who was last at the house ?

HUTTON: On the Wednesday morning, Mrs. PIRITT.

WALTON: Page 2 of the schedule - something had upset her, she was depressed, worried over something and of course DEMLER had been there the night before.

BYRNE: I had a theory, I am still not going to abandon it, that she knocked him off, her husband, and then she went to her father who promptly came round and got rid of the body and made it look as though he has left her. She is filled with remorse, standing in the paddock as though she is half crazed, and ultimately commits suicide. As soon as that is done the alibi is gone and he has then got to get rid of the other body. Motive of her killing husband.

CONTD/....

AUSTING:

That is another point.

WALTON:

Why didn't she pay the mortgage off - would that cause contention? \$31,000 mortgage.

HUTTON:

He had to find \$40,000, he put the whole farm in security and her half as security for the State Advances mortgage and \$9,000 which he had in and he got the \$31,000 mortgage. One thing I feel, the wills, the car, those shares, and another one, the possibility of an argument about that \$22,000 that he can ask to be paid on demand. That was owing when he gave half of his farm to his wife. He gave her a \$22,000 mortgage and the clause is that this can be called up on demand at any time. There is no doubt he wasn't happy about Janet getting the 50 percent which he had given to his wife.

WALTON:

She would get \$60,000 at the time of her mother's death?

HUTTON:

No, just money accrued.

WALTON:

How much money would Janet have lying about which we could get her hands on?

HUTTON:

\$7,000 cash, P.O.S.B., both of them. They did mention to STURROCK regarding investments to go ahead but they told him two years ago - not long term investments but ones they could give a month or three months notice on at any time. DEMLER might have been expected to say "you can buy my half out and take over the farm". As you know Janet has a say as soon as he wants to relinquish his part.

MORRIS:

What did the Solicitors say?

HUTTON:

They didn't say anything that would help.

CAIRNS:

Don't understand about the mortgage. Had the girl been left the farm.

HUTTON:

No, she was left half the farm. DEMLER has half and he has got use, occupation and income. The GREWE farm belonged to the JANELLS - he was a bachelor who got killed. He left the farm to Heather and Janet and when Janet married CREWE, he got a mortgage, plus \$9,000 to get Heather's half. JANELL was Heather's brother in law.

CONTD/....

GAINES:

Bruce and myself discussed this matter and came to a decision regarding a general area for the search. The two maps we used entirely throughout operations and to which I refer, are M51 and 52, inch to mile maps. To get everybody orientated as to the actual place the offence occurred, by pointing dead centre of the yellow search area - that is where the actual offence occurred.

On the first day, the 23rd, it was a considered opinion that the bodies would be perhaps in close vicinity of the actual house area and if I switch again over to my left (on the map) we have a blow up of the yellow area plus an extension of about half a mile, in this locality here (indicates).

The first three days we had a body search and a body search only. It included articles of clothing and the possibility of weapons. The possible weapons thought of were axes, crowbars, knives or a similar type of instrument. The only reason for the thought of the possible weapons was because of the amount of the blood in the actual room itself. For this purpose we established a paddock by paddock search. First of all of the CREWE farm, which is in actual fact some thirteen paddocks stretching, as I indicate on the map, this area here.

At the same time we had a perimeter search of the 40 acre bush area to the North-east of the CREWE farm for signs of drag marks, of entry into the bush area. This proved negative except that we did find a stuff mark between the two ferks to the South-west of the DEMLER farm. This was investigated thoroughly but nothing was found. We then put the farmers, Police and an attachment of 30 Army personnel through the entire bush area, working from the South-east to the North-west, again we found nothing at all.

We then extended our land search into the DEMLER farm area which is this area (indicates on map) right through to the North and East of the 40 acre bush area. This was done on the first day in very heavy fog with visibility down to 10 feet. We were not particularly happy about this and it was significant on this day, the fourth day, we kept coming across fresh hoof marks and it subsequently turned out that DEMLER on his horses had been tracking us all day. We finally caught up with him right down in a valley as we turned to sweep back up to the house and finish our search. He had been with us all day and in the fog we did not see him.

CONTD/....

He never made any contact with the search party at all and only when we rose to the top of the ridge did he actually speak to other farmers.

We then on the following day moved to the opposite side of the main highway which breaks this territory and we moved into the CHITTY farm area, starting from Welming Road and moved right through and up and past the CHITTY farm to an area right opposite the DEHLER farm. The only significant find we had there, immediately opposite the search Headquarters and some 210 yards in from the roadway, was a Stanley steel knife. This was taken over by the C.I.B. and no significance has been attached to it. Just animal blood on the knife and we can conclusively say that this was one of a piling party who were resewing seed on that farm some four-five weeks prior to the actual incident.

It then became fairly apparent that our immediate sweep of both DEHLER's property and the CREWE property, and I might add that the adjoining paddocks at the boundaries of these farms were also search just as a precautionary measure. It then became rather significant that the bush area, 40 acres, had a fairly high potential for the purpose of hiding or burying persons, clothing or weapons, and as we look at this you will see that the actual CREWE farm is there (indicates) and that is virtually South-west and the DEHLER farm is virtually in a straight line, from this photograph taken in 1963, and it is a bit more extensive now than it was then, it is pure virgin bush, never been touched. There are considerable deep valleys, gullies, water holes, waterfalls and a wide variety of bush and foliage, particularly down at the bottom, with wide areas of very soft muddy ground.

We then dispensed with using the civilian farmers and the Army personnel and we set about a programme of searching the area most thoroughly. We took a line, about 4'6", and shoulder to shoulder and using a man at the end of the line with string at his back, we went through this portion, string by string and it took us 10 days. We turned over every rock, every stone, kicked all the dead foliage out on the creeks and all the holes and even had our diver doing some of the diving in the holes. Again we found nothing that could be connected with this enquiry.

CONTD/...

We concentrated on this area because at the DEMLER farm, immediately out of the back door you have cover of a very small pine plantation leading down on a gradual slope to a pathway into the bush area. From the CREWE's farm you have cover out the side entrance straight down on to a ridge, here (indicates), and it was possible we thought at this stage the bodies could have been taken out and planted below the actual bush line and he could have returned to his own house and at his own leisure effected the fairly long and involved process of getting rid of these people.

While all this was going on, we had a river search from the heads of Port Waikato to a 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles area to Rangiriri Bridge. Private boat owners divided the river into half and for eight days we had four craft going from Tuakau Bridge down to Waikato Heads and a further four from Tuakau Bridge to above the Rangiriri Bridge. We brought in as support a Sioux helicopter and Bruce and myself did an aerial reconnaissance of this particular area. We found a considerable number of water holes, washouts, tamo holes and we then planned an extensive search of this area. The Air Force kindly offered us the use of the Sioux helicopter for as long as we wished to assist us in the search. Again, to see how effective this would be, I did a two hour patrol with them and went up the coast and into this area here (indicates). They flew at roughly tree-level height and were able to see down through the willows on the river and able to pin-point stock and even land on the river and investigate dead sheep and this proved absolutely invaluable for this particular search. So valuable did it prove that we held them for six days.

Each day they patrolled this river for us and for four days solid they did an area (indicates) round all the lakes and they followed every waterway, creek and river in this area to the South and to the North of the CREWE farm over an area of roughly four miles.

Again after taking divers out in the area we found nothing but dead sheep, etc., in the river.

Also during this same period we engaged contractors to turn over the tip alongside the Tuakau Bridge. This is a large tip area and it took 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days to pull all the rubbish out right back until we got to the pug and push it all back again.

CONTD/....

At the same time we used the Naval divers to search the river immediately under all the bridges and a concentrated search in the Tuakau area immediately outside, the deep area and the islands. I think I can safely say at this stage that the area off the tip has large eels and a considerable number of dead sheep, dogs and everything in this area and they have done it as thoroughly as they possibly can but they don't guarantee it one hundred percent because of (a) the visibility, (b) the size of the eels, and (c) the mud.

We also got them to dive in the area of the old Rangiriri and the new Rangiriri bridges; the approaches and the islands below these bridges. It is a sandy area and swift flowing and any person that would have been dropped in there would have rolled for some time and would have ended down in this area here (indicates on map). We asked them to go out further after they got to Mercer to the heads, there is only an 8 ft fall there and a considerable number of sandbanks, and the islands were actually visited, so if they did actually go in there they would be carried down fairly slowly though, from local information they would probably end up at the heads. We used a navy diving team there and a Navy diving team on the edge of the forestry area to the northern side of Waikato Heads and also the sandy island at the mouth of the Waikato. All with a negative result.

Below a bridge as the Opuatia stream enters the Waikato river, there is a high potential place round about 25-30' deep immediately below the bridge; fast flowing and about 40 yds to entry to Waikato, and the first road from the CREWE farm headed towards Rangiriri - completely deserted. A thorough search on three occasions resulted in the finding of an anchor, open-end spanner and a couple of tins. All had been in water for some considerable time. Otherwise area clean.

We have further walked the roads, as indicated on the map in yellow, doing the verges using a four-man team. We walked roughly 1 1/2 miles an hour, our maximum, turning over and cutting back bush as we saw them in this area.

We have employed Constable BREWIS as a diver and we sent him on an air reconnaissance to cover the actual water holes from about four miles south in a square of about four miles to do actual water, holes, dams, etc., in the area. Everyone done and this had taken him seven days of solid diving. Again negative results.

CONTD/....

After we complete a foot search along the sand spit area today, we are completing a foot search of an area up to here (indicates on map). The reason being, anything floating out to the Heads, just swirls straight back up on the beach and if there was anything significant it will be on the sand out here (indicates on the map). Otherwise the general flow is South and anything could come up at the Raglan Harbour.

That is all on the search.

HUTTON:

Stage reached at present ?

GAINES:

Stage reached at present is we have covered the DENLER farm twice; the CREWE farm twice; checked out the bush area; all the valleys and bush area around; and we have done the actual roadway to Opuatia and back three times and we have now run out of potential areas.

WALTON:

Any chance of bodies on either farm ?

GAINES:

I think not.

WALTON:

Fires ?

GAINES:

Evidence of one fire that is immediately south-west of the woolshed - a piece of old lino, burnt hay and a couple of old burnt papers - no intensity at all. It is thought the previous fire the CREWES' had that this was the stuff the contractors fired. No evidence of fire at the farm.

There are large bog areas in which we have used 5' spears and they will go right down to the elbow and you still haven't touched the bottom. Some holes - we have dug out all of them on the two farms. The majority are washouts and they go down roughly about two-three feet and then they run down hill. We have dug all these out and it would require, in the majority of cases, for something to be cut into small pieces to get down these holes to be secreted away.

We have tried to bury stuff in water or water covered areas on the farm but as fast as you dig a hole it fills up with water.

WALTON:

Cannot really hide them. You have had a general drive to see if you can come across back country which he may know.

CONTD/....

GAINES:

Say down to Matira Rd, about 28 miles? A high potential area. There are so many places.

I would point out at this stage (indicates on map) if I put my hand across this part here, where this blue line is, it is riddled with limestone caves, thousands and thousands of them. This again is a fairly high potential area. We have been to the two most well known caves, down here at Limestone Downs and the other one down at Matira Road. There are so many of them. One runs about 400 yards in and branches off and we went down. Needs experts to check them.

HUTTON:

Access to them?

GAINES:

Virtually impossible for carrying a person.

Also rubbish tip down on Port Waikato - access difficult.

ROSS:

Done all cemeteries?

GAINES:

Yes.

Came across some boiling-down works situated between the Tuakau township and Pukekawa. Unattended at night.

Bruce actually carried out a thorough investigation of that place. Ideal for disposing of bodies but they must be dismembered and without clothing.

ROSS:

Have you a map of each farm?

GAINES:

I am using one Constable WILEY, Constable at Tuakau, uses - of the CREWE and DEMLER farms; CHITTY's and PRIESTS farms, taking in the whole block. HOSKINS' farm forms a triangle back between the CREWE and DEMLER farms. Taking in the SPRATT farm and also taking in DUNLOP's farm. Aerial photographs also.

ROSS:

Now extending search to adjoining farms?

GAINES:

Access off the main road to these farms, also open. The actual check in close vicinity to the roadway and patches of bush have been done. Finished off today. Not particularly happy yet with the swamp area. Doing also the gas pipeline which virtually runs across country straight through CHITTY's farm.

ROSS:

Any disturbance in soil would be noticed?

CONTD/....

GAINES: Bruce specifically asked the farmers to search areas on their farms and to let us know if they came across anything. They have actually checked.

WALTON: Drive over all those roads looking for a place that has got access and where he would know; where he could hide bodies; where he could put them in a ravine and bury them.

GAINES: There are a few places in Glen Murray, quite deep ravines and caves. Again you would have to have access and they would generally be 300-400 yards off the roadway.

WALTON: Cannot see him going on to another farm.

GAINES: All the roadways with the recent rain have quite a few slips. We dug out the ones that looked reasonably fresh and spiked others; area of golf course - new ground, bowling green had some soil for a specific job, also where people have 'dreamed up' places and we have done these. Also empty houses, coal mines and hay barns.

If removed on the Wednesday, there was a ratepayers' meeting on in the South and another meeting on in the North and quite a lot of traffic on the road, and the locals can usually tell you who was going past. The road South would lead right down near Ngaruawahia.

WALTON: What would stop him taking them out of the search area to somewhere he knows ?

GAINES: Smells of premeditation. Could mean he would have the place elected before he went.

HUTTON: When you go over his movements with so many people, couldn't be away on these days. Wednesday night he was home all day and all evening on his own.

TOOTILL: ^{later than}
Couldn't take them out/Wednesday or Thursday, rigor mortis would have set in. Definitely got out on the Wednesday night.

GAINES: Although we have done the bush thoroughly as possible, there are still areas in there where you could possibly be able to dig up and cover up and we would never find them.

CONTD./....

MORRIS:

I don't think this was premeditated, probably he has had an argument and it was done on the spur of the moment. I doubt if he would move them very far beyond where he was going to be suspected. His movements within a few hours are known. He was seen about the next day.

WALTON:

Friday night - no visitors - not forced to move. I would go along with the Wednesday night theory.

HUTTON:

What supports Wednesday night too is spillages of blood on the bricks on the outside. I might add if you look at the photograph, the one thing that impressed me was this splash - it starts up there and you can see the direct splash with a direct line to the ground. This to me indicates that the blood was even still warm by the way it was splashed down there.

MORRIS:

Going out front of the house to get down to the bush, would have to go round the back again. Side gate would not be open and there is an intervening gate in the paddock, barrow around by the side.

HUTTON:

Newspapers mentioned about the wheelbarrow - he said to HEWSON "They won't find my prints on that".

GAINES:

CREWE AND DEHLER farms, just going straight down here into here is a tough climb to carry anyone. I would say this fellow would be able to carry them.

FOOTILL:

He has got a crook leg but he is strong enough to man-handle them.

GAINES:

He would not be able to get them down hill.

WALTON:

To get reasonable access.

GAINES:

No significant spots. This is the actual CREWE farm here, the Waikato River here, the bridge we spoke of is down here. Here is the easy way, that is the road he is always seen on going to Hamilton. Chap up the back road going through there - he would know it pretty well. All this area through here in places is chest deep in water on both sides and actual verge would run out from a couple of feet to 30 feet to suddenly drop away. There is a sufficient area to get through the trees and weight them and throw them over.

Chattenham Road - No, two houses that have a view straight over this territory but they are in very heavy bush with no visibility. Nobody uses this road a great deal.

ROSS: He never walks far, could have used the horse.

GAINES: One of the farmers said that that horse belonging to the CREWES looked as though it was "ridden to hell" as there was still dried sweat on it.

HUTTON: We could mention here, we did his footwear over well and truly. We seized his gumboots, there is a lot of blood - human or animal not known, possibly sheep, will know tomorrow.

WALTON: What was on the shoe ?

HUTTON: DEMLER thought it was liquor.

GAINES: Way down back here, as you can see from the map, has an irrigation channel running through and is pretty swampy - found his boot marks there. Virtually tracked us round the farm. I neglected to think about when we were actually searching the bush next to his farm, in this swing here and again in this swing here, we used to put a fellow up and keep a watch on him. We found him sitting here below the bush line and he was able to see east to west and watched us for roughly 20 minutes. The day we first brought the helicopter here we found horse hoof marks down to here. We put somebody in there and he turned up at the outside of the hedge and was watching us from there. He was extremely interested in our activities in this fork here and this fork here (indicates on map). We tried this as an experiment, he kept on pushing his sheep down here and when he had all his sheep there, so we switched over to where there was sheep. There is an old bulldozed track just along the ridge here and another track there. We walked it right out to the river.

WALTON: What else have you got to do which you feel is logical to do ?

GAINES: The actual search itself I would say is wound down. We have run out of ideas.

CONTD/....

WALTON:

He couldn't go far off the road in the vehicle. Perhaps you could have someone go over the roads with a car and stop and check each likely place.

BYRNE:

What sort of reading material in house ?

HUTTON:

He reads newspapers. We asked him and checked as we were in the house at the time. There was a big stack of '8 o'clocks' He has a television.

GAINES:

Present search party of 40 are living in a house belonging to The army are feeding us and I feel that we should ~~release~~ ~~PRIEST~~ headline on this shortly and let them know whether we are staying or going.

DALTON:

Cut down to about half a dozen, unless you have some logical places to search no point in keep a big number there to do odd places. You can work out a plan and make a group up.

HUTTON:

That is what I thought, bring them back tomorrow and chop search out altogether and refresh six men and travel daily from here.

GAINES:

It appeals. There are some of the smaller country roads and we could do them again.

AUSTING:

Drive down those roads you may find a likely spot which was worth investigating further.

MORRIS:

You have just got to find a body in my point of view. I wonder if he took the bodies back to his own place due to his leg. He may have, once he is in that car, he went to his own place.

HUTTON:

I might add that our theory is that on the Monday he did not go down to the house as he stated, he never thought about the baby. We say he didn't go down to the house at all. He rang and waited and rang the Stock Agent later and had then gone down there and picked up PRIEST on the way. PRIEST thought if he has been down to the CREWE house why is his car facing back to CREWE's house ? His story is he went back to his own farm by car. No one saw him go up and down. CHITTY has a good view.

CONTD/....

MORRIS: Does he carry gumboots in the car ?

HUTTON: He wears them. He wouldn't be wearing them when he visited. He used to carry shoes in the car.

WALTON: Any suggestions on search ?

MORRIS: I always think of the Wells one.

HUTTON: Time and time again tracked around the house and C.I.B. have concentrated in close proximity and we even used a former Manager, HEWSON, who knows the farm well. Mr. WALTON's original theory about the motor car - why wrap the bodies up if you are going to put them in the car. You wrap a body to save any blood stains, etc., no doubt about them being wrapped.

BYRNE: A man of sentiment would wrap them up for burial.

MORRIS: All the more reason if he should run into neighbours.

WALTON: Why do you say he could have taken them home ?

MORRIS: To get his gum boots.

HUTTON: We have gone to the extent of in both farms of removing hay and going through barns, etc., and also the offal pits.

BYRNE: What about the respective houses ?

HUTTON: Very small and floor boards would have to be pulled up.

BYRNE: If you go back through history, more bodies have been disposed of in that manner than in any other sort of manner.

HUTTON: He would have to take floorboards up.

BYRNE: Room under CREWE's house ?

HUTTON: We have got under and tried.

WALTON: I can't see the point of taking them out of the house at all.

MORRIS: He has lived here thirty years. He takes them out of the house - could be within 100 yards of that place - you just don't know what he knows - just one spot.

CONTD/....

GAINES:

Our biggest problem was in trying to pick the brains of the farmers. We used this enquiry "Where would you go if you just had this boundary?" Not one person had actually been over the two farms to be able to tell us. We have had to go through the whole lot.

WALTON:

Can you give us a reasonable idea that they are not on these two farms?

GAINES:

As far as I am concerned the search we have carried out has been so thorough that if they were able to be found they would have been.

I keep going back to the idea that if he was going to bury them on the property he would separate the two of them.

HUTTON:

That raises our chances of finding one. I feel they are together. I think more in terms of if he is going to bury them the obvious place is somewhere he has time and cover. Going off the farm to bury them he had a hole in mind or somewhere he is going to be able to get rid of them quickly. His red Cortina would be sighted right away, if he has gone off the farm and if he hasn't got rid of them in a hole somewhere, they are in the river. Out of the gate and you are heading for the river.

WALTON:

We have to have a guarantee they are not on these two farms.

GAINES:

Give me until Friday.

WALTON:

What are you and your team going to do?

HUTTON:

I'll pick out six from the team.

WALTON:

Keep the full team for two more days.

GAINES:

There is one roadway I am not completely happy with - done with a minor team.

DEDMAN:

Was there any other time during the search where he followed you significantly like he did on those two forks behind the house?

GAINES:

Only on the paddocks on his farm the day of the fog and the distance would be 300 yards.

DEDMAN:

Took a great interest in your search at that point?

HUTTON:

Every searcher and C.I.B. man who sighted him would enter the sighting on a chart.

DEDMAN:

We fingerprinted the whole house. Were fortunate that in late 1967 there was a burglary at the CREWE house and Mrs. CREWE's fingerprints were taken but Mr. CREWE's prints were not. Unfortunately Mrs. CREWE's fingerprints were badly taken but there has been sufficient detail in the righthand prints to make several identifications as far as she is concerned.

I have been unable to find DEMLER's prints anywhere in the house. This could be caused by the fact that he is a farmer and has got very hard skin and I don't really think he would leave a good fingerprint in any case.

The main prints found through the house were those of Mrs. CREWE - on the baby's bottle and milk bottles - mainly Mrs. CREWE.

I have about 30-odd fingerprints I have been unable to identify. A great number of these came up again and again and I feel that they are probably Mr. CREWE's. I have a sequence of pattern in the right hand on a half empty beer bottle on the cabinet and this sequence is repeated through the house. Also one of these prints appears on the poker and I feel fairly certain that that is Mr. CREWE's. Not having his fingerprints we have 30-odd unidentifiable ones in different places such as the bedroom door and the front door. A couple of prints on front door and one good one on main bedroom, Mr and Mrs. CREWE's bedroom, unable to identify these.

I haven't done a search of the Collection, this would take, with the 30-odd prints, probably six or seven months. I would say some of these prints, of course, are probably Mrs. CREWE's as well. As I said, her prints were badly taken and ones I definitely could not identify as hers I left in the unidentifiable file.

I have I consider Mr. CREWE's right forefinger, ring and middle finger prints and seven digits to go, which appear in separate places all over the place and could quite likely be his.

I took DEMLER's prints myself and his palm prints and there is not a sign of them anywhere.

WALTON:

Do those milk bottles have anybody else's prints on ?

CONTD/....

DEDMAN:

Only Mrs. CREWE's prints one full bottle, prints that were any good. The half bottle on the sink had Mrs. CREWE's prints on. The baby's bottle which was on the window ledge above the sink, Mrs. CREWE's prints on it. The two saucepans had no prints which were any good on the handles.

HUTTON:

What about the diaries?

DEDMAN:

I have done one diary, we have no prints off it at all. It is a 1963 diary owned by Mr. CREWE. We have done a more recent diary and some fingerprints were got off that. These are not very good fingerprints and it gets progressively worse - our trying to compare very poor prints with very poor prints.

WALTON:

What about the Transfer Form?

DEDMAN:

Nothing came up on the Will and the Motorcar Form, nothing of any significance so far. In this weather I expect it to come up slowly anyway. In the summertime fingerprints come up within twenty-four hours. I have been concentrating on those on the front door - one of those is a child's print.

COOK:

CREWE's motor car?

DEDMAN:

Fingerprints off motor car - left thumb, and that also appears on the beer bottles and I feel that is Mr. CREWE's. It is just unfortunate that during the time they had the burglary he was not fingerprinted.

HUTTON:

There is no doubt this one has given us considerable worry and the break we want is the bodies. I can't for the life of me see anyone else in the picture but DEMLER. We haven't set a course of action towards him. We have, in fact, always tried to do the opposite and find ourselves coming back to him. We have gone into the early youth and friendship between Harvey and Janet prior to their marriage. He kept the letters that she wrote to him for three years right up to the marriage. The only thing that comes out of that is a bit of cattiness towards girls, she eventually invited to the wedding. One particular mention of DEMLER when she came off the telephone after talking to Harvey. He had a go at her giving the suggestion that he was not particularly fond of Harvey prior to the marriage. Mentioned in the same letter - as a result of the argument that night after she came off the 'phone, she didn't raise the topic of the shearing of the sheep

CONTD/....

and then she mentioned the matter next morning and got a bit of a comeback. From then on, indications are that there is no love lost between Harvey and DEMLER. Both perhaps a little bit of a strange type. Harvey wanted to keep to himself and just wanted to work the farm and bring it up to a high standard, and DEMLER being a queer type on his own and not very popular. A man given to violent fits of temper when dealing with animals.

We have reached the stage now, from a C.I.B. point of view, where we have, as I said, gone well back into their lives to make sure of no grudges and have gone into their financial position and on the same question of finance, where there is any money owing either way. The only one we came up with was the carpenter, REEVES; still outstanding account which was the subject of a bit of a tiff and handled by their respective solicitors.

We called him in and put him through a solid interview and fingerprinted him and satisfied ourselves that he could be eliminated from the enquiry.

With that the enquiry revolves back to DEMLER. We have kept up as much pressure as possible on him. He has been interviewed a number of times and we are endeavouring in any way possible through thorough and meticulous examination to get more evidence to go with this blood. We all know blood is only so good but in this case it is much better than that, in the absence of anyone else in that family having that group, and it becomes in my mind very significant indeed, especially if Heather's result does not come into the same grouping and this is likely.

Our area canvas extended a bit further in the last few days, out into the smaller villages and other farms just in the hope of picking up a little bit more information, but as you can well imagine working in this locality is totally different from working in the City. We found the original enquiry team of 20 was ample for this type of locality. It soon became obvious that leads could be checked out in a matter of minutes or hours - no trouble in locating and interviewing people and confirming their stories. So that I have now reached a stage where our local enquiries and other enquiries have dwindled to a trickle and I am faced with a nasty problem of trying to obtain more evidence against DEMLER in the hope of finding the bodies.

CONTD/....

I have come to a stage of seriously considering reducing the enquiry team to a Sergeant and about three men, who will be selected from the group I have now got there. An N.C.O is an obvious one. As from next Wednesday I would have a Sergeant, two men and myself and we will carry on with Mr. GAINES and six selected searchers in six selected areas.

WALTON: How binding, in a serious case, is this letter of Mr. SHENKIN's - in not going near DEMLER without SHENKIN being there ?

MORRIS: A formal interview, yes. Could just bump into him.

HUTTON: I am investigating the disappearance of his daughter and son-in-law and if I think he can help me in my enquiries I will see him any time of the day.

MORRIS: If he says "I am not going to speak to you" you have got to stop.

WALTON: What are you going to do, have you got any set line except just trying to break DEMLER down ?

HUTTON: My main line of approach is pressure through various means to try and get him to crack. In an attempt to gain evidence we have now done his car and that house inch by inch to the extent that we have satisfied ourselves, in the absence of bodies, that there is nothing there remotely connected with this. We have taken a massive number of exhibits, 126, from the CREWE household - 54 exhibits from DEMLER's house and 40 possible blood stains.

I am faced with a nasty problem I know. I can only handle it day to day as I can see fit and try and pressurise him and going back to people like PRIEST, the stock agents, and knitting the story tight together and seeing if there is anything we have missed.

WALTON: Any particular line ?

MORRIS: I am still thinking - why get rid of the bodies ? ^{It} seems to me that that has been done to stop us finding out/they were killed. Next thing, when did he do it ? Must have been Wednesday night and he must have done it immediately after he killed them. At that stage, I go back to gumboots and his going home in his car and he has taken them away from both his and CREWE's farm. He didn't have boots on and if he has taken them anywhere it could be to the river.

CONTD/....

WALTON:

You must think of the .22. Anyone to tell us what is missing - could be a weapon, type of knife, etc. ?

HUTTON:

He said he has lost his knife a long time ago. The scabbard is out in the shed not used for a long time. Questioned him thoroughly and have gone to people like PRIEST and CHITTY "Have you ever seen DEMLER with a knife ?" "Oh no he didn't have a knife", "Never wore a knife". His pocket knife we have got. This was checked out from a point of view (a) possible offender and (b) in not carrying a knife in hand or rifle which would be so obvious to Harvey that he was going to do harm, but something like a knife used on the farm every day. Again, that would have been premeditated and if not premeditated you would have had to have something handy.

BYRNE:

What about an axe ?

HUTTON:

The one I plump for is a hammer, except that we know he kept all sorts of tools just inside the back door.

WALTON:

Didn't you get anybody to say he had a tomahawk at the fireplace - any chips where they have split wood ?

HUTTON:

All tools in shed gone over and went over all the tools in CREWE's outshed. Nothing obviously used recently.

TOOTILL:

One thing about DEMLER's tools, they are kept well and even hedge clippers.

MORRIS:

Inventory taken at time of DEMLER's wife's death, estate inventory ?

WALTON:

Local gossip ?

HUTTON:

DEMLER all the way. Not just gossip but letters sent to me.

Another thing I forgot to mention, when I interviewed him on the last occasion, I stripped him off and he had a scratch mark here (indicates) looked like a back attack on him by Janet when he attacked Harvey. His reply was "Oh, yes, I remember now, I was out cutting impweeds and got caught in bush lawyers". Not likely in this district - obviously a fingernail. Went over his fingers and nails.

CONTD/....

PENTECOST:

A sheep farmer would carry a knife with a hook-blade.
He has the pocket knife.

WALTON:

Any suggestions ?

CAIRNS:

If I was going to dispose of them - I like the Waikato
river.

TOOTILL:

He always carries bundles of twine in every pocket. If he
weighted the bodies he might have used it.

WALTON:

We have no pressure on us to cut staff. You are happy
with a Sergeant and three ?

HUTTON:

Yes, we will use the clerk back at Otahuhu. Move all records
there and operate base from there. Guards are our biggest
problem, having to guard this every night.

ROSS:

When are you handing CREWE's house over ?

HUTTON:

Friday night I think, don't want to rush it.

DEMLER is a very cool man, there is no doubt when you first
meet him this laughing is so completely out of character but
when you talk to solicitors you find he has always had this
nervous laugh.

GAINES:

We will keep a search team going until Friday and Saturday
to get the stuff and bring it back and leave a Sergeant and
six men under you, Bruce.

HUTTON:

Operate from Otahuhu under our directions.

WALTON:

Everybody off some days ?

HUTTON:

One day.

GAINES:

Searchers have had none.

WALTON:

We don't want to stop days off. If you have got to have the
men give them some time off.
Your team would include a clerk ?

HUTTON:

Clerk would be an additional one. He can do other work and
work on this enquiry. This correspondence has almost run
down.

CONTD/....

I would like to mention at this Conference, there is no doubt that when we are faced with a similar type of enquiry in the future, all that is needed at the most in that type of locality is ten experienced detectives. The other 4-5 who made up the 20 let us down badly. Younger boys. Where we ran into trouble here we did not have the bodies and reconstruct a little further. Naturally you could not be selective when you saw each person. We had to go back on our tracks. Twenty men too many for that type of enquiry.

WALTON:

You have got to drive for evidence and we leave it to you. If we have got enough to bring a prima facie case - you go as hard as you can. From my point of view, with the Beard one, the Walker one and this one - we have to get one. We leave it to you and if you have any ideas or need any further help, you call out for it. Evidence is what we want.

HUTTON:

I was very keen to hear Dr. CAIRNS' summary today leading up to the incident and there is no doubt as his statement stands, we need a body I think.

WALTON:

You have got one dead one. The whole circumstances speak of one being dead, that is him.

HUTTON:

Is there such a thing here as an application to get a Presumption of Death first ?

WALTON:

Would be the least of our worries at this stage.

HUTTON:

All I raised this angle for was that I would like to be reasonably satisfied - he has got plenty of money and if we come up with that little bit of evidence and our friend wants to make a move to Australia or wherever he wants to go, I want to be satisfied on this presumption of death, that is stage one. Stage two, have I got sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case ?

MORRIS:

Probably have got enough to go for a prima facie on Harvey. Not enough to link him with it.

HUTTON:

We are perhaps closer than what we realise. You link some of the material evidence with relatives' blood groups - you are getting on the road.

WALTON:

You are not there yet.

ROSS: You never know what you may find with the bodies.

WALTON: That would make it absolute.

BYRNE: When you hand over the CREWE house, some of the black plythene around the sheds, you may get an exact matching piece when you find the bodies.

HUTTON: Through grabbing exhibits we have pretty well destroyed the scene. Nothing of use from the defence point of view. SHENKIN is going to try to get in. With the carpet and the chair you could perhaps reconstruct it as we found it.

WALTON: You could ring him up and ask if he wanted to have a look.

HUTTON: SHENKIN rang and asked me could he go through it. He said "I have got the authority of DEMLER and the authority of Trustees' solicitors and I want to go through the house."

MORRIS: Anything wrong with when you do have the right to hand over, could you have DEMLER there and put a few questions to him. It isn't going to harm us - purely making enquiries.

HUTTON: I set up twenty-three questions on his last interview which were real burners.

WALTON: Strip the whole house and let him in it with SHENKIN - interesting to know what they say. Not going to do any harm.

HUTTON: Will do that.

WALTON: We have nothing to hide.

MORRIS: What is the position regarding an inquest ?

WALTON: No worries.

CONFERENCE : 17 AUGUST 1970 - 8am

O/C INVESTIGATION:
Det. Insp. HUTTON

As you all know, the body of Mrs Jeanette Lenore CREWE was recovered from the Waikato River between 9 and 9.30 yesterday morning, by Mr J.C. ADAMS of Pukekohe and his son-in-law, Mr J.H. GERWITZ of Glendowie. At the time the body was discovered it was at a point approximately 5-6 miles west of the Tuakau River bridge. These two men were on a jet boat on their way down to a whitebait stand. Apparently at first they thought it may have been the body of a cow but on close investigation proved to be the body of a female. These two gentlemen put a sheet around the body, got it on to their jet boat and brought it in to a river landing known as Devils Elbow. Apparently Henry SANDS have a metal and sand depot at this point.

Now, the first Police Officer, according to the paper here, was Constable HOWARD of Pukekohe. He went to the scene. (Note: Job sheets to be obtained from Constable HOWARD of Pukekohe.)

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

He was actually on the boat when they recovered the body.

Det. Insp. HUTTON

First C.I.B. to the scene were Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES and Det. Const. METCALF.

O/C SCENE:
Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

We got there at midday and the body was on the landing at the quarry site. It was not removed or touched in any way at that stage. The photographer, Constable ARNOLD, was with us and we immediately did a further check of the area where she had been taken from the water and we recovered the jersey which had fallen from the body when she was removed. Photographs were taken of the spot. It was very difficult to pinpoint the spot exactly because she was floating in the water and there was a depth of 15 ft of water underneath her. While this was going on you had been informed and C.I.B. and searching staff were on the way. There would be no land access to where the body was found. Aerial photographs were taken of the spot.

(Note: Closer inspection to be made at a later date of actual point where body was found.)

We went out to Harvey CREWE's property where we made a search for copper wire. We have taken a number of samples of copper wire found in a shed and a number of implements which could have been used for cutting copper wire.

We tried to contact Mrs CREWE but she was in Hamilton for the weekend and should be back at Pukekohe this morning when she will be seen. She has possession of Harvey CREWE's car which we have not been able to examine again at this stage - that will be done this morning.

O/C SUSPECT:
Det. Sgt. HUGHES

I went to DEMLER's in Pukekawa at 2pm yesterday and saw Heather there, didn't tell her what we had found. She told me Len was at the back of Sharpe Road on the farm. Drove down the back of Sharpe Road. Signalled across to him and he didn't appear happy about coming across and was hot. We met him half-way across. As he approached you could see he was hot and he yelled "Don't come down here disturbing my sheep" - he was in the middle of the ewes. I told him it was important and we had found the body of his daughter, and asked if he could come down and identify her and he said O.K. He never mentioned the matter of the finding of the body again. We walked across the paddock together. He rode his horse to the house and we drove to the house. He walked in the front gate, passed Heather, didn't

Det. Sgt. HUGHES
(ctd)

mention anything to her about the finding of the body, and she said to me "Aren't you going to tell him?" I told her I already had. He got changed. From the time I spoke to him out in the paddock to the time we left to go to the scene he showed no emotion whatever. At the scene he viewed the body and said he was able to identify his daughter by the general appearance of the body, such as the height and build and natural teeth, the skirt which he said she had been wearing the night he had gone there for tea, which was Tuesday the 16th, and she was wearing socks - the body appeared to have socks on, this was usual with Jeanette - and also was able to identify generally the wedding ring.

After the examination I took him into the Central C.I.B. where I interviewed him off and on until approximately 7.45pm. At no time did he make any admissions whatsoever. He sticks to his same story - gets very hot under the collar. Asked for his solicitor but didn't insist on ringing. While at the office he made a phone call to Heather. Didn't mention that he was at the Police Station but gave her instructions for his shepherd.

At 8pm we left the C.I.B. office and went to the home of Mr DEMLER(Snr) at 118 Market Road where we 'uplifted' a .22 rifle and a matchbox containing three hollow-nosed cartridges. These have been handed to Mr ABBOTT, the Exhibit man.

During the afternoon of 16-8-70 we obtained the services of a Justice of the Peace who took an affidavit from DEMLER as having identified the body as that of his daughter Jeanette, lost at Pukekawa on about 17 June of this year.

O/C BODY:
Det. Const. HIGGINS

The body left Puni at 3.21, arrived mortuary 4.10, entered the mortuary 4.40, at 4.45 photographs of body clothed. P.M. commenced, 4.53, commenced removal of the wedding ring then the other clothes:

Clothing consisted of tartan skirt, fawnish cardigan, singlet, black bra, pair of panty-hose, pair of white panties, wedding ring, portion of a green blanket, portion of a multi-coloured cotton cover.

Injuries to the body consisted of a hole 1½" above right ear, later found to be a bullet wound. The skull itself was cracked right round. There was a wound over the right eye and the nose, consistent with a heavy blow to this portion. Slight discolouration of the body. The body had no hair. There was a piece of wire as well, thought to be telephone wire, wrapped around the body about 2" above the knees.

Det. ABBOTT

I think there are socks on it - with the silt in the river the panty-hose and socks have come together.

Det. Const. HIGGINS

Dr CAIRNS formed the opinion it was sand inside but later Det. ABBOTT and I thought it may be socks. Death resulted from the bullet wound.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

Apart from all the exhibits that were obtained from the body the orthodontist also took teeth from the head of Mrs CREWE which we have recorded here. Also some debris from the body in the way of bits of leaves and twigs adhering to the sacking or the material.

Det. ABBOTT
(ctd)

Exhibits taken to Dr NELSON are as follows: bullet particles taken from the head of Jeanette CREWE, a glass jar containing a piece of skin around the hole which the bullet went through for checking for powder burns. A small sample of hair was taken from behind the left ear, which was about all that was left, and the copper wire that was tied round the deceased was also given to Dr NELSON.

Det. Insp. HUTTON

As far as remains of bullet are concerned, Dr NELSON gives us a 50-50 chance of being able to compare a test-fired bullet from the offending rifle with the remains of the bullet from the body of Mrs CREWE. He tells us that those chances are far better than chances in usual circumstances and he mentioned the fact that it has six rifling turns to the right.

CONFERENCE : 17 AUGUST 1970 - 5.30pm

O/C BODY:
Det. Const. HIGGINS

Mr ABBOTT and I attended the mortuary this morning, arrived about 9 o'clock. Detective LEWIS was present in the process of taking fingerprints of the deceased. Spoke with Dr CAIRNS who informed us that he had sifted the brain matter in the morning and obtained three further particles of bullet. These were handed to Detective ABBOTT as an exhibit. The body had decomposed a lot overnight - totally different body to what we saw overnight. Mr LEWIS got sufficient to identify her as Jeanette CREWE.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

The exhibits that were taken from the body of Jeanette CREWE in the way of clothing have gone to Dr NELSON and Mr SHANAHAN. The rifle and the bullets went to Dr NELSON. The only thing he said was they were the wrong colour. The ones Mr HUGHES obtained were copper coated and the one in her head was not. Two more samples have gone to Dr STAVELEY a toe-nail and a piece of muscle taken from the body. He also wants some more samples, namely an eye, some pubic hair and some tissue from the stomach wall to be taken in tomorrow to him. A number of exhibits have been handed in by Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES which were found yesterday and some more today.

O/C SCENE:
Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

We started off this morning by sifting through all the ash which we had previously taken from the fire-place at the CREWE household without finding anything. There is a lot of large bits - stones and pieces of wood - this type of thing among the ashes.

We went back to the CREWE house where we checked the walls, ceilings and carpet without finding any evidence of bullet marks or lead.

We vacuumed the ash pit underneath the fire place and we brought that back with us. We have not sifted through that at this stage. Apart from that, nothing of any significance inside the house.

Just outside the front section gate where a car could be parked we found a small length of copper wire similar to what was round her body. It may indicate that she was wired up outside before being put into the car.

We completed a check of the CREWE barns and sheds and immediate fence lines without finding anything else.

The only thing that probably would require doing would be an X-ray of the two chairs. The only other way is to tear them apart and ruin them. Would need a van to bring them back for the X-ray.

The solicitors or agents have been in the house and packed up all the clothing, china and everything.

We will have to sift through fairly carefully the vacuumings we took off the floor because that is where the lead will be if it is anywhere.

It would be hopeless to do the outside paddock for spent cartridge cases now as they would be trodden in.

O/C SUSPECT:
Det. Sgt. HUGHES

We arrived at DEMLER's this morning about 10.30am. He was out back with the lambs. We waited until he came back before we made a search of the buildings. Spoke to him and he was quite happy about a search being made. Questioned

Det. Sgt. HUGHES
(ctd)

him about rifles of any sort, first of all with regard to himself. He said that he had never owned any gun of any sort. He raved on about his eyes being bad and wouldn't be able to see anyway. He said he had never borrowed his father's gun. He said as far as Harvey went he thought the only fire-arm he had was a shotgun. He didn't think he would have borrowed one or ever had an unregistered fire-arm of any sort. DEMLER said himself he had never ever borrowed one or had an unregistered one himself in the house, and neither he nor Harvey, as far as he knew, had any war souvenir fire-arms at any time.

He was asked about his brother-in-law, CHENNELLS. He was certain that CHENNELLS never ever had a gun himself, and he was also asked whether CHENNELLS had any war pistols or guns as souvenirs - he said no.

After this we searched the garages, tractor shed, wool shed without any sign of any fire-arms or ammunition.

We found three or four cutting tools which don't appear to have been used for some time. We took possession of them anyway.

We found some copper wire near the wood heap down by the tractor shed and some is similar to the type on the body.

On the way back I called in and saw the Senior Sergeant at Pukekohe. He recalled a conversation at the house the first night we were there about a missing gun. I think myself that we were talking about the shotgun, but he seems to think that Jerry WYLLIE had brought it to his attention that there was in fact a missing fire-arm.

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

I remember a .22 being referred to - I think it was Jerry - but I gathered the impression later that he was referring to the shotgun - saw the stock and assumed shotgun was a .22.

Det. Sgt. HUGHES

Some-one mentioned later that the shotgun was there. May be as well to have WYLLIE seen again and also PRIEST because he would have been in on the original conversation.

O/C ENQUIRIES:
Det. Sgt. CHARLES

We have not got anything to report other than we have collected about 20 .22 calibre rifles of various sorts which will be test-fired tomorrow. I saw PRIEST today - he didn't have one.

Det. Sgt. HUGHES

DEMLER came over to us. Nick NILSUM had never met him before. I sort of opened up pretty slowly and about making enquiries re guns and what happened to Harvey's .22. He sort of stopped and he had a very cunning look. Sort of edged "What gun? I didn't know he had a gun." He seemed to be taken aback a bit.

Det. KEITH

Mr HUGHES said DEMLER said he could not see because of his eye-sight. When I spoke to Mrs DEMLER (Snr) this morning she said the same thing - he would not be able to see to shoot a rifle.

3.

Det. ABBOTT

The bullet extracted from her head - on the side of the base of the projectile was the figure 8 and he said it could be fairly old ammunition because the latest ones have the figure 9 on it.

Det. Const. HIGGINS

Pre-1954 ammunition had 8 on it.

CONFERENCE : 18 AUGUST 1970 - 5.30 pm

O/C SCENE:

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

We concentrated on outside the house within the bounds of the fence surrounding the house. A search was made of the lawn and the garden was completely dug up, that is all garden, and sieved. There were several parts of the garden where we could scratch over and look visually that weren't actually sieved and I am satisfied there was not anything there. We had Graham HEWSON - he helped us out there today.

We checked gully traps again, drained the water tank and did a complete search of that, roof, guttering and under the house. No trace of any spent cartridges.

We have got to the little gate now within the confines of the immediate house.

We spoke to Mrs CREWE for about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ hour on the way back this evening. She still thinks, in her own mind, that DEMLER is the offender but she is very upset about it at the moment mainly because I think she has got in the back of her mind possibly Harvey could have done it still and the fact we have not got his body to confirm DEMLER was the main suspect. In her own mind she is sure that Harvey is not concerned in any way. When we left her she was much brighter. She asked me today when Jeanette would be buried and I said she would be contacted and informed.

Det. Insp. HUTTON

When talking to Graham HEWSON did he mention anything about having a .22 himself?

Det. Const. HIGGINS

Yes. He said most farmers have unregistered .22's on their farms and he had one himself. He just mentioned this in passing.

Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

Didn't see DEMLER today. Only saw Jack HANDCOCK walking around the farm doing a great job.

ENQUIRIES:

t. Sgt. CHARLES

The 21 .22 fire-arms collected were all test-fired today by Dr NELSON who took possession of the empty shells and the bullets. The fire-arms were divided into two categories - one requiring urgent attention and the other not so much. The more important category included DEMLER's fire-arm and the close residents to DEMLER's farm plus his known associates like WILLIS. We have the results of all those, which are negative with the exception of Arnold THOMAS, an ex-boyfriend of Jeanette, which Dr NELSON will have to make further tests on before he gives an opinion.

A Mr AITKEN of the C.A.C. will view the lead found in Mrs CREWE's head with a view to giving an opinion as to when it was manufactured.

We will also start making some enquiries in regards to the Brownings and establishing what year or years the model that caused the grooves to go the way they have. This is in order to eliminate certain models and makes of fire-arms which obviously cannot be considered.

Dr NELSON did consider the possibilities that the weapon used as a latest model and in good condition.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

Four exhibits obtained today and taken in for analysis. I received from Dr CAIRNS this morning Jeanette CREWE's left eye, the stomach tissue, and some pubic hair which went to Mr STINEAR of the Blood Transfusion Service for analysis for blood typing which will definitely tell us the blood group of Jeanette CREWE. That will save us a lot of people to call if we go to Court to prove the blood group of her.

The other exhibit was a piece of copper wire that was found by Mr JEFFRIES in the paddock by the CREWE house which was taken to Mr SHANAHAN of the D.S.I.R. for comparison with the piece around the body.

Det. Insp. HUTTON

The following to be carried out tomorrow:

1. Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES and team to continue search at Pukekawa to CREWE household with aid of mine detector from 8.30am.
2. Det. Sgt. CHARLES to accompany Dr NELSON and bullet exhibit to C.A.C. in an effort to identify year bullet made, and also to see agents for Browning .22 rifles in an effort to identify models obtained from which we can ascertain THOMAS's and WILLIS's.
3. Det. ABBOTT to convey copper wire from DEMLER residence and pliers obtained from DEMLER for comparison with wire found around Mrs CREWE's body.
4. Det. KEITH to finish compiling list of persons who were relatives, friends, associates, local residents or any persons who had close contact with either Mr or Mrs CREWE for fire-arms registration check.
5. Det. PARKES to continue collection of fire-arms in Pukekawa area.
6. Det. Sgt. HUGHES to see re possibility of HEWSON going through to Hamilton and uplift CREWE's car.

CONFERENCE : 20 AUGUST 1970 - 4.30pm

O/C SCENE:
Det. Sgt. JEFFRIES

Yesterday, with the assistance of Mr GEE, Mr HIGGINS and Mr MEURANT we mowed the paddock in front of the CREWE house and made a search as the strips were mown. The lawn clippings were saved and a search of these clippings was also made. A cartridge case or bullet was not found in this paddock.

The only remaining area to be searched properly would be the frontage road and driveway entrance and drain, and this would entail a good day's work by more than four blokes because all grass will have to be cut outside the front gate.

Today Detective GEE and I went out to Elbow Road on local enquiries. With the exception of one farmer yet to be seen, all the residents in Elbow Road, Puni, have been seen regarding any suspicious actions by any persons or vehicles, especially during the June period when the CREWES went missing. Particular emphasis was made on a red Cortina car. None of the locals were able to help in any way. They all made the general comment that there was a lot of night traffic on that road - earlier on this was due to the water-ski club which have rooms down at the Elbow and, although it is surrounded by water and no-one can get there at the moment, they were regularly using it up until Easter and since Easter they have had the occasional party down there.

All the employees at Henry's Sand Ltd have been spoken to - this includes the dredge masters, tug masters and so forth. They cannot assist in any way but are keeping a particular lookout for bodies and especially the dredge master - he is checking all substance that he dredges up. One bloke who is retired but in the firm, Mr Les HENRY, who lives in Pukekohe, spends most of his time catching whitebait on the river. He knows the river like the back of his hand and made the suggestion that those searching on the river don't know what they are doing. He said they are searching areas where bodies are unlikely to be caught up and ignoring areas where they should be searching. He suggested several spots that should be checked over and several islands where debris has collected. He said if the body is there the debris should be moved and gone right into. He is not willing to take part in a search mainly because of losing time white-baiting but is prepared to point out to the search team likely spots where the body will be caught. Doesn't seem to think the body has gone through to the heads - general opinion is that it is caught up somewhere.

O/C EXHIBITS:
Det. ABBOTT

No exhibits taken in yesterday.

The only exhibit received today is the bedspread from the back seat of the CREWE vehicle brought in by HEWSON.

For the next phase of the enquiry I have been engaged in checking newspapers, which were the Courier, Auckland Star and N.Z. Herald, checking from between the dates 1 June until 19 June to find out if there were any private advertisements for the sale of .22 rifles. From the Auckland Star I found three for that period and for the N.Z. Herald I found two for that period. These will be checked out further as to who purchased these firearms. The next phase will be to check the South Auckland smaller papers. There was one advertisement in the Courier - a .22 advertised for sale by an elderly couple who have shifted to Australia.

O/C ENQUIRIES:
Det. Sgt. CHARLES

Yesterday I went to see C.A.C. with Dr NELSON and saw the engineering manager, Mr AITKEN. He viewed the bullet found in Mrs CREWE's skull and can only say that the figure pattern 8 was branded in the .22 bullets manufactured up until mid-1963 both here and in Australia. He cannot enlighten any further as to when this particular one would have been made. He says that ammunition kept in reasonable conditions can still be in good condition 10 years later, and he would not be surprised if pattern 8 ammunition is still in use by various farmers.

With regards to making enquiries with the agents of various types of firearms, Dr NELSON said that with regards to overseas enquiries, for instance by the agents of Brownings which are made in Belgium, you would not get replies until three weeks later and he feels that we should refrain from doing this as he can refer to his books as a result of which he may be able to make up a list of firearms and models which could have fired the bullet in question. He said that if we came into any difficulty then we may have to contact the agents. As a result of this we are not making any enquiries through the Browning agents at this stage.

The rest of yesterday and today was involved in returning and receiving further .22 firearms. In addition I went to the sports shop in Tuakau. The proprietor has a licence to sell .22 ammunition and firearms; I understand he is the only one in Tuakau, Glen Murray and Pukekawa area. He has not sold any .22 firearms since January this year but has sold in excess of 2000 rounds of ammunition. None of this has been to DEMLER whom he knows personally. I know what brands he has got - there is some ICI.

Saw Mrs PRIEST today, who explained to me how she had heard some shots round about the time the CREWES went missing. She had been hesitant about furnishing this information before because she understood that no firearm had been involved. She had, however, made reference about hearing shots to her husband not long after the enquiry started and this I confirmed with her husband. She heard three shots in quick succession.

Det. PARKES

Yesterday I collected 10 rifles from residents. We have completed a circle of the CREWE farm by road now and got all the .22's which farmers say they own.

Today I saw Mr LYE and he wants to see Jeanette's teeth before finishing his report. I said I would arrange that.

Apart from that all enquiries have been negative. I have been chasing firearms all day today.

2 I/C INVESTIGATION:
Det. Sgt. TOOTILL

Yesterday Mr MILSUM prepared a list of arms offices in the Auckland district to be checked with a view to ascertaining the details of all permits to procure .22 calibre rifles by persons over 21, between 1 and 18 June. In addition he completed outstanding enquiries including statements from the persons who found Jeanette CREWE's body and also interviewed one Roy KILKOLLY.

Today Mr MILSUM started on his physical check of arms offices and has completed 8 of the 13 quoted. From them there are 14 names to be checked out. He has 5 more arms offices to do, including Onehunga, Newmarket and Auckland, which will

Det. Sgt. TOOTILL
(ctd)

probably render a much larger return of names.

Today Mr MEURANT took to pieces the chair in which Harvey CREWE was killed, with a view to finding any trace of a bullet. The chair was completely stripped but there was no trace of any bullet or shell in the material or the actual structure of the chair.

Fred O'NEILL of Tuakau was originally nominated as a person to be seen because of his association with CREWES and DEMLERS through doing odd jobs on their farms. To date he has not been interviewed but he has been traced from Tuakau to Pukekobe where he resides in Edinburgh Street. During the check of arms offices, Mr MILSUM found that the same Fred O'NEILL purchased a new .22 rifle on 1 June of this year. He will be subject of a special interview.

O/C INVESTIGATION:
et. Insp. HUTTON

As can be seen, we are concentrating on firearms as a result of a .22 bullet being found in the body of Mrs CREWE and in this respect our enquiries are covering the following points:

1. A check of .22 firearms advertised for sale between 1 June and 19 June, advertised in all newspapers circulating in the Pukekawa/Auckland area.
2. Police Arms Offices in the Auckland and Hamilton districts are being checked re Permits to Procure .22 firearms between 1 and 18 June.
3. A list has been prepared from our records covering persons who have in any way been associated with either Mr or Mrs CREWE or Mr DEMLER during this enquiry. These have been grouped under Group A as top priority, followed by Group B. These persons will all be seen and interviewed as to whether they are owners of a .22 firearm, and amongst a number of questions which they will be asked to answer will be one whether they have ever loaned such a firearm to Mr DEMLER.
4. A list covering some 256 names of persons involved in the enquiry, however remote, have been forwarded in part file form to all Police Arms Offices for a national check as to whether they own a .22 firearm.
5. In a few days it is planned to check arms dealers concerning the purchasing of any .22 firearms since 17-6-70 in case the offender saw fit to dispose of his .22 firearm by this means. To this end it must be remembered that should he have done this our arms check at our Police Arms Offices would have failed to bring this to light should that particular firearm be in the possession of the arms dealer.

In regard to exhibits submitted to D.S.I.R., the following priorities have been drawn up for the benefit of Dr NELSON:

1. The bullet obtained from the body of Mrs CREWE for checking with bullets obtained from rifles from the test-firings.
2. Comparison of fibres with clothing found on the body of Mrs CREWE with samples taken from such places as DEMLER's car, house, etc.

Det. Insp. HUTTON
(ctd)

3. Examination of a piece of flesh from the body of Mrs CREWE as to whether there is any gun powder at the point of entry of the bullet into the body.
4. Comparison of copper wire found wound round the body of Mrs CREWE with samples obtained from Mr CREWE's implement shed, piece of wire from outside the small gate of Mr CREWE's residence, and a piece from Mr DEMLER's farm.
5. Comparison of hair taken from the body of Mrs CREWE with hair taken from the carpet under Mr CREWE's chair.

Tomorrow an inspection is to be carried out:

- (a) under the Tuakau bridge, and
- (b) at the end of Frost and Aitken Roads, in an effort to reconstruct the actual point on the Waikato River where the bodies entered.
- (c) The third place considered very likely for this to have been done is at the end of Elbow Road at what is known as Henry Sands Quarry

These three places will, as soon as the Waikato River drops to somewhere near its normal level and the water begins to clear, be the subject of a closer and more extensive search by the Navy skindivers.

Note:

Consideration to be given to further examination of:

- (a) piece of carpet removed as an exhibit
- (b) carpet still inside lounge of Mr CREWE's house for .22 bullets.

Note:

Test-firing of .22 to be carried out from CREWE's house in an effort to establish if such shots could be heard by Mrs PRIEST inside her house. To this end enquiries also to be made concerning wind and weather conditions on that night by contacting weather office.

Det. PARKES:

Over the last few days we have been collecting and testing firearms from the list compiled. There is only one person on the 'A' list in the area of our canvas still to be seen. There is only one person on the 'B' list in the Pukekawa/Tuakau area still to be seen. We have now tested 49 rifles and 1 pistol.

Det. Insp. HUTTON

As far as the 50 firearms are concerned, Dr NELSON informed me last night that he has excluded all firearms except two as being the weapons likely to have fired the bullet which was recovered from the body of Mrs CREWE. The remaining two .22 rifles are the property of Arthur THOMAS and Mr Annsley EYRE. Dr NELSON intends to have a closer examination of bullets fired from these two rifles in an effort to arrive at further elimination.

t. PARKES

I saw Mr LYE yesterday and got from him his report which clearly states that he is satisfied that the body found is that of Jeanette Lenore CREWE.

Sgt. MILSUM

We have been doing three different phases of work really - firstly, checking on people who obtained permits in June and people who advertised firearms for sale during that period; secondly, we have been doing just general enquiries of people who have worked in the area or people who might have seen or noticed anything suspicious in the area at the time; and thirdly, we are checking on Calvin and Clive WILLIAMS. We have not been able to do much on that at the present time. We have nearly finished all the firearm checks except one or two people we have been unable to locate at home or who are away on holidays. We will have to work one late shift next week to cover these people who are not home during the day.

t. Insp. HUTTON

So far as the visit of Mr WALTON was concerned, we discussed the stage we have reached in the enquiry. He was quite satisfied that everything has been done that can be done. He feels as we do of course that we have got to try and get a .22 firearm into the possession of DEMLER and to this end we will have to pursue the enquiries concerning that .360 rifle belonging to CHENNELLS many years ago. Mr WALTON, of course, is convinced as we are that Harvey's body is most likely in the river and was weighted down, and is still weighted down. We discussed the progress of the search with Inspector GAINES and the search will continue along similar lines to what has been happening over the past week in that daily river searches will be made with punts along the banks just in case this body has surfaced. A reconnaissance of the river has been completed by Inspector GAINES and the Petty Officer in charge of the Navy diving team with a view to the Navy team commencing operations again on next Monday at the earliest. These divers will reside at Port Waikato with the Police team and will be closely supervised by Inspector GAINES himself each day. They will commence operations along the fringes of the Waikato River - firstly in Murrays Road extending down to the Tuakau bridge, moving across to the other side, to the Tuakau side, where they will again cover an extensive area. They will also search a considerable area of the river near where Mrs CREWE's body was found and finally, if they have met with no success up to that stage, they will then commence a search from the Opuatai bridge in the Waikato River, from the Opuatai bridge along Churchill Road. Should Harvey CREWE's body be found weighted down in any particular place, this of course will mean an extensive search in that region for a firearm.

CONFERENCE

HELD AT AUCKLAND CENTRAL POLICE STATION ON
THE 2ND OCTOBER, 1970

PERSONNEL PRESENT: Assistant Commissioner WALTON
Assistant Commissioner AUSTING
Chief Superintendent BURN
Detective Superintendent COOK
Detective Inspector HUTTON
Detective Sergeant TOOTILL
Mr D. MORRIS, Crown Solicitor

The Minutes of this Meeting were taken by an Auckland Typist, but a copy was not forwarded for attaching to the file, and when this was later discovered it was found that her Reporters Notebook had been destroyed.

IN THE MATTER of a Royal Commission
to enquiry into the
conviction of ARTHUR ALLAN
THOMAS for the murders of
DAVID HARVEY CREWE and
JEANETTE LENORE CREWE

Marie Anne O'NEILL states:

1. I am a Detective attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch, Auckland.
2. On the 16 June 1980, I was instructed to make enquiries to locate a typist who was present at a conference on 2 October 1970, dealing with the CREWE homicides.
3. I was provided with a list of 14 typists who were employed at the Central Police Station, Auckland, on that date.
4. I contacted or caused to be contacted all the typists on the list with the exception of one who is deceased.
5. None of those contacted could assist with the enquiry.
6. I produce a schedule of the typists employed at the 2nd October, 1970.

MILBOURNE, nee NORTON

LEWIS, nee FRANCH

YATES

MANGAN

DAVIES

Deceased

ANTUNOVICH

FOLEY

NIGHTINGALE

HYNES

KING

MILLER

PETERKEN

QUIRK

SIX

H2

CONFERENCE HELD AT OTAHUHU C.I.B.
ON 19 OCTOBER 1970, AT 1.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Detective Inspector HUTTON
Detective Inspector BAKER
Detective Senior Sergeant O'DONOVAN
Detective Senior Sergeant SCHULTZ
Detective Sergeant TOOTILL
Detective JOHNSTON
Detective PARKES
Detective KEITH

Mr HUTTON:

We have cause to have another look at the CREWE murder prior to the departure of Detective Inspector BAKER and Detective Senior Sergeant O'DONOVAN, and the main reason in holding it is to try and collectively gather all information, both from within the squad and also from an insight into the file that Mr BAKER and Mr O'DONOVAN have conducted in an effort to bring the enquiry to a satisfactory conclusion.

I think it can be said at this stage that there are two persons who can be considered as suspects for the enquiry, namely:

- (a) Leonard William DEMLER
- (b) Arthur Allan THOMAS

There is no other evidence suggesting any other person, even remotely, as a possible suspect.

Mr BAKER:

Bearing in mind the evidence pointing towards DEMLER, namely the blood in his car, a motive of kinds and, of course, opportunity, I think the weakness at this stage is we have got to put a firearm towards DEMLER more than we have at this stage and here again I think that we just cannot put a firearm towards him. It can be one of two, either (1) that he has acquired one and we don't know anything about it and could be thrown in the river after use or disposed of after use, or (2) is the possibility of him acquiring a firearm like that one of TYRE's where you have got a firearm on the back verandah of the place, and if a guy was this way inclined he could get it.

Another thing as far as DEMLER is concerned, because of the inhospitable nature of the two deceased we are up against just what goes on in the house and we are dependant on DEMLER and because of this we cannot contradict him.

As far as the disposal of the bodies and the attempts at cleaning the place up and the burning, I would not like to theorise on that at all.

As the result of our discussion with DEMLER the other day he could easily do it and wouldn't turn a hair, this would be my picking of him. He showed no remorse whatever about anything you spoke about and whether, of course, this is his nature or that but he just never batted an eye-lid. I think we gave him plenty of opportunity if he was going to show any weakness. As far as sentiment or anything like that went, there was nothing there.

Mr O'DONOVAN:

I felt about him a marked reluctance to talk about or volunteer any information regarding either of the CREWES and anything you wanted had to be extracted from him by direct questions whereas in fact on quite a number of occasions he turned to Mr TOOTILL and made

Mr O'DONOVAN:
Ctd

conversation on other matters relating to the farm which I thought was particularly odd as though he was not interested in the death of his daughter.

Mr HUTTON:

I might mention at this stage that Mrs CREWE forwarded me a letter on date which she previously received from Lenard William DEMLER, and it reads as follows:

"

R.D. 1, Tuskuu
15th October 1970

Dear Marie,

I have been wondering, when Harvey's funeral would be, did you know that we provided for Harvey to be buried with Jeannette, could you let me know the date of burial, and what arrangements, you would like.

I have been thinking about Rochelle. How is she? Hope she is settling down quite happily would like to get some news soon.

Yours sincerely,

Len

"

Mr BAKER:

This is in keeping with the whole make-up of this fellow - to sort of get in under him.

Mr HUTTON:

As far as DEMLER is concerned, taking the motive, I agree with you Wal, that the motive is weak really. There is the suggestion of \$12,000 worth of shares with perhaps in addition the transfer of the motorcar being a possible motive - the cause of an argument between DEMLER on the one side and Jeannette and Harvey on the other, and the fact that Jeannette of course has entered in some way into the running of the DEMLER estate in the form of a trustee as a result of May DEMLER's will. So much for the motive.

Now so far as the evidence of DEMLER having committed the crime, there are three things that have caused me some concern and these are:

- (a) the firearm
- (b) the axle
- (c) the wire found around the bodies.

In regard to the firearm, strenuous efforts have been made to put a .22 calibre weapon in the possession of DEMLER. We all know that these enquiries covered what is described as a combination weapon but even today it could not be said that we can prove that Lenard DEMLER had a .22 firearm with which he could have committed these murders.

In regard to the axle, here again we have no evidence that an axle of a similar description as that found with the body of Harvey CREWE was ever on the DEMLER farm or in his possession.

Finally, in regard to the copper and galvanised wire found around the bodies, tests conducted on similar gauge wire taken from the DEMLER farm have revealed that none of the exhibit wire came off the DEMLER property.

Mr HUTTON:
Ctd

Perhaps I might mention that the only similar wire found was a piece of copper wire discovered in the small paddock immediately in front of the small house gate of the CREWE household after the commission of these offences.

One surely must presume from the finding of this similar wire that at the time the offender placed the bodies in the motorcar he was at least in possession of the copper wire used to truss the bodies with and even perhaps suggests he may have had the axle also.

Mr O'DONOVAN:

I feel that it would be very doubtful that the axle came from the dump on that particular night. You recall the blood under Harvey's chair - it indicates to me that at the time the blood stopped falling Harvey was still in the chair and had not been moved. You will also recall that the chair was moved back. To me it does not appear that Harvey's body was removed on the following day - if this had been so I don't think the blood drag marks would have been left on the lounge floor, as they must have left there that night. So that if we assume Harvey's body was removed on the night of the murder, would not it be stretching the imagination to think that the murderer went from Harvey's house to the tip, stumbled around in the dark on a windy wild night and located an axle with which to weigh down one body and something else unknown to weigh down the other body. I feel that we have got to consider that he went to the house prepared to dump those bodies in the river.

Mr SCHULTZ:

I agree this is quite probable. You have got fragments of wire and that if a man had gone to all the trouble of doing this he would go prepared with wire or what you would like to tie the body up with at some stage, probably in the house or near the front gate. I think the blood on the side of the house was from the head - it was a very faint mark and in the early part of it it faded quite a lot. I myself think you would not have got jointed bits of wire - stacks of stuff to tie bodies with.

Mr TOCTILL:

Is it not consistent with short ends tied together - just one more piece he had not utilised.

Mr HUTTON:

I am satisfied the offender was short of wire at the time he actually trussed the bodies up. Now this is a different thing to saying he was short of wire from the source he acquired this wire from.

Mr PARKES:

I think perhaps he only intended taking one body away. I cannot help feeling that whoever did it was aiming for murder-suicide. Because there was that much blood he had to change his mind and take them both away and that is why he ran out - went to truss up one body and had two bodies to get rid of.

Mr O'DONOVAN:

Taking this a stage further, would this explain the attempt to clear up Jeanette's blood by the fireplace?

Mr BAKER:

Furthermore, while on this aspect of it, if there had been any sexual interference here this is another reason why he would want to get rid of Jeanette but not Harvey to make it look Jeanette had knocked Harvey off. Here again we have got two bodies with two different lots of blood and I mean these are the sort of things Pat and I have talked a lot of this between ourselves.

We have not overlooked the possibility of two people being there but we shot that down quickly one way or another.

...ctd

Mr HUTTON:

So far as Harvey's body is concerned, there was copper wire wound around the shoulders, under one armpit and over the other shoulder, purely to hold clothing on the body. From the bedspread we found with wire around it we know that wire had been wound round Harvey's neck to keep that on to stop blood getting on perhaps the offender's car. Insofar as the weight is concerned, wire passed twice around Harvey's body in the region of the abdomen had been tied and obviously later the axle weight had been fastened to this wire with a piece of copper wire 8" or 9" long.

Further to this, Jeanette's body just had one single strand of copper wire wound tightly around the two legs just above the two knees and there were clear indications that another piece of wire had been passed through this for the purpose of holding a weight on and had since broken off due to constant friction of the two wires.

Mr O'DONOVAN:

If he went to the house with the intention of disposing of the bodies he would have plenty of wire to weigh them down but for the unforeseen circumstance of so much blood which necessitated the use of more wire to bind the bedclothes on.

I think in consideration of the murders I do not think you can ignore the burglaries and the previous fires. If it is to be considered that they are relevant to the murder enquiry this would more or less indicate that DEMLER had nothing to do here because on one of these occasions at least CREWE was with DEMLER at the time of the incident - the burglary.

Mr BAKER:

I also think that if we are going to consider that any of these previous incidents are connected with the murder, it tends to eliminate someone from outside the area. This is one of the things we looked at very very initially, Pat, because I say you have got this apparently happily married couple with a young baby visiting the old stamping grounds three weeks before the murder. This I think could tend to inflame someone that we have never attached much importance to but the thing possibly against this is that that person would have to be up here on at least one of these previous occasions if we are going to link these incidents and I don't think you can disregard them because they are three incidents dealing with only one farm in the neighbourhood and one couple in the neighbourhood.

Mr O'DONOVAN:

I think in addition to the burglary you have to consider the odd stuff that was taken at the time of the burglary - a brush and comb set, engagement ring and I think a necklace, all the property of Jeanette, when there was money in the house.

Mr SCHULTZ:

I myself don't think they are connected. They are too remote in time. It is over 18 months since the last one before the murder - that was when Jeanette was in the home with the baby.

Mr BAKER:

The relevant dates are:

Burglary - 20 July 1967
Fire in house - 7 December 1968
Fire in hay barn - 28 May 1969

Mr HUTTON:

Just looking at these three dates, they bear no resemblance to Jeanette and Harvey's wedding anniversary, if they have any bearing to the commission of these two murders.

- Mr SCHULTE: I think we are clouding the issue with those things.
- Mr BAKER: Here again that is why we are here, there are so many bits and pieces.
- Mr HUTTON: If these fires and burglaries have any bearing on the deaths of these two people and the offender is not DEMLER, surely one would have expected them to have known and to have mentioned who they feared this person was as the facts must surely indicate that for a person to commit these offences and then commit murder they must have a very real grudge indeed against the CRENE couple.
- Mr BAKER: I cannot agree more. Harvey was always saying "Who would do this to me" or words to this effect. He mentioned KILKOLLY that was any suspect.
- SCHULTE: Were the words "Who would do this to me?" or "Why should this happen to me?"
- Mr O'DONOVAN: I don't think they really gave the intention Harvey thought he was being got at or it was something sent from above.
- Mr TOOTILL: I think if they had known some person had a definite grudge against them there would be some mention of it in letters or diaries or something.
- Mr SCHULTE: He would be quick to seize on a point like that.
- Mr BAKER: I think Maisie would have been the first one in the lead.
- Mr TOOTILL: I think Harvey would have taken some definite action to offset any danger.
- Mr O'DONOVAN: I think this was committed in anger.
- Mr HUTTON: So far as Len DEMLER is concerned, I think it would be fair to say that against him:
1. His actions prior to and after discovery of the blood stained house.
 2. Lack of remorse.
 3. Non-assistance in search.
 4. Blood in his car of same group as Jeanette's.
 5. Scratch on his back - explanation for this obviously not acceptable.
 6. Explanations concerning:
 - (a) Blood
 - (b) Likely suspects KILKOLLY and unidentified mushroom picker
 - (c) Movements (note found in his possession to assist memory).
 7. Knowledge that he had sufficient strength to move two bodies.
 8. Proximity to scene of offence, opportunity for, availability of ready transport and unlikelihood of detection.

Mr HUTTON:
Ctd

Facts against DENLER possibly being offender:

- A. Lack of evidence re .22 firearm or any of this calibre ammunition in his possession.
- B. Lack of evidence re axle being in his possession.
- C. Lack of similar wire being found in his possession to that being found around both bodies.
- D. Indications that in relation to the fires and burglaries that he is not likely to have committed one of the burglaries as there is a suggestion that he may have been home and visited by the CREWES when this crime was committed.
- E. Lack of other blood stains in either of DENLER's vehicles, similarly lack of fibres from blankets, etc.

Mr HUTTON:

We will now discuss the other suspect for these offences, Arthur Allan THOMAS, a farmer, aged 32 years, living at Mercer Ferry Road, Pukekawa. It can be said that:

1. THOMAS lives in close proximity to the CREWE farm, some 3-4 miles away.
2. He is a former boyfriend, or at least self-styled admirer of Jeanette's.
3. He is the owner of a .22 pump action rifle which at present is classed as one of two suspect rifles as being the firearm that fired the bullet into the body of Jeanette CREWE.
4. There is no doubt that there could be a possible motive in regards to THOMAS having committed the murders and this would be classed as jealousy.

Mr JOHNSTON:

History re trailer with 1929 front axle, formerly the property of Mr Charles SHIRTCLIFFE:

SHIRTCLIFFE owned a 1929 Nash car in 1956. At that stage he moved from Auckland to Pukekawa and took with him a trailer which he had made up from a 1929 Nash axle assembly with pressed steel wheels. He subsequently sold this trailer shortly after he arrived at Pukekawa to an unknown person at Meremere. This person's name is probably G.A. WHITE. This person in turn sold it to Allan THOMAS, father of Arthur THOMAS, on 14 April 1959. This was the date shown on the transfer on the ownership papers in relation to the trailer. SHIRTCLIFFE was shown the axle recovered from the body of Harvey CREWE and he was unable to positively identify the axle. However, attached to the axle was a portion of the tie rod which had been drilled in a similar manner to the way that SHIRTCLIFFE had anchored the wheels of the axle, that is the tie rod had been drilled to allow the U bolts to hold the tie rod to the axle.

Allan THOMAS was subsequently seen and the ownership papers in relation to the trailer were obtained from him. When asked as to the present whereabouts of the trailer he was unable to tell us. However, he thought the trailer had been left on the farm prior to his leaving it in 1964.

Another son, Richard THOMAS, told the Police that he thought the trailer had been left at Meremere where a new trailer had been made up from parts of the original trailer.

Mr JOHNSTON:
Ctd

Ronald RASHUSSEN, now residing at Pokeno, who made the new trailer up for THOMAS said that he could not recall retaining the old axle from THOMAS's trailer as it would have been no use to him. As far as he could recall the axle and the two wheels were taken away by Richard THOMAS when the new trailer was made.

Arthur THOMAS has been seen and his farm searched but the trailer could not be found there.

Mr BAKER:

Also, this trailer is registered for the 70/71 period isn't it?

Mr JOHNSTON:

Yes. Two trailers have been registered by Allan THOMAS - one he is in possession of now and also a second trailer which was first registered on 14 April 1959.

Mr HUTTON:

This information has been obtained from the interview of THOMAS (Snr) and has yet to be verified.

Mr PARKES, concerning the previous interview of THOMAS when it was considered he was a possible suspect, can you give a brief summary of your impressions of THOMAS, his build, and that type of thing.

Mr PARKES:

He is a good 6 ft, about 13 perhaps 14 stone, and quite agile and fit. I would say he would be quite strong as I would expect any farmer of his age and physique to be strong. He would have the strength to remove the bodies if it was in question. He appears to me to have an I.Q. in the 90's, somewhere around there. He is not stupid - he is more slow. Apparently happily married.

The interview was taken by Detective Sergeant SEAMAN and myself and we knew about the rifle at this stage. During the course of the interview we put it to him it was definitely his rifle which had killed Jeannette and he would probably be locked up for it and we asked if he would mind going to Auckland for further interview. He seemed quite flabbergasted when we put this to him. I am quite happy that he was not putting it on and we got through any defenses he may have had.

Also his wife has been seen, his wife Vivian. She is an English girl and has been in the country for about seven years and is very astute. She is definitely the brains behind the farm and handles all the books.

They say that he, his wife and the boarder, Peter THOMAS, were at home on the night of 17 June. On one night which they think was the Tuesday night, he was out attending to a sick cow but didn't leave the property. I think he went on his own when he was attending the cow. Don't know how long he was away. They weren't sure what night it was, Tuesday or perhaps the Wednesday night.

That week they went out on Friday night to a Plunket function of some sort at Pukekawa, and went to a football do at Onehunga on the Saturday night.

Peter THOMAS has not been seen as yet. If he verifies Arthur's movements we have got to consider the three of them being involved.

Mr SCHULTZ:

Do you think his wife would support him if he had done this murder?

...ctd

Mr PARKES: I don't think she would. I don't think she is covering up for him.

I have since seen him again and have spoken to him three or four times now and we have never got through to him as much as before when it was put on him that he was the offender. He is more cagey now - expecting to get his face slapped.

Mr JOHNSTON: Fire was taken from the old cow shed adjacent to the present one on THOMAS's farm. It should be noted a piece of copper wire was joined to galvanized type of wire, probably electric fence wire.

Also a packet of .22 ammunition, hollow nose, was taken.

There is plenty of electric fencing wire on the farm. There could be more copper wire.

I thought the way the wire was tied on his farm was somewhat similar to the wire on the body - looped through and twisted.

Mr HUTTON: Prior to throwing it open for any other discussion, I will just briefly cover the position concerning the two suspect firearms.

As a result of a further examination by Dr NELSON on Sunday the 18th, we have now reached the following stage. The two suspect firearms belong to:

- (a) Arthur Allan THOMAS, and
- (b) Annesley EYRE.

During this enquiry some 70 odd .22 firearms have been test fired and all but EYRE's and THOMAS's firearms have been excluded. These two firearms are both pump action Remingtons and have six lands with a right handed twist in the barrels. The lands in both weapons are identical in width.

The EYRE firearm has no individual groove marks whatsoever which would help to identify it as the firearm that had fired any particular bullet.

The THOMAS firearm has five lands with no individual markings but the 6th land in test firing has revealed two slight marks which would very likely be sufficient to identify it as the rifle that had fired a particular bullet.

The bullet recovered from the head of Jeanette CREWE has six lands with right handed twist suggesting that it was possibly fired from a weapon of the same make. The five lands which are clearly identifiable on the exhibit bullet have no individual groove marks and unfortunately the sixth land is badly scored, very likely as a result of coming in contact with bone structure.

The remains of a bullet, which I might mention were badly fragmented, recovered from the body of Harvey CREWE indicate in one of the three lands visible two small marks which may or may not be similar to the marks revealed on the sixth land of a test fired bullet from the rifle of THOMAS.

I might add that I have used the phrase that it may or may not bear some resemblance to the marks on the test fired bullets from THOMAS's rifle due to the fact that the bullet which entered Harvey CREWE's skull was so badly fragmented that Dr NELSON feels that he must say that the marks which are visible in one of the three lands may possibly have been caused by contact with bone structure either at the point of entry or where the bullet ultimately broke up on the right side of Harvey CREWE's skull. Dr NELSON points out it is possible that similar individual marks may have been in the sixth

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Mr HUTTON: land of the bullet recovered from the skull of Jeanette, and that the bone structure may have caused the erasure of these marks.

Mr O'DONOVAN: I think you have covered it fairly well against him - suspect rifle, previous association, and axle which may lead back to the THOMAS farm.

Mr PARKES: The association with Jeanette was in 1960 - THOMAS married in 1964.

Mr O'DONOVAN: Another thing which intrigues me about THOMAS was that he gave a brush and comb set to Jeanette and she had one stolen in the burglary - not the same one.

Mr PARKES: He was living at Maramara when he wanted to take her out.

Mr BAKER: We went and saw the doctor on Friday afternoon, Dr LIGHTBODY, and he said that on 9 February 1968 Vivian THOMAS went and saw him. She had been off the pill for six months and was not pregnant. He saw Arthur THOMAS in December 1968, he does not know when, as the result of the same thing and he was impotent. He was told accordingly, but this would not have any effect on their sexual relationship. The doctor could not recall either of them actually so he could not give any psychiatric details.

She saw him again in January 1970 because she had a tingling sensation in her fingers, and Arthur THOMAS saw him again on 22 June 1970 and 4 September 1970 because he had attacks of boils. The doctor put this down to infection from farming but the doctor could not give any lead or any indication on their marital happiness or anything else.

Mr JOHNSTON: Jeanette was teaching at Maramara. He left the company he was working for after working there five years and went into the Forestry at Maramara at the time Jeanette was working in the district.

Mr BAKER: While she was away in England he went DENLER's and got her address.

Mr PARKES: There were several letters both ways. When she showed him the door she told him there was someone else she was going with and he thinks to this day this was Harvey CREWE - this was not so. He sent her a writing set as a present while she was in England.

Mr JOHNSTON: At the Onawhero Golf Ball he saw Jeanette and Harvey there and never spoke to them - that was after they were engaged.

Mr BAKER: They spoke well of THOMAS at the State Forestry and there was nothing abnormal with him - a bit thick. Would do as he was told. Left to go as a top dressing loader driver and was offered his job back if he ever wanted it.

Mr JOHNSTON: He also worked on the CREWE farm prior to the CREWEs arriving there when HANDCOCK was managing the place. Had his meals in the CREWE house.

Mr PARKES: And also the DENLER house.

Mr JOHNSTON: He has been to the DEHLER house also. He was married in 1964 and came to the present farm in June 1966 - about the same time as the CREWES.

Mr HUTTON: Points against THOMAS:

1. Possible motive - jealousy.
2. Previous relationship - infatuation.
3. Firearm (suspect rifle).
4. Proximity to scene.
5. Availability of transport.
6. Knowledge of CREWE farm through having worked there.
7. Axle (yet to verify whereabouts of similar axle on trailer formerly the property of SHIRTCLEIFFE).
8. Fires and burglaries. (If these are connected THOMAS could be implicated as it will be noticed that one of these incidents has occurred for each year following the marriage of Jeanette and Harvey CREWE, culminating in the double murder in the fourth year.)

Points in favour of THOMAS not being the offender:

1. Alibi for the evening of 17-6-70 - appears as though wife and boarder will verify that he was home on the night in question and did not go out.
2. Well thought of in the district.
3. Married man - well settled on homestead farm.
4. Time lapse since association with Jeanette.

Points still to be covered re THOMAS:

1. Finances.
2. Examination thereof re possibly being identical with No. 8 ammunition similar to bullet recovered from both bodies.
3. Wire - further search to be made of farm for copper and galvanised wire similar to that found on bodies, and together with present exhibits of wire from THOMAS's farm to be taken or sent to Wellington for examination.
4. Verify movements for all of 17 June 1970 re possibility of THOMAS attending the clearance sale at Bombay and the rate-payers' meeting at Glen Murray.
5. Further attempts to be made to identify as many persons as possible who attended that meeting.
6. THOMAS's whereabouts during previous fires and burglaries - employment check may assist.
7. M.O. check.
8. Reading material.
9. Query re non-participation in search for bodies.
10. Close inspection of transport.
11. Pliers.

Conference considered that apart from THOMAS and DEMLER, from the enquiries there does not appear to be any other person remotely involved.

Conference concluded that every effort must be made immediately either to confirm THOMAS as a suspect or exclude him altogether from the enquiry.

