

# Significant clues lacking in probe

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Of the Register-Guard

JUNCTION CITY — Lane County sheriff's deputies worked without significant leads Thursday as they probed the brutal murders early Wednesday morning of Terry L. Dade, 19, of Junction City and his wife, Julie, 20.

Sheriff's Capt. Ronald Eggleston said investigators had begun the long process of questioning friends, neighbors and other persons who might have information on the slayings. He said there were no suspects in the case and no apparent motive.

Lane County District Attorney John Leahy said officers were working to piece together the events surrounding the murders. "We don't know the sequence at this time," he said. "It would be just speculation to try to say how it occurred at this time."

Mrs. Dade's body was found beneath a burning auto at a trailer park on the south edge of Junction City at 4:50 a.m. Wednesday.

Residents of the park said they heard an explosion, saw the blazing auto parked in a carport and summoned firemen. One resident who attempted to douse the roaring blaze with a fire extinguisher spotted the body beneath the auto minutes before firemen arrived.

The body was severely charred by the time the fire was extinguished. Leahy said an autopsy showed that Mrs. Dade had been killed by "strangulation and massive blows to the head" before being placed beneath the auto.

He said the murderer apparently used a small instrument, "like a screwdriver," to puncture the gas tank, then ignited the leaking gasoline. The auto, a white 1962 station wagon, was owned by Ferris R. Norman, a resident of the trailer park. He was asleep in his mobile home when the fire started.

At mid-morning Wednesday, deputies who had been questioning residents in the south part of Junction City learned that during the night screams had been heard in the Maples Apartment complex. The apartments are about a half-mile from the trailer park.

Residents of the apartments said a baby had been heard crying earlier in Unit 11, the Dades' apartment.

Officers who investigated at the apartment found the body of Dade, who had been bludgeoned to death. The couple's year-old son, Mark, was in a crib in another room.

An initial police report said that Dade had been shot in the head with a large caliber weapon, but an autopsy revealed his wounds had come from a beating with a blunt instrument.

Mrs. Dade apparently was slain and placed beneath the Norman car only minutes after she attempted to escape her killer by fleeing from his car in the 200 block of S.W. Laurel Street. Residents of the neighborhood reported that a woman attempted to flee to the door of a house about 4:30 a.m.

They said she was dragged into a



T. L. Dade



Mrs. Dade

white station wagon by a husky man who then searched the street surface with a flashlight before driving away. The man returned minutes later on foot and again searched the street. Police did not disclose what, if anything, had been found on Laurel Street by the apparent killer, or in subsequent searching by investigators.

Eggleston indicated Dade apparently was killed a short time before his wife was murdered. The weapon used in both cases apparently was a very heavy and blunt instrument, he said.

Law officers Wednesday night questioned and released the driver of a white station wagon in Junction City. Laurel Street residents who viewed the man were unable to offer positive identification and officers said they were satisfied he had no connection with the crime.

The Dades' son was kept Wednesday by the wife of a Lane County officer who lives in the Junction City area. The child is now in the custody of Mrs. Dade's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, 90 Azalea St., Eugene.

The Dades were married in 1968. Their son, Mark Lynn, was a year old Tuesday, the day before his parents were killed.

Mrs. Dade, an attractive blonde, was a 1967 graduate of North Eugene High School.

Besides her son and parents, Mrs. Dade is survived by a sister, Annette, 18, and a brother, Henry James, 16, both students at North Eugene; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Millard Kidd of Sand Point, Idaho, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thompson of Hoquiam, Wash.

Mrs. Dade was born Aug. 8, 1949 in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. She moved to the Eugene area with her family about eight years ago.

Terry Lynn Dade was born Aug. 21, 1950 at Junction City. He was a 1968 graduate of Junction City High School.

At the time of his death he was employed at the American Can Co. plywood mill in Junction City, working on the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dade of Junction City, brothers, Patrick, Steve and Kim, a sister, Sandy, and grandparents, Mrs. Mable Pope and L. R. Dade, all of Junction City.

Funeral services for the couple will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in the First Christian Church, Junction City. Interment will be in Rest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.