-Adams murder

(Continued From Page 1)

finally broke down and gave a statement to the police, it was learned, after a colored policeman questioned him Thursday.

Sergeant Palmer had been picked up for questioning last week at the same time Miss Jefferson was picked up. He was released then, however, and was arrested again Thursday at 2 p.m.

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MISS JEFFERSON agreed to sign a statement after police had confronted her with Palmer's admission.

She called her attorney, Robert Watts, in the Parkville Jail and signed a statement which named her as an accessory in the case rather than a defendant.

The statement is supposed to say that when Adams was being choked with the stocking, she ran away.

Miss Jefferson was friendly with both Crooms and Sergeant Palmer and the night of the murder, left the Adams Inn in Turner Station where she was employed in the company of Adams and Mrs. Beatrice Reed, a waitress.

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MISS JEFFERSON had been held in lieu of $5,000 bail as a material witness ever since the badly beaten and garrotted body of John Irvin Adams was found.

The Adams family believed that the murder took place in a one-room shack behind the scene of the recent numbers raid.

The family, however, did not believe that Adams would have gone voluntarily in a place like that in the middle of the night.

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DETECTIVES expressed the belief that Adams was lured there on the suggestion that he look over the place as another numbers headquarters.

It was also learned that there was no romantic attachment between John Irvin and the barmaid divorcee.

The dapper and handsome Crooms was brought to the station at 9:45 o'clock Thursday night from the county police headquarters in Towson. After questioning at the station Crooms was returned to Towson.

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CROOMS APPEARED at the station accompanied by Lt. Gordon Holmes and Sgt. Elgin Overby of the Baltimore County Police. He was dressed in a light brown suit, a brown sport shirt, a tan hat and brown shoes. He was smoking a cigar.

As he was searched at the station he appeared calm and collected. While held in the Dundalk Police Station Crooms had been relieved of his belt and shoe laces, a precaution always followed with murder suspects.

Police revealed, however, that at the Towson station he had been permitted to retain his belt although his shoe laces were taken away from him.

A county police officer revealed that Crooms had told them that his treatment by the county police was "better" than the treatment he had received from New York police.

Crooms, an ex-Sing Sing inmate, broke parole several years ago when he was accused of shooting at his father in a dispute of $3,000.

He was acquitted of this charge, but was returned to Sing Sing where he served four years and eight months for violation of parole.

Crooms, who has reportedly boasted he was never again going to jail, has a mania against being locked up.

"He said that if this had been in New York all his teeth would have been knocked out by now," one officer said.

Although Miss Jefferson was reported "nervous and upset," in the brief glimpses reporters had of her she appeared quite calm and even smiled on several occasions.

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THE PARKVILLE Police Station was crowded with reporters, photographers and television men after it was learned that the long awaited break in the Adams slaying had been made.

Miss Jefferson had been held in the modern one-year-old police station since her arrest. Sergeant Palmer had been held there since his arrest early Thursday afternoon.

Miss Jefferson and Sergeant Palmer were the only prisoners housed in Parkville station Thursday night.

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IN THE BRIEF statement issued by Chief of Police Hamilton F. Atkinson Thursday night, he had this to say:

"Shortly after a conference between Helen Jefferson and her attorney my men reported to me that a break in the case was imminent.

Chief Atkinson stated that Capt. Gilbert L. Doyle, chief of county detectives, "has established the time and place of the crime as well as all of the basic facts regarding the manner of the homicide."

No other official comment regarding the actual slaying was worthcoming from county authorities.

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THE RETICENCE of county officials was explained briefly by State's Attorney Raine.

"The information conference will be confined to the minimum," he said, "because of the Grammer Case. There will be no reconstruction of the crime."

In the Edward Grammer case, county officials revealed that they had secured statements from the suspect and even reconstructed the crime for reporters. The case was later transferred from the county jurisdiction and Grammer was tried in Baltimore City.

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THE OFFICER behind the cracking of Sergeant Palmer has been identified as Officer Frances Jackson, assigned to the Catonsville area and a member of the county police force for five years.

Officer Jackson was brought into the case on Monday night and when the final break came had had only nine hours sleep since.

• • •

SERGEANT PALMER is the surprising element in the slaying. A native of Texas, his family moved to California when he was young and he was raised there and attended school there.

He left UCLA during his senior year when he became 1-A in the draft. Ironically, he was due for a discharge from the army in 34 days. At UCLA he was majoring in business administration.

At Fort Holabird he is attached to Co. D STU Battalion, 8379 Division.

A married man, Sergeant Palmer is the father of two children. His wife and children are now with her mother in Houston, Texas.

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WHEN THE three suspects will be arraigned is not known at the moment.

"It is highly probable the case will be referred directly to the grand jury," said Mr. Raine. "At the present date no arrangements have been made for a preliminary hearing."

"Bail," he said, "will be fixed at a later date."

Crooms, of course, will be held without bail, since he is accused of the actual murder. The $5,000 bail already set for Miss Jefferson was for her being held as a material witness.

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BALTIMORE COUNTY police came in for high praise from the many county officials who were present at the station house Thursday night.

Each official singled out the work of the colored officers who had worked on the case.

• • •

Captain Doyle commended colored officers assigned to the case.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER Michael Birmingham went even further.

"A great deal of credit should go to the few colored police in Baltimore County who worked tirelessly to clean up this case," he said.

"Other people were trying to give them a black eye while they've been out working.

"I had my utmost confidence in Chief Atkinson and Captain Doyle," continued Commissioner Birmingham.

"I'm very happy about the work they have done and this is certainly a vindication for them."

• • •

THE FOUR colored officers on the county force, in addition to Officer Jackson are Officers Walter Myers, Armond Elliott and Raymond Horsey. The latter are stationed in the Turner Station area.

Officer Horsey is the son of John (Long John) Horsey who went on trial this morning in the numbers raid in Turner Station.

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CHIEF ATKINSON, in reading his prepared statement to the press said:

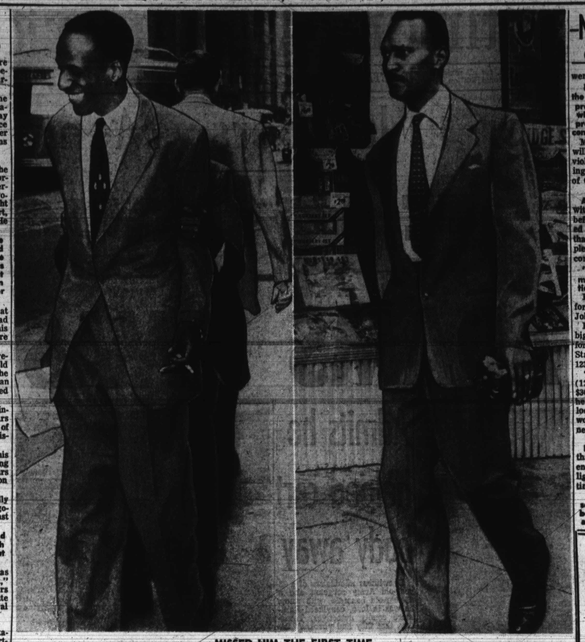
"I wish to thank the Maryland State Police and the Baltimore City Police for their offers of assistance. My confidence in the men of my department has been justified by their actions.

"I am glad that the work of our department made any outside help unnecessary."

State's Attorney Raine called it "a joint effort of many, many officers," revealing that 25 members of the county force worked on the case.

The only statement he would make regarding the motive for the slaying was that it was "a non-organized crime motive."

This was in obvious reference to reports in some papers that Adams was slain by a large out-of-town numbers syndicate which was trying to take over his lucrative business in the Turner Station-Spurrows Point area.



MISSED HIM THE FIRST TIME

Bernard Bowser demonstrates the new technique in dodging an AFRO photographer—hiding behind the reporter. The second time, right, we got him when he wasn't looking. He is a key witness in the Carr Murder case.

—Barmaid's sister

(Continued From Page 1)

ter. She lived in New York 11 years.

"Then she volunteered to come home to help care for my semi-invalid father. At that time (in 1951) I was teaching on the Eastern Shore and could only get home on weekends.

"My sister administered to all of his needs until I got a job teaching at Bannaker High School in Catonsville. She took a job as waitress at the Adams Inn at night and I worked during the day. That way someone was with my father all the time."

• • •

ALTHOUGH THE Jefferson family was close friends of the Adamses, Miss Jeffers said she did not know John Irvin very well. "He was quite a bit older than I," she said. (She is only 24).

"My sister, however, was a classmate of William (youngest Adams son)", she continued.

She added that she has never been in the Adams Inn. "I don't go to bars or cocktail lounges," she explained.

Miss Jeffers explained that relatives are helping with the care of her father; John Jefferson, pending the outcome of the case. The mother is a patient at Crownsville.

"My father knows nothing of this," she said quickly. "He has a cardiac condition and even though police have been to the house he has not been aware of what was going on.

"He can hardly see now and he does not realize that Helen is not in the house."

Although there is seven years difference between their ages, the sisters could almost pass for twins.

Helen, recently won her divorce in Baltimore County from William Cummings on grounds of divorce. They were married on May 16, 1947 at St. George's Church in Dundalk.

• • •

FOLLOWING THE interview, Miss Jeffers joined her sister and Mr. Watts in a sitting room outside Miss Jefferson's cell.

Miss Jefferson was wearing a blood red wooden dress, white printed neck scarf and black mule shoes.

In her hand was a book "The Ego and I" by Sigmund Freud, which she reportedly has been reading since she was taken into custody.

During the private conversation, Miss Jefferson was observed several times, grasping her throat with her hands and shaking her head vigorously.

Miss Mary Parks, matron at the Police Station, said that Miss Jefferson is "a model prisoner."

"She is very nice," the matron said. "She never complains when I lock the doors or turn out the lights.

"She is never disagreeable. She seems to be satisfied with everything I do for her. She is sad now, but she has smiled off and on when I talked with her.

• • •

"SHE WEPT a little today, (Thursday), but other than that she seems to have been in good spirts. To my knowledge she has never asked to see Mr. Crooms."

Miss Jefferson has been under the custody of the Parkville Police since 5 a.m. Sunday.

Her sister was not aware of what was going on until police came to get her at that time.

PTA meeting held at School No. 135

By ROSELLE M. HUNT

Elementary School No. 135 held its PTA meeting Monday, Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The program began with parent-teacher conferences in the classrooms. The teachers informed the parents of the aims and objectives of the grades and discussed with them ways in which parents might help in achieving the objectives.

A report on the spring bazaar was given. New audio-visual equipment, purchased by the school, was shown and their effectiveness in enriching the program was explained.

-Numbers men

(Continued From Page 1)

were shown to the court.

None of the defendants took the stand. Only Horsey had a previous record. He was on where he had been recently probation in Howard County convicted on a lottery viola-

Mr. Raine said that Horsey will probably face a charge of violation of probation after doing his year stretch in the House of Correction.

• • •

AN AFRO REPORTER talked with Pryor and Horsey the day before the trial. both men seemed in high spirits and reported that "all of the boys" decided to plead guilty and "take what's coming."

"I'm going to Florida tomorrow (Friday) for a vacation, "Pryor jokingly said.

Horsey talked mostly about his former numbers-boss and friend, John Irvin Adams.

He recalled that "Top" was a big - hearted guy who did favors for many persons in the Turner Station Community.

123 Main St.) with about $25 or

"John could leave his house (123 Main St.) with about $25 or $30," Horsey said, "and before he got to the bar (Adams' Inn, located three blocks away) he would give it away to people in need."

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HORSEY REMEMBERED that "Top" was full of nervous energy and when working, would light four or five cigarettes at a time.

"Funny thing though," Horsey stated, "John rarely bought a pack of cigarettes and whom he'd asked you for one, you could bet that your pack would wind up in his pocket."

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Strangely, there was little talk about the violent death of John Irvin whose body was found last Saturday in a thicket off Pulaski Highway.

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AS JOHN IRVIN'S boys prepared to go to jail, they spoke of their leader as they had known him when he lived.

"You can't forget a guy," one of them said, "who took you off the street when you had nothing and gave you a chance to get something out of life."

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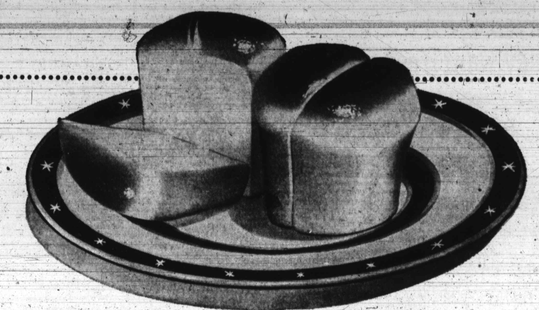

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