

Chicopee, Massachusetts

COMPLAINT SHEET

How Received: ~~Telephone~~
Personal
~~Letter~~

Complaint No. 19,221A

Identification File No.

Date April 15, 1972

Time 8:25

A.M. P.M.

Nature of Complaint: MURDER:

At the above time and date, Officer Burl Howard reported to headquarters via radio that he had found the body of a young person in the Chicopee River lying on its face about five feet from the south bank of the river under the Robinson Bridge which crosses over E. Main St. in Chicopee Falls.

Lts. Radwanski and Saccavino went to the scene immediately and found Lt. Stac in charge with Patrolmen Howard and John Ramos. Headquarters was requested via radio, to notify M.E. Dr. Kraus and request him to come to the scene. He arrived at about 9:05 A.M. and the body was taken from the river. After viewing the body on the river bank, Dr. Kraus authorized removal to the Clerpial Funeral Home on Grape St.

Capt. Rojowski and Lt. Lemay came to the scene before the body was removed and they took measurements.

From the north side of E. Main St. to the river bank there are two cement piers, each 9 ft. wide and 33 ft. long, which support the Robinson Bridge. A large section of blood-stained sand, about 6"x12" was found about 16 ft. from the south side of the northern most pier. Near by were marks in the sand which seem to indicate that some sort of a scuffle had taken place. These marks and the bloodstain were close to a set of tire tracks from a m/v which had driven into the area, backed around and then taken off at a high rate of speed.

From this blood stained area, marks in the sandy soil indicated that some heavy

Complainant's Name Re: Daniel Croteau

House: _____

Tel. No. _____

Complainant's Address 106 Ferncliffe St., Springfield

Office: _____

Complaint Received by Lt. Paul

Reported to Chief Kulig

Complaint concerns stolen lost property—give value _____

Investigation: Yes No

Investigated by Capt. Rojowski—Lts. Lemay—

Radwanski—Saccavino
Sgt. Balthazar

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Time _____ A.M. P.M.

Nature of Complaint: object had been dragged 83' to the edge of the river and ended in a large pool of blood on the river bank directly south of the location of the body in the river. From this pool of blood, bloodstains were found spattered on the rocks and soil for a distance of 15 ft. in a westerly direction.

Photographs of the entire area were taken by Lt. Saccavino and plaster casts of the tire marks were made by Officer Ramos and Lt. Saccavino.

The body was clothed with a tan suede zippered short jacket, trade name TEE-CEE with the left pocket torn off; blue corduroy trousers with a wide brown leather belt; blue socks and high canvas shoes with white soles; and a white tee shirt. In a pocket of jacket, the following items were found: a small wooden box containing a student's dissecting instruments, a blue neck tie with the initials OLSH in white and an examination paper on yellow foolscap with the heading "Daniel" Croteau, Grade 7, Our Lady of Sacred Heart School.

Capt. Rojowski spoke to Sister Helen Elizabeth, principal of OLSH school, who confirmed that Daniel Croteau, DOB 11-12-58, 107 Ferncliffe St., Springfield, was a seventh grade pupil at the school.

Capt. Rojowski then checked the teletype messages for missing persons in the area and found that Daniel Croteau had been reported missing by his parents to the Springfield P.D. at 2:11 A.M. today.

Lt. Lemay and Det. Minnie were sent to the Croteau home to see if Daniel had

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Nature of Complaint: returned and they learned that he was still missing. At 11:00 P.M., Mr. Carl E. Croteau, father of Daniel came to headquarters with the Rev. Richard Lavigne, a close friend of the family and a curate at St. Mary's Parish, 840 Page Blvd., Sofld. Father Lavigne went to the Cierpial Funeral Home where he identified the body as Daniel Croteau.

At 1:45 P.M., Pathologist Dr. George Katsos performed an autopsy on the body of Daniel Croteau. As a result of his examination, he gave the cause of death as fractures of the skull from several blows with some blunt instrument. The autopsy was attended by M.E. Dr. Kraus, Lt. Fitzgibbons S.P., Lt. Radwanski and Lt. Saccavino, who took photographs.

At 2:55 PM, Lt. Radwanski took the temperature of the river where the body was found, using a thermometer provided by the Chicopee Health Dept. and found the temperature to 41° F.

Lt. Fitzgibbons, S.P., Lts. Radwanski and Lemay and Sgt. Balthazar interviewed the family, friends and acquaintances of the deceased, Daniel Croteau.

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Nature of Complaint: 6:30 P.M. - 4-15-72 - With Lt. Fitzgibbons interviewed

He was friendly with victim, mostly at school.

(tel. 782-0459) stated about 8 days prior to this date, he was playing in the yard with his classmates at O.L.S.H. School, when he saw Daniel Croteau run over to a blue m/v with a black top and jump into the front seat. The operator was a white male, about 30, round face, with black hair. He thought the car was a Galaxie. Daniel often talked about a older friend, who was buying him "goodies". He also had plans to go camping either in Vermont or Ludlow, April 17, 1972, with some older companion (friends) they played in the school yard -

With Lt. Fitzgibbons, I went to the home of Carl Croteau of 106 Fercliff Ave. and interviewed both parents and three sons. Oldest Craig, age 20, Joseph, age 17, Michael, age 16. They all mentioned that Danny would not get into a car if he didn't know the operator. They mentioned: helper and very friendly, a employed by the A&P Center of 16 acres.

All three of these subjects fit the description given us by the boy. Danny was suppose to paint for \$10.00.

Mrs. Croteau stated Danny left home about 4 PM and was seen on Kane St. by at 4:10 P.M. with a small neighborhood boy walking towards Friendly's. Reported

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Investigated by Lt. Radwanski

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Date April 15, 1972

Time _____ A.M. P.M.

Nature of Complaint: last seen by _____ in the A&P. This was reported
by his older brother Craig.

I, Lieut. Radwanski, took several samples of blood and earth from scene of
homicide.

April 16, 1972
12:10 P.M. - With Lt. Fitzgibbons, I interviewed
who was staying at _____ residence on _____

He stated he was at the _____ residence about 5 PM, Friday, April 14, 1972 and is
still staying there. He owns a LTD TT blue tires have 6 lines. No evidence to show
that this m/v was used in this homicide.

4:30 P.M. - April 16, 1972 - I observed Father Lavigne at the scene of the homicide,
alone.

April 17, 1972 - With Lt. Fitzgibbons interviewed Father Lavigne. He stated he
received a phone call about 2 weeks ago from Danny sometime around 7-7:30 P.M. from a
home on Granby Rd. Danny said he was lost. The Father said Danny first called the
Rectory, then his home on Edward St. in Aldenville. He picked him up and notified
Danny's parents. Danny spent the night at Father Lavigne's father's home on Edward
Street in Aldenville. Father Lavigne said Danny was a young 13, about a 10 mentally.
Whenever Father Lavigne spoke of taking Danny anywhere, he always interjected that it
was with his brothers or a gang of kids. Other information reveals Danny and Father
Lavigne were often alone.

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Nature of Complaint: Danny was taken up with _____ while
the _____ was getting material for his book. He was suppose to wrestle at the
home. Danny's grandfather, on his fathers side, was living somewhere on
Granby Rd. before his death. Quite often Danny would thumb a ride to the Eastfield
Mall. The following two questions were asked Lt. Radwanski by Father Lavigne. If
a stone was used and thrown in the river, would the blood still be on it? In such a
popular hang out (meaning the Robinson Bridge) with so many cars and footprints,
how can the prints you have be of any help?

Interviewed _____ Danny was looking forward to a
three day weekend at Cape Cod with the Boy Scouts. He heard he was thumbing on
Parker St., possibly to the Eastfield Mall. Stated sometime in the past, a man in a
tan car showed Danny some dirty books. Danny drank beer, showed the other kids how
to smuggle beer into Scouts. At one time, _____ pulled a fire alarm and
beat him up.

1:45 P.M. - April 17, 1972 - _____ - Interview revealed nothing new.

1:50 P.M. - " - Interviewed _____

He saw Danny a week ago. Danny never helped in the store. He was
friendly with _____ and he was caught stealing in the store.

April 18, 1972 - 8:30 A.M. -
8:30 A.M. - Turned over the evidence in the Daniel Croteau homicide to Trooper
Mitchell Jr. who took it to 1010 Commonwealth Ave., State Police Headquarters for
analysis.

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Nature of Complaint: 8:30 A.M. - April 18, 1972 - With Trooper Jagodowski surveillance at the funeral of Daniel Croteau. Took the following registrations of m/vs that had similar pattern of tires found at the scene of homicide.

Mass. Reg. E 79-713

" " G 91-644

R.I. OH 622

Mass. Reg. G 91-630

" " R 17-498

" " 874-075

" " R 14-040

" " 70986

" " N 25-062

" " X 66-476

With Trooper Jagodowski interviewed

student at Western New England College.

employed part time at the

A&P Store, Parker St., Spfld. He had no new information.

Mass was held at St. Catherine of Seina Church on Parker St., 9 AM, April 18, 1972.

Burial at the Hillcrest Cemetery.

April 19, 1972 - With Lt. Fitzgibbons I interviewed

stated several years ago

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Nature of Complaint: the boys around 16 acres told him a queer operating a
would pick kids up and try to make
them, around Duggan High School. Danny Croteau sometime came to home
on Tuesdays to practice wrestling.

Interviewed Sister Superior at O.L.S.H. School. She stated Danny did not serve
any detention on any Friday. Did not go home on the bus the Friday night of his death,
nor the Friday night before that. About 2 weeks ago, Mrs. Rotchford, the fifth grade
teacher at O.L.S.H. picked Danny and Caine up while they were thumbing on Parker St.

April 19, 1972 - With Lt. Fitzgibbons interviewed

He stated Danny had a temper. Always wanted to be
a winner. Stated a student teacher by the name of Larry taught the seventh graders
wrestling on Thursdays. He was He didn't
remember Danny until we mentioned the big kid with red pants. He then said Danny was
a fair wrestler for his class and he knew something about wrestling, as if he took
instructions before.

April 20, 1972 - Interviewed

He said
Danny had a Satanic Bible and would often play at having a black Mass. He said Danny
told him he could buy him some grass if he wanted it. was not definite about
anything. He mentioned seance in Chicopee on Friday nights. Sometimes the rites would
be held with boys and girls and cousins. Spoke with members of the family.

Complainant's Name _____ Td. No. _____ House: _____

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Complaint Received by _____ Reported to _____

If Complaint concerns ^{stolen}lost property—give value _____

Investigation: Yes No Investigated by Lt. Radwanski

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Time _____ A.M. P.M.

Nature of Complaint: April 21, 1972 - Mr. Croteau called and stated a _____ of
_____ , told him he was picked up a queer in a blue car about a week ago.
Checking. _____ , he told me it was sometime last year.

Interviewed _____ She was sure Danny Croteau was at her
home Friday, April 7, sometime after 10:30 P.M. and he called once and asked for
Father Lavigne. Shortly after he was picked up outside of the home by someone in
a red Mustang. (Father Lavigne admitted picking Danny up, but he said it was at
7-7:30 P.M.). _____ said Danny was all dressed up; shirt, tie, herringbone
three-quarter jacket.

With Trooper Mitchell interviewed _____
_____ Traced down story about drugs and
\$400. Turned out to be false.

Interviewed _____ He said there was no scout
meeting April 7, 1972. Danny did not attend the meeting April 14, 1972 and he was
looking forward to it because they were making plans to go camping. The only time
Danny came to the meeting dressed up was if there was a dance at the Duggan School.

Checked the tires on Mass. E 72-029. Father Lavignes father's m/v. Tires do
not match pattern left at scene.
No Scout meeting 4-21-72.

April 22, 1972 - With Trooper Mitchell I interviewed _____ at his home.

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Complainant's Address _____ Office: _____

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Time _____ A.M. P.M.

Nature of Complaint: He stated Danny stole the candle making molds at Eechmere's. He would make candles at school. A family and a family that live at Marsden and Berkshire are cousins of Danny. He often visited them.

Interviewed _____ He mentioned Danny was friendly with _____ and _____

3 P.M. - Mrs. Croteau telephoned and stated she heard from her brother-in-law, who heard from a postal clerk, who heard from his son, family name possible that Friday night, April 14, 1972, about 5 P.M., told the boy that he was playing with Danny Croteau behind the Western New England College.

Showed a herringbone coat to son at It was the one Danny wore in Chicopee, April 7, 1972.

April 23, 1972 - With Lt. Saccavino interviewed

She has one boy age 12, Stated he was never allowed to go that far away from home (Western New England College). Does not know or ever heard of Danny Croteau.

April 22, 1972 - With Trooper Mitchell, I interviewed age 15, of He stated he did not know Danny Croteau.

April 23, 1972 - With Lt. Saccavino, I checked the tires on Did not match pattern left at scene of homicide.

April 24, 1972 - With Trooper Mitchell interviewed

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Complainant's Address _____ Office: _____

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Nature of Complaint:

both were working as janitors at the 16 acres school Friday night, when Danny Croteau disappeared. Both stated Danny would talk to anybody. He was over-friendly. Often during Scout meeting on Friday nights, he would make a phone call to persons unknown and talk about 15 minutes. He would tell them he was talking to his mother.

Interviewed

He stated all

the Croteaus were heavy drinkers.

Complainant's Name _____ Tel. No. _____ House: _____

Complainant's Address _____ Office: _____

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Investigation: Yes No

Investigated by Lt. Radwanski