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Letter to William J. Corrigan suggesting Major James Arlon Call as a suspect

Mildred Diggs

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403 North Luzerne Avenue
Baltimore 24, Maryland
January 25, 1955

Attorney William J. Corrigan
Bay Village P. O. Ohio

Dear Sir:

This is in regards to Dr. Samuel Sheppard. Not so long ago he was the topic of conversation from coast to coast- but I doubt if very many were thinking of him at 2. A.M. one morning last week.

That is when I read the story in the FEBRUARY issue of INSIDE DETECTIVE magazine "You Can't Live on Humming Birds" by John V. Ten Eyck. It concerns a certain Major James Arlon Call (his picture is on page 32)

He was arrested when he attempted to pawn a watch, in Reno, Nevada. In his hotel room a suitcase was found to contain many articles that had been stolen from some of the fashionable homes of Reno. He was thought to be the Squeaky Floor burglar.

At police headquarters an alert reporter from the Reno Gazette, William A. Gold read a newsclip that had been in Major Calls pocket, concerning the murder of a police in Lake Placid, New York three months before. When he contacted the New York State Police he was informed that the search was still going on for the suspect.

Late the following afternoon Captain Muller and Sergeant Blaisdell arrived in Reno. After five hours questioning they declared that Major Call "was their man". Call was extradited to New York State.

In the New York Sunday News of January 16, 1955 appears this from Elizabethtown N. Y. "The Essex County grand jury today indicted former Major James A. Call, 29, on a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the shooting of a Lake Placid policeman. Call, an Air Force deserter was arrested in Reno, Nev. last November after a 15 week manhunt. He was charged with killing Patrolman Richard Pelkey, who died August 10, five days after he was shot while trying to arrest an intruder at an unoccupied Lake Placid summer home."

What has this to do with Dr. Sheppard? Well this--Major Call had been AWOL since May 15, 1954 from the Barksdale Base in Shreveport, La. a week before that he had been in Meridian Miss. August 5, he was in Lake Placid N.Y. October 27 he registered in a Reno hotel from St. Louis as James C. Morgan--giving a NON-EXISTANT address in LAKEWOOD, OHIO.

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Perhaps you could find out where he was July 4th, 1954.
He is bushy-haired.

In the NOVEMBER 1954 issue of INSIDE DETECTIVE magazine on page 20 is a picture of Patrolman Adler of Lakewood, Ohio showing a drawing he had made of the Sheppard case suspect. The lips and nose certainly look like the picture of Major Call on page 32 of the FEBRUARY issue of INSIDE DETECTIVE magazine.

This is positively my own theory--the February Inside Detective article does not mention one word about the Sheppard case.

Hoping this may prove of some value to you, I am,

Yours very truly,

Mildred K. Diggs

Mrs. James E. Diggs
403 North Luzerne Avenue
Baltimore 24, Maryland

Eastern 7-9009

Copy to Bay Village Police Chief.