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AMSEC 15 -- Myrtle Frey Murder

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MYRTLE I. FRAY

Found beaten to death in her bed at Apt. 203, 10911 Lake Ave. Cleveland, Ohio, on May 20, 1962. Police report states - "Investigation discloses the victim suffered bruises of both eyes, apparent fractured nose, and the face was covered with a pillow. The body was nude and partially covered by a bedsheet and a torn nightgown. Blood spattered about the east wall and window curtain. Contents of the apartment not disturbed, apparently nothing stolen."

Fray was a sister to Ethyl Durkin. Durkin was murdered by Richard Eberling November 15, 1983 for which he is currently serving a life sentence.

Similarities between Fray's murder and the Sheppard murder which occurred six years earlier, July 4, 1954 include:

- (a) Murders occurred between 2 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.
- (b) Victims bodies found semi-nude, pajama's and nightgown partially pulled from body.
- (c) Victims beaten about the head and face.
- (d) Blood spattered on curtains and walls.

- (e) No weapon found.
- (f) Evidence murderer cleaned up in Fray bathroom, Sheppard basement sink.
- (g) White women.
- (h) Lived on west side of Cleveland.
- (i) No obvious break-in.
- (j) Beaten with blunt instrument.
- (k) Wounds similar.
- (l) Victims had black eyes from beating.
- (m) Broken nose from beating.
- (n) Stifled screams heard during murder.
- (o) Evidence that both victims disliked Richard Eberling.
- (p) Eberling insists that a woman killed Marilyn Sheppard and that someone dressed in woman's clothing killed Fray.

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|------------|---------------------|
| Exhibit 68 | Police Report |
| Exhibit 69 | Death Certificate |
| Exhibit 70 | News Media Articles |
| Exhibit 71 | Coroners Verdict |
| Exhibit 72 | Report of Autopsy |

Eberling wrote to Cynthia Cooper on December 2, 1991 (see Exhibit 79). The following information is quoted from the letter:

"Myrtle was the youngest, she had a very smart mouth on her. So she remained an outsider as far as Ethel and Belle were concerned."

"She felt a woman did it for various reasons. First off, Myrtle would never left (sic) a man in her house. With her hair in curlers, night gown on only no house coat. Believe her teeth were in a glass soaking. bottle of booze and two shot glasses (used) sitting on the coffee table, with (?) results."

"Her biggest concern, the murder weapon was a item from the kitchen. Like a wooden meat tenderizer, or a rolling pin."

"Ethel felt it was a woman (relative) because thats only way. They could have gained entrance to the apartment. The biggest reason for Ethels concern. Who ever killed Myrtle had to be very dirty from the splashing blood. Very carefully the person washed

up. Then changed clothes wearing the dead womans out, into the public. As per Ethel, 'who would walk out into a public hall in a disaray'? But a spotless person would pass unnoticed. Carried all evidence in a shopping bag."

On July 12, 1994, Cynthia Cooper conducted a telephone interview with Arlene Durkin Campbell. Campbell lived at 18501 Hilliard Road, Cleveland. Her husband is John Campbell. Arlene was a niece to Ethel Durkin. She related the following information:

Arlene Campbell was visiting Ethel Durkin at a time Myrtle Fray and Belle Farrow were present. The four of them were sitting on the porch and engaging in conversation. Richard Eberling was in earshot in the kitchen doing some work. According to Arlene Campbell, Myrtle Fray and Ethel Durkin argued about Richard Eberling. The conversation, according to Campbell, was:

Myrtle: "He's an ex-con. He's taking you. He's a fool."

Ethel: "He's paid and he's fine."

Myrtle: "They don't come that way."

" He's a crook and cannot be trusted."

Ethel: "Be quiet."

Exhibit 76.