

Missing Carrafa employe located

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ROCKVILLE — Pat Sherman, the employe of a 37-year-old Derwood man whose chain-wrapped body washed ashore off Staten Island, N.Y., on August 4, has been located by police, ending the theory that he, too may have been murdered.

An acquaintance of Sherman's said Monday that he, had been hospitalized for several days since he was fired from his job at Gino's Classic Cars in Abingdon, Md., about six weeks ago, and that he has even appeared in court unnoticed on family support charges since July 15.

Sherman worked for Eugene M. Carrafa, co-owner of Gino's Classic Cars, until a reported argument with either Carrafa or his New York partner, Knohl, resulted in his firing. Police were seeking Sherman for questioning regarding the gangland-style murder of Carrafa, whose name has been linked with that of Chicago mobster, John Roselli, because of similarities in their deaths.

Roselli's killing, which was discovered after his body was found chained and floating in an oil drum off Biscayne Bay, Fla., is now under investigation by the FBI. Roselli testified last year before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence during its investigation into the CIA's role in attempts to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

The committee admitted last week that it is also interested in the possible connection between Carrafa and Roselli,

and may initiate its own investigation into the killings.

One source, who knew both Sherman and Carrafa, said Monday that Sherman "liked" Carrafa, and that the firing probably occurred at the hands of Knohl "to cut down on expenses." Sherman "knew nothing about his mess (the murder)," sources said, or about anything that may have led to Carrafa's murder. "But he (Sherman) shoots off his mouth when he's been drinking."

Carrafa reported three valuable

antique cars stolen from the Abingdon shop on July 23. They have not been recovered.

State Police, who are also investigating, said Monday that the insurance policy on the cars was recently increased from \$90,000 to \$157,000, although Carrafa quoted their value to police as \$183,000 at the time they were stolen.

The vehicles, a 1931 Cadillac, a 1935

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Packard, and a 1954 Mercedes Benz, all convertibles, were insured with U.S. Fidelity and Guarantee Company, of Baltimore, one of the city's largest insurance firms, police said.

The local company was Taylor Insurance Agency, of 304 E. Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg. Police said an insurance investigator has been assigned full-time to the case.

Although Circuit Court records in Rockville list Carrafa and Knohl as directors of Classic Cars, Gaithersburg attorney Stanley N. Tashoff, declined to say whether both men contributed equally to the partnership.

If the insurance company pays the claim, Tashoff explained, the money would go back into the corporation, which has other assets, such as cars and equipment.

Asked if Mrs. Carrafa will receive any money from the settlement, Tashoff declined to comment. He said he is meeting with Carrafa's widow, Carol, today, "and if she authorizes me to make a statement, I will do so."

Mrs. Carrafa is employed by the county's Department of Motor Vehicles in Rockville, and one source commented that "I wouldn't be surprised if she's left penniless." Mrs. Carrafa did not own expensive jewelry, and the couple did not live in a pretentious manner, according to sources.

Police confirmed that Knohl "has a criminal record" over and above his arrest the first week of August on sodomy charges. Knohl was later released on \$150,000 bond, according to reports.

According to the 60th Police Precinct in New York, Knohl's prior convictions

include rape, extortion, and policy (numbers.) Police there said Knohl raised the \$150,000 in cash bail.

Sources said Knohl, listed as a resident of Seagate, N.Y., also has a bodyguard, Bob White, who accompanies him everywhere.

Two of Carrafa's friends said Monday that "he (Carrafa) trusted everybody. . . he walked into a trap" of some kind when he left for New York on July 28 reportedly to talk to Knohl about the purchase of an antique car.

Sources also said that Carrafa "didn't even take a toothbrush with him . . . or his hair blower," which he always carried on overnight trips.

When Mrs. Carrafa reported her husband missing on August 1, she said Knohl had telephoned her to say Carrafa had gone to California to buy the antique car.

"Carol knew nothing about the business," sources explained. "Some men never tell their wives anything."

Another source said Carrafa "wanted to get out of the business" with Knohl and open his own paint shop."