

Ex-Employee of Slain Car Dealer Is Located

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An employee of a Harford County, Md., antique car dealership, who was reported missing over the past week-end a week after his employer was found murdered, was spotted in a Harford County bar Sunday night by a Maryland state trooper.

Montgomery County police had reportedly been concerned that Patrick Sherman, the employee, might have met with foul play.

Sherman, an employee of Gino's Classic Cars, was questioned briefly by trooper Michael Burns at the Country Inn in Abingdon, a few hundred yards down Rte. 40 from the car dealership, Burns said yesterday.

The body of Eugene Carrafa, the owner of Gino's Classic Cars, was found floating in New York Harbor off Staten Island on Aug. 4 with chains wrapped around the waist and two anchors attached to the waist. Carrafa had been strangled.

A Montgomery County police source said yesterday that Sherman had attended Carrafa's funeral in Waterbury, Conn., late last week.

The report of Sherman's reappearance was the latest development in the investigation of the gangland-style murder of Carrafa, who had lived in Rockville since the mid-1960s.

A police source said yesterday that Montgomery County's organized crime squad is also investigating the possibility that the death of a Chicago woman—the wife of a Marine Corps buddy of Carrafa—might be connected to Carrafa's murder.

Janice Mae Piccerelli, the source said, reportedly committed suicide in a Chicago hotel three weeks ago. Her death was caused by a drug overdose, the source said.

In addition, a week before Carrafa left for New York, three of his antique cars, reportedly valued at \$183,000, were stolen from his dealership.

According to the police source, Carrafa's wife, Carol, was called by his business partner, Jay Knohl a few days after Carrafa left. Knohl told her that Carrafa planned to travel to California to look into purchasing more antique cars, the source said.

Two days after Carrafa's body was discovered, Knohl was arrested in Brooklyn, N.Y. and charged with two counts of sodomy involving two 9-year-old boys.

He was released last week on \$150,000 bail.

Montgomery County's organized crime squad was asked last week to assist New York police in investigating Carrafa's murder, since his strangulation death and the disposal of his weighted body in the harbor were methods similar to many gangland slayings.