

Phone-Taps And Rival Undertaker

Reuter

PERPIGNAN, France, Oct. 26—Undertaker Marie Brison couldn't understand why business was so bad. Then she discovered a rival funeral director had been "body-snatching" with a phone-tap.

Mrs. Brison became suspicious when the number of burials handled by her funeral parlor in this southern French town suddenly dropped by two-thirds last summer. But it was only last week that she tracked down the root of the problem—a combined microphone and phone-tap hidden in the ceiling.

By listening in and even redirecting calls to his own number, a rival had been beating Mrs. Brison to bereaved families telephoning for her services by rushing his assistants around ahead of her.