

Police Baffled By Prof's Slaying

Homicide officers investigating the slaying of Henry M. Delaune brought a tall, blond youth into the Central Lockup in handcuffs today and booked him as a deserter from the Marine Corps. They would not comment on whether he is being held in connection with the Delaune case.

Police were baffled today by the slaying of Henry M. Delaune, 41-year-old college teacher who was found shot to death in his French Quarter apartment.

"We know practically no more than that the man was shot by a person unknown to us," said Capt. Anthony Polito, commander of the homicide division.

"WE ARE convinced that it is a homicide, principally because no weapon was found."

Delaune's nude body, with two gunshot wounds in the chest, was found in the doorway of his apartment, 828 Burgundy.

Police said it appeared robbery was not the motive for the murder, but a check was being made to determine if anything of value is missing.

A REPORT said police were summoned to the apartment shortly before 12:50 a.m. yesterday, and were met by Miss Joan Bubbitt, 23, of 826 Burgundy, and Case Casso, 23.

The police report also said hours earlier police were called about a disturbance in

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the vicinity of the apartment house, but found nothing.

Delaune, former head of the English Department at Xavier University here, was employed as an English teacher at Nicholls State College in Thibodaux at the time of his death.

WHILE A faculty member at Xavier, he was one of 23 persons in the South selected for a grant under the United Negro College Fund's faculty fellowship fund. The grant was to continue his studies toward a doctorate degree in "Eighteenth Century English" at Tulane University.

Police said Delaune recently purchased the property at 828 Burgundy and rented three apartments. He lived in a ground-floor apartment. Delaune was a native of Lockport and had lived in New Orleans the past 25 years.

Delaune is the brother of Jules Delaune, who works in the coroner's office and of Mrs. Nicholas J. Chetta, wife of the late coroner. Relatives said he once worked as a clerk in the coroner's office while teaching at Xavier.

OTHER SURVIVORS include his mother, Mrs. Josephine Claudet Delaune; brothers, Aivin, Sidney J. and Alfred Delaune; sisters, Mrs. J. Henry Coates, Mrs. Gordon J. Landry, Mrs. Jules H. Clement and Miss Myrtle Delaune.

Funeral services were held this morning at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Memorial hwy., with a Requiem Mass in the chapel. Interment was in Hope Mausoleum.

The death of Delaune led friends at Xavier to recall that one of the projects he often talked about a biography of Samuel Johnson.

"IT WAS RATHER a strange contrast for a man so gentle and mild-mannered as Delaune to want to write the life story of a man who was anything but mild-mannered, a rough hot-tempered person, to say the least," said one friend.

"But Johnson fascinated him and he often talked about writing a good account of Johnson's career.

"It is hard to reconcile Delaune's violent end with his peaceful life. He was the kind of man who seldom raised his voice. He seldom went in for strong opinions."

DELAUNE was on the faculty at Xavier from 1956 to 1966, joining as an associate professor and rising to professor.

"He had obtained his Ph.D. at Tulane University," recalled a friend. "He had a B.A. from Rice University.

"Formerly he had taught at The Citadel in South Carolina and had been in the Navy.

"HE LIKED to travel, but one of his main hobbies was the refinishing of furniture and the collection of antiques. He liked to take an ordinary piece of furniture and turn it into a work of art.

"Another hobby was playing tennis.

"He was very much in love with New Orleans."