

Agents Say Killing at Beach Hotel Was Underworld Contract Murder

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There "is not doubt," federal sources said Friday, that the execution-style slaying of a Miami Beach hotel owner was an underworld contract killing.

The dead man, Hector Maury, 38, a father of five, was an informant for FBI agents in Hudson County, N.J.

Maury, who owned a Union City, N.J., tavern, was a legitimate businessman, sources said, who became acquainted with underworld narcotics dealings and cooperated with federal agents.

Maury moved his family to Dade County last September.

THAT SAME month narcotics kingpin Enrique Barrera — who had been sentenced to 25 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine for attempting to smuggle \$60-million worth of heroin into the United States — escaped with six other major narcotics racketeers from the Federal House of Detention in Greenwich Village.

Barrera last was reported seen leaving Union City, N.J., in a white Cadillac in January.

Apparently fearing he would be found by Barrera, Maury reportedly

went to FBI agents in Miami in February.

He was questioned, but the outcome of that meeting is unknown.

U.S. Marshal Donald Forsht said Friday that his men were "aware of Maury's presence" in Miami but that the victim had never requested federal protection.

MAURY, attempting to start a new life in Miami, bought the 50-year-old Roosevelt Hotel, at 1255 Pennsylvania Ave., Miami Beach, in December.

Doing much of the repair and renovation work himself, he was keeping the hotel — which usually closed in the off-season — open for the summer.

He left his Hialeah home in his brown Cadillac Coupe de Ville — with a bumper sticker supporting legalized gambling casinos — Thursday morning and arrived at the hotel at 7:45 a.m., Miami Beach Detective Sgt. Gordon Ridge said.

He relieved night clerk Constantine Dovanos, 30, and accepted a \$126 rent payment from an elderly woman tenant at 8 a.m.

She apparently was the last person other than the killer, to see him alive.

MINUTES LATER, gunfire startled the hotel's residents.

Maury was shot six times with a .45-caliber weapon and left dying amid the clutter under a lobby stairwell.

His wallet, gold watch and heavy gold ring with diamonds were undisturbed.

"It doesn't appear to be a robbery," Sgt. Ridge said. "We don't know why he was killed, exactly, or whether there were one or two killers.

"ONE WITNESS saw somebody coming out the front door. Another saw a man going out the back. There may have been two."

Maury was known to carry a .38-caliber revolver in his car, Ridge said, but the weapon has not been found.

Maury had owned a bar, liquor store and apartment house in Union City. His wife was in New Jersey handling the sale of their property there when he was killed.

She learned of her husband's death when she called him at the hotel for a business consultation and a policeman answered the telephone.

Miami Herald - 6/7/75