

Flynt Assailant, Building Linked

By CAROLYN CARLSON

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — A gunman hiding in an abandoned building may have fired the shots that critically wounded Hustler magazine creator Larry Flynt and one of his attorneys, police said Tuesday.

"We really don't know if we're looking for a demented person or a religious fanatic or the guy next door," Gwinnett County Police Chief John Crunkleton said.

"It appears the shots could have come from the abandoned building across the street," about 100 feet from where Flynt fell, Crunkleton said.

Flynt, 34, and his local attorney, Gene Reeves Jr., 47, remained under police guard in critical condition in Button Gwinnett Hospital. Flynt had parts of his intestines and his spleen removed during about seven hours of surgery. Physicians repaired stomach and liver damage to Reeves.

A bullet remained lodged near Flynt's spine, according to an aide, Andrew Jaffe.

Flynt's wife, Althea, and President Carter's sister, Ruth Stapleton, were among the few people who got to see Flynt Tuesday. He joked with them, saying, "If I could get rid of the pain, the rest would be duck soup," Jaffe said.

"Larry Flynt is one of my good friends, one of my good Christian friends," said Mrs. Stapleton, whom Flynt credits with converting him to a follower of Jesus Christ.

Flynt and Reeves were shot at noon Monday as they returned to court after having lunch at a cafeteria. The pornography publisher was standing on a charge of distrib-

uting obscene material—the August, 1977, issue of Hustler.

There is "an extreme scarcity of leads" in the case, authorities said.

Several persons saw the shooting, he said, but none could identify the assailant.

Flynt was struck by bullets from a .44-caliber rifle, according to sources at the state crime laboratory. A newsman said he saw police bringing shell casings out of the abandoned brick and magstone building across the street from where Flynt was shot.

An investigator for the county prosecutor's office, Ralph McGee, confirmed that "at least one bullet casing" was found in the building.

Police cordoned off the two-story building, which has glass broken out of several windows. Newsmen said they saw technicians taking plaster casts from behind the building and in an alleyway alongside it.

Earlier reports by Flynt's attorneys, that the shots had been fired by a man in a passing car, were discounted, police said in a statement. A car being sought had been located and its driver cleared of any connection with the shooting, the statement said.

The shooting was similar to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, which Flynt was investigating. Kennedy was shot by a gunman hiding inside a building, according to the Warren Commission report.

Flynt has offered \$1 million for information about the Kennedy shooting. The man he hired for a new investigation of the assassination, Mark Lane, arrived here on Tuesday to investigate the shooting of Flynt.