

New twist in Carrara investigation

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• ROCKVILLE — Another block has fallen into place in the Cosa Nostra case which Montgomery's organized crime unit is attempting to build in connection with the death of Eugene (Gino) Carrara, the murdered Derwood antique car dealer.

Janice Mae Piccerelli, a known companion of Chicago underworld figures and also known to Carrara, died on July 21, the "apparent" victim of an overdose, according to a Chicago coroners' report issued at the time of death. When the body was discovered, Mrs. Piccerelli had been dead for about four days.

But the Medical Examiner's report has just revealed that her liver failed to show any traces of barbiturates, narcotics or tranquilizers. The alcohol content was equivalent to only one drink. The report also noted that there were no needle marks on the body.

Sources said suspicions that she, too, was murdered have now been confirmed. The manner of death may have been suffocation, sources said.

Mrs. Piccerelli's former husband, Louis, served in the Marine corps with Carrara and his partner, Jay Knohl, a resident of Sea Gate, N.Y., who is also missing. Knohl forfeited \$150,000 bond after failing to appear on a sex assault charge in New York last month.

A myriad of facts have emerged since August 4, when Carrara's body washed ashore off Staten Island, N.Y. He had been strangled and his waist wrapped in padlocked chains. Mrs. Piccerelli's death was the first incident in a series of clues, still unfolding, leading to the reason for Carrara's gangland killing.

The "apparent" overdose cause of death was listed after Chicago police found several nearly empty prescription bottles in her hotel apartment, and a bottle of Scotch, three-quarters empty, on her bedside table. Her body was found lying on the bathroom floor in such a position to indicate she may have been dragged there four days earlier, sources said.

New York police have already confirmed that both Carrara and Knohl were in Chicago the week Mrs. Piccerelli died, apparently for a classic car auction. But two apparently unused auction tickets for July 17 have turned up, indicating the two men may never have attended the auction, sources said.

On July 23, Carrara reported the theft of three valuable antique cars from Gino's Classic Cars in Abingdon, Md. The insurance policy on the cars had recently been increased from \$90,000 to \$157,000, according to State Police. The cars have not been located, and the insurance company has not paid up on the policy.

On July 28, Carrara left his Derwood home to visit Jay Knohl in New York. On

the same day, Chicago mobster John Roselli left his Florida home for the last time. Roselli's body was found several days after Carrara's, also floating in an oil drum and wrapped in chains, off Biscayne Bay.

Roselli had already testified once before a Senate committee looking into the CIA's possible connection with assassination plots against Cuban leader Fidel Castro, and was expected to be recalled before the committee.

Last month, the FBI entered the investigation into Roselli's death, and a possible Carrara connection, but refused to comment on reports that Roselli and Carrara had met in a Chicago motel last Spring, stating that "we'd rather not discuss any aspects of the case."

Police, however, have made a connection between Carrara and a Bronx, N.Y., establishment called Romano's Funeral Home, which is frequented by members of the Cosa Nostra. It has also been revealed that Roselli was in contact with Washington, D.C., underworld figures just prior to his death.

Underworld gambler Charles (The Blade) Tourine is believed to be in operation in Washington currently, and is a member of the late Vito Genovese (Cosa Nostra) family. Police said the Washington underworld figures known to Roselli have been linked to a Cosa Nostra soldier in the Genovese family.