

N.O. Stripper Found Dead In Apartment

The nude, bruised body of a blonde strip-tease dancer was found lying on a mattress early today in a littered, third-floor French Quarter apartment which also held a small arsenal.

Police identified the woman as Betty Helton, 22, of 506 Gov. Nicholls, who danced at the Old Opera House Bar under the name of "Kitty Revelle."



BETTY HELTON

Her death was unclassified pending an autopsy.

Held for Questioning

Held for questioning was Dennis Hoyde, 24, of 506 Gov. Nicholls, who shared the apartment with the woman.

Sam Moran, chief investigator for the Orleans Parish coroner, said the apartment also contained a .30-06 Enfield rifle with a cigar box full of shells, a .45-caliber Army Colt automatic with about 500 rounds of cartridges, and a case of shotgun shells.

ing around on the floor of the apartment, as though suffering some internal pain.

He said she banged her arms and legs against the floor and that he tried to hold her down so she would not be injured.

Police said Hoyde told them Miss Helton was nude and that she often went about the apartment in the nude because she felt more comfortable that way.

Hoyde told police he blamed himself for the death because he did not call for an ambulance when she was in apparent pain.

When Miss Helton became quiet, Hoyde said, he thought she was asleep and he went

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Dancer--

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into another room and went to sleep.

Police said the death to all appearances was a natural one.

Hoyde said he awakened about 2:45 a. m. and, checking on the woman, found her body. He said he went downstairs and asked the manager of a restaurant on the ground floor to call police.

'Very Lonely Person'

Hoyde described the dead woman as "a very lonely person—just like me. We're both alone in the world."

Police said the apartment is plastered with pictures cut from magazines and pictures were pasted on jars and bottles in the apartment.

A sword had been stuck in the floor in one room. There were several mattresses and straw mats on the floors.

Moran said the littered apartment also contained a number of modernist paintings by Hoyde.

One of the cartons of pistol ammunition, Moran said, had pasted on it a newspaper clipping which bore the words, "A Day of Disaster," in large type.

The case is being investigated by Sgt. James Howley and Det. George Bouyelas of the Homicide Squad.

*Barbara Reid says
she knew Bruce
Towers*

Moran said the body bore bruises on both hips and both knees were freshly scraped.

Hoyde told police the guns and ammunition belonged to a man, sought for some time by police and unidentified, who formerly lived in the apartment with Miss Helton. Hoyde said he hadn't seen the man in about six weeks.

Hoyde gave this account to police:

About 7 o'clock last night the Helton woman began roll-

11/7/69-later

Dear Moo,

Now that you have a few minutes besides the time you'll be sleeping (I hope), I have something else to ask of you. In going over some files to run them into my main file I found a xerox of what looks like a States-Item story, the date is illegible but seems to be 5-31-63.

This is the story of the death of a dancer named Betty Melton, who danced as Kitty Havelle. She allegedly threw some kind of fit in the apartment she shared with Dennis Hoyde. She had earlier share the apartment with an unnamed man who, when he left, left behind a 30-06 Enfield, a cigar-box full of shells, a .45 Army Colt with about 300 shells and a case of shotgun shells, according to Sam Moran, chief investigator of the coroner's office. Sgts James Howley and Det. George Bouvelas of Homicide investigated.

When she was throwing these fits, Hoyde merely sought to restrain her. When she fell quiet he is said to have said he thought she was asleep. This happened 7 p.m. He said he went to bed in another room, but when he found her at 2:30 a.m. he called police.

All of this may be just that way. The chief interest I have is that I have an Oswald picture with several unidentified New Orleansers in it. One is said to resemble Dennis Hoyde. He was held for questioning, so I am assuming there will be a report and perhaps a picture. If so, I'd like to see, please.

Betty is said to have known a man who figured peripherally in checking out the story you heard me get from the pretty girl who knew Thornley, Barbara, in Virginia.

Thanks,

Gary-this is in reference to the Martin film, one of the men in it. The dead girl knew a sado-masochist, he was also a professional thief, working in one of the tourist attractions in N.C.
Harold Weisberg