

4 Youths Held in Murder Of Illustrator in Park Here

By LEE DEMBART

Six days of "old-fashioned detective work" culminated yesterday in the arrest of four youths in the murder of Roger Hane, the magazine illustrator who was fatally beaten by bicycle thieves last week as he rode in Central Park.

The youths, two 16 years old, one 13 and one 12, were seized shortly before Mr. Hane was eulogized in memorial services as a "creative, sensitive mind" who had fallen victim to "a senseless act of violence."

Detective Joseph O'Donnell, one of the policemen who broke the case, said he was "exhilarated" by the arrests, which followed days of piecing together descriptions of bicycle thefts and bicycle thieves and trooping up and down "hundreds of tenement stairs."

2 Others Being Sought

Two other youths, whom the police declined to name or describe, were still being sought.

"We checked and rechecked and rechecked past bicycle thefts," Detective O'Donnell said yesterday at the 20th Precinct station house on West 82d Street. "We were climbing lots of stairs and talking to people and people and people until we got something."

Mr. Hane, who was 36 years old, was test-riding his new 10-speed, Lejeune bicycle last Friday evening on the park's East Drive near 85th Street when he was beaten and the bicycle was stolen. A passing jogger found him unconscious on the road, and he was taken to Lenox Hill Hospital, where he died Monday.

He had lived at 131 East 93d Street.

The police would not say yesterday whether Mr. Hane had been knocked off the bike or forced off, but the Medical Examiner reported Wednesday that Mr. Hane had been beaten about the head with a blunt instrument and that death had come from a cerebral hemorrhage.

Asked whether they had found the weapon, the police replied, "No comment." But they did say they had not found the bicycle.

Arrested yesterday and charged with murder were Luis Colon of 2012 Third Avenue, near 111th Street, and Ivan

Gonzales of 231 East 110th Street, both 16. The two younger boys were not identified. They were charged with juvenile delinquency.

After the assault, people in the park gave the police a description of a youth they had seen nearby, and a composite sketch was prepared. It was shown to dozens of people who had had their bicycles stolen before.

"We spent three or four days just checking past robberies, past bike thefts," said Detective O'Donnell, who shared his credit for the arrests with 15 other detectives in the Fourth Homicide Squad, including his partner, Detective Edmund Vo-Vogel, and supervisor, Sgt. Thomas Makon.

"You can see a pattern if you look at enough bike thefts," Detective O'Donnell said. "Some people are pushed off, some are beaten off, some are threatened and some are just conned off."

"Finally we came up with a lead, and the pieces started to fit. We started to see trees in the forest. Last night we brought a couple of men in and questioned them. They made statements. Subsequent investigation led to other people."

Detective O'Donnell, who had been on duty since 10 A.M. Wednesday, arrested the four youths early yesterday morning, and they were charged a few hours later.

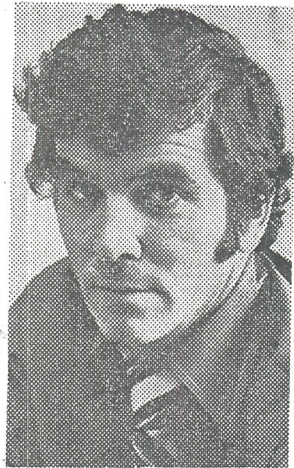
"We didn't make any mistakes here," a police official said later.

A few blocks away, led by Mr. Hane's widow, Elaine a hundred people were attending memorial services for him at the Second Presbyterian Church, 6 West 96th Street, where selections were read from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the French philosopher, and Rainer Maria Rilke, the German poet.

Jerome Snyder of Brooklyn Heights, an artist and friend of Mr. Hane, eulogized him as "an enormously gifted man."

"He brought light to and purified the darkened areas of our existence," Mr. Snyder said. "He made the earthbound soar, drew magic from the commonplace, poetry from the prosaic."

Mr. Hane's work had appear-



The New York Times

Detective Joseph O'Donnell telling how he and others traced suspects in slaying of Roger Hane.

ed in Fortune, Playboy, Ladies' Home Journal, Life, Look and, most recently, in New York magazine, to which he had contributed drawings for last week's "Illustrated Secret History of Watergate."

"His work remains to look at again and again," Elaine Sorel, Mr. Hane's agent for the last nine years, told the mourners.

Mr. Hane's body was cremated on Wednesday, and the ashes were taken home to Bradford, Pa., where he was born.

Earlier in the week, Miss Sorel and other friends and associates of Mr. Hane had offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of his assailant.

Homicide Rate Cited

But Lieut. James Gallagher of the Fourth Homicide Squad yesterday that the police were ineligible for the reward and that it would not be paid.

Lieutenant Gallagher said that there were 75 homicides a year in the Fourth Homicide Zone, which runs from 59th to 110th Street from river to river, and that last year 83 per cent of the cases were closed. But as to murders in Central Park, he said, "they're difficult."

An 11-year veteran of the force, Detective O'Donnell has been a homicide detective since January, 1972. He called breaking the case "very satisfying."

"A man of talent," he said of Mr. Hane. "To see his life snuffed out like that. . ."

"Homicide is tough," he went on. "It's probably the easiest crime in the world to beat. That's why we're homicide detectives. We try harder."