

Link to Earlier Holdup Eyed Police Study Stotler

Police were trying to determine today if the murder weapon used in the slaying of a state Health Department physician was the gun taken from the doctor by a young holdup man seeking narcotics three weeks ago.

The bandit, believed to be about 27, forced his way into the apartment of Dr. John B. Stotler, 1332 Esplanade, about 10:15 p.m. Feb. 13, and demanded money and narcotics.

He took \$60, Dr. Stotler's revolver and some ammunition and left the doctor tied up with a pillow case over his head.

DR. STOTLER WAS shot to death early Saturday when he answered the door of his apartment. He was hit in the chest by a .38 caliber pistol bullet.

A visitor, Mrs. Jean Nunemacher, 41, 205 Maumus, said she had gone to the door twice before to answer the bell, but found no one there. Dr. Stotler answered it the third time, and was shot. He staggered back into a chair and died moments later.

Mrs. Nunemacher apparently did not see the gunman, police said.

The shotgun-wielding bandit in the earlier holdup was described as being about 5-9, with black hair and brown eyes. He wore a blue sweater

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Death Gun

Stotler Killer Panicked, Police Believe

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MEANWHILE, POLICE continued to look into telephone threats against Dr. Stotler made when the physician, as health officer for St. Charles Parish, filed charges against rackets figure Carlos Marcello last year in connection with the operation of the Pier 90 dump on U.S. 90.

At that time, Dr. Stotler said he received five calls, one through a secretary, telling him to lay off the Pier 90 dump. One of the callers, he said, told

him, "Apparently you don't hear so well."

Dr. Stotler had brought the charge against Marcello because the property was in the name of a corporation in which Marcello was reported to have an interest. No action has been taken on the charges, the St. Charles Parish District Attorney's office said, because Marcello's name does not appear as an officer or shareholder in the company.

Police said they are checking some leads in the slaying.

Police believe the slayer of Dr. John B. Stotler in his Esplanade Avenue apartment early Saturday may have panicked when he saw the physician answer the door with a pellet gun in his hand.

Homicide Lt. Edward O'Donnel said Mrs. Jean Nunemacher, 41, who was in the Stotler apartment, told police that the former St. Charles Parish health officer was carrying the gun when he answered the door.

The pellet pistol, which resembled a conventional firearm, was found on the floor near where Dr. Stotler was shot and a second such weapon was located in another part of the apartment.

MRS. NUNEMACHER told police she twice answered the doorbell at the apartment, 1332 Esplanade, only to find no one there. The third time, Dr. Stotler went to the door and was shot in the chest.

He staggered back into a chair and died moments later.

Police continue to work on the theory that Dr. Stotler may have been shot with his own pistol, stolen three weeks ago by a young holdup man who forced his way into the apartment demanding narcotics.

At that time, the young man tied up Dr. Stotler, put a pillow case over his head and escaped with a pistol, some ammunition and \$60.

DETECTIVES said inquiries into threats received by Dr. Stotler after he charged rackets figure Carlos Marcello in connection with a garbage dump, have all had negative results.

Dr. Stotler filed public nuisance charges against Marcello last year in connection with the operation of the Pier 90 Dump off Highway 90 in St. Charles Parish and then reported that he had been threatened five times on the telephone.

No action has ever been taken on the dump charges because the district attorney's office contends Marcello is not listed as either an officer or shareholder in the corporation owning the property where the dump is located.

Police said they have questioned 12 people in connection with the slaying, including one who was given a lie detector test. All so far have been cleared.