

13 May 70

New Indications Of Kent Sniper Fire Offered

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — New indications of possible sniper fire in the Kent State University shootings which killed four students have been reported by the Ohio National Guard.

Guard spokesmen, who contended that troops opened fire during a confrontation with antiwar demonstrators after a sniper began shooting, said yesterday a .32-caliber pistol had been fished from a river and that four weapons—two handguns and two rifles—had been taken from persons arrested the day of the shootings.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported today that three persons saw a guardsman fire a pistol into the air above a student's head during an incident on the football practice field 10 minutes before the fatal shootings.

"HE HELD his pistol at a 45-degree angle, aimed over the rock throwers," the Plain Dealer quoted Richard Schreiber, a Kent State journalism professor, as saying.

"He fired at least one round over their head. With my binoculars, I saw the recoil and the muzzle blast when he fired."

Two Kent State students, Sharon Keene of Kent and Patrick Carr of Akron, supported Schreiber's story.

The finding of the weapons was reported by Lt. Col. J. E. P. McCann, an administrative aide to Adj. Gen. S. T. Del Corso, Ohio Guard commander.

M'CANN, reading a prepared statement, also reported that construction workers "heard a shot apparently originating from a nearby dormitory" and that a bullet crashed through the window of a campus resident at an angle indicating it came from a rooftop or other elevated position.

The Guard said Kent police, acting on a tip, recovered the pistol from the river.

Two of the four students killed were coeds. Whether the four were taking part in the antiwar demonstration has not been established.

Kent State was closed immediately after the shootings and its 21,000 students sent home. University President Robert I. White has announced that it would reopen at the beginning of the new quarter June 15.