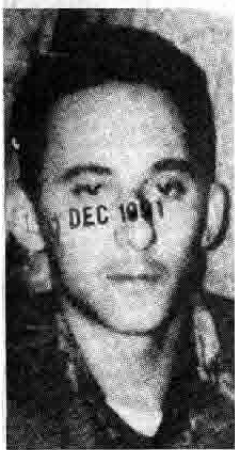


Psycho link probe



FRÉDDIE PHILLIPS
... psycho killer



KEVIN BRITS
... another murder?

Murdered hiker, PE man may have been victims of suicide couple

By TRACI MACKIE

THE murder of the American hitch-hiker whose body was found yesterday could be linked to two psychopaths who committed suicide last week, and the recent attempted murder of a Port Elizabeth man.

Mr Edward Perlmutter's badly decomposed body was found in the Knysna forest at 3pm. His hands were tied and his Australian outback hat lay nearby. He was last seen on October 24.

Port Elizabeth businessman Clive Newman, 27, of Walmer, was found with his throat slit and his hands bound on Bluewater Bay beach on November 12. He survived the attack.

The two psychopathic killers — Mr Kevin Brits, 27, and Mr Freddie Phillips, 26 — shot themselves near Kareedouw last Thursday after they murdered a Cape Town schoolboy, whose throat was also cut, and almost fatally wounded his friend days before.

Police in Port Elizabeth and Knysna said yesterday they were investigating all angles of both cases. They did not rule out the involvement of the psychopaths in either.

Knysna detective branch chief Captain Michael Zeelie and Detective-Sergeant Hugo Beukes found Mr Perlmutter's body nine kilometres from the Millwood hut on the Outeniqua Trail.

He had spent time there and was last seen by a Cape Town couple, John and Elsabe Baxter. The discovery followed an extensive search in the dense bush using tracker dogs and as many as 25 policemen.

Capt Zeelie said last night police had put together an identikit of two men who could help with their investigation. The pictures would probably be released today.

"The identikit does look a bit like the photographs of the psychopaths, but we will have to investigate their release dates from prison," Capt Zeelie said.

There is a discrepancy concerning the date of their release.

Sources at Cape Town's Murder and Robbery Department told Knysna police that the men were released from Pollsmoor Prison on November 15 and 29, 1991.

However, a Department of Correctional Services spokesman told the Herald yesterday that the men were released in February 1988, and December 1990.

Like Mr Newman's attacker, the slenderer of the two psychopaths had a front tooth that was chipped.

Eastern Cape police liaison officer Lieutenant Lisbe Vermeulen said police in Port Elizabeth were "following all possible clues into the Newman case". She could not confirm a connection between the two cases.

She said an identikit of two men who could help in the Newman investigation would be released soon.

Capt Zeelie said a post-mortem, which would determine how Mr Perlmutter was murdered, would be carried out today. A diary kept by Mr Perlmutter has not yet been found.

Mr Perlmutter's parents in America have been notified of their son's murder.

Mr and Mrs Baxter were shocked to hear about the death of the 24-year-old man they befriended on the trail on October 23 and 24.

They had warned him about going off on his own in the same direction as two men who had approached them earlier.

Mr Baxter told the Herald last night that the men spoke Afrikaans.

"They were talking to us, but they looked suspicious.

"We warned Ed about going off in the same direction as them.

"The younger and slenderer of the two was effeminate. The other man was very well built and looked like the photograph we saw of one of the psychopaths," Mr Baxter said.

Mr Newman's alleged attackers have been described as:

□ A very well-built man in his 30s, about 1,8 metres tall with short blond hair and a very rugged face, wearing green "baggies".

□ A slender man in his 20s, wearing white, American-style takkies. He is about 1,75 metres tall with long, blondish, matted hair and a broken front tooth.



American Edward Perlmutter's hike on the Outeniqua Trail ended in tragedy when his badly decomposed body was found yesterday just nine kilometres from the Millwood hut in which he had stayed.

Knysna death linked to psycho killers?

□ From Page 1

Given these descriptions, other than for the broken front tooth and the hair, Mrs Baxter said they fitted the two men who had approached them.

Mr Terry Newman said when his son saw newspaper photographs of the psychopaths, he noticed a particular resemblance to the larger of the two men.

"Clive seemed to see similarities, especially in the hairline of the bigger man," Mr Newman said.

He said his son's car and other belongings had not yet been recovered.

Although they were dark-haired when they were found dead, Mr Phillips's mother, Mrs Magdalene Phillips, said she had known her son to dye his hair blond.

"But he always kept his hair short," she said.

She said the photographs in the newspapers were "taken some time ago".

Mr Terry Newman made

particular mention yesterday of the white, American-style takkies worn by the slenderer of his son's two attackers.

Mrs Baxter said: "Ed had white American-styled takkies that would have fitted one of the men we saw. I dried them for Ed."

She also said Mr Perlmutter had greenish-blue boxer shorts which would have fitted the men.

Mr Brits was apparently sentenced in the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court for armed robbery, theft, possession of a firearm and ammunition without a licence and reckless driving.

□ The news has shaken Mr Perlmutter's parents.

The couple, who have been in daily contact with a Cape Town reporter, burst into tears at the news.

Mr Perlmutter wailed: "Oh my God! They killed my son. The sons-of-bitches." Crying bitterly, Mrs Perlmutter asked if her son had suffered.

10 NOV 1992



Attack victim ... Supported by his father, Terrence Newman, and a friend, Clive Newman, 28, leaves the Supreme Court in Cape Town yesterday after testifying about an attempt on his life.

'Attacked man had gaping neck wound'

HERALD
CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN — A policeman could fit his open hand into the gaping neck wound of a man who survived a brutal Port Elizabeth beach attack allegedly committed by two homosexual lovers on a nationwide crime spree, the Supreme Court heard yesterday.

Constable M L Goodes was testifying in the trial of former railways policeman Antonie Wessels and a 17-year-old youth.

The two are accused of attempting to murder Clive Newman, 28, by slitting his

throat and also stealing his car near Port Elizabeth in November last year.

They also face charges of murdering and robbing American hiker Edward Perlmutter, in Knysna in October last year, killing David Sehmel in Natal and killing retired prisons service major Jacobus Joubert, who was found in a bloody bath in his Johannesburg flat.

The two face a further three counts of robbery, one of theft, housebreaking and theft, illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition, and 11 counts of fraud.

The attack on Mr New-

man, resulted in him suffering a stroke.

His speech is impaired due to a severed vocal chord.

He arrived at court yesterday assisted by his sister and a district surgeon was on standby at the court.

Mr Newman testified with difficulty and his impaired physical state evoked sympathy from all present in the court.

Const Goodes said he had been called to investigate a body being found near the surf club at Bluewater Bay.

He found a bound Mr Newman lying on the sand. He removed shoelaces

from his deeply wounded wrists and when he pulled away his shirt he saw a "massive neck wound the size of my open hand".

After Mr Newman was taken away, Const Goodes dug into the sand and found blood to a depth of 12cm and a diameter of half a metre.

On searching the nearby change rooms, he found blood splattered on the walls and bloody drag marks on the floor.

Mr Newman, who confirmed he was a homosexual, said yesterday he

☐ To Page 2

☐ From Page 1

had picked up two hitchhikers who wanted to go to a cafe in the Bluewater Bay residential area.

They asked him to take them back to the beach car park.

When he stopped his car next to the lifesaving complex, the "big guy" (Wessels) in the passenger seat hit him repeatedly on the head.

"I don't remember after that. The next I knew I was in hospital."

Mr Newman said he never saw his maroon Opel Monza again and his watch, gold ring and wallet were missing.

Commenting on his neck injury, he said: "They sewed it up nicely."

During cross-examination Mr Newman denied exposing himself to the youth or having a "physical altercation" with Wessels in the clubhouse on the beach.

The accused's version is that they met him in the clubhouse.

His father, Terrence Newman, told the court his son's physical state was greatly impaired by the stress he

was under.

He was normally able to walk without assistance. He lived alone and was able to drive and look after himself.

Mr Newman (senior) said his son had been "this bad" since he received the subpoena to appear in court two weeks ago.

He had joined the family business as a personnel manager after attending university in Durban, but had been unable to work since the incident.

In a statement made to police shortly after their arrest, the youth said Wessels had hit Mr Newman's head against a wall "four or five times" before they dragged him to nearby bushes.

Wessels bound the man's hands and cut his throat.

"I helped to hold the man down while Tony cut his throat. We took his car and left."

Yesterday, the neighbour of the slain Mr Joubert, Pieter Roux, a young policeman, said he had lived in the same Berea block of flats as Mr Joubert, who retired as a major in the prison service in

January last year.

Mr Roux said he had been washing his car at home when Mr Joubert's flatmate, Franco Botha, told him he could not gain access to the flat.

Mr Roux investigated and found the security door was locked.

Through a window he saw the flat was in a mess and there was blood on a wall.

After breaking down the door, he found Mr Joubert in his bath, which was filled with bloody water.

Cross-examined by Mr I B Maartens for Wessels, he said he knew Mr Joubert had been a homosexual.

The court heard that the words "f--- the whites" had been written in huge pencil letters on the wall of the flat and Mr Roux said he could not say whether Mr Joubert was a member of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging.

Wessels has been convicted of 11 counts of fraud, illegally possessing a .38-calibre revolver and 300 rounds of ammunition.

Both accused have been convicted of housebreaking and theft.