

WOMAN BATTERED TO DEATH

SIX-YEAR-OLD LAD SEVERELY INJURED

THE murder of 33-year-old Mrs Ruby Carter, and the attempted murder of her six-year-old son, Alan, on Saturday afternoon in the bedroom of their home, Pear Tree Cottage, Penllyne, Cowbridge, cast a shadow of fear over the numerous small communities which make up the Vale of Glamorgan.

When 29-year-old Mr Evan George Carter returned home from work in the afternoon, he found the battered, dead body of his wife lying on their bed, and his son, Alan, lying on a nearby bed, still alive but suffering from severe head injuries.

EMERGENCY OPERATION

Mr Carter picked up his son, and, rushing to his car, drove him to Cowbridge to the surgery of Dr. Cumming Naysmith.

Dr. Naysmith was out, and Mr Carter then took the boy to the home of his (Mr Carter's) father, which is over the Co-operative Stores, in High Street, Cowbridge.

His mother went across the road to the chemist's shop of Mr R. H. Williams, and by good fortune found Dr. Naysmith there. Dr. Naysmith examined the boy, and had him conveyed immediately to Bridgend General Hospital where, after examination, he was rushed by ambulance to Morrision Hospital, near Swansea, which specialises in brain surgery.

An emergency operation was performed. As the parents' permission was required before the operation could be performed, Mr Carter and his father, Mr Evan Carter, were first rushed from Cowbridge to Morrision, in a police car.

DOOR ON LATCH

Detectives, under Detective Supt. Tom Williams, head of the Glamorgan C.I.D., hast-

ened to Penllyne and immediately commenced their inquiries.

They discovered that the husband, Mr George Carter, had left his home at about 5.30 a.m. on Saturday to go to work in a Rhooose asbestos plant, where he is employed as a process worker. His wife and child were in bed when he left the house. Closing the door behind him, he had latched but not locked it.

Mr Carter had got into his car and driven it to Cowbridge, where he picked up two work-mates; then he drove on to Rhooose.

'COVERED WITH BLOOD'

Returning to Cowbridge at about 1 p.m. after completing his work, he went to Cowbridge Girls' High School, where his wife was employed as a cleaner, but found that she had not been at work that day.

He returned to his home, and, on entering the bedroom, found that his wife had been brutally slain, her head having been battered in with a blunt instrument. The sheets on their bed and her night-dress were covered with blood.

SEARCH FOR WEAPON

On the next bed lay Alan, his head horribly battered, but he was still alive.

Detectives, who rushed to the village, set up their headquarters in the Fox and Hounds Hotel, which is immediately opposite the Carters' cottage, and parties of police commenced scouring the

neighbourhood for the missing weapon, which is a heavy object with a flat edge two inches across, and could be an iron bar, or even a narrow brick.

Since the search commenced on Saturday afternoon police have continuously searched for the weapon, systematically covering every inch of the area.

Some places, including the fields between Penllyne and Cowbridge, have been searched twice, but at the time of going to press on Wednesday the murder weapon had not been found.

Our three photographs show Mr and Mrs George Carter on their wedding day.

Mr George Carter (in light raincoat) and his father, Mr Evan J. Carter, arriving at the inquest.

And little Alan Carter, who is now critically ill in hospital.



DETECTIVE WAITS NEAR ALAN'S BED

A detective in the Glamorgan Police waits in Morrision Hospital for Alan Carter, son of the murdered woman, to recover consciousness in order to record any clue which the injured child can give. Although not always at the bedside, the detective is within easy reach of the glass cubicle in which the injured boy lies.

After being examined by Dr. Cumming Naysmith in his grandmother's home, Alan was rushed to Bridgend General Hospital in the Cowbridge

"I think he realised subconsciously that I was there."

Despite the hopes of the police that Alan will be able to assist them in the inquiries, or perhaps name the murderer if it is a local person, they do not hold out much hope that Alan will be able to assist them to a marked degree.

The reason for this was explained to reporters by a senior Glamorgan detective on Sunday when he stated that almost invariably in cases such as this a person who receives brain injuries loses his memory of all events which occurred up to half an hour before the

VALE OF FRIGHTENED WOMEN

THE Vale of Glamorgan has become the Vale of Frightened Women since the murder (writes Tony Hughes).

Residents of the many isolated villages throughout the area are taking stringent precautions to ensure that no unauthorised person has the slightest chance of entering their homes.

This week I have made my usual rounds of the Vale, but instead of just knocking at the

'Most Eerie Sight'

There were few persons about in the village of Penllyne on Sunday night when the body of Mrs. Ruby Carter, the murdered woman, was taken by hearse to the Home Office Pathology centre at the East Glamorgan Hospital, Church Village,

MURDER WEAPON STILL NOT FOUND

On Tuesday the Police transferred the headquarters of their inquiries from Cowbridge Police Station to Police Headquarters at Bridgend, owing to the fact that the court room was required for the Tuesday

to the time of the nightly press conference given by Supt. Mannings, the murder weapon had not been found.

Supt. Mannings, told reporters he was still waiting for the detailed reports which he expected by Thursday night.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6 1960

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WOMEN WALK IN DREAD IN VALE OF FEAR

THE Mayor of Cowbridge (Councillor Kenneth M. Hutchins) today painted a word picture of "a vale of fear in which women walk in dread."

He was referring to Penllyne and the surrounding area following the brutal murder of Mrs. Ruby May Carter, who was found last Saturday battered to death in bed at Pear Tree Cottage, Penllyne.

"This killer," said the Mayor today, "has caused much fear and dread. He is dangerous."

He appealed to people living in the district to volunteer information and said: "It is obvious there is a great deal of fear among the women folk as long as this man is at large."

"If anyone can think of any unusual incident they saw on Saturday they should go to the police at once. It is up to us all to trap this murderer."

"People are keeping indoors more than ever before because of their fears. Even the surgeries of local doctors are empty at night because people are scared to go out."

Forensic science officers today took samples of about 100 blood spots on the wall around the top of the bed in which Mrs. Carter was killed.

Memory search by residents

Today, also, police sifted through hundreds of questionnaires already completed by people living in the Vale of Glamorgan.

They were asked to search their memories for anything that might lead to the identity of Mrs. Carter's killer.

Already the "quiz" answers have disclosed the presence of strangers in the area within a day or two of the woman's body being found.

Superintendent Jack Mannings, of Scotland Yard, said today: "We have not ruled out the possibility of a stranger being involved."

By tomorrow night a more detailed pattern will be available for the team who are attempting to track down the killer of the 33-year-old Birmingham-born housewife, who was expecting a baby.

Education director's request

By then they will have received replies to all the questionnaires which have been taken round the surrounding

villages and parts of Cowbridge by the team of detectives working on the case.

They will also have in their possession detailed reports from the forensic scientists, the result of tests by the fingerprint experts and the completed post-mortem report.

This morning, children from Penllyne and the neighbouring villages again had a police escort from school.

And this evening, when they walk home through the darkening country lanes—there is no street lighting in the area—they will be under the eye of police officers in patrol cars.

This applies to children attending the schools of Llangan, St. Mary Hill and Llansannor.

The Chief Constable of Glamorgan, Mr. Cecil H. Watkins, said that the county director of education, Dr. Emlyn Stephens, had asked him to provide protection for the children because he was "a little perturbed."

A number of police cars have been detailed for the job.

Death drama was re-enacted

Meanwhile, last yesterday Detective-superintendent Mannings, Chief-inspector Tom Williams (head of Glamorgan C.I.D.) and other senior officers, accompanied by scientific officers, re-enacted the death drama at Pear Tree Cottage.

They believe they have learnt a lot from the position of the body of Mrs. Carter and that of her son, Alun, who was found lying on top of the other bed, seriously injured.

At Morrision Hospital today Alun's condition was unchanged. He remains critically ill.

Mis father, Mr. George Carter, a 29-year-old process worker, who is visiting him every day, said yesterday of the tragedy. "My conscience is clear. I am not worried by rumours and gossip because there is bound to be gossip in a small place like this."

"There has never been any trouble between Ruby and myself. There has never been anybody else for me. We were happily married."

MAYOR'S
APPEAL:

It is up to us all to
trap this murderer

COTLAND YARD CALLED IN

ESS CONFERENCES HELD

Sunday morning detectives and uniformed police assembled in the sleepy village to receive instructions from Supt. Tom Mans and his assistants before starting to search for the murder weapon and other clues.

At the temporary "Field Headquarters" set up in the Fox Hounds Hotel, nearly 30 newspapermen, representing all the main London newspapers and press agencies, stood waiting for news. Outside the cottage stood uniformed constables, keeping a watchful eye on any unauthorised person who should attempt to enter the cottage while the detectives worked for clues.

NO PEAR TREE

In spite of its name, there is no pear tree in the front garden of the cottage, and, in fact, the only tree in the garden was the Christmas tree, on which had been hung the Christmas gifts for Alan—gifts now discarded on the ground. At the early afternoon, while the constables combed the area for clues, Supt. Williams held a conference in the Cowbridge Police Station. The court where justice has been held for nearly 100 years, has been turned into 'an operating room,' where the results of the enquiries were being catalogued.

The Supt. stated that the rumour that Scotland Yard had been called in was correct, and that Cardiff-born Supt. Jack Mannings, and his assistant, Sgt. A. Roberts, would arrive that night to conduct the Yard's investigations.

BROWN SHOES MISSING

Soon after their arrival the Yard men were taken to the cottage, where they were shown the room which contained the body of Mrs Carter, still lying on the bed where she was murdered. After their examination Supt. Mannings reviewed the details of the case with Glamorgan detectives.

Later that night Mrs Carter's body was removed to Church Village Hospital, where a post-mortem examination was conducted by Dr. C. R. E. Freezer, Home Office pathologist.

At a Press conference held on Monday afternoon Det. Inspector Norman Davies revealed the information that a pair of brown shoes were missing and in reply to questions it was stated that the murder weapon was a blunt instrument with a two-inch wide straight edge. It could be a stone or brick, the coal breaking edge of a hatchet or some similar instrument.

'A WONDERFUL MOTHER'

Mrs Ruby Carter was described by her friends as being a very active woman. She was a cleaner at the Cowbridge Girls' High School, and in her spare time acted as a cleaner in a Cowbridge hotel and in a local tobacconists. Yet she remained a wonderful mother. Nothing being too much—or too difficult—for her to do for little Alan.

She was a native of Birmingham, and met her husband when she was spending a holiday in Cowbridge.

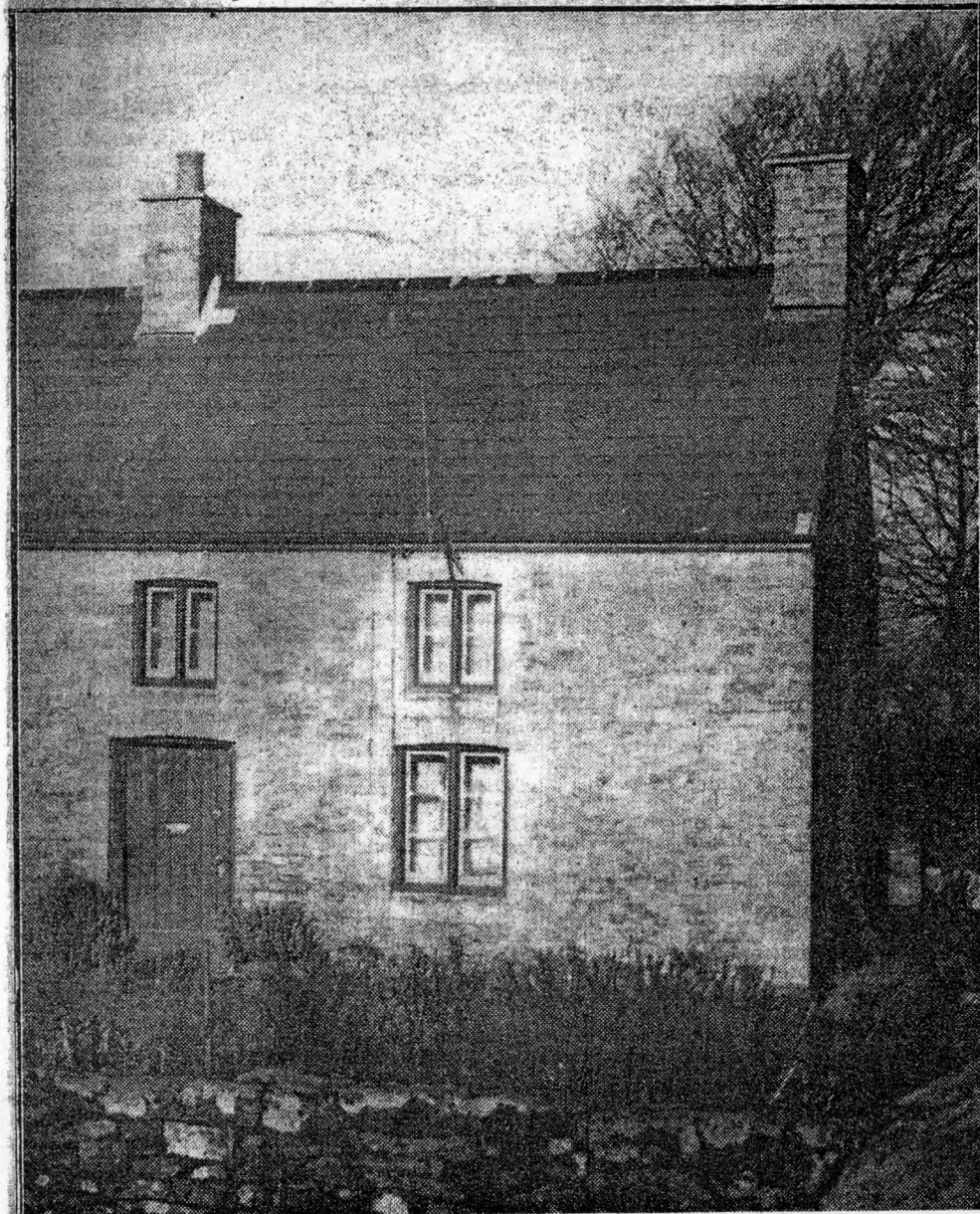
On Sunday a number of Mrs Carter's relations arrived in Cowbridge. Although her father, Mr Walter Cummings, was too ill to travel to Cowbridge, her step-mother, Mrs Lily Cummings, her two brothers, Walter aged 26 and Ray, aged 18, and her sister, Mrs Irene Gajeur, came to the Borough.

Her brother told reporters "We were very worried by the Birmingham Y.W.C.A. murder which occurred near our home, but we did not dream then that murder would strike at our own family."

"I Swear I Did Not Do It"

—HUSBAND

Mr George Carter, whose wife, mother-to-be Mrs Ruby Carter, was murdered on Saturday, hit out at rumour-mongers in the Cowbridge area on Tuesday night when he told reporters: "I know I am number one suspect. But my conscience is clear. I swear I did not do it."



HOW THE CRIME MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED

By DON MORGAN
SO ends one of the longest murder trials in Cardiff for many years. George Carter, the man who all along has said: "I did not do it. I loved my wife and we were very happy together." returns to Cardiff Prison, where he has been for 10 weeks, to start a life sentence.

It was just over 12 weeks ago—the beginning of the New Year—that tragedy came to the quiet little village of Penllyne, tucked away in the country near Cowbridge and overlooked by the imposing Penllyne Castle.



MR. GEORGE CARTER pictured at Cowbridge yesterday when talking to a Western Mail reporter.