

Psychics knew killer's house?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Staff Writer Charlie Bates was contacted last week by two local psychics who said they had visions of where the killer of Sister Tadea Benz lived. They told Bates the description of their vision long before a suspect was ever arrested and his address released. While some things in the vision were confirmed as being incorrect, there were some things that seemed to be right on the money.

By CHARLIE BATES
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Information emerging from a meeting last week by two Amarillo psychics led the pair to the house of the accused assailant of Sister Tadea Benz six days before authorities suspected or arrested the 17-year-old youth on Monday.

Johnny Frank Garrett of 4000 NE 18th was arraigned Tuesday on capital murder charges in the rape and strangulation death of the 76-year-old Catholic nun at St. Francis Convent, 4303 NE 18th.

Investigators arrested Garrett Monday afternoon at his home, located across and down the street from where the sister's murder occurred, after his fingerprints were identified as the same as those lifted Oct. 31 from a knife found in the second-story bedroom of Sister Tadea.

On the Monday evening following the slaying, two Amarillo psychics, Inez P. and Allen H. (they asked that their last names not be used), were prompted by massive news coverage of the sister's death to hold a session in the home of the woman psychic's west Amarillo home. The woman had been invited to work with police previously in the rape-murder of Sarah Don Lawrence, 30, at her Southwest Amarillo home in October 1979.

Numerous items of information emerged from the session, which had to be ended when Inez began experiencing emotions believed felt by the victim. A similar experience in the home of Mrs. Lawrence the day after that murder left Inez emotionally drained for weeks, she said, so now she has learned to end psychic experiences at certain levels.

The information that was gained,

however, led the pair to the vicinity of the convent the next day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, and both identified a house at 4000 NE 18th as being identical to one that had come to them in their psychic vision.

The following day — five full days before Garrett even became a suspect in the case — the psychics described the house to a Globe-News reporter.

The suspect's house had been described during the psychic session as a white frame structure with dirty hardwood floors that faced the convent and was located on Northeast 18th.

Also in the psychic vision, an image prevailed of the name "Clyde," which led the pair to believe might be the identify of the suspect.

When the pair arrived in the vicinity of the convent, they drove to where they thought the house was located and found a white frame structure at the intersection of Spring and Northeast 18th. In the back yard, they saw a dog house with a painted inscription, "Mr. Clyde."

That dog house is behind the home in which Garrett lived.

The psychics also perceived images of the assailant himself and offered the description a week ago, when police were saying prime suspects were Cubans, particularly a 28-year-old Cuban being held for burglary and attempted rape.

Inez described the psychics' suspect as a young man with light olive skin. He was about five-foot-eleven, she said, and although he was thin, he had a muscular, small frame.

No facial features were seen, but she said a silhouette gave impression of a long nose, what she called an "Abe Lincoln" nose.

Images of the assailant during the actual attack revealed a man

with Afro-type hair that the psychics felt was a wig. His face was half black and half white, she said, adding that he had large ears.

The assailant was believed wearing a dark, drab colored jacket with a rough material texture, Inez said.

Although the description of the attacker seems a bit unreal, the psychics advised that they felt the assailant was prone to fantasy and liked to dress in disguises or costumes.

They draw a profile of a person who was greatly affected by motion pictures, a person who had experience negative contact with personnel at the Catholic facilities on Northeast 18th, and someone who had lived a complicated home life.

And while they felt as if the assailant wanted to be caught, the psychics believed the suspect was someone who felt he was too smart to ever be caught.

They believe that when Sister Tadea's funeral was held, the suspect was there and they believe he was dressed in slacks, white shirt, and a dark sweater. They thought they saw him pass the victim's coffin.

Another image found the assailant near the convent in a Catholic chapel with many lit candles and where Oriental type writings were visible. Such a facility was confirmed this week as St. Lucien's Chapel.

Although not all of what was seen by the pair has been confirmed as correct and some was confirmed as incorrect, enough has been verified to assure that the psychics indeed found the suspect's correct address almost a week before the 17-year-old resident was even a suspect.

The information revealed to the newspaper reporter was not available to investigating officers, but attempts were made to put authorities in touch with the psychics. Police, however, apparently made no attempt to contact the psychics.