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News Release*****News Release*****News Release

Detectives from the Gettysburg Borough Police Department and the Adams County District Attorneys Office are taking a renewed look at the 1986 death of Ivan Darling, which was ruled a homicide. Mr. Darling, age 79 at the time, was discovered in his home on Christmas Day, 1986. Cause of death was determined to be "massive hemorrhaging from numerous puncture wounds". Robbery is being considered a primary motive in this incident. Over the course of this investigation, the Gettysburg Police Department, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have participated in various parts of the case. Detectives will be reviewing case files, interviewing persons, former investigators, and reviewing evidence based on current day technology. Investigators are optimistic that new processes may provide leads that were not technologically possible previously.

Attached are previous news articles related to this case, courtesy of the Gettysburg Times.

Anyone with information related to this case is encouraged to contact Detective Chris Evans, Gettysburg Police Department (717) 334-1168 or Detective Tim Guise, Adams County Detectives at (717) 337-9840, extension 1153, or via Adams County Crime Stoppers at 717-334-8057.

York St. death ruled murder

By ROBERT HOLT
Times Staff Writer

While only a few facts known for sure, police seem certain a Gettysburg man found dead at his home Christmas Day was murdered.

The death of 79-year-old Ivan O. Darling is being considered a murder, according to Gettysburg police statement issued late Friday night.

Chief Russel H. Potter made the announcement shortly before 9 p.m. Mr. Darling was found dead at his 524 York St. home around 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

"The incident has been classified as a criminal homicide," Chief Potter said.

The statement came after the results of an autopsy on the victim were

released by Dr. Isadore Mehaligas. The forensic pathologist conducted that autopsy at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown.

Potter said Dr. Mehaligas ruled the cause of death as "massive hemorrhaging from numerous puncture wounds." He said the wounds were caused by an unknown weapon. Yet, the police official did not rule out the possibility that the act was committed with a knife.

The time death was determined to be Sunday, Dec. 21, or Monday, Dec. 22, and it appears the body remained at the house for three or four days. Adams County Coroner Dr. Leah A. Maitland pronounced the man dead at the scene.

Robbery is being considered as the

primary motive in the incident. It was said that some things were missing from the residence, located on the east side of the borough near the DMI plan entrance.

The police chief said the investigation will continue, as it has since Mr. Darling's body was discovered. Potter said most cases of this nature are treated as homicides until after autopsy and other information is obtained.

He noted that a team assigned to the murder is working with Adams County District Attorney Gary E. Hartman. Potter said investigators will be seeking the assistance of area residents.

He asked that anyone seeing any unusual persons or events in the neighborhood during the last week to call the borough police at 334-1168.



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By ROBERT HOLT
Times Staff Writer

Gettysburg Police announced the murder of a borough man is now on a state-wide reward list for unsolved crimes

Detective Walter G. Gliem Jr. said Monday that Pennsylvania Crime Stoppers will give cash for specific information about the death of Ivan O. Darling.

The 79-year-old man was found dead in the living room of his 524 York St house by a relative early Christmas Day. According to a police report, an autopsy showed Mr Darling died three or four days before being discovered after being stabbed.

Offering a bounty is the latest attempt by authorities to gather facts about the crime. Det. Gliem said Crime Stoppers have assured borough police that a reward of up to \$1,000 is available for the Darling case.

Investigators consider it "an unsolved serious crime." There is no suspect as of yet. The police explained that there seems to have been no witnesses to the violent murder

On Friday, Chief Russel H Potter said robbery is considered the motive. He noted some cash and person items were missing from

Darling's home.

Crime Stoppers give money to persons who supply information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons in connection with any unsolved serious crimes. Investigators are particularly interested in any unusual events, or persons lingering around the neighborhood during the week before the incident.

Gliem is asking any persons with any information that could be helpful to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-4PA-TIPS. He stressed that the callers do not have to reveal their identities.

Among other efforts, the police have taken unnamed items from Darling's home in a search for possible evidence. Those things were sent to be examined at the state police crime lab in Harrisburg.

Officials explained that the inquiry is in conjunction with Adams County District Attorney Gary E. Hartman. The authorities said they will continue to question neighbors and workers.

Darling lived alone in a two-story house on the east side of the borough near the DMI furniture plant. People along the block between Fourth and Sixth streets say the long-time Gettysburg resi-

dent was well-liked.

Gliem said the type of weapon used in the crime remains unknown. He explained that the decomposition of the victim's body made it difficult to tell by examination of the wounds.

Dr Isadore Mehaligas of Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown said the cause of death was "massive hemorrhaging from numerous puncture wounds about the body." The forensic pathologist could only narrow the time of death to last Sunday or Monday.

Gliem deferred comment when asked about evidence of forced entry at the house and what was taken during the crime. He said no indication has been found as to whether the victim knew the person or persons involved in the incident.

One of Darling's neighbors said the man recently expressed concern about his vision. It was noted that he expressed fear of losing his driver's license because of vision problems.

It was said that he planned to have an eye examination. Gliem would not speculate about the victim allowing the assailant to enter the house in mistake for someone he knew.



Who killed Ivan Darling?

By ROBERT HOLT
Times Staff Writer

Police are still investigating the December stabbing death of a Gettysburg man. There are no suspects or witnesses.

Authorities said this week that they have have found no new leads in the murder case of Ivan O. Darling. The 79-year-old man was found dead at his 524 York St. home around 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 25. Borough Police Chief Russel H. Potter Jr. said a step-son from Maryland found the corpse.

Gettysburg Cpl. Frederick A. Gantz and Pfc. Walter G. Gliem Jr. said their investigation of the incident is continuing. Pfc. Gliem is exchanging information about similar homicide cases in New York and North Carolina.

"We're still working on it," Cpl. Gantz said. "We're surveying all the police departments on the east coast. We are still considering any local angles. We're trying to look at every angle."

Mr. Darling was pronounced dead at his home and an autopsy was performed by Dr. Isadore Mehaligas at the Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown. In his report, Dr. Mehaligas said that Darling died sometime between Dec. 21 and 22 as the result of "massive hemorrhaging from numerous puncture wounds about the body."

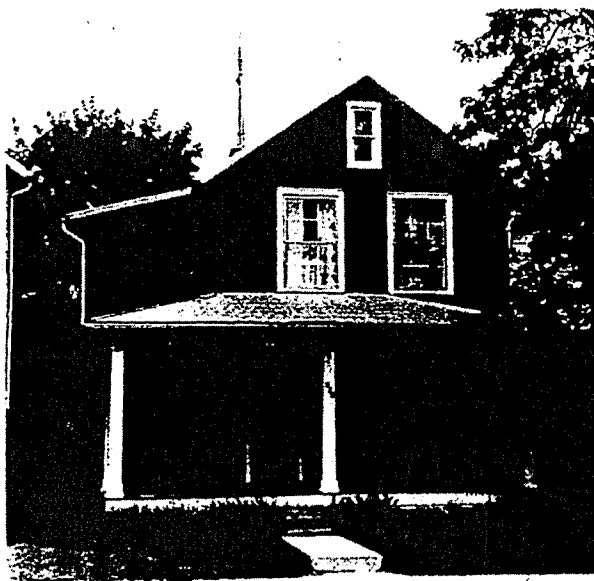
Gettysburg Police say the type of weapon used by the assailant remains unknown. They will not release the location or number of puncture wounds to the victim's body.

Police called the incident a "serious unsolved crime." It has been listed with Pennsylvania Crime Stoppers. That organization is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case.

Gliem said investigators found no sign of forcible entry into the house. He said it is possible that Darling recognized his assailant.

A search of the home by police revealed that some cash and personal items were missing, and the authorities speculated that the motive was robbery.

79-year-old man's death before Christmas has police stumped



Times photo by Robert Holt

MURDER SCENE — 79-year-old Ivan O. Darling was found stabbed to death at his home at 524 York St., in Gettysburg on Christmas Day. The investigation continues, but police have no witnesses or suspects.

Darling, a short, thin man, was described by neighbors as a quiet, friendly person. Residents and business people in the area around his home said they saw no suspicious events or persons in the area around Dec. 21 and 22.

People living and working in the area also say Darling's 2½-story house near the DMI Furniture plant on York Street has remained unoccupied since the incident.

Gettysburg Times-Ivan Darling #1



One year later, Darling murder remains unsolved

By ROBERT HOLT
Times Staff Writer

A year after the Christmas 1986 stabbing death of Ivan O. Darling, Gettysburg Borough Police said they have not given up on solving the case.

The 79-year-old Darling was found dead around 8:30 a.m. Christmas Day in the living room of his 524 York St. home, located near DMI furniture plant. There were no witnesses to the crime, and police have not named any suspects.

"We're not going to make any arrests tomorrow. We're still working on it. As evidence comes up, we're going to investigate it," Gettysburg Police Cpl. Frederick A. Gantz told *The Times*.

Discovered by Earl L. Myrick, a step-son who traveled from Mount Airy, Md., to take Darling to see relatives, police say they are not exactly sure when the man was killed. An autopsy by Dr. Isadore Mehaligas at the Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown indicated that the elderly man died either Dec. 21 or 22 last year.

In his report, Dr. Mehaligas said the cause of death was "massive hemorrhaging from numerous puncture wounds about the body." Police said they do not know what type of weapon

was used in the crime, and have refused to reveal specific information about the puncture wounds or the crime scene.

A few days after the incident, the investigators said they found no signs of forcible entry into the 2½-story house where Darling lived. They also said it is possible that the victim recognized his assailant.

While hesitant to release details about the crime, police did say a subsequent search of the house revealed that some cash and personal items were missing. They listed the murderer's probable motive as robbery.

Shortly after the murder, Police Chief Russel H. Potter Jr. said Darling had lived alone after his wife died in 1985 and took care of himself. He noted that Darling lived an independent and quiet lifestyle, which made it difficult to trace the man's activities just before his death.

Residents and merchants in the section of York Street between Fourth and Sixth streets said Darling was short, thin man who was friendly and liked by his neighbors.

Calling the incident a "serious unsolved crime" on Dec. 28, 1986 the Gettysburg police listed it with Pennsylvania Crime Stoppers, a

state-wide reward program for unsolved crimes. While few details about the murder are available from police officials, rumors have persisted in the community.

In the course of his investigation, Cpl. Gantz has declined to say whether or not if Darling's body was found unclothed, and if so whether the clothes were neatly piled next to the corpse. He also refused to comment about whether the front door to Darling's house was locked or unlocked.

"The facts will come out if an arrest is made. Right now, that's important evidence to us," Gantz explained, adding that it is his usual policy not to discuss the details of any case under investigation.

He did say police efforts to solve the crime have included checking the Darling murder against similar murders reported by police departments across the country. Gantz noted that he and other local police officers have been actively pursuing the case in recent weeks, just as they have done all year long.

"We haven't written the case off. It won't be closed until we make an arrest," Gantz said. "To us there will never be a point where we'll say we're never going to do anything with it."

Ivan Darling #2



Gettysburg murder case still open after 11 years

BY MARK HONEYCUTT, Times Staff Writer

The violent death of a 79-year-old Gettysburg man is still under investigation, even though the murder took place 11 years ago. On Dec. 25, 1986, Ivan O. Darling was found dead in his two-story house at 524 York St., Gettysburg, by his stepson from Maryland who was making a holiday visit. Forensic pathologist Dr. Isadore Mehaligas of Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown determined the cause of death was "massive hemorrhaging from numerous puncture wounds about the body." Although his body was found on Christmas Day, Dr. Mehaligas estimated

that Darling died three or four days before being found. He listed the time of death between Dec. 21 and 22.

Former Gettysburg Police Chief Russel H. Potter announced on Dec. 26, 1986 that the incident would be classified as a criminal homicide after autopsy results were final.

Potter indicated that robbery was considered the primary motive because some items were missing from Darling's residence.

Although a murder weapon was never identified, police did not rule out the possibility that the act was committed with a knife.

Even though a team of investigators

assigned to the murder worked closely with former Adams County District Attorney Gary E. Hartman, the murderer was never found.

"We never closed the case," Gettysburg Police Chief Frederick A. Gantz said recently. "In fact, we are still actively pursuing the case."

Gantz said borough police have given a psychological profile of the suspect to the Federal Bureau of Investigation

"They gave us what possible type of person it could've been," Gantz said. "Now, when a similar type of murder is committed anywhere in the nation, they contact us so we can see if that person may have been in the Gettysburg area at the time."

He also said that they occasionally follow up on leads given by citizens in Adams County.

"One example would be when an individual gave us some information about a suspicious person who was staying in the area a few years ago. We were able to check this person out. He was able to prove that he wasn't in the area at the time of the murder, but you never know," said Gantz.

In fact, police have put so much time and effort into the investigation during the past 11 years, the case file has to be stored in a box instead of a folder.

"We are still actively looking into this
(See D^ARLING on Page A12)



Darling

(Continued from Page A1)

case and are actively pursuing to solve this crime," said Gantz.

Anyone who may have any information relevant to the case is asked to call Detective Walt Gliem at the Gettysburg Police Department at 334-1168, or Adams County Crime Stoppers at 334-8057 or 1-800-869-8057.

Any person giving information to Adams County Crime Stoppers that leads to an arrest in the murder will be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000. Callers may remain anonymous.

