

Suicidal murder suspect may have had 'cannibalistic tendencies'.

The shocking case of Tucumseh County resident Mack Tooley has taken another sinister twist with the revelation that his autopsy is thought to have revealed traces of human blood and tissue in his digestive tract.

Readers will recall that Mr Tooley, a popular local woodsman and guide, shot himself in the head with a Colt .45 automatic when police attempted to arrest him at his cabin in connection with the murder of an unidentified 'John Doe' whose corpse was discovered in horrifying circumstances by local teenagers.

As this paper has previously reported, the bloodless and mutilated corpse of the unidentified man, thought to be a vagrant who had been in the area for a matter of days, was found naked (with the exception of a few trash bags wrapped about his person) and hanging from a tree not far from a local beauty spot near to Lowery. Suspicion quickly fell on Mr Tooley as he was identified as having been the last person to have been observed with the victim.

Unofficial sources close to this paper can now confirm that Mr Tooley's autopsy has revealed results 'strongly indicative of cannibalism', though no substances have been located which could have accounted for Mr Tooley's totally inexplicable change in behaviour.

Sheriff Ted Robinson and Lowery County Medical Examiner Brenton Clark were said to be unavailable for comment on these developments as of the time of going to press.

*Lowery County Chronicle
March 5th 1997*

County officials 'surprised and disappointed' by sudden departure of 'respected and valued' Medical Examiner.

The recent resignation of Doctor Brenton Clark who has held the post of Lowery County Medical Examiner for the past fourteen years was 'completely unexpected' according to County officials who are now seeking to appoint a replacement.

This paper understands that Dr. Clark did not notify his employers of his intentions in writing, nor serve his contractual notice period, but instead informed them of his decision verbally - adding that he intended to re-locate to Nashville with immediate effect.

Colleagues of Dr. Clark took the time to express their own surprise at the manner and timing of his departure and also their regret in losing his professional skills, although they made it clear that they wished him well in all future endeavours.

*Lowery County Chronicle
March 18th 1997*

Police seek assistance from public after brutal slaying.

Law officers were today conducting door to door enquiries in the hope of gaining any leads following a grim discovery yesterday morning in an apartment complex in the Elliston Place area of the city.

Officers and officials are understood to have been called to the scene after the discovery in his newly rented apartment of the body of a man now subsequently identified as a Doctor Brenton Clark, a former resident of Lowery, West Virginia who is thought to have relocated to Nashville in only the last week or so.

Dr Clark is understood to have suffered a particularly vicious assault and whilst the authorities are officially talking in terms of 'stab wounds' it is understood privately that 'disembowelment' would perhaps be a more accurate term for the horrific injuries inflicted.

'At the moment we are pursuing all lines of enquiry, and we hope to bring the person responsible for this vicious murder to justice as soon as possible' said a spokesperson for the Nashville PD Homicide Division.

Nashville Voice
22nd March 1997

Shock suspect in Nashville's 'Tramp Terror' commits suicide after police visit.

Police officials have confirmed that they are seeking 'no other persons' in connection with the recent spate of disappearances amongst Nashville's indigent community - following the gruesome discovery of the body of Father Willard Franklin of the St Bartholomew's Shelter for the Homeless yesterday afternoon.

It is thought that Fr. Franklin killed himself (by 'gutting himself' with a kitchen knife, according to one reliable source) after being questioned by police in relation to the disappearance in the space of approximately three weeks of up to twenty-one persons who had been in the habit of using the Shelter's services on a regular basis. It was when the same detectives returned with a warrant that the grim find was made.

Although remaining tight lipped about the exact details of this perplexing and worrying case, officials are said to be certain that some sort of 'foul play' was involved and have resolved to investigate further - although they have admitted that they cannot be certain just exactly how many of Nashville's homeless community they should be concerned about - given the 'unique lifestyles' of the individuals in question.

The news of Father Willard's likely involvement in these disappearances has come a body blow to the remaining residents of the Shelter who held the priest in the highest esteem - and to the community at large. Readers of this newspaper will also be familiar with Father Willard and the very many acts of charity and kindness he has performed over the years for less fortunate inhabitants of the city .

Nashville Voice
25th April 1997

Shy Hero ends French Quarter 'Reign of Terror' ! 'Cannibal' prowler shot dead in midnight struggle !

Residents of the famous French Quarter – and indeed of the city at large, can rest easy in their beds safe in the knowledge that 'rough justice' has been meted out to the despicable monster responsible for so many of their sleepless nights.

New Orleans PD officials have today confirmed that a man, since identified as one Elijah Jackson, was killed last night while in the process of intruding into the home of David Charles, a local architect and resident of the French Quarter. It is understood that Mr Charles shot and killed Jackson with a shotgun at close quarters during a fierce struggle.

A subsequent autopsy (made doubly difficult for the skilled and dedicated medical examiners by the stomach wounds sustained) disclosed the horrifying fact that Jackson had consumed human flesh recently – connecting him beyond question to the recent spate of disappearances and grisly discoveries of dismembered and partially eaten body parts which have gripped the city in a state of anxiety in recent weeks. Police officials are said to be 'certain' that Jackson acted alone and are in the process of winding up their ongoing investigation.

Elijah Jackson is thought to have been a vagrant recently arrived in the city. Documentation found on his person, and subsequent enquiries have established that his last known address was the St. Bartholomew's Shelter for the Homeless in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr Charles has humbly declined to give any media interviews about the incident and has asked for his privacy to be respected. Police officials confirmed that he will face no charges and have indicated that he may even be nominated for some form of citizen's award for his part in closing this hideous chapter in the city's history.

The New Orleans Post
20th May 1997

New Orleans 'Cannibal Killer' found murdered in 'savage & sustained' assault

Mr David Charles, who was last week the toast of New Orleans for his decisive role in ending the reign of a cannibalistic serial killer, was this morning discovered after having succumbed to multiple chest and stomach wounds in his room in a downtown Houston hotel.

Mr Charles is thought to have come to Houston to escape unwanted publicity following his shooting in self defence of a man subsequently identified as a mass murderer.

Although Houston police authorities are not ruling out a connection with this earlier incident, their enquiries for the moment are centering on the possibility that Mr Charles interrupted a robber and paid the price with his life.

Houston Press
28th May 1997