

# Trail of lethal weapon ends with its destruction here

By SHANNON LEDSON  
Staff Writer

MEDINA — A black machine gun equipped with a silencer lay on a table at the county sheriff's department on Friday. When loaded, the weapon shoots 70 rounds in one second.

It was the weapon fired by Dr. Shou Chao Ho when he killed Dr. Carmelito Olaes on Sept. 14, 1992 in his front yard on Plum Creek Parkway in Brunswick Hills Township.

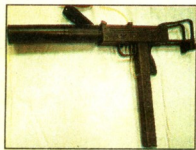
That machine gun, as well as a semi-automatic rifle and a .357-caliber revolver, soon will be destroyed by the department, county Sheriff Neil Hassinger said Friday.

Those weapons were found in Ho's home in 1996 in an attempt to link him to Olaes' murder, sheriff's Detective Chuck Salde said.

Ho pleaded guilty to that murder Oct. 30 and received a sentence of 18 years to life from common pleas Judge Judith A. Cross.

It took six years of investigation to get that conviction, Salde said, adding it wasn't easy.

Salde first suspected Ho might be connected to the Olaes murder in 1993 when he read an article in a Warren, Pa. newspaper describing how Ho had stalked and threatened another doctor.



CLOSE-UP OF M-11

After making a few phone calls, the detective discovered Ho used to be employed at Medina General and Lodi Community hospitals, he said.

His family still lived here in Montville Township, Salde said.

He then began working with Warren, Pa. police and started interviewing Ho's former co-workers at local hospitals.

In the meantime, Ho was released on a \$10,000 bond after he was charged for stalking and threatening Dr. and Mrs. Reynaldo Puesan at Warren State Hospital.

Ho fled to his ex-wife's home on River Styx Road twice and Salde said he was called by Warren police to arrest him on a fugitive warrant.

After Ho was released on bond again, Salde returned to

Ho's Montville Township home to interview him about Olaes' murder.

Out of the blue, he said he asked the doctor if he had ever owned any guns.

"Foolishly, he said 'yea,'" Salde said.

Ho gave Salde information on all the guns he owned, and their calibers, Salde said.

The first link to Olaes' death came when Ho said he had owned a .380-caliber machine gun, the same caliber bullet that killed Olaes, Salde said.

However, there was a catch. Ho said he had thrown the guns away so his three children wouldn't get to them. He also said he had registered the guns with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms when he purchased them.

A federal law allows anyone without a criminal record to buy a machine gun.

By paying \$200 for a tax stamp, the owner of the gun can be registered and protected by federal tax laws, said Patrick Berducci, an agent and media representative for the ATF.

Tax laws prohibit federal agencies from releasing personal

See **TRAIL**, page A3



Detective Chuck Salde displays assault weapon (in foreground) Carmelito Olaes six years ago

## Convicted doctor also stalked Pa. couple

By SHANNON LEDSON  
Staff Writer

Dr. Reynaldo Puesan and his wife lived their lives in fear.

They kept their blinds closed at all times, had lights installed in every nook and cranny of their Warren, Pa. home and property and always returned home wondering what might be awaiting them inside.

Undercover private detectives surveyed their home night and day.

The Puesans' lives were turned upside down when Dr. Shou Chao Ho began stalking

their home on the campus of Warren State Hospital in 1993, Reynaldo Puesan said from his office Friday.

Ho, an anesthesiologist hired for general practice, was working at the state hospital.

Mrs. Puesan would be working out in the garden and see Ho walking by the house dressed in a long rain coat, baseball cap and dark sunglasses. Sometimes he carried a brown, paper bag, Puesan said.

Neighbors and Mrs. Puesan occasionally saw Ho slowly drive by the Puesan home in his

black Cadillac, he said.

On June 5, 1993, the Puesans came outside to see Ho crouched in their bushes dressed in the coat, sunglasses and hat. He also had a weapon resembling a machine gun, Puesan said.

"I told my wife to run one way. I ran the other," he said.

Mrs. Puesan rammed her fist through the glass in her front door to open the locked door from the inside.

Ho had chased Dr. Puesan around his home. While being pursued, Puesan said he re-

members turning around to see the gun pointing half-way between him and the ground.

"I was running for my life. I knew he had something wrong with him. I wasn't gonna stop and argue with him when I knew he had his gun," the doctor said.

Puesan ran toward the street where cars were passing by.

"(Ho) must've panicked because he ran to his car and left," he said.

Puesan filed a police report and Ho was charged with various

See **COUPLE**, page A3

# Trail ends with weapons' destruction

Continued from front page

information to anyone, including local and state law enforcement agencies, he said.

Salde said he could not prove Ho's ownership of the guns without having them or the registration in his possession.

"I, in my mind, knew Ho did it. I just couldn't prove it," he said.

ATF Special Agent Larry Brock could have been charged with a felony for verifying Ho's ownership of any registered gun, Salde said.

Living in Medina County, Brock had known Ho's wife,

Suh. He then called her and persuaded her to scour her home for the gun, he said.

Ho's daughter found a revolver and the loaded Mac-11 machine gun, along with five extra magazines carrying 40 rounds each of .380-caliber ammunition, in a green duffel bag near the laundry room in the basement of her home, Salde said. There also was a silencer.

June 11, 1996 Suh Ho turned the gun, silencer and ammunition over to her attorney, who then gave the weapon to the ATF, he said.

Without releasing any information, Brock requested the shell casings found in Olaes' yard and

matched them to the bullets found in Ho's home, Salde said.

A search warrant obtained for the Ho home turned up the rifle in a crawl space behind some loose insulation inside a wall, the detective explained.

When questioned again about the guns in August 1996, Ho said he purchased them because he grew up in Taiwan, where ownership of a gun warranted execution, Salde said.

"He was like a kid in a candy store," he said.

Ho told Salde he liked to shoot the guns on the banks of the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania.

# Couple stalked by convicted doctor

Continued from front page

counts of stalking and threats, records show.

However, Ho fled and, for the next several years, the Puesans armed themselves, Puesan said.

The couple who had never owned a gun soon was enrolled in firearms classes and had purchased "a whole arsenal," he said.

Puesan said he even entertained the idea of moving back to South America when Ho was released on bond before his conviction in 1996.

Soon after the incident with Ho, Puesan said he received a call from Medina County sheriff's Detective Chuck Salde, who said Ho might be involved in the 1992 murder of Dr. Carmelito Olaes.

Puesan also soon was informed he was not Ho's first victim.

Dr. Solman Meles was an anesthesiologist at Medina General Hospital when Ho was hired.

Though the hospital allegedly knew of a disciplinary incident with Ho at a Pennsylvania hospital, it hired him anyway on a one-year probationary period, Meles said from him Miami, Fla. home Friday.

During a meeting one morning, Meles expressed his disapproval of Ho's permanent hiring and Ho came after him with a fork, he said.

Ho was unsuccessful because "I grabbed a chair and I was about to split his head," Meles said, adding he grabbed the chair in self defense.

Nevertheless, Ho was made a full partner in the anesthesiology

group so Meles, who had been thinking of moving to Miami soon, retired from the hospital.

After performing more than 20,000 cases without a complaint, he said he did not want Ho's bad reputation to reflect on him.

Ho worked at MGH until 1983 when he attacked Dr. K.C. Choi during surgery. The surgery had to be stopped because Ho had stabbed Choi in the forehead with a ballpoint pen, said Edward Hall, who was the chief hospital administrator at that time.

Before the board had a chance to fire Ho, he resigned and did not submit his hospital contract for renewal, Hall said.

The hospital did not pursue a full investigation to find out why the incident occurred because Ho resigned, he said.

From there, Olaes helped Ho obtain a position at Lodi Community Hospital, where he worked from 1983 to 1988, said Dr. Bennis Grable, who was chief of surgery at the time.

Grable said Ho was doing fine until 1988 when he showed up for work drunk and was believed to be on Valium.

Grable was involved in an operation when he noticed Ho, who was the anesthesiologist for the procedure, stumbling.

"He was weaving around like a drunk. He fell on the floor. It was a very frightening experience, to put it mildly," he said.

Grable said he kicked Ho out of the operating room and the assisting physician, luckily, knew how to run the anesthesia machine to continue the operation.

The patient awoke from the op-

eration in good health and healed as expected, he said.

After Grable fired Ho, he heard Ho had been in a drug rehabilitation program prior to being hired at Medina General Hospital.

However, Salde said Ho attended one day of rehabilitation and never finished the program.

Ho's Ohio medical license was up for renewal in 1988, but he did not renew it, said Lauren Lubow, a case control officer for the Ohio State Medical Board.

The incidents in which Ho was involved would not have become part of his permanent licensing record because the law requiring disciplinary actions to be reported did not go into effect until 1987, she said.

Hall said he believed the incidents at MGH were entered in Ho's hospital records. Grable said the incident at Lodi is part of Ho's permanent hospital employment file.

Now, hospitals can retrieve information about doctors from the National Practitioner Data Bank, developed in 1990, and through the Federation of State Medical Boards, Lubow said.

Those data banks make all disciplinary actions available to state licensing boards, doctors and hospitals to use for hiring purposes, she said.

A short summary of the reason for the disciplinary action is included in the information bases, Lubow said.

However, she added, in a situation where a doctor has killed another doctor, unless it was on hospital grounds or while he was on the job, it would not be reported.