

# METROPOLITAN CRIME COMMISSION OF NEW ORLEANS, INC.

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July 27, 1964

Major Lawrence J. Cassanova  
Commander  
Detective Bureau  
New Orleans Police Department  
2700 Tulane Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

Subject: Murder of Dr. Mary Stults Sherman

Dear Major Cassanova:

Reference is made to your investigation of the murder of Dr. Mary Sherman, whose mutilated and burned body was found in her apartment at 3101 St. Charles Avenue during the early morning of July 21, 1964.

Recognizing the lack of direct evidentiary value, but also realizing the importance to you at this time of all possible leads, I pass on to you for whatever they're worth, the following two allegations received by me:

During the afternoon of July 22 an anonymous phone call was received from a woman who stated she is employed at Oschner Foundation and had been a friend of Dr. Sherman's. She said "Mary is the second one of my friends here at Oschner who has been mysteriously killed in the past year". Expressing great fear of her identity becoming known, the caller actually sounded frightened as she excitedly alleged that Latin Americans coming into this country for admission to Oschner, in casts and heavily bandaged, are engaged in major narcotics traffic. She said further that investigation of the research laboratory and pharmacy at Oschner would substantiate her claim; that she believes Dr. Sherman was killed because it was learned that "she knew what was going on, because we talked about it." When efforts were made to question her concerning details of individuals and incidents involved in the activity she alleged, the anonymous woman insisted that such details would make it possible to determine her identity,

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and that she was afraid it would result in her death, too.

This woman hung up after stating that she could be contacted through an advertisement placed in the Personal columns of the newspapers addressed to "Nola Volens".

The second bit of information comes from an identifiable source, a prominent New Orleans lawyer who was called by a client on the night of July 22 and told the following about Dr. Sherman's neighbor, Juan Valdez, whose call to police resulted in the discovery of the murder. This client claimed to have known Valdez when he previously resided at the Mayflower Apartments 2203 St. Charles Avenue. Valdez allegedly exhibited homosexual characteristics and on one occasion made such an approach to the son of the informant. It is understood that this latter informant would be available for interrogation by police, if necessary.

Please let me know if there's anything further we can do to be of assistance.

Very truly yours,



Aaron M. Kohn  
Managing Director

AMK:ML

The above confirms the substance of information I phoned to Homicide Lt. Kruebbe on 7/24/64.