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Oklahoma Journal

MOTHER JAILED; BOYFRIEND CHARGED IN DEATH OF TOT

A 27-year-old woman was held as a material witness and her 35-year-old boyfriend jailed for murder Wednesday, after one of her three children was found dead of an apparent beating coupled with starvation.

Arrested in connection with the death of 2-year-old David Lynn Reed were the mother. Mrs. Patsy Louise Reed of 1011 ½ N Western and her boyfriend, Clifford McKinley Lampkin of 711 N. Dewey.

Police said the child had been dead from 8 to 12 hours when the woman summoned firemen to the home about noon Wednesday after reporting a resuscitation was needed. The body bore several bruises and was badly swollen from apparent malnutrition, police said

Mrs. Reed first claimed she thought the child had fallen down some stairs the day before, but later admitted witnessing several beating attacks by her boyfriend on the infant. "I guess it was because he was a boy." Said Mrs. Reed whose two daughters Marilyn sue (5) and Kimberley sue (10 Months) appeared uninjured.

"HE would just start bearing on the boy for no reason, the woman sobbed after later changing her story during questioning, "whenever I tried to stop him, he would shove me away and tell me to mind my own business.

The hunt for the woman's companion was launched when fireman told police officers there was a man in the woman's apartment when they first arrived who left before they could obtain his name.

Detectives said Mrs. Hreed at first declined to identify the man but later claimed she had been threatened by him when confronted by discrepancies in her story.

The woman, a welfare recipient who said she is estranged from her husband first told officers her son became ill shortly after 8 a.m. when she fed him a bottle of milk.

An autopsy into the death was pending, but the assistant medical examiner summoned to the scene, Dr. Darry Cooper, said the dot died of a beating and appeared to be suffering from an advanced case of malnutrition.

Police said the woman's daughters were placed in a shelter following her arrest but did not appear to have any physical injuries, although they appeared neglected. Officers examining the kitchen found only four eggs and a small amount of canned goods, milk, lard and bread on hand. The apartment was also described in extremely dirty conditions.

Under questioning the woman told officers that Lampkin had been living with her periodically over the past several months and would frequently abuse her son. Though he never maltreated the two daughters.

“She said he beat the boy with his fist and stomped on his stomach late Tuesday night, and then left the home after warning her son not to tell anyone about it said an investigator.

Police said the suspect returned to the woman’s home Wednesday morning and according to the woman’s later story, still refused to allow her to seek medical attention for the tot when he failed to recover from the beatings.

The tot, whom the woman claimed the suspect delighted in beating was wearing only a T shirt when found lying in a bed though officers found evidence the youth had died on a pallet on the floor of the apartment.

Lampkin refuted the woman’s story denied that he had beat the child and claimed that he had left the apartment as firemen arrived in an attempt to contact a relative of the two women about the “sick” child.

Both the woman and her boyfriend were being held late Wednesday night pending further investigation of the death, police said.