

The Margaret Greaves Murder



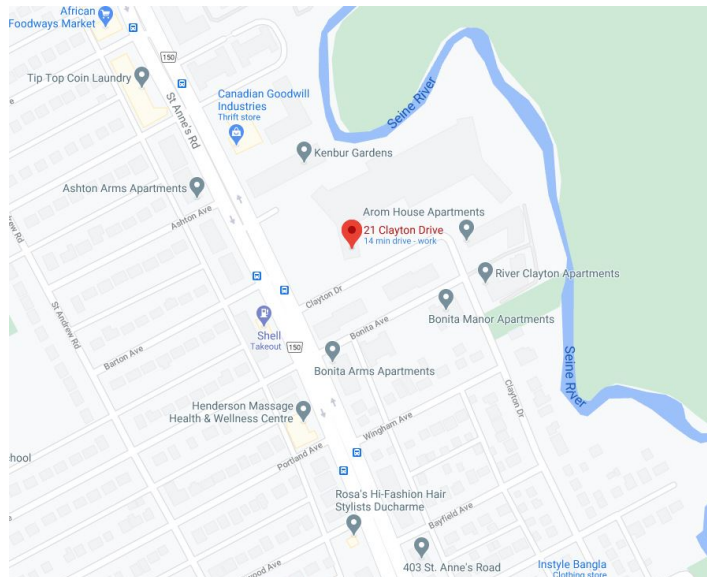
Margaret “Penny” Elizabeth Greaves, a single 29-year-old daycare worker was found beaten and strangled to death in the living room of her St Vital apartment at 21 Clayton Drive on the afternoon of Friday, October 28, 1983. She was discovered by her employer who had gone to check on her well-being after she failed to show up for work, something she had never done in her four years there.

Ms. Greaves lived in the Windsor Park area nearly all her life, became a nurse after graduating from high school and then a daycare worker. She led a normal life, working during the day at the Little People’s Day Care on Cottonwood Road and attending Red River College every Tuesday and

Thursday evening. She drank and socialized moderately, attended church regularly and was highly thought of by friends and workmates alike.

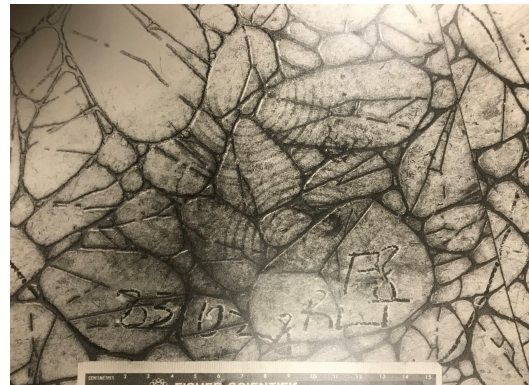
There are no indications that Ms. Greaves was involved in any illegal, immoral or unethical behaviour and her life-style, occupation and living circumstances would classify her as a very low-risk victim of violent crime. As there was no evidence of a struggle or that any other crime had been committed (no overturned furniture, broken glass, forced entry, rifled drawers, pockets turned inside out, no missing jewelry, purse contents not strewn about, etc), it appears that her death was the sole act committed by the suspect. Ms. Greaves *was not* sexually assaulted.

Ms. Greaves was last seen alive at 6:00 p.m. the previous evening (Thursday, October 27) when she went to see her caretaker and called one of her friends to advise her that she was staying home from school because she wasn’t feeling well. Neighbours recall hearing her stereo playing during the evening; however, no one heard the assault or any indications of a struggle. It is believed that she was killed before 8:00 a.m. the next morning as she failed to call in sick for work as required.



There was no sign of forced entry to the suite, indicating that Ms. Greaves had either opened the door for the suspect, it had been left unlocked, or it was easily cheated. She was found fully dressed; however, there were indications she may have been asleep on the couch and was awoken by the sound of someone entering her apartment or banging on the door. In this regard, the building's caretaker recalled buzzing a female into the apartment block and a few minutes later at 4:15 a.m. a male also requested entry and was buzzed in. Several tenants (including one on Ms. Greaves floor and one above Ms. Greaves apartment) reported a male banging on their door at about 4:30 a.m. but they did not let him in. The male indicated he was looking for a girl he had just dropped off. He was described as a 20-year-old white male with brown hair, possibly named "Mark Smith".

The thin rope used to strangle Ms. Greaves was not found in the apartment indicating that the suspect had removed it. However, footprints found in the blood and tracked through the apartment, suggest that the suspect wore a size 9-10 men's shoe (10-11 women's), almost definitely a Lotto "Pioneer" shoe distributed by Zellers department store. One unique aspect of the crime was that Ms. Greave's body was found completely covered by a quilt, suggesting guilt or remorse on the suspect's part and perhaps an attempt to "undo" the crime. It is possible the suspect remained in or returned to the suite later.



Due to the lack of struggle or defensive wounds, it is believed that Ms. Greaves was totally surprised and unprepared for the assault and dictates that it was sudden, spontaneous and unexpected. It is possible that Ms. Greaves knew her assailant and did not feel threatened by their presence. As visitors to the block had to be buzzed in, Ms. Greaves either allowed the suspect entry, they already lived in the block, or another tenant (ie: the caretaker) unwittingly buzzed them in. As no other crime was apparently committed the assault may have been personal, possibly provoked by criticism or rejection. Although personal in nature, it is also possible that the suspect was looking for someone else and picked the wrong suite.

Whether or not it was a fictitious name, the male calling himself "Mark Smith", who had gained entry to the apartment block after apparently dropping off a female tenant earlier that morning, has never been identified.

If you have any information about this case, please contact [Winnipeg Crime Stoppers](#) at 204-786-TIPS (8477). Long-distance callers dial 1-800-222-8477.