

THE STRANGE, VIOLENT DEATH OF THE QUIET ANTIQUE DEALER

By DOUG BUTTON

ANTIQUe dealer John Bedser was a quiet man who loved nothing more than to tinker with his car at home.

But the man who friends say never had a mean word for anyone met a brutal death on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr Bedser, at 47, was a single man who lived with his mother in Sheffield Street, Merrylands.

Police said that shortly before 2 pm Mr Bedser was attacked in his Parramatta shop, stabbed five times, once fatally in the liver, and left for dead.

He had his antique business in Darcy St for three years.

Opposite is greengrocer, Philip Stephens. He said today, "I still can't believe what has happened. I said hello to that guy every day for the past three years.

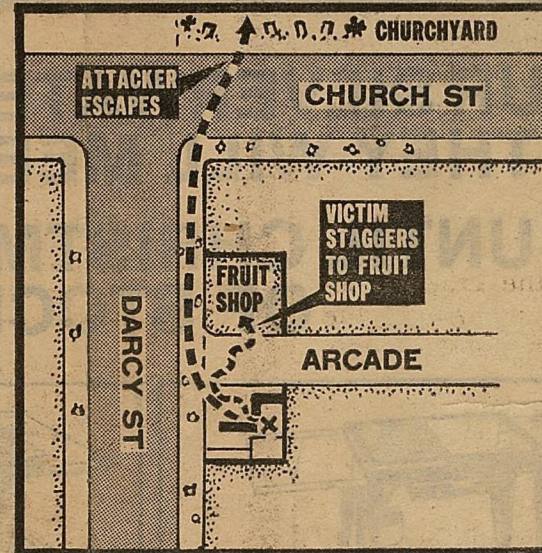
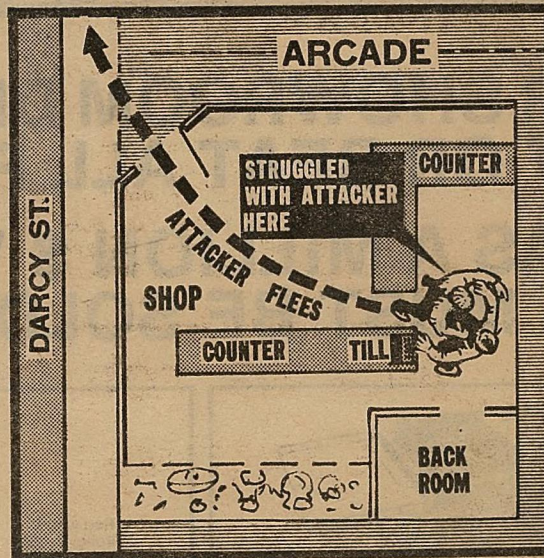
"One of the best guys you could hope to meet. He never had a bad thing to say about anybody. It is a tragedy.

"Just before two o'clock I heard a terrific thud, glass shattering and then a scream.

"The next thing a guy came into my shop asking me to call an ambulance.



John Bedser
— "a devoted son"



A NICE GUY—HE JUST LOVED TINKERING WITH HIS CAR

"I was trying to call the ambulance when John staggered into the shop. He also asked for an ambulance. I said, 'Take it easy, I am.'

"I thought John had fallen over in his shop and cut himself.

"If he had cheated someone I might be able to understand it but he

just wasn't a bloke like that.

"He was very close to his Mum and I knew he was interested in cars. He didn't talk about much else."

Police probing the murder are baffled.

Detective Sergeant John McGregor (Homicide) said there was no

evidence to suggest robbery was the motive, although it could not be ruled out.

He said, "We have about 400 people to interview who may be able to shed some light on it for us.

"For all we know, there may have been an argument over a personal

matter."

Det Sgt McGregor said Mr Bedser was stabbed through the liver, through the top of the chest near the collarbone and along one arm in a violent scuffle which took place in a two-metre-square area near the shop till.

Detectives have estab-

lished the attacker was a man about 185cm tall, of solid build, neatly groomed, wearing a fawn safari suit, polished brown shoes and was clean shaven.

They believe he would have had blood on his hands and clothes as he ran down Darcy St, across Church St.