Man stabbed to death in arcade

By PAUL MOLLOY,
Police Reporter

A 47-year-old antique dealer who was stabbed five times tried to chase his assailant before he collapsed and died in a shopping arcade at Parramatta yesterday.

Mr Walter John Bedser, of Merrylands, left a 14-metre trail of blood as he tried to catch the man who stabbed him.

He died after seeking help in a greengrocer's shop at the end of the shopping arcade in Darcy Street.

Last night detectives were searching for a man seen running from Mr Bedser's antique shop in a blood-splattered light-coloured safari jacket.

They said the man had been seen loitering in the arcade about 10 am yesterday, four hours before Mr Bedser was stabbed.

The detectives said robbery may have been the motive for the murder but other avenues were being explored.

They found signs that Mr Bedser, who was alone in the shop, had struggled with his attacker.

A sharp sheath knife was found in the shop. Scientific Squad detectives who examined the scene took the knife for analysis.

Police immediately began a search of the Parramatta shopping area for a man described as 188cm (6ft 2in) tall, early to mid-thirties and of solid build. He was wearing a safari jacket and light trousers.

In another murder investigation, Homicide Squad detectives are puzzled as to why telephone wires had been cut at a house near Orange where a 68-year-old woman was shot dead on Monday.

Police believe the wires were cut before Mrs Edna Elizabeth Brady, a grazier's wife, was shot in the chest in the dining room of the farmhouse at Marysvale.