

murder file 80/75

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THE RIDDLE OF MURDER ARCADE

By JIM POLLARD

THE door of a deserted antique shop remains padlocked on a murder which still baffles police.

Walter "Johnny" Bedser was brutally knifed inside his shop on December 2 last year.

He died of five deep stab wounds after a desperate struggle with his killer.

Despite massive publicity and a State-wide police investigation, the murderer is still at large.

In the aftermath, the victim's mother, 70-year-old widow Mrs Edna Bedser, is still suffering.

Mrs Bedser, who lived with her son, said from her Merrylands home: "It's been a great burden to me.

"It was a complete shock that such a thing could happen to Johnny. He had so many friends"

Mrs Bedser, whose health is failing, said finding the killer would be "a great relief."

"It would be a big weight off

Antique shop

knifeman is

still free

me when the crime is solved. The whole thing has been unbearable."

Mrs Bedser has been disturbed by suggestions that her son was homosexual.

"He was so good, helping people and working for charity," she said.

Police believe there may be a link between Johnny Bedser's love of cars and his murder.

Inquiries have been made in Victoria, where the dead man bought a \$17,000 Pontiac.

"We are still following up a number of leads," said Sgt John McGregor of the Homicide Squad.

"The case hasn't fizzled out — it's just a long hard road.

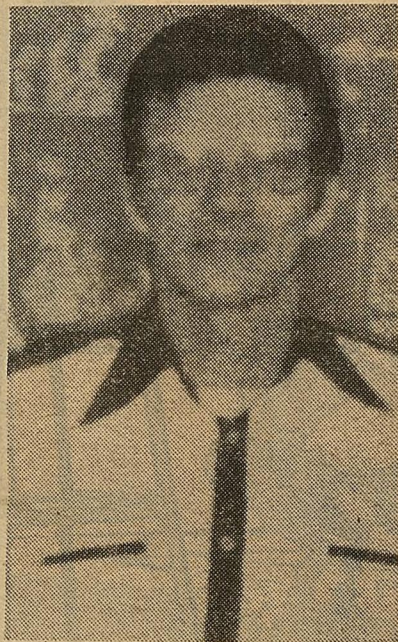
"We are not certain of the motive, but we think Johnny knew his killer," he said.

Police believe the identikit picture of the wanted man, issued soon after the murder, is a good likeness.

It was formed by four shoppers who saw the man in the Parramatta arcade at different times on the day of the killing and from a sports store where he bought a hunting knife used in the attack.

The wanted man is believed to be in his late 30s or early 40s, 175 to 180cm tall, with medium length dark brown hair.

In the meantime Johnny Bedser's antique shop stays closed.



JOHNNY BEDSER: Stabbed five times

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