

MURDER WILL OUT

- T.Narasinga Rao, Adll SP, Kadapa.

{The following story deserves attention mainly not for the good detection done therein but for the lesson that 174 CrPC cases and “man missing” cases are ignored at our peril! - Editor}

It is a well-known fact that Truth never dies and that the Truth about murder will come out earlier or later and that murder cannot be hidden.

Every effect has a cause. Nothing is accidental in this world including accidents. Every reaction or result presupposes an action. Until a few decades ago, the average Police investigator in our country was used to handling crime that was committed mainly by single individuals. Of late a relatively new phenomenon of small or large criminal groups coming together for illegal activities poses a major challenge to the Police ingenuity. This may be called “organized crime”, say, mercenary crime, prostitution, cheating, theft, robbery, housebreaking, way-laying etc.

C.C.S., Kadapa is meant for detecting important, complicated cases of the district. A case of murder for gain of Smt.Berila Rangamma of Nabikot, Kadapa town was assigned to them.

One week prior to the arrest of the accused Vadlamanu Pavan Kumarachari, Inspector of Police, C.C.S, Kadapa received information that the accused Pavan Kumarachari went to Chennur and informed one of the informants of C.C.S that he along with Satya Surya Prakash Raju, Palla Krishnamurthy, Katasani Parthasaradhi Reddy, Gaddam Bramhananda Reddy put their brains together and hatched a plan and murdered one Berila Rangamma, a widow, residing alone at Nabikot and committed theft of gold jewels and that his share of property was not properly given to him and so he wanted to inform the Crime Police, Kadapa about the incident through the informant.

Thereupon the informant of Chennur approached the Inspector of Police, C.C.S., Kadapa and informed what Pavan Kumarachari had told him. Basing on that information the Inspector of Police, C.C.S., and his staff started enquiring about the validity of the information and tried to secure Pavan Kumar. Subsequently the Inspector, CCS caught Pavan Kumarachari at one of his hideouts and interrogated him.

During interrogation the accused Pavan Kumar confessed that he along with four other accomplices namely Satya Surya Prakash Raju, Palla Krishnamurthy, Katasani Parthasaradhi Reddy and Gaddam Brahmananda Reddy hatched a scheme to murder Berila Rangamma, aged about 65 years residing alone in a house in Nabikot and accordingly one night they climbed the terrace of her house and entered the backyard. Taking the opportunity they waylaid her in the early morning hours when she came out to go to the toilet. She was caught unawares. She was pushed forcibly into the kitchen. Her hands were tied at the back with a rope. Her legs too were tied. They gagged her mouth with her sari lest she should shout or scream for help, and smothered her and stole the jewellery worn by her.

Pavan Kumarachari also confessed that he along with his partner in crime Satya Surya Prakash Raju made friends with one Dasthagiri of Kadapa and took him to Nellore with a view to commit offences. They stayed in the Ashoka Lodge in Nellore. As differences cropped up among them regarding money matters, Pavan Kumarachari and Satya Surya Prakash Raju formed one group and brutally hacked Dastagiri to death by beheading him and cutting his genitals to avoid identification and also to give an impression that it might be a case arising out of sexual jealousy. Pavan Kumar also revealed the movements of the other accomplices.

Besides confessing the two crimes Satya Surya Prakash Raju also confessed that in the month of December, 1993 he took with him his neighbour one Kamalakuri Venkata Subba Rao, a retired Head Master aged about 75 years on the pretext of sight-seeing to Sidhout forest area and fort with a view to murder him and take cash and a gold ring from him. And accordingly he went to

Siddhout along with Kamalakuri Venkata Subba Rao, stabbed him to death at the forest area in the presence of one of his friends namely Ravikumar of Siddhout and committed the theft of gold ring and cash.

Further, Satya Surya Prakash Raju confessed that in the year 1998 on suspicion that one Venkata Subbaiah who knew well about his movements might leak the information to the police about his involvement in the crimes thought of putting an end to Venkata Subbaiah. With that intention of slaying him he took him towards Bakarapet Railway Station promising him that he would give money to him there. There he stabbed him to death without leaving any trace of evidence for detection.

Subsequently when the arrest of the accused Katasani Parthasaradhi Reddy, Gaddam Brahmananda Reddy and Palla Krishnamurthy took place, they confessed their involvement along with Pavan Kumar and Satya Surya Prakash Raju only in the murder of Berila Rangamma at Nabikot.

A review of the four murders shows the meticulous way of planning and execution by these criminals with similar bent of mind who joined as a gang and went on a spree of murdering here and there for personal gains. This had been going on with them ever since December 1993 for nearly a decade. With regard to the disappearance of K.Venkata Subba Rao, his wife Smt Kamamma lodged a complaint with the authorities in Kadapa I Town Police Station on 02-12-1993 and requested the Police Department to enquire about her husband's whereabouts who was found missing. A case in Cr.No.300/93 u/s Man-missing was registered in I Town Police Station, Kadapa. During investigation the S.I of I Town P.S traced the dead body of the deceased at Siddhout forest in highly decomposed state, which was identified by the wife of the deceased as her husband's. Then they conducted autopsy and in the autopsy no injuries could be found on the body. Finally in this case the action was dropped as the body was highly decomposed and no foul play was suspected.

Regarding the death of Venkata Subbaiah on the complaint of the Village Administrative Officer of Bakarapet a case in Cr.No.28/97 U/S 174 CrPC (Death cause not known) was registered at Siddhout Police Station and inquest and autopsy were conducted. In the autopsy no injuries could be found as the body was highly decomposed and the identity of the deceased and the accused was not established. So the Investigating Agency dropped further action in this case on 12-11-1998.

Concerning the death of Dasthagiri at the Ashoka Lodge in Nellore town a complaint was given by the Manager of the Ashoka Lodge and a case in Cr.No.412/2001 U/S 302 IPC was registered in Nellore I Town Police Station and the investigation in this case was in progress. Pertaining to the death of Smt Berila Rangamma her son by name B.Ranganadha Swamy, a resident of Yerramukkapalli lodged a complaint in Kadapa Taluk Police Station, vide Cr.No.24/X/03 U/S 302,379 IPC of C.C.S, Kadapa (Kadapa Taluk P.S Cr.No.60/03) suspecting the involvement of his younger brother Dr.B.Sreenivasulu, B.H.M.S in the cold-blooded murder of his mother on account of existing differences between them regarding property divisions. In the murder of Berila Rangamma, which was 'murder most foul', the complainant suspected his own younger brother for the killing. While investigating this case the Dog Squad and the Lie Detecting Test strengthened the version of the complainant and during the investigation the suspected Sreenivasulu did not account for his whereabouts at the time of offence and also he could not give satisfactory replies to the questions of the Investigating Officers which led to further suspicion on him. Even though Sreenivasulu admitted the guilt in frustration by the circumstantial equations and inferences the C.I of Police, CCS, did not take action against him believing that he was not guilty as the iron-safe was intact and the mystery of the murder could not be solved.

At last the real culprits were charged with murder and put behind bars and that one innocent son of the deceased mother was saved.