Police checking claim suspect killed others

DALLAS (UPI) — Police who charged a 42-year-old man with murder in the strangulation of a Dallas woman are investigating his claim that he killed eight other women, including his wife.

Carroll Edward Cole was charged Wednesday in last month's death of Wanda Fay Roberts and jailed in lieu of $100,000 bond.

Police said they were checking with authorities in California, Nevada and Wyoming about the other deaths, some of which had not been classified as homicides.

Homicide investigator Gerald Robinson said he was questioning Cole Tuesday about Miss Roberts' death when the suspect told him "I need some help."

Cole, who was released in October from a Springfield, Mo., prison where he had served a sentence for mail fraud, said he had been in and out of mental institutions since the early 1960s, becoming "progressively more violent," Robinson said.

The officer said Cole told him he had strangled his wife, Diane, in San Diego, Calif., and had killed two other women in San Diego, two in Las Vegas, Nev., and one in Casper, Wyo. He also reportedly admitted two Dallas slayings in addition to Miss Roberts.

"Although he admitted to the other eight, we're only sure so far of this one (Miss Roberts)," he said. "Cole told us he didn't know why he killed her and the others, just that he had homicidal tendencies."

Robinson said he was "fairly sure ... that there's something to all nine of them."

Robinson said all the out-of-state deaths had been confirmed but he had not learned whether all were ruled homicides. Of the dead women, the name of only one — Cole's wife, Diane — was released.

A homicide officer from Las Vegas was en route to Dallas to question Cole, Robinson said.

Hotel probe wanted

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Attorneys for the MGM Grand Hotel and two couples suing the resort agreed Wednesday that an independent fire investigator would be allowed to make a limited inspection of the fire-ravaged Strip hotel.

The agreement came after a hearing before U.S. District Judge Roger Foley on the plaintiffs' request for a temporary restraining order prohibiting hotel employees from cleaning up the mess left by the Nov. 21 fire in which 84 people died and 700 were injured.

Attorney Wendell Gauthier of Kenner, La., who represents the two couples, told Foley it was essential that fire investigator George Martinsen be allowed to inspect the hotel. He said Martinsen would need about 10 days for his inspection.

Foley had ordered the opposing attorneys to attempt to reach an agreement and scheduled another hearing to hear the results of the negotiations. That hearing was canceled, however, when the two sides reached agreement and explained it to the judge.

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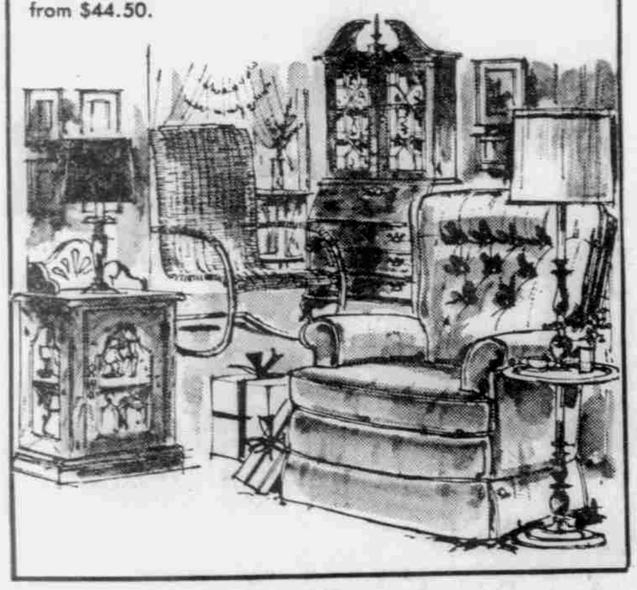
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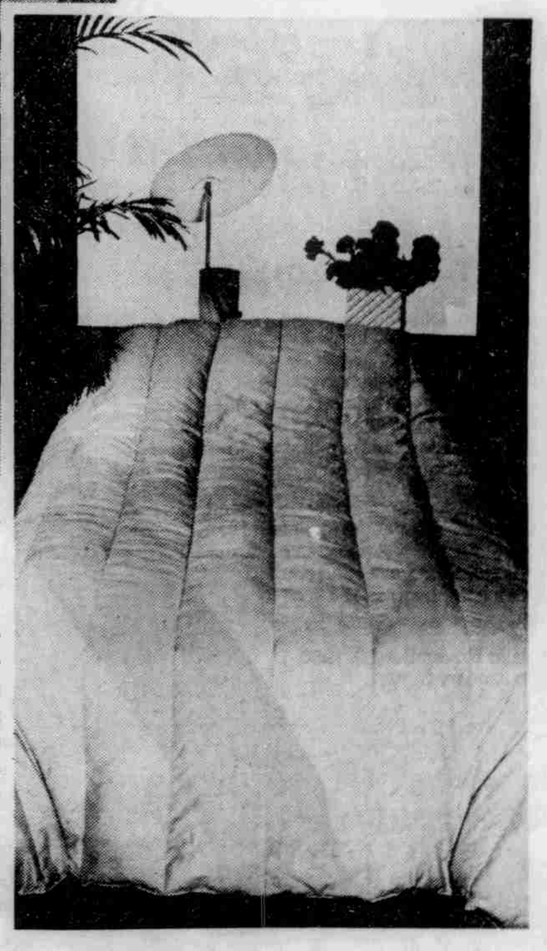
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