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Event - Minn. [Minnesota] Trip (Right After Crime Rule)

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	re: The Trip of the President to Minneapolis, Minnesota, (21 pages)	08/12/1994	b(7)(C), b(7)(E), b(7)(F), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Jose Cerda
OA/Box Number: 5874

FOLDER TITLE:

Event - Minn. [Minnesota] Trip (Right After Crime Rule)

2009-1305-F

jp3663

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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LEVEL 1 - 12 OF 18 STORIES

Copyright 1992 Star Tribune
Star Tribune

September 27, 1992, Early Sunday Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 949 words

HEADLINE: Charges expected in cop killing;
2 arrested after massive daylong search

BYLINE: Staff Writers

BODY:

Two male suspects were arrested late Friday night and held in connection with the slaying of Minneapolis police officer Jerry Haaf.

Haaf, 53, was shot in the back in the early hours of Friday as he sat reading a newspaper in a south Minneapolis restaurant.

The two suspects were arrested after homicide investigators received information that led them to the house of Sharif Willis, the president of United for Peace, an organization of gang leaders who have opposed intergang violence in Minneapolis. The house is near the corner of 38th St. and 24th Av. S. in Minneapolis.

Deputy Chief Dave Dobrotka said officers went to Willis' house at 9 p.m. Friday, detained about five people, then arrested two of them at about 10 p.m. on probable cause in the murder of Haaf.

The two suspects were handcuffed, put in police cars and driven to the department's homicide division office in City Hall, where they were being questioned late Friday night. Dobrotka said he expected that charges would be filed early this week.

Authorities were seeking a warrant late Friday night to search Willis' house. They also towed a car from in front of the house to police headquarters.

The suspects were not identified, and Dobrotka said he did not know whether the man who fired the gun that killed Haaf was among those arrested.

It was not clear what role, if any, Willis had in the arrest. Dobrotka said that Willis was at the house at the time of the arrest, but implied that Willis' presence in the house was merely coincidental. Earlier in the day, Willis had denounced the killing of Haaf, and Dobrotka said that members of United for Peace and the police "had conversations" during the day.

Dobrotka said that he was willing to continue to work with United for Peace despite criticisms made Friday night.

Haaf's death had triggered a massive search and resulted in the unprecedented offer of a \$ 50,000 reward. It also reopened deep fissures between police officers and their supervisors and city officials. The brutality of the execution-style killing deeply shocked officials, who pleaded for calm

Star Tribune, September 27, 1992

and reconciliation.

The suspects were described from the outset as young black men; Haaf was white. That fact immediately gave the case racial overtones at a time when the Police Department and young black gang members have been trying to make peace - and at a time when deep pockets of mistrust of the police exist among some black residents.

Although before the arrests some officers had immediately branded the killers as gang members, officials said there was no proof of gang involvement and were careful to distance themselves from any such characterization. The union representing the city's 831 officers bitterly laid blame for the killing in the laps of city officials and police administrators, accusing them of letting violent crime spiral out of control.

At the same time, black leaders made impassioned pleas for peace and calm on the streets, appearing at an afternoon news conference with city and police officials.

Chief John Laux called the shooting "a cold-blooded assassination - a cold-blooded murder that has no place in this city. The very fabric of this community is now threatened. . . . We have crossed the line. Nobody can tolerate this."

Laux, normally stoic, was grim and shaken Friday. By early afternoon, he said that the department had already gotten hundreds of tips on the case.

A reward of at least \$ 50,000 was offered for the arrest and conviction of Haaf's killers; at least \$ 10,000 will be contributed by the city, an unprecedented move approved Friday by the City Council.

Haaf, married with three grown children, was the first Minneapolis officer to be shot to death since 1981.

Mayor Don Fraser called the killing "an unspeakable tragedy - I can't believe this would ever happen in the city of Minneapolis. The city has to pull together. We don't dare let this tragedy tear us apart."

The reward was proposed by Council Member Walter Dzedzic. "The climate is changing drastically and rapidly in this city," he said. "People don't realize how fast things are changing here until something like this happens."

Black officials expressed fear that police might overreact - and that the case could poison race relations in the city.

State Rep. Richard Jefferson, a mayoral candidate, said, "There's so much anger. I understand it. This was an awful thing that happened in our community."

Police response to the shooting was massive and instantaneous. Initially, more than 100 officers fanned out from the shooting scene, the Pizza Shack, at the corner of E. Lake St. and 17th Av. S. The block-by-block search was aided by other agencies, including the Minneapolis Fire Department and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department. By Friday afternoon, the Police Department had as many as 15 investigators working on the case, with six homicide investigators brought in.

Star Tribune, September 27, 1992

The restaurant where the shooting occurred "is a cop place," said Officer John Locke. "This is like the reverse of those Mafia hits. You know how they go right into somebody else's place and execute. That's what happened here, except in reverse. The bad guys come into the good guys' place. Traffic guys, detectives, it's our place."

Laux said it was "very likely" anyone looking to kill a police officer would know that, because of the number of squad cars parked outside most nights. He said there was no reason to think Haaf was personally singled out by the killers. "A police officer in a uniform was being sought out," Laux said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 30, 1992

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1993 Star Tribune
Star Tribune

October 24, 1993, Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 1529 words

HEADLINE: McKenzie convicted in Haaf slaying;
He'll serve at least 30 years; jury acquits him of 2 charges

BYLINE: Donna Halvorsen; Maureen M. Smith; Staff Writers

BODY:

Mwati (Pepi) McKenzie was convicted Saturday of killing Minneapolis police officer Jerry Haaf in the Pizza Shack restaurant a year ago.

McKenzie, 20, was found guilty of murdering a police officer, but he was acquitted of two other charges: premeditated murder in the Haaf death, and attempted murder for the wounding of a restaurant patron.

Hennepin County District Judge Robert Lynn imposed the mandatory sentence of life in prison. McKenzie must serve at least 30 years before he is eligible for parole.

The crime of first-degree murder of a police officer does not require premeditation for a conviction.

The courtroom was quiet after the verdicts were read. McKenzie's friends and family sat on one side, the Haaf family and friends on the other, as they had throughout the long and contentious trial.

Lynn asked McKenzie if he wanted to speak before sentencing. "I can't say anything," said McKenzie, who has been in custody since Nov. 24.

The jury's verdict came after more than 30 hours of deliberation over five days.

But one juror said at least two and perhaps as many as four jurors were not convinced that McKenzie was one of the gunmen who walked into the restaurant and killed Haaf on Sept. 25, 1992. She said they were willing to convict him because they were convinced he was involved in the killing.

The juror, who spoke anonymously to a reporter, said that if the jury had been given the option of convicting McKenzie of a lesser offense than first-degree murder, the outcome might have been the same but it would have taken longer to reach a verdict.

Defense attorney Art Martinez said he believed the split verdict was contradictory and indicated confusion among the jurors. He questioned how they could find McKenzie guilty of shooting Haaf but not guilty of the attempted murder of patron Gerald Lubarski, whose arm was grazed by a bullet during the shooting.

Star Tribune, October 24, 1993

Prosecutor Bob Streitz said he saw no contradiction in the McKenzie verdicts, nor between the McKenzie verdicts and those rendered in the earlier trials of A.C. Ford and Shannon Bowles. "Each of these cases carried a little bit of different evidence," Streitz said. "Each jury can view the evidence and the law the way they see fit."

Ford, 27, was convicted in May, and Bowles, 21, in June. Each was given a life sentence for murder and an additional sentence - 20 years for Ford, 15 for Bowles - for attempted murder.

All three were members of the Vice Lords street gang. Prosecutors allege that the killing was a gang-inspired plot to get even for the alleged mistreatment of a blind black man on an MTC bus the day before.

Haaf, 53, a 30-year-veteran who was nearing retirement, apparently was chosen randomly. He was shot in a restaurant that was known to be a popular stopping-off place for police on their breaks.

"We're satisfied," Streitz said after yesterday's verdict. "It's a first-degree murder conviction. My view of the evidence was that he should have been found guilty of the attempted murder, too, but this jury has the prerogative of viewing the evidence the way it did, and I can live with that."

Streitz said that if McKenzie had been convicted of both murder charges in the Haaf death, it still would have resulted in a single life sentence. But if McKenzie had been convicted of the attempted murder charge, he could have received consecutive sentences, similar to those given to Ford and Bowles.

Haaf's widow, Marilyn Haaf, who has been at all three trials, appeared fatigued after the verdicts. "I'm kind of tired of everything right now," she said. "I haven't slept well. There's another trial yet, but I'm very relieved and very glad. When I sit back and think about it, you can only serve one lifetime in jail."

Her daughter, Cindy Durst, said family members were uncertain what to expect yesterday. "We can't read the jury's mind, the cases are slightly different, every jury is different," she said. "It's the waiting that is very tough. It does not get easier."

Durst said she was relieved that three of the trials were finished. "They didn't just kill a cop, they killed my Dad. [McKenzie] will be in jail and that's the important thing. You don't kill in Minneapolis and get away with it."

Members of the Committee Seeking Equal Justice for the Minnesota Eight gathered outside the courthouse after the verdict and expressed their disappointment. A spirited defense by McKenzie's lawyers and the questions asked by jurors during their deliberations led some to believe that McKenzie would be acquitted.

"I think they [jurors] were just afraid to find a not guilty verdict so they had to do something," said committee member Nora Okeneski. "I think they probably thought he was involved in the aiding and abetting but not the killing."

Star Tribune, October 24, 1993

The Minnesota Eight are the five defendants in the Haaf killing and three who were charged with killing Ed Harris two weeks after the Haaf killing. Harris, a Vice Lords gang member, was allegedly killed by other gang members who thought he was talking to the police.

Police Chief John Laux called yesterday "a very emotional day for not only the Minneapolis Department but for every citizen of this community. . . . I am pleased again that the system works."

Laux discounted allegations of police misconduct made by one witness, Wyvonnia Williams of Chicago. In the McKenzie trial, Williams recanted portions of her testimony in the Ford and Bowles trials and alleged that she was coerced into making a statement implicating McKenzie.

While Laux said Williams' allegations will be investigated, he said he does not believe his officers are guilty of misconduct. Laux said the investigators have told him they would not have jeopardized such an important case by "doing something stupid."

"Was there some tough talk? Were there some long interviews? Sure, there were," he said. "But I don't think it falls into the area of misconduct by any means."

The juror who talked to the Star Tribune said the jury discounted Williams' trial testimony and relied on the statement she initially gave police. The juror said her colleagues decided Williams was "protecting" McKenzie in her testimony. Prosecutors alleged during the trial that McKenzie was Williams' boyfriend.

McKenzie and Bowles were alleged to have been the gunmen who shot Haaf. Ford, the gang's second in command, was the reputed instigator of the plan. Monterey Willis, 26, is alleged to have been in on the planning and a passenger in one of the cars used to drive the gunmen to the restaurant.

The fifth defendant in the case, a 16-year-old gang member who has admitted to being one of the drivers, is testifying for the prosecution in return for being prosecuted as a juvenile. He will be sentenced once all six trials in the Haaf and Harris killings have been completed. Under his plea agreement, he can be held only until his 19th birthday.

The trial of Larry Fournoy, one of three defendants in the Harris slaying, is expected to begin this week. Other defendants are Steve Banks, who is awaiting trial, and Alfonso Lee Henry, who will testify for the prosecution in return for a reduced sentence. Willis, the remaining defendant in the Haaf killing, is being held in Chicago on an unrelated murder charge. Streitz said Chicago authorities want to resolve that charge before sending Willis to Minnesota.

Laux said it may be the middle of next year before Willis is returned to stand trial.

McKenzie's trial was contentious from jury selection through closing arguments, with defense attorneys Martinez and Mike McGlennen raising numerous issues that could be used as bases for appeal.

Star Tribune, October 24, 1993

McKenzie, who had a right not to testify, did not take the stand. He sat quietly and attentively between his attorneys, speaking to them rarely, smiling only when bantering with them during recesses. His mother, Ardella, was in the courtroom throughout the trial. So were Haaf's widow and daughter.

Defense attorneys said it was a case of missing evidence: no eyewitness identifications, no guns, no fingerprints. The primary physical evidence was two pairs of shoes and a baseball cap that the gunmen allegedly left behind at a gang member's house. So it was left to people who were associated with the Vice Lords to point the finger at McKenzie, Bowles, Ford and Willis.

Loverine Harris was a key witness. She had broken the case open when she talked to police the day after her husband was killed. She identified McKenzie and Bowles as the two men who came to her house after the shooting to stash their guns and get a change of clothing. She allowed police to search the house, and they found the shoes and baseball cap.

Harris said her husband wrapped the guns in the shirts the men had taken off, put them in a bag and hid the bag in the attic. She said a Vice Lords member known as "Lord Larry" picked up the bag the next day. "Lord Larry" was identified as Larry Flourney, later accused of killing Harris. The guns were never found.

GRAPHIC: Photograph

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: October 26, 1993

LEVEL 1 - 8 OF 18 STORIES

Copyright 1992 Star Tribune
Star Tribune

September 29, 1992, Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 1009 words

HEADLINE: Shooting further polarizes race relations;
Police, blacks disagree on methods in case

BYLINE: Suzanne P. Kelly; Staff Writer

BODY:

The shooting of police officer Jerry Haaf has exacerbated what many say was a tenuous relationship between Minneapolis police and some black residents, and has fueled racial mistrust that has spread across the Twin Cities metro area.

Many blacks worry that because the shooting suspects are black, the police will use the investigation into Haaf's death as an excuse to indiscriminately stop and harass black men. They also express bitterness that because of the actions of a few individuals, suspicion has been widely cast on black men across the metro area.

"There is no doubt that some unintelligent, uneducated people will use this to feed their perpetual propaganda," said Minneapolis Urban League President Gary Sudduth. "But responsible individuals need to continue to say that you don't judge a whole community based on the actions of a few individuals. When [grocery heir Russell Lund Jr.] allegedly killed his ex-wife and her lover, it wasn't seen as an indictment against all white people, it was seen as the act of an individual.

"Clearly, the black community does not condone murder," he said.

Still, some whites, several of whom have called local media outlets and city offices, said the arrest of four black men in connection with the shooting confirms their fears that "an undesirable element" has infiltrated the metro area. Two of the men arrested were released Monday, while the other two remained in jail on unrelated charges.

Minneapolis City Council Member Jackie Cherryhomes said she was stunned by the level of racial hatred unleashed by the shooting. A visibly shaken Cherryhomes said she'd been barraged by racist phone calls throughout the weekend. "I had forgotten how alive and well racism still is in Minneapolis," she said. "Some of the calls have been vicious. I'm very concerned about race relations in this city right now."

Police officers, meanwhile, resent charges that they are unfairly carrying out their investigation and say they are acting responsibly.

It is against this antagonistic backdrop that civic leaders, clergy members and elected officials are trying to find a constructive way to move the entire community forward.

Star Tribune, September 29, 1992

"This incident has just brought [racial tension] back to our attention," said Norvell Laurent, co-chairman of the Twin Cities Coalition Against Police Brutality.

"The polarization has been there all along. It is currently manifesting itself in the sense that the police in Minneapolis are intimidating and harassing young black men in an effort to arrest the right person. There is a sense that if you are a black man, you need to stay off the street and avoid situations that might put you in contact with the police."

Laurent said his organization plans to hold a rally today at 12:30 p.m. at Hennepin County Government Center to cite what it says has been unfair treatment by the police. He said the rally will include people who say they have been unfairly targeted as a result of the Haaf investigation.

"The whole thing is a bunch of bull," said Patrick McGowan, a Minneapolis detective who is also a state senator. "If the suspects in this particular case happen to be black, who do they expect us to arrest? That's not discrimination, it's police procedure."

He said the "general public" is "absolutely fed up with people saying that everything is discrimination." He acknowledged that some people might consider all black men suspects, but he said most officers and the public judge people as individuals.

"I think they know it isn't true that all blacks are running around killing police officers, it isn't even close to the truth," McGowan said. "But it is true to say, in this case, that at least two black people did that, and that's who officers are going to have to go and find."

Still, City Council President Sharon Sayles Belton said there are some residents who are angry at more than just the four suspects who were arrested.

"Now the whole African-American community is under indictment," she said. "The reality is that this was a reprehensible act of murder and no one condones it - not black people, not white people, not any decent, honest, law-abiding citizen, no matter what color or income status."

"I'm very afraid that this will be politicized and polarize the community. People in law enforcement and the community might generalize this lawless behavior and ascribe it to all young black men."

McGowan said Minneapolis officers aren't interested in arresting "just anyone," but want to make sure they have the right people in custody "so it doesn't happen again."

"That's our job," he said. "It's all too common when something like this happens that people charge harassment in order to shift the focus from the responsibility for the crime."

Whether such different views of how the investigation is being carried out will hurt race relations in the metro area remains to be seen.

Sayles Belton said that city officials and Police Chief John Laux are committed to improving relations. "One of the reasons I can support the chief

Star Tribune, September 29, 1992

is that I do believe he's totally committed to continuing to build bridges," she said. "One of the things he said is that no matter what the relationship with United for Peace is, he wants to continue working with people in trying to cut the violence."

Laux announced yesterday that he is severing ties with United for Peace, a coalition of gang leaders, but that he would continue to work for positive change through other channels.

And said the Urban League's Sudduth: "For whatever reason, tragedy tends to make us look at what positive things can come. And what has become clear to me is that out of this tragedy the community has come together to say there are certain things we don't condone, and this is our opportunity to recapture that spirit of saying there are certain things that are unallowable."

Staff writer Patricia Lopez Baden contributed to this article.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 30, 1992

LEVEL 1 - 11 OF 18 STORIES

Copyright 1992 Star Tribune
Star Tribune

September 27, 1992, Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 7A

LENGTH: 567 words

HEADLINE: Jerry Haaf's last seconds: 'Officer down, officer shot'

BYLINE: Randy Furst; Staff Writer

BODY:
"Officer down, officer shot," were among Jerry Haaf's last words.

A Minneapolis woman, a friend of the 30-year police veteran's, heard him say them early Friday as he slumped to the floor after he was shot in the back at a south Minneapolis restaurant.

She watched a man firing his gun, and she saw Haaf fall from his chair at the Pizza Shack on E. Lake St. The woman, who was fearful and did not want to be identified, recalled the incident late Friday.

"It was awful," she said. "I don't know how anyone can walk in and shoot a man in the back. . . . No one has the right to do that."

Haaf was working traffic duty early Friday. He had arrested a drunken driver, booked him at the downtown police station, then driven to the Pizza Shack, 1623 E. Lake St., about 1:30 a.m. to finish his report.

Three tables had been pulled together in the inner room at the Pizza Shack. Two homicide officers, Haaf, one of the restaurant's owners, another man and the woman sat there.

The homicide officers left, as did the owner. Haaf completed his report and picked up the morning paper.

"It was pretty quiet," the woman said. "Jerry was reading the newspaper. I asked him to hand me my horoscope."

Haaf and the woman were sitting with their backs to the door. Haaf was to her right.

Two men had come into the restaurant.

"I heard a pop," the woman said. "It sounded like a firecracker or a cap gun. The man sitting across from me looked up."

The woman turned and looked over her right shoulder.

"There was a man standing there with a gun, shooting it," she said.

He was maybe 6 feet away.

Star Tribune, September 27, 1992

She does not know if Haaf saw the man, but she felt Haaf lean against her.

"Get down, get down," Haaf shouted.

Others were yelling the same thing.

"It was in slow motion," she said. "It took only 5 or 6 seconds, but in my mind, it took a half hour."

Several shots were fired.

Haaf "either pushed me or slumped in my direction, and I hit the floor," the woman said.

And then the shooting was over and the gunman was gone.

"Jerry was on his stomach," she said.

Lying on the floor, Haaf spoke into the police radio on his shoulder: "Officer down, officer shot," the woman heard him saying. Haaf gave the location of the shooting - his last words.

"Panic set in," the woman said. "Everyone was screaming and yelling, and I yelled, 'Call 911.'" She got up and called for a clean rag to apply to Haaf's wound.

"I looked over at Jerry and blood was flying out of his back. I grabbed the rag and handed it to someone and told them to put pressure on the wound. I found the person across from us had been hit."

That man had been wounded slightly in his upper arm. His identity was withheld.

"The police came and everyone was being talked to. The homicide officers were back now." Police officers and paramedics gave Haaf CPR.

The woman said the image of the killing won't go away.

"I close my eyes and the guy is standing there and Jerry's on the floor," she said. "I've lost a good friend."

The Minneapolis Police Federation has established a memorial fund for Haaf's family. Checks should be made payable to the Jerry Haaf Memorial Fund and sent to the Minneapolis Police Federation, 1811 University Av. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-4348.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 30, 1992

LEVEL 1 - 16 OF 18 STORIES

Copyright 1992 Star Tribune
Star Tribune

September 26, 1992, Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 713 words

HEADLINE: Two held in officer's killing;
Fallen officer remembered as a friendly 'regular cop'

BYLINE: Neal Gendler; Staff Writer

BODY:

Jerry Haaf was described Friday as the kind of officer who makes up the core of any good police department: a "regular cop" who did his job.

"He was very personable, talkative, friendly, the kind of person who would give you the shirt off his back, do anything for you," said officer Gary Bjergo. And if anyone ever complained about Haaf, Bjergo said, "I'm not aware of it.

"It's not because of inactivity," Bjergo said. "He wrote a lot of citations; he made arrests, but, yet, he did it in such a manner that he didn't offend anybody." Bjergo, who works in the Traffic Division to which Haaf was assigned, said Haaf was one of the division's most productive officers.

Haaf, of Maple Grove, was a 'regular cop,' " Chief John Laux said at a news conference yesterday. "Jerry Haaf was not the spectacular, outstanding 'officer of the year.' Jerry Haaf was just somebody who came to work every day, liked his job, did it very well, wrote tens of thousands of traffic tags over many years and got virtually no complaints. He did his job and he did it just very well."

And even in stressful situations, the man would smile and drink coffee, fellow cops recalled yesterday.

"I've seen him walk into domestics carrying that mug of coffee of his," Sgt. Jerry Larson recalled of his fallen comrade. "He'd walk in there and say, 'OK, let's get this worked out.' "

Council Member Walt Dziedzic, a retired Minneapolis officer, called Haaf "the kind of cop police departments all over the country are made up of - guys who do their jobs day in and day out."

After 30 years on the force, Haaf was known widely and many officers had worked with him in the city's precincts or in special operations and communications. He received five commendations, a certificate of merit for traffic enforcement, and 10 letters of appreciation. He had worked the 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. shift for the past eight years.

Bjergo said Haaf typically would stop at the Pizza Shack toward the end of his shift to complete paperwork, reports he may not have had time to finish at one incident scene before being called to the next.

Star Tribune, September 26, 1992

Although officers frequent the Pizza Shack, and there was speculation yesterday that a retired officer may have been in a different part of the restaurant, Haaf apparently was the only uniformed officer present.

Bjergo, a 25-year veteran, is an accident investigator in the Traffic Division who worked with Haaf about half a dozen years in the former headquarters precinct and then rode with him on the North Side for about eight months in 1980.

He said Haaf was totally dependable and dedicated, and he recalled an example from about a dozen years ago, when Haaf kept working despite a broken bone.

"We received a call at 12th and Hennepin, a disturbance," Bjergo said. "It was a mental case, screaming at the moon, totally flipped out." After trying to talk to the man, they ended up struggling with him. Both officers were hurt - Bjergo injured both knees - but they chased the man to 8th St. before subduing him.

"We got him taken to the crisis center," Bjergo said, then he and Haaf went to the hospital, and Haaf learned that his knee was broken.

Haaf is survived by his wife, wife, Marilyn; two sons in the Air Force, Jerome Jr. and James, and a daughter, Cynthia Durst, who Laux said lives in Anoka.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at the McDivitt-Hauge-Bradshaw Funeral Home, 3131 Minnehaha Av. S., Minneapolis. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Church of St. Helena, 3201 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis, with burial in Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

The Police Department said Haaf worked as a Boy Scout leader. Bjergo said Haaf liked to fish, had a fifth-wheel trailer and belonged to a camping club. He used to laugh about how, in his Air Force days, he'd been stationed in Greenland.

"He'd say, 'Can you imagine being 18 and single and sent to Greenland?' " officer Mike Fisher recalled.

Bjergo said, "[Haaf] knew various ways of getting the job done. A lot of it is calming the situation," Bjergo said, and Haaf was good at that. "He was a peace officer."

Staff writer Doug Grow contributed to this article.

GRAPHIC: Photograph; Chart

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: September 29, 1992

LEVEL 1 - 18 OF 18 STORIES

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September 26, 1992, Metro Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 2156 words

HEADLINE: Two held in officer's killing;
Police veteran shot in the back

BODY:

Jerry Haaf's fellow cops say his death was an assassination, pure and simple.

Late Friday, they arrested the two men who they suspect killed him.

Haaf, 53, was reading a newspaper at a late-night south Minneapolis restaurant well known as a cop hangout. His back was to the door. He was not wearing a bulletproof vest.

Haaf was a 30-year veteran of the force, "a regular cop" who planned to retire soon.

He was shot in the back from a few feet away about 1:45 a.m. yesterday, and died less than two hours later.

Homicide investigators received information that led them to two men at the house of Sharif Willis, the president of United for Peace, an organization of gang leaders who have opposed intergang violence. The house is near the corner of 38th St. and 24th Av. S. in Minneapolis.

Deputy Police Chief Dave Dobrotka said that officers went to Willis' house at 9 p.m., detained about five people, then arrested two of them at about 10 p.m. on probable cause in Haaf's death.

The suspects were taken downtown to police headquarters for questioning. Dobrotka said he expected charges to be filed early next week.

Authorities were seeking a warrant late last night to search Willis' house. They also towed a car to police headquarters that had been parked in front of the house.

Dobrotka did not identify the suspects.

It was unclear what role, if any, Willis had in the arrest. Dobrotka said Willis was at the house at the time of the arrest, but implied that Willis' presence was coincidental. Earlier in the day, Willis had denounced the killing of Haaf. Dobrotka said that members of United for Peace and the police "had conversations" during the day, but he didn't elaborate.

Star Tribune, September 26, 1992

Haaf's killing triggered a massive search, resulted in the unprecedented offer of a \$ 50,000 reward, and reopened deep fissures between police officers and their supervisors and city officials. The brutality of the execution-style slaying deeply shocked officials, who pleaded for calm and reconciliation.

The suspects were described from the outset as young black men; Haaf was white. That fact immediately gave the case racial overtones at a time when the Police Department and young black gang members have been trying to make peace - and at a time when deep pockets of police mistrust exist among some black residents.

Although some officers had immediately branded the killers as gang members, officials earlier yesterday were careful to distance themselves from any such characterization. The union representing the city's 831 officers bitterly laid blame for the killing in the laps of city officials and police administrators, accusing them of letting violent crime spiral out of control.

At the same time, black leaders made impassioned pleas for peace and calm on the streets, appearing at an afternoon news conference with city and police officials.

Chief John Laux called the shooting "a cold-blooded assassination - a cold-blooded murder that has no place in this city. The very fabric of this community is now threatened. . . . We have crossed the line. Nobody can tolerate this."

Laux, normally stoic, was grim and shaken yesterday. By early afternoon, he said that the department had already gotten hundreds of tips in the case.

A reward of at least \$ 50,000 was offered for the arrest and conviction of Haaf's killers; at least \$ 10,000 will be contributed by the city, an unprecedented move approved yesterday by the City Council.

Haaf, married with three grown children, was the first Minneapolis officer to be shot to death since 1981.

Mayor Don Fraser called the killing "an unspeakable tragedy - I can't believe this would ever happen in the city of Minneapolis. The city has to pull together. We don't dare let this tragedy tear us apart."

The reward was proposed by Council Member Walter Dzierdzic. "The climate is changing drastically and rapidly in this city," he said. "People don't realize how fast things are changing here until something like this happens."

Black officials expressed fear that police might overreact - and that the case could poison race relations in the city.

State Rep. Richard Jefferson, a mayoral candidate, said yesterday afternoon, "There's so much anger. I understand it. This was an awful thing that happened in our community. It doesn't matter what color you are - we all must hope that these people are apprehended fast."

Police response to the shooting was massive and instantaneous. Initially, more than 100 officers fanned out from the shooting scene at the corner of Lake St. and 17th Av. S. The block-by-block search was aided by other agencies,

Star Tribune, September 26, 1992

including the Minneapolis Fire Department and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department. By yesterday afternoon, the Police Department had as many as 15 investigators working on the case, with six homicide investigators brought in.

The restaurant where the shooting occurred "is a cop place," said officer John Locke. "This is like the reverse of those Mafia hits. You know how they go right into somebody else's place and execute. That's what happened here, except in reverse. The bad guys come into the good guys' place. Traffic guys, detectives, it's our place."

Laux recalled sitting in the Pizza Shack "at a table with Jerry Haaf and had pizza 25 years ago. This has been a cop watering hole for my 25 years. I mean, any time, day or night, the Pizza Shack is open. You will find cops there."

Laux said it was "very likely" that anyone looking to kill a police officer would know they could be found there because of the number of squad cars parked outside most nights. He said there was no reason to think Haaf was personally singled out by the killers. "A police officer in a uniform was being sought out," Laux said.

Dobrotka said two homicide detectives had left the restaurant just before the shooting. Some uniformed police were on their way over. One homicide detective speculated that the killers watched until Haaf appeared to be the only officer there.

About a dozen customers were in the restaurant, Haaf the only one in a police uniform. Haaf, who stopped at the Pizza Shack at least once a week, was sitting at what is called "the cop table," his back to the door.

Although Haaf sometimes wore a bulletproof vest, he wasn't wearing one for the shift that was to end at 3 a.m. yesterday. Shortly before 1:45 a.m., he had just finished writing a report, said Dobrotka.

According to investigators and witnesses, two men entered the restaurant. (Although Laux said yesterday that as many as three suspects were being sought, he did not explain the discrepancy.) One ordered a 10-inch pizza, the other spaghetti and meatballs. One stood directly behind Haaf, less than 10 feet away. The other quickly walked to the back of the restaurant, toward the kitchen, looking at the far tables, before returning.

Rob Glad, a cook, was in the kitchen when he heard two pops that he thought were firecrackers. A waitress said she heard three distinct shots. "I got thrown to the ground and when I got up, he was just laying there," she said. "People tried to help him, but. . . ."

"It caught him completely unaware," said Laux, who would only say that "multiple" shots were fired.

A customer who wasn't identified was slightly wounded when a bullet grazed his arm.

The men ran out of the restaurant, crossed Lake and headed north on 17th Av.

Another cook, who was carrying a pistol, chased them. At least one of the suspects fired twice at the cook, striking a plate-glass window and grazing

Star Tribune, September 26, 1992

another.

"After he was shot, the officer let out some yells and then he didn't say anything," Glad said. "There was blood everywhere. He was on his stomach lying on the floor. When the EMT got there, they turned him over and were doing artificial resuscitation. When the ambulance took him away, they didn't have the lights on."

When police were called, wailing sirens broke the silence throughout downtown Minneapolis as squad cars raced to the scene. Police barricaded the sidewalk and kept customers inside while the investigation continued. Saying they were fearful of gang retribution, police requested that television crews at the scene not videotape witnesses as they left the restaurant. Two men were brought to the scene in the back of a squad car at about 2:15 a.m. One of the witnesses looked inside and told police they were not the suspects.

Haaf was taken to Hennepin County Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 3:40 a.m.

Police reaction was swift: both grief and bitterness. Flags were promptly lowered to half-mast and officers placed black tape over their badges as a sign of respect.

Condemnation came quickly from the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, which by midafternoon had blamed the killing on Fraser, Laux and City Council members. "The policies they have adopted have done nothing - I repeat, nothing - to reduce the crime problem the citizens fear and the police must face," the union said in a statement.

Individual officers also broke with their superiors, quick to say that the department had ample warning of a likely killing and that, based on colors worn by the suspects, gang members were the likeliest suspects.

Laux said that "for quite some time we've heard rumors that officers are going to be killed." He said there was no reason to think threats in recent days were any more credible.

But federation President Al Berryman said more serious threats had been made in the 24 hours before Haaf was killed. Berryman said he did not attend a police-community meeting in north Minneapolis Thursday night because he had heard there might be trouble.

That meeting, set up to discuss police procedures and improve community relations, turned tense when some black citizens alleged brutality by Minneapolis police and Metropolitan Transit officers against a blind, disabled black man just a few hours earlier.

About 50 people showed up during the meeting at North High School to protest the treatment of the man. Another man was arrested during that incident for allegedly punching a police officer. During the meeting, the windshield of a squad car parked outside the school was shattered.

Some officers said yesterday the bus incident and the killing were linked; some said they weren't. The man and his family say they doubt there are any links.

Star Tribune, September 26, 1992

The shooting also revived an unresolved departmental dispute over efforts to work with United for Peace.

Lt. Mike Sauro said yesterday morning that he believed the killers were gang members, either Bloods or Vice Lords, because of the way they were dressed. "I'd be surprised if it weren't a gang member," he said.

Willis, president of United for Peace, said earlier yesterday he had no knowledge of the shooting. "We usually have our fingers on the pulse in the community, but there was nothing to forewarn us," he said, calling Haaf's death tragic. He contended remarks like Sauro's have "a potential to inflame." While the group has maintained good relations with the police administration, he said he wanted to improve relations with front-line officers.

Dziedzic, a former police lieutenant, went so far as to link the killing with the controversial song "Cop Killer," which has been pulled from the market because of its call to kill officers. "Then you've got a 'kill a cop' record," he said. "I think this is the finalization of all that. I think Officer Haaf paid the price for all of that."

Most city leaders were taking pains to plead for calm. "If ever there was a time for cool heads to prevail, now is the time," the Minneapolis Urban League said in a statement.

Council Member Jackie Cherryhomes said the shooting "makes already tense police-community relations much more tense." After meeting with black leaders yesterday afternoon, she said she was pleased with the support and commitment she heard.

"These are people who do have some issues with the police," she said, "but they are stepping forward and saying 'This is a dangerous situation. What can we do to keep the peace?'"

"This is a different level of violence for this city. We've never had this happen. This makes everyone in public service look at what they do very differently. There is no place that you're safe. You can't enjoy your recreation or your leisure. He was on a dinner break."

Last night at the Pizza Shack, one of the booths was missing its tabletop, and there was a bouquet of flowers on a table near the door. The manager, Lonnie Anderson, was visibly upset and refused to talk to reporters. "I just watched a friend of mine die, and I'm fed up with this . . ." he said.

GRAPHIC: Photograph; Chart

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LEVEL 1 - 17 OF 18 STORIES

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SECTION: News; Pg. 12A

LENGTH: 447 words

HEADLINE: Six city officers shot to death since '72

BODY:

Jerry Haaf, shot to death in a restaurant early Friday, is the sixth Minneapolis police officer to have died from gunshots in 20 years.

The most recent victim before yesterday was Sgt. David Mack, who died in 1986. A narcotics detective who joined the force in 1968, he was shot in 1979 while about to search a house with his partner. He was in a coma for two years. He regained consciousness but was a quadriplegic able to communicate only through an alphabet board. He died of infections at age 43, and his death was ruled a homicide.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension lists a total of 29 police officers, sheriff's deputies and state troopers killed since 1972. Three other metro-area police officers were killed in the line of duty in the past decade: a Robbinsdale officer shot by a robbery suspect in 1985, a Roseville officer shot pursuing a felon after a traffic violation in 1982 and a Wayzata officer killed responding to a disturbance call in 1982.

Four other Minnesota law officers were killed in that period, the bureau said: the Claremont police chief, shot investigating a disturbance call in 1988; a Hutchinson officer shot investigating a department-store theft in 1989; a Duluth officer shot investigating a call of a disturbance by a person with a gun in 1990, and a Pine County deputy fatally beaten during a traffic stop in 1991.

The Minneapolis officer most recently shot dead before yesterday was Richard Miller, 59, an 18 1/2 -year veteran of the force planning to retire in less than two years. He was shot by the driver of a suspected stolen pickup he approached on the North Side late one August afternoon in 1981.

Miller, like Haaf, was working alone. Single-officer squads were begun by former Chief Tony Bouza shortly after he took the job in 1980, and Miller's death ignited a controversy. After he died, police union leaders and others strongly criticized the policy, and Miller's widow said: "I truly believe he would be alive today if there had been another officer in his car."

Other Minneapolis police officers shot to death since since 1972 were:

George Partridge Jr., 24, who had been on the force three years. He was killed in 1976, off-duty and in plain clothes, during an argument over parking outside a south Minneapolis restaurant.

Lt. Inno Suek, 42, a 16-year veteran, killed in 1972 during a holdup while he was working off-duty at a South Side liquor store.

Star Tribune, September 26, 1992

Joseph Pudlick, 57, a 28-year veteran, killed in 1972. He was shot when he and three others went to a man's home in northeast Minneapolis to pick him up on a mental-commitment order.

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NATIONAL POLICE GROUP VOICES OUTRAGE AT HOUSE VOTE ON CRIME BILL

As historic anti-crime legislation was defeated yesterday on a parliamentary procedure vote in the U.S. House of Representatives (225-210), the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) meets at its annual convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"The police of this country are completely outraged by the House action," said Thomas J. Scotto, NAPO President and President of the New York City Detectives' Association. "Voting against the rule to proceed on the crime bill is tantamount to voting against the crime bill itself -- and that is a vote against cops."

"This action can only be described as an assault on the law enforcement community -- without the aid and resources contained in this bill, we will be forced to continue to fight the war on crime with limited manpower, substandard equipment and outdated laws," Scotto stated.

Scotto continued, "We call upon the American public to join with us by contacting their Representatives to voice their displeasure with the House action and demand that the Congress pass the crime bill and pass it now."

NAPO, a national law enforcement organization representing over 160,000 sworn law enforcement officers and 3,000 police unions and associations throughout the country, has been lobbying for strong anti-crime legislation for almost six years now.

Earlier this week Tom Scotto and other law enforcement leaders met with President Clinton to plot strategy for passage of the crime bill conference report set back by the House of Representatives yesterday. NAPO will continue to push for passage of the crime bill as soon as possible and will vote on a resolution urging immediate Congressional passage.

CRIME BILL -- DOLLARS FOR MINNESOTA, 1995 TO 2000

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- * **100,000 POLICE** -- Guaranteed minimum of \$44 million -- more than 500 police officers @ \$75,000 per officer.
 - ** Given Minnesota's share of the population and the additional \$6.5 billion in discretionary dollars, Minnesota should expect a total of about \$160 million over the next 6 years.
 - ** Of the total, up to 85% can be used to hire about 1,800 police officers. At least 15% -- \$24 million -- can be used to help pay the training, overtime and administrative costs of implementing community policing in Minnesota.
- * **PRISONS & BOOT CAMPS** -- \$27 million for prison grants, including military-style boot camp prisons. An additional estimated \$18 million is possible if Minnesota meets the "Truth in Sentencing" target of second-time violent offenders serving 85% of their sentences.
- * **BYRNE ENFORCEMENT GRANTS** -- \$1 billion in the Trust Fund will help continue full funding for these grants, including Minnesota's \$7 million annual share.
- * **RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS** -- \$2.3 million for drug and crime enforcement in Minnesota's rural areas.
- * **DISCRETIONARY GRANTS** -- Minnesota's law enforcement agencies and courts may apply for:
 - ** \$1,300,000,000 -- Drug Court programs (treatment backed up by drug testing and certain punishment for non-violent offenders currently on probation.) Estimated \$23 million for Minnesota -- enough for about 11,400 offenders over six years.
 - ** \$320,000,000 -- Criminal record systems (Brady Law), communications equipment, and DNA testing; and
 - ** \$200,000,000 -- Judges, prosecutors and public defenders (estimated \$3.5 million for Minnesota).

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- * **LOCAL PARTNERSHIP ACT** -- \$27 million in direct grants to cities and towns in Minnesota. Wide discretion permits local governments to use the dollars for education, drug treatment, and jobs programs.
- * **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT** -- \$20 million in grants for police, prosecutors and victims services; \$5.7 million in grants for shelters for battered women and their children; and Minnesota can apply for a share of \$500 million in several discretionary programs.
- * **AFTERSCHOOL AND IN-SCHOOL "SAFE HAVENS" FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN** -- \$11 million for non-profit, community-based organizations in Minnesota.
- * **DRUG TREATMENT IN PRISONS** -- \$4.6 million to treat up to an estimated 4,200 drug-addicted prisoners in Minnesota prisons over the next 6 years.
- * **DISCRETIONARY GRANTS** -- Minnesota agencies and non-profits may apply for:
 - ** **YES** -- \$650 million for the President's Youth Employment and Skills crime prevention program, which provides jobs to young adults in high crime areas. Program involvement is conditioned on continued responsible behavior.
 - ** **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP** -- \$300 million for lines of credit to community development corporations to stimulate business and employment opportunities for low-income, unemployed and underemployed individuals.
 - ** **ANTI-GANG GRANTS** -- \$125 million for programs to give young people positive alternatives to gangs, such as academic, athletic and artistic after-school activities, mentoring programs, scout troops, and sports leagues.
 - ** **SPORTS LEAGUES** -- \$40 million for midnight sports leagues to give at-risk youth nightly alternatives to the streets, and \$50 million for the U.S. Olympic Committee to develop supervised sports and recreation programs in high-crime areas.
 - ** **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS** -- \$30 million to establish clubs in low-income housing communities, and \$10 million to encourage police officers to live in those communities.