

Tape confirms motive for Ohio killings

Police in Dayton, Ohio, say that a tape recording found inside the apartment of Demetrius Bumbrey after the Staten Island Developmental Center executive apparently killed his wife, mother-in-law and sister-in-law and then fatally shot himself last week, seems to confirm their belief that the killings were committed as revenge for divorce proceedings filed against him a week earlier.

Bumbrey, 30, died Sept. 7 in Miami Valley Hospital from a self-inflicted pistol wound about four hours after he apparently handcuffed and shot his wife, Betty, 27; his mother-in-law, Claudia

Pierce Floyd, and 25-year-old sister-in-law, Joyce Floyd, inside the suburban Dayton house where they lived.

Police said the shooting occurred moments after police officers had arrived at the house in response to a complaint of a disturbance inside. Another sister-in-law, 31-year-old Gertrude Floyd, had fled the house after Bumbrey arrived. She escaped harm, police said.

The three women, all of whom died instantly, were shot with a 12-gauge shotgun found on the scene alongside the .32-caliber pistol that Bumbrey apparently

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used on himself.

Police said yesterday that a tape recording addressed to Bumbrey's mother was found inside the Dayton apartment in which Bumbrey had lived for two months. The recording included statements that Bumbrey was seeking revenge against his wife.

"He indicated that he had to get even for being wronged," a Dayton police sergeant who investigated the case said. "Most of the recording, though, was directed to his mother; you might say it was almost in the form of a last will." An insurance policy and other personal possessions were mentioned, police said.

Dayton police said that several days before the shootings, Bumbrey made a threatening phone call to his wife's employer, warning that "she wouldn't be alive for 30 days," police said.

Bumbrey's wife, whom he met while attending Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, had filed divorce proceedings the week before she was killed.

Although it was originally reported that Bumbrey was the personnel director at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Elin Howe, center director, said yesterday that Bumbrey's official title was senior personnel administrator, a

mid-level supervisor, with an annual salary of \$18,000.

According to Miss Howe, Bumbrey had been on voluntary leave without pay from the Willowbrook institution since June 28. Miss Howe said she did not know when Bumbrey had been expected back from his leave.

Police in Dayton said yesterday that Bumbrey had been working in Ohio as an adjustor for the All State Insurance Co. Bumbrey resided in Dayton for four months — first with his in-laws and then in his own apartment. Bumbrey's wife had been employed at a mental health clinic in Springfield, Ohio, police said.

Meanwhile, Staten Island detectives investigating the six-week-old strangling death of Shinae (Emma) Lee, a Staten Island Developmental Center nurse whose body was uncovered Aug. 6 in a shallow grave on the grounds of the institution, said they are investigating Bumbrey's whereabouts around the time of Miss Lee's killing to see if he were on Staten Island during that period.

Miss Lee, 44, was last seen July 22 following her 3 p.m.-to-11:45 p.m. shift at the center. She was apparently killed while walking home from her job.

—JOHN E. HURLEY