

Betty Hart— *the way she was*

C.C. Feb. 19th, 1986

The trial of the accused and now convicted murderer of Betty Hart, late of Colborne, has concluded. (See story Page One.) Betty died a brutal and untimely death last Valentine's Day; a death which shocked and, yes, even titillated, many residents in this normally quiet village. Now, it is over and although our fervent hope is that justice has been done, still Betty Hart remains dead, lost to the members of her grieving family.

Murder victims become, in a sense, public property. No detail, whether true or alleged, about their personal lives, is deemed private. But, sometimes, it is precisely those characteristics of personality that truly define a person that are lost in the shuffle of a clinical investigation into the relevant events surrounding an irregular death such as this.



BETTY HART - Photograph was taken at her daughter's wedding shortly before her death.

Betty Hart was a vibrant, energetic, attractive woman. She was devoted to her two children, Michael and Michelle, and she gave a great deal to this community and to her fellow beings. She had great humor, and was a pleasure to converse with. She looked after a home, worked full-time for Bell Canada and still managed to take excellent care of her parents, George and the late Mildred Latimer. Her father had been handicapped by a stroke he suffered almost 15 years ago, and her mother was left an invalid by a kidney ailment that she developed four years ago. Not a day passed in the life of Betty Hart that she did not have close contact with her infirm parents.

In addition to these familial duties, Betty Hart worked tirelessly for the benefit of strangers. She was a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society and took patients from this area in her car for treatment at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. She canvassed for the Heart Foundation and for the Arthritis Society. And, she worked with the disadvantaged women who are residents of the Bialek Home for adults in need of special care here in Colborne. Betty had had experience in working with mentally handicapped adults from her stint as an employee at Ontario Hospital.

Hearing date has been set in Moran case

ch. 5/29/85
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A preliminary hearing date has been set for the man charged with the February 14 murder of Colborne resident, Betty Hart.

Don Moran appeared last Wednesday in front of Judge John Evans in Brighton provincial court. Judge Evans has set aside three days for the

preliminary hearing in the same court, beginning on Tuesday, July 16. The proceedings are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

Moran was arrested and charged in Colborne on April 28, after a ten-week investigation by the Brighton OPP and the OPP's Criminal Investigations Branch in Toronto.

A change of venue has been granted for the accused in the slashing murder of Colborne resident Betty Hart.

Don Moran may also have the charge of first degree murder reduced to second degree, says Northumberland County Crown attorney Bruce Long.

Defence lawyer Vito Targon successfully requested the change in venue which was granted by Supreme Court for as yet undisclosed reasons, Long said.

The trial was slated for Cobourg but will now begin Jan. 6 in Simcoe, near Tillsonburg.

Moran Murder Trial Moved to Simcoe

C.C. Oct. 16, 1985

In the preliminary stage, Targon is expected to introduce a motion to have the charge against Moran reduced from first to second degree murder arguing that there is insufficient evidence to warrant a first degree murder indictment. Judge John Evans ruled against a similar motion during Moran's preliminary hearing in Brighton in July.

Hart was found dead in the basement of her Colborne home on St. Valentine's Day, the result of numerous slashes to her throat.

She and her husband Bryan, made a home in which strangers were welcome, even when they arrived in the dead of night to say that country roads were blocked with snow and they needed a bed for the night.

We at the Chronicle met Betty Hart when she came, quite a few years ago, to place an ad for a business that she and her husband were starting — looking after the homes of people who were taking extended vacations abroad. In her choice of careers, as well as in her private life, the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that Betty Hart was a service-oriented person. It was easy to get to know her, and comforting to be in her presence. She was full of fun and eager to be friendly. Her zest for life was obviously enormous. Her energy seemed boundless.

Now that the horrific events that have dominated our thoughts since last February 14 are over, let us remember the truly important things about Betty Hart. Let us concentrate on how she lived, rather than on how she died. She was an example to all in her giving and generous spirit.