

Janet Gail Sitton – Class of 1970



Former Memphian Slays Wife, Daughter, 2, And Then Himself. Services are incomplete for a Columbus GA man, formerly of Memphis, who stabbed his wife and daughter to death then fatally shot himself Saturday. David Hopkins, public information officer for the Columbus Police Department, said Billy Boyette and his wife, Janet, both 27, and their 2-year-old daughter, Patricia, were found in

their home about 9 p.m.

Michael Shane Ingram, 5, who the Boyette's officially had adopted November 14, had been playing outside when the incident occurred and was unharmed. His natural parents died during a murder-suicide in 1975 in Fulton, KY.

Hopkins said police found Mrs. Boyette's body on the bathroom floor and her husband and daughter in the master bedroom. She had been stabbed in her neck, chest and abdomen and her daughter also had multiple wounds. Boyette had been shot through the mouth with a .22-caliber rifle which was found nearby, a nine-inch hunting knife believed used in the stabbings also was found.

Hopkins said police were considering the case a double-murder-suicide, but still was searching for a motive. He said the bathroom door latch had been knocked off and indicated Mrs. Boyette may have tried to flee from her husband.

Young Ingram had moved in with the Boyette's family in 1975 after the death of his natural parents, Dwain and Patricia Ingram. Mrs. Ingram and Mrs. Boyette were sisters.

A spokesman for the Fulton Police Department, who asked not to be identified, said the Ingram's were separated at the time of the incident. He said Ingram apparently picked up Michael at his wife's house and was to have taken him to his home for a visit. Ingram, the spokesman said, drove around the block and then and then returned to his wife's house and fatally shot her in her car and then fatally shot himself.

A family spokesman for the Boyette's would not say how long the family had lived in Columbus, but Hopkins said the couple's daughter had been born here in October 1976.

Memphis Funeral Homes has charge,
Information from The Commercial Appeal, Monday, November 20, 1978, page 21.