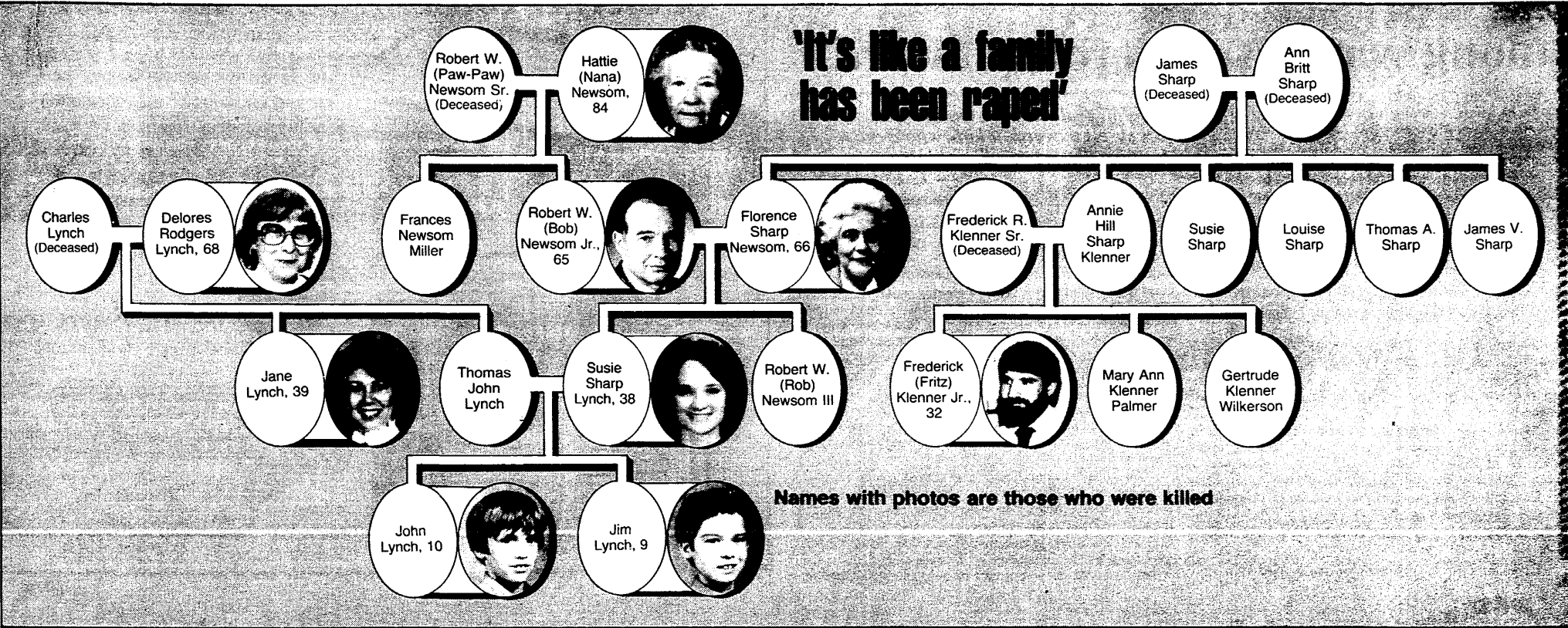




Keith Simmons/News & Record

'Aunt and cousin are the closest kin I have left,' Rob said

(From A14)

Has Davidson matched it to the bullet that killed Janie?

He won't say until he presents his evidence to a grand jury this Thursday.

That isn't all that Davidson has found. He has found something else, something that with all the other evidence makes him certain he can convince the grand jury that Susie took part in the Lynch murders.

That, too, he won't disclose until Thursday.

'I know that my Redeemer liveth'

Whatever Susie's role in all the killing, the effect of the tragic series of events on those left behind was profound.

At Ian Perkins' trial, Susie's brother spoke about what it had done to his family.

"It's rather like being a survivor of the Holocaust," Rob said. "We've lost four generations of people. Aunt and cousin are the closest kin I have left aside from my children. Others have suffered similarly.

"We simply cannot foresee what all the consequences of this are going to be. I have an 8-year-old son who every once in a while wants to know where children can get bullet-proof vests.

"I don't think that we'll see life in quite the same way that we did before. What we've lost is an awful lot to lose. At this point, we can't foresee a time when we'll be free of all this."

Annie Hill Klenner, after granting two brief interviews to reporters shortly after the bomb blast, became reclusive and would speak no more publicly about her son and family.

Weeks after the bomb blast, Susie Sharp, the retired chief justice, still had trouble believing it all had happened. She sat in her Raleigh apartment talking about her niece and namesake.

"All my special things were going to Susie," she said. "I don't know what to do with them now."

On the table before her was a copy of a book she was reading, a book a friend thought might offer comfort — "When Bad Things Happen To Good People," by Harold Kushner.

Ironically, Annette Hunt found a copy of that book in Susie's apartment when she was helping clean it after Susie's death. Susie had written her name inside and

the year, 1982. Throughout the book Susie had underlined passages.

On page 137, she underlined this: "Life has to be lived for something, not just against something."

On the front flyleaf, Susie wrote: "What each of us makes of our loneliness is the individual stamp of our destiny."

"It's almost like an epitaph," Annette said.

After the bomb blast, Alice Newsom, Rob's wife, took down the strange prayer note that Fritz had stuck above the front door in Susie's apartment. On the back she found, written in Fritz's hand, "I know that my Redeemer liveth. He will call me from the grave."

On a rainy Sunday afternoon in August, Frances Miller, Susie's aunt, sat in the living room of her mother's house in Old Town. It was the room where her mother, Hattie Newsom, her brother, Bob Newsom, and her sister-in-law, Florence Newsom, had died. This had been the family homeplace for nearly a half century. Now Frances was about to put it up for sale.

"This was the most nonviolent place on earth," she said. "It's where everybody came for spiritual renewal. It was so peaceful, and the lesson of love was always here. To think that kind of violence had to happen here and destroy that for everybody forever. It's like a family has been raped."

A well-watered, green oasis

Albuquerque lies in the valley of the upper Rio Grande. On the east side of the city rise barren mountains, on the west, bluffs and a high empty plain. It is a city surrounded by a vast raw landscape of grays and reds, spotted with scrub growth, unmercifully beaten by the sun. Rainfall is scant, and those who desire the comforts of green growth must water it faithfully.

On a Sunday morning brittle with heat, Tom Lynch made his way across a well-watered, green oasis. Birds sang in the trees. He was on a pilgrimage that he makes almost every day. On this morning, he had brought a visitor to Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Near a tall spreading cedar tree, he stopped and stood silent for several minutes, staring at two small fresh graves with temporary markers bearing the names of his sons.

"I wanted you to see it," he said, "so you could tell the people back in North Carolina that I got them a shady spot."

And he began to cry.

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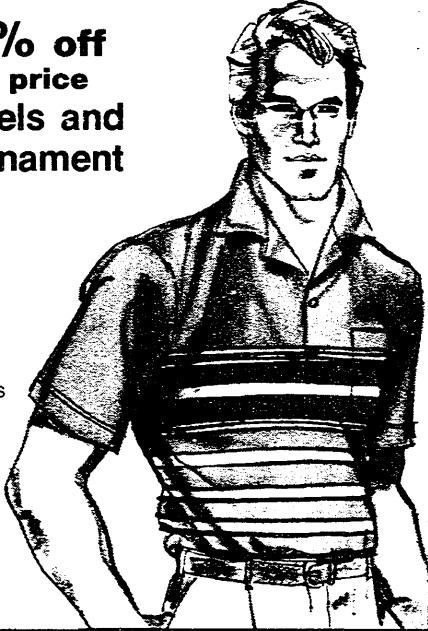
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