

Hanratty the contradictions of William Ewer

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On the night of August 22 1961 a gunman held up Michael Gregsten and Valerie Storie as they were sitting in a car in a cornfield at Dorney Reach.He sat in the back and did not let them see his face.After some hours he made them drive to a lay-by on the A6 where he shot Gregsten and raped Valerie Storie [giving her a brief glimpse of his face in the headlights of a passing car] shot her,leaving her for dead and drove off.It seemed-and has always officially been presented -that this was a totally pointless and random 'moon maniac' crime.

The descriptions of the killer originating from Miss Storie,were of a man with deep set *brown* eyes.But James Hanratty , who was eventually hanged for the murder had *blue* eyes. One of the puzzles of the case, and behind some of the pressure for a public inquiry,is why, on August 31,eight days after the killing the official published description of the killer changed to a man with "large icy blue saucer like eyes."

Many investigators have noted that the *changed* description fitted in with a man the widow ,Mrs Gregsten,claimed intuitively to have sensed to be the killer when she caught sight of him on the morning of August 31st [Mrs Gregsten has since denied that], but Mr William Ewer,her brother in law, last week told the Sunday Times that he followed a man with staring eyes and reported his sighting to the police.And when Mrs Gregsten visited Miss Storie on September 20 after the intuitive sighting, she told reporters that Miss Storie now recalled the man as having '*blue and staring*' eyes.

If it was not the intuitive sighting that led the police to Hanratty what did? Do we have to accept another 'remarkable coincidence' -that Hanratty under the name of Ryan happened to have stayed in the same hotel as the first suspect Peter Alphon? And why.in any event, did Miss Storie's description of the murderer-which hanged Hanratty--change?