

Plantation Youth, 18, Missing For 4 Days; Foul Play Is Feared

By MARGARET HUNTER
Staff Writer

PLANTATION — Detectives fear foul play may be involved in the disappearance of Paul Gregory Egan, 18, who vanished Monday, leaving his jeep in the garage at his home, his wallet in the jeep and his ignition keys on his bedroom dresser.

"I've known this boy for a long time. I know myself that something is wrong. He wouldn't just have left," Det. Lt. Ben Butler said last night.

Egan, son of prominent Plantation attorney Paul Vincent Egan, is thought to have returned from his job at Florida Processing Co. in Miami about 1:30 a.m. Monday with his best friend, Paul Ruebottom.

Ruebottom, 23, told investigators young Egan dropped him off at his house then went on alone to the Egan home. Ruebottom is an assistant foreman at the processing plant. Egan is a technician.

The keys indicated Egan entered his family's home at 5821 Cypress Road but no one has seen him since.

The youth's father said "my first thought was that he might have been grabbed, kidnaped. But at this point we've heard nothing and I discount that."



Paul Gregory Egan

He also discounted the possibility of vengeance on the part of anyone he has done business with in court. "I don't handle criminal cases. It couldn't be anything like that."

Butler and the elder Egan agreed that it would be very unlike the youth to run away.

"He knows we think he's old enough to do his own thing. There's no reason to run. If he wants to go somewhere we say OK. There are no problems at home. The relationship between he and I and his mother and brothers and sisters (five) is fine. I just don't buy the fact that he would run away," the father said.

Only Paul's older brother Mark was at home when the missing youth is believed to have driven home but Mark did not wake that night or hear anything, Butler said. The rest of the family was vacationing in Lake Wales.

Butler said "there's no logical reason for this person to have vanished and not reveal his reason to someone. This family is one that doesn't keep secrets from one another. He's a mature individual for 18. We've spoken to every friend and associate and they've made no mention of anything wrong."

"We're asking that anyone who might have seen him or knows where he is please call me or any detective at 587-4641," he asked. Ruebottom told police Egan was wearing his work uniform when he last saw him. It consists of a white, short sleeve shirt with "Egan" over the right pocket and "Florida Processing" over the left and blue trousers. "That's another thing," Butler noted, "He never goes out anywhere in public other than to work when he's in his work clothes."

Detectives plan to continue talking to Ruebottom and others.

Last seen Mon AM 1:30 July 21, 75
Scanned by CamScanner

Search ^{July} For Egan Centers #2 On Plant

By ROBERT RETCHKO
Staff Writer

PLANTATION — Paul Gregory Egan, 18, who has been missing for 10 days, may have fallen or been pushed into a machine that grinds up horses for use in soap, fertilizer and cat food, police here said today.

Egan, of 5821 Cypress Road, has been missing since Monday of last week when he disappeared after leaving work at the Florida Processing Co. in Miami.

Plantation Police Chief William E. Greene said today his department is investigating a theory that Egan fell or was pushed into machinery at the plant.

He said, however, detectives inspected the machinery and found no traces of human tissue.

"It's nearly impossible to find anything. You put a horse in one of those things and in three or four seconds, it's gone," Greene said.

Detectives also checked out leads in Haiti and Jamaica and examined a tanker docked near the processing plant which ships finished products. No traces were found there either.

Greene said a sweeping investigation has turned up "three or four people" who may have had a hand in the disappearance. Although he declined to elaborate, Greene said these leads may narrow into "something concrete" by Friday.

Egan is the son of Plantation attorney Paul Vincent Egan.

Initial reports that Egan may have returned home after work, leaving his jeep in the garage, his wallet on the jeep's floor and the ignition keys on his bedroom dresser, have not been substantiated by police, Greene said.

Those reports came from testimony by Paul Ruebottom, 23, described as Egan's best friend. Ruebottom told police Egan had dropped him off at home around 1:30 a.m. July 21 before going on home.

However, Greene said that the jeep was not found in the garage because Ruebottom "drove it around for a few hours before driving to the police station and reporting Egan missing."

Greene emphasized Ruebottom is not a suspect in the case, but that he is one of the three or four people detectives were questioning. Greene would not say if keys or Egan's wallet were found in the Egan home.

A psychologist met with detectives last night in what Greene said was an attempt to link statements made by persons to some kind of psychological pattern surrounding the disappearance.

Ruebottom, a foreman at the pro-
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Cops Suspect Foul Play In Egan Case

(Continued from Page 1B)
cessing plant, has also been linked to the Haitian and Jamaican investigations, Greene said.

Detectives learned that Egan had a passport and they began checking unidentified locales in South America.

"We don't have a body, so we have to touch all the bases. Many things could have happened. He may have been injured, he may have left town or he may have been murdered," Greene said.

Police have ruled out suicide because Egan is known to have been close to his family and no trouble has been reported either at home or at work.

Greene said he also has ruled out any involvement in narcotics by Egan or any implications of narcotics as an element in the case. He did say that Ruebottom's stepfather, who he would not identify, owns an interest in the processing plant. When pressed for a possible connection, Greene said, "I can't say."

Police are pursuing three possibilities: that a body will be found, that a witness may have seen something or that someone will confess to what the department says is "a strange case involving many different areas."

The Egan family is reportedly perplexed about the disappearance, saying it is out of character for their son to leave without contacting them.

Aug 7, 75 # 3

Mystery disappearance baffles local police

PLANTATION — The two-week-old disappearance of attorney Paul Egan's 18-year-old son is baffling police, who have extended their search for possible leads as far as South America.

Paul Gregory Egan was reported last seen by his best friend and co-worker at a Miami industrial plant, Paul Ruebottom, 23, who told police Egan had dropped him off after work about 1:30 a.m. July 21.

Egan's parents are on vacation and the disappearance was reported the next morning by Egan's brother, and Ruebottom.

Ruebottom told police ignition keys to the jeep he had loaned to Egan were found on the missing youth's dresser, while the

brother said Egan's wallet was found on the jeep's floor.

However, police said Ruebottom had taken the jeep out of the Egan garage and had driven it around for a few hours before coming to the police station.

Detective Ben Butler said he and Detective Dave Ericks are working full time on the investigation.

He said the possibility exists that Egan ran away from home — supported by the fact his passport is missing and he and Ruebottom had been planning to take a freighter to its destination for "fun" and return home by air. Customs officials in both Haiti and Jamaica were alerted when one of the processing

company ships carrying tallow to foreign ports — it was learned — had left the following morning after the disappearance.

However, Butler said checks with officials in those and other countries had turned up negative.

And he described Egan as "an above average 18-year-old, well liked, well respected and well mannered," adding he had not had any problems at home

to account for a disappearance.

A kidnaping theory has been ruled out since no ransom notes have been received, and so far there has been no evidence of foul play.

Lt. Butler also said there was no evidence to support a theory Egan may have fallen or been pushed into a machine grinding up horses for uses in soap, fertilizer and cat food.

The detective said he and Ericks had examined the plant of Florida Processing Company in Miami but found no basis to support Egan may have met with an industrial accident. Butler added, although other employees saw Egan at work, Ruebottom was the only one who said he saw him leave.

Butler said he is reviewing some of those previously interviewed, would continue to check possible links.

"I just have a feeling not the first piece of evidence, though — something out of the ordinary has happened to him," Butler said. "Of course, hope he's alive."

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Aug 6, 1975

Few Clues

Found In

Missing #4

Youth Case

By ROBERT RETCHKO
Staff Writer

PLANTATION — The search for Paul Gregory Egan, 18, who vanished July 21 after working the late shift at a Miami processing plant, entered its third week yesterday with no sure signs the baffling case may be solved soon.

Police Chief William E. Greene pledged to continue the investigation despite the lack of a motive or a suspect.

"We're going to go back over everything we have and a few other things, no matter how trivial, until we come up with something," Greene said.

He said detectives are retracing their steps in an effort to piece together what happened during the early hours of July 21 when Egan and his best friend, Paul Ruebottom, 23, also of Plantation, left the Florida Processing Co. together around 1:30 a.m. for their Plantation homes.

Police suspect foul play because they say Egan isn't the type of person to abruptly leave home without leaving word. Greene, who knows Egan's father Paul, a prominent Plantation attorney, said young Paul was very close with his family and had no reason to run away from home.

Greene also said Egan was not involved with drugs and did not associate with unsavory characters.

Local Scene

Plantation Man Accused Of Killing Wife Last Night

A 43-year-old Plantation construction worker is being held today in the county jail, accused of the shooting death last night of his wife.

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Search Continues For Egan

Plantation police also are investigating several leads in what they consider the strange disappearance of Paul Gregory Egan, 18, including the possibility he may have been pushed or fallen into a machine that grinds up horses.

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