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Subject: November 1963 Murder Solved

By TOM HAYS.c The Associated Press NEW YORK (May 1) - Lawrence Henry's neighbors in Brooklyn knew him as "the preacher." But police say in another life, more than 30 years ago, Henry was a pimp mean enough to skewer an executive with a steak knife and put a bullet through a detective's fedora. The past - ushered back by a former prostitute turned born-again Christian - caught up to Henry this week. Police arrested Henry, 61, at a housing project Wednesday after the ex-prostitute came forward to unburden her conscience: Henry, she alleged, killed Lawrence Bart, 25. The pimp apparently had become enraged when he learned she had fallen for Bart, an executive in his family's printing business. Police refused to detail exactly how the woman, now 60, helped break the case, or say if she witnessed the 1963 slaying. But a police source who spoke on condition of anonymity said the former prostitute turned in Henry because "she found religion." Henry, who police said confessed, was ordered held without bail Thursday on murder charges. The news stunned Henry's neighbors and friends. They described him as kindly and popular with children, who nicknamed him "the preacher." The woman who lived with him, Barbara Crosby, knew nothing of his long criminal past. "My man ain't killed nobody," Ms. Crosby, the mother of Henry's five children, told The New York Times. The case was opened on Nov. 29, 1963, when Bart's relatives - concerned because he had missed Thanksgiving dinner - discovered his body. The scene in the bachelor's 11th-floor apartment in Manhattan was gruesome: A dog chain was wrapped around Bart's mouth, a 6-inch steak knife jammed in his chest. Detectives later found the name and phone number of a woman among the victim's belongings. When they went to question her in 1964, they bumped into the woman leaving her home with her gun-toting pimp - Henry. Henry, who had a rap sheet dating to 1958, opened fire on police. One bullet pierced a detective's fedora without wounding him. A Daily News photo from the time shows the cop still wearing the hat as he hauls off a grinning Henry. Convicted in the shooting, Henry was sent to prison for 3 1/2 years. But he was never implicated in Bart's slaying. Time passed. Henry went straight. The woman kept quiet. The murder case grew cold. Then, without warning, the former prostitute decided to identify Henry as the killer, police said. Investigators said the woman, whose name has not been released, described Bart as a one-time customer who became a boyfriend. Homicide investigations "are never closed," said Sgt. Robert Fiston of the detective squad. AP-NY-05-01-97 1559EDT Copyright 1997 The Associated Press. The information contained in the AP news report may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or otherwise distributed without prior written authority of The Associated

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