

IS MYSTERY WOMAN IN CHURCH SCANDAL DEAD?



JIMMY SWAGGART'S CALL-GIRL DISAPPEARS

Friends say she talked too much

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Where sexy Suzi lived, worked...and was last seen alive



The scene of Swaggart's sins. An employee at the Sherwood Motel reveals that the fallen evangelist used to slip into this room (left), where prostitute Suzi lived. "Swaggart would park his car around the back, then climb over the fence and go into Suzi's room," the source says. "After 15 minutes, he'd sneak out, jump into his car and be gone." The hooker was last seen climbing into a car outside the motel



HAS SWAGGART CALL-GIRL BEEN SLAIN?

THE woman believed to be the prostitute photographed going into a motel room with fallen evangelist Jimmy Swaggart has vanished without a trace. And her friends fear she may have become the victim of foul play.

The disappearance of the hooker, who called herself Suzi, has cast a pall of despair over the seedy stretch of highway in the New Orleans suburb of Metairie, where Swaggart used to indulge in what he has confessed were "sins of the flesh."

Once bustling with prostitutes and pimps, the section of Airline Highway — better known as Hooker's Alley — has become a street of fear.

The familiar faces — tragic, diseased, hungry and desperate — no longer peer lasciviously into passing cars to solicit sex for a price.

Locals say the mass exodus of prostitutes followed Suzi's mysterious disappearance.

Ruby, another hooker and one of Suzi's friends, says: "She has vanished off the face of the earth. It's real scary."

"No one knows what happened to that girl. I'm sure she has been hushed up somehow. I hope she left town. I hope nothing real bad has happened to her — that she's not dead or something.

'It's real scary,' says one girl, 'I'm sure she has been hushed up'

ANOTHER prostitute friend of Suzi's, a woman who called herself Peggy Carrier, also vanished from the area after telling a reporter that Suzi had disappeared and "could be dead."

Yvonne Fleming, manager of the Texas Motel, says: "They got to Peggy. I heard through some friends of mine that people paid her or threatened her to keep quiet about Swaggart's little adventures down here."

"Peggy knew exactly what was going on with Swaggart. And they knew she knew, so they did something about it. She was doing a lot of talking to the media, and that's not what they wanted."

"Swaggart has — or at least had — a lot of sway in this area."

The scandal broke when



Defrocked television evangelist Marvin Gorman blew the whistle on rival Jimmy Swaggart by taking photographs of his sexcapades

Marvin Gorman, an evangelist whom Swaggart had attacked for associating with prostitutes, produced photographs of Swaggart and a prostitute identified in the press as Suzi entering the Travel Inn, a Hooker's Alley haunt.

'She said Swaggart would climb over the back fence and sneak into the room'

Suzi was last seen on Airline Highway on February 7, when she checked out of the Sherwood Motel, her home for the previous several months.

Her life as a hooker was shattered as soon as word started leaking back to her that Swaggart, confronted with the photographic evidence of his secret shame, was about to climb into his pulpit and confess.

A source at the Sherwood Motel told GLOBE: "She said she had been involved with Swaggart for some time and that they had many sexual contacts together."

"I didn't know he had actually used this place about three times until Suzi told me. But it didn't surprise me, because he was down here so much."

THE source at the motel says Suzi told him Swaggart was always extremely careful to disguise himself while prowling the strip.

"He was always dressed in jogging suits and wore his hair back with a headband on," the source explains. "Sometimes he wore dark glasses, and sometimes he didn't."

Her friends fear foul play as she drops out of sight



"He would park his car around the back of the building so that it was hidden. Then he would climb over the back fence and sneak into the room where Suzi was living.

"Their meetings would only last about 10 to 15 minutes. Then he would sneak out and jump in his car and be gone.

"Suzi is about 5 ft. 7 in., blonde and attractive. I think she is 38 years of age, but looks like she's in her 40s. Most of the girls have that same look about them.

"I don't know where she is gone now, but I think she is on the run because she talked too much. She literally talked about Swaggart every day.

"Her real problem started a couple of months before the Swaggart scandal. She would walk down to the local fried chicken joint. All these strange, well-dressed guys would come up to her and ask her where she was going or what she was thinking about doing that night.

"This was in the middle of the day, so it wasn't her usual group of acquaintances. They'd really harass her — like they were trying to intimidate her or something.

"Suzi said she had been physically threatened and told to keep quiet — to keep her mouth shut about all her tricks.

"On February 7, she came to me in tears. She was a tough girl, and I never saw her cry before. She said she didn't know what to do and that she was in big trouble. I told her that for her own good, she better get on the move as soon as possible."

LATER that day, Suzi came into the front office and "said she was leaving," the source recalls.

"Then a guy pulled up outside the motel. She jumped in the car and sped away toward New Orleans. That's the last I've seen or heard of her."

Like the hookers and call girls, the motel and hotel people in the area have also sealed their lips.

Most told GLOBE they could not talk about Swaggart's visits — and it would be wise to stop prying.

The owner of the Travel Inn, where the photographs that sunk Swaggart were taken, was vehement.

"I just can't talk about the Swaggart thing anymore," he snapped. I could lose my job and my motel if I talk."

Another prostitute, called Aphrodite, who works the Airline Highway strip, says women in her profession are in constant fear of their lives.

"You just never know what you are getting into — if the guy has a gun or not, or if he's a killer or a nut case," she says. "A lot of girls turn up dead."

Aphrodite says Suzi broke a vital taboo when she talked about her johns. "You don't talk about anyone," she explains. "It only lands you in hot water."

— PETER RIGBY