

Photography:

The new art. Pullout section

A new milk hike

8 cents more; \$2 gallon near? Page 2

Windy

Cold, with occasional rain; high in 40s. Details on Page 75.

© 1978 by Field Enterprises, Inc.

CHICAGO Sun-Times

Friday, November 17, 1978

★★★★★

Turf Final

15¢ city and suburbs; 25¢ elsewhere

Probe Michigan Av. abortion clinic death

CORONER'S VERDICTSTATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF LAKE

DO: I BERT A. ACCARDO Coroner of said County, on the 9th day of March

1978, Crown Court, County of Lake, State of Indiana, held an

request ☐ or inquiry ☐ to inquire into the manner of death of: Sherry Emrywho was found at 5434 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, Indiana

VERDICT An inquest into the death of Sherry Emry, 5434 Hohman Avenue, Hammond, Indiana revealed that she was certified dead at 8:05 p.m. by Lake County Deputy Coroner David Ruzich. Investigation by Deputy Ruzich revealed that the deceased had undergone an abortion at the Water Tower Reproductive Clinic in Chicago, Illinois on December 28, 1977. The decedent was released to her residence.

finding of the inquest herein is that the death of Sherry Emry resulted from the incomplete abortion performed by unknown parties at the above-mentioned abortion clinic in Chicago, Illinois. The findings of this inquest have been forwarded to the Cook County criminal authorities, for examination of possible criminal liability on behalf of the abortion clinic.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Accidental - Incomplete abortion causing spontaneous rupture of the corporal portion of the uterus.

JOHN K. KOURIS
Attorney
Lake County Coroner's Office

REPORT by coroner of Lake County, Indiana, in the death of Sherry Emry.

**By Pamela Zekman
and Pamela Warrick**

The Cook County state's attorney's office has reopened its investigation of the abortion-related death of a Hammond woman because of information provided by The Sun-Times and Better Government Assn.

The woman, 26-year-old Sherry Emry, died Jan. 2 after undergoing an abortion at the Water Tower Reproductive Center, 840 N. Michigan. First Assistant State's Atty. Barry Gross said, "Based on information we received from you about the practices at that clinic, we are pursuing the [Emry] case."

In another development, The Sun-Times learned that James T. Walker, a lawyer representing Emry's estate, will go into U.S. District Court in Hammond Friday to file a \$5 million medical malpractice suit against Water Tower Reproductive. The suit will charge that the abortion was performed in a "grossly negligent and utterly unskillful manner."

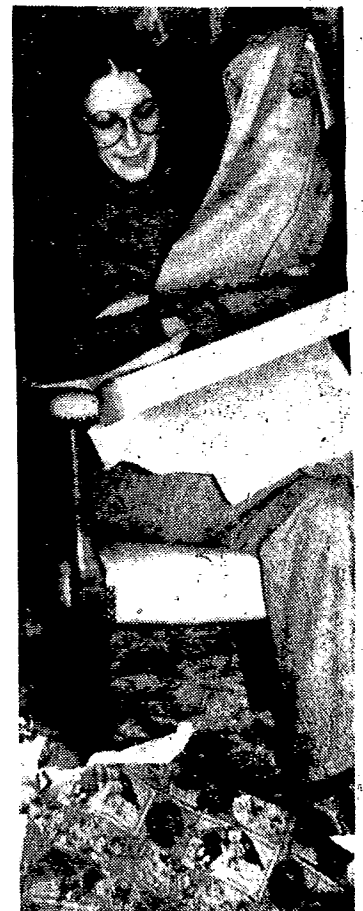
AN INDIANA CORONER blamed an incomplete abortion at Water Tower Reproductive late last year for Emry's death. The clinic is one of four Michigan Av. abortion mills named in The Sun-Times' series on abortion profiteers.

Although the coroner repeatedly asked State's Atty. Bernard Carey for help in investigating Emry's death, he claimed his requests were ignored.

Gross said, however, that another assistant state's attorney, Charles Hartman, had reviewed the coroner's complaint and decided there was no basis for criminal action against the clinic.

Only after The Sun-Times and the BGA in-

Turn to Page 4



SHERRY EMRY in photo taken three days before fatal abortion on Dec. 28, 1977. She died five days after the operation.

Keep Accardo's \$275,000

Judge rules for FBI on cash seized in raid; Page 3

Reopen abortion clinic death quiz

Continued from Page 1

formed Carey's aides of the Emry case last week did Carey's office subpoena Emry's medical file, as well as other records from Water Tower Reproductive.

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTY. Thomas Burnham said lawyers for Water Tower Reproductive owner Dr. Arnold Bickham have filed a motion to quash the subpoenas. The motion is to be heard Tuesday in Criminal Court.

Emry, who owned a leather-crafts shop in Hammond, died Jan. 2, 1978—just five days after undergoing an abortion at Water Tower Reproductive.

In March, Lake County (Indiana) Coroner Albert Willardo Jr. ruled Emry had died of a ruptured fallopian tube "resulting from [an] incomplete abortion" at Water Tower Reproductive."

EMRY SUFFERED an ectopic pregnancy, in which the embryo is implanted in the woman's fallopian tubes instead of her womb. As the embryo grows, it bursts the tube and fills the woman's abdominal area

with blood.

Because an ectopic pregnancy almost always can be detected by a careful physical examination, Willardo said, Emry "should still be alive today." He thinks Bickham or other physicians at Water Tower Reproductive should have discovered the abnormal pregnancy.

To find out why Sherry Emry died, Willardo, whose investigative authority stops at the state line, turned to Illinois lawmen.

On March 21, Willardo wrote to Carey advising him of Emry's death. "Several important questions need to be answered pertaining to this case," Willardo told Carey.

THE CORONER SAID he asked Carey to help him determine what steps Chicago abortion clinics take to prevent deaths such as Emry's.

But Willardo's letter went unanswered. On March 31, Willardo wrote Carey again, posing the same questions. And again, Willardo says, he received no response.

On April 21, Willardo wrote yet another letter to Carey reminding him of the previous letters and noting, "To date, I have not

received an answer. . . . I would appreciate your response and co-operation at your earliest convenience."

By July 17, Willardo said, he still had not heard from Carey's office. "It will shortly be four months since we first requested your investigation of this matter," Willardo wrote Carey in July, "and to date, [we] have not received a reply of any sort."

IN THE INTERIM, Willardo had issued his own subpoenas for Bickham's records on the Emry case. But Bickham ignored those subpoenas and Willardo had no power to enforce them out-of-state.

Bickham, named in this newspaper as one of the city's biggest abortion profiteers, owns three abortion clinics in two states. In addition to Water Tower Reproductive, the 41-year-old South Side physician owns the Summit Medical Center, 850 W. 103d, and an abortion clinic in Indianapolis. He has operated all three clinics without state licenses.

In the last week, The Sun-Times has documented how Bickham offers the cheapest abortions in town but cuts corners on patient care to do so.