

Rewards Hindering Probers

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STARVED ROCK STATE PARK, Ill. — The \$35,000 rewards, strange as it may seem, are one of the biggest obstacles to solving the Starved Rock murders.



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I know that the well-intentioned donors of the rewards never figured it that way.

But that's the way it is.

The prospect of a reward tends to make investigating

police men compete instead of working together. Probably it's only human nature to want the reward for yourself or your buddies.

No one likes to admit this. Some of the investigators doubtless are not consciously aware of it.

The fact remains that if you

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get a good lead in cases of this sort, the temptation is strong to keep it to yourself, to work on it privately.

That secret bit of information may be just what some other investigator needs to help crack the case. If so, too bad.

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MOST INVESTIGATORS, of course, try their darndest to find a crazy killer of the Starved Rock type. They work night and day, as they are doing here.

And yet, one deputy sheriff was heard to say callously, "I'd frame a guy for 35 grand."

Was he kidding? Maybe. Maybe not.

Rewards even make rivals out of policemen in the same outfit. And there are three investigating agencies in this case—the state police, the La Salle County sheriff, and the La Salle County state's attorney.

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ANOTHER obstacle to solving the Starved Rock case is the lack of a central clearing house for information.

The investigators meet regularly but apparently do not pool all their information.

One man should be in charge with over-all authority.

He should have full power to direct the efforts of any one assigned to the case, regardless of who gets the reward or credit.

After all, a triple killer is at large.