Most promising sighting say police

The Hunt for the man the police want to question in connection with the murder of Llanddewi Brefi sheep farmer, John Hughes Williams has now switched to West Yorkshire.

A man calling himself A. R. Gambrell and answering the description of 33-year-old Richard Anthony Gambrell sought hospital treatment for pneumonia and depression at Walsford over the weekend.

He was seen by nurses in the casualty department and a doctor examined him but could find no signs of pneumonia.

However, the mystery man was held to return to the hospital for X-rays and in the meantime the staff of the hospital tipped off the police.

The man had not returned but West Yorkshire police are pursuing the lead vigorously and the Dyfed Powys force are known to be excited.

Detective Chief Superintendent Pat Molloy, head of CID and the man leading the hunt since it started 10 days ago has admitted that all the reported sightings since Gambrell's photograph was released on Friday were the most promising.

He said this week: "I have never been satisfied entirely that he got off the train at Llanddewi. I was virtually certain he got on it but I was never satisfied he got off."

Gambrell was last seen in Llanvaedne Wells on Tuesday week after spending two nights at a local hotel.

He left early on the morning of the hunt having bought a train ticket to Llanddewi Wells although the Telegram later said the police were anxious to interview a man answering his description. His name has not been printed.

Mr Molloy is now convinced that he left Llanddewi in a considerable hurry. "He probably panicked when he read the morning paper," he said.

Although the hunt for Gambrell has moved 200 miles away the police are still searching the hills around Llanddewi Brefi.

Said Mr Molloy: "Obviously, until I am satisfied that the killer has left the area we will maintain the same kind of operation we have had going over the past week."

A line of police searchers sweep through the tussocky grass of the hillside near Brynamber.

He added that the weather had been dampening the search and the snow, gales and strong winds had made the scaling down of operations.

But the weather could also be a blessing in disguise, he said. For if the killer was still in the hills, he too would have to cope with the cold.

Gambrell, who has spent many years in the area working as a shepherd and a sheepdog watcher and is believed to be writing a paper on the district, has spent much of the last eight years in Ceredigion he is from Sevenoaks, Kent.

Adopted when he was three by a wealthy bachelor and his wife he was brought up in the 'stockbroker' belt. But neighbours remember him as a lonely boy who loved animals.

Gambrell has had little to do with his adopted parents for many years and police do not expect him to get in touch with them now.

Det. Chief Supt. Pat Molloy flanked by other leading detectives walks through Llanddewi Brefi on the way to the funeral of murder victim John Williams.