I have been trolling back through my life thinking of past friends and Dexter was a friend I have never forgotten. We were young technicians in the Hamilton Central Telephone Exchange in 1959. Dexter was there for at least a year (maybe 18 months) but he wasn't into electronics but into writing and he got a job as a young reporter with the Taranaki Daily News. He used to often come back to Hamilton where his parents lived and we spent as much time together as we could.

Dexter was murdered in Wellington on 25 September 1966. The following is taken from some notes of the Taranaki Daily News "A former reporter at Stratford for the Taranaki Daily News, Mr Dexter Webb (23) was murdered when stabbed at a Wellington flat while preparing for his new post as public relations officer for Antarctic division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research" This happened just a few days before he was due to fly out to Antarctica to begin a six month stint. He came up to Hamilton to say goodbye to me about a week before this happened.

If you want to know more you could seach the Waikato Times from that date - they ran some very big articles and the trial which took place later (a lot of rubbish was said at that trial).

He was a very talented young man and I always thought he would be the one to write the great New Zealand novel - but sadly that was not to be. I still miss him after all these years. His parents were very nice people and he had a younger brother who I think was called Peter. Dex told me that Peter was brilliant at maths. Many years ago I came across a Professor Peter Webb professor of maths at I think Auckland University, I have wondered if that was him. I have never been able to track down a photo of Dexter, but there would have been some in the waikato times.

Hope this has been of some help (by the way Dexter started to write a libreto for me to write an opera - I think I managed to write one aria before I gave up - I was not a very good music student).

Cheers

Dave Coppard