

Slain Woman Was Tortured; No Identity Yet

The woman whose nude body was found Sunday afternoon south of Santa Rosa remains unidentified.

Sonoma County Coroner Andrew Johnsen said the victim was apparently tortured to death because she was slowly strangled by the cord or wire around her neck.

It took the young woman at least a half-hour to die, Mr. Johnsen said.

He said the cause of death would be listed as asphyxiation.

Sheriff's Capt. Robert Hayes said his office would have photographs available today for anyone to view who might be able to identify the woman.

The body was found by two Santa Rosa high school students on Enterprise rd. between Bennett Valley rd. and Sonoma Mountain rd.

Coroner Johnsen said there was evidence that she was raped.

A wound on the left collar bone would not have been deep enough to have caused death, coroner and sheriff's officials agreed.

Marks on the neck, wrists and ankles were probably made by a wire or a small, narrow rope, Capt. Hayes said.

The sheriff's captain said his office had received various calls about the unidentified woman from people attempting to trace

missing relatives or friends

He also said "We've received three or four leads on suspicious vehicles seen in the general area where the body was found, but we've been unable to develop anything positive on them as yet."

"Our first main hope is to identify the girl," he said "We're soliciting all the information people can come up with" about missing people or the area where the body was found.

Capt. Hayes said his officers still believe the body was dumped over the 20-foot embankment Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

He said results of yesterday's autopsy indicated she'd died "at least" 12 hours before her body was found.

Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Timothy Brown released a revised description of the woman this morning to assist in her identification.

She is believed to be 18 to 26 years of age, 5-4 to 5-5, approximately 135 pounds, measuring 38-31-38, hazel to blue eyes, shoe size 6½ to 7, light brown to brown hair about 22 inches long.

He said she has a scar about nine-sixteenths of an inch long on the tip of her left shoulder, two moles on her left rear shoulder and a mole ¼ by five-sixteenths of an inch on her left front shoulder.