

Lawmen Stymied In Girl's Slaying

By BONY SALUDES

Sheriff Don Striepeke's sleuths are stymied in their probe into the death of a teen-aged girl found off Franz Valley Road Tuesday until the girl is identified.

As in the probe of similar deaths of four other girls in the past 18 months, the investigation can't get off the ground until the girl's identity is known and her movements are traced with the help of family, friends and acquaintances.

And today, five days later, detectives have developed nothing that promises a solution to the death, just as they have unearthed very little toward untangling the mysterious deaths of the other four.

Identity of the latest victim hinges on the condition of her teeth. Decomposition processes over the past two weeks have made it impossible to identify her by facial features. Fingerprints, if they can be developed, will be of dubious value.

With the help of the pathologist and a dentist, the sheriff's office has prepared a dental chart for the dead girl and is circulating it both locally and statewide, hoping it will jog the memory of a dentist somewhere.

The sheriff said a dentist working with investigators concluded the dentist who worked on the girl's teeth should readily recognize the young girl's dental oddity — an outstanding crossbit position of the lower right first molar.

Dental charts have been utilized successfully several times in Sonoma County in making positive identification of mystery death victims.

It was through dental charts that skeletal remains of two persons found last December in the exact spot on Franz Valley Road were identified as those of Maureen Sterling, 12, and Yvonne Webber, 13.

The latest identification of a
(Continued on Back Page)

Slain Girl

(Continued from Page 1A)

murder victim through dental charts was that of Greta Nansen Moeckke, a 37-year-old Guerneville divorcee whose body was found stuffed in a sleeping bag just east of Guerneville last June 7.

She had been missing and presumed dead for two weeks prior to discovery of her body. Decomposition made other methods of identification extremely difficult.

The sheriff's office reported no new developments in the Franz Valley case yesterday.

A tiny hole in the girl's ear lobe, believed to be an earring hole, turned out not to be that, but a hole made in the decomposition process, it was reported.

And deputies searched vainly Friday for any traces of the girl's clothing in a two-mile area on either side of the discovery site on a downhill curve of the road, about two

miles north of Porter Creek Road.

The body was found over an embankment on the west side of the road on the same plane, but about four feet away from where the remains of Maureen and Yvonne were found Dec. 28.

The body cleared some bushes on the embankment, leading investigators to conclude the girl was hurled over the embankment by a large, strong man or at least two persons.

The road at that spot is only slightly wider than the normal width of the rest of the six-mile winding stretch of road between Porter Creek Road and Highway 128, not a spot where a motorist would normally pull off the road.

Dumping of three bodies in the same location in a road not familiar even to many Sonoma County residents suggests the road is well known by the responsible person and further suggests the culprit lives or lived in the surrounding area.

But for the fact the bodies of the five death victims — dating back to March 5, 1972, when Kim Wendy Allen's body was found — were completely nude, investigators have no proof that the girls were victims of a sex deviant, except for Miss Allen.

A great deal of the investigation has been devoted to the theory that the girls met their death at the hands of a rapist-killer.

That's the most obvious conclusion to reach, but in the cases of the latest victim, Yvonne, Maureen, and 14-year-old Lori Kursa, there is no physical evidence to support their theory.

Because of the lapse between the time the girls were killed and their bodies found, pathologists have been unable to arrive at the cause of death of any, except Miss Allen.

The bodies of the latest victim and Miss Kursa, which was found Dec. 18 off of Calistoga Grade, showed no signs of violence and it was impossible to determine violence on Miss Sterling and Miss Webber.

Miss Allen, whose body was found the day after she disappeared, was bound, tortured, raped and died a slow death by strangulation, it was determined.

So except in the case of Miss Allen, detectives chart an unknown course, not certain whether to concentrate their efforts on a rape killer who has a method of killing without leaving tell-tale marks or perhaps on someone who has been giving young girls deadly overdoses of drugs or poison.