

Murdered Girl Identified

By JAMES E. REID

Caroline Nadine Davis was tired of living at home when she ran away Feb. 6. She never came home.

The nude body of the 15-year-old Shasta County girl was found July 21 off Franz Valley Road north of Santa Rosa and sheriff's investigators have been working since then to identify her.

Her identity was established yesterday by Dr. R. C. Tangeman, using dental charts supplied from the investigation of Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Robert Walker and Joseph Thibodeau.

A spokesman for the Anderson Police Department in Shasta County said her parents received a letter from Caroline shortly after she disappeared. In it she said she had left home voluntarily and did not want to return. The letter was post-marked in Solseld.

The day of her disappearance in Shasta County was exactly one year and two days after two Santa Rosa girls dropped out of

sight. The remains of the three victims were found within a four-foot area down an embankment off the narrow Franz Valley Road north of Santa Rosa.

Cause of death of the latest victim has not been established. Authorities still are unable to say what killed the other two girls.

Carolyn Davis was reported missing shortly after 8 p.m. the day she disappeared, according to a missing persons report from the Anderson Police Department.

She left home at 7 a.m. wearing faded blue jeans and a dark brown jacket with a fur collar.

Sheriff's officials said her identification was made when her sister read about the search for the girl's identity being conducted by Sonoma County lawmen.

The woman called the sheriff's office here to inquire about the girl and forwarded a copy of her sister's dental chart which was received yesterday morning.

Sonoma County District Attorney John H. Hawkes said Dr. Tangeman was able to make positive identifications of 4 p.m. yesterday, with the assistance of a previously missing tooth which was located when the girl's body was exhumed yesterday.

With identification of the girl, Under Sheriff Robert Hayes said Det. Sgts. Walker and Thibodeau will go to Shasta County today to link with the girl's relatives and friends in efforts to trace her whereabouts from Feb. 6 to the time of her death around July 21.

When she was reported missing, her relatives indicated she may have been headed for San Diego, but Hayes said the major question to be answered now is whether she was abducted from Anderson by her killer.

Hawkes said the girl's identity was learned through diligent investigation by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office into all missing persons throughout the state of California who came

close to the descriptions of the body found here.

Hayes said his office had received inquiries from all 50 states about young missing girls.

Discovery of the latest victim in the same spot that the skeletal remains of Maureen Sterling and Yvonne Weber were found in December led officials to the conclusion that all three girls were slain by the same person.

A \$1,500 reward has been offered through the Secret Witness program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the death of this Davis girl.

Speculation early in the case pointed to a large, very strong man, or at least two men being involved in the girl's death.

Officials based this conclusion of the fact the girl's body was found amidst brush and small trees that were not broken or bent down, as they would have been if the victim had simply

been rolled down the steep embankment.

The theory that best explained the facts, according to officials close to the investigation, is that a very strong man threw the dead girl's body over the shorter bushes and it landed causing very little damage to the surrounding foliage.

In addition to the \$2,500 offered by the Secret Witness for information about her death, rewards of \$1,000 also have been offered for similar information about the deaths of four young girls in Sonoma County last year.

Maureen Sterling, 12, and Yvonne Weber, 12, who dropped out of sight Feb. 4 after one of their mothers left them at the Redwood Empire Ice Arena around 7:30 p.m. Their remains were found Dec. 23 off Franz Valley Road within a few feet of where the remains of the latest victim were found. The cause of their death has never been established and there have been no suspects arrested.

— Lori Lee Kurus, 13, whose nude body was found Dec. 14 off Calistoga Road north of Rincon Valley. The pathologist's report indicated she died of a broken neck, but said she was apparently alive when thrown down the steep embankment. Lori ran away from her Santa Rosa home Nov. 11, but people who knew her reported seeing her in this area until around the first of December, which officials believe is the approximate time of her death.

— Kim Weady Allen, 19, whose nude body was found March 3 last year off Enterprise Road between Sonoma Mountain Road and Bennett Valley Road the day after she disappeared while hitchhiking from San Rafael to Santa Rosa. A popular Santa Rosa Junior College coed, Kim was raped and slowly strangled to death for approximately 20 minutes, according to the pathologist who performed an autopsy on her body.

A \$1,000 reward also has been offered for information about her death. (Continued on Back Page)

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Girl Identified

(Continued from Page 1) (Hitching a ride from her home in Cotati to her classes. She was seen around 9:30 o'clock the morning she was seen getting into an older model pickup with a hammed wooden camper at dangerous drops in Sonoma County.

And a \$100 reward is available to anyone providing information about the disappearance of Jeanette K. Mahale, the 20-year-old Santa Rosa Junior College student who dropped out of sight April 25 last year while

Donations will be sent to the Secret Witness Fund Box 559, Santa Rosa, 95402.



CAROLYN N. DAVIS
Staying Victim Identified