

Strychnine Killed Caroline

Caroline Nadine Davis died of strychnine poisoning, Sonoma County Dist. Atty. John Hawkes announced today.

The nude body of the 15 year-old Shasta county girl was found July 31 down a steep embankment off Franz Valley Road north of Santa Rosa within four feet of the spot where the skeletal remains of two Santa Rosa girls were found Dec. 28.

Officials are working on the theory that all three were slain by the same person.

The cause of the latest victim's death was withheld today in hopes the exact type of strychnine used could be identified.

Hawkes said today the pathologist's report to him indicated this could not be done, beyond concluding the type of strychnine was either sulphate or tablet form.

However, he said the autopsy indicated it could have been administered to the girl either orally or intravenously.

Strychnine is sometimes used in the drug culture to mix with other drugs, such as heroin or amphetamine, but Hawkes said there was no indication of those kind of drugs present in the victim's body.

Asked if there was evidence of any other drug indicated by the autopsy, Hawkes declined comment.

Caroline ran away from home Feb. 6 and has been traced as far away as Illinois and New Mexico. She was last seen around 1:30 p.m. July 15 in Garberville where her grandmother left her in front of the post office to hitch a ride south on 101 toward Modesto. She is believed to have died around July 20.