

13-Year-Old Dead Girl Identified

By JAMES E. REID

A young girl whose nude body was found Thursday afternoon down an embankment off Calistoga rd. was identified late Friday by means of her dental charts.

Lori Lee Kursa, 13, was positively identified by her dentist, Dr. Harry Mugridge, who examined the body at the mortuary.

Detective Sgt. John Coffman said cause of her death will not be established until laboratory tests are made and a final autopsy report is completed.

A pathologist said Friday the girl had a dislocated vertebra near her neck that could have contributed to her death.

The girl, daughter of Mrs. Lorrene Kursa, 386 Delores lane, was in the eighth grade at Cook Junior High School.

The sheriff's office made another appeal yesterday for anyone with information about the girl to call 527-2511.

Sgt. Coffman said she ran away from her home on Nov. 11, but apparently was living with friends in the Santa Rosa area since then.

He wants to talk to anyone who knew the girl or saw her during the past month to determine her whereabouts prior to the time she died and the approximate time she dropped out of sight.

The pathologist was also unable to determine the exact time of death because of extreme cold weather last week. She apparently died between Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, officials said.

Her body was found by a young couple walking along Calistoga rd. shortly after 3 p.m. Thursday, lying some 30 feet down an embankment near the top of the Calistoga grade northeast of Rincon Valley.

The autopsy indicated it had been there about a week before being discovered.

Det. Sgt. Coffman said he is investigating the possibility the girl may have jumped from a moving vehicle and fell over the steep embankment.

Her body was apparently



LORI LEE KURSA

stopped by several small trees. The body had frozen during last week's cold temperatures.

Tests are being made on her blood and the contents of her stomach in efforts to trace her activities prior to the time of death.

When she left home she was wearing polished blue denim bell-bottom pants, a brown leather jacket, and brown suede cowboy boots, Sgt. Coffman said.

Her clothing has not been found.

The girl reportedly ran away from home several times in the past and had a history of hitchhiking, officials said.

Her body showed no evidence of rape or recent sexual activity, according to the pathologist's initial reports.

Undersheriff Robert Hayes said Friday the girl's body did not indicate she had been assaulted.

The girl is believed to be the daughter of Homer Lee, a former Santa Rosa police officer reportedly living in Florida.

When she was listed as a runaway, there was speculation she may have been trying to reach her father, officials said.

Eggen and Lance Mortuary is handling funeral arrangements.