

# THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

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## Secret Witness -- Can You Help Solve a Crime?

By **ART VOLKERTS**  
Pit. Managing Editor

Do you have information which could lead to the arrest and conviction of the slayers of Lori Lee Karna? Or Kim Woody Allen?

If you do, there's \$500 waiting for you as a Secret Witness. And payment will be made without your identity being known.

Here! Don Strickland has asked for help in solving these two brutal crimes. The Press Democrat is joining with Radio Station KERO and KYSS and some public-spirited groups in establishing a fund which will be used to encourage Secret Witnesses to volunteer information.

How does it work? Simple.

Print or type your information in a letter. **DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME.** Instead, sign with a code number combining in any sequence you choose three numerals and three letters. Sign with that code in each bottom corner of the last page of the letter. Tear one corner off and keep it. Send the letter to Secret Witness, P.O. Box 545, Santa Rosa, California, (Send this example as this page.)

If your information results in the arrest and conviction of the slayers of either of the two girls above, call me and give your code number. A ransomment will be arranged and payment made. There will be no photographers, no reporters, no publicity.

To refresh your memory, Lori Lee Karna's nude body was found alongside Colledge rd. Dec. 18.

At this point in their investigation, sheriff's officers say they are not handling the case of the Karna girl as a homicide because the autopsy reports have not been completed to indicate the cause of death.

However, Detective Sgt. Dale Moore said he is interested in

talking to anyone who may have information about a white van with an off-roster door on the driver's side.

He said after stories appeared in The Press Democrat when the girl's body was found, a man contacted the sheriff's office to say he saw the van parked on the east side of Colledge rd. headed north around 9:30 p.m. sometime between Dec. 8 and 9.

The man said he was on his way home from work and was approaching the corner of Parkhurst dr. when he noticed the van at the side of the road, with a white man wearing an Abraham style in the driver's seat.

As he turned on Parkhurst, the man said he saw two other men walking on either side of a young girl, apparently holding her up and leading her.

He said the two men seemed to almost run across the intersection, open the rear doors of the van and push the girl inside.

They got in after her and the van sped off heading north on Colledge rd., according to the information the witness gave the sheriff's office.

Det. Sgt. Moore said from the description in The Press Democrat of Lori Karna and the clothing she was wearing when she ran away from home, he thought the young girl with the two men could have been the same.

The man was unable to say for certain how old the van was, but said it was probably a Ford, the investigator said.

He also said it looked like the van had been in a wreck and from what he could see under a street light it appeared the driver's door was all water, possibly a dark gray or maroon with primer.

He said it appeared the door may have been dented and hammered out, according to Det. Sgt. Moore.

Lori Karna was last seen alive on Nov. 26, according to information from friends who have talked to sheriff's officers about the case.

Det. Sgt. Moore emphasized that he is interested in talking in the corner of the van because a young girl was seen getting into it in the general vicinity of where Lori Karna's body was found.

Kim Woody Allen's nude body was found in a cove of Enterprise rd. between Secona Mountain rd. and Bennett Valley rd. on March 5, 1933. She was last seen hitchhiking northbound at the Hill area, on-ramp, San Rafael, at 4 p.m. March 4. She had a backpack and a small wooden barrel in her possession.

The Secret Witness program was started by the Detroit News in 1925. Thus far it has solved 12 murders and a number of lesser crimes in that city.

The Sacramento Bee sponsored the program in that city and in the first six months solved 41 felonies with 21 arrests. The Long Beach Independent Press-Telegraph reported three arrests in its Secret Witness program in the first month of operation.

We are seeking funds for the Secret Witness program in Sonoma County, either cash or pledges. If we reach our goal of \$10,000 we hope to be offering Secret Witness funds for a number of crimes, ranging from murders down to major burglaries.

Consider this fact: In the year 1931, Sonoma County had a total of six murder and manslaughter cases. This year, with a few days to go, it is approaching 20. It is time something was done.

Donations or pledges can be made to the Secret Witness Fund, care of The Press Democrat, 67 Mendocino ave., Santa Rosa, 54402.

THIS is how the last page of your "Secret Witness" letter should look after you have typed or printed your information about a crime.

DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME. Instead, sign with a code number combining in any sequence you choose three numerals and three letters. For example: A123C. Tear off and keep a corner of the last page of your letter bearing the same code letter. Mail your letter to "Secret Witness," P.O. Box 545, Santa Rosa, California. 54402.

A123C (Choose your own number)

(TEAR HERE!)

A123C (Save this!)