

FRANZ VALLEY REMAINS

2 Young Women?

By JAMES E. REID

Speculation by a pathologist who examined the remains of two bodies found late Thursday just off Franz Valley rd. indicate they may have been two young women.

Extensive tests will be made later to establish the approximate time the two died and possible cause of death.

After a brief examination Friday the pathologist opined they died approximately six months ago.

Two clues were found by a team of sheriff's investigators who combed the steep hillside where the remains were found.

One is an earring found near where one skull and a portion of what appeared to be human hair were picked up.

Undersheriff Robert Hayes, who found the earring, said it has a circular piece of what may have been gold or brass, with a filigree, lace-like pattern, from which several clear, or-

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GOLD CROSS FOUND NEAR BODIES
Clue May Assist Identification

Photo by Jeff Lee



EARRING FOUND NEAR ONE SKULL
Metal Circle, Lace Pattern, Orange Beads

Remains Those Of 2 Women?

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ange beads are hanging.

He said it was for a pierced ear.

The other was found by Undersheriff Hayes in dirt beside the road, directly above the spot where one of the skulls was found.

A thin gold chain, its clasp broken off, was hidden under the dirt, partially encircling a gold cross.

The cross has an unusual basket-weave design on its front surface, with "14k" marked on the rear near the bottom.

Investigators focused on the two pieces of jewelry as soon as they were found. Sheriff Don Striepeke and the undersheriff went through a stack of missing persons reports at the sheriff's office late Friday for a description of jewelry that matched the pieces.

Deputy Coroner Richard Adams said approximately 48 bags of varying size were used to preserve bones and other evidence from spots between Franz Creek and the road.

"Not a speck of clothing was found at the scene," no buttons, zippers, clasps, or belt buckles, he said.

Quite a few teeth were recovered, indicating both people "had very good dental treatment." A dentist has been asked to develop an approximate dental chart for each, Adams said.

Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Lee James, in charge of the site Friday, directed efforts of Identification Technicians Robert Stowe and Robert Vollmer in making precise measurements of the area and photographing the bones where they lay before placing them in plastic bags.

Stowe carried a small tape recorder to record details about each of the spots and also marked them on a diagram of the area.

Nothing has been found to indicate how the two people died.

Sheriff's Deputy Kirk Spaulding and Stowe were led to the site by two youths who found the first skull while hiking in the Franz Valley hills.

The boys spotted the skull as they were climbing the steep embankment to reach the narrow county road and notified one of the fathers as soon as they reached home.

Sheriff Striepeke ordered the area around the bones roped off after deciding late Thursday that the darkness and steep terrain would hamper further investigation then.

He placed a guard at the site and sent a team of investigators back at dawn.

Hayes spent several hours going over the ground with a metal detector Friday. The two pieces of jewelry were the only things uncovered.

Officials said a specialist from the University of California, Berkeley, an expert in determining age and height based on evidence from bones, will be asked to assist in the effort to identify the two bodies.

A pelvic bone can establish a person's age within a few months by reading lines formed inside it, much as a tree's age can be determined by counting the internal growth lines, officials said.