

# VAN HORNE SEEKS FIREMEN WHO SKIP BEER

By PATRICK LACKEY  
Register Staff Writer

VAN HORNE, IA. — The Van Horne City Council said Friday it is "endeavoring to form a new fire department," specifically one that does not drink beer in the fire station.



All 18 members of the volunteer department quit this week after the council barred beer from the fire station and assumed tighter control over the department's budget.

Friday's City Council press release concluded: "We feel that the fire district and city are not in any danger from fires. The council has contacted fire departments of surrounding communities and they will be more than happy to co-operate in the matter of fire protection. We hope this clears up an unpleasant situation."

But many persons in this Benton County town, population about 600, are siding with the firemen who quit.

Morey Willis, 37, owner of Van Horne Automotive, next door to the fire station, complained Friday, "the fire department doesn't hurt anybody drinking beer on Sunday morning. Nobody's house ever burned down because they were drunk, that I know of."

"The city fathers of this town have got the speaking ability of Muhammad Ali, but get the results of Bugs Bunny."

Mayor Ruben Denbo said the council wants "a conscientious fire department." He declined to elaborate whether that meant the previous fire department was not conscientious.

Denbo said, "We'll get a new fire department going; I'm not worried." He said the department should be formed within a month.

Denbo has changed the locks on the firehouse door and has distributed 12 new keys.

"Contact has been made with several interested citizens who have volunteered to help in this regard," said the release.

The previous fire department was rated adequate by fire insurance firms. Mayor Denbo indicated that the complaints against the fire department were not connected with its ability to fight fires.

## VFW Auxiliary meeting

The Fifth District meeting of the auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will be held Sunday starting at 10 a.m. at the Roy Leonard Rollen Post of the VFW, 1338 Harding.

# Body of missing woman found in Butler County

By JACK HOVELSON  
Register Staff Writer

WAVERLY, IA. — A body found in a ditch near Shell Rock was identified Friday as Julia Ann Benning, a 19-year-old cocktail waitress who disappeared on her way to work last Nov. 28.



JULIA ANN BENNING

An autopsy was performed Friday morning in Waterloo, but "preliminary results were inconclusive" authorities said late in the day.

Officers from Butler and Bremer counties, the Waverly police department, and the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) have declined to list the case as murder — although foul play seemed indicated. The body was nude. It was spotted Thursday by a county maintenance worker operating a road grader.

The body was found in Butler County, less than a mile from the Bremer County line. Benning was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Benning of rural Clarksville in Butler County, but she had been living with her grandmother, Mrs. Malita Benning of Waverly in Bremer County at the time of her disappearance.

## Butler Jurisdiction

Because the body was recovered in Butler County, the investigation is under the jurisdiction of officials of that county, although the probe is headquartered in Waverly.

Discovery of the body stirred comparisons to two other cases, one here and another in a neighboring city.

Less than five years ago, the partially clad body of 14-year-old Valerie Lynn Klossowsky of Waverly was found on a creek bank under a bridge on a lonely gravel road southeast of Waverly. She was last reported seen alive near the city swimming pool here two days earlier. It was determined that Klossowsky had been strangled, but no arrests were made and that murder case remains open.

Strikingly similar to the Benning case is that of Sheila Lynn Foley, 16-year-old Hazleton girl whose nude body was found last Dec. 10 in a ditch along a lonely dirt road between Oelwein and Hazleton.

Foley disappeared four days after Benning was last seen. Foley was last seen alive on Oelwein's main street; Benning was walking along Waverly's main street, when she disappeared. Waverly and Oelwein are approximately 30 miles apart.

Benning was on her way to the Sir Lounge in Waverly where she was employed. Foley was in a car parked outside a downtown Oelwein tavern,

waiting for two friends who had gone inside the bar.

## Same Time of Day

The two bodies were discovered at almost the identical time of day — between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, but more than three months apart. Each was found slightly less than two miles from the nearest town.

The cause of Foley's death hasn't been divulged by the BCI or county officers. Gary Lee Frazer, 25, of Oelwein, has been charged with murdering Foley, and he is awaiting trial in Waukon on a charge of venue.

## Natural gas plant planned near Ventura

The Register's Iowa News Service

VENTURA, IA. — The Federal Power Commission has given Northern Natural Gas Co., of Omaha, Neb., authority to build a liquefied natural gas plant and storage facility near Ventura.

The 170-acre site is four miles east of Garner and four miles southwest of here. The storage tank will have a capacity of 616,000 barrels of liquefied natural gas, equivalent to two billion cubic feet of natural gas.

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