

SHOES A LINK IN SLAYINGS OF 2 WOMEN?

By JACK HOVELSON
Register Staff Writer

WAVERLY, IA. — Are the recent brutal slayings of two attractive young women here linked to shoes or a store where shoes may be purchased?

That possibility — remote and coincidental as it may be — is being investigated by state and local authorities, it was confirmed Thursday.

The body of Wartburg College sophomore Marie Lisa Peak, 20, was found Tuesday morning under a tree in a ditch just north of the Waverly city limits. The body was nude, and none of the woman's clothing was at the scene.

Last March, about six miles west of that spot, the nude, decomposed body of 19-year-old Julia Ann Benning of Clarksville was found in a ditch near Shell Rock. She had been missing since Nov. 28.

Some persons told authorities that Benning was last seen at a shoe store in Waverly.

It has been learned that Peak told friends shortly before walking off the Wartburg campus Monday that she was "going to pick up a pair of shoes."

Although conceding that it might be purely coincidental, Bremer County Atty. Paul Riffel acknowledged Thursday that the shoe angle is under study to determine if there is a link between the Benning and Peak murders, which also bear other similarities.

Both women died of strangulation. An autopsy indicated that Peak had been sexually assaulted. Authorities declined to reveal if Benning had been molested, but the decomposed condition of her body when found four months after her disappearance may have made it impossible to determine that.

"We're following up every possible lead, of course," Riffel said.

Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) agents were still here Thursday aiding the Bremer County sheriff's and Waverly police departments in the murder probe.

Also under investigation is the possibility that Peak's murder is connected with a bizarre sex and extortion operation at Mason City that was exposed when she provided authorities information about the scheme.

John Joseph Carmody, jr., a Mason City used car salesman, is serving a 40-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to rape and extortion charges filed in connection with the sex scheme.

An attempt Thursday to contact Carmody at the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison was unsuccessful when he didn't return a telephone call from The Register.

Meanwhile, on the Wartburg College campus, added security measures were announced Thursday.

Patrolling of the campus by college security officers will be extended from midnight to 3 a.m., new paging devices will be purchased for the security officers, and a new telephone system is being installed to give dormitory receptionists a direct link to the campus security office.

A seven-member committee of Wartburg student government officers has been named to select a memorial — possibly a scholarship in the field of journalism — honoring the slain coed and to arrange the financing of a memorial.

Private funeral services for Peak were conducted Thursday at Knoxville, her home town.

4-6 month delay for hybrid tank

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The general in charge of developing the advanced new American XM1 tank said Thursday the decision to make it a hybrid U.S.-German venture should delay production only four to six months.

Maj. Gen. Robert J. Baer conceded he has "a twinge of regret" at any delay, but he told the House Armed Services Committee the Army has not found great redesign problems.

The Des Moines Register

Published every weekday morning by DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE COMPANY

715 LOCUST ST. Des Moines, Ia. 50304

Vol. 126, No. 78 September 10, 1976

News Offices

- MAIN OFFICE: 715 Locust Street, Box 557, Des Moines, Ia. (50304)
- WASHINGTON, D.C.: James Risher, Chief of Bureau, 152 National Press Bldg. (20045)
- CEDAR RAPIDS: Patrick Lachey, Correspondent, Room 426 Gateway Bldg., 514 Third Street S.E. (52401)
- DAVENPORT: James H. Wray, Correspondent, 124 Union Terrace Bldg. (52801)
- DUBUQUE: T.J. Ryder, Correspondent, 147 Fisher Bldg. (52001)
- IOWA CITY: Larry Edgell, Correspondent, 217 Day Bldg. (52240)
- WATERLOO: Jack Hovelson, Correspondent, 717 First National Bldg. (50703)

In Iowa where carrier fee delivery is not provided, \$36.40 per year (32 weeks) by mail, by mail outside Iowa, \$37.50 per year, (32 weeks) \$1.10 a week. Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa.

All unsolicited manuscripts, letters and pictures sent to The Register are sent at the sender's risk and Des Moines Register and Tribune Company expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility for their safe custody or return.

Member of the Associated Press. The Associated Press is not responsible for the use or reproduction of all local news items in this newspaper, as well as (AP) news dispatches. Rights and reproduction of all other matter published in this newspaper, including all trademarks, features and copyrighted material, are specifically reserved to the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company. Reproduction or broadcast without permission of the Company is prohibited.



Loses custody of 4 children

Charles Alsager, right, is shown outside Polk County Juvenile Court where Judge Don Tidrick Thursday ruled that the four youngest of seven children of Alsager and his wife be taken to foster homes pending a permanent ruling in the custody case.

With Alsager is an older son, George, and George's wife, Kim. The Polk County Social Services Department had charged the Des Moines parents with neglect in the latest round of a six-year legal battle.

MOTORIST HITS OFFICER WITH CAR

By JOHN PIAZZA
Register Staff Writer

A Des Moines policewoman was slightly injured Thursday afternoon when an uncooperative motorist struck her twice with his auto, police said.

Richard Thomas, 18, who refused to give officers his address, was arrested in connection with the incident, police said.

Police said Patrolman Phyllis Henry spotted an illegally parked car near the intersection of Thirteenth Street and Harrison Avenue, approached the driver and asked him to move the car.

The driver refused to move his auto, police said, and then refused to produce his driver's license. Henry then told him that if he didn't move the vehicle it would be towed, and the driver allegedly retorted that he would not allow that, police said.

As Henry moved toward the front of the car to check its license plate number, the driver put the auto into gear and the vehicle ran into Henry, police said. Before the officer could get out of the way, the driver backed the auto up and ran into her again before speeding away, police said.

Patrolman Brian Melton gave chase and apprehended the driver about a block away, where another scuffle ensued before the man was restrained and taken to jail, police said.

Police said Henry suffered minor leg injuries and did not require hospitalization.

Thomas was charged with assault with intent to do great bodily injury and several traffic charges. He was being held in city jail without bond late Thursday pending arraignment this morning.

ALSAGER

Continued from Page One

Alsager children from the home while Allen asked that none be taken.

Asked Removal

Attorney William Price, who was acting as a court-appointed guardian of the children's legal rights, asked that the four youngest be removed while the three older children be allowed to remain at home, according to one reliable source.

The three children who were not removed from the Alsager home are Wanda, 15; John, 14, and Charles, jr., 13. Those placed in foster homes are Mike, 11; Albert, 8; Sally, 4, and Kathy, 9 months.

The Alsagers' oldest child, George, is married and living away from home and is not involved in the court action.

The suit seeking removal of the children from the Alsager home was filed by the county's Department of Social Services. The suit began another chapter in court action involving the Alsagers and county officials concerning the custody of the children and the rights of the parents.

Polk County officials had monitored the family closely in recent weeks and two homemakers and a financial assistant assigned to the family had kept diaries of activities in the home.

Based on those diaries and the alleged activities observed by social workers, the county filed its petition in the latest case.

Tidrick terminated the Alsagers' parental rights in 1970 saying the couple was "mentally deficient" and his action was upheld by the Iowa Supreme Court. It was then appealed to the U.S. District Court where Judge William Hanson ruled against the Alsagers.

But on appeal to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals the case was sent

back to Hanson for review. Last December the federal judge ruled the state's termination law, as applied in the Alsager case, was unconstitutional. That decision has not been appealed.

The Alsagers live in a two-bedroom house near the Iowa State Fairgrounds at 614 E. Thirtieth St.

The three girls had been allowed to stay with their parents throughout the court fights. The four boys involved in the case have lived in 23 foster homes and institutions since legal action began in late 1969.

The family was together temporarily for Christmas last year and, by June, all seven children had been returned to their parents' home.

UNI credits for Collins workers

By a STAFF WRITER
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. — Beginning next January, Collins Radio employees here will be able to complete the final half of a bachelor of technology degree at the Collins plant here, it was announced Thursday.

The University of Northern Iowa, which already offers the course at its campus in Cedar Falls, will provide instructors, as will Collins Radio Group of Rockwell International.

Officials said employees could complete the first two years of general education at an area college and then spread the final two years of courses over four years, while continuing to work at Collins. The courses will be taken during off hours.

Almost 40 persons are expected to take the course.

Frank A. Downes, assistant UNI dean of the Division of Extension and Continuing Education, said, "We will

work with Collins to teach these people technology."

He added, "We couldn't build a laboratory to include what Collins has here as part of their normal operations."

Officials for both Collins and UNI said they believe this is the first time in the nation that a college and a manufacturer have cooperated in this manner to offer employees a baccalaureate degree.

Collins will pay 80 per cent of an employee's tuition costs, an official said.

Sue for receipts from steamboat

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE REGISTER
OMAHA, NEB. — Sorenson Construction Co., Inc., of Omaha sued Thursday for money it said is owed for excavating the sunken steamboat Bertrand at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge near Missouri Valley, Ia.

The suit charges that Jesse Pursell and Sam Corbino, both of Omaha, were paid more than \$39,000 for artifacts and other materials recovered for which Sorenson received \$648.

The suit said the defendants owe Sorenson 25 per cent of all compensation received under the excavation agreement.

SHOP MON.-FRI. 10:30-9:30
SAT. 9:00-6:00

Walker's
710 WALNUT, DOWNTOWN
DES MOINES

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-772-1755
Mailed Postage Free

Hanes

Sheer Sensation SALE

ALL HOSIERY STYLES AT SPECIAL SAVINGS
SEPTEMBER 10-18
ALIVE! ULTRA SHEER EVERYDAY

• WATERLOO
• SIOUX CITY
• OTTUMWA

Norman Cassidy
726 WALNUT
MIRIE MAY PLAZA

the jumpsuit smartly striped

Pin stripe suiting in 100% polyester with the look and feel of wool. Zip front, patch pocket styling, red collar and belt plus that super Kay Windsor fit!

Sizes 8 to 18
Black
\$38

Take a good look. It's Kay Windsor.

THINK EGGHEAD
(Smirnoff, orange juice and egg.)

Was it only a couple of decades ago we dubbed our intellectuals eggheads? A great word. We're tickled that we can bring it back in another way with our egg, orange juice and Smirnoff concoction. Friends seem to be delighted with it. Not only do they find Egghead brunches fun, they like the idea of having a pleasurable drink of some substance. Don't make that an excuse for over-indulging, however. Remember Eggheads can get to be pretty heady.

The Egghead

To make an Egghead put 1 1/2 oz. Smirnoff, 4 oz. orange juice, and 1 egg into a blender. Mix and pour into a glass with ice.

Smirnoff
leaves you breathless.

SMIRNOFF VODKA 80 & 100 PROOF DISTILLED FROM CHAMP ST. PIERRE, SMIRNOFF FLA., DIVISION OF HEUBLEIN, INC., HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT