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More unsolved murders come to light

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The calls and e-mails started arriving shortly after publication of a list of 52 unsolved murders in the Quad-Cities area, dating back to 1935. "What about ...?" was the question callers and writers had in common.

Here are the additional unsolved murders called to our attention.

Edna Duarte. Ms. Duarte died on July 13, 2007, in a fire at her house at 2513 5 1/2 Ave., Rock Island. In September 2007, a coroner's jury ruled the death a homicide and the case remains under investigation.

Ms. Duarte's husband, Jorge Duarte said he thinks he knows who is responsible for his wife's death -- a man seen arguing with her a few hours before the fire broke out.

Mr. Duarte earlier lost a brother, Juan Duarte, in a murder in 2005. Willie D. Orr, 26, was convicted in that death in January 2008.

George Lister: On Nov. 5, 2005, a man picking up cans found the body of George Lister along Illinois 92 near the Interstate 280 interchange. Mr. Lister, a 74-year-old from Campbells Island, had been reported missing about three weeks earlier.

Mr. Lister last was seen at Shorty's Pizza in East Moline, which he co-owned. His 1998 Chevrolet S-10 truck was found at a Walgreens in East Moline soon after he was reported missing; his keys and credit cards were still in the truck.

Edward and Doris Jean Elwess: It was Nov. 2, 2002, when the bodies of Edward and Doris Jean Elwess were discovered in the couple's East Moline home. A relative discovered the bodies in the home at 456 15th Ave. about 11 a.m., police said.



Photo: Submitted
George Lister



Photo: Submitted
Edna Duarte

Police said the couple died of gunshot wounds sometime after 7 p.m. the previous night. Mr. Elwess, 76, and Mrs. Elwess, 72, were in charge of a weekly cash drawing at the Keg Tavern, 924 15th Ave., East Moline, where they last were seen alive. Police thought they may have been killed during a robbery attempt.



Photo: File / John Greenwood
The house were Edward and Doris Elwess, 456 15th Ave., East Moline, were found murdered on Nov. 2, 2002.

Betty Voss Hayes: The family of Betty Voss Hayes said she was planning to end her 20-year relationship with her boyfriend the night she was killed. Ms. Hayes was strangled June 26, 1987, in her Rock Island apartment, and police said the killer used a piece of clothing.

The boyfriend was tried for the murder and acquitted in 1988.

Alexander Torres Saucedo: Alexander Torres Saucedo's body was found just after midnight on Oct. 12, 1973, in Duck Creek Plaza in Bettendorf. Police said they found the body of the 23-year-old from Davenport after receiving a call from someone who said he had just shot someone.

Mr. Saucedo's sister, Yolanda Saucedo, said her brother got several phone calls that night before leaving their house about 11:45 p.m. He did not say where he was going or who he was meeting.

Lynette Stark: The death of Lynette Stark remains a mystery. The 23-year-old from Henry County was found dead at 8:35 a.m. March 29, 1978, in a Roos Hill cabin. She had been shot with a 22-caliber pistol. A Henry County coroner's jury was unable to determine whether her death was a murder or suicide.

Do you know of an unsolved murder we missed?

If you know of an unsolved murder not covered in a recent Dispatch/Argus series, or if you would like to talk about any of the unsolved murders in the area, please e-mail reporter Bill Mayeroff at bmayeroff@qconline.com. He can also be reached by phone at (309) 736-3516.