

Families think daily of two who are missing

By Dick Hogan
Gazette staff writer

"Sometimes when I've driven down the highway and I have seen a young boy hitchhiking, I'll turn around and go back and take another good look at him. It's part of the hope I still hold."

Howard Heckle and his wife, Nancy, 1505 48th St. NE, still cling to the hope that their son, Guy, who was 11 when he disappeared, is still alive.

But Harry and Eloise Tickner of Minneapolis, the parents of a missing Cedar Rapids woman, are convinced that their daughter is dead.

Guy Heckle disappeared from a Boy Scout outing at a camp near Toddville on Feb. 3, 1973, and has never been seen or heard from since.

The Tickners' daughter, Lynn Schuller, disappeared from her home in Cedar Rapids, and was reported missing Aug. 7, 1972. She, too, was never seen or heard from again.

Both disappearances resulted in extensive searches and official investigations.

No indication

Lt. James Neagle of the Linn County Sheriff's Department said the boy's disappearance is unexplained. "No one has ever figured out what happened to him."

The boy's coat was found in the Cedar River, hooked on a log, a few days after he disappeared from the Scout camp, leading to speculation that he fell into the river. However, Neagle said "extensive dragging operations in the area never found any other trace of young Heckle."

Neagle continued, "Hundreds of volunteers searched the area in a criss-cross pattern, and we are 99 percent sure every square inch was covered within a mile radius of the camp. The Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team also was called in and covered another four to five miles around the camp."

Neagle said the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation also conducted a thorough investigation along with his office, and Neagle concludes he doesn't know what more could have been done.

"We used every resource in the county — aircraft, horses, scuba divers, boats, foot searches — checked out every lead, including possible abduction, but turned up nothing."

The Heckles agreed the investigation was thorough. "We are satisfied with the investigation — we don't know what more we could really ask for," said Howard Heckle, the boy's father.

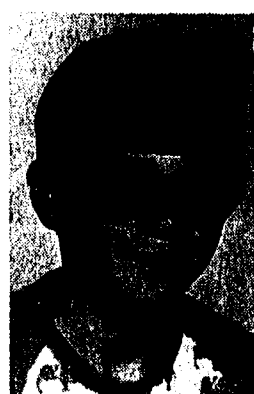
Still hoping

"We've never heard a word about what happened to Guy — it's just like blowing out a candle. But we haven't given up hope that he is still alive," Mr. Heckle said.

Nancy Heckle added, "I don't think he ran away. His coat was found, and a boy that age just doesn't take off on his own."

Even though they still are hopeful that Guy is alive, the Heckles said they can't rule out that the boy may have fallen in the river or that foul play may have been involved in his disappearance.

The boy's father said that following the grisly findings near Chicago in the John Gacy case, the family last month sent Guy's dental records to



Guy Heckle



Lynn Schuller

authorities there but have not heard a word from them.

"We haven't heard of any remains of boys that small being found, but we sent the records because Gacy was in the area at one time and could have driven through here on his way to Chicago."

Gacy lived in Waterloo for a few years before moving to Chicago. Gacy reportedly told Chicago area authorities that he killed 32 male youths and buried most of the bodies in the crawl space under his house. About 27 bodies have been recovered, but only a few have been identified.

Meantime, Chicago Police Superintendent James O'Grady has ordered a computerized program to help police trace missing persons in connection with the Gacy case. The program would be limited to Chicago missing persons, but other Cook County, Ill., officials want it extended beyond the Chicago area.

Faith helped

Both Nancy and Howard Heckle said they adjusted to the loss of their son through deep Christian faith. Howard Heckle said his wife had such faith at the time Guy disappeared, "but I didn't — I became a Christian over the situation."

Mrs. Heckle said they've left the fate of their son in the "hands of the Lord. . . . He knows all about it and in time he'll let us know."

The Heckles say they can openly talk about their missing son. Mr. Heckle said he "can" remember a day when he (Guy) hasn't tugged at my heart — and I wouldn't want it any other way. We can talk about him and laugh about some of the funny things he did."

Although Heckle would be 17 now, his father said he would have no trouble identifying him if he were to see him today.

Mrs. Heckle added that if they were to find out now that foul play was involved in Guy's disappearance, she does not believe that she and her husband would be bitter toward the person responsible.

Howard interjected, "We haven't walked in those shoes yet, but right now we feel that we would try to help such a sick person."

Cedar Rapids

The Heckles and their two daughters have grown closer since Guy's disappearance — but they were a close family before that. Both parents said they now find it easier to sympathize with other people's problems and some prejudices have fallen.

"I've learned to be more tolerant and to review my priorities as to what I was put on this earth for," Howard Heckle said.

Foul play suspected

By contrast, Eloise Tickner of Minneapolis, the mother of Lynn Schuller, believes foul play was involved in her daughter's disappearance.

Lynn Schuller, according to the sheriff's records, was 26 when she disappeared. She lived at 3100 30th St. Drive SE with her husband Keith, then 31, and their young son, Eric, believed to have been about 3 at the time.

Lt. Neagle said investigative records indicate that Keith Schuller told authorities he and the boy left their home about 7:30 the morning of Aug. 6, 1972, to go fishing and that Mrs. Schuller was still sleeping.

They returned about 12:30 that afternoon and Lynn and her bicycle were gone. Schuller told authorities that he took Eric swimming shortly after that, returning home in about an hour. He found Lynn's bicycle then, but she was missing. Schuller,

according to the sheriff's office, reported her missing at about two the following afternoon.

Neagle said, "There were a lot of suspicious circumstances around the case to indicate the possibility of foul play." He said the investigation showed she was not the type to just leave. Her purse was left in the house, along with her clothes. The only thing missing was the clothes she wore, Neagle said.

Authorities did obtain a search warrant for the Schuller residence soon after the disappearance, but none of the items seized were useful in determining Mrs. Schuller's whereabouts, they said.

Keith Schuller was arrested on a charge of refusing to assist an officer when he allegedly refused to assist four officers asking his cooperation in the investigation. The charge was dismissed in December 1972 for insufficient evidence.

Neagle said an extensive search for the woman was conducted. Even infra-red aerial photos were taken of various areas in an effort to determine if the earth had been dug up. The work by the Sheriff's Department and state BCI turned up no trace of Lynn Schuller.

Divorce obtained

Mrs. Tickner said she was notified recently by a Dubuque attorney that Keith Schuller had gone to court and gotten a divorce. She was also told that a court order had been obtained,

declaring Lynn legally dead.

Asked if she was satisfied with the investigation into her daughter's disappearance, Mrs. Tickner said "I'm not completely satisfied. I feel a crime was committed. I have no doubt in my mind — I'm quite certain my daughter was done away with."

Mrs. Tickner praised the BCI investigation of the case — but said she thought the Linn County sheriff's investigation was "kind of slipshod and not much intelligence used."

"The personal contact I had with the sheriff at that time," she continued, "seemed like he was out of a TV script or the comics — feet up on his desk and a big cigar in his mouth. His attitude was like these things happen every day. He could have been more businesslike. Some of the deputies did try very hard," she said. Walter Grant, who was sheriff at the time of the case, could not be reached for a response to her comments.

Back in C.R.

Mrs. Tickner said she has not been allowed to see her grandson since Christmas of 1975. The boy and his father, she said, moved to Idaho, then to Seattle, and she thinks they have moved back to Cedar Rapids.

The Gazette was able to contact Keith Schuller by telephone in Cedar Rapids. Schuller said he would rather not comment about the investigation of the disappearance of his former wife. He added he had his own theories about her disappearance and the investigation, but would rather not go into them.

The possibility that her daughter left home of her own accord was discounted by Mrs. Tickner. She said

there were no problems between Lynn and herself or Lynn's father. "I talked to Lynn the Tuesday before she disappeared, and she seemed happy and was planning on coming home for a vacation. There's no possibility she could have left and not contacted us," she added.

Mrs. Tickner said her family is very close and Lynn's disappearance has been a loss to everybody. "I turned to God as completely as I knew how, to be lifted above the loss." She indicated her faith has sustained her through the ordeal.

However, Mrs. Tickner said she and her husband have other children and grandchildren they enjoy, and have to look ahead. "We still have a lot to be thankful for," she added.

She continued, "There isn't a day that goes by that I don't do some prayerful work about it (Lynn's disappearance)."

Cases still open

Asked the status of these cases, Lt. Neagle said they are still considered open — but acknowledged that not much has been done on either disappearance for the last four years or so. Neagle noted, however, if any new tangible leads do come to light, they will be investigated thoroughly.

Neagle asked anyone who may have any tangible leads in either case to call or write the Linn County sheriff's office. "They can remain anonymous if they wish," he added.

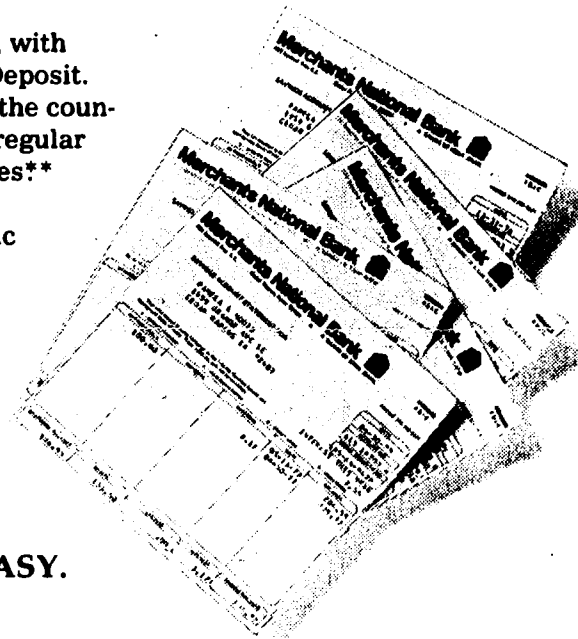
Currently, Linn County has 11 open cases of missing persons or runaways dating back to 1970. Neagle said several of these could be juveniles who have left home after a family dispute.

Cedar Rapids police list 26 missing persons at the present time, of which 20 are teen-agers.

MAKE YOUR MONEY EARN ITS KEEP

UP TO 8.06%

Now your money can make even more money, with MNB's new 8.06%, 96-month Certificates of Deposit. MNB offers the highest bank interest rates in the country; ranging from 5.13% on our no-minimum regular savings, to our Money Market Time Certificates**. And, all that interest is compounded daily. To make your saving easier, we have an automatic savings plan, where a little bit of each paycheck is deposited into your savings account, automatically. Come in and talk to your personal banker at MNB, and we'll work out a savings plan that's right for your budget. With today's inflation, you just can't afford your money not earning money.



SAVING AT MNB. HEY, THAT'S EASY.

7.75 PERCENT	7.50 PERCENT	7.25 PERCENT	6.50 PERCENT	6.00 PERCENT	5.50 PERCENT	5.50 PERCENT	5.00 PERCENT	5.00 PERCENT
96 month certificates* \$1000 minimum Effective annual rate	72 month certificates* \$1000 minimum Effective annual rate	48 month certificates* \$1000 minimum Effective annual rate	30 month certificates* \$500 minimum Effective annual rate	12 month certificates* \$500 minimum Effective annual rate	90 day certificates* \$500 minimum Effective annual rate	Open time Golden Growth Savings* \$500 minimum Effective annual rate	Regular Savings no minimum Effective annual rate	Christmas Clubs \$5.00 to \$20.00 a week Effective annual rate
8.06 PERCENT	7.78 PERCENT	7.52 PERCENT	6.72 PERCENT	6.18 PERCENT	5.65 PERCENT	5.65 PERCENT	5.13 PERCENT	5.13 PERCENT

*Funds withdrawn before maturity earn the regular savings rate, less three months interest.
**Federal law requires a \$10,000 minimum for Money Market Certificates.

Merchants National Bank
Member F.D.I.C. A BANKS OF IOWA BANK

Marion

Thefts kept police busy

Thefts were the most numerous crimes reported to Marion police in

More Marion News on page 4A

the last week, according to the weekly summary released by police today.

Police received reports of 16 thefts, including six bad checks and two vehicles.

Also reported were six burglaries, one assault, one case of criminal mischief and one case of illegal use of the telephone.

Police arrested an adult for fifth-degree theft, one for two counts of fifth-degree theft, one for assault, one on a warrant for failure to pay child support.

Juveniles arrested included one for shoplifting.

Police also issued eight tickets for speeding and 12 for other traffic offenses.

Fact finder report arrives

The long-awaited fact finder's report concerning negotiations between the Marion Independent School District and the Marion Education Association has arrived.

The school board will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Longfellow Administration Center, 2901 10th Ave., to review the report.

The report was due more than a week ago.

The report, from Neil Bernstein, St. Louis, is not binding.

Drunk driving charges filed

Five persons were arrested over the weekend on charges of drunk driving.

Cedar Rapids police arrested Billy D. Baum, 54, of 290 Harbet Ave. NW, Saturday night in the 1800 block of First Avenue E.

Palo police arrested two persons late Saturday and early Sunday. They are Richard L. Bell, 51, of 716 E Ave. NW, and Robert J. Keller, Route 2, Anamosa.

Arrested by the Linn County Sheriff's Department were Donald A. Folken, 16, Anamosa, and Dennis L. Mayberry, 19, Anamosa. Folken was arrested east of Marion, and Mayberry in Prairieburg.

Training vessel safety measures

WASHINGTON (AP) — Measures to correct potential safety problems on the Coast Guard's two main training ships will be completed before the vessels go on training cruises this summer, officials say.

Road Reports

The following numbers may be called for up-to-date highway conditions.

- Cedar Rapids..... 319-396-3330
- Cedar Falls..... 319-266-7575
- Davenport..... 319-359-4471
- Maquoketa..... 319-652-2434
- Ames..... 515-296-1493
- Belmond..... 515-444-4288
- Des Moines..... 515-288-1047
- Fairfield..... 515-472-5194
- Fort Dodge..... 515-955-4678
- Mason City..... 515-424-1292
- Atlantic..... 712-243-4892
- Denison..... 712-263-4880
- Storm Lake..... 712-732-1563