

Major Case Investigation Grant

**FINDING THE CHILD KILLER IN
THE WOODWARD CORRIDOR**

This Program is presented by the Michigan Department
of State Police through a grant award from the
Michigan Office of Criminal Justice Programs.

1978

Despite the many reports that were telephoned to police of seeing a girl Jill's age in cars or along I-75, no valid leads were developed, and there is little or no real information regarding her disappearance, whereabouts for four days, or who her murderer might be. The police know what kind of shotgun shell was used and what size shot; it is a common variety, easily obtainable in a number of local gun and hardware stores. One unexplained aspect of the case: Jill's bike was found by a neighborhood boy on the afternoon of December 27 behind the Valenti and Lieberman offices on N. Main Street in Royal Oak; no one knows whether she rode it there on the 22nd when she disappeared or whether it was placed there later.

C. Kristine Mihelich

1-2-77
1-19-77

Just one week after Jill Robinson was found in the snow along a busy highway, Mrs. Deborah Ascroft called the Berkley, Michigan, Police Department at 6:00 p.m. on January 2, 1977, to report that her 10-year-old daughter, Kristine Mihelich (usually called Kris) had gone to the 7-11 Store at Twelve Mile Road and Oakshire at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon and had not returned. The clerk at that store remembered selling a teenage movie magazine to a young girl about 3:00 p.m.; she was able to tentatively identify the girl as Kris after being shown a photograph. By noon the next day, every police department in the area had a copy of that photo, and Detroit-area radio and TV stations were broadcasting information about the missing girl. Again, despite many telephone calls purporting to give clues or tips--including several calls from a 14-year-old girl pretending to be Kris--nothing of a useful nature was received by the police.

On the 19th day after her disappearance, Kris Mihelich was found. A U.S. Postal Service mailman, Jerome Wozny of Walled Lake, Michigan was delivering mail on Bruce Lane, a dead-end street west of Telegraph Road in Franklin Village, Michigan, when he spotted something in the snow-filled ditch alongside the road; the time was about 11:45 a.m. Something of a scavenger of items he noticed it as he drove along in his mail truck. Wozny stopped, backed up, got out, and walked over to a "blue something" in the snow. When he saw an arm and a hand as he got closer, he realized he had found a body. Getting

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Complaint : 26056-76
File class : 0900-5-78

WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, GOVERNOR

COL. GEORGE L. HALVERSON, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
MAURICE S. REIZEN, M.D., DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REGIONAL CRIME DETECTION LABORATORY

30950 VAN DYKE, WARREN, MICHIGAN 48093
TELEPHONE 759-3930

Laboratory No : 26056-76
 Received by : Michael Sinke
 Delivered by : Cpl. Green
 Complainant : Troy Police Department
 76-26637

Date received : 12/30/76
 Time received : 2:05 P.M.
 Nature of exam : Latent Prints
 Date reported : 1/5/77

Reference:

Death Investigation.

Victim:

JILL ROBINSON

Suspect(s):

NONE

Evidence Received:

One (1) girl's bicycle, purple with silver handle bars and fenders, white handle grips and white banana seat, with white evidence tag #16172 attached (Complaint #76-26637).
 Evidence photographed by MICHAEL SINKE using a departmental Nikon 35 mm camera and Kodacolor II film.

Remarks:

The above stated evidence was processed and no identifiable latent prints were obtained.

Disposition of Evidence:

The above stated evidence was turned over to CHARLOTTE DAY, Criminalistics Section, on 1/5/77 at 9:00 A.M. by MICHAEL SINKE.

Michael Sinke
 Michael Sinke
 Laboratory Specialist

John Smiley
 John Smiley
 Laboratory Specialist

MS:JS
 sb
 2/22/77