

① 1-15-76

Rapid & localized - skull crushed

②

1-19-76

rapid & localized - shot

③

2-15-76

(Shopping Mall)

Mark Douglas Stebbins - asphyxia - suffocated
crushed skull

Aug. 7, 76

COALMIST MISHAKKE (RIVER)

12-23-76

Jul. Williams - head shot (road)

1-2-77

Kirstine Michael (Road) (road) suffocated
(not penetrated) sperm in both vaginal anal.

Tummy King - ditch suffocation

I just dont remember any more
I dont want to remember it — do you
understand — I just dont want to
remember — Why do you make
me think about these things — You
not interested in me — your just
interested in the killer — Im not that
person anymore and Im not going to
be —

(didnt speak to me for 4 days)
after this

Composite drawing in book Wolf In Sheep's Clothing (Rain defunct)

Oakland County Task Force 644-0400

Detroit News Secret Witness P.O. Box 1333 Det Mi 48231

affluent Michigan County twenty miles north of Detroit

worldwide search for the person known only as "The Oakland
County Child Killer"

was also questioned. When he was 19 about

death at the bottom of water tower
said he just knew him briefly

by both boy names -

but I learned later that this boy played the piano at
house and

mother would tell the boy she loved him
yet she never told any of her children that -

he hated him and deny going to his funeral - but he
did go with his family

* * * *

Jill Robinson Victim - Father Tom English Prof Royal Oak

office phone

Home -

Tim King Victim - Father Attorney Barry King Troy office

313-528-2200

Det Bill Harvey

313-858-5001

office no.

313-858-5030

direct line

313-858-4950

24 hr Emergency

313-333-8247

Beeper Emergency

Emergency

Det Raymond Anfer

313-546-2468

or 313-541-9000

Berkley Police

2395

- 12 mile Rd

48672

Commander Donald A. Stedt

313-644-3405

Chief Austin Birmingham

Police

313-644-1498

Emergency

What brand skateboard

What was the weather report during time Krist was held
was there a full moon
was one of Jills finger nails broken

→ Have Edie's memory
and would do the
and most of them

Could anyone tell you, after 15 yrs - about the bumper mark on Bruce's car
was. House close to time (3 blocks)
less than 10 people in world

Was there a witness to 1967 White Cadillac - could it of been light gold Lincoln
Bike behind store on map

Stuffed yellow dog-like from fair
was there any watches missing (something in a green rock)
date worked at R.C. - said he worked week-ends Biff's

Interview by Police at R.C. 2 or 3 days after, 60 min was there
date went to work at Pomack Motors

date of death (from Computer Sheet)

8:00 to 8:45 Is trigger time - also 3:00 AM Noon

Who else would draw cartoons of children, being pickup in case

has 2 photos of that combined would be the composite

loves bridges

Children well fed (cooked in hell from 16 yrs old) at his home
knew tampons in Jills back pack food was unimpor.
to his mother - Jone
was always hungry

As Report - word Kensington - had friend lived Kensington
also work Dawn Doherty Condo

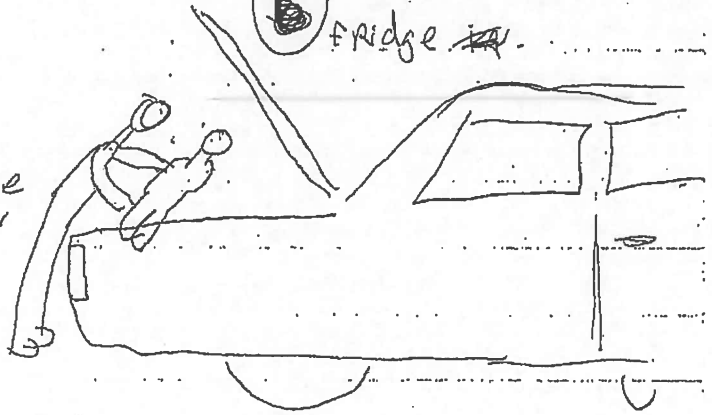
Sewage-treat plant - water treatment facility by

or pillow 2/6

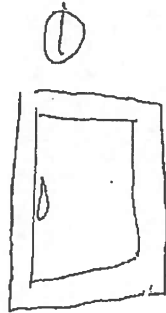


Then places body in TRUNK, holding Body in same grip he used when he took it out of the fridge.

⑦ takes it out the same way



REFRIGERATOR opens from the left

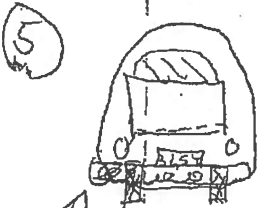


How kid must have been placed in fridge and taken out the same way

The only way a kid will fit in a refrigerator



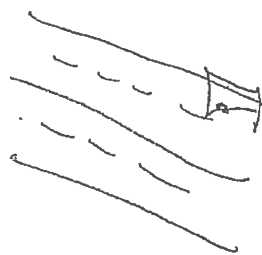
Lawson left side



opens trunk



Places Body on ground, Body tends to roll onto Left side



Accused Srock killer will be extradited

NORFOLK, Va. — Oliver Andrews, the accused murderer of Birmingham teenager Shella Srock, will be returned to Michigan to stand trial following a June 28 court date in Norfolk.

"We would be in a position to get him sometime in July," Oakland County Asst. Prosecutor Ed Sosnick said.

Andrews faces six burglary charges in the Norfolk area. The trial could be wrapped up in one day, Norfolk Asst. Commonwealth Attorney Robert Sidel said.

"As soon as we're finished I imagine

he'll go up to Michigan," he said.

The Oakland County prosecutor's office issued a felony murder warrant for Andrews, a 43-year-old native of Kinston, N. C., on March 7. He has already waived his right to an extradition hearing.

In a statement given to police earlier this year, Andrews confessed to the Jan. 19, 1976 murder of Miss Srock who was babysitting at the home of her sister.

The victim apparently interrupted a burglary attempt. Police said she had been shot five times and sexually molested. The murder climaxed a series

6-16-78
of break-ins in the Birmingham neighborhood.

Andrews faces a maximum of 71 years in prison on convictions for offenses committed in Virginia Beach and Portsmouth. He would become eligible for patrol under Virginia law after serving 12 years.

Andrews gained notoriety as in Virginia as the "Silverware Bandit." An estimated \$500,000 worth of merchandise was reported stolen. He was apprehended Oct. 12 following a shoot-out with Virginia Beach police.

Child killer task force loses 6 investigators

7-1-78
BIRMINGHAM — The Oakland County Child Killer Task Force began operating at reduced strength today.

"We will be down to eight local investigators and three state police," task force commander Lt. Robert Robertson said Friday.

A total of six officers have been withdrawn by the departments of Southfield, Ferndale, Royal Oak, Berkley, Birmingham, and the Oakland County Sheriff Department.

The eight remaining investigators represent the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, the sheriff's department, Southfield Township, Southfield, Ferndale, Troy, Birmingham, and Oak Park.

The task force had been operating with men and money budgeted through June 30 Friday.

The manpower losses have been accompanied by cutbacks in funding. The task force has lost monthly revenues totalling \$1,300.

The task force is investigating the abduction-slayings of four area children between February 1976 and March 1977.

An estimated 2,400 leads remain to be checked out. The loss of money and manpower will mean investigators will have to be more selective in choosing and following up investigations, Robertson says.

"It's slow going and we just have to see what else we can do."

"Our budget is about \$4,700 in expenditures (a month) and we're taking in \$3,400. Obviously we can't operate very damn long that way," Robertson explains.

The departments of Livonia, Lathrup Village, Pleasant Ridge, Huntington Woods, and Hazel Park have announced already that they do not plan to send any more money. Royal Oak and Bloomfield Hills have not yet reached a decision, Robertson says.

Seventeen departments say they will continue to give financial support.

Jan 31-1992

Bill Harvey.

12:00 pm.

will return your call
he will call every hour
until he reaches you.

she was shot (he also describe the land
between where she was shot and the Police
Dept - ... but I forgot what he said
some thing about it big grasses

I asked what happen to the gun -
he just wont talk about the gun

I ask about Kristine he said tell
me what you know about her - my
mind went blank - because I notice
he was now reading a computer sheet

of mine and he kept saying

like he was trying to remember -

When I said back to earth -

he pushed the paper away - but when

I got back from the rest room he was

reading it again & again - I said

what you do - he said maybe

there were others ... the way + town

he used - well I just know there

were others ...

We discussed his going to jail

over the badck + child support on Tuesday

but also was a love affair that didn't
materialize — I told him time

should have taken care of that —

↳ had just told me a few days
ago about the women he had been in
love with and who was married and
he knew nothing could be come of it
so he took off for Europe — but it
still took him 2 yrs to be able
to handle it —

When was talking about the
serial killers he was swallowing a lot
and at times actually appeared to be
Hyper Ventilated —

I told him I had to get at my
book so I really wanted to talk
about the children — Did time
have a football with the skate board
he said no a basketball —

Do you think Jill was really
that Butcher — Yes you could
tell by the struggle and how quickly

reaches \$100,000 mark

\$25,000 in the fund from the city of Birmingham and \$25,000 from the Detroit Secret Witness program.

The new portion of the reward will be given only for the arrest and conviction of the so-called child killer, Robertson said. Police have ascribed four abduction-killings of area children to the mysterious killer.

6-1-78
"Our part of the reward will be given out in relation to the degree of information provided," Robertson said. "If a person says Mr. X did it and he did, that person will probably get all of the reward."

The State Police also are operating the program on a "true name basis" whereby tipsters usually will be required to give their correct name.

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1 out of child killer force

5-24-78

Oakland child



would contribute no more men or money to the task force, Robertson said.

Royal Oak, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills, Madison Heights, Huntington Woods, Hazel Park and the county prosecutor's office failed to respond to the task force request for extended funding. Robertson said some of those departments could respond positively and he plans to check with them in the next few days.

Fifteen other departments agreed to continue contributing \$200 monthly toward task force operations, but only eight will continue sponsoring investigators.

Southfield, Ferndale, Birmingham, Southfield Township, Oak Park, the

Oakland County Sheriff's Department, and apparently the prosecutor's office will supply one investigator each. The state police will sponsor three investigators, Robertson said.

The departments pay the investigators' wages and expenses while they are assigned to the task force, he said.

With only 10 investigators, it will be difficult for the task force to finish investigating the 15,400 tips it has received since the investigation began.

"I doubt if we clear the (computer) tapes we have in the file by the end of the year," Robertson said. "Obviously we want to solve this case, but we have 2,400 clues left to process and with fewer men it will be hard to get through all of them."

mor of task force's work

C-3

composite drawing of the killer). But a lot of people fit that description. Half the detectives in the squad room could fit that description."

There was also one incident reported involving a blue Gremlin closely matching the description of a car thought to be the killer's, but that became another of the dead-end leads.

"We have no concrete indication the killer is still in the area," he says. "He could have done many things, but we don't know what right now."

In addition to coping with the investigation, Robertson also has to cope with the future of the task force.

Funding for the force, which now comes from eight Oakland County communities

which contribute about \$2,300 a month, runs out in June.

"We expect to keep right on going," Robertson says. "We will ask for a financial commitment from the cities to keep us going until January 1979.

"But we are also looking at a shutdown target of mid-fall this year to wrap everything up. We should be able to get the leads processed by then. That is only if nothing else happens. If we catch the guy tomorrow we would close or there could be another abduction and we would have to keep going. A lot could happen."

If the task force is closed, the case would be placed in the inactive and unsolved file for work when more information comes in, Robertson says.

Oakland child



THE OAKLAND PRESS Monday, Apr

Several communities pull

By JOE STEBBINS
Press Staff Writer

Operations of the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force will be cut almost in half July 1.

Its investigative team will be reduced from 17 to 10 and funding from area communities also will be reduced, Lt. Robert Robertson, task force commander, said Tuesday.

Robertson met Tuesday with community police departments to determine how much assistance the task force would receive.

"We will definitely continue until December 31," Robertson said. "But we will have to go with scaled down manpower and less financial help than we

had hoped for."

When the task force was formed after the abduction-slaying of 11-year-old Timothy King in March, 1977, funding was guaranteed through the end of June.

As the investigation of four brutal abduction-slayings ascribed to the child-killer continued, it became apparent the case probably wouldn't be solved by that deadline.

Robertson and the task force command staff have been working with area communities for funding to carry the investigation through the end of the year for the past four to six weeks.

"We didn't get as much as we wanted, but we have to be realistic," Robertson said. "We would want more money and

ideally more manpower, but it has to be put in proper perspective.

"Obviously (the investigation) will be slowed down. If you cut your staff by about 40 percent, you probably will do 40 percent less work," Robertson, who has commanded the task force since its inception, will be among the officers to leave.

"Sometime in July I will be leaving to go back to the Second District headquarters for the Detroit metropolitan area," he said. "I will still have administrative responsibilities to the task force, but I will not be here on a daily basis any longer."

Livonia, Pleasant Ridge and Lathrup Village all said at Tuesday's meeting they

Routine washes away gla

By JOE STEBBINS
Press Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM — Things have been quiet at the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force headquarters.

The job here has boiled down to hard-core street pounding and the unending rooting at tips that always seem to lead nowhere.

Detectives still are dispatched daily to pursue the leads. Radio operators still stand by to help the detectives' and the small group in the command room still drinks its coffee and copes with the demands of their hunt.

But coping for the men in command has become a somewhat different chore than

it was when the task force was formed more than a year ago.

At that time, days after 11-year-old Timothy King was found in a roadside ditch, they were organizing officers from throughout the area into a cohesive investigative unit. They were tapping resources, getting equipment and trying to satiate the media.

There was no question that their job was to find the killer and do it quickly. There was also no question in their minds that they would do it.

The determination remains just as the job does, but there are subtle differences. The blood-scent of a recent killing has dissipated and there has been no sign that the killer is still around.

And the season of the killer has passed. "Past history dictates he strikes in the winter time," Lt. Robert Robertson, commander of the task force, says. "But I certainly wouldn't say we should reduce our guard just because winter is over."

"We certainly aren't cutting back here. We intend to keep going until we have no more information to work on."

There is no lack of information for detectives to pursue. There still are 5,300 leads to follow up and each week 50 to 60 more come in.

"We get a lot of information on any incident that occurs now," Robertson says. "We have had reports of incidents of attempts to get children to go with men and the descriptions match those of (the

April 10 1978 083

8-1-78

continues to plod along

\$1300.

The budget goes toward the payment of clerical salaries, rental space, and record keeping. Investigators are paid by their departments. The deficit currently is being offset by a surplus accumulated the first six months. But Robertson said he did not know how long the surplus would last.

"We've projected we're going to close it down prior to that date (Dec. 31). But it's too far away to say for sure."

Not all task force difficulties are logistical ones. There is the growing public belief the object of the once massive manhunt will never be found.

Robertson realizes most people have lost interest in the case, except those whose lives were affected directly by the killer. "Time heals all wounds," he noted philosophically.

An attempt will be made to clear each and every lead, although this may prove to be impossible. "It takes so long to clear a tip. Sometimes it can be

done in a few minutes, sometimes it takes a few days," Robertson said.

He hesitates to call the task force a failure; investigators have uncovered leads which have helped in "lots" of other cases.

He realizes, however, that ultimately the task force will be judged on the basis of one case — the Oakland County Child Killer. And he admitted, "The task force will not have been successful unless we catch him."

Child killer's car identification leads to additional tips for force

By JOSEPH RUBIN
Of The Oakland Press

9-15-78

Oakland child



conclusions the killer used a 1964-67 Tempest or Skylark in the slayings of Mark Stebbins, Jill Robinson, and Kristine Mehelich.

However, investigators think a light-blue, late-model AMC Gremlin was used in the slaying of 11-year-old Timmy King of Birmingham, the last of the killings under investigation. King's body was found in a ditch alongside Gill Road on March 22, 1977.

All of the cases closely resemble each other. All of the victims were kidnapped and held for a period of several days to several weeks.

The task force, which will be disbanded if no major progress has been made on the case by January, is relying on tips from the public for leads in the investigation. The task force tip hotline is 644-0400.

BIRMINGHAM — The number of tips received by the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force has increased more than tenfold since it announced last week the suspected killer of four south Oakland County youths drove a light blue Pontiac Tempest or Buick Skylark.

The task force has received about 30 tips a day since it released the information, said Sgt. Roger Rivard, a member of the force. Previously, the force had been getting only two or three tips per day, Rivard said.

"We've received a lot of tips, and some of them look pretty good," said Rivard. He said the tips were being checked out.

"Some of these people (mentioned in the tips) are damned hard to find,"

Rivard said, pointing out that the task force has received 16,142 tips to date, but now has only about 10 officers to check them.

Last week, Lt. Robert Robertson, the force's director, released official

Parents dispute keeping search for child killer

By JOSEPH RUBIN
Of The Oakland Press

ROYAL OAK — Some parents of the Oakland County Child Killer's victims say they aren't upset that the task force that has been investigating the slayings could shut down Dec. 15.

In the 18 months since the death of 11-year-old Timothy King, the last child killed, the task force has checked thousands of leads, but it says it still has no idea of the killer's identity.

The killer abducted and killed three other south Oakland County children during the winters of 1976-77 and 1977-78.

It was recently announced that the task force would not seek additional funding and would be disbanded Dec. 15 if no breakthroughs were made in the investigation.

"I think the police did as much as they could professionally," says Bruce King, Timmy's father. "I see no reason in spending any more money on it."

"My personal involvement ended when they found Timmy. After that, it became a public problem."

"I guess they've done all they could," says Deborah Jarvis, mother of Kristine Mihelich, a 10-year-old Berkley girl who was suffocated and found in a roadside ditch in Franklin Village in January 1977.

"In the last year, they haven't contacted me so I assume they've been doing their best."

However, Tom Robinson, father of victim Jill Robinson, is not satisfied.

"It's been disappointing and frustrating, but I know they're trying," Robinson says. "I would hope they'd keep the push going."

"He's still out there, still crazy."

Jill, 12, was found shot to death on the day after Christmas in 1976.

Robinson, a teacher at Oakland Community College, praises the work of the task force and the numerous unrelated child abduction cases that were solved by the task force.

"The perverts have come out of the woodwork," Robinson says.

Oakland child



Many local residents share Robinson's wishes for a continuation of the task force and say they fear another murder this winter.

Troy restaurateur Joe Orlando says the task force is a good deterrent to further child abductions and murders.

"With the task force, those mentally unbalanced few who are prone to do those kinds of things know that nobody's gonna kid around with them," Orlando says. "It's a good protection."

"There's still a definite fear in the community."

But Ellen Bartley of Royal Oak sees the other side of the coin.

"The case is an awful thing, but I think it would be a good idea to end the task force now," Mrs. Bartley says. "If they had any meaningful clues, they would have come up with something by now. Right now, it's probably just a waste of money."

The task force was formed by state and local police in late January 1977, after the body of Kristine Mihelich was found.

Since then, the task force has spent at least \$800,000 on the investigation. Expenditures by state and local police departments bring the total to several million dollars.

The task force was originally funded by a \$557,000 federal grant and now operates on \$3,800 a month, which is contributed by 19 communities in the south Oakland County area. That arrangement expires in December.

Man questioned in child killings

ROYAL OAK (AP) — An Explorer Scout leader charged in the murder of a 14-year-old boy will be questioned in the unsolved Oakland County child killings, state police said Tuesday.

Richard L. Fernald, 35, of Royal Oak, faces an open murder charge in the death of Joseph Lemke, who was shot in the head at Fernald's house Friday morning. Lemke belonged to Fernald's Explorer post.

State Police Sgt. Joseph Kreaase, second-in-command of the police task

force that in 1977-78 investigated thousands of tips in the unsolved murders, said he has assigned an officer to investigate Fernald.

"We're interested because there was a 14-year-old involved," Kreaase said, referring to Lemke. "We'll question him about the (child) murders and that's all we're interested in. But at this point we haven't come up with anything that would even remotely connect him with the murders."

Seven children, ages 10 to 16, were

killed between Jan. 16, 1976, and March 16, 1977. Police theorize that only four of the victims — two girls and two boys — were abducted and killed by the same person.

Authorities believe the killer held the four children between 3½ to 19 days before dumping their bodies.

Kreaase said the officer investigating Fernald will "try to eliminate him (from the child murder cases) by time and place. He'll try to determine if he was available to be connected with the

murders.

"We would use a lie detector as a last resort," Kreaase added.

Kreaase said that, to his knowledge, Fernald's name was never mentioned "in any of the tips."

Fernald was held in the Oakland County Jail pending arraignment Friday in Royal Oak's 44th District Court. He allegedly shot Lemke about 4 a.m. Friday while the youth spent the night at his house. The Scout troop Fernald led had met at his house Thursday night, police said.

3 Suspect not linked to child killings

ROYAL OAK (UPI) — Police investigating the Oakland County child killings say there appears to be no connection between those crimes and the arrest of a security guard on charges of kidnapping a 12-year-old girl.

The suspect, Ronald Musson, 19, of Royal Oak, faces arraignment in Royal Oak District Court today on kidnapping and second-degree criminal sexual conduct charges. Police said Musson

allegedly lured a 12-year-old Berkeley girl into his car around midnight Monday near a store in Royal Oak where he worked as a security guard.

Musson was arrested early Tuesday near Bowling Green, Ohio, where he refused to pay for \$10 worth of gasoline at a service station, police said. After his arrest, police learned of the charges pending against him in Michigan.

He waived extradition in Bowling Green Municipal Court on Wednesday, where

petty theft charges against him were dropped, and was returned to Michigan for arraignment.

Bowling Green police said the unidentified kidnap victim had been molested during her ordeal but was otherwise unharmed. She was reunited with her family on Tuesday.

Royal Oak Police Det. Sgt. Donald Meitzner said the girl had been loitering around the Northwood Shopping Center Monday night while Musson was on duty at one of two stores open all night.

Musson, wearing his security guard uniform, allegedly drove his car next to the girl in the parking lot, ordered her to get in and accused her of shoplifting, Meitzner said.

After driving around the north Detroit suburban area for a while, Meitzner said, Musson then drove south on I-75 towards Ohio.

Shortly before 5 a.m. Tuesday, he said, Musson and the girl stopped at the Gas station near Bowling Green

for a fill up and Musson then left without paying.

The attendant telephoned Bowling Green police, who arrested Musson without incident a few minutes later along I-75.

Michigan authorities said they would continue to investigate Musson to determine any possible link between him and the wave of unsolved child killings in Oakland County, but added they did not feel there was any connection.

Parents praise efforts of force probing killings

By JOSEPH RUBIN
Of The Oakland Press

9-29-78
78
Oakland child

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Part of a family's life died with Tim King

5-30-78

(Continued from A-1)

As his wife verged on tears in retracing that horrible night, Barry, an attorney, picked up the conversation.

"I wasn't that upset at first," he said. "There was a sporting event of some sort on television that night — a boxing match. I think — and I said he might be with some friends watching that."

"But by 10 o'clock I had no doubt in my mind he was somewhere he didn't want to be."

At 10 p.m. King called the Birmingham police to report Tim as missing.

From that moment, the police began a desperate search.

"I don't know what more they could have done," King said. "For those first six days, I know guys who didn't get an hour's sleep. It isn't for any lack of effort that they haven't found whoever did it."

Days after Tim's body was discovered, the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force formed and every day since then investigators have sifted a mountain of clues and tips — thus far with little success beyond a hazy composite sketch and suspicions of blue Gremlins.

"In a way those first days were neat," said Tim's sister Cathy. "It was the sort of thing Timmy would have thought was neat. All the police around and a lot of people in the house. Our friends were really great. They helped a lot by just being here and helping us keep busy so we wouldn't have to think about it."

But no matter how busy the family kept, reality was never far away. ~~Usually in the late hours of March 23, they learned~~

what they already feared.

"We were watching Johnny Carson on television and they cut in and said a boy had been found," Cathy said. "They didn't say who it was, but we knew. (A neighbor) sitting right in that chair said we couldn't be sure ... that it could be someone else. But we knew ..."

"I knew something was wrong too," Mrs. King said. "I knew it had to be Tim. We had policemen here on 12-hour shifts and when one came at midnight and both of them were outside and didn't come in, I knew it was over. Later the Birmingham police chief and our parish priest came over."

When it finally ended — when all doubts had disappeared — the void from Tim's absence began to grow. Three portraits of smiling Tim King still hang in his home and there haven't been any major changes because he is gone, although sometimes the void seems almost tangible.

"He was such a joyous little boy," Mrs. King said. "He did everything. He only sat down when he was too tired to move. He was the last one to bed and the first one up. He was everybody's friend."

"And he loved sports. Baseball had to be his all-time favorite. He was an all-star on his baseball team. It was only the minor Little League — he never got a chance to go further — but he was always one of the first batters. And I remember how he always turned around and smiled and waved when he got to first base."

When he wasn't playing sports or running with the neighborhood kids, Tim enjoyed teasing his silver-haired

mother.

"He had a pair of knee-high rubber boots," she said. "I had cracked the toe on one of them and I had put some electric tape on it. He used to go to church with them on. I'm not too alert in the morning and he could get by me with them on and I wouldn't notice until we got to church."

"I would elbow him and he would just look at me and giggle."

The baseball and the running and the teasing are all gone now. So is a portion of the King's life.

"It will never, ever be the same again," Mrs. King said. "I remember talking to Tim just a couple of weeks before. We were talking about what we would do when all the other kids were away at school. He wouldn't have to wait in line for the car, he would have the whole upstairs to himself, we could eat out more."

"Now I see all the other kids his age and how they look and I always wonder what Tim would look like."

Whoever turned her precious hopes and plans into memories will find no sympathy from Mrs. King if ever he is caught.

"I am not sympathetic at all," she said. "He was my boy and he was a beautiful little boy. I don't see how that could happen to him or the other children. Something is terribly wrong."

"The guy (who did it) is not completely demented. He is very clever. I am totally unsympathetic and unforgiving. Tim was a very energetic, imaginative boy and he received some very unusual treatment and I am bitter."

New lead on car used in killings

By JOSEPH RUBIN 9-8-78
Of The Oakland Press

The Oakland County Child Killer Task Force is looking for the owner of a light blue Pontiac Tempest or Buick Skylark in connection with the murders of four children in 1976 and 1977.

The Task Force announced Thursday that the car, model year 1984 to 1987, has been determined to be the type of automobile used by the killer in the deaths of Kristine Mihelich, Mark Stebbins and Jill Robinson.

Task force investigators said they spent hundreds of hours of investigation determining that tire tracks in the snow near Kristine Mihelich's body were those of a Tempest or Skylark, Robertson said. He also reported that witnesses sighted similar cars in the vicinity of the bodies of two other victims.

But a witness' tip has led police to believe the killer switched cars and drove a late-model blue AMC Gremlin with white hockey-stick type trim when he abducted and killed his last victim, 11-year-old Timmy King of Birmingham, in March 1977.

"We need the help of the public," said Lt. Robert Robertson, director of the task force investigation. "We're still working on the theory that somebody out there might know him, and even though they never suspected the person, they might remember someone who had such a car available to him at those times."

The task force already has received more than 16,000 tips on the case, Robertson said, but unless more tips concerned with the killer's identity come in, the investigation may be stalled indefinitely. Robertson said the only new clues in the case pertain to the killer's car.

Robertson also said that unless there was a major breakthrough in the case before the end of the year, the task force would be disbanded Dec. 31.

(Continued on A-2)

4 cities take *April 22 1978* investigators off task force

By JOE STEBBINS
Press Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM — The Oakland County Child Killer Task Force will lose one-third of its manpower by the end of June.

Four area police departments — Troy, Royal Oak, Livonia and Berkley — will remove their officers from the investigation. But each of the communities will continue contributing \$200 a month through Dec. 31.

The manpower decisions didn't surprise the task force.

"When we were funded last January, we knew it was only until the end of June, so we were anticipating the loss of some men and maybe some money," says Sgt. Joseph Krease, assistant task force coordinator.

"Some of those departments are hurting for men and we have to respect their judgment.

"Like Berkley. Their entire detective department has only two men, and it cuts them in half to send one here. They can only take that so long."

When the four departments remove their men from the investigation, the task force will be cut from 15 investigators to 10, Krease says.

"Losing personnel always hurts your investigation, and maybe we will change the priorities on the stuff we handle. It will hinder our work because you can always do more with more men, but we intend to stay on it and do the best we can.

"As long as there is information to follow, we will continue to work on it."

The number of tips left for investigators is slowly dwindling, and it is possible

083 there will be no need for the task force by December.

"It all depends on how fast we clear the information we have left and how many tips we get this summer as to when we decide to close down," Krease says.

"There certainly would be no point in continuing operations if we were just waiting for information."

Task force commander Lt. Robert Robertson has speculated the force could shut down this fall.

Task force coordinators recently approached the 24 communities contributing resources, seeking funding through the end of the year. The task force's budget of about \$4,800 a month was based on full financial participation of the communities.

The budget, however, only pays for overhead and operating expenses. Investigators and their vehicles are financed by their home departments, Krease said.

"It is too early to tell if all of the communities will continue the funding, but we expect they will," Krease says. "We expect to have some response from them by the middle of May."

Spokesmen for some of the departments removing men from the operation say their decisions were a question of manpower.

"At one time we had seven men down there," says Troy Capt. Robert Mortensen. "It is simply a scaling down of the task force and a question of manpower in our department."

The task force is investigating the abduction-slayings of four area children between February 1976 and March 1977.

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