



News Photo—Duane E. Belanger

Sheriff's deputy Don McLellan meets Birmingham Patrolman Don Studt on sheriff department's new supplementary patrol

Has Spreen finally learned that silence can be golden?

By JOEL J. SMITH
Chief of Our Oakland County Bureau

Oakland County Sheriff Johannes F. Spreen has picked up a reputation in law enforcement circles for putting his foot in his mouth.

There's hardly a month that goes by that Spreen hasn't antagonized someone with an off-key remark. Many times the brunt of his remarks are aimed at other police chiefs in the county.

In his four and one-half years as sheriff and several years as Detroit police commissioner, Spreen has been laughed at by some for his unorthodox programs in the departments.

Some of these headline grabbing programs, as I recall, include scooter patrols and petunia planting details along major thoroughfares in the county.

Spreen called full-scale press conferences for each of his new programs to pat himself on the back. He got a lot of ink and television exposure for the unique programs.

But a funny thing happened to most of the programs. They seemed to fade into the sunset as soon as the interest died down.

During the last month or two, I've noticed a pleasant change in the 6-foot, 5-inch robust sheriff — a change I hope will mark a new era for the sheriff.

First of all, Spreen actually started a new program two days ago without the usual fanfare. He seemed surprised when I called about the project despite the fact the new program affects virtually every resident in the county.

Under the pilot program, Spreen is sending seven sheriff's deputies and cars to various communities within the county to supplement the local police departments.

The special patrols will not replace regular

city and township police departments, but will be in addition to normal patrols.

This is particularly exciting because this is a clear attempt to provide the heavily populated southeastern section of the county with sheriff's department services.

With three-quarters of the county's one million residents in this section of the county, it's not too hard to figure out who's been footing the major share of the sheriff's department budget for years.

Maybe finally, these residents, who have supported their own local police departments along with the sheriff's department, will see their tax dollars being spent in their neighborhoods.

It's been a long, long time since I've seen a sheriff's car in the south end of the county. Yesterday I saw five different sheriff's cars patrolling Birmingham streets.

Spreen said this special patrol, which will be offered at no charge to the local police departments, will move throughout the county, spending time wherever they are needed. He said this will include the northern townships which pay for regular sheriff department patrols.

The sheriff said he hopes to keep the special patrol flexible so it can move anywhere on a short notice.

Now back to Spreen's problem with foot-in-the-mouth disease.

Just a week or two ago, Spreen actually refused to comment on a topic for fear of antagonizing some police chiefs in the county.

I had called Spreen to ask his expert opinion on the highly debated topic of when a police officer should use his gun and when he shouldn't.

I figured with his 30-odd years of law enforcement experience, there would be few

DETROIT NEWS 2-18-77

Oakland update

more qualified to comment on the subject. Unfortunately, I happened to ask Spreen for the comment just one day after a Berkley police officer shot and wounded an 18-year-old Ohio man who attempted to escape from police custody.

Spreen politely refused comment on the topic for the time being. He suggested I call back in three or four months when the Berkley shooting is long forgotten.

He admitted he didn't want to comment because he already has enough enemies among the police chiefs in the county.

At the time I was a little perturbed by his unwillingness to talk. But as I think back over all the times he's put his foot in his mouth, just maybe silence was the best answer.

Prints on Girl's Body, Says Canadian Expert

DAILY
TRIBUNE
1-28-77

by JOHN MICHALAK

Tribune Staff Reporter

Fingerprints which could be those of her killer were obtained from the body of Kristine Mihelich by a Toronto fingerprint expert, The Daily Tribune learned today.

The expert, Bud Hinds, a civilian employe with the Ontario Provincial Police told The Tribune that he obtained partial fingerprints from the Berkley girl's body. However he refused to reveal how many fingerprints were obtained, and whether any identification could be made from them.

To Notify Patterson—

"I will contact Patterson (Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson of Oakland County) today and discuss the

results," Hinds said.

Hinds was called to take fingerprints from the girl's body on Saturday, prior to an autopsy.

Hinds is credited with refining an identification process by which fingerprints can be obtained from a body. Through a chemical reaction prints from a body are transferred to a silver plate which is then developed.

Autopsy Results—

A spokesman for the Oakland County Medical Examiner's office said autopsy results still aren't completed.

Patterson at midmorning refused to comment on Hinds' findings, saying he hadn't yet

talked with the Toronto fingerprint expert.

Meanwhile a police task force composed of 35 detectives from South Oakland departments, Detroit, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and State Police are still investigating the Mihelich death.

While cause of death hasn't been established yet, Patterson has said the girl was murdered. He said anyone with information about the girl should contact their local police departments or state police which will direct the tips to the task force.

Last Seen—

Kristine, age 10, 3653 Gardner was last seen alive at 3 p.m., Jan. 2 at a 7-11 Store on Twleve-Mile and Oakshire in downtown Berkley.

Her snowcovered body was found at the side of Bruce Lane, in the Thirteen-Mile, Telegraph area of Franklin by Mailman Jerome Wozny shortly after noon last Friday.

The location is about a mile from where the body of Cynthia R. Cadieux, age 16, Roseville was discovered on Jan. 16, 1976 at Franklin Road, north of Fourteen-Mile.

Besides the two girls, bodies of four other Oakland youngsters were found slain over the past year.

DATE Eccentric 3-28-77 #1

Program's offer help in murder's aftermath

School and community groups are eyeing programs to help parents and children cope with the fears which have arisen following the murder of 11-year-old Timothy King of Birmingham.

Some groups are considering beefing up existing programs in the community, designed to help protect children.

The efforts follow the murder and burial of Timothy King, whose body was found along a road in Livonia last week.

Police believe Timothy's abduction from his Birmingham neighborhood March 16 is connected to the disappearance and murder of at least three other Oakland County youngsters in past months.

Timothy was buried in White Chapel Memorial Cemetery Friday as police sought federal money to keep the investigation into the murders going at full-strength.

While 160 detectives work on the case, school and community groups are probing ways to protect children in the Birmingham area.

COMMON GROUND, a nonprofit multiservice agency in Birmingham, is trying to launch a citywide program to offer meetings in the schools so that parents and children can discuss their fears and find ways to deal with them.

The Birmingham Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) Council is looking at several ideas, said council president John Ott.

Everything is now at "the talking stage," Ott said, adding that a council meeting is scheduled Monday.

A coalition of Oakland County residents from 12 communities is pushing to start an "Officer Bill" program in all schools in the county.

The program calls for hiring a full-time police officer in each school district to help educate children about safety, explained Dottie DeQuin of Berkley, one of the organizers.

THREE BOY SCOUT troops at Birmingham's First Presbyterian Church and First Methodist Church are organizing a meeting Monday evening on "Crime Against Youth."

An FBI agent is scheduled to speak and provide children and parents with guidelines on how to avoid dangerous situations.

The meeting is being held at 7:30

p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

The Adams School PTSA is expected to consider several measures when it meets April 4. Timothy King was an Adams School sixth grader.

On the night he disappeared, he had walked about four blocks from his Yorkshire street home to buy candy at the Hunter Maple Pharmacy, 655 E. Maple.

Six days later, his body was found on Gill Road in Livonia. He had been sexually assaulted and suffocated, according to an autopsy report.

THE YOUTH'S murder has promoted a number of activities to keep his memory alive.

Sixth graders at Adams School are buying a tree from Woody Acres Nursery and will plant it in front of the building in honor of Tim, said Eleanor Schuster, a sixth grade room mother.

"I do not know what kind of tree will be planted by the children," Mrs. Schuster said. "They will probably take a vote at the beginning of the week.

"Donations will not be taken to pay for the tree," she added. "The kids will probably have a work day or wash cars."

SEVERAL GROUPS in the area are contributing to the Timothy King Memorial Fund, which will be used to pay for playground equipment at Adams.

Spike McKenzie, a friend of the Kings, explained that Tim loved the outdoors, especially hunting and baseball. His father had requested that the money be used for the playground.

"Tim practically lived in the Adams playground," McKenzie said. "So it is appropriate that money given in his memory be spent improving the playground."

The National Junior Honor Society and student council at Derby Junior High School in Birmingham raised \$125 for the fund Thursday.

The Birmingham Rotary Club and the ushers, altar boys and lectors at St. Alan Church, Troy, the King's former parish, are also contributing.

Other schools and groups are planning similar efforts.

PARISHIONERS AT Holy Name Church in Birmingham, where the Kings now attend, have also been active in the last week.

The Holy Name Bereavement Committee, chaired by Ellen Quin, prepared salads, casseroles and food for 100 people after the funeral service Friday.

The meal was served in St. Ann's hall, which is attached to the church, and was open the Kings' friends and relatives.

"We organized the bereavement committee in November 1974 to help families from Holy Name who were in distress," explained Mrs. Quin. "We are all just trying to do our part to make it a little easier for the family."

APPROXIMATELY 600 attended Tim's funeral at 3 p.m. Friday.

The mass was concelebrated by the Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, auxiliary bishop.

(Continued on page 3A)

Murd

(Continued from page 1A)

op of the archdiocese of Detroit, the Rev. Robert E. Burke, pastor of Holy Name, the Rev. Joseph J. Lisee, pastor of St. Alan, the Rev. Bernard J. Harrington, rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and past Holy Name pastor, and the Rev. Alexander A. Kuras, associate pastor of Holy Name.

Other clergy included Rabbi Richard Hertz of Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township and the Rev. Kenneth H. Gass, of St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

FR. LISEE, a friend of the Kings, delivered the sermon. The Kings, who previously lived on Pembroke in Birmingham, attended St. Alan's for several years and were among the first parishioners when the church began in 1966.

Fr. Lisee recalled the time Tim King was asked to draw a picture of God.

"Being interested in baseball, he drew a picture of a baseball player," Fr. Lisee said.

"Asked how he knew God looked that way, he said, 'How do you know he doesn't?'"

"Tim knew what love was," Fr. Lisee said. "He loved his mother and father and brothers and sister."

Tim's parents, Barry and Marion King, his brothers, Mark, 14 and Christopher, 16, and his sister, Cathy, 17, all left the church holding hands.

HOLY NAME also held two special liturgy services for the family last week.

At 10 a.m. Wednesday, the morning after Tim's body was found, all of the children at Holy Name School attended a special mass. A second service was held Wednesday evening.

St. Alan's added a special noon mass for five days last week to pray for the youngster and his family.

Holy Name's Wednesday evening service was followed by a panel discussion called "Coping with a Community Crisis." A psychiatrist, psychologist and clinical social worker spoke.

The session was one of what could be many in the community.

COMMON GROUND'S director, Diane Vincent, said Friday the agency is trying to bring together representatives from "education, the police, the PTSA, the clergy, the city commission, community mental health, the press and business."

Mrs. Vincent said she envisions a citywide effort to coordinate seminars for parents and children and to disseminate information.

"I have no doubt this fear will sub-



Two Weeks of Christmas? Ethnic Families Show How
Detroit's Biggest Slumlords
Motor City Hot Wax—When Radio Deejays Were Kings

MONTHLY DETROIT

DECEMBER 1978 \$1.25

The Oakland County
CHILD KILLER: WHAT NEXT?



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BETWEEN THE LINES

THE MAGAZINE THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

WE DID SOME WORRYING over this issue. December being the kind of month it is, there was a great deal of sentiment in our office for putting an appropriately cheery story on this magazine's cover. The holiday spirit suffuses our cantankerous bones just like the next guy's, so we talked about sending a photographer in search of the twinkly-eyed gent with a cherry-red nose. We considered festooning the cover with boughs of holly. But as you may have noticed, Santa and seasonal greenery lost out to the Oakland County child killer. That's not all. Inside (sandwiched, thankfully, between more lighthearted subjects), you will also find a story about Chuck Costa, slumlord-turned-media-star, and another about the Detroit public housing projects, which are largely the hellholes you might imagine them to be.

Pretty rough sledding, all in all. That's what we worried about. Is December the wrong month to deliver all this human misery to your doorstep? Will we be thought of as the magazine that tried to steal Christmas?

We hope not.

We hope, instead, you will agree that this month's dismantling of Oakland County's police task force (which has hunted the child killer in vain for nearly two years) is the right time to remind ourselves again that the murderer is most likely still at large; that now, more than ever, might be a time to be wary, to again give the kids "the talk" (as a mother of one of the dead children calls it) about being extremely careful. Almost nothing could ruin our holidays more completely than to lose another child to this killer.

We hope also you agree that an important part of this season's tradition is to remember that we can do better as a society, that there are still those among us who are ill-fed and poorly clothed, who live in places that mock human dignity.

Chuck Costa would include himself and fellow city landlords among the downtrodden, as you will read in our deflating profile of this hyperbolic little man. The local media have been astonishingly sympathetic to his view; yet we discover that tenants who lived in Costa's buildings were perhaps the more unfortunate. To Mr. Costa we say, "Humbug."

Then there are those 17,000 Detroiters whose home is one of the city's twenty-three projects — places euphemistically known as "the housing of last resort." Theirs is a familiar litany of inner-city ills — poverty, powerlessness, frustration, decay. And *their* landlord — the city of Detroit — is in terrible financial straits, a condition not likely to improve soon. Residents of the projects are not frequent guests at your home, or ours. Their world is alien. I suspect, to most readers of the magazine. We invite you to enter that world, through our story. And then to study photographer David Franklin's portraits of the projects and their inhabitants. In their starkness and poignancy, these eloquent companions to our article are reminiscent of Walker Evans' work in the now-classic social document *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*.

Evans' subjects lived in the dirt-poor, rural South of the Depression-ravaged Thirties. Franklin's are here, now, in the Detroit of 1978. What could be more apropos to Christmas' real meaning than this reminder?

By no means is this month's magazine all work and no play, however. Please see for yourself, but the tinsel and glitter includes a revamped arts section, now called Arts & Letters, to describe better its role as a critical guide to metro Detroit's visual and literary arts; and a new regular department called Entertainment (with a !). We want this new section, coupled with What's On, to be the area's most exciting observer of the musical, performing and cinematic arts. As well as your only month-long reference to hundreds of things to see and do for sheer fun.

For added spice, we're also introducing the MONTHLY DETROIT pseudonymous gourmet. Our restaurant column now goes by the name of Appetite, one's primal craving for food and drink. In this case, good, soul-satisfying food and drink. Our Appetite will be sated from now on by a food critic whose *nom de plume* is Dougal Harris. A man, a woman, the anonymous hermaphrodite? That's all we're saying except ... Happy Holidays!

Gary W. Diedrichs
EDITOR

MONTHLY DETROIT

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By Jane Briggs-Bunting. The initial fear is gone, the manhunt is ending, and the children are back on the streets — playing, hitchhiking . . . talking to strangers. But it's getting cold again. And the question remains, where is the murderer?

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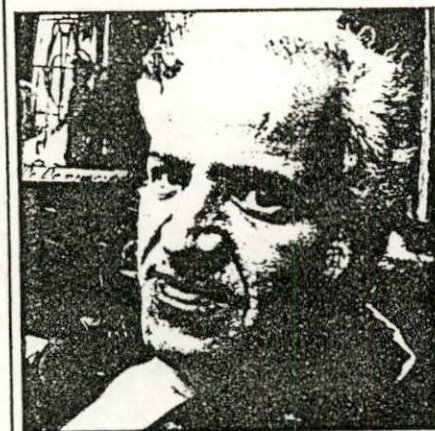
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By Kirk Cheyfitz. How the crisis in public housing made Coleman Young and Jimmy Carter Detroit's biggest slumlords. Also, portraits from the projects, a photo essay by David Franklin (page 54).



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By Lucia Solorzano. Who says Christmas has to be packed into a single, exhausting day? Detroit's ethnic communities have a better idea.

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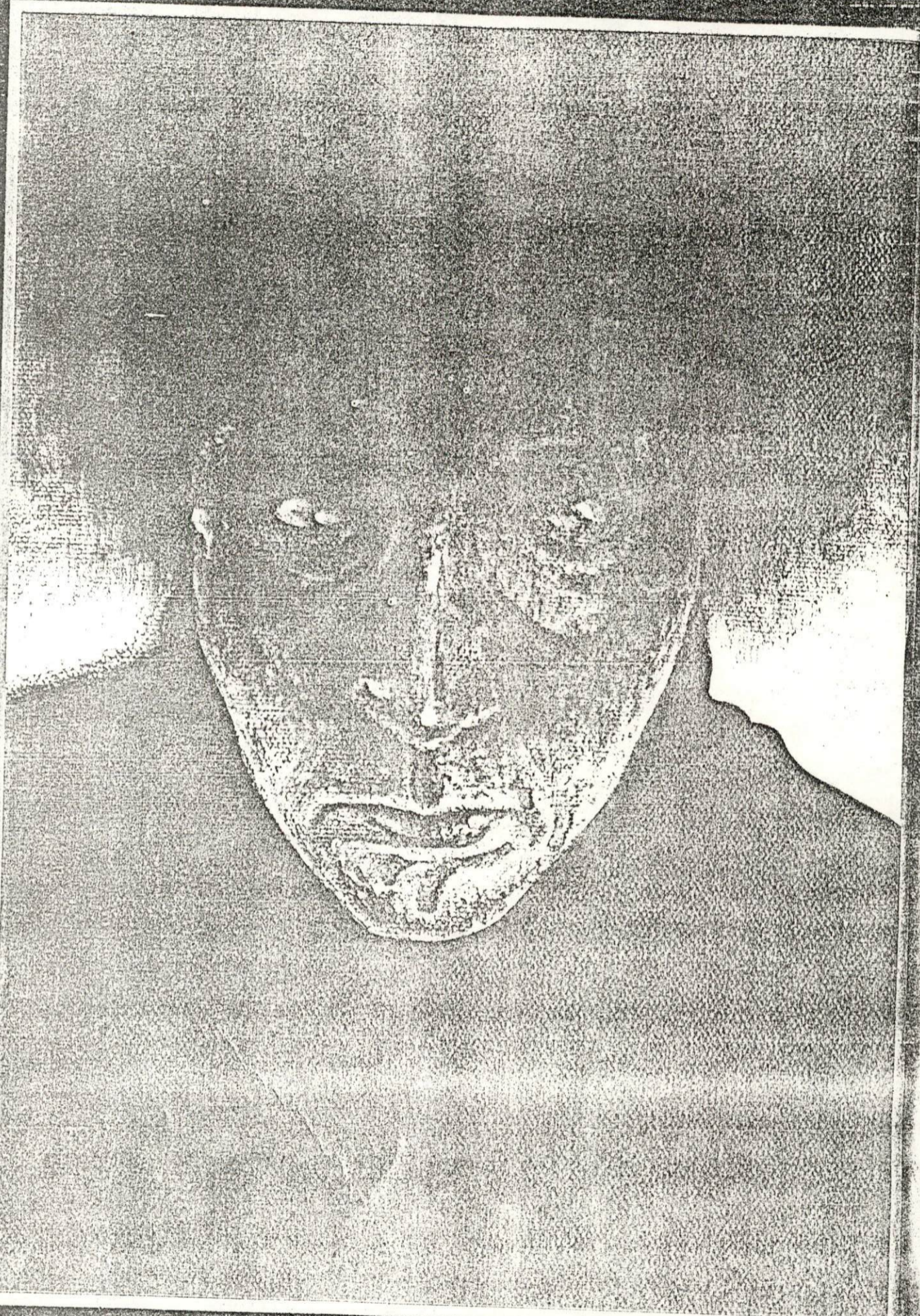
A selective listing of our finest cateries.

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Final Say

By Dorothy Renko. Thank you, David Bowie.

Cover illustration by John Benson



THE OAKLAND COUNTY

A thirteen-year-old girl in skintight blue jeans and a loose-fitting red jacket stands on the curb alongside Woodward Avenue just south of Thirteen Mile Road. Pierced ears, heavy eye make-up, limp brown hair hanging just below the shoulders. She sticks her thumb out, hoping for a ride.

The fear is gone now.

"I gotta get someplace," she says.

She vaguely remembers the name Timothy King, but doesn't know why. She has totally forgotten the names Mark Stebbins, Jill Robinson and Kristine Mihelich.

"Like I told you, I gotta

They're back on the streets again, riding bicycles, hitchhiking, playing football or rushing to a store for a candy bar or a quart of milk. Unaware. Innocent. Talking to strangers.

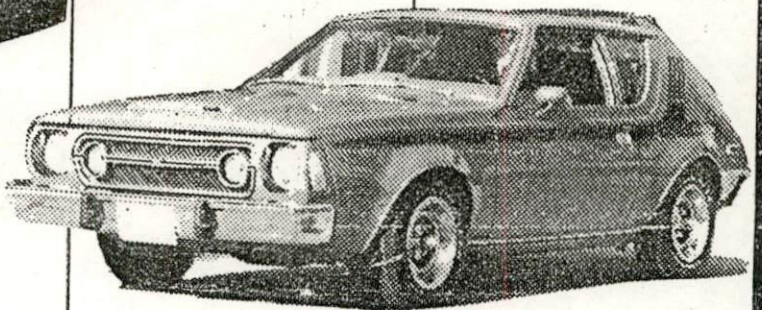
But out there, somewhere, a murderer waits.

Nearly two years ago, in a fourteen-month period, four Oakland County youngsters were stolen off the streets. Ranging in age from ten to twelve, they were held captive for four to nineteen days, fed and cared for. At least two of the children, the boys, were sexually assaulted — anally raped. Then they were murdered — three by suffocation,

CHILD KILLER

BY JANE BRIGGS-BUNTING

The fear is gone, the manhunt is ending... but is the murderer waiting to strike again?



get someplace. Nothin's gonna happen to me." She walks a few feet further along the curb and sticks her thumb back out, coolly, disdainfully.

The hitchhiker is typical of many youngsters in southern Oakland County now.

one by a close-range shotgun blast that tore away half the child's face.

Afterwards their bodies were carefully, oh so carefully, laid out in the snow to be found.

When twelve-year-old

Mark Stebbins vanished while walking home from the American Legion Hall in Ferndale on February 15, 1976, a handful of local police began the investigation. By the time the sexually abused body of eleven-year-old Timothy King of Birmingham was found lying in a muddy ditch in Livonia, on March 22, 1977, the manhunt had grown to an army of 250 local and state police, plus a contingent of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and even Interpol, the international police organization. Stebbins was the first known victim of a man now called the Oakland County child killer. King was the fourth. His other two victims in rapid-fire succession before King were Jill Robinson, 12, of Royal Oak, and Kristine Mihelich, 10, of Berkley.

As the number of victims mounted, the enormity of the crime set in: One man was responsible for the disappearance and death of all four youngsters. A child killer was loose in safe, middle-class, relatively crime-free suburbia.

The calm—some call it apathy—which has returned to southern Oakland County now is in sharp contrast to the fear bordering on frenzy that gripped the area's predominantly white-collar communities two years earlier. Then, neighbor turned in neighbor, secretaries turned in bosses, anyone who remotely resembled the well-publicized sketch of the suspected killer, and many who did not, were reported to police. Out-of-town tourists lost in a labyrinth of streets were turned in by neighborhood youngsters and adults for simply asking directions. Idling cars lined the streets around schools, as anxious parents chauffeured children to and from classes. When children got sick in class, school officials would not send them home unless a par-

Jane Briggs-Bunting is an assistant professor of journalism at Oakland University, a lawyer and a former Free Press reporter who wrote extensively on this case.

ent or authorized relative came to pick them up.

If a child was late coming home from school, frantic parents would call the school to find out why. There was, for example, the Berkley boy who disappeared after report cards came out. His father frantically insisted his son was the killer's latest victim. Police picked up the boy a day later, pedaling a borrowed bicycle to his grandmother's house. He had run away.

Many after-school activities were totally abandoned, canceled for the duration of the panic.

At night and on weekends, children were kept inside to watch television, play games and do their homework. A trip to a friend's house on the next block was accomplished by car rather than on foot. Paper carriers were ferried along their routes under watchful parental eyes. And the streets and playgrounds, once alive with childish shouts and giggles, were empty and silent.

Schools held assemblies and invited local police, who arrived armed with film strips and leaflets reemphasizing parental warnings not to talk to strangers. McDonald's restaurants served up hamburgers and French fries on placemats that admonished kids not to trust strangers. The Wilson Dairy Company's Milky the Clown repeated the warning on the side of milk cartons served in school lunchrooms. Local radio stations played catchy ditties: "Don't talk to strangers when you're walking in the park . . ." At gas stations, clothing stores, shops—almost anywhere you went—grim, black-lettered posters reminded parents and children of the danger.

It was as if all of southern Oakland County had become a war zone, an unhealthy place of terror where the simple tasks of everyday life became a strain to accomplish. Because you could never let your guard down. Parents went through the days white-lipped and suffered nightmares that their son or daughter would be next to disappear. The trau-

Southern Oakland County became a war zone, an unhealthy place of terror.

ma was no less for the children. Child psychologists and sociologists predicted that the enforced confinement, coupled with the parental fear, would permanently scar young psyches.

But all that was nearly two years ago. . . .



Mark Stebbins

Now more than 300,000 man-hours later, the multi-departmental police unit formally known as the Oakland County Homicide Task Force is disbanding—even though the killer has not been caught. "People don't even know who the hell we are anymore," complains state police Lieutenant Robert Robertson, the task force's commander.

The tips which jammed seven police phone lines twenty-four hours a day when the King boy disappeared have dwindled to slightly more than three dozen a week. Police received 5,000 tips the first eight days of the King investigation; now the lone tip phone doesn't even ring on some days.

A few weeks before the task force's dissolution, its headquarters in four classrooms in the north wing of the Sally Allan Alexander Beth Jacob School for Girls in Beverly Hills is almost bereft of personnel. Jack Strauss, the combination office manager, communications dispatcher, Mr. Fix-It and Jack-of-all-trades, still mans the outer office, but Robertson splits his time between the state police



armory, the Northville post and the task force. Veteran street detective Joseph Krease, the Number Two man in the first year of the investigation, has been transferred and not replaced. The full-time secretary who handled payroll, correspondence and the typing of sensitive case reports is also gone. Now a part-time clerk answers the phones.

Only two of the TV-like computer terminals which investigators use to feed and retrieve leads are still manned full-time; once the terminals encircled the room. A coffee pot and half-empty box of stale glazed doughnuts sit on a child-size desk in one classroom, which is deserted these days except for an occasional visit by a task force member who stops by to pick up new tips and return the old ones that have led nowhere. A fly lazily circles the box.

At the peak of the hunt, noisy detectives from more than a dozen police agencies joked, swapped stories, discussed clues, reviewed tip files and gulped down gallons of passably good coffee before setting off to check out another lead in the as-yet-futile search for the killer.

Some things remain the same: Country music wails from a black portable radio nestled on a cabinet, the office is cold in the winter and blistering hot in the summer ... and the killer has not yet been caught.

Of the 16,500 tips logged by the task force, 14,500 of them have been investigated and filed away. Only 2,000 low-priority tips have yet to be checked out. State police officers will work on them after the task force disbands, but Robertson concedes that many will never even be assigned. The unit will abandon its headquarters at the school on December fifteenth. The reams of tips, computer print-outs and statistical data on the four victims, their families and the elusive killer will be carted off to the state police post in Northville, where Robertson is assistant district commander. The police radio equipment, typewriters, desks, files — all of it borrowed, begged



Task force commander Robertson concedes that many will never even be assigned.



The unit will abandon its headquarters at the school on December fifteenth.

and even pirated from other police agencies — will be returned to their owners. Even the microwave oven and coffee pot will be packed up and hauled away.

Still, Robertson, a tall man with salt-and-pepper sideburns, vows that the nucleus of the task force will be kept alive. He is holding bi-weekly briefings for the nine suburban police departments still actively involved in the investigation. At one of these sessions recently, he told the local police chiefs: "We'll keep the members apprised of ongoing developments in the case, and we'll assign tips that come in, even if we expect them to peter out. Hopefully, this will remove the doubt in the public's mind about the task force being closed."

If another child is kidnapped, the investigation can be fully reactivated within hours, Robertson insists. Naturally, he hopes there will be no new victims. But at the same time, he is clearly frustrated by his failure to find the murderer.

"Where is he? I'd like to know the answer to that one, too," he says, peering intently over the top of his horn-rimmed reading glasses. "Anybody's thoughts on that are as good as anyone else's. There have been no similar cases in the nation or the free world. There have been no similar cases in modern history." His investigators have checked records throughout the country seeking parallels; they've sent inquiries around the world in the hope of discovering a sliver of a clue that would lead them to the killer. But despite the gargantuan effort, despite the millions of dollars in sophisticated equipment and the hours of frustrating pursuit of thousands of leads — nothing, nothing.

And that is painful to Bob Robertson, a twenty-three year state police veteran from Cedar Springs in northern Michigan (the red flannel underwear capital of the world, he will inform you). Behind his winsome smile and the shy disclaimer that he's "just a country boy" (meaning he wants you to

believe he's a dumb bumpkin) hides a shrewd, analytical mind that heads up the largest manhunt in the state's history.

It is an effort that suppressed, at least for a time, the traditional jealousies among suburban police that at first hindered an all-out, well-organized search for the killer. In those pre-task force times, both Ferndale and Southfield had separate files on the Mark Stebbins case. The information in them was unknown to Royal Oak and Troy police as they searched for Jill Robinson's killer. When Kristine Mihelich disappeared in Berkley, the various departments finally saw the need to pool their information. They asked the state police for help.

Under the command of Robertson and Krease, the investigation became a team effort. In the heat of the hunt for the killer, following the discovery of Timmy King sleeping peacefully in death in a Livonia ditch, each officer dreamed of capturing the slayer, but each prayed that, above all, he be found. Who got the glory didn't matter. There was a killer loose, preying on children. He had to be stopped before he killed again.

The two-man teams of detectives waged cases of beer on who would snare him. They worked long shifts, twenty hours a day at first, and spent their "free" time tracking down suspects named in tips, checking alibis. More than 12,000 male suspects were interviewed, and cleared, by the task force; more than eighty took polygraph tests to prove their innocence. (Although some experts wonder whether a killer with a split personality could have successfully passed a lie detector test, the task force believes that the exhaustive examinations given, plus the long experience of their polygraph examiner, make it unlikely the man could have tricked them.)

Nonetheless, the possibility that the killer was talked to, and cleared, haunts many of the investigators. Less than a dozen years ago, as a succession of Ann Arbor coeds

Spren blasts the suburban police for ineptitude, the task force for snubbing his department. "They blew it," he charges.

were being slain, police cleared a man named Joe Norman Collins early in the investigation. The same man you may recall, was later convicted of killing one of the young women.

"I wake up in the middle of the night after dreaming about the case," says one officer. "Sometimes I dream I've caught the man. Sometimes I think of a new angle or clue. I wake up and write down. My wife is used to it by now."

Many of the task force members working the case have children in the same age range as the murdered youngsters — and more than one confesses fears for the safety of their own families. "I read this ridiculous French novel," one police officer tells you, "about a child molester who is sent to jail, serves his time and gets out. He goes back and commits the same crime against the family of the cop that arrested him. I know this is ridiculous, but it still bugs me." Says another, "I go home at night and give my kids an extra hug. We've told our girls over and over again not to take rides from anyone, not the neighbor, not Uncle Joe, just Mommy and Daddy." Like the others, this policeman declines to be quoted by name because of concern for his children's welfare. Who knows what the killer is capable of?

Yet another officer involved in the case has his own private plan to ensure that the killer will never seek revenge upon his own kids. "If I found the guy, and I was 300 per cent sure he was the murderer," he says, "I'd execute him."



Kristine Mihelich

The task force's most outspoken critic has been Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen. A towering, big-boned former New York police captain who still retains his nasal Eastern accent, Spreen has not made many allies in his six years as Oakland County's top cop — largely because he has made repeated public sport of the suburban police chiefs for their lack of expertise and internal jealousies.

Spreen's pet project has been the formation of a county-wide major crime unit, which he would head as sheriff, to handle homicides, armed robberies and other major felonies. The local police chiefs, for their part, have steadfastly refused to listen to Spreen, partially to protect their own power and bailiwicks. Principally to demonstrate their lack of respect for him. Spreen's working relationship with the suburban cops was hardly improved when he publicly blamed the ineptness of some of their departments for the failure of the child killer manhunt. His charges made front-page headlines. He has also said, on the record, that the county and the state could have saved millions of dollars and thousands of hours had his major crime unit been a reality when the first kidnapping occurred in 1976.

"They blew it," Spreen still insists. "The [investigations of the] first three murders were improperly handled. I've criticized Southfield in the Stebbins case for removing the body before the morgue got there [police moved Stebbins' body from the shopping plaza parking lot where it was found to their headquarters, removing his clothes in the process, before the body was taken to the morgue for an autopsy]. No crime lab was ever called. Troy never called our crime lab nor the state police's for Jill Robinson, either," he claims.

"Kristine Mihelich was the first time a lab was called. [Franklin Village and Berkley

police called the state police, but it took the two local departments more than two hours to make that decision. The troopers arrived on the scene half an hour after finally being called.] But the Franklin police chief had walked all around the body before the crime lab even got there."

Sheriff's department crime lab technicians had checked over Kristine's room and clothing while she was still missing, so Spreen remains irritated that the state police were called in when her body was found. "Again, that's fragmentation," he complains. "Two crime labs working on the same case." More importantly, Spreen wants you to believe the incident was symptomatic. As he puts it, "The task force studiously avoided including the sheriff's department as an equal peer."

Task force members deny they slighted Spreen; he never attended any of their briefing sessions, they say, but sent subordinates instead. "Spreen didn't want to be an equal peer with the suburbs," rejoins one local police official. "He wanted to run the show himself, to be kingpin." "Spreen criticizes the crime-scene handling of the Mihelich girl?" another local police officer sneers. "He was at the scene. If he saw things being mishandled, as the highest-ranking law enforcement official present, he should have taken over to make sure things were correctly handled. He didn't say a word to anyone."

"If you ask me, the sheriff's helicopter, which was hovering overhead, did more damage than anyone on the ground. It blew snow all over the place and might have covered up some tracks or something."

Nevertheless, Spreen has still more jabs for the task force. "The state police put [too much] emphasis on forms and procedures and the use of a computer. A computer can assist an investigation," says Spreen. "But it takes teamwork, experience in law enforcement and a dominating, investigating mind to lead an investigation."

"I think the child killer was named in one of the first 10,000 tips the police received, and he was processed and cleared by them."

Spreen refuses to speculate on whether the killer will strike again — "Who knows?" — but his charges of bumbling and ineptitude in the early investigation have some private support even from his own detractors. Many police officials, in fact, secretly rejoiced when Timmy King's body was found in Livonia, a half-mile south of the Oakland County border, in Wayne County. Livonia police refused to even permit task force investigators to enter the area until state police crime lab experts had finished their work.

The venerable Dr. Werner U. Spitz, Wayne County's nationally recognized pathologist, performed the King autopsy with his usual zeal. According to police sources, he did a much more complete job than had been done on the first three victims by three different Oakland County pathologists. Despite the shortcomings of those earlier examinations, police say they still have enough evidence to link the victims to one killer — although Robertson and other task force officials remain close-mouthed about the nature of the evidence. But Chief Assistant Prosecutor Richard Thompson, whose office will have to prove the killer's guilt in court if, and when, he is caught, says, "It is my impression that when they [the task force] have the right guy, we'll have enough evidence to take it to trial."

In police seminars and conferences across the country, no one has yet been able to come up with an idea the task force hasn't already tried, according to Bob Robertson. He has two looseleaf notebooks jammed with the investigation's more imaginative efforts, most of which are confidential. Robertson still personally examines every death certificate in the state if the dead man fits in any way the composite of the killer. He's been doing that for more than a year, and that's one of the more conventional

avenues the investigation has taken.

One team of detectives spent hours in libraries and book stores researching the habits and rituals of witches' covens after a tip. The local coven under suspicion turned out to be made up of honest, decent witches in no way involved in the kidnap killings. Police have also studied voodoo, the occult, devil worshippers and every other type of unusual religious sect, hoping to find some sacrificial practice that parallels the murders.

Task force investigators also became habitués at area homosexual bars and hangouts, as they literally turned that community upside down looking for a clue. They ran advertisements in gay and pornographic magazines; anything was worth a try if it might entice the killer into revealing his identity or persuade an associate to turn him in.

The hunt did not turn up the murderer, but did lead to scores of closet gays in all walks of life, including priests, police, teachers, lawyers, public officials, salesmen and members of the medical profession. Along the way, too, the task force turned over hundreds of unrelated cases to other police agencies; the task force itself handled twenty-one arrests on child molesting charges. One tip eventually led to the arrest of three people in a child pornography ring operating in five states; more than 25,000 photos were confiscated. During the first five months of the investigation, especially, child-related sex crimes plummeted dramatically, as police leaned heavily on informants, prostitutes and pimps in an effort to squeeze out leads. Local police say they learned the identity and habits of nearly every sexual deviant in the south end of Oakland County.

The hunt even entered the spirit world. Numerologists predicted the date of the next child-snatch (the day had come and gone without incident) as well as the identity of the killer. Some even looked

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to the stars for sol-
Astrologists
the birth date
Inc-

utions, the psychics used their extra senses, and just plain folks with a dream or a hunch called the task force with their theories.

A custodian at the Birmingham police department shared with the task force a dream she had had on the case. Another woman reported dreaming of a house; she was able to describe it in minute detail — except for its location. All such tips were dutifully recorded; many were checked out. Some were from pranksters and cranks, but most came from people genuinely wanting to help find the killer. People who spotted a blue Gremlin, one of the cars the killer is believed to have driven, would jot down the license number and turn it in. Even inmates at Jackson Prison wrote to police and to the media about ex-cellmates, as well as some possibly shady characters outside the walls.

"My child told me several years ago about a guy hanging around the children in the neighborhood . . . maybe you should check him out," wrote one inmate. "Ever since I start hearing about Tim King, I've had moments when it felt as if he was calling," wrote another. "I believe this man, if you can call him anything, is forty-four years old, white, brown hair, hazel eyes about 168 pounds and lives near Eleven and a half Mile Road . . .

"I am not looking for anything, just to get the man, that's all."

Some tipsters were not as sincere. Women turned in boyfriends who had scorned them. Feuding neighbors each turned in the other. And an occasional husband decided to get even with an in-law who was difficult to get along with. People turned in television preachers, newspaper columnists and old high school chums (accompanied with their yearbook pictures) who slightly resembled the composite drawing of the suspect.

But even the \$100,000 reward (which is still being offered) has failed to yield the real identity of the killer. "That's what's so incredible," says Birmingham police

chief Jerry Tobin. "I've known people who've turned people in for a \$100 reward."

The task force has a list of suspects who have never been satisfactorily cleared, but they won't say how many. In the event of another kidnapping, these men would come under close scrutiny. But that may mean another young victim would have to be claimed in order for the killer to be caught — maybe.

"There are cases that are never solved; this may be one of them," admits assistant prosecutor Dick Thompson. "But we are solving cases that are three, four and five years old. You need that lucky break, and they haven't had it yet."

Robertson agrees. "What we lack now," he says a little sadly, "is that one good piece of solid evidence from someone who says: I know, I saw."

Thus far, all the luck has been on the killer's side.



Though he picks up his victims in well-populated areas, within a mile of busy Woodward Avenue, police have never found an eyewitness who actually saw a child get into a car, voluntarily or otherwise. So the police have never been able to pinpoint the exact spot where a child was kidnapped. It's been narrowed down only to a multiple-block area.

The only description police have of a suspect is the one supplied by three women. Two of them saw a boy who resembled Tim King at about

8:30 p.m. on the night he disappeared. The boy was talking to a dark-haired, muscular man who was leaning against a blue Gremlin in the lighted parking lot behind the Hunter-Maple Pharmacy in Birmingham. The third woman told police she saw the man earlier that same day sitting in a parked blue Gremlin on a side street near the Adams Elementary School. Timmy King was a sixth grader at the school. She saw him again, approximately four hours before Tim was kidnapped, in the parking lot near the pharmacy.

Unfortunately, police did not extensively interview this woman until last November, when they traced her down and asked her for help. She underwent hypnosis and was able to give the police a detailed description of the man, his car and clothing, enabling the task force to produce a revised composite that almost looked like a photograph. The other two women who saw the man agreed the likeness was much closer than the original sketch released to the media.

Initially, the man depicted by the police sketch was sought only as a witness. But when no one fitting his description came forward to admit talking to the boy or leaving a Gremlin in that parking lot, police decided that man must be the killer. He is a white man in his late twenties who weighs between 150 and 170 pounds. Height between five-feet-eight and five-feet-ten. Dark hair and "piercing" eyes. Above average intelligence; may have difficulty relating sexually to women or adults or both. Police think he lives alone or with another male, or perhaps with parents who are gone during the winter months. He has the means to store his victim for up to eighteen days, and the freedom to come and go as he pleases, both at home and at work.

He has or had access to a late-model blue Gremlin and an older blue Pontiac Tempest. The Tempest was only recently linked to the first three killings, after General Motors engineers matched

the Tempest exhaust system to an impression left by a several feet from where Kristine Mihelich's body was in the snow. Passers-by also noticed a Tempest in driveway of the parking where the Stebbins body later found, and there were other reports of a similar parked along I-75 about half-mile from where Robinson's body was found.

The blue Gremlin, more than anything else, though has become synonymous with the killer. With the help of the secretary of state's office and American Motors, the task force got a computer print-out of every Gremlin owner in Michigan by name and license plate number. Police stopped hundreds of Gremlin drivers, many several times, in the initial, desperate effort to find Timmy King still alive. One frustrated Gremlin owner who had been stopped twenty-three times asked police whether he could get a pass that said he had been checked and cleared already. Another started driving around Birmingham with his hatchback open, so police could see nothing was inside. Indeed, on the week end after Timmy's abduction, police stopped hundreds of vans, cars and station wagons — any vehicle that could possibly hide a frightened child. Because of the widespread publicity in the case and the length of Kristine Mihelich's captivity, police felt the killer might take Tim out to a more remote, less densely populated area. The stops were probably illegal, but the hundreds of people who were inconvenienced cooperated without complaint.

State police sent experts to implement and program a mini-computer system to assist police in the grueling, door-to-door search. Millions of bits of information on the children, their families, their friends and acquaintances, along with tips on suspects by name, address and physical description, were fed into the circuitry. Within seconds, the computer scanned the vast data to pluck out names of persons who had not been cleared, or to suggest new

patterns to the crimes. The computer proved so valuable that police in Pennsylvania and other states have implemented identical systems to investigate series of homicides, rapes or robberies believed to have been committed by the same persons.

As snow began to fall last winter, the computer and the task force were at full readiness, waiting for the killer to strike again. But he did not — at least, not to kill. But police believed then and still think that the killer attempted unsuccessfully to pick up other children.

Task force members already had gone into fifty-four schools along the Woodward corridor and had asked any student who had been approached by a stranger in the preceding eighteen months to report it. More than 780 students told of such contacts — of men wanting to play ball with them, offering to drive them home. Three-quarters of these incidents had been previously unreported. More ominously, police were told last winter that a man matching the description of the child killer tried to pick up about a half-dozen children in Oakland County. The children reported the attempts to parents and school officials, who in turn notified police.

None of the children was harmed, and police are not sure that the man was indeed the long-sought killer.

Theories abound on his present whereabouts. Some feel he is dead by suicide, murder or natural causes. One suspect that investigators thought for a while might be their man was a Lutheran minister. He was a homosexual, and after being questioned by police, left the area. Not long ago, the man was found dead in Tennessee, a combination of drugs and alcohol in his bloodstream. The task force, which had cleared the minister before he left the area, subsequently reinvestigated him and decided again that he was not the killer.

Others believe the man may be in a mental institution. As one police detective points out, Timmy King's

"I think he's lying low. I think he'll try again," says Danto.



body was dumped on Gill Road just a few miles from Northville State Hospital. The killer had to travel down a badly torn-up section of Eight Mile Road to reach the Gill dump site — a route someone unfamiliar with the area would tend to avoid because of the construction. The detective speculates that the killer knew the area well and might even be an outpatient at the hospital.

Perhaps the most widely held theory, though, is that the killer is lying low, afraid because the police have already questioned him. He may believe they know who he is, or fear he will finally be caught if he strikes again. Those who espouse this theory think the killer felt the pressure of the task force when the hunt for Timmy King was on. They believe that he dumped the body over the Oakland County border in an effort to deliberately confuse police. Supporters of this view worry that he may be waiting patiently until the task force disbands before he strikes again.

Psychologist Bruce Danto, who has been involved in the case since Mark Stebbins was found, shares this belief. Argues Danto: "I think he'll try again. So far he's been winning his game. There's a certain competition in this. The chase has its appeal.

"If he's given some sort of stimulation, like what happened this summer [the disappearance of several women in East Lansing and the kidnap-murder of a little girl on the west side of the state], it's like priming a pump for him; he'll strike again."

Danto is convinced the killer is not dead. "He took deep pains to protect himself. He's not the type to kill himself."

Dead or alive, the specter of the child killer hangs over Oakland County. Though the initial paranoia and fear are gone, parents and children in the immediate neighborhoods of the dead children still remember. And for the mothers of the murdered children, the nightmare continues.



Jill Robinson

There are times when just for no reason I'll feel very badly about it," Mrs. Marian King, Tim's mother, says softly. "We miss Tim. We miss him especially when we're all together."

"It's hard to explain, but before this happened I couldn't think how anyone could survive. But I did," she says, her voice trembling. Composure regained, she continues: "People are very careful about what they say to me. They don't want to hurt me. Even the little kids in the neighborhood are always careful." She is upset that the task force is closing down without finding her son's killer, but says she understands. "I see that they have to do this, it couldn't go on indefinitely, but it bothers me. It isn't for the reasons of revenge. We have lots of friends and neighbors and they have children. They are very concerned about it."

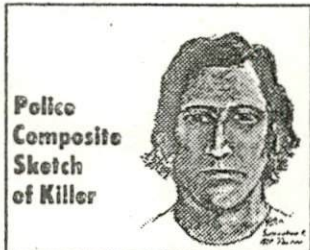
The police conspired with the media to protect Mrs. King as much as they were able. A petite, fine-boned woman with neatly clipped gray hair, she seemed a model mother and the Kings an ideal family.

Mrs. King's life was her family. She had quit working at the birth of their first child. She had two more children, then Tim, her youngest. To many of the police and most of the public, the very real, horrifying threat of this killer struck home when Timmy King disappeared.

"I panicked immediately," says Mrs. King, recalling the moment she and her hus-

band, a Detroit attorney, arrived home from dinner shortly before 9 p.m. and found the door unlocked and Tim gone. "We looked around the neighborhood, called his friends, then Barry [her husband] called the police.

"I couldn't call them. I couldn't talk. My heart was pounding so hard."



Police Composite Sketch of Killer

And then came the waiting. "I had high hopes that he would be back, but I guess in the back of my mind I had to think that that could happen," she continues, delicately, skirting the words — kidnapped, sexually assaulted, murdered.

"When I knew for sure [that he was dead], it was not much worse than the first night he was gone."

Her son was forcibly picked up and taken away in a car, she believes, because she had talked to Tim about the other kidnappings. He had assured her repeatedly that he would not go with a stranger. "I can't think how he could be persuaded. I believe he was overpowered, that's what I feel," she says.

At four feet and sixty-three pounds, Tim was small for an eleven-year-old boy. Mrs. King, who is tiny and slight herself, says she could easily lift her son. In her mind it would be nothing for a muscular, full-grown man to have overpowered Tim.

Mrs. Deborah Jarvis, Kristine Mihelich's mother, feels the killer probably talked her daughter into going with him. "He persuaded her. She had led a sheltered life for her age. I'm sure if someone said, 'Come here,' she'd come, if he handled it in a nice way. She was probably somewhat scared [after she was kidnapped], but whoever did it was very nice to her. I really believe that. I have to believe it," she says.

She sympathizes deeply

with Mrs. King, whose loss she feels is more difficult to cope with than her own. "I know myself, if it were my youngest, it would be much harder." She still keeps crafts Kris made around the house, but her personal things, like jewelry and toys, have been put away.

Mrs. Karol Self, Jill Robinson's mother, keeps a picture of her daughter on the refrigerator. The little girl is at the stove, cooking. "I think of her as that smiley face working in the kitchen," she tells you. "I miss her daily, but I don't think of the horror of it. I don't want to get stuck in a 'poor, poor me' routine. I have a very strong faith. I'm a member of the Unitarian Church. I believe in reincarnation and that her soul is still alive; it's just on a different plane."

She adds, "I don't think of myself as any different from a parent who lost a child with cancer or in an accident."

Mrs. Self says she gives very little thought to the killer, what he's doing — "It won't help Jill" — but she does worry about her two younger children. "My eleven-year-old just wanted to walk to meet a friend . . . she's only five blocks away. I gave her 'the talk,' I felt a little panicky. I told her, 'I'll have you on my mind until you get back.'" She still let her go.

Mrs. Ruth Stebbins, Mark's mother, says simply, "I'm hanging in there. I don't dwell on the subject every day." She is disappointed but pragmatic about the task force's shutdown and the public apathy that goes with it: "It's going to be a thing of the past until it happens [the killer strikes] again.

"If he is not in an institution, he's playing it cool. He is around and waiting for another opportunity . . . God willing, they'll catch him [then]. It'll be three years for me in February," she says.

If the killer surfaces again, task force officials believe they'll have a good chance of catching him before another child is murdered. If there was another kidnap, hundreds of officers would again hit the streets — but

"God willing, they'll catch him," says Mrs. Stebbins.

this time, they say, the hunt should be successful. "We know how to manage a large number of men now," in the words of the task force's Robinson. The computer system is also already programmed and operational. The suspect lists are waiting. Police know the killer's pattern.

The children all disappeared or were found dead on (or around) days when it snowed. Yet many police now discount the widely publicized notion that the snow triggers the killer. Perhaps the coldness of the weather, the earlier dusk and the tendency of people to hurry a little faster to their cars just made it easier for him to stalk and capture his prey.

Police are convinced the man lives or works in southern Oakland County. They know he kills his victims a short time before he leaves them in the snow. And he must transport them by car to the drop site. Anyone that desperate would be extremely unlikely to drive a long distance with a body in the car — what if he got into an accident, or had car trouble?

Police know the killer takes care of his victims. They are kept clean, their clothes not dirtied. They are fed. None of the children has shown signs of stress or violence, except for bruises from bindings on the wrists and ankles of the two boys.

And strangely, eerily, all four dead children, under the harsh light in the morgue's examining room, look remarkably alike.

The score is Killer — 4, Police — 0. If it ends here, in all likelihood the Oakland County child killer will never be caught.

"Probably not," even Lt. Robertson admits.

If he does kidnap another child, the task force will have its chance once again to prove that all its money, manpower, computers and psychic predictions will not have been in vain.

But that's in the future.

Today, the children are back on the streets — playing, talking, walking, shouting. And it's getting cold again. **D**



Kristine's death was murder — Patterson

By JOEL J. SMITH
Chief of Our Oakland County Bureau

The death of 10-year-old Kristine Michalski "definitely" was murder and "rumors she froze to death are pure speculation," Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, said today.

Patterson said that, although the girl's body was found frozen in a snow bank in a Franklin Village ditch Friday, "there is enough evidence at this point to indicate it was a homicide.

"There is no question about that — she was murdered," he said. "It is unfortunate that all these rumors are going around."

Patterson was reacting to published reports that the girl probably died from exposure.

He said the cause of the girl's death will not be known until later this week when tests are complete.

But, Patterson refused to reveal what evidence he had that the girl had been murdered and said he would not do so until

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Kristine ...from Page One

Meanwhile, a 35-member task force of Oakland County detectives formed last Friday to investigate the death of Kristine has been reduced to a dozen full-time investigators.

Michigan State Police Detective Lt. Robert Robertson said it was never intended to have the 35 members on the case full time. They initially joined the case to work on any tips that resulted from the finding of the body. Once that was completed, the force was reduced to 12.

That number may be reduced by half within a week if investigators fail to turn up any substantial leads to who killed the 10-year-old Berkley girl. Kristine was buried yesterday in a private ceremony in Petoskey. Services also were held in Berkley.

Robertson said only three police agencies — the State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's Department and the Southfield Police Department — have committed the manpower to the task force past next week.

Lt. Robertson said the task force is headed by State Police Detective Sgt. Joseph Krease who works out of the District 2 headquarters in Northville.

Robertson said he expects various police agencies to begin calling back their detectives if nothing turns up in the next week to 10 days.

Lt. Robertson said the task force used 35 detectives over the weekend to do house-to-house canvasses of the area to pursue any good tips that came in.

"Our basic concept was to get in there (to the crime scene) and move on the hot tips," said Robertson. "Once this was completed, the detectives on loan began pulling out."

"It was the way the task force was set up

Kristine's fully clothed body, an arm and her knees slightly protruding from the snow, was found by a mailman about noon Friday in a ditch along Bruce Lane in the southeastern corner of Franklin Village.

She was last seen alive Jan. 2 at a party store where she had gone to purchase a magazine.

The Oakland County medical examiner's office is awaiting results of autopsy tests from the Bio-Science Laboratories in California before releasing the cause of death. Test results are expected in the next week. One source said a preliminary finding, which could be changed by the final results, showed that she was not sexually assaulted.

The results of an iodine vapor test for possible fingerprints on the body are expected to be completed by Thursday.

The only visible sign of violence on Kristine's body was a small bruise on her cheek. Investigators would not even hazard a guess as to how the bruise was caused.

Prosecutor Patterson said late yesterday that there has been unanimous agreement on the part of the task force to clamp a news blackout on all aspects of the investigation.

When asked if the task force had any solid leads in the investigation, Patterson replied:

"We don't want to speculate on the strength of our case at this time. We don't want to reveal part of our hand."

"We're going to be tight-lipped on the case from this point on."

Patterson and other police officials refused to reveal where the task force is headquartered in Southfield.

They said they don't want the news media "hanging around" the headquarters.

One police official said the task force already has made plans to move the headquarters in the event the public finds out where it is located.

Robertson said Krease was selected because "he's a good investigator and a good administrator."

Lt. Robertson said the State Police assumed command of the task force — with the blessings of the other police chiefs — after Franklin Police Chief Frank Wilson asked the State Police to head up the investigation of Kristine's death.

DAILY
TRIBUNE
7-24-77

FBI Offers Help in Murder Probe

Would Check Nation

by JOHN MICHALAK
Tribune Staff Reporter

The FBI has offered to help state and South Oakland police investigate the murder of six young persons. The latest was 10-year-old Kristine Mihelich of Berkley, whose body was found Friday in Franklin.

A task force of 35 detectives is working on the case.

A spokesman for the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office today said preliminary indications reveal the girl was not sexually molested.

Further Tests—

However the spokesman said Dr. Robert Sillery M.D., chief pathologist for the Medical Examiner's Office will conduct further blood and tissue tests for a final ruling. Test results won't be known for at least a week.

Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson of Oakland County said Saturday that tests to determine the girl's exact cause of death will take a week to 10 days.

At the same time autopsy tests are being made, a Toronto, Ont., Canada, expert is working on tests he made early Saturday trying to determine if discernible fingerprints were left on the body.

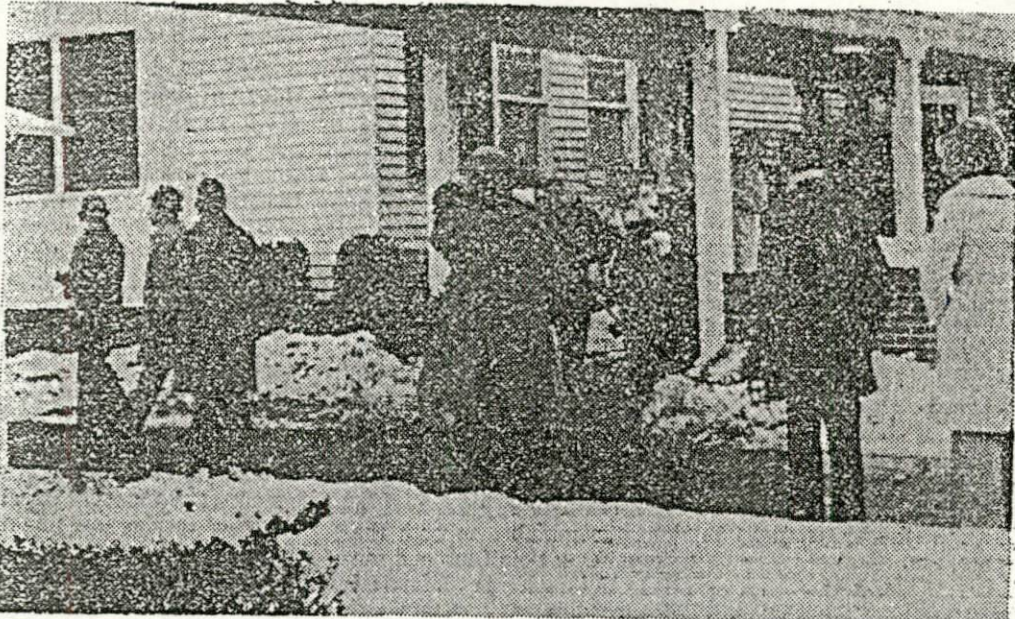
50 Samples—

The expert, Bud Hinds, a civilian employe for the Ontario Provincial Police said he has taken about 50 samples from the girls hands, neck, face and thighs, "areas that might have been handled."

Hinds is credited with refining an Iodine Fuming Silverplate method of taking fingerprints from bodies.

He said a physical reaction would cause any fingerprints on the girl's body to be tran-

—Turn to Page 2—



Mourners leave the funeral services for 10-year-old Kristine Mihelich in Berkley this morning. (Tribune Photo)

FBI Offer

—Continued From Page 1—

sferred to silver plates which are then developed.

Hinds took the plates to Toronto for development.

"At this point I don't know if I have prints on the plates," Hinds said.

Information Control—

As the task force investigation continues, its members have asked Patterson to control release of information about the case.

A detective on the task force said its members made the decision to "keep officers off the phones and get them working on the case."

Patterson said "too much information is getting out" which might hinder the investigation.

"I would also rather handle it this way than on a piecemeal basis. I won't talk about any evidence or leads we get in the case."

Later This Week—

Patterson however said he will release information possibly by the end of the week on autopsy results.

He said he has called the Medical Examiner's Office and ordered that no information be given out before then.

"Police need assistance and we're being much more careful. There is always hope, and police are pursuing leads," he said.

Patterson said the FBI is welcome to help in the investigation. Supervisor Fred Goedel of the FBI said an agent attended a Saturday task force meeting in Southfield.

"We have no jurisdiction in the case. But we offered to cover any out-of-state leads and make our crime laboratory available.

Goedel said an FBI agent will act as "a liaison agent and will be available to help."

Others—

In addition to the FBI, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, and Detroit police are active in the investigation along with Patterson's office and South Oakland police departments.

Patterson said anyone with information about the Mihelich case or the other five murders should contact state police or local police who will then forward the information to the task force. Kristine's body was discovered shortly after noon Friday on Bruce Lane, 300 feet south of Thirteen-Mile and one-quarter-mile west of Telegraph.

The finding by a mailman Jerome Wozny ended a 19-day search for the girl who was last seen at 3 p.m., Jan. 2 near a 7-Eleven Party Store at Twelve-Mile and Oakshire, Berkley.

Her body was found about a mile from where the body of Cynthia R. Cadieux, age 16, Roseville was discovered on Jan. 16, 1976 at Franklin Road, north of Fourteen-Mile.

Five Others—

Since, five other children were murdered. Four of the bodies were found along roadsides.

Besides Kristine and Miss Cadieux, Sheila Srock, age 14, 624 West Lincoln, Birmingham was found shot to death at her sister's home last Jan. 19 at 1772 Villa, Birmingham.

Last Feb. 19, Mark D. Stebbins, age 12, 429 East Saratoga, Ferndale was found smothered near a parking lot at the Fairfax Plaza Building, Ten-Mile and Greenfield, Southfield.

He was missing four days and was last seen near the American Legion Hall, Livernois, south of Nine-Mile, Ferndale to walk home.

In Ohio—

Jane Louise Allan, age 13, 2335 Guthrie, Royal Oak was found floating in the Great Miami River in Miamisburg, Ohio, Aug. 11, 1976. She died of carbon monoxide poisoning believed caused when placed in a car trunk. She was last seen Aug. 7 walking toward I 75 and University Drive in Pontiac Township.

On Dec. 26, the body of Jill Robinson, age 12, 1213 Mayfield, Royal Oak was found shot on I 75 north of Sixteen-Mile (Big Beaver), Troy. She had been missing three-and-a-half days.

Patterson said the task force' prime responsibility is to solve the Mihelich murder, but that any leads which might solve the other deaths would also be investigated.

Similarities—

He said there are some similarities in the deaths, but nothing at this point which says any of the murders are connected.

While the autopsy isn't completed on the Mihelich death, Patterson said it could be termed a murder because of the circumstances surrounding the case.

Michigan State Police are coordinating the task force, which is now located in Southfield Police headquarters.

A 205.1

D.P. 5/30/78

Child killer's latest victim not forgotten

By JOE STEBBINS
Press Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM — Verdant limbs of grand old elm trees arc above this quiet residential street, the asphalt shimmers in their shade.

There are two-story brick houses separated discreetly by manicured lawns. The pervasive sounds of the suburbs, of suburbs anywhere really, invade the humid air: Lawnmowers, yipping long-haired dogs and squealing children.

Little more than a year ago — March 16 to be exact — the chorus of children's voices in this pleasant neighborhood was richer by one.

That was the last time any of his young friends on the street played with 11-year-old Timothy King in the games they shared so frequently.

The next time anyone saw him, Tim was lying dead in a roadside ditch. Fully clothed, his body had been cleansed and laid out in a funeral position. He had been suffocated after what everyone surmises must have been seven terror-filled days.

Timothy King, a small boy, had only stepped out of his house to get some candy at a nearby pharmacy, and apparently became the fourth and perhaps the last victim of the so-called Oakland County child killer.

But Tim's life wasn't the only thing claimed by the cunning killer who has evaded a massive manhunt by computers and squads of detectives.

The mysterious murderer took part of a family's life.

Tim left behind his 47-year-old parents Barry and Marion, brothers Chris, 17, and Mark, 15 and sister Cathy, 18.

Mrs. King probably felt the pangs of the loss most strongly. Tim was her youngest — the only one still secured to her by youth and the one who probably could make her smile — or cry — quicker than any other.

"It doesn't seem like it all happened a year ago," Mrs. King said. "It seems like only a couple of weeks ago really. You know, I'm the one who's here at home all the time.

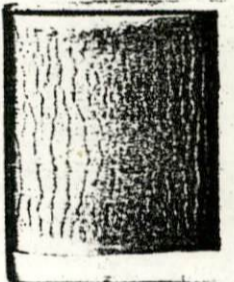
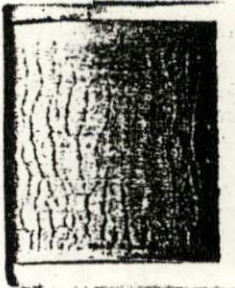
"It is still very strange not to have him getting up in the morning and forcing him to go to bed at night. It is very difficult to realize he isn't here."

It is difficult for Mrs. King to relive the night of March 16. She and her husband had been out, the other children were gone and Tim had been home alone.

The evening had been quiet and normal in all respects until they got home. The minute they walked in the door, Mrs. King knew something was amiss.

"I knew there was something wrong," she said as she compulsively lit another Marlboro and looked into the fireplace on the far end of the carefully tended living room. "His coat wasn't on the floor in the kitchen where he usually left it. He hadn't left a note and he always did that."

(Continued on A-9)



Part of a family's life died with Tim King

(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. Finally, 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. "He 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.

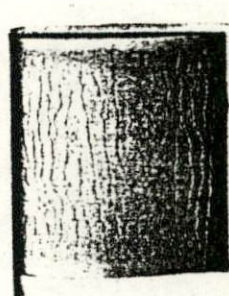
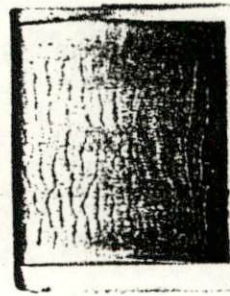
"It will never, ever be the same again," Mrs. King said. "I remember talking to Tim just a couple of weeks before. We were talking about what we would do when all the other kids were away at school. He wouldn't have to wait in line for the car, he would have the whole upstairs to himself, we could eat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



A 205/1

Oakland Press 1-22-77

Missing Berkeley girl's body found

BERKLEY (UPI)—The body of Kristine Mihelich, who vanished from a busy street in this Detroit suburb Jan. 2, has been found, but police say they are still baffled about how and why the 10-year-old girl was killed.

A mailman discovered the fifth-grader's body Friday buried in a snowbank alongside a dead-end street in nearby Franklin Village.

There was no immediate indication of the cause of death. Doctors had to wait until today to perform an autopsy because the body was frozen.

Police said there were no marks of violence on the girl's body.

Sgt. David Piche, head of the Berkeley Police Department's investigation into

the case, said there were no new leads in the slaying. He said police had no idea what had happened to Kristine during her 20-day disappearance.

Police were not convinced, Piche said, that Kristine's death was related to other similar cases involving four other Oakland County youngsters.

"There's a lot of similarity in this and other cases, but we're not convinced we're talking about any one individual," he said.

Kristine's body was found about a mile from where the nude body of 16-year-old Cynthia Cadieux of Roseville was discovered on Jan. 16, 1976. Miss Cadieux died of a skull fracture and had been sexually molested. Between January 1976

and December, three other area children were found slain.

Police said the clothing on the body found Friday matched that worn by Kristine at the time she disappeared on her way home from an area party store.

The body was found in a snow-filled ditch on Bruce Lane, a dead-end street surrounded by fields just off 13 Mile Road. Police said they did not believe the body had been there earlier than Monday, when the street was last plowed.

Jerry Wozny, 35, the mailman from Walled Lake who discovered the body, said he spotted a hand in the ditch and immediately called police in nearby Franklin Village.

"I saw something blue, so I backed up,

got out and walked over and saw a hand," Wozny said. "Then I saw the knees and the hand, that's all."

Wozny said the girl was lying in the ditch on her back, fully clothed with her knees drawn up. The body was covered by snow except for the hand and the tops of the knees.

A trail of footprints led from the road to the ditch and back.

A 17-year-old youth who lives on Bruce Lane told reporters Friday that he regularly walks along the road to and from the school bus.

Steve Handel said the only unusual thing he noticed this week was a pickup truck parked Thursday near where the body was found. He said the driver of the truck appeared to be sleeping.



KRISTINE MIHELICH

A 205.1

OAKLAND
PRESS
4-16-77

The child killer:

Psychologist says snow plays role in murders

By RALPH KINGZETT
Press Staff Writer

The man who abducted and killed at least four Oakland County children in the last 18 months probably won't lash out again until late fall, according to Dr. Murray Johnson, a psychologist.

Johnson said snow plays an important role in the killer's ritualistic murders.

The snow helps to emotionally cleanse the killer of his guilt, Johnson said. He pointed out that the four killings that police feel were done by the same man all happened between December and April, both last year and this.

Johnson is senior psychologist at the Pontiac General Hospital Mental Health Clinic. He's also consulting psychologist for prisoners at the Oakland County Jail.

Stressing that it is only his opinion, Johnson described the killer as an intelligent homicidal psychopath who is homosexual.

Two of the victims were pre-teen boys who had been homosexually raped. Two others were girls who apparently were not sexually attacked.

"He is a man with intensive levels of guilt, with tremendous ongoing turbulence within himself. He's a guy who acquired a pathological fixation in regard to sexual identity between ages eight and 13, or maybe even much earlier between ages one and three," the doctor said.

He focuses on ages 8-13, he said, "because he's still emotionally trying to resolve the pathology of that age range." He was talking about the sexual discoveries that children normally and naturally make in preadolescence.

"It's usually between 8 and 13 that homosexual problems are resolved in the child."

Johnson continued, "This guy seems to be the kind of guy who, when growing up,

experienced restrictions in the normal exposures of kids his age.

"The intellectual and esthetic endowments are encouraged over the normal physical body activities of kids that age. He probably always had an overcontrolled environment in which to grow."

That's why Johnson concludes that the killer is only "pseudo" mature emotionally.

"He exhibits pseudo-adult overt behavior. But that's because of his intellect, not because of emotional maturity. He's learned the canned way of adult behavior, which isn't his own."

Johnson finds some validity in the theory that the killer is punishing the parents by abducting the child, "possibly because of his own parent-child relationship."

He believes the killer had counseling at an early age. And he feels the killer is not married, because "I think he's afraid of adult women."

Johnson also suspects that the killer has had some medical or mortuary training. "A basic part of what he's doing when he's preparing the body (for disposal) shows he knows what he's doing."

"He cleans the body and the clothing. He selects a clean blanket to lie the body on in the snow. The snow is part of the cleaning process."

"To lay the child in the snow is to lay the child in a clean place after the victim himself is cleaned. He returns the child to the state he was in before he picked the victim up."

Citing a deep-grained pathology in the killer, Johnson adds, "I don't think he's conscious to the legal and social ramifications so much as he needs to follow the ritual."

(Continued on page A-2)

Psychologist offers view of child killer

(Continued from A-1)

"This is one super-sick cookie, sick from childhood. A Jack the Ripper kind of guy.

"He would probably see himself as doing something for salvation, or taking a child out of a bad world. This could be the onset of building to the sexual climax.

"His fantasy calls for a kempt, clean, sophisticated approach."

Johnson said the suspect would not appear to his friends and work associates to be unusual.

"He would be functional on the job. He doesn't stand out in some kind of weird way. He would be passively on the fringe of social groups, not withdrawn and not totally involved."

Johnson believes the killer lives in Oakland County, or once did, "because his route is so well planned."

Johnson also suspects the killer drugs his victims. "I don't know how he keeps the kid with him without sedating him."

But he adds that autopsies of the victims have showed no apparent indication of use of such sedatives.

1-2-3-4-5-6-7
All the little children
go to heaven.

yes said Tim King took one
of his pills.

King death fits grim pattern

DETROIT NEWS 3-3-77

By RICHARD WILLING
News Staff Writer

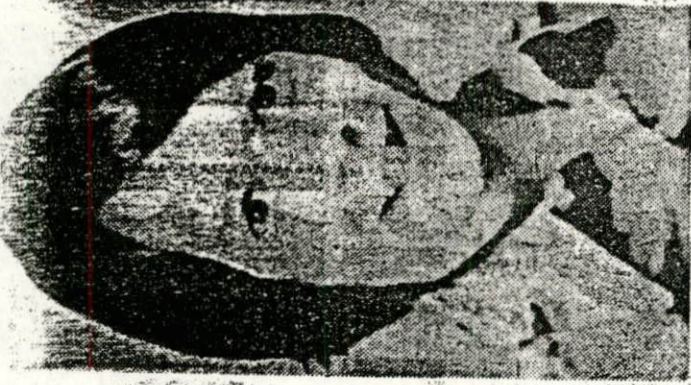
Now there are six.
Timothy King, 11 years old, Birmingham. Sharp, athletic, a good kid.

Statistics.
Until last Wednesday, when he skateboarded four blocks from his home to buy a candy bar, Timmy King's only statistics were racked up in a sixth-grade classroom at the Adams Elementary School. They were pretty good ones, too.

Now, Timmy King's statistics are the latest verse in a 14-month litany of outrage and dread. Cynthia Cadieux, Sheila Srock, Mark Stebbins, Jill Robinson, Kristine Mihelich and now Timothy King. The names go fuzzy with repetition and the details numb the mind.

Statistics.

The King boy is the second youngest of



TIMOTHY KING

five Oakland County youngsters to be kidnaped and murdered in the last 14 months. A sixth victim, a 16-year-old Roseville girl, apparently was abducted from Macomb County and her body dumped on a residential street in Bloomfield Township.

Investigators from local police departments and the Oakland County prosecutor's office, who have combined forces for some of the investigations, have no suspects in any of the cases. But police, who have analyzed elements peculiar to each crime and have used psychiatrists to develop profiles of potential suspects, believe the killings have been done by at least two different people.

The victims were:

- Kristine Mihelich, 10, of Berkley, whose body, fully clothed like those of all the victims, was discovered on a residential

street in Franklin Village on Jan. 21, 19 days after she apparently was abducted while walking near her home. She had been smothered and possibly sexually molested.

- Jill Robinson, 12, of Royal Oak — an unhappy child who left home Dec. 22, 1976, and was discovered the day after Christmas lying near the shoulder of I-75 in Troy. Jill was also fully clothed and had not been molested. She had been killed by a shotgun blast to the face.

- Mark Stebbins, 12, of Ferndale — the only male victim before Timothy King's murder. Mark's body was found in the parking lot of a Southfield shopping center Feb. 19, 1976, five days after apparently being abducted from a Ferndale street. He had been sexually molested and strangled.

- Sheila Srock, 14, of Birmingham —

Sheila was raped and then shot three times while baby-sitting for her infant niece on Jan. 19, 1976. Investigators now regard her killing as "probably a breaking and entering gone wrong," and see few possible links between it and the other murders.

- Cynthia Cadieux, 16, of Roseville — abducted from near her Macomb County home and found raped and bludgeoned to death on a residential street in Bloomfield Township on Jan. 16, 1976.

All of the victims apparently were killed shortly before their bodies were discovered.

Investigators believe sex was a motive in all the cases. They say the length of time the victims apparently were held by their killers and the good condition in which the bodies were found suggest that the killers created a "bond of trust" with their victims.

OAKLAND PRESS 3-25-77

Probers of Timothy's murder are optimistic as tips pour in

BIRMINGHAM (UPI) — Police investigators, pointing to a virtual avalanche of tips from worried and angry citizens, say they are optimistic they may soon find the ritualistic killer of four Oakland County children.

"We're really moving forward now," said State Police Detective Sgt. Joe Krease, a member of the interagency police task force formed to solve the slayings.

"I'm very optimistic! We're getting good information," Krease said Thursday.

Funeral services were to be held today for the latest victim — 11-year-old Timothy King, whose fully clothed body was dumped in a ditch Tuesday night, nearly a week after his disappearance.

Police have linked Timothy's death with three others — Kristine Mihelich, 10, of Berkley, Jill Robinson, 12, of Troy and Mark Stebbins, 12, of Ferndale.

Medical examiners said Timothy was beated and even mutilated before he was killed. His autopsy showed that his hands and feet were bound, he was sexually assaulted and then smothered.

The other three victims, two girls and a boy, went through a similar ordeal, although there was no evidence of sexual abuse in the deaths of the girls.

In all, seven children have been abducted and slain in the mostly affluent suburban area north of Detroit in the past 14 months, Police, however, say three of giving us lots of license plate numbers.

A blue Gremlin is a major factor in the case, Police believe it may belong to a man reportedly seen talking to Timothy in a parking lot shortly before he disappeared.

Krease said the cooperation in the investigation is unmatched in the area history.

Psychological profiles of the suspect picture him as a white-collar, professional man with a fanatic desire for cleanliness and perverted sexual habits.

"What is striking in this case," Wayne County Medical Examiner Werner Spitz said, "was the cleanliness of the youth. He was scrubbed clean. His fingernails and toenails were immaculate. His clothes had also been clean."

The lure, the ritual... then death

By THEODORE ILIFF

BIRMINGHAM (UPI) — The children of Oakland County have become an endangered species.

Somewhere, police believe, there is a man with muttonchop sideburns, a blue Gremlin and a smooth way of talking who has lured four children to their deaths. He also has a fetish for cleanliness, and his orderly mind has turned each killing into a ritual.

Timothy King, the 11-year-old sixth grader who was fond of fried chicken, cookies and baseball, died Tuesday night after almost a week of captivity. He had been sexually assaulted, but he was meticulously cleaned and groomed before he was suffocated.

Timothy's fate was almost identical to that of three other Oakland County youngsters in the last year or so.

Lifestyles have altered radically for many families who moved to this area of tree-lined streets and expensive homes thinking they were immune to the infamous crime rate in Detroit — a few miles to the south.

Even after the widespread publicity of the Mihelich case last January, children at that time were occasionally seen walking alone along major thoroughfares.

But Thursday, children walked home from school in groups. Some mothers were waiting for their children at bus stops only a few hundred feet from their front doors.

Even adults were wary of strangers. One middle-aged woman was asked for directions to the police station. She stepped away from the curb, looked both ways and then yelled, terse directions without approaching the questioner's car.

Anxious community mourns

death of 11-year-old

By MARY CONNELLY-SZCZESNY,
JOE MARTUCCI and BARBARA UN-
DERWOOD

Parents increased efforts to protect their children and police doubled their manpower in the hours after the body of 11-year-old Timothy King of Birmingham was discovered on Gill Road in Livonia late Tuesday.

The body of the Adams School sixth grader—still clothed in the red nylon jacket emblazoned with Birmingham Hockey Association patches he was last seen in—was found at 11 p.m. in a ditch alongside Gill Road, 359 feet south of Eight Mile Road in Livonia.

Tim's skateboard was beside his still-warm body when police arrived. Livonia fire fighters tried in vain to resuscitate the child.

Based on a preliminary autopsy report released Wednesday afternoon, police said Tim had been sexually assaulted. They set the time of his death between 6 and 8 p.m. Tuesday, and said the cause of death was suffocation. Some marks on his body indicated that his hands and feet had been bound, according to Livonia police chief Robert Turner.

The autopsy also revealed Tim had

Funeral set

Funeral services for Timothy King will be held Friday at Holy Name Church in Birmingham. The funeral mass will begin at 3 p.m.

Visiting hours at Manley-Bailey Funeral Home will be for family members only. The funeral home will not accept flowers or contributions.

Timothy is survived by parents Barry and Marion; sister Catherine Ann; and brothers Christopher Kerr and Mark Barry. He is also survived by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell L. King of Flint, and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Oran L. Kerr of Milford Station, Nova Scotia.

There were indications that a Timothy King memorial fund for Adams school would be established, but details were not available at press time.

eccentric
More stories, 3-24
photographs, page 3A.

①
eaten corn and fowl about two hours before his death.

His body was found cleansed and fully-clothed. Tim had been murdered elsewhere and left on Gill Road, police said.

Tim's parents, Barry and Marion King, issued a statement through the Birmingham Police Department Wednesday afternoon.

The couple said they "wanted to express their great gratitude to the Birmingham Police Department, all investigative forces and all others who put forth such a tremendous effort in the search for Tim.

"Our neighbors and friends have surrounded us with love," they said, "and made this time of waiting bearable.

"We are truly thankful for the prayers and concerns of everyone, and the sensitivity accorded us by the media.

"Like all of us," Tim's parents said, "We wished the search had come to a successful conclusion."

About 200 detectives from Wayne and Oakland counties joined the case Wednesday and began to search for Tim's abductor, who police theorize is a professional or businessman.

Tim disappeared from his Birmingham neighborhood about 8:30 p.m. March 16 while walking to the Hunter Maple Pharmacy, 655 E. Maple. The store is about four blocks from the King home at 1509 Yorkshire in the northeast section of Birmingham.

A SENSE OF gloom hung over Timothy's neighborhood Wednesday. Grief-stricken neighbors were hard pressed to put their emotions into words.

"I'm just sick," said one woman who asked that her name not be used. "I didn't sleep all night. I heard the news on a late bulletin."

Helen Michael, 1724 Yorkshire, said

(Continued on page 3A)

she was very stunned." Her son, Larry, said, "It's pretty shocking. But I think many people expected something like that to happen."

"Sadness and compassion and a sense of love for our neighborhood and the people of our town," were the emotions expressed by Joan Greir, 1643 Yorkshire. "I just feel a great desire to do something to keep our children safe."

ANOTHER RESIDENT who requested anonymity said she felt "very sad and has much sympathy (for Timothy's parents). It's a terrible tragedy. I can hardly talk about it."

Mrs. Glen Smith, 1685 Yorkshire, added, "We all feel very sad and very sorry for the mother. She's a very nice gal."

"I talked to one neighbor who has three girls. She said they were nearly in shock and didn't feel like going to school today."

A couple blocks away, at 1525 Yosemite, Esther Morgan, said, "I feel so damn sick it's not funny. Sick to my very soul."

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS announced Wednesday that flags at all buildings will be flown at half staff until after funeral services are held Friday for Timothy.

Donald Peckenpaugh, Birmingham school superintendent, also said a social worker and psychologist will help any Adams School youngsters who may be frightened because of Tim's murder.

"I have no reason to believe they will be needed, but I took that precaution," Peckenpaugh said.

Bus drivers and mechanics working for the school system organized a bake sale Wednesday to begin a memorial fund for Tim. The bake sale will be held at 10-a.m. April 2 at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2300 E. Lincoln.

"Children are our business around here," explained Virginia Lamb, secretary at the bus garage. "This has happened twice now to children very, very close to us."

She said she was referring to the murder of Kristine Mihelich of Berkeley, whose body was found Jan. 21 in Franklin. The 10-year-old disappeared

partly store. **TIM'S PARENTS**, and his two brothers and sister, remained secluded Wednesday.

A member of the King family identified Tim's body Wednesday, said Livonia Police Chief Robert Turner. Birmingham Police Chief Rollin Tobin said Tim's abduction and murder, believed to be connected with three others in Oakland County in past months, has not caused panic in Birmingham.

"I've talked with people in this community, in the PTA and block clubs," Tobin said. "I think the community realizes this type of crime could happen anywhere."

Tobin said there is only so much parents can do to protect their children.

"You can't wrap every child in a cocoon," he said.

"If any family was concerned about their children, it was the King family. They knew where their children were."

"But how do you protect the youngsters? If someone comes up (to a child) and looks like the clergy or shows a (police officer's) badge, you're not going to run."

THE LAST murder in Birmingham was in January 1976, when 14-year-old Sheila Srock was shot to death while babysitting at her sister's Villa Street home. The street is about three blocks from Yorkshire, where the Kings live.

Police do not connect Sheila's murder with that of other Oakland County youngsters. They believe Sheila was killed by a burglar, who broke into the house.

There had been four murders in Birmingham before Sheila's.

Police continue to theorize that Tim's killer is a well-educated white-collar worker, professional or "sophisticated businessman" who lives or works in Oakland County.

Tobin said people should not think of the person as "a dirty old man holding out candy to a child."

POLICE ARE looking for a white man, 25-35 years old, with above-average education, said Michigan State Police Lt. Robert Robertson, who is heading the Oakland County task force investigating the murders of county youths.

housing the child for several days," Robertson added, "one child was held for 14 days, and a work schedule that allows him to do a lot of things normal people can't do."

"A psychological profile compiled by police suggests that the suspect has a compulsion for cleanliness, abnormal sexual habits and little or no involvement with alcohol or drugs."

ABOUT 200 detectives from 50 police departments in Wayne and Oakland counties and from the Michigan State Police were assigned to the case Wednesday. On Tuesday, 100 detectives were tracking down tips and leads that have been phoned to police.

"I have not seen anything like this in my career," Tobin said. "It's probably the largest cooperative effort I've ever seen."

Asked to explain the massive effort at a press conference held at the Community House in Birmingham Wednesday morning, Tobin said, "We all know if we don't do something to resolve this matter now, we'll be sitting in a room like this again in a matter of months."

Livonia Police Chief Turner said Wednesday that the Oakland County task force will continue to head the investigation, even though Tim's body



TIMOTHY KING

was found in Wayne County.

"We feel we should stay under the task force's jurisdiction so we don't lose continuity," Turner said. "We'll add more people to Oakland County's task force. We're not going to disrupt anything."

Police continued to call on parents to talk with their children to determine if any youngster had been approached in past months.

"We're confident this person has approached other children unsuccessfully," Tobin said.

THE INVESTIGATION, which has spread throughout Michigan, has not turned up any prime suspects, police said Wednesday.

"We don't have any one person we're looking at," said Robertson.

He added that investigators are making checks throughout the nation to see if similar cases have occurred.

The Birmingham City Commission is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Tim's abductor.

The abduction and murder of Tim is believed by police to be linked to three other kidnap-slaying of Oakland County youth in the last 13 months.

The bodies of those three youngsters were discovered in Oakland County.

Asked why Tim's body was left in Wayne County, Tobin said, "We massed such an effort in Oakland County that it put pressure on the individual and he moved to Wayne County."

Tobin said the move was a mistake since manpower was now doubling with the addition of Wayne County detectives.

The three cases police are linking are those of Kristine Mihelich, Jill Robinson and Mark Stebbins.

Kristine's body was found Jan. 21 lying in a ditch along Bruce Lane in Franklin Village. She had been missing since Jan. 2. The cause of death has been listed as suffocation.

Jill Robinson was found Dec. 26 in Troy off I-75 freeway near Big Beaver Road. Jill, 12, was killed by a shotgun blast. She had been missing since Dec. 22.

Sgt. George Reed, who headed Troy's investigation of the Robinson murder, said, "We feel there's a connection between ours and theirs... If we can solve one, we can solve several. Not all, but several."

Mark Stebbins, 12, was found Feb. 19, 1976, in a parking lot of a Southfield office building. He died of suffocation and had been missing since Feb. 2.

Timothy King, who was missing six days, was a slight youngsters, weighing 63 pounds. He played hockey and basketball, and was to be in the Adams School play.

An A student, Tim had borrowed 30 cents from his sister last Wednesday to buy candy at the pharmacy.

Cathy, 17, was at home alone with Tim and loaned her brother the money. She left the house shortly after he did and headed for a movie at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

Tim had been asking to be left home without a babysitter, police said, and last Wednesday was the first time his parents had agreed.

Barry King, a lawyer with the Detroit firm of Dyer, Meek, Rueggeger & Bullard, and his wife, Marion, went out Wednesday evening to visit a client and stop at Peabody's for dinner. Peabody's is about 500 feet from where Tim disappeared.

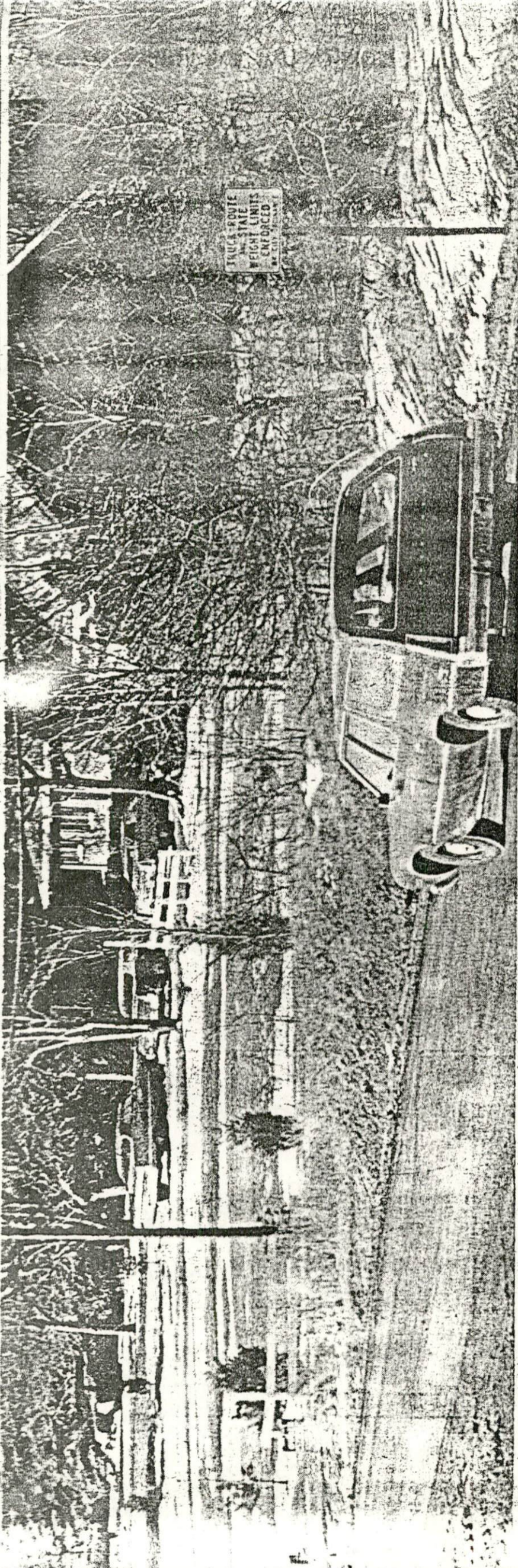
The Kings arrived home about 9:10 p.m. and initially believed Tim was with one of his brothers, Mark, 14, a Derby ninth grader or Christopher, 16, a Seaholm sophomore.

When the boys arrived home without Tim, police were called.

A massive six-day search involving hundreds of police and volunteers was not successful in finding Tim or his abductor.

THE EVENING
3-24-77

Thursday, March 24, 1977



This is the scene where Birmingham's Timothy King was found in a ditch on Gill south of Eight Mile. The body was found by passersby at the truck route sign at the right. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Friends comforted Kings during wait

THE ECCENTRIC

3-21-77

By MARY CONNELLY-SZCZESNY

In the week since 11-year-old Timothy King's disappearance in Birmingham, friends and neighbors have tried to help the youngster's family through the long hours of their wait.

Although police suggested the King family might want to remain secluded during the massive search for Tim, Barry and Marion King have welcomed visits from their friends.

"Barry made the decision it would be easier for them to have people around," said Mrs. James Brooks, a friend.

"Some of us drop in every day, and others drop in once and express their concern," she explained.

"Mostly what we've been doing is to drop in and talk and chat and bring pop and food to the kids."

Tim has two brothers, Christopher, 16, and Mark, 14, and a 17-year-old sister, Cathy.

HOT MEALS like spaghetti have been prepared by friends and neighbors and sent to the family.

Pop, snacks, marinated vegetables, fruit, cigarettes and even plastic glasses have also been dropped off, Mrs. Brooks said.

Other neighbors mentioned fixing up a plate of cookies or a coffee cake for the family.

One woman, who lives near the King's Yorkshire home, said she hesitated about intruding on the family.

Finally deciding to take a lunch over, she said she found a refrigerator overflowing with food. People who don't even know the family had sent food, she said, and some food had to be stored in a neighbor's freezer.

"Two girls were in Saturday to clean the house, and I was just going to go over now and check the laundry situation," Mrs. Brooks said Monday.

Tim King was last seen at 8:30 p.m. last Wednesday after buying candy at the Hunter Maple Pharmacy, 655 E. Maple, about four blocks from his home. Police believe he was abducted.

Occasionally, Tim's dad might turn on the TV to watch sports to "fill some time," Mrs. Brooks said.

"They're very, very strong and courageous."

"And the children are very supportive of their parents. Their friends have been over, too."

"The family made me feel so glad I had come," another neighbor said. "I came away marveling at their strength."

King, a lawyer with the Detroit firm of Dyer, Meek, Ruegsegger and Bullard, did not go to work this week according to police.

On the advice of police, Christopher and Mark returned to classes Monday, police said. Christopher is a sophomore, and Mark is a ninth grader.

PARISHIONERS AT Holy Name Catholic Church in Birmingham have been among those trying to ease the King's wait. The family attends Holy Name.

"They've been very active at church. It's been a big part of their lives," explained one parishioner.

A special mass to pray for Tim's return was held at 7 p.m. Friday at Holy Name. Eight people attended the church service, which was coordinated with only two hours notice.

Prayers for Tim are also offered during each mass at the church.

THE KING'S, who formerly lived on Pembroke in Birmingham and attended St. Alan, were among the first parishioners when the church began in 1966, said church pastor the Rev. Joseph Lisee.

King was among the first lecturers at the church and Mrs. King was a teacher in the church's education program. Chris and Mark were altar boys, Fr. Lisee said.

Letters to the Kings have been arriving at Birmingham police headquarters written by people who have never met the family.

One letter signed by a woman who identified herself as "a black mother" wrote to extend her sympathy to the Kings. Another woman sent along a Catholic prayer card and a note.

Other offers to help have been made.

A printer called offering to print at no cost a safety tip sheet for children. The printer who produced copies of Tim's photograph for police use refused payment for the job.

Police get thousands of tips in King death

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. (UPI) — Police seeking the sex-killer of Timothy King, 11, are searching through thousands of tips to locate any clue to the kidnap-killer of King and three other children in Detroit's northern suburbs.

King was the latest victim in the series of kidnap-murders that has set the Detroit suburban area on edge.

King had disappeared two weeks ago. An autopsy showed the boy had been sexually assaulted and smothered. His body was found 16 miles from his Birmingham home near a dirt road in the Detroit suburb of Livonia.

Telephone lines to the headquarters of the 120-man task force investigating the case remained jammed with callers offering tips and advise while parents continued to drive or walk their children to school. Police have received more than 7,000 tips on the case.

State Police Lt. Robert Robertson said "there are no prime suspects right now" in the King killing.

"We have eliminated a lot of people," said Robertson, who is coordinating the police task force formed to solve the King case and three other similar child slayings. "We think we're on the right track."

"We think we may have brushed very close

to the killer already. We may even have interviewed him."

Birmingham Police Chief Rollin Tobin is seeking a \$1 million federal grant from the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to cover costs of a long-term investigation.

The task force is made up of officers on loan from their regular departments. Tobin is looking for federal help because he believes manpower will dwindle since local communities cannot afford to staff the task force without cutting back on their own police services.

"Even if we knew who this person was today, we couldn't arrest him," he said. "We aren't going to kick in any doors. We have to gather evidence, keep him under surveillance, consult with attorneys. When we arrest him, we don't want to have to turn him loose."

The investigation has been called the most intense police effort in the history of Michigan, including the search for missing Teamsters leader James Hoffa.

In the King case, as well as three other child kidnap-slayings in the past 14 months, the killer bathed his victims, cleaned their clothes and even manicured their fingernails before disposing of the bodies.

All victims were between the ages of 10 and 12. The task force has received more than 6,000 tips since reward money totaling \$50,000 was posted last week for the arrest and conviction of the killer.

Death penalty for mentally ill?

Press Lansing Bureau

LANSING — A leader of a drive to reinstate the death sentence in Michigan said Thursday that whoever is responsible for Oakland County's child murders probably should not receive that penalty.

State Rep. Kirby Holmes, R-Utica, says he thinks the one or more murderers must be "obviously very sick." He added he does not favor death for mentally ill criminals.

"If he is not mentally ill, he should get the death penalty. But my personal opinion is that he is," Holmes said.

Holmes has about 10,000 signatures on petitions to reinstate capital punishment.

About 260,000 valid signatures are needed to place the issue on the 1978 statewide ballot.

Holmes say he has been getting increasing requests from Oakland County residents for petitions. But he says he doesn't "want to make political hay out of a family's tragedy."

"I'm not saying the death penalty will solve all of our crime problems," Holmes says. "But it's a step in the right direction."

A survey by the State Office of Criminal Justice Planning, released Thursday, showed that 72 per cent of the state's residents favor use of the death penalty, an increase of 12 per cent from last year.

Who shelters killer of 4 kids? police ask

BIRMINGHAM (UPI) — Police say someone, possibly "an attorney, a doctor, a wife, a mother," knows the ritualistic abductor and slayer of four Oakland County children. They are pleading with that person to step forward.

"No individual could have kept four children for varying lengths of time without someone knowing — some relative, some friend," Birmingham Police Chief Rollin G. Tobin said Friday.

Tobin said the person with the information they need to solve the case might be "an attorney, a doctor, a wife, a mother."

Funeral services were held Friday for 11-year-old Timothy King, the fourth victim in the wave of slayings that has stunned suburban Detroit residents.

More than 600 mourners filled the Holy Roman Name Roman Catholic Church for the services. The crowd sitting behind Timothy's parents and brother and sister included many children. Many joined Mrs. Marian King after the Mass and openly wept.

The Rev. Joseph Lisee, a friend of the family, stood near the white coffin draped in vivid garlands and said Timothy was "denied the privilege of adulthood by an act we find hard to understand."

To underscore the point, law enforcement officers filtered through the crowd looking for potential suspects, and deputies were seen writing down license

Livonia Wednesday night, almost a week after he vanished from a drug store parking lot. The boy had been fed, washed and carefully groomed before he suffocated to death.

A special task force investigating the deaths of Timothy and three other children in southern Oakland County has been swamped with tips from the public.

The prime suspect is a man in his mid-30s with muttonchop sideburns and driving a blue Gremlin. He was seen talking to Timothy the night he vanished.

An autopsy showed the boy had been sexually assaulted. The methods of the killer, described by police as a sex deviate with a fetish for cleanliness, indicated the same man killed another boy and two girls in the affluent suburban area in the past 14 months.

Chief Tobin said there are growing signs that the main suspect is known and is possibly being protected by someone.

"From a lot of evidence that we've compiled, it would seem that there is more than one person involved," he said.

Tobin said, "We believe the killer has either seen a psychiatrist or is in need of one."

"We believe he appears sane 99 per cent of the time. There is nothing that would prohibit a person in the medical or legal professions from coming forward with information in this case."

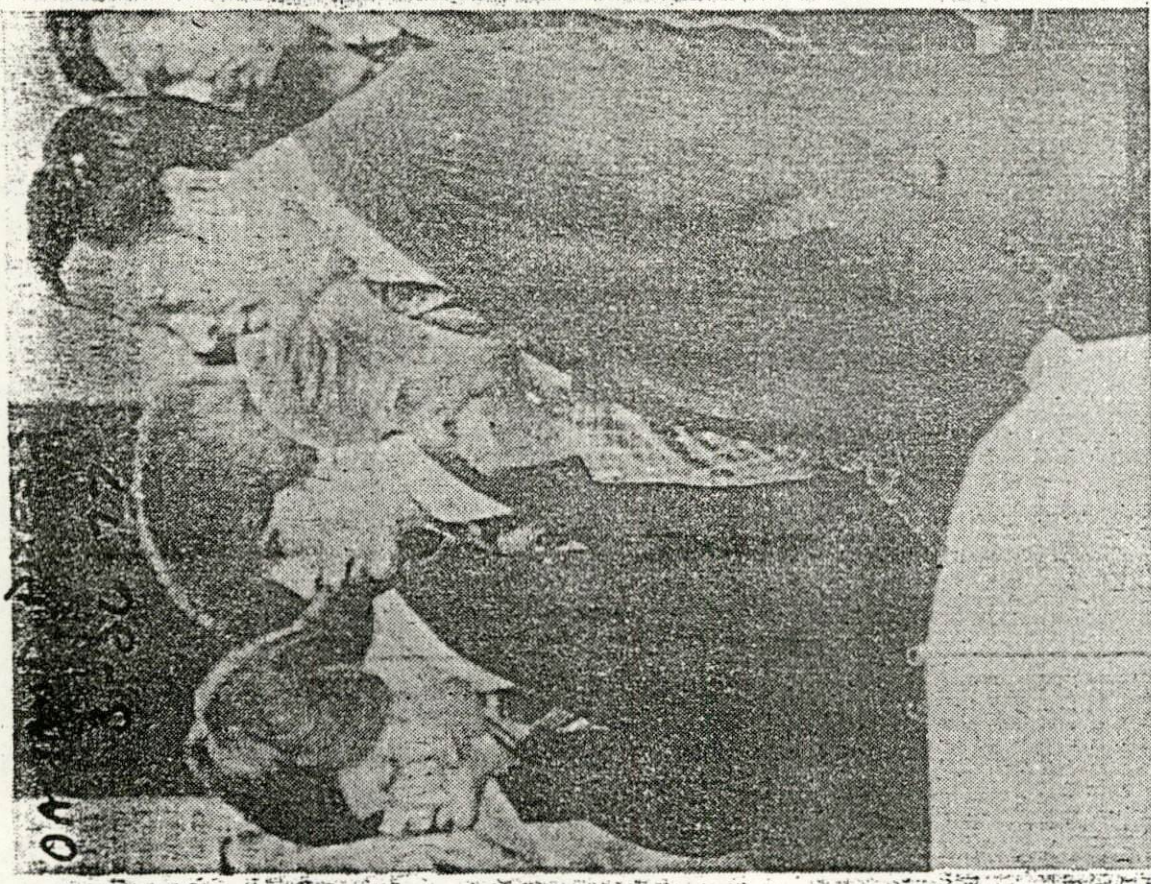


NEW VERSION — Police released this new composite drawing of the suspect who they believe is responsible for killing four Oakland County children. (UPI photo)

plate numbers in the parking lot.

A private burial at White Chapel Cemetery followed the services.

Timothy's body was found in nearby



STRUGGLES FOR CONTROL — Mrs. Marian King (second from right) struggles to control herself as she stands with her family at the bier of her son, Timothy, during funeral services at Holy Name Roman Catholic Church in Birmingham. Police officials believe Timothy's killer also killed three other children from the area. (UPI photo)

Suburban good and bad

Not since the 1967 riots in Detroit have I seen these suburbs as shocked or as frightened as now in the aftermath of the kidnap murder of Tim King of Birmingham.

Somewhere in our midst is lurking a very, very sick person. Until he is caught, none of us will feel safe unless our children are in sight.

Fourteen-year-old Linda Rose, who lives in Livonia where Tim's body was found, sent in a poem which puts it well.

I wish I could go out and play;

My mom says, "Sorry, not today."

I'm scared to walk from here to school.

"Be in at dark!" That is the rule.

Why does all this have to happen?

All the murder and kidnappin'.

I wish it would all end today;

And all bad wounds would mend some way.

IN THIS connection, I think it's worthwhile taking another look at capital punishment.

For a person as sick as the murderer of Tim King and probably at least three other children in Oakland County, capital punishment is surely no real deterrent. For a punishment to deter, it takes a sane person to evaluate the risks that criminal action will bring. But this murderer is plainly not sane.

So once he is caught and convicted to life in prison, has he been adequately punished? I'm not so sure, especially after watching Mr. and Mrs. King in their agony and after talking with a lot of very frightened suburban parents.

The Old Testament talks of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." This may be harsh justice, but for this kind of savagery, it may well be just.

ON THE happier side of the news, it's a deep pleasure to notice that the City of Livonia has decided to honor a man of great distinction while he is still alive and going strong.

This Saturday, Ford Recreation Center will be rededicated as the Eddie Edgar Sports Arena, in honor of Eddie's distinguished career as journalist, local pioneer and all-around fine guy.

Eddie started his career on the Detroit Free Press in 1923, rising to the lofty position of sports editor during the golden age of sports when Ty Cobb, Gar Wood, Mickey Cochrane and Gus Morais were the greats. After retirement in 1948, Eddie became executive secretary of the Bowling

Observation Point



by PHILIP H. POWER

Proprietors Association of Greater Detroit, and in the 16 years that followed he probably was more responsible than any other person for the growth of bowling as a sport in this area.

Always he has been a community builder. In 1964, at the age of 67, Eddie started his third career, this time with these newspapers as a reporter and columnist. Today at 79 and going strong, he's still at it.

It's an honor to know and work with a man who is not only a legend in his own time but who is also getting the recognition he so well deserves.

AND WHILE we're at it, another local suburban man is in the news these days.

Keith Geiger, who teaches math at Livonia's Stevenson High School, is running for president of the Michigan Education Association, at 82,000 strong one of the most powerful labor and political groups in the state.

Geiger's tussle with MEA incumbent president David McMahon is touted by insiders as close. Geiger says he's got an important advantage: "We were local association presidents and have negotiated local contracts—and our opponents haven't.

"You can't address problems if you haven't been there," Geiger adds.

Although some of his ideas (regional bargaining for teacher contracts, for example) might send the hair on school officials' necks straight up, Geiger was well respected by local school officials while he served on the Livonia Education Association bargaining team.

"He was one tough son of a gun at the bargaining table," one administrator told me, "but once you got an agreement with him he kept his word. And he is really concerned about the kids and their welfare."

Voting will be at the MEA convention at the end of April in Dearborn, and a lot of local teachers will be there pulling for their man.

DAILY TRIBUNE
3-29-77

Letter To Person Who Knows Slayer

Police investigating the slaying of Timothy King of Birmingham and six other youngsters say they believe at least one person is protecting the killer by not coming forward with information because the killer is a close friend or relative.

The following open letter written to the person who knows the identity of the slayer was submitted to The Daily Tribune by a South Oakland woman in the hope it may convince that person to come forward.

The Daily Tribune publishes it here with that goal in mind. The name of the writer is withheld for obvious reasons.

I want you to know, I understand. I along with hundreds of other women, want you to know that. You see, as a child I was tormented by a perverted child molester not once but many times. He was my step father and we lived in the same house. I'm still here to talk about it. It's very difficult for an outsider to understand what its like to live through life with such a person.

Why am I writing? Because I understand why you haven't turned in this "psychopathic killer". You're close to him either as a mother or a sister or as a friend. You love him. You want to protect him. You feel he's just a child himself. You can not believe he would harm a child, even though he has. How do I know? Because my mother couldn't believe the man she loved could be capable of such an unthinkable act. Why else would she have allowed it to go on for seven years? How could she make a choice between her child and her husband, when she loved them both? Now, twelve years later, she thinks I hate her for what she did! I don't. Why? Because I understand.

Please listen to what I'm trying to say. You must face the facts. This person you care about does need your help. Not your protection. I speak to you not only as a woman that lived through it, but as a mother of two children. Please make that choice between this person, you love, and another child's life. Turn him in. No one is going to hate you! You may be saving not only another child's life, and getting help for this person you love, but you'll save yourself from more heartache in the future. Please be a friend to-yourself. Please be my friend and a friend to every mother out there that fears for her child's life. Help us get him off the street. Remember, only you can do it.

Your Friend

Crime Expert Wastes No Time Learning About Slaying Case

Daily Tribune
3-29-77

A retired FBI expert on unusual and sex-related crimes arrived today in South Oakland and immediately met with police task force members investigating the deaths of Timothy King of Birmingham and six other children.

Frank Sass, who retired from the faculty of the FBI training academy at Quantico, Va., last year said his role was that of an advisor.

Sass met first with police chief Rollin G. Tobin of Birmingham then went to task force headquarters in the

previously vacant Valley Woods Elementary School, in Beverly Hills.

Sass said he would review what the task force has done and suggest new procedures if necessary.

"It's not my job to be critical of anything the task force has done. I will make suggestions if there is something I can see they haven't tried."

Sass said he expected to discuss with task force members types of crime associated with different kinds of sexual deviants.

He brought with him notes, material and two trays of slides to use in discussions.

"I will be very careful about what I say about the case," Sass said. "I don't want to jeopardize any court case if a suspect is caught."

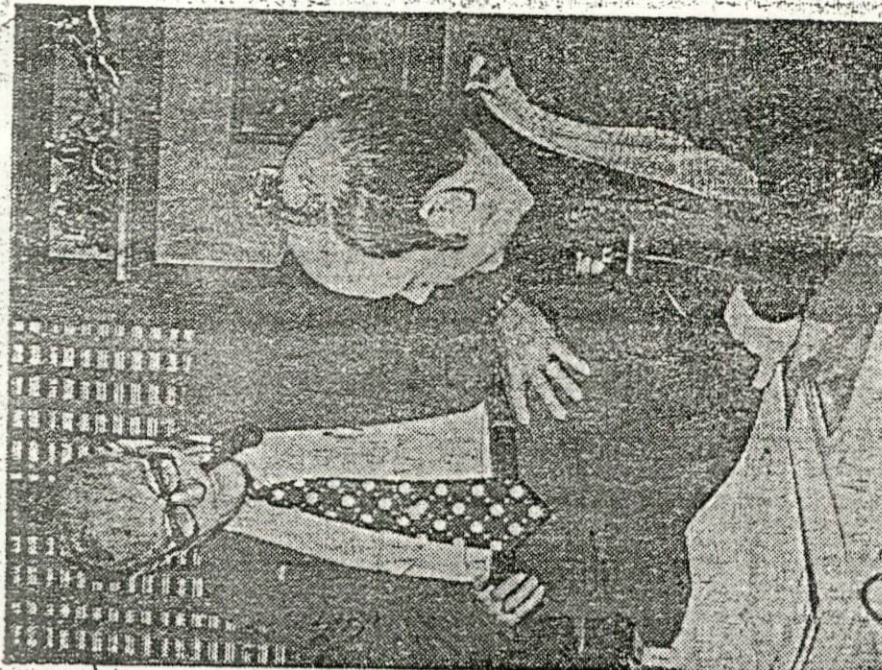
Sass was recommended to the task force by Detroit-area FBI agents who are informally assisting in the investigation. The agents said Sass was the foremost authority on sex-related crimes in the United States.

His expenses, air fare and

consulting fees are being paid by The Daily Tribune. He will be in town three days. Sass will work directly with Lt. Robert Robertson, the state police officer in charge of the task force.

The police task force is made up of detectives, computer operating personnel, and clerical workers "lent" to the force by 57 state, county and local police departments. The task force is investigating seven child slayings that either started or

—Turn to Page 2—



Task Force Puts Lid on Slayings Probe

by SUSAN E. HENRY and THOMAS B. SCOTT
Tribune Staff Reporters

The police task force investigating the slayings of Timothy King and three other South Oakland youngsters expects to learn later this week whether it will receive

the Federal funds to stay in business for six more months.

The application for a \$557,182 grant was hand delivered Monday to Law Enforcement Assistance Administration officials in Washington D.C. by an aide to Congressman James J.

Child Safety Meeting in Troy, Page 13.

Blanchard (D-Pleasant Ridge).

Police Chief Rollin G. Tobin of Birmingham refused to speculate on the chances of winning the grant. But he said, "If ever there was a time for money to be given to a project, this is the time."

Low Profile—

Tobin also said the task force would attempt to stay out of the news until it has something solid to report. Daily press conferences ended Monday and reporters will no longer have access to the task force headquarters at the formerly vacant Valley Woods school in Beyerly Hills, he said.

"We're down to routine police work," Tobin said.

"No one is going to give us this case on a silver platter. We're going to have to dig for this one."

10,000 Tips—

The task force is checking out each of the estimated 10,000 tips received from police and residents. Although the task force will assume a "lower profile" it still seeks information and encourages residents to phone tips to police at 644-0400, Tobin said.

Of the total \$557,182 sought to pay for the project, 90 per cent or \$501,464 would be from the LEAA and the other 10 per cent, or \$55,718, from "local sources."

Local Pledges—

The Birmingham City Commission has pledged the entire \$55,718 needed as the local source of matching funds, but is seeking participation from the other seven communities involved and the state.

If the State provides half the local funds, each of the eight communities would contribute \$3,482. If the state doesn't,

each community would pay \$6,965.

Four communities — Berkley, Ferndale, Franklin and Troy — agreed Monday night to contribute their share if the grant is approved.

Livonia Councilmen met in a study session Monday night and could not, by law, approve the item. Royal Oak commissioners and Southfield city councilmen met Monday night, but the grant contribution wasn't on the agenda.

Core Force—

The grant, if approved, would provide funds for a 25-member core force that would continue operating at Valley Woods school through October 1, Tobin said.

Each of the eight departments directly involved in the four slayings — Birmingham, Royal Oak, Troy, Livonia, Berkley, Franklin Village, Southfield and Ferndale — will contribute two detectives, Tobin said. In addition, the Sheriff's Department will contribute two, the prosecutor's office two and the State Police five, he said.

Police originally expected to seek a much larger grant, Tobin said, but the State Police and Oakland County have offered free computer time to the task force.

Tobin said the 25 men would be a core, and it's possible some departments would add more men. He said he's sure that even without the grant,

—Turn to Page 2—

—14-year-old TIMOTHY KING, Micheli of Berkley, whose body was found in Franklin, Jan. 2, after she disappeared from downtown Berkley.

—Jill Robinson, a 12-year-old Royal Oak girl, whose body was discovered along I-75 in Troy on Dec. 26.

—Mark Stebbins, a 12-year-old Ferndale boy found Feb. 19, 1976, in a Southfield parking lot.

Police say the four slayings seem to indicate the same person is responsible. Autopsies showed both boys were sexually molested and had been bound. Neither girl was molested, medical examiner reports indicated.

The three slayings police believe are unrelated are:

—Jane Louise Allan, a 13-year-old Royal Oak girl found in an Ohio River Aug. 11, 1976.

—Sheila Srock, a 14-year-old Birmingham babysitter raped and slain Jan. 19, 1976.

—Cynthia Cadieux, a 16-year-old Roseville girl whose body was found in Bloomfield Township Jan. 16, 1976.

Blanchard said he stressed the inter-jurisdictional effort involved and said the use of computers could also serve as a model in handling similar situations.

"I also stressed while at the present time the cooperative effort on a voluntary basis has been quite spectacular, it would be an extremely difficult burden for all of the cities involved, to continue the effort in this manner for several months.

Blanchard said the application is being reviewed simultaneously by the LEAA regional office in Chicago and the Office of Criminal Justice in Lansing.

Both offices must review the application. Blanchard said LEAA officials should indicate by the end of this week or early next week of the grant application will be approved.

\$25,000 is offered by The News in King murder



SKETCH OF SUSPECT

The Detroit News is offering a \$25,000 reward under its "Secret Witness" program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer of Timothy King.

It matches the \$25,000 reward offered by the Birmingham City Commission last week and brings the total being offered officially in the King case to \$50,000.

Tipsters seeking the reward must mail their information to the following address:

SECRET WITNESS

BOX 1333

DETROIT, MICH. 48231

Tipsters may maintain their anonymity by following instructions in the coupon that accompanies this article.

Telephone tips will be accepted at The News only if they are of an emergency nature where immediate action is required.

This is how the last page of your "Secret Witness" letter should look after you have typed or printed your information about a crime. DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME, but sign with a six-digit number. Tear off and keep at corner of the last page, bearing the same number. Mail to "Secret Witness," Box 1333, Detroit, Michigan 48231.

123456 (Choose Your Own Number)

TEAR HERE

(Save This)

123456

Ex-FBI expert to train officers on King case

Detectives on the kidnap-murder case of 11-year-old Timothy King today will start a three-day course on investigating sex crimes.

The instructor, Frank Sass, 55, retired last December from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. Most of his 29 years with the FBI was spent training agents in sex-crime investigations. He was recommended by local FBI agents as a specialist in sex-related murders.

Despite over 10,000 tips, police say they have no solid leads to the killer's identity 12 days after the boy's disappearance.

Birmingham Police Chief Rollin G. Tobin said yesterday that a task force of state and local police, who are investigating the crime, plans to assume a "low profile" in the case.

Tobin, apparently resigned to a long investigation, said the task force has petitioned the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration for over \$500,000 to pay for 25 investigators for six months. The money would also enable the task force to rent an FBI-designed analytical computer.

"I'm going to take a careful look at the whole situation," Sass said. "It's a mess from what I've heard and I don't really know what I'll find. Basically I'll be looking for loopholes in the past investigative work and suggesting new procedure."

"I'm going to be the new man on the block and maybe I'll see something other detectives have missed."

His expenses are being paid by the Royal Oak Daily Tribune.

Killer's Profile Accurate, Says Sex-Crime Expert

by JESSE SNYDER
Tribune Staff Reporter

A retired FBI expert on sex-related crimes says the profile of the unknown killer of four children put together by police is accurate.

Frank A. Sass, who retired in December as a special agent supervisor at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., said he agreed, with most points on a list of characteristics police believe outlines the killer of Timothy King of Birmingham and three other children slain in the last 14 months.

He cautioned against completely ignoring persons who don't fit the profile.

He also said it is likely that the killer has had previous brushes with law enforcement



FRANK SASS officials because of abnormal sexual habits.

He praised police work in the case to date.

Sass ended a three-day visit to South Oakland today. His expenses were paid by The Daily Tribune after task force officials expressed interest in receiving his advice.

Local FBI agents consider Sass the foremost authority on sex-crimes in the nation.

The task force, a 57-community pool of detectives, is investigating the deaths of Timothy King of Birmingham, whose body was found in Livonia March 22, and six other children. Police say it appears the same killer is responsible for four of the slayings.

"The profile has some good points," Sass said Thursday, after completing his stay with the task force. He said he had offered some small changes in the profile, but refused to elaborate.

Sass has steadfastly refused to discuss particulars of the cases while in South Oakland, saying he had to "respect the integrity of the investigation."

Unemployment Drops Slightly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's unemployment rate dipped from 7.5 to 7.3 per cent in March as a half-million Americans found jobs and factories recalled workers from energy-spawned layoffs, the government said today.

Labor Department analysts said the improvement indicated that the ill effects of the severe winter weather and related energy shortages had only a temporary effect on the economy.

The March jobless rate was at the same level as in January. It rose two-tenths of a per cent in February largely because of layoffs resulting from energy shortages.

Total employment increased by 513,000 in March to 89.5 million, continuing an expansion that has totalled 1.7 million persons since last October.

The number of persons unemployed dropped by 119,000 last month to 7.1 million with all of it occurring among persons who had lost their last job, as opposed to those entering the labor market last month.

Most of the improvement in unemployment took place among adult men, a reflection of factory recalls and a sharp pickup in the construction industry.

Early Improvements—

The job report mirrored earlier improvement in other key economic statistics, including production, consumer spending and increases in new factory orders. While it is welcome news for the Carter administration, government economists believe the need for stimulating the economy

—Turn to Page 2—

Type of Person—

The profile, created by the task force after consultation with medical and law enforcement experts, describes the type of person who could be the killer.

Sass cautioned against too much dependence on the profile, repeating warnings of the task force spokesmen themselves that the killer could be anyone and did not have to exactly match the description given in the profile.

"You don't want your officers to be too restricted while they are investigating," Sass said of the profile.

"But a profile like this can be of extreme value. In a major case like this where you have lots of potential suspects, a profile allows police to eliminate some tips without a lot of investigative effort," he said.

"But, what's even better is that with the computerized tip recording system this group is

—Turn to Page 2—

Woman, 64, Wins Bunny

Never Too Old

CHECK OUR 100%

Profile * 2

—Continued From Page 1—

using, they don't lose any of the discarded tips."

He said that if anything causes the task force to re-evaluate its profile, it could immediately retrieve for a second look any tips that might fit a new profile.

Police believe the killer is a white male, 20-35 years old, and a white collar worker who either lives or works in Oakland County. He is intelligent, educated and probably doesn't use drugs or alcohol. His work schedule is flexible and allows him some freedom of movement.

He has a compulsion for cleanliness and has the capacity to store or keep his victims for a number of days without being detected. He has abnormal sexual habits and may be undergoing psychiatric treatment.

Sass said the killer could be on the lengthy list of persons convicted of sexual offenses that police have been using to help in their investigation, although not necessarily.

Not First Time

He said that for the person to have progressed to killing his victims, almost certainly he would have shown some signs of his abnormal sexual habits in the past.

"On violent (sex-related) crimes, you don't find that this is the first time around with abnormal sexual behavior," he said. "He almost certainly has exhibited some unusual behavior before this."

Sass said the killer was likely to be a loner and probably hasn't told anyone about the killings.

"Sometimes someone finds out about it inadvertently, but you can't expect this guy to hang a shingle out saying 'I did it.'"

Sass said "good sound police work" would eventually track the killer down.

He praised the task force, noting that some of the best investigators in the state were working on the group, which ranges in size between 100 and 200 detectives, depending on work loads in the departments donating the manpower and on work schedules.

Before Sass left South Oakland, he and task force leaders reviewed what the group had already done and on likely avenues of future investigation.

He said the task force was well staffed, well organized and had already explored most angles of investigation.

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Killer Smothered Timmy; Police Intensify Manhunt

Free Press 3-24-77

4 Slayings Are Linked

BY JANE BRIGGS-BUNTING, PETER GAVRILOVICH
AND JACK KRESNAK

Mrs. Marian King, fighting back tears, identified Wednesday her 11-year-old son, Timothy, whose fully clothed body was found, still warm, in a shallow ditch on Gill Road near Eight Mile in Livonia Tuesday night, six days after he vanished.

An autopsy showed the sixth grader had been smothered between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday, only a few hours before the body was found around 11 p.m.

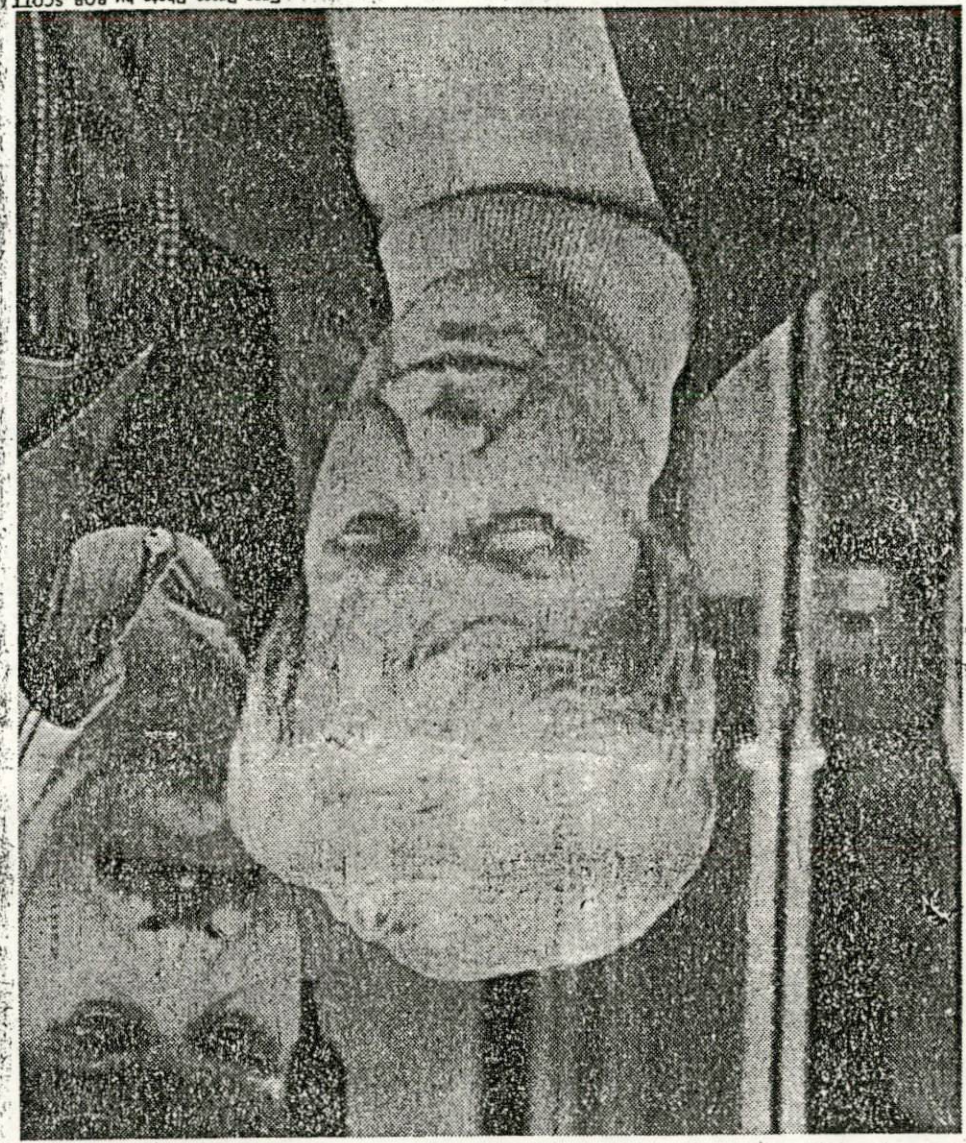
Medical examiners said the boy had been sexually abused and there were marks that showed his hands and feet had been bound by his abductor.

THE CLEANLINESS OF THE BOY'S body and clothing and the length of his captivity before he was murdered along with other similarities led police to theorize that Timothy was killed by the same man who kidnapped and murdered three other south Oakland children.

"We really feel we are looking for one man" in the four murders, said State Police Lt. Robert Robertson. "We should be successful."

Since early 1976, four other children have been killed in the mostly affluent areas of southern Oakland County. Another youngster, like Timothy, was abducted locally and killed elsewhere and one more was brought into the area and then killed.

All the cases remain unsolved. Five of the seven children were girls.



Mrs. Marian King leaves the Wayne County Morgue Wednesday after identifying her 11-year-old son, Timothy.
Free Press Photo by BOB SCOTT



Timothy King

Killer Smothered Timmy; Police Pressing Manhunt

FREE PRESS 3-24-77

Continued from Page 1A

He said Timothy's body was lying on its left side. The orange skateboard the boy had taken with him when he went to buy the candy bar was found about 15 feet from the body in the shallow, water-lined ditch.

Davis called Livonia police at 11:05 p.m. and the first police car arrived about 10 minutes later.

LIVONIA POLICE said the body was still warm when they arrived. They called the Livonia Fire Department to attempt artificial resuscitation, but it was unsuccessful.

The area was cordoned off and even lawmen were kept from the immediate scene until the State Police mobile crime lab arrived to probe for clues. Authorities said they didn't want footprints from officers to mar the scene.

Police said it appeared the body had been laid, rather than dumped, in the ditch.

Aside from the mud from the ditch, the boy's clothing, which he had been wearing

when he vanished, was clean and neat.

After the crime lab technicians finished their work, the body was taken to the Wayne County Morgue. Mrs. King appeared about 11:30 a.m. Wednesday to make formal identification.

THE 45-YEAR-OLD mother appeared shaken and upset when she arrived at the morgue with three lawmen and her parish priest, the Rev. Peter A. Fvaile.

She sat a few minutes on a morgue bench and smoked a cigaret to compose herself, then was taken before a closed-circuit television screen showing the face of her dead son.

She flushed, closed her eyes and nodded, affirming that it was Timothy. Then her head sank and she leaned it on the chest of an accompanying officer who tenderly put his arms around her and held her a few minutes.

Calmly again she signed the necessary papers and left with two of the officers and Father Fvaile.

Later the parents, through Birmingham Police Chief

Jerry Tobin, made a joint statement expressing their gratitude to lawmen, neighbors and friends and the news media.

"We wish the search had come to a successful conclusion," they said.

LT. ROBERTSON, whose task force is co-ordinating the massive search for the child murderer, said police are operating on the assumption that the same man who killed Timothy also killed Kristine Mihelich, 10, of Berkley; Jill Robinson, 12, of Royal Oak, and Mark Stebbins, 12, of Fern-dale.

Police felt that Timothy's slayer erred in depositing the body in Wayne County because additional manpower will now be added to the some 200 policemen already working on the case in Oakland County.

Chief Tobin said he felt the reason the killer took the body across the county line was because "we amassed such an effort in Oakland County he (the killer) moved to Wayne County." The body was deposited only 360 feet from the Oakland County line.

Timothy's body was discovered by two young men who were driving on Gill Road south of Eight Mile. The scene is about 16 miles from where the boy vanished at 8:30 p.m. March 16 after leaving his Birmingham home to buy a candy bar at a nearby pharmacy.

Timothy had left the pharmacy by the rear door and was last believed seen talking to a man in a parking lot behind the store.

The two young men who spotted the boy's body Tuesday night had slowed their car to avoid hitting a cat. Their headlights flashed on Tim's red hockey-type jacket. They stopped their car and saw the body about 360 feet south of Eight Mile.

The youths, who were not identified, went immediately to the nearby home of Les Davis, 59, a retired Chrysler Corp. tool and die worker, to report the find.

Davis said he got a flashlight and a shotgun and ac-

Please turn to Page 10A, Col. 1

State Police crime lab technicians took physical evidence from the scene but police said their reports had not been completed Wednesday.

State Police technicians also said they would attempt to lift fingerprints from Timothy's body.

A similar technique was used on the body of Kristine Mihelich and five partial prints were recovered. Police, however, have not been able to match those prints with a suspect.

POLICE appealed to anyone in the area of Gill Road and Eight Mile Tuesday night to report anything they thought suspicious.

Tobin noted that more than 50 area police departments now are involved in the search for the killer.

"We all realize if we don't do something to resolve this now," Tobin said at a news conference, "we'll be back in this room in a few months in similar circumstances."

Tobin said the killer could be anybody — a doctor, a clergyman or a police officer.

"It can be anyone," the chief said. "He doesn't fit the prototype of some dirty, old man handing candy to a child.

"This person is a trusted individual. It could be a public official. It could be a clergyman. It could be a doctor. It could even be police

Tobin said that for some unknown reason the children are going along with the killer and not resisting.

THE SLAYINGS have enraged and frightened area residents.

"People are scared," said Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen. "Parents are now driving their children to school and picking them up. When a child has been missing a couple of hours, where the parents would have waited it out, now they call us right away."

"It's really a sick crime," said Tobin of Timothy's slaying. "Whatever he is, he's sure a degenerate."

Tobin noted that during the hunt for the boy, his mother had appealed for the safe return of her son in an emotional public letter.

She said his favorite dinner of fried chicken would be waiting for him.

The autopsy report showed that shortly before his death, Timothy had been given a chicken dinner.

Task force grants ^{ECCENTRIC} win final approval ⁴⁻¹⁴⁻⁷⁷

By JOE MARTUCCI

Police investigating the kidnap-murders of four south Oakland County youths will have more than \$600,000 to help them find a suspect.

Birmingham Police Chief Rollin Tobin announced Wednesday the approval of two grants to fund the Oakland County Homicide Task Force investigating the kidnap-murders.

One of the four is 11-year-old Timothy King, whose body was found in Livonia after he was last seen alive near his Birmingham home. Three other south Oakland county children have been kidnapped and killed within the last 15 months.

Tobin described the grants as "a total commitment to the people of the state of Michigan to make sure that this type of criminal event is properly handled."

The first grant, made available through the state office of criminal justice programs, is for \$340,987. Tobin described this as the "bread and butter" grant that will enable 36 persons to work on the investigation for six months.

The task force will consist of 20 investigators from area police departments, six clerks, and 10 Michigan State police detectives.

Tobin said \$306,888 of the \$340,987 is federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) money allocated to Michigan. An additional \$17,049 of state money and \$17,050 in local funds rounds out the first grant.

Tobin stressed that the grant is not for Birmingham, but rather for south Oakland County, since seven other departments will be participating in the investigation.

Those departments are Ferndale, Royal Oak, Berkley, Franklin, Troy and Southfield in Oakland County and Livonia in Wayne County.

THE SECOND grant is \$295,675 in federal funds from the LEAA. That grant is broken down into five sub-sections, Tobin said. He said \$135,000 would provide for criminal analysis personnel, equipment and management.

This money will pay the salaries of two state po-

lice sergeants and a civilian computer programmer and will also enable the state to purchase the computer now being used to compile and classify the 10,000 tips that have come in since the murder last month of Timothy King of Birmingham.

Thus, the computer will be available to other police departments in the future, should they be faced with similar major crimes to solve.

The \$135,000 will also provide for seven additional state police personnel, although only five were requested, to supervise the investigation.

Lt. Robert Robertson and Sgt. Joseph Krease of the state police will continue to oversee the investigation.

Another \$60,000 in "consultation support services" will enable the task force to fly in experts from around the country to aid in solving the cases. Experts who might be called on could include investigators specializing in evidence analysis, fingerprinting or other areas, Tobin said.

Another \$100,000 has been made available to develop a police manual that can be used by chiefs to develop a task force concept, should they be confronted with crimes similar to those that have occurred in south Oakland County.

HE ADDED that the computer was seen by federal officials as "a unique opportunity worth investing in . . . It's an investment by the government on our behalf."

"The computer won't solve the crimes. But it will highlight the information."

In other developments, Tobin said "some very interesting suspects have been developed" and that he believes with the grants there is "a real good chance of resolving the crimes."

"We have every reason to believe that the blue Gremlin was involved and that the profile we have developed is still accurate," Tobin said.

"I intend to bring in the best investigative people I can get (as consultants). If we were wrong on something we'll tell you."

Tobin conceded that the task force is under pressure to solve the crimes, now that the grants have been awarded.

Community rallies

ECCENTRIC 3-21-77

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AUG

behind King arch

By MARY CONNELLY-SZCZESNY

About 250 police officers, 50 detectives, 1,000 mail carriers and dozens of volunteers combed Oakland County streets for four days in a futile search for 11-year-old Timothy King, who disappeared from his Birmingham neighborhood Wednesday evening.

The Adams School sixth grader was apparently abducted while walking from the Hunter Maple Pharmacy, 655 E. Maple. The store is about four blocks from his home at 1509 Yosemite in the northeast section of Birmingham.

Over the weekend the search intensified for Tim and a man seen by a witness talking to a boy resembling the King youth at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Chatham grocery store parking lot. The drugstore in Chatham is in a small shopping center near Hunter and Maple.

A saleswoman at the drug store said Tim bought some candy and headed out the back door at about 8:30 p.m.

"WE LOVE YOU Tim. God bless you. stay tough," his father Barry King said Friday as the hours after Tim's disappearance mounted. "Say our prayers. We're with you, buddy." Pleading via television cameras to his son's apparent abductor, King said. "I don't know if you have children or want some, but please treat Tim the way you would your own kid. Talk to him. He's a talkative kid. He's gregarious. We all want him back—please send him."

The family remained secluded with police officers Saturday while hundreds of people hunted for the slim 63-pound 11-year-old.

Those searching for the youngster, described by his parents as an "ideal child," have included much more than police.

Dozens of persons from Birmingham and throughout the Detroit Metropolitan area answered a call for help.

VOLUNTEERS turned up at the Birmingham police station in the hours after Tim's disappearance offering to search for the four-foot sixth grader.

They set out in cars equipped with CB radios in search of a child last seen wearing a red nylon jacket emblazoned with Birmingham Hockey Assn. patches.

"We got permission from our principal to leave school," Bruce Casbar, 17, of Warren said early Friday morning. "I heard about it on the radio last night. I usually help out as much as I can."

"I feel if I ever had a kid, I'd like people to look for him too," said Bob Campbell, 18, also of Warren. "If my little brother ever came up missing, I'd like people to look for him."

While CBers and ham radio operators worked day and night driving the streets of Birmingham and other Oakland County communities, the police mounted a massive search.

One thousand county mail carriers

More stories, photographs page 8A.



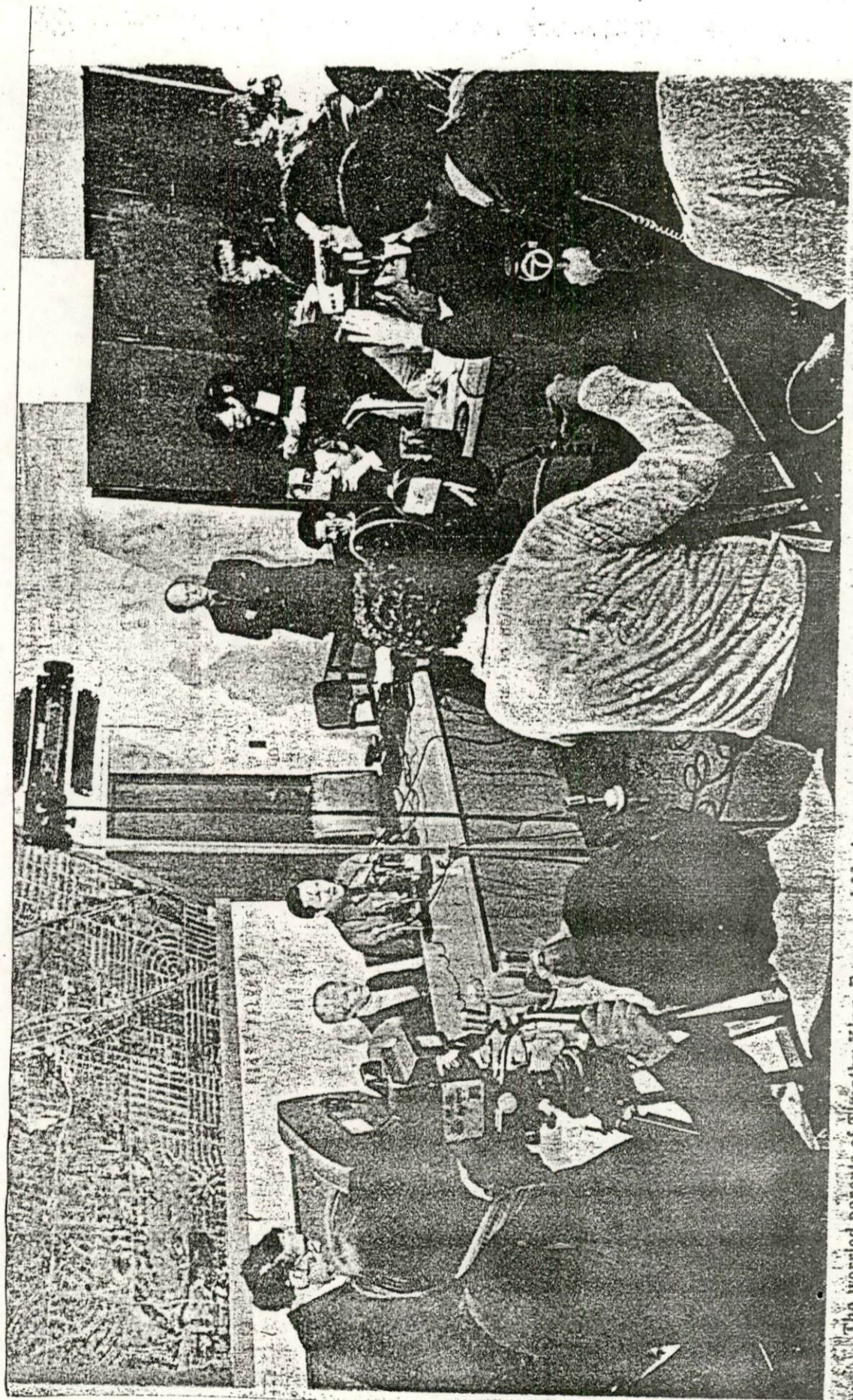
TIMOTHY KING

a day," Michigan State Police Sgt. Joseph Krease said Saturday.

Carriers were given Tim's photograph and a profile of the witness-suspect wanted by police for questioning in the boy's disappearance. Carriers were asked to be especially observant on their routes.

THE BIRMINGHAM City Commission offered a \$25,000 reward Friday

(Continued on page 8A)



The worried parents of Timothy King, Barry and Marion, appeared before a press conference on Thursday afternoon at Birmingham City Hall.

In-hunt for Tim King

Police plead for help

(Continued from Page 1A)

afternoon for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of Tim's presumed abductor.

By Saturday, police reported that more than 600 tips had been received as a result of the reward program, and that 300 had been checked out.

Police called on parents over the weekend to talk to their children about any strangers who might have approached them in recent months.

"We think the abductor must have tried to pick up other kids and it didn't pan out," Birmingham Police Chief Rollin G. Tobin said. "This person must have contacted other children."

"We also have a request of the people of Birmingham," Krease said Saturday. "We have information that several youngsters were seen playing around the Chatham parking lot the night Tim disappeared."

Asking the youngsters and the parents to call the police, Krease added. "We're hoping they possibly did see him."

While police searched, the King's neighbors waited and prayed.

"This has always been a very safe neighborhood. There's been nothing like this," Mrs. Patrick Coffey of 1424 Yorkshire said. "You panic."

TIM KING, who played with Mrs. Coffey's son, was an "adorable" child who "would never run away," she said.

Tim's mother called Mrs. Coffey about 9:40 Wednesday evening, looking for Tim. Mrs. Coffey said, "It's too close to home. Every parent on the block, I assume, is panicking." "Everyone senses what the Kings are going through. It's a very warm neighborhood."

"It hits home," echoed Mrs. Gerda Hutzley, who lives across the street from the Kings. "We've always had strict rules about being in before dark, but I am afraid it's going to be stricter. We're all hoping and praying for the best. The waiting is the hardest part," Mrs. Hutzley said.

Deeply upset over his friend's disappearance, Mrs. Hutzley's son was unable to answer questions about Tim.

Parents in the neighborhood canceled evening plans in order to stay home with their children. Older children were enlisted to help younger boys deliver newspapers on their routes.

Tim King is a newspaper carrier.

The evening he disappeared he had borrowed 30 cents from his 17-year-old sister Cathy, a Seaholm senior, to buy candy.

He didn't want to spend his paper route money because he was saving for a jogging suit, police said.

Cathy, at home alone with Tim, loaned her brother the money. She left the house shortly after he did and headed for a show at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

'We very much want Tim to come home. We love him very much. You couldn't have a more ideal child.'

—Barry King, Tim's father

TIM HAD BEEN asking to be left home without a babysitter, police said, and last Wednesday evening was the first time his parents had agreed.

Barry King, a lawyer with the Detroit firm of Dyer, Meek, Rueggegger & Bullard, and his wife Marion went out Wednesday evening to visit a client and stop at Peabody's for dinner. Peabody's is about 500 feet from where Tim disappeared.

The Kings arrived home at 9:10 p.m. to find the door to the house ajar. Police said Cathy had left it that way because Tim did not have a key.

"We don't think he ever returned to the house," Chief Tobin said. "Nothing in the house was disturbed."

The Kings first believed Tim was with one of his brothers, Mark, 14, a Derby School ninth grader, or Christopher, 16, a Seaholm sophomore.

When the boys arrived home without Tim, the family called police shortly after midnight.

Tim has never run away or spent the night at friends without telling his parents, police said.

Just recently, he and his mother had talked about the dangers of being approached by strangers.

Tim had said he would "run" if he were approached by a stranger, his mother said.

Tim had also recently seen the "Danger Stranger" program coordinated by the police department at Adams.

He is an A student in school, plays basketball and hockey, and was in the school play.

"We love them all," King said of his children. "We want all four of them home."

WHEN TIM didn't come home last week, 250 police officers representing every community in Oakland County joined the Michigan State Police in the search.

Fifty detectives worked on the case, including members of the Oakland County taskforce investigating the murders of six other youths in the last 15 months.

A mobile command station was set up by police at Poppleton Park and Bell Telephone was called in to string extra phone lines.

A door-to-door search was conducted in Birmingham by police.

A helicopter circled above, eyeing vacant lots and railroad yards.

Birmingham's parks and recreation and DPW employees combed the banks of the Rouge River Thursday afternoon.

In Birmingham City Hall, CB and

ham operators set up headquarters in the first-floor mayor's office and in basement rooms.

Birmingham Citizen Watch volunteers, who patrol the city weekly with CB-equipped cars, worked with other CBers from throughout the county. Ham operators from Royal Oak, Huntington Woods, Warren, Birmingham, and as far away as Toledo, Ohio, were working Friday, said Bob Adams of Birmingham, coordinator of the ham operators.

Eccentric 3-21-77

'Next door neighbor' type hunted

By MARY CONNELLY-SZCZESNY

A "sophisticated businessman," a physician driving a Cadillac, or "your next-door neighbor" may be behind the disappearance or death of several Oakland County youngsters in the last 14 months, police theorize.

"We feel the suspect we're dealing with is sophisticated, the type of person a child would not fear," said Birmingham Police Chief Rollin Tobin Friday.

"It can be a very sophisticated businessman. It can be your next-door neighbor.

"We may be talking about a very prominent or a very rich person; a person you see in a shopping center and think he belongs there.

Police think the suspect works or lives in Oakland County.

THE DISAPPEARANCE of Timothy King, 11, of 1509 Yosemite, Birmingham, has now been linked with kidnap-murders of other Oakland County children in the last year.

Timothy disappeared about four blocks from his home Thursday evening after walking to the Hunter Maple Pharmacy, 655 E. Maple, for some candy. He was last seen leaving the store by the back door about 8:30 p.m.

"We're assuming this abduction is related to some others in Oakland

County," Tobin said Friday. He refused to name which cases police believe are linked.

Since January 1976, six youngsters have been either killed in Oakland County or murdered elsewhere and dropped in the suburbs.

POLICE ARE NOW looking for one or two white males, 20-35 years old, who are white-collar workers.

Police theorize the suspect is educated, intelligent and able to keep a kidnap victim for a number of days without detection.

"He is the kind of person who has a home and who would not be subject to public scrutiny," Tobin said. The home could be secluded from neighbors, he said.

A police profile compiled about the suspect also details the following characteristics:

- A compulsion for cleanliness.
- He's neat. His house and car are very clean.
- Little or no involvement with substance abuse such as narcotics or alcohol.
- A work schedule that permits a certain amount of freedom of movement.
- Abnormal sexual habits.
- Undergoing, or desirous, of psychiatric treatment.

"We have reasons for coming to our conclusions but to say so would tip our hand," said Michigan State Police Sgt. Joe Krease.

"THIS INDIVIDUAL looks so normal in the community that no one suspects him as an abductor," Tobin said.

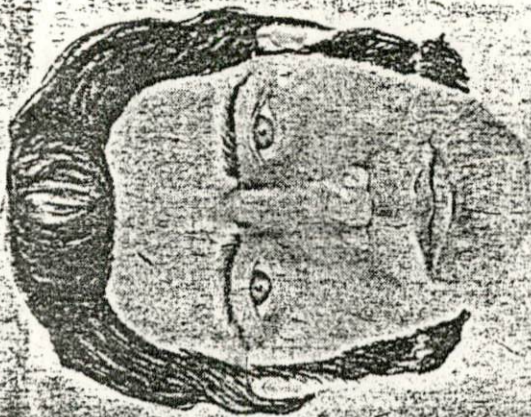
Investigators called on people to notify police with tips.

"I feel there are people out there who have seen something," Krease said.

"Many neighborhood people, who see an old car drive through their neighborhood, call the police right away," Tobin said. "If people see the local physician driving a Cadillac down the street, they don't do anything."

Tobin said people should no longer suspect just "a dirty grubby guy."

"Look at your neighbor," he advised.



Police Friday began searching for a man, shown in the composite, thought to have been seen with Tim in the Chatham Parking lot. The man was sought for questioning as a witness.

Con't
NEXT PAGE

THE SUSPECT'S profile was completed by a special task force investigating the kidnap-murders in Oakland County.

The task force, headed by the Michigan State Police, is made up of a team of detectives from several suburban departments and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

It was formed after the discovery of Kristine Mihelich's body on Jan. 21 in Franklin. The 10-year-old girl disappeared Jan. 2 in Berkley after buying a magazine at a party store.

Krease said the profile was based on input from virtually every psychiatrist and psychologist across the state.

Investigators compiled the profile, he said, after checking 4,000 suspects.

"We have processed more than 4,000 people on the street," he explained. "We feel if it was a street-type person, we would have turned the suspect by now."

THE SIX YOUTHS, who have been either abducted or their bodies found in Oakland County are:

•Sheila Srock, 14, of Birmingham, who was murdered Jan. 19, 1976, while babysitting at her sister's Villa Street home. The street is three blocks from Yosemite, where the Kings live.

Police maintain that the Srock case is not connected with those of the other kidnap-murders. She was raped

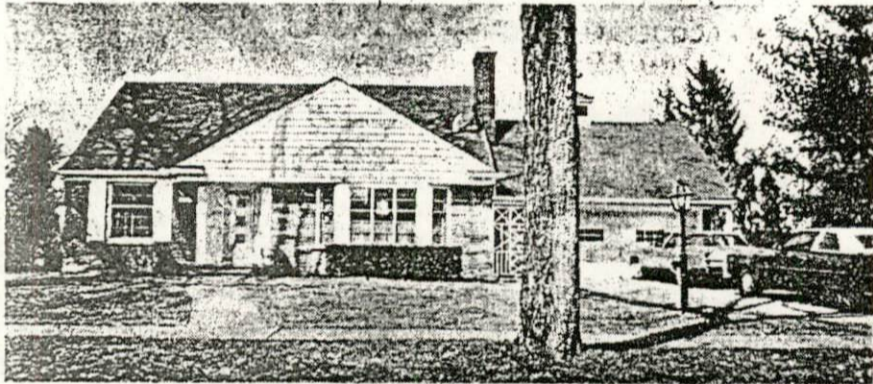
and murdered when a burglar broke into the home.

•Jill Robinson, 22, of Royal Oak was last seen at a hobby store on Woodward Dec. 12. Her body was found Dec. 26 off I-75 near Big Beaver in Troy. Jill was missing four days when her fully-clothed body, partially buried in the snow, was found. She died from a shotgun blast to the head.

•Jane Louise Allen, 13, of Royal Oak was last seen Aug. 7, 1976, hitchhiking along I-75 in Pontiac Township. She had been missing four days when her fully clothed body was found Aug. 11 near I-75 in Miamisburg, Ohio. She died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

•Mark Stebbins, 12, of Ferndale, disappeared Feb. 15, 1976, after leaving the American Legion Hall in Ferndale. His body was found in a parking lot of an office building at Ten Mile and Greenfield in Southfield. He was missing four days when his fully clothed body was found. He died of suffocation.

•Cynthia Cadieux, 16, of Roseville, disappeared Jan. 15, 1976, while walking home from her girl friend's home, also in Roseville. Her body was found Jan. 16, 1976, on Franklin Road in Bloomfield Township. She had been missing 5½ hours when her nude body was discovered. She died from a blow to the head.



Timothy King's home is at 1509 Yosemite.

Driven police put their hearts in child killer hunt

DETROIT
NEWS
4-1-77

Oakland update

By JOEL J. SMITH
Chief of Our Oakland County Bureau

It's a shame that the killer of Timothy King and three other Oakland County children hasn't been taken off the street.

The killer lurks somewhere in the area, probably smirking at the futile efforts of police to catch him.

It appears that the four murders are a game to this person — a game to match his wits against those of nearly 200 detectives. In each case, the murderer has left the child's body where it could be found easily.



JOEL J. SMITH

In Timothy's case, the body was still warm when discovered by two youths driving down the street.

No one will argue that, so far, this maniac is winning the game. But almost to a man, members of the task force stress the game is far from over. They vow they will be the eventual winners.

The special task force became operational on Jan. 21 when the body of 10-year-old Kristine Mihelich was found along a road in Franklin Village. The 35-member task force, coordinated by the Michigan State Police, worked around the clock for several days before the investigating unit was reduced to about 15 full-time detectives.

The task force worked seven days a week, hoping to crack the murder of the Berkley girl. But they came up empty-handed.

Then on the morning of March 17, the task force was called by Birmingham Police Chief Gerry Tobin. They didn't like what they heard.

Another child, this time an 11-year-old boy with a history of earning straight "A's" in school, was missing. It was presumed from the beginning he was another kidnap victim.

But this time the task force operated differently. With the blessing of Tobin, other Oakland County police departments volunteered scores of detectives to beef

the task force up to nearly 125 investigators.

The task force jumped to about 165 detectives and 35 clerical helpers after Wayne County police agencies volunteered help when young Timothy's body was found in Livonia, just south of the Oakland County border.

I've watched this special task force work on the murder. I viewed it from both the inside and the outside.

If they were looking into a murder of a family member, I couldn't ask them to work any harder. They've all worked to a point of exhaustion, particularly during the six days between the time Timothy was reported missing and his body was found in Livonia.

When it was reported to the task force that his body had been located, I watched detectives clench their fists and pound them on the table.

I saw tears in the eyes of grown men — none of whom ever met the boy.

I saw many of the investigators, tired from working 17 and 18-hour days, refuse to go home until they were ordered to. Most came back before their assigned time.

I saw Tobin refuse to go home one night, preferring to catch a few hours of sleep on a cot in the women's rest room of the Birmingham Municipal Building.

One high-ranking police officer involved in the task force effort compared this investigation with that of the disappearance of former Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa.

"There were a lot of police agencies looking for Jimmy," he said.

"But you know, they didn't really have their heart in it. They didn't care one way or another whether he was ever found. It was just another case to them.

"But Timothy's case is different. Each of these guys knows that Timothy could be one of their own kids. They have their heart into it.

"Right now, they want this guy more than anything in the world. I think the people of Oakland County would like to get this guy more than anything else."

Police Seek Man They Think Talked to Missing B'ham Boy

Police today are still searching for a man they believe talked to 11-year-old Timothy King of Birmingham Wednesday night when the boy disappeared.

And more than 250 police officers and 50 detectives have joined in the search for Timothy, including officers from every South Oakland police department, the Oakland County Sheriffs Department, and state police

troopers from as far away as New Baltimore. Sgt. Joseph Krease of the Michigan State Police said investigators believe the man they are looking for was the "last person to see the missing boy. We hope he comes forward and identifies himself".

Krease and police Chief Rollin G. Tobin of Birmingham said earlier Friday that they believe Timothy, 1509 Yorkshire, was abducted

is still alive. Krease heads the police task force investigating the deaths of six Oakland-Macomb youngsters in the past 14 months.

Blue Gremlin—The man, described as 25 to 35-years-old, white and driving a late-model, blue Gremlin—was seen talking to a boy matching Timothy's description at 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, in the parking lot

of the Chatham supermarket on Fifteen-Mile (Maple) east of Hunter, Krease said.

The conversation took place approximately 15 minutes after Timothy left through the rear door of the Hunter-Maple Pharmacy, a few stores to the west in the same shopping center as the supermarket, according to police. The boy was alone and had left his home three blocks away to buy some candy.

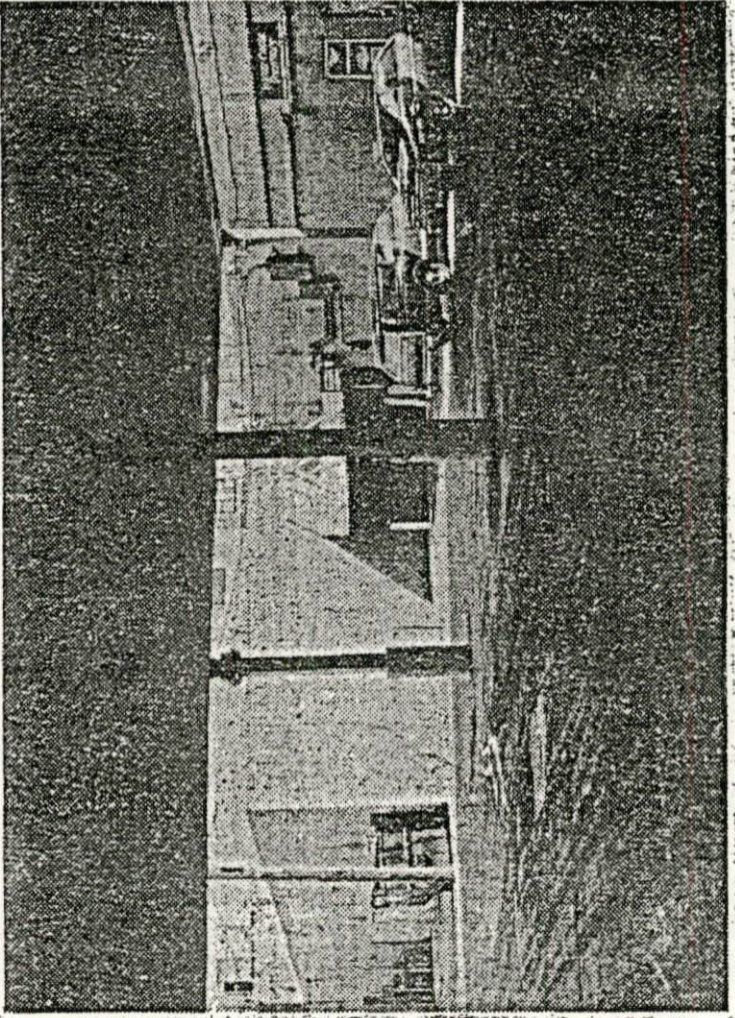
Until Friday, police had believed that the drugstore clerk was the last person to see Timothy.

A witness to the conversation between the man and boy called police and provided a description of the man, Krease said. An artist in the Royal Oak Police Department sketched the man. He is approximately 5 foot 10, with a husky build, fair

complexion and dark brown hair cut in a shag. He was wearing a rust-colored sports coat and dark pants and had a soft voice, Krease said. The vehicle has white wall tires.

Since the description of the man and the car were announced Friday afternoon, Krease said, police have received 400 tips from area residents. Police through the night and

—Turn to Page 2—



This is the rear of the Hunter-Maple Pharmacy and the parking lot 11-year-old Timothy King entered when he left the

'Treat Him Well'—Dad to Abductors

Daily Tribune
3-19-77

"We love you, Tim. God bless you. Stay tough," Barry King told his missing son via press and television Friday afternoon.

King, who hasn't seen his 11-year-old son since Wednesday, made a plea to the boy's abductors to treat him well and release him unharmed.

Police believe Timothy is still alive. Chief Rollin G. Tobin of Birmingham said. They think he was abducted by a man or two men also believed responsible for abduction-slayings of other South Oakland youngsters during the last 14 months.

'Talk to Him' — "I don't know if you have children or want to, but please treat him like you would your own," King said.

"Talk to him, he's a talkative kid. He's gregarious, and he talks and listens. Spend some time with him."

"I don't know if you have a brother, but Kathy and Chris and Mark (King's other children) say to treat him like a brother."

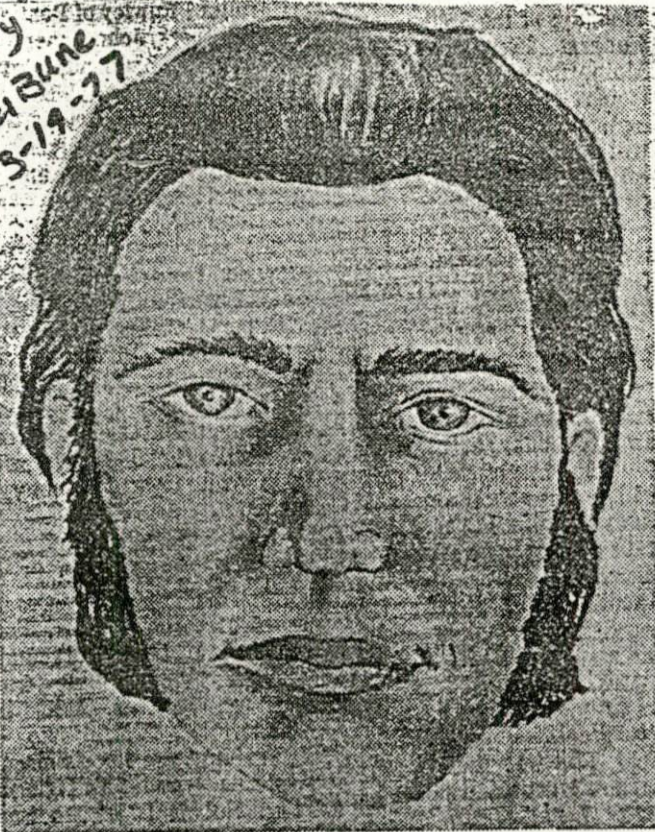
"We all want him back, please send him."

Little League Tryouts

King also told his son that he hoped he would be back for Little League tryouts Saturday, but not to worry if he didn't, because the coach said he could try out next week. He also told him he hoped they could watch today's University of Michigan basketball game together.

"Say your prayers, we're with you, buddy."

—Turn to Page 2—



A police sketch of the man believed to have talked to Timothy King before his disappearance.

Dad 3-19-77 #2

—Continued From Page 1—

King, an attorney, said his family is holding up well. "I'm amazed and pleased at the attitude of the children."

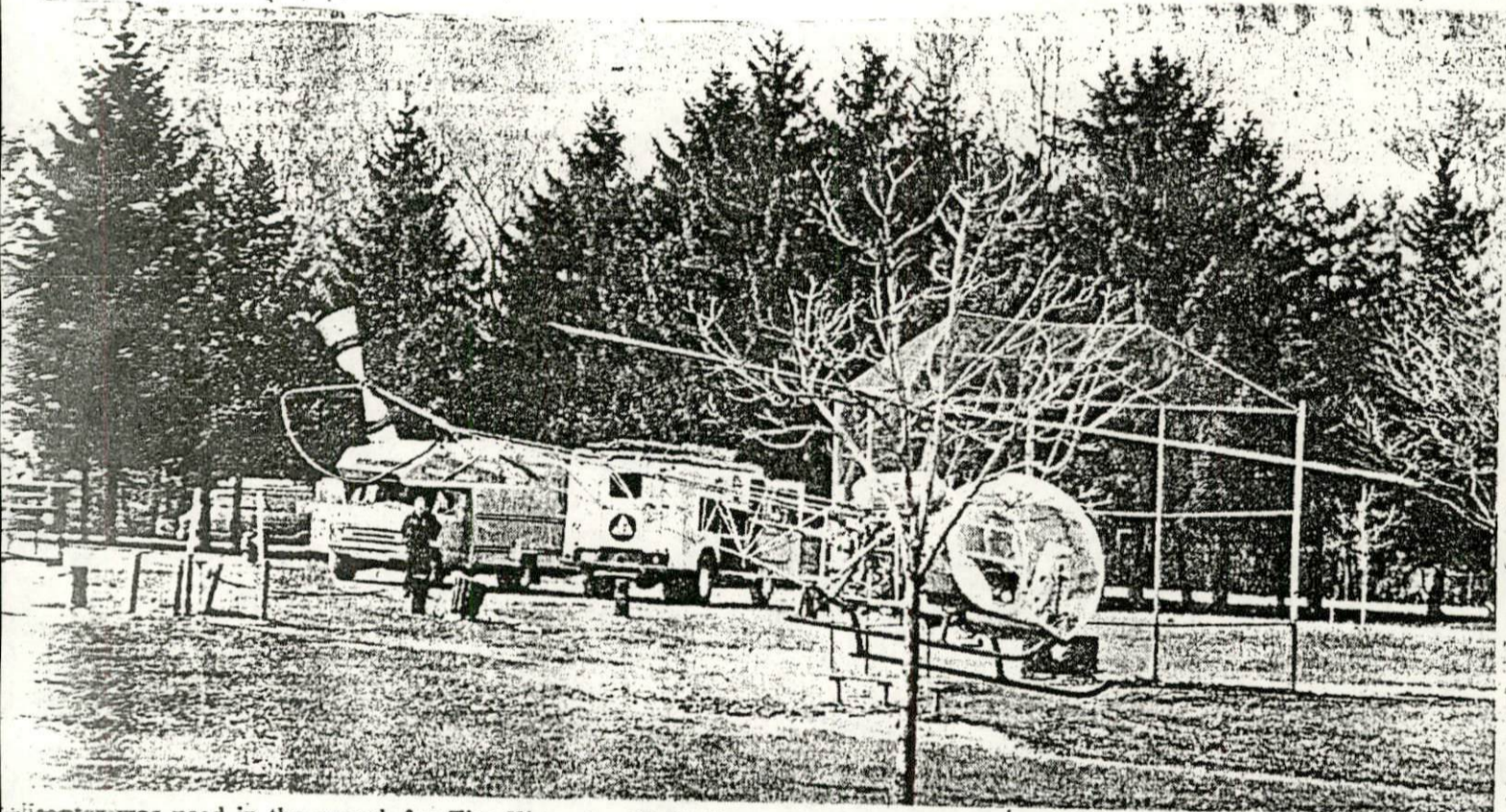
'Realistic' — "We've been realistic (about the possibility of an abduction) since it happened. The thought has never been out of our minds."

Police had expressed optimism Thursday morning that Timothy had simply "caught spring fever" and stayed away from home overnight. But on Friday morning, Tobin said publicly that they believe he was abducted.

ECCENTRIC
5-21-77



Marion and Barry King met with reporters Thursday while police still held out hope that Tim had played hockey. (Staff photo by Tracy Baker)



Helicopter was used in the search for Tim King. A softball diamond at Poppleton Park was used as a landing pad. (Staff photo by Charlie Kidd)

Eccentric Call Timothy Classmates 'smart, friendly'

his behavior last week was not unusual.

None of the students said Timothy was the type of boy who would run away from home. They said he got along well with his family, and that

and teachers were interviewed by detectives seeking clues as to Timothy's whereabouts. "Tim had lots of friends," said Mrs. Fox. "We never had any trouble with him."

What kind of boy is Timothy King, the 11-year-old who was reported missing last week from his home at 1509 Yorkshire?

Friends, classmates and Robert Jones, principal of Adams School, where Timothy is a sixth grader, described him as an intelligent, well-adjusted and friendly youngster.

"He is a real fine boy and a good student," said Jones, who has known Timothy for six years. "He has lots of friends and is a very happy young fellow. He's a real asset to the student body."

Jones added that Timothy is "very bright, gets good grades and has never been a behavior problem." The atmosphere in Adams School Thursday was solemn. Office worker Clair Fox said students were depressed when told Timothy was missing.

The school was inundated by police officers Thursday morning. Students

neighborhood (where he lives), said fourth grader Rick Woodworth. The students said Timothy went to the Hunter-Maple Pharmacy often—sometimes several times a week. He was seen at the drug store Wednesday night, having borrowed money from his sister to buy candy.

Timothy's friends said they didn't think he had a key to his house. They said if the house had been locked when he returned home, he would have gone to a neighbor's house to wait for his parents.

Timothy's 17-year-old sister apparently left the house after he went to the pharmacy, according to police. When his parents arrived home, about 9 p.m., the door was ajar and Timothy was missing.

Rick Woodworth said Timothy's sister babysat for him Wednesday afternoon, from 2-4 p.m.

"He liked his skateboard a lot, one classmate recalled. "He goes there (Maple-Hunter Pharmacy) a lot, usually alone and on foot."

At the playground adjacent to the school, several of Timothy's classmates and friends were playing basketball.

"HE'S GOT good sense," said Tristian Hoag, a sixth grader at Adams. "Timmy would never get into a car with a stranger."

Although small for his age, Timothy was described by his friends as a good athlete and fierce competitor. He plays football, basketball and hockey.

"He gets upset easily in games," said Tim Bearden, who sits behind Timothy in class. "He's a funny guy, always trying to make people, happy. I've never seen him get in a fight."

"A lot of people in school liked him and he had a lot of friends in the

DAILY Tribune 2-25-77

Officers Seek AA Man

South Oakland's police task force investigating the deaths of six area youngsters wants to question Ann Arbor millionaire Francis Sheldon and a New York man, Dyer Grossman, who apparently fled the state after being accused of sexually assaulting young boys.

The task force has been following the Sheldon case and exchanging information with investigators, said Sgt. Joseph

Krease of the Michigan State Police, coordinator of the task force operations.

Krease indicated that the two men aren't currently suspects in the South Oakland cases, but he said the task force "certainly" wants to question the men after they're apprehended.

Federal agents were to join the search today for Sheldon and Grossman.

According to FBI agent Ken

Alexander, the U.S. attorney's office here was ready to issue federal fugitive warrants this morning for the two men, who vanished when the sexual assault charges were disclosed last November.

"There is no question that they fled the state," said Alexander, who added that the FBI was ready to begin a nationwide search as soon as the warrants were processed.

Officers

—Continued From Page 1—

Meanwhile, state police said they had located Sheldon's twin-engine plane this week. They refused to disclose where the plane was found, or whether they had any clue to the whereabouts of the 48-year-old investor.

The probe into the alleged child-sex activities has centered on an 835-acre island Sheldon owns in northern Lake Michigan near Traverse City.

Sheldon was a director of Brother Paul's Children's Mission, which operated a boys' camp on the island,

according to police. Grossman, 35, was identified by police as a vicepresident of the non-profit corporation.

Task Force—
The South Oakland task force was set up after the death of Kristine Mihelich, a 10-year old Berkley girl. She was the sixth young person found dead in South Oakland between Jan. 15, 1976 and Jan. 21 of this year.

In checking out leads the task force has looked into other cases around the state and participated in a probe which led to the arrest of four Flint men on sexual misconduct charges earlier this month. The task force found no tie between the men charged in Flint and the South Oakland deaths.

Krease said, "We're in constant contact on the Sheldon matter, so if anything turns up we'll be aware of it."

Sheldon is being sought on two counts of criminal sexual conduct for allegedly assaulting a 14-year-old boy in Port Huron and an 8-year-old boy on the island. Grossman is charged with sexually assaulting a 10-year-old Port Huron youth.

The president of the nowdefunct camp, Gerald Richards of Port Huron, was sentenced to a 2- to 10-year prison term last July on sex charges involving a 10-year-old boy.

State police said it was Richards who first told them about the alleged involvement of Sheldon and Grossman.

Kristine was sexually abused, lab tests show

Detroit News
2-5-77

By JOHN F. NEHMAN
and JAMES A. McCLEAR
News Staff Writers

Laboratory tests showed that kidnap-slaying victim Kristine Mihelich had been sexually attacked, The Detroit News has learned.

The findings are contrary to widely circulated reports that no evidence of sexual abuse was found after the 10-year-old Berkley girl's body was discovered Jan. 21 in a snowbank along a Franklin Village lane.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson has refused to confirm or deny that the girl was sexually assaulted since he announced a week ago that an autopsy showed the victim was "physically suffocated by somebody."

Kristine's mother, Mrs. Deborah Ascroft, said yesterday that police investigating her daughter's murder have not told her of the sexual attack.

"They haven't told me anything," Mrs. Ascroft said in her first communication with a reporter since her daughter's funeral last week.

"They have just not been talking to me because I've still been quite upset."

Mrs. Ascroft, 29, returned Wednesday to her job as a barmaid at a Berkley bowling alley where Kristine was reported seen on the afternoon of Jan. 2, the day she disappeared. The bowling alley is the Hartfield Lanes and Lounge, 3490 12 Mile.

An 18-year-old Berkley High School student, working part time at the bowling alley, told police he saw Kristine there about 3:10 p.m. that day.

But investigators have been unable to determine whether Kristine visited the bowling alley before or after stopping at a nearby convenience store, where she purchased a magazine.

Mrs. Ascroft said Kristine had bowled at the alley in a children's league which met on Wednesdays beginning last October.

She said the league, organized by the bowling alley itself, numbered "about 75 or 80 kids." She said her daughter never complained about being bothered by anyone at the bowling alley.

Asked whether she thought Kristine might have been followed from the establishment by her abductor, Mrs. Ascroft replied, "I have no idea what happened."

However, she said she considered it "unlikely" because of the time of day — "the middle of the afternoon" — that she disappeared.

Kristine was the sixth victim in a series of kidnap-murders of Detroit-area children who were either abducted — or their

bodies found — in southern Oakland County suburbs in the last year.

The finding that she was sexually assaulted establishes a similarity with three of the earlier murders, in which the victims also were sexually abused.

These were the cases of Cynthia Cadieux, 16, of Roseville, whose bludgeoned body was found Jan. 16, 1976; Sheila Srock, 14, of Birmingham, shot to death Jan. 19, 1976; and Mark Stebbins, 12, of Ferndale, found strangled last Feb. 19.

Meanwhile, a man who reportedly displayed a photograph of an unidentified young girl to bar patrons at the Hartfield Lanes bowling alley two days before Kristine Mihelich disappeared is among several potential suspects under investigation by police.

Witnesses told police the man, a Berkley resident, flashed the photo to several persons on Dec. 31, saying, "This is my girl; I love her very much," while sitting in the bar on the first floor of the bowling alley.

Police later learned that the man has been treated for mental health problems. They also learned he never has been married and does not have any daughters.

The man has been questioned by investigators but has not been arrested or charged with any crime.

A police source said the man had a photo of a girl in his possession when questioned, but the girl in the picture has not been identified.

Bowling alley employees said the same man once had been banned from the premises for "bothering" female customers.

A week before the photo-flashing incident, the body of the fifth victim, 12-year-old Jill Robinson of Royal Oak, was found Dec. 26 along the I-75 Freeway north of Big Beaver Road in Troy.

Police, acting on the theory that Kristine may have been followed from the bowling alley by her abductor, are attempting to contact everyone who was in the building on the day she disappeared.

Harry Hartfield Sr., president of the company which operates the bowling alley, said the management is cooperating fully with police in the investigation.

Separate rewards totaling \$4,000 in both the Mihelich and Robinson slayings are outstanding under The News' "Secret Witness" program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for either crime.

The News' \$2,000 reward offers in each case were matched by Oakland Prosecutor Patterson, who is coordinating the investigation of the murders, from funds which he received from citizen donations.

Experts Say Child Killer Is Male Loner

BY KEN FIREMAN
Free Press Staff Writer

The person responsible for the abduction and murder of children in southern Oakland County during the last year is probably a male loner who will continue to commit violent crimes until caught, according to two local experts in forensic psychiatry.

And the killer probably will be discovered because his own conscience leads him unconsciously to make a slip that reveals his identity, the experts agree.

"Killers of this kind invariably continue until caught," said Dr. Emanuel Tanay, professor of psychiatry at Wayne State Uni-

versity. "And the only saving grace is that they often want to be caught."

Dr. Bruce Danto, a veteran forensic psychiatrist who also teaches at WSU, agrees that the killer probably will betray himself.

"He'll be caught, and he'll arrange it himself," Danto said. "His own inner conflicts will lead him to make an important slip, but he won't even realize it."

Danto, 48, of Birmingham, has been consulted by several suburban police departments in the past year for his theories on the bizarre chain of unsolved child murders in Oakland County.

Tanay has not been directly involved in the

Oakland cases but has wide experience in the field of criminal psychiatry, and just this month he published a new book on homicide, titled "The Murderers."

DANTO CAUTIONED that there is no hard evidence as yet to prove anything conclusively about the killer or killers or to link the crimes together.

But he said previous experience with cases of child murder permits psychiatrists to develop a profile of the type of person most likely to commit such an act.

Danto says such a person is probably between the ages of 18 and 40, unmarried and

a loner who "doesn't relate to anyone, including his victims," and may be suffering from some form of organic brain damage.

Danto said the fact that the bodies were left outside to be found may indicate that the killer was an adopted child who is working out his anger at being abandoned by his natural parents.

"He may be showing the world, and the parents who abandoned him, that he will revenge himself by abandoning his victims," Danto said.

The psychiatrist said it was impossible at

Please turn to Page 6A, Col. 1

Psychiatrists Say Slayer Of Children Is Male Loner

Continued from Page 3A

this point to determine whether the murders were committed by one person or a group of unrelated people. He said chances that the crimes were committed by an organized group were "very remote."

Tanay also discounted the possibility of a group's being responsible and said odds favor the hypothesis of one killer in all the cases.

"This kind of sadistic homicide usually isn't a group activity," Tanay said.

Tanay agreed that the killer was probably a loner under

40 in age and said the culprit probably had engaged at some time in the past in some form of abusive behavior.

"He probably gave us many indications that this was coming, but nothing was probably done," Tanay said. "We're so act-oriented in our legal approach that we're often rendered powerless to deal with such people."

During the last year, five youngsters have been murdered or found dead under mysterious circumstances in Oakland County. They include:

Kristine Mihelich, 10, of Berkley, whose body was discovered Friday, partially buried in a snow-covered ditch.

Jill Robinson, 12, who was found on Dec. 26, shot to death on the shoulder of I-75 in Troy, four days after she ran away from her Royal Oak home.

Mark Stebbins, a 12-year-old from Ferndale, discovered near a Southfield shopping center Feb. 19.

Sheila Srock, 14, murdered Jan. 19, 1976, while baby-sitting for her niece in Birmingham.

Cynthia Cadieux, 16, whose nude body was found last Jan. 16 on Franklin Road, about a mile from the spot where Kristine was discovered.

TANAY SAID the killer is almost certainly male. "Women just are not homicidal in this way," he said. "Men have a much more complicated psychosexual development, and more can go wrong."

While he has not been consulted by police concerning the Oakland murders, Tanay said he has been involved in murder investigations in several states.

He said the method of developing a psychological profile of the killer from the circumstances of the crime is not foolproof but has proven its effectiveness in many cases.

"It's like fishing for small fish with a large net," he said.

Kristine's death was murder — Patterson

By JOEL J. SMITH

Chief of Our Oakland County Bureau

The death of 10-year-old Kristine Michich "definitely" was murder and "rumors she froze to death are pure speculation," Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, said today.

Patterson said that, although the girl's body was found frozen in a snow bank in a Franklin Village ditch Friday, "there is enough evidence at this point to indicate it was a homicide.

"There is no question about that — she was murdered," he said. "It is unfortunate that all these rumors are going around."

Patterson was reacting to published reports that the girl probably died from exposure.

He said the cause of the girl's death will not be known until later this week when lab tests are complete.

But, Patterson refused to reveal what evidence he had that the girl had been slain and said he would not do so until later.

DETROIT NEWS - 1-25-77

Concluded on Page 4A

4-A — THE DETROIT NEWS — Tuesday, January 25, 1977

Kristine ... from Page One

Meanwhile, a 35-member task force of Oakland County detectives formed last Friday to investigate the death of Kristine has been reduced to a dozen full-time investigators.

Michigan State Police Detective Lt. Robert Robertson said it was never intended to have the 35 members on the case full time. They initially joined the case to work on any tips that resulted from the finding of the body. Once that was completed, the force was reduced to 12.

That number may be reduced by half within a week if investigators fail to turn up any substantial leads to who killed the 10-year-old Berkley girl. Kristine was buried yesterday in a private ceremony in Petoskey. Services also were held in Berkley.

Robertson said only three police agencies — the State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's Department and the Southfield Police Department — have committed the manpower to the task force past next week.

Lt. Robertson said the task force is headed by State Police Detective Sgt. Joseph Krease who works out of the District 2 headquarters in Northville.

Robertson said he expects various police agencies to begin calling back their detectives if nothing turns up in the next week to 10 days.

Lt. Robertson said the task force used 35 detectives over the weekend to do house-to-house canvasses of the area to pursue any good tips that came in.

"Our basic concept was to get in there (to the crime scene) and move on the hot tips," said Robertson. "Once this was completed, the detectives on loan began pulling out."

"It was the way the task force was set up."

Kristine's fully clothed body, an arm and her knees slightly protruding from the snow, was found by a mailman about noon Friday in a ditch along Bruce Lane in the southeastern corner of Franklin Village.

She was last seen alive Jan. 2 at a party store where she had gone to purchase a magazine.

The Oakland County medical examiner's office is awaiting results of autopsy tests from the Bio-Science Laboratories in California before releasing the cause of death. Test results are expected in the next week. One source said a preliminary finding, which could be changed by the final results, showed that she was not sexually assaulted.

The results of an iodine vapor test for possible fingerprints on the body are expected to be completed by Thursday.

The only visible sign of violence on Kristine's body was a small bruise on her cheek. Investigators would not even hazard a guess as to how the bruise was caused.

Prosecutor Patterson said late yesterday that there has been unanimous agreement on the part of the task force to clamp a news blackout on all aspects of the investigation.

When asked if the task force had any solid leads in the investigation, Patterson replied:

"We don't want to speculate on the strength of our case at this time. We don't want to reveal part of our hand."

"We're going to be tight-lipped on the case from this point on."

Patterson and other police officials refused to reveal where the task force is headquartered in Southfield.

They said they don't want the news media "hanging around" the headquarters.

One police official said the task force already has made plans to move the headquarters in the event the public finds out where it is located.

Robertson said Krease was selected because "he's a good investigator and a good administrator."

Lt. Robertson said the State Police assumed command of the task force — with the blessings of the other police chiefs — after Franklin Police Chief Frank Wilson asked the State Police to head up the investigation of Kristine's death.

Franklin Hills in Michigan girls' body

By JOE MARTUCCI

The frozen, snow-covered body of 10-year-old Kristine Mihelich of Berkley was found Friday in a roadside field in Franklin.

Cause of death couldn't be determined at an autopsy performed Saturday afternoon, so further tests will be made.

The body showed no external signs of violence, said a spokesman for the Oakland County Medical Examiners office.

An expert from Toronto, who claims he can lift fingerprints from a body, examined Kristine's body Saturday prior to the autopsy.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson announced Saturday the formation of a special 35-member investigative task force to probe Kristine's death.

The discovery was made about noon by Franklin mailman Jerry Wozny as he was driving along Bruce Lane toward Thirteen Mile in the southeastern part of the village, about one mile west of Telegraph.

Police officers from many agencies descended on the scene. Some speculated that the fully-clothed body, which was lying a few feet from the road in a shallow ditch, had been dumped last week.

Franklin Police Chief Frank Wilson, who was first at the scene, however, said the body may have been there for some time, since it was difficult to determine if snow had fallen on the body or had been scooped there by hand.

Wozny, 25, of Walled Lake, said a hand sticking out of the snow attracted his attention.

"I was scared the hell out of me," the father of two young boys admitted. The girl was wearing blue-stripped overalls and a blue hooded jacket, police reported. The clothing description matches what Kristine was said to be wearing when last seen.

Authorities said the girl's stepfather, Thomas Ascroft, identified her body Friday night.

POLICE SAID there was no evidence of a struggle or that the girl

had been shot, knifed or strangled.

"The body is in pretty good shape, and there are no obvious markings," said Sgt. Dave Piche of the Berkley police.

Technicians from the Oakland County and State Police crime labs examined the scene. The investigation will be coordinated by Sgt. Joseph Kcrease of the state police, with local departments and the sheriff's department joining in.

Police departments represented Friday included Franklin, Birmingham, Troy, Ferndale, Bloomfield Township, Beverly Hills, Berkley, Southfield, the state police and the sheriff's department.

Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen ordered helicopters to photograph the area before the body was

taken to the medical examiner's office.

Police who theorized the body was dumped last week noted that Bruce Lane was last plowed Monday and footprints leading to the body were made in plowed snow.

Wozny, who has delivered mail in the area for eight years, said he saw only one set of footprints near the body. The tracks were slightly covered with fresh snow, he added.

IT APPEARED, the mailman said, that whoever dumped the body had covered it with snow. Left exposed were one hand and the girl's knees.

Wozny said he makes a habit of looking into roadside ditches and probably would have seen the body, had it been there earlier in the week.

Friday's discovery makes four girls and one boy from southeastern Oakland County who have been killed in the last 13 months.

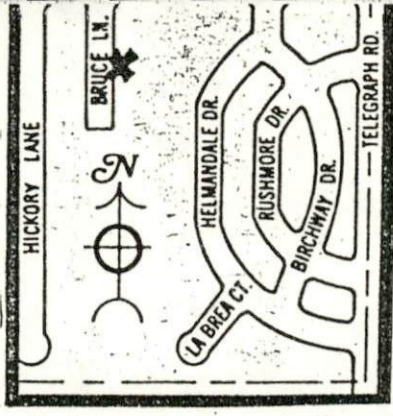
About a year ago, on Jan. 16, the nude body of Cynthia Cadieux, 16, of Roseville, was found on Franklin Road in Bloomfield Township.

Three days later, 14-year-old Sheila Srock was found shot to death in Birmingham. She had been babysitting for her niece.

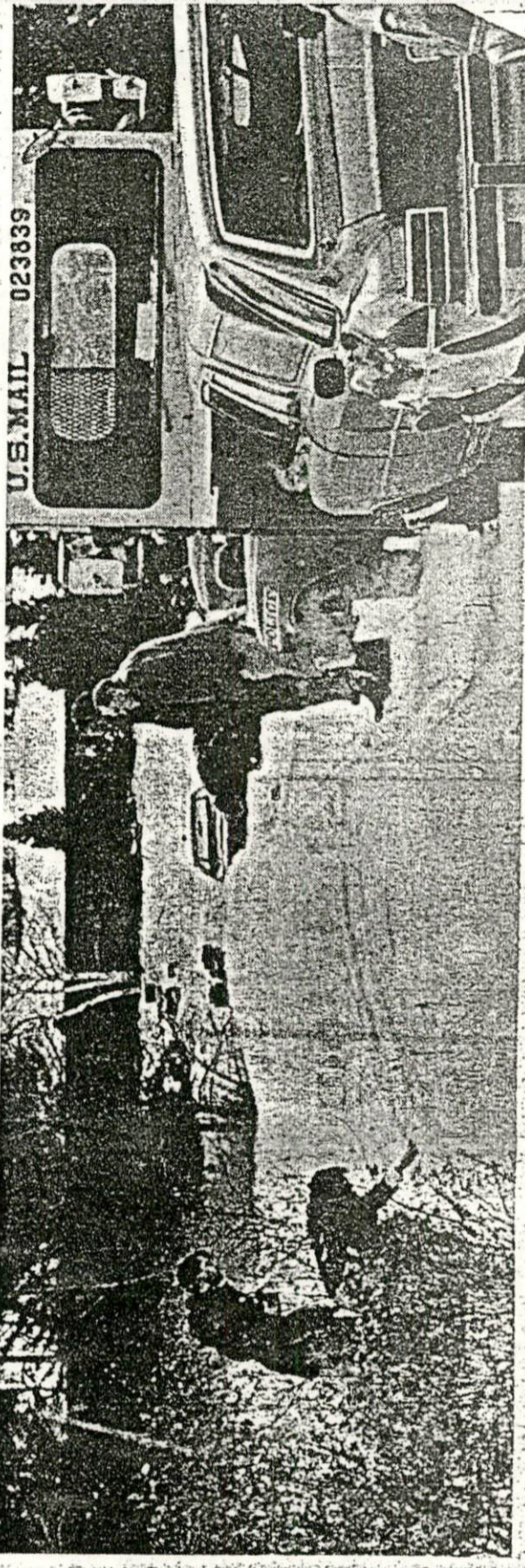
One month after that, the body of Mark Stebbins, 12, of Ferndale, was found near a Southfield shopping center. He had been sexually assaulted and strangled.

Jane Allen of Royal Oak disappeared while hitchhiking from Pontiac Friday.

(Continued on page 2A)



The 'X' on this map is approximately where the girl's body was found by a mailman Friday Franklin.



Technicians from Michigan State Police and Oakland County Sheriff's Department crime labs examine the area where the body was found. (Staff photos)

