

Police taking new look at unsolved '69 murder

By Laura J. Merisalo
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An unsolved 18-year-old dismemberment murder is getting another look as the result of a telephone call from a Colorado woman to Racine County sheriff's deputies.

The woman claimed her brother may know something about the killing and dismemberment of Stephanie Marie Casberg, 17, of Milwaukee.

Racine County sheriff's detectives called the FBI in Hawaii Wednesday in hopes of finding the woman's brother, Sheriff's Lt. Gary Heck said.

Parts of Casberg's body were found July 9, 1969, by a boy fishing in the Root River near 8 Mile Road in Raymond.

Casberg's torso was found about two weeks later in a roadside ditch about five miles away.

According to Heck, the Colorado woman told sheriff's deputies her brother, who worked at a Milwaukee restaurant with Casberg, left the state within days of Casberg's disappearance.

She said Milwaukee police, who handled the original investigation, were lied to by members of her family who were interviewed after Casberg's death.

Racine County sheriff's detectives said statements made by the woman agreed with information in Milwaukee police case reports.

Heck said the Colorado woman has given detectives accurate information that should be pursued.

"We're certainly not convinced the guy's involved," Heck said.

However, he added, "It's a lead and basically we follow up on any lead that's reasonable.

"We've got nothing to lose by following it up."

The woman told deputies her

brother was working as a cook at a restaurant where Casberg worked as a waitress the night she disappeared.

Heck said the woman told them only "that he knows about it, that he might be involved in some way."

The woman declined to answer a reporter's questions when contacted at her home Wednesday night.

A young boy discovered Casberg's leg on the river bank two days after her disappearance was reported in Milwaukee, according to reports.

Along the river, deputies said, Casberg's head, two arms and other leg were found wrapped in newspaper and stuffed in a brown paper shopping bag.

An autopsy showed that Casberg died of a stab wound to the throat.

Her body, found 12 to 24 hours after her death, was dismembered at the joints after she had died, reports said.

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