

FENTON

Call Deepens Mystery Of Missing Teen

By Robert Goodrich
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The father of a teen-age girl from Crocker, Mo., who vanished last February while visiting an uncle in Belleville says several people claim they have seen her in the Fenton area.

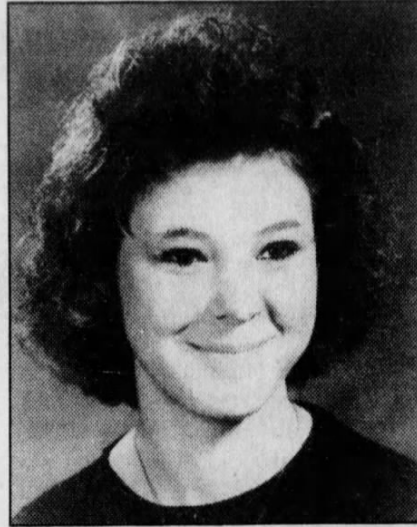
Cleveland Mezo, father of the missing girl, Donna Jean Mezo, said he had shown his daughter's photo last week to two people who said they were sure they had seen her recently. "They said they'd stake their life on it," he said.

Also, a caller who identified herself as Donna Mezo left a message on a telephone recorder at the home of a woman in Cahokia, Cleveland Mezo added.

He said that the woman did not know his daughter and that the number may have been called by mistake, but the caller identifies herself on the recording as Donna Mezo and says, "I'm the girl that's been missing for quite a while."

Belleville police say that they are investigating but that they have not come up with any solid leads.

Lt. James Rokita, Belleville's chief



Donna Jean Mezo

of detectives, said his department was cooperating with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department in Missouri.

Cleveland Mezo said he had paid a private detective from Ballwin \$2,200 but that that had produced nothing useful.

Donna Mezo, then 16, was last seen about 1:30 a.m. on Feb. 18 near a fast-food restaurant on South Illinois Street. Her father said her 17th birthday was Sept. 5.

She may have been pregnant when she disappeared, authorities said.

Her brother told police that he was supposed to drive her back to their father's house in Crocker but that she had wanted to visit a boyfriend first.

Donna Mezo left her personal belongings behind, her brother said.