

The News-Leader

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MISSING WOMEN

# Father talks of toll

## Ordeal brings confusion, pranks, lots of support

By Christopher Clark

The last couple of nights Stuart McCall has been able to sleep — but only because he received prescribed insomnia medicine.

Since Sunday's disappearance of his daughter, Stacy, Sherrill Levitt and Suzanne Streeter, McCall has had little time to think of anything else. On Friday, he met with news reporters for more than two hours to answer questions about the case and the toll taken on his family.

Here are some excerpts from a conversation with The News-Leader.

**How are you holding up?**

Well, very well, extremely well. It depends on how much time you have to think about it. When you're less active, then that's the time you think about it more.

**What about the call from the Joplin radio station that said the women had been found, when they were confused with Wednesday's kidnapping of three small children.**

That was a lack of communication. Someone got excited and being in Joplin, 80 miles away, they weren't totally connected with the age difference between the two (incidents). When they

said the three people were OK, someone got excited and said they've been found.

Well, it's not the same three, so we had a lot of calls from relatives who live in that area saying, 'Oh thank God they're free.' But we said, 'No, no they're not. It's wrong, it's wrong.' (The station) finally did retract their statement, and published, or read, a new statement and said, 'We're sorry.'

**What about the prank calls?**

That's the type of people you have in society. I don't know what motivates people like that. If I did, I'd eliminate 'em all. My mother-in-law got (the call.) Of all people, she was the worst one to get it... she's the one that's most emotional about it. She got this call that said, 'The old woman is dead.' There was a pause, I understand, then the person said, 'and the other two young ones are dead.'

(The mother-in-law) reportedly screamed and said, 'What did you say? What did you say?' (The caller) hung up and it was a female voice, my mother-in-law thought, in the range of 50 years old.

Those things upset her pretty bad. I don't know what I would have done. Probably nothing I could have done.

**How about all the attention from the**

**media?**

We feel like it's beneficial... We feel like if it's done in a professional manner, not done in a malicious manner... it needs to be done.

The thing I don't want to have happen is a bunch of competitive pettiness. I don't want to cloud the issue of getting information.

**What do you think of all the support you have gotten?**

It wouldn't happen in every city, I guarantee you. It would probably only happen in the Ozarks. If I was in a larger city like St. Louis or Kansas City, I don't think this would ever happen.

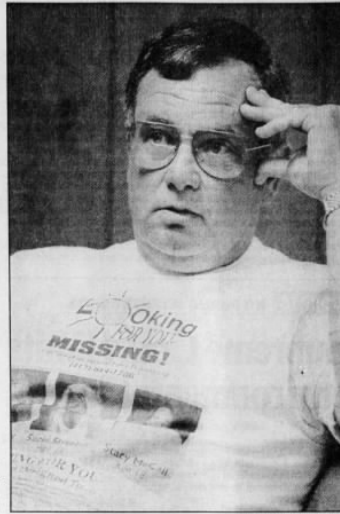
Do you ever have those times where you fear they are dead?

Sure we do. Happens daily, it's thought of daily. You think about what you're going to do if that news comes.

How will you handle it, will you be able to handle it? You know, you think of a lot of different things. If you have to make arrangements, what kind of arrangements would you make? Those kinds of things.

**Have you made those arrangements?**

No. No, because we don't think that'll happen.



Bob Linder/The News-Leader

**Stuart McCall talks to media at the Missouri Victim Center. He said he is holding up "Well, very well, extremely well."**

**REWARD FUNDS**

Three reward funds are now set up for information surrounding the disappearance of Sherrill Levitt, Suzanne Streeter and Stacy McCall.

■ Springfield Crime Stoppers is offering \$1,000 for "information leading to the arrest and identification of the person or persons responsible for the disappearance of the three women."

■ Boatmen's National Bank of Springfield has established a fund and is accepting donations for "information leading to the arrest and identification of persons responsible."

Make checks out to: Donation Fund for Streeter, Levitt and McCall, Boatmen's Bank, 3345 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield, Mo., 65804.

■ Springfield radio stations KGBX AM-FM and KCMY are offering a one-time reward payment of \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the disappearance of the women. The reward would be given upon recommendation of Police Chief Terry Knowles.

Anyone with information is urged to call 864-1758 or 864-1755.

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