

13 Violent Deaths In Area Still Unsolved

BY WALT SCHAEFER
Enquirer Reporter

It has been a year since the body of Cheryl Thompson of Mariemont was found in a secluded brushy area near the bank of the Little Miami River in Loveland.

Her body was the second found in suburban Hamilton County in less than a month. On March 12, hunters found the body of Charmaine Stolla, 17, near a shack off Old Colerain Pike, on the northern edge of Hamilton County.

THOSE CASES are just two of 13 violent deaths that have remained unsolved in and near suburban Hamilton County since January 1, 1978. The most recent case was that of Miss Sandra Marie Holtgrebe, 18, 367 Greenwell Rd., Delhi Township, whose decomposed, nude body was found Thursday along Dry Fork Creek in Crosby Township, near Hagfishon. She had last been seen on February 22.

After the partially clad body of Miss Thompson, 19, a University of Cincinnati student, was found last April 6, area criminal investigators met at the Hamilton County Coroner's office to review the cases.

When asked about the investigation into Miss Thompson's death, Loveland Police Chief Robert Jordan referred questions to an investigator for the prosecutor's office.

However, the investigator said there was nothing new with the Thompson case or others, and sug-

gested a check with local authorities.

MISS THOMPSON was to meet a friend at an Oakley disco March 24, 1978. She was residing at her parents' apartment on Wooster Pike in Mariemont, near Marion Place. The coroner ruled Miss Thompson had been strangled.

Miss Stolla was last seen February 23, 1978, leaving the Western Bowl, 6383 Glenway Ave., Western Hills. She resided with her mother, Mrs. Mary Stolla, 1168 Overlook Ave., Price Hill.

Her body was clad only in a bra. She had been strangled, too.

Hamilton County Det. Capt. Herbert Vogel said detectives have questioned all of Miss Stolla's known acquaintances, some taking lie detector tests, with no success.

THREE OTHER cases involve young women whose bodies were recovered in rural areas of Hamilton and southern Butler counties.

The body of Linda Dyer, 15, 1720 Waltham Ave., was found August 24, 1978, in a partially decomposed state, along a creek bed off Bank Road in rural Colerain Township. Miss Dyer, who was last seen three days before her body was found, suffered a six-inch stab wound in the chest. There was evidence of attempted strangulation, the coroner ruled.

Nancy Ann Theobald, 18, who had been residing with a brother and sister since her parents had

moved to Florida, was found dead December 28, 1977, in a creek bed a quarter mile west of 6050 Beckett Rd., near West Chester, in Union Township, Butler County. The University of Cincinnati freshman was strangled. She had been missing since November 16 of that year.

Both Butler County and Cincinnati authorities continue to investigate. Miss Theobald was last seen leaving a Clifton Heights restaurant to walk home.

THE NUDE body of Virginia Hincer, 24, 7020 Glenmeadow Dr., Roselawn, was found October 31, 1976, in a wooded area off New London Road, west of US 27 in Butler County. She had been strangled, too.

Butler County Sheriff's Det. Tom Deaton said Larry Ralston remains a suspect in the Hincer death. Ralston has been convicted in the murders of five women who bodies were found in southwestern Ohio.

Since Ralston's convictions are being appealed, Capt. Deaton said his office has been unable to question him sufficiently. "We'd like to talk to him again," Deaton said.

In only one of the thirteen deaths are detectives optimistic of eventually making an arrest—the shooting death of James Frost, 31, 6078 Jessup Rd., White Oak. That could come after completion of an investigation of motorcycle gang members which has involved help from authorities in several states—as far away as Oregon, said Vogel.

"We still have a lot in the hopper on that one," said the captain. More investigation details are coming in and police still need to "tie some loose ends," Vogel would not elaborate on the case.

Frost was returning from work on his motorcycle after dark when he was shot on I-74 near the east-bound exit to Ohio 128 on April 6, 1977. Police believe the act was committed by a motorcycle gang member in retaliation for the wounding of another gang's member. Frost probably was a victim of mistaken identity, police have said.

ANOTHER HIGHLY publicized murder concerns authorities from Sharonville and Northern Kentucky. Sharonville service station attendant Scott Spurrer, 17, was apparently shot where his body was found July 22, 1977, off Ky. 20 in rural Boone County, police have said.

Sharonville Police Chief William Nuss said that little information has been given police in recent months about the case.

Two unsolved homicides, both being investigated by the sheriff's office, appear related to drug trafficking and use, Vogel said.

Anthony Glanton, 27, 9972 Arborwood St., Colerain Township, was shot to death in his apartment on July 12, 1976. Police have talked to at least one eyewitness to the shooting and they have an artist's composite drawing of a suspect. But the case is unsolved. Glanton was shot in the chest.



CHERYL THOMPSON



CHARMAINE STOLLA

The body of David Howard Lewis, 21, 3403 Niagra St., Northbrook, in Colerain Township, was found by hunters with a bullet wound in the forehead on November 17, 1978. It appeared to be a gangland-type slaying, deputies said. Although all Lewis' known associates have been questioned, no leads have surfaced.

BLUE ASH Police still have not closed their investigation into the death of a two-year-old boy, Richard Trout. He suffered multiple body injuries at his mother's home on Prospect Avenue on September 5, 1976.

The mother and a male friend said the youth had fallen down

stairs. The coroner ruled the child suffered multiple body injuries and died from peritonitis, inflammation of the abdominal cavity lining.

Norwood police files are still open in the case of Marigold Churgast, 55, who was found dead in the bedroom of her home, 5144 Hunter Ave., last June 4. The coroner said she was strangled.

The body of Caprine Elotse Dowdell, 18, who resided at times with her mother, 3023 Kerper St., Walnut Hills, and at other times with friends, was found September 5, 1978, in the southbound lane of I-275, just below the I-74 overpass in Green Township. The coroner's office ruled cause of death cranial hemorrhaging, a homicide.

Thompson 1 year



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