Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham



"Get outta my way!" "You don't havta be polite to rocks, Joey."

Lawmen Uncover Rape, Slay Plot

By Roger Gillott
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 500 young girls may have been marked for murder in a sadistic rape-torture-murder plot that has claimed five known victims, Sheriff Peter Pitchess said Friday.

Pitchess said candid snapshots of 500 teen-age girls were found in searches of the property of two men who are already in custody on other charges.

"We have reason to believe that those girls were all potential victims," the sheriff said at a Hall of Justice news conference.

Pitchess initially told reporters that "between 30 and 40" of the photographed girls had been reported as missing persons and may have been murdered.

However, a sheriff's investigator involved in the probe said later that Pitchess misspoke.

The investigator said the cases of 30 to 40 missing girls were being checked to see if they were possible victims, but that none of them have been matched up with the photographs checked so far.

He added that 50 to 60 of the photographed girls have been identified, but that they are all alive.

Pitchess said the photographs were taken along the beach in southwestern Los Angeles County or at or near a high school in Burbank. He did not say precisely where the photographs were found.

First word of the probe surfaced Thursday when a newspaper in suburban Torrance, the South Bay Daily Breeze, ran across documents filed in Torrance Municipal Court detailing five cases in which the girls — four of whom were last seen hitchhiking — were raped, tortured and murdered.

Arrested in Kidnap, Rape

Two men — Roy Lewis Norris, 32, of Redondo Beach and Lawrence Sigmond Bittaker, 39, who was living in a Burbank motel — were arrested last Nov. 20 in an unrelated kidnap and rape. Those charges have since been dropped, but Pitchess said evidence developed while they were in jail linked them to the five killings.

They are currently being held on an unrelated assault charge, although Pitchess warned: "We will bring charges immediately (in the five killings) if they try to make bail."

Norris, who was released last June from the state mental hospital in Atascadero where he was being treated after a rape conviction, was being held in lieu of $10,000 bail. Bittaker, paroled in November 1978 on a conviction of assault with a deadly weapon, was being held without bail for parole violation.

Suspect Cooperating

"One of the suspects — Norris — is cooperating," Pitchess said, adding authorities had discussed a plea bargain with him. "We have reached no agreement (on the plea bargain), but I think Mr. Norris sees the advisability of cooperating."

Norris led investigators on a search of the San Gabriel Mountains above San Dimas last Saturday, showing them the sites where the bodies of two of the victims — Jaqueline Leah Lamp, 13, and Jackie Doris Gilliam, 15 — were dumped.

Investigators found skulls, ribs and jawbones of the two Redondo Beach girls, who were last seen hitchhiking on Sept. 2. An ice pick was still embedded in the ear of Miss Gilliam's skull.

The sheriff's department said other known victims were: Lucinda Schaefer, 16, of Torrance, who disappeared on her way home from church June 24; Andrea Joy Hall, 18, last seen in Redondo Beach on July 8; and Shirley Linett Ledford, 16, of Sunland, last seen Oct. 31.

New York Police Nab First 'Hit-Woman'

Reuter News Agency

NEW YORK — Police say they have caught the first "hit-woman" in New York crime history, a partner in a "Bonnie and Clyde" team who killed competing drug-dealers for cash.

A trail of killings for hire, with contracts of up to $10,000 a murder, came to an end Thursday when police arrested Blanche Wright, 21, at her Bronx home.

Police charged Miss Wright with four murders in three months, including the killing a week before of a suspected cocaine dealer after her escaped convict partner, Robert Young, botched the job and was killed by his intended victim.

Police describe her as the first "hit-woman" in the city's history and well-informed police sources claimed she was now providing important information on New York's drug underworld — where "contract killing" is considered a legitimate business expense.

Soviets Test Secret Missile

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union has test-fired a new strategic submarine missile which radioed key information in code, thus preventing the United States from fully monitoring its performance, administration officials said Friday.

The SALT II treaty (still before the U.S. Senate) bars encoding missile test telemetry or otherwise "deliberately" concealing vital data on missile developments.

The test, kept secret for several weeks, could reopen arguments over whether SALT II can be satisfactorily verified to prevent cheating.

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