

# Two slaying victims found in Junction City

70-0646

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Of the Register-Guard

JUNCTION CITY — Criminal investigators from the state police, Lane County sheriff's office and the district attorney's office combed a neighborhood on the south edge of the city Wednesday as they attempted to unravel two apparently related early morning slayings.

First clue to the grisly chain of events came at 4:50 a.m. when firemen, summoned to a car fire at a trailer court at 950 Hwy. 99S, were told there was a body under the blazing station wagon.

At mid-morning, a crying infant in an apartment at 151 Maple St., several blocks to the north, led to the discovery of a second body. Police said the body in Apt. 11 was that of a male, 22 to 24 years old, who had been shot once in the head with a fairly large caliber weapon.

A preliminary report from —Sacred Heart General Hospital in Eugene where the badly charred first body was taken

revealed that it was that of a girl, Caucasian, age 14 to 20.

The victim apparently was the same girl whom witnesses reported screaming and attempting to escape from a man a half-hour before the fire about five blocks from the fire scene. The car which was involved in the fire was parked beneath a carport at the Trailer Town Mobile Home Park, between Highway 99S and Prairie Road.

Capt. Ronald Eggleston of the Lane County Sheriff's Dept. termed both deaths apparent homicides — "It is definitely not a case of homicide-suicide."

Jake Wacker, 236 S.W. Laurel St., said he and his wife were awakened about 4:20 a.m. by the sound of screams.

He said they saw a man dragging a girl away from the front door of the house of Mr. and Mrs. Don Bodtker, where she apparently had fled in an attempt to escape the man.

"The girl was screaming and the guy was dragging her away from the house," Wacker said. "He got her out in the street

and she stopped screaming. Then he put her in the car."

Wacker said Bodtker had opened his front door to ask the man "if there was any trouble." The man told Bodtker the girl was drunk, according to Wacker.

Wacker said the man took a flashlight from the car, a white station wagon, after he had put the girl in the vehicle. He said the man spent several minutes searching the street area with the flashlight. He then got into the car and drove south with the girl.

A few minutes later the man returned on foot, Wacker said. He again searched the street, then walked away.

Wacker said the man was of medium height and husky build. He appeared to be wearing a heavy jacket and trousers tucked into boots. Wacker was unable to furnish a description of the girl.

At noon, investigators who had originally gone to probe the fire scene were swarming over the Maple Street apartment. They would provide no details from the scene, except for Eggleston's statement that he felt the death was a homicide and related to the discovery of the girl's body.

A neighbor in the apartment complex said Unit 11 is registered to a Terry Dade, who was described as being about 20 years old, married and the father of a small child. The neighbor said Dade had lived in the apartment for only six or eight weeks.

The Laurel Street location where the man and girl were seen struggling is slightly more than a block south and east of the Maple Street apartment complex. From the Laurel Street scene it is approximately four blocks south to the trailer court. Wacker said the auto containing the man and girl was headed south on Laurel when he last saw it.

The girl's body was discovered by the car's owner, Ferris R. Norman, who heard an explosion about 4:45 a.m. He awoke to find the rear end of the vehicle a mass of flames in the carport about 40 feet from his trailer.

Norman told firemen, whom neighbors had summoned, that he saw the body when he attempted to douse the blaze with a hand extinguisher.

"The interior of the car was a complete ball of fire," said Jim Pate, assistant Junction City fire chief. "The fire was all over the rear of the car and on the ground all around it. It went clear up to the roof of the carport."

The body was beneath the fuel tank of the rear of the car, a white 1962 station wagon.

Firemen theorized the blaze was caused by gasoline from the tank, but were uncertain how the fuel had escaped.

A sheriff's detective said two deputies participating in the investigation of the girl's death found the man's body as they attempted to contact possible witnesses to the girl's struggle.

Other information about both victims was withheld by police, under instructions from Lane County District Attorney John Leahy. Neighbors in the apartment house were likewise admonished about giving out details.

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