

Sheriff to meet recall in head on debate

By Dave Moler
Editor

The Committee to Recall Sheriff Doug Thomas and District Attorney Gerald Flanagan will meet Sheriff Thomas in a debate on May 5, sponsored by the Alameda Soroptimists.

Chesler Area Soroptimist Pat Popp, who is handling the affair, said the debate will begin at 7:30, hopefully in a local school. She said last week that the club has not secured a place for the forum.

Popp said each side will be given a ten minute segment for overall remarks and five minutes for rebuttal, followed by a general question and answer session. Popp said Thomas accepted the Soroptimist invitation "and he can

bring anyone with him he wants," Popp said the club has not contacted District Attorney Flanagan, adding that if he wants to accompany the Sheriff to the debate, he's more than welcome. Popp said the club came up with the debate idea after recall leader Dorothy Trail asked to speak with them. "We decided we wanted to hear both sides of this so we came up with the debate," Popp said.

Trail said last Wednesday that the Soroptimist debate would fall on April 30 or May 1, but Popp said she had to change that date. Trail also said that the Plumas Chamber of Commerce would sponsor another debate shortly after the Alameda Chamber of Commerce

Director and Secretary Edie Hamby said last week that rate was "no way" that the Plumas Chamber would sponsor such a debate. "We discussed it at our last board meeting and decided we didn't want to get involved at all," Hamby said.

Plumas County Chamber of Commerce Director Bob Moon said his organization was not handling such an affair in Plumas either. "We'd duck that one pretty quick," Moon said. "That's a hot potato for a Chamber to handle."

Trail said last week that she has been going through the Sheriff's office arrest records meticulously and "will reveal some interesting statistics on alcohol and drug abuse in Plumas County. Trail said she was under the impression that the

debate would involve both Thomas and Flanagan.

Trail made her proclamation in front of the county courthouse last week, where the committee had planned to have an audience for their pig raffle. The raffle was conducted to raise advertising money for the recall campaign.

But only three reporters showed up for the drawing. One half of the pig went to James H. Ross of Fortola and the other half to Ron Carpenter of Greenville. Trail said the raffle brought in about \$800 and that it would allow the committee additional air time and newspaper space for ads.

Trail again refused to divulge how many signatures the effort has

gained. "There's no clear count because we've got people all over the place and it's hard to tell at anytime," Trail said. She also refused to give a number when asked for an estimate, adding, "Just say we have good support and everything's going great."

The committee has until May 7 to gather 2,181 signatures of registered Plumas County voters to force a recall election on the Sheriff. They have to raise 2,092 signatures by May 8 to force a recall against Flanagan.

If both petition efforts are cleared by the County Clerk's office a special election will be called unless the timing in the recall laws makes it fall near a general election, to which it will be included.



SIGNATURES—Dorothy Trail, a major force in the effort to recall Sheriff Doug Thomas and District Attorney Gerald Flanagan collected signatures in front of the courthouse last week calling for a recall election.



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Tina Sharp still missing

By Dave Moler
Editor

Rumors and theories are rampant, but authorities still don't have any concrete suspects or a motive in last week's triple slaying in Kettle, nor do they know where Tina Sharp is, now a possible fourth victim.

According to Plumas County Sheriff Doug Thomas, "the possibility that Tina Sharp, 22, is still living is dim." "We don't know if she is of course," Thomas said Monday. "It's been a long time now since the murders and our searches haven't turned up a single trace of her. We're not real optimistic and we don't visualize her hiding out this long if she fled from the scene."

While there are no major changes in the case, details are beginning to rise to the surface, Thomas said. Initial information had it that the murders of Glenna Sharp, her son John, 15 and his friend Dana Wingate, 17, of Quincy occurred between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. on April 11 and 12.

But those hours are frozen only to the 8 a.m. figure, the time when Sheila Sharp discovered the bodies on Sun., April 12, Thomas said. Other information shows that Wingate and John Sharp were seen hitchhiking toward Kettle at the corner of Crescent and Lawrence Streets in Quincy between 9 and 10 p.m. on Sat., April 11. But no one saw them get picked up and it is uncertain when they arrived at the Sharp residence, Thomas said.

There's speculation that the boys were at a party, but so far, no one has come forth with that exact information," Thomas said. "We figure that people at the party are afraid to come to us because they think they'll get arrested or something. We want them to know that we're investigating a murder here and not what might have been a beer party. We need someone to come forth and we don't want them to be afraid."

Rumors that the murders involved an occult or devil-worshipers are just that and have no merit, Thomas said. There were no markings on the wall, no candles burnt or anything that would suggest an occult type murder, he added.

Thomas reiterated there is no indication at this time that the murders were related to drug traffic. "We've gone through the house several times with a fine tooth comb and there was absolutely no trace of drugs (or drug paraphernalia) found in that house," he said.

Blood tests from the victims have not been returned, so authorities do not know if the victims had been drinking or using drugs, Thomas said. Preliminary autopsy results showed that the victim died from multiple stab wounds and blows to the head. Two knives and a hammer, believed to be used in the slaying, were found at the scene by the Sheriff's Department.

The autopsy was performed early last week at the Sacramento County Coroner's office, Thomas said. The autopsy was performed there so that state Department of Justice (DOJ) criminologists could take evidence from the bodies.

Other details surfacing around the murder tend to compound the situation, Thomas said. Two children were sleeping in an adjacent room and never heard anything, although County Deputy Coroner Doug McAllister noted last week that there were signs of a struggle

inside the home.

The home is within 15 feet of the residence where Sheila Sharp was spending the night and nothing was heard there, Thomas said. Other homes are very close to the Sharp's and not from those residences heard anything either.

One man in the neighborhood was up until 2 a.m. and heard nothing and several people waking walks during the night passed right by the residence with the same silent result, Thomas said.

There are various possibilities as to what happened, but Thomas said there is no positive evidence to prove any of them. It is possible that the victims knew their slayer, Thomas said. He noted earlier that there were no signs of forced entry into the home.

It is possible that the two boys walked in on Mr. Sharp being killed but again, there is nothing concrete to indicate that, the Sheriff said.

Tina Sharp came home that evening at 9 p.m. but authorities are unsure where she had been, Thomas said. She reportedly went to bed shortly after her arrival, from information gathered from the other Sharp children. Mrs. Sharp had been home all evening, Thomas added.

Hypnosis has been used in the investigation, Thomas said, because it often brings out knowledge from people that would not surface when they are conscious. "Sometimes people will come up with something they didn't realize they saw or are"

aware of," he said.

Other information shows that only one of the three victims was jagged and only one had a slit throat but Thomas declined to expound on which victims received that treatment.

Thomas said that a two-day intensive search of the Kettle area by four dog teams turned up absolutely no trace of Tina Sharp. DOJ photographs of the area taken last week were negative as well, Thomas said.

Meanwhile, rumors have hampered the investigation, the Sheriff said. There have been several supposed sightings of Tina Sharp, but they have been bogus and cut into valuable investigating time.

While chasing one of the bogus sightings, Thomas showed a picture of Tina Sharp to a man who informed him that she had been found. "The rumors that she has been found hurt because people tend to stop looking out for her," Thomas said.

The investigation continues with the FBI and now three DOJ agents on the case. Another DOJ agent may be added, Thomas said. The DOJ has had photographers, fingerprint experts and other criminals on the job to this point, he added.

"We've talked to a lot of people and we've got a lot more to go," Thomas said. "There's a lot of questions still that no one has answered."



Sheets convicted of second degree murder

Weather

	LO	HI
April 13	17	71
April 14	20	67
April 15	26	66
April 16	20	67
April 17	28	68
April 18	32	69
April 19	32	69

Precipitation for the week was .78 inches.

Smile

Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; remember, you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.

By Mary Snow

A jury of 12 Plumas County residents took less than four hours last Friday to determine that Clyde Sheets was guilty of the murder of Mervin Hansen Sr. on December 30th, 1980.

Sheets was convicted of second degree murder after a trial lasting three days. Sheets will be sentenced in Superior Court on May 11, pending completion of a probationary report.

On the evening of December 30th, at approximately 9:00 p.m. Sheets called Plumas District Hospital reporting a shooting and injury.

Upon arrival at the scene, ambulance divers found Mervin Hansen Sr. lying on the floor, of his Quincy home, a bullet wound in the neck. After giving CPR, the ambulance team transported Hansen to PPHI for emergency treatment, but he was apparently dead upon arrival.

Sheriff's Sgt. Dave Wingfield, the second man on the scene, testified that he saw Sheets in what turned out to be his own bedroom in the opposite end of the Hansen mobilehome. Wingfield said he

injured Sheets what happened and that Sheets replied he didn't want to talk about it.

In asking if a third party were involved, Wingfield said Sheets answered "no." Sheets then helped Wingfield remove a garment from the mobilehome.

"He was very emotional," Wingfield said of Sheets. Wingfield then arrested Sheets for public intoxication. "He was staggering. I felt he was not in control of himself and incoherent. He did not respond to any questions."

Deputy Dick Taggar, who was the first to arrive, also asked Sheets what happened. "He mumbled something I couldn't understand," Taggar stated while on the stand.

"The (Sheets) seemed extremely concerned and nervous. I don't know if he was confused but he was definitely upset. As recall he had a blank stare on his face."

A breath test at the Sheriff's Office registered levels of .01 on the first test and .00 on the second.

Later that evening blood was taken from Sheets and sent to a lab in Davis. Testimony from Edmond Coleman, a licensed forensic alcohol



TV directory missing

Due to a computer breakdown, TV Complog syndicate was unable to supply us with television listings for the coming week. Please excuse its absence and look for it next week.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE