

Page 10A Feather River Bulletin, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1994

13-year old Keddie murders still plague sheriff

By Cynthia Peck
Staff Writer

The brutal murders of Glenn Sharp, 36, her son John Sharp, 15, and his friend Dana Wingate, 17, on the night of April 11, 1981, in the remote town of Keddie, still remains unsolved and an open case after 13 years.

"I want nothing more in my career than to solve this case," Sheriff Don Stoy says.

Stoy was the second investigator on scene the chilling day.

Stoy is serious about the claim: An entire room at the Plumas County Sheriff's Department has been reserved specifically for the Keddie murder case.

"It's known by the department as the 'Keddie room.'"

"If at anytime someone were to come to us with information regarding the case, we would be able to access any aspect of it without hesitation," Stoy said.

A massive file, photos and sheets of paper—all of which line three walls of the room, consecutively

laying out the order of events and statements received—fill the room that is shared only with a desk and typewriter.

The gruesome triple murder was recalled earlier this week by Stoy on the heels of the unrelated slaying this month of Blairsden woman Judy Chappell.

But the fact that the killings in each case were particularly violent is essentially where the two cases end.

Investigators in the Chappell case have arrested a suspect, Ronald Sosson of Cromberg, while the Keddie case remains unsolved.

Thirteen years ago, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m., the three Keddie victims were repeatedly stabbed and bludgeoned with a household hammer.

The bodies were discovered by Sheila Sharp, daughter of Sue, who was 14 at the time.

At 8 a.m., Sheila returned home from spending the night at her neighbor's house, which was located less than 15 feet away.

"One of the most puzzling facts in this case is that the neighbor's houses are located so closely, yet nothing was heard," Stoy said.

Stoy did say that one neighbor reported that about 2 a.m. he heard a "groan" but it was not enough to cause concern.

There were even younger Sharp children sleeping in a bedroom adjacent to the living room where the killings took place and none of

them were awakened.

After Sheila discovered the bodies, according to reports, she quickly ran away from the scene, screaming for her neighbors help.

To prevent the younger children from seeing the gore sight the neighbors retrieved the youngsters from the bedroom window.

The only hope for an eyewitness came in the form of a little boy's dream.

A psychologist who evaluated the dream believes the boy, as a defense mechanism, invented what he actually witnessed in a dream, in which he told investigators two men killed Sue.

Composites of the men in the dream were made and several people came forward with names to match the composites—but none of them panned out.

According to reports, no murder weapons were brought to the scene, but were all obtained by the killers from the house as the murders were taking place.

When sheriff's deputies arrived at the scene it was discovered that a fourth victim, Tina Sharp, was missing from the Sharp's house.

In April of 1994 her remains, which consisted of scattered bones and a skull in the last stages of decomposition—were discovered at Feather Falls in Butte County by a bottle collector.

The department of justice deduced the remains to be that of Tina by accessing her dental

records.

The trail ends the night of the murders when John and Dana were seen around 10 p.m. hitchhiking from Quincy, in the direction of Keddie, in front of the Gold Pan Motel.

The Sheriff's Department had been able to track the actions of the two teens up to that point, with the exception of a party at which it is speculated that they attended before hitchhiking.

The party in question was drug related and probably for fear of being arrested for illegal use," Stoy said. "I thought about this case almost daily for at least two years," he said.

The fact that all this time has passed by does not deter Stoy from believing the case can be solved.

"What people need to know is that we're dealing with a murder: not some party that happened that night," he said.

Stoy stated that the first few hours of the crime scene are the most important and that, because of false leads they received shortly after the murders, valuable time was lost.

"Rumors are what have hurt this case the most," he said.

"Someone may tell a story at a campfire and that story travels via four people and, by the time it gets to us, we've got back track all the statements until we end up back at the campfire where the rumor was first spread," Stoy said.

"Other murders throughout the

United States have reemerged this one but have, for one reason or another, been discarded as related, according to Stoy, because of lack of sufficient evidence.

In spite of the fact that the department has more than 200 pieces of evidence on the Keddie case, they have been unable to positively link them with any suspect.

The hardest part for Sheriff Stoy through this, aside from the fact that the murders have not been solved, was thinking about what the families have gone through.

"I thought about this case almost daily for at least two years," he said.

"We're not giving up on this," he said. "We still get information coming into our office over this case."

Sheriff Stoy also added that anytime there is new technology introduced, all the evidence is reexamined to keep it updated and in the hope that it can solve the case.

A few years ago, according to Stoy, the Keddie murders were scheduled for the television show *Unsolved Murders*.

But because of lack of funds to do the necessary traveling, it was never done.

"Including he said," Any information, no matter how slight, is always welcome."

Public Notices

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AT THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1994.

RESOLUTION NO. 1994-003 FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1995 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE CHECKS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE BUDGET.

RESOLUTION NO. 1994-004 FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1995 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SIGN THE CHECKS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE BUDGET.

ITEM	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATUS
1994-003	09/13/94	BUDGET FOR 1995	\$1,234,567.89	APPROVED
1994-004	09/13/94	BUDGET FOR 1995	\$1,234,567.89	APPROVED

Indian Days scheduled for FRC

The fifth annual Northern Sierra Indian Days, a celebration of traditional and contemporary Native American arts, will take place Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17-18, on the Feather River College campus in Quincy.

More than 25 tribal groups from the North and South American continents are expected to be represented.

Living Traditions: The organizational committee will host several of Plumas County's traditional artisans on hand demonstrating and displaying their craft on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Basket weavers will include Lily Baker from Lake Almanor, Emma Peck from Grass Valley and Reita Alice from Fortuna/Laurel Harbor of Greenville will demonstrate her beadwork. All demonstrating artists are of Maidu descent.

Pow Wow Grand Entry on Saturday is scheduled for noon. Dance demonstrations and preliminary competitions will continue into the evening with a two-hour dinner break. Final dance competitions will begin on Sunday after the Grand Entry which is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Sunday's activities are anticipated to conclude at 5 p.m.

Pow wow announcer will be Tom Phillips. Head staff for the pow wow will feature Screaming Eagle and Klamath Falls, Ore., as host northern drum. Drum and Feather

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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