

Multiple murder suspect used to manage Chester Airport

By David H. Keller

A former Plumas County resident and Chester Airport manager is the prime suspect in about a dozen homicides — but the infamous 15-year-old multiple Kiddle murders probably are not among them.

Murders ranging from Oregon and California and Washington to Arizona to Kansas are now being attributed to Robert Joseph Silveria, who was arrested in Plumas County numerous times from 1979 to 1986.

Law enforcement authorities around the country, hoping to clear a backlog of unsolved railway homicides, are inquiring about the 37-year-old suspect. Silveria was arrested last week on a 10-year-old Plumas County auto theft warrant.

There are probably four dozen, five-down jurisdictions that have called, not to mention the victim's families. L.L. Brad Manager of the Placer County sheriff's department says.

Manager said Silveria is being very cooperative — an evaluation

echoed by Plumas County Assistant Sheriff Rod DeCrosa. DeCrosa and a pair of Plumas County detectives interviewed Silveria Saturday, March 9, in Placer County.

The former Plumas County resident was interviewed by the DeCrosa after Silveria confessed to four unsolved 1981 Kiddle murders — and then recanted. DeCrosa said that "preliminary indicators suggest he was in custody at the time of the murders."

DeCrosa said records possibly indicate that Silveria was serving time in state prison on a grand theft auto conviction.

DeCrosa was called Friday, March 8 at about 1 p.m. from investigators in Placer who indicated that Silveria had admitted to a host of murders, including the Kiddle crimes.

Glenns, John and Tina Sharp and Dana Wingate were killed in the Kiddle murders in April of 1981.

Glenns and John Sharp and Dana Wingate were found hogtied and strangled to death in Sharp's cabin. Tina was missing for 18



Robert Joseph Silveria — Former Plumas man

months before her body was found in the Plumas National Forest.

Even if Silveria is cleared of the Kiddle murders, DeCrosa says, "We are not done questioning him."

He says Silveria, who also worked at the Plumas County Fairgrounds in Quincy, may be able to provide leads in the murders.

Authorities also want to ques-

tion Silveria about an unsolved Perola homicide.

Silveria was arrested in Plumas County as early as 1979 on burglary and grand theft auto charges and was convicted in 1982 of vehicle theft and receiving stolen property, garnering a three-year sentence in state prison.

He was paroled at the end of 1983 and, shortly thereafter, was hired to work at the fairgrounds and then at the Chester airport. In 1986, Silveria disappeared from his job at the Chester airport. He was accused of stealing a county car and airport funds.

Silveria was convicted on grand theft auto charges in July of that year in Plumas County. He was sentenced to a year in jail and five years probation. He violated probation and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

It was that warrant that resulted in his arrest by Southern Pacific Railroad police last week.

Silveria — who has spent much of the past decade living and traveling the nation's railroads — has waived extradition proceedings and agreed to return to Oregon, where he is suspected in the December slaying of William Pettit.

Pettit's body was found in a

boscar in Millersburg.

Three days after Pettit's body was found, Michael Clites, 24, was found dead in a boscar in Portland.

Manager said Silveria is also suspected in slayings in Whitefish, Mont.; Salt Lake City; Tropic, Kan.; Redding, Kickstart County, Wash.; Grand County, Utah; Roseville, Calif.; and a double homicide in Pima County, Ariz.

Silveria is also suspected of being an accessory to the slayings of an elderly couple in Havert, Mont.

"It's a very femoral life on the rails," Manager said. "You don't know what your bunkmate in the boscar is going to be like. So a lot of it probably is a lot of brutality. Some of it is, build a reputation and people won't fool with you."

Manager said he didn't know how many deaths might ultimately be attributed to Silveria.

"Anywhere you have a railroad line, you probably have a lot of unsolved homicides," he said.

The Placer sheriff's department had initially said Silveria might have committed the slayings.

The slayings in which Silveria is accused occurred between 1986

and 1992.

Most, but not all, involved male transients and occurred on railroad property.

DeCrosa described Silveria as "soft spoken and cooperative. He believes that Silveria was ready to give it up. He seems genuinely remorseful."

In the days following Silveria's arrest a variety of media outlets — ranging from the radio station in Quincy to daily newspapers in San Francisco and Sacramento — heavily played the story of the suspect's arrest.

The Kiddle angle was highlighted — which troubled DeCrosa. He says the Quincy radio station made some errors in judgment.

The sheriff's department was criticized on the air by the radio station for not conducting a background check on Silveria before the county band him in the early 1980s.

"The sheriff's department does not do background checks on county employees," DeCrosa said. "The job is to arrest people, write reports and take people to jail. We do background checks on (potential) sheriff's department employees but not other county employees."

News-makers

Navy Seaman Angela N. Tasi, daughter of Randy L. and Janice L. Tasi of Susanville, has departed on a 10-week western Pacific Ocean deployment aboard the U.S. Seventh Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge.

Tasi is one of 750 sailors and marines who work aboard the command ship, home based in Yokosuka, Japan.

Tasi's ship serves as the flagship for the admiral in charge of all U.S. naval operations spanning 52 million square miles of Pacific Ocean from the International Date Line to the Arabian Sea.

During the deployment, Tasi and fellow sailors and marines will visit Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore and

Thailand and will have the opportunity to visit local sites.

Tasi's involvement in the deployment is an example of how the Navy and Marine Corps team operates forward deployed overseas in support of U.S. interests. The 1991 graduate of Lassen Union High School joined the Navy in May 1994.

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TaxTips
TAXES AND YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS
Q. Will I have to pay more income tax on my social security benefits this year?
A. Whether any of your social security benefits will be taxed depends on the amount of your income. If your modified adjusted gross income, plus one-half of your social security benefits, is more than \$34,000 (and you're single) or \$44,000 (and you're married and filing a joint return), up to 85 percent of your social security benefits will be included in taxable income. If your modified adjusted gross income is less than these amounts but more than \$25,000 (single) or \$32,000 (married filing jointly), you'll pay tax on a maximum of 50 percent of your benefits. Finally, if your income is below the levels just listed, your social security benefits will be tax free. Special rules may apply if you are married and filing a separate tax return.

TaxTips
EARLY IRA WITHDRAWALS
Q. I wanted to start withdrawing money from my IRA, even though I'm just 55 years old. Is there any way around the 10 percent penalty?
A. Generally, unless you are disabled, you must wait the penalty if you withdraw money from your IRA before reaching age 59 1/2. There is, however, one further exception to the penalty. You can escape the penalty if your withdrawals take the form of a lifetime annuity. Payment must be based on your life expectancy, or the life expectancy of you and your beneficiary, made in substantially equal amounts, and distributed at least annually. If you later change the method of payment, the penalty may be imposed retroactively.

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PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Farm Bureau Voter's Guide
Recommendations as adopted by the California Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.

Vote Tuesday, March 26, 1996

PROPOSITION 132 - Senior Bonds Authorizes \$2 billion in bonds for the senior needs of state-owned toll bridges and state highway bridges.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 133 - Property Taxation Must prevent reassessment of real property under Proposition 13 when the sale or transfer of property occurs between grandparents and grandchildren if the parents of the grandchildren are deceased.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 134 - Prisoners Makes prisoners employed in the Joint Venture Program ineligible for unemployment benefits upon release from prison.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 135 - Murder Special Circumstances Provides that the punishment for anyone found guilty of first-degree murder during a kidnapping or kidnapping during the commission of a kidnapping is death or life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Adds a similar penalty for first-degree murder of a juror.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 136 - Drive-by Shootings Adds drive-by shootings to the list of special circumstances for the death penalty or life imprisonment without possibility of parole for a defendant convicted of first-degree murder.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 137 - Mountain Lands Provides for better management of mountain lands when they are causing problems. Authorizes the Legislature to amend or repeal, by a majority vote, provisions of the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 138 - Open Primary Elections Gives registered voters, including those not affiliated with a political party, the right to vote for any candidate regardless of the candidate's political affiliation.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 139 - Mobilehome Rent Places rent, over an inflation period, mobilehome rent control laws and park owners to provide rent discounts to low-income mobilehome tenants.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 200 - No-Fault Insurance Establishes a "no-fault" auto insurance system for personal injuries resulting from vehicle accidents. Requires drivers to cover their own and their passengers' injuries regardless of who is at fault.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 201 - Shareholder Action Requires the listing party to pay the winning party's reasonable legal expenses, including attorney fees.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 202 - Attorney Fees Limits the amount of contingent fees plaintiff attorneys can charge clients when the defendant makes an early offer to settle a suit.	YES	NO
PROPOSITION 203 - School Bonds Provides \$3 billion for primary, secondary and higher education school facility improvement programs.	YES	NO

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