

**SECRET WITNESS**

**FBI says nylon rope little help in slaying investigation**

The nylon rope used to ligate Theresa Diane Walsh before she was thrown into Mark West Creek offered authorities more help than they had hoped for in efforts to identify the killer of the 16-year-old victim.

However, Sheriff's investigators and scientific FBI forensic investigators in Washington, D.C., had informed them the rope was too common to be able to trace it.

All six victims in a had been stripped of their clothes — only one tied — before death, according to officials.

There was no physical evidence found in connection with the bodies to assist in tracing the killer, until the body of the latest victim was found Dec. 28 by two youths going down Mark West Creek in a kayak.

A total of \$100 in rewards is now offered by the Secret Witness program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the deaths of the six girls, as well as two men slain last year along the Russian River.

The Secret Witness program was set up a year ago to allow people to provide authorities with information while protecting the identity of the person helping in the lead.

Several of these leads have been checked out after Mrs. Walsh's nude body was found, but Sheriff's investigators said most of the information has been ruled out.

Mrs. Walsh was also a basketball player at Santa Rosa High School, where she is believed to have been hitchhiking when her slayer picked her up, but that has not been confirmed.

She was strangled to death, officials said.

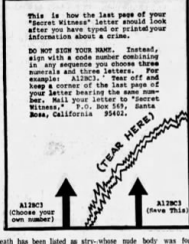
She is survived by a 9-year-old child and her mother, Mrs. Gladie Smith, both living in Berkeley.

In addition to the \$1,000 reward offered for information helping authorities to identify her killer, the Secret Witness program has the following rewards:

**STUTTGART, Germany** — \$25,000 in the slaying of Catherine Davis, 17-year-old Santa Rosa high school coed whose nude body was found July 31 off Fossil Valley Road, she was last seen in Eureka on July 15 hitchhiking southbound on Highway 101. Cause of her death is unknown.

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