

Authorities mum on strangulation death

H-12 December 4, 1980

city and state authorities declined, tight-lipped at week, refusing to release its surrounding the strangulation death of Penney Forrest, 18, of Grinnell.

Body was found at about 1, along a dead-end road Montour close to the line between Tama and Marshall lies. was estimated that Forrest was killed at about 11 p.m. day.

na County Attorney Jeff it declined to comment a case, although he said no arrest warrants had issued as of Tuesday noon. Charles Maplethorpe.

the Tama County medical examiner, listed strangulation as the cause of death on the victim's death certificate.

Entered Car?

Hank Mayer, assistant chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), also said no warrants had been issued. He would neither confirm nor deny a report that Forrest was last seen Saturday entering a car, driven by a man whose identity has not been made public, and that she was supposedly on her way to Marshalltown to seek a job.

"We're proceeding with the investigation, but right now it's the status quo," Mayer told The Herald-Register.

Mayer would not reveal the results of an autopsy conducted on the body Sunday night in Cedar Rapids, nor would he say when further details of the crime would be revealed.

"I would anticipate that we'd have something (to announce), but how near in the future remains a 'question,'" the assistant DCI chief said.

An informed source said that Forrest's body had sustained "multiple abrasions," bruises about the neck, an apparent wound to the abdomen, and a fractured hip. There were no gunshot wounds.

An unidentified farmer found



Penney Forrest

the woman's fully clothed body in a ditch three miles north of Montour. A jacket was found nearby, authorities said.

Lived with Parents

Forrest's current address was listed as the home of her parents, Jasper (Bud) and Karen Mae Belcher, at 604 Pearl St. here. She reportedly had been separated from her husband Richard E. Forrest earlier this year. Richard Forrest lives on Rte. 2, Brooklyn.

The victim's son Nicholas, 2, remains in the custody of the Belchers.

Funeral services for Penney Forrest were scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the

Smith Funeral Home here, with the Rev. Sam Reaves of the Assembly of God church officiating. Burial will be at Hazelwood Cemetery.

She was born Jan. 11, 1962, in Des Moines, moving to Grinnell in 1970. She attended junior high and high schools here.

Her marriage to Richard Forrest took place on Jan. 12, 1979, in Grinnell.

Survivors include her parents; her husband; her son Nicholas; three sisters, Robin May of Indianola, Shirley Parrott of Ft. Jackson, S.C., and Phyllis McIlraith of Des Moines; and a brother, Jasper Belcher III of Tucson, Ariz.

(penney)

H-12 December 4, 1980
Penney Forrest rites today

Penney Sue Forrest, 18, of 604 Pearl St., Grinnell, died Saturday evening, Nov. 29, a victim of homicide.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Rev. Samuel Reaves, pastor of the Grinnell Assembly of God Church, officiating. Organist will be Naomi Reaves. Pallbearers will be Bill Belcher, Ronnie Belcher, Steve Belcher, Dennis Parrott, Dennis McIlraith, and Gary May. Burial will be at Hazelwood Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her name, and donations may be left at the Smith Funeral Home.

The daughter of Jasper and Karen Mae Smouse Belcher, she was born Jan. 11, 1962, in Des Moines. She attended Des Moines elementary schools. She and her family came to Grinnell in 1970, and she attended junior and high schools here. She was married to Richard E. Forrest on Jan. 12, 1979.

Survivors include her husband, Richard; her parents; a son, Nicholas; her maternal grandmother, Ethel Smouse of Des Moines; and her brother and sisters, Jasper Belcher III of Tucson, Ariz., Robin May of Indianola, Shirley Parrott of Ft. Jackson, S.C., and Phyllis McIlraith of Des Moines.