

Can You Help Solve This Cold Case? Lori Billingsley



Lori Billingsley was a junior at Aloha High School who helped tutor students in the counseling section, but otherwise was quiet in terms of school affairs. She was 17 years old, with light brown shoulderlength hair, brown eyes, and wearing barrettes in her hair. She left her home on Southwest Heritage Court in Aloha with friends at about 9 pm on October 10, 1982.

Lori's body was found 12 hours later in a ditch on Southwest Miller Hill Road. She had been, strangled, stabbed and beaten to death.



A 17-year-old junior at Aloha High School was murdered and left in a drainage ditch Saturday night or Sunday morning, according to the Washington County sheriff's office and state medical examiners

Dead is Lori Gale Billingsley, of 17245 SW Heritage Court, Her body was found alongside the 7900 block of Southwest Miller Hill Road, south of Farmington Road, at about 9:22 a.m. Sunday.

The cause of the girl's death was strangulation and multiple stab wounds, according to medical examiner Larry Lewman, who performed an autopsy Sunday. He said she apparently died "a few hours" before the body was found, although examiners hadn't determined the precise time of death by Monday morning.

The body was found by two residents of the sparsely-populated residential area who were out for a walk, according to sheriff's deputies.

Lt. John Vallery, who's in charge of the investigation, said Lori was last seen by her parents, Thomas and Allaire Billingsley, at about 9 p.m. Saturday, when she left the house with friends.

At Aloha High School, Lori was a "well-liked" student who tried hard to do well both in and out of her class according to Principal Beverly Gladder, Though she wasn't involved in any formal activities, she attended the school's athletic and social events, Gladder said.

As of Monday morning, most of the school's students didn't seem to know the murdered girl was one of their classmates, Gladder said. The recovery of the body was reported Sunday, but the name wasn't released until almost noon Monday.

Gladder said she didn't plan to formally announce the death to the students. Instead, she said she was telling teachers and counselors the news so they could prepare for the students' reaction.

"When something like this happens, I think it's very important to be calm and reassuring to the students. Gladder said.

The murder is the second slaying of a local girl in less than six months. Wendy Ann Harris, 11, of Cedar Mill, was beaten to death with a hockey stick at a Cedar Mill home May 3.

Eric Lee Merrill, 15, also of Cedar Mill, admitted the murder in July and was sentenced to six years in the state's MacLaren School for Boys Ju-19 27.

If you lived in Washington County at that

time, you likely read the newspaper articles below. They describe her clothing, including a distinctive t-shirt, and ran her high school photo. You might remember hearing that witchcraft was involved and a second body was discovered, but those rumors were quickly dispelled.

The case had few leads but investigators continued to work the case. In March 1983, they offered a \$3,000 reward to anyone with information that would lead to the arrest and prosecution of the person responsible for her death. While suspect information was developed, detectives lacked the evidence needed to prosecute the case.

Police identify slaying victim HILLSBORO - The body of a young woman found in Aloha Sunday morning has been identified as 17. mass young woman iounu in Aiona Sunday morning has been identified as 17-yearmorning has been identified as 17-year. old Laurie Gale Billingsley of 17245 S.W. Heritage Court in Aloha. "We definitely have a homicide." Lt. John Vallery of the Washington County sheriff's department said Monday. sheriff's department said Monday. Shernir's department said Monday. Few details about the slaving were released, "We still need a great deal of lab work done," Vallery said, Vallery said that family membare lab work done," Vallery said. Vallery said that family members identified Billingsley from a detailed de. scription of the clothing worn by the victim. Dr. Larry Lewman, state medical examiner, said an autopsy performed Sunday night revealed Billingsley had hean stranolad and stabhed several been strangled and stabbed several times in the chest and abdomen. times in the chest and abdomen. According to police, Billingsley was last seen by her family at about 9 p.m. saturday. The body was discoved by a neighbor at about 9 a.m. Sunday while walking near 9720 S.W. Millerhill Road. Asked about possible suspects, Val. Waiking pear 9720 S.W. Millerhill Road. Asked about possible suspects, Val-lery said police had "nothing we're will-ing to talk "bout."