

Hitch-hikers

Editor, The Times:

I am 22, a girl and a hitch-hiker. It disturbs me that there is a movement to repeal the hitch-hiking law. For many people it is an important form of transportation.

Although to some people it may seem inconceivable to be so poor as to not have two dimes to take a bus, it happens to me and to many other people who frequently hitch-hike.

—C. L., Seattle.

Ban hitch-hiking

Editor, The Times:

I think the law legalizing hitch-hiking should be reconsidered and abolished.

The legalization of hitch-hiking acts to encourage moral offenses in that assaults can be easily committed by a person who knows he cannot easily be found.

—VIRGINIA STAMEY, Edmonds.

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The Seattle Times

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2 hitchhikers beaten, robbed

Two women, who were hitchhiking from Portland to Vancouver, B. C., told police they were beaten and robbed early today in the Seattle area by two men who had given them a ride.

Christi L. Murphy, 19, and Donna M. Hunt, 18, both of Portland, said the men picked them up about 2:30 a. m. and drove them to an apartment house east of Lake Washington, where they were beaten and robbed of \$114 and a gold ring.

The men then drove them to Seattle where they were let out of the car, the women said.

Hitchhiking

Hitchhiking is a dangerous gamble, a American roulette. One may survive a hundred times, come rain, snow or the other may die on his first try. Really, there is no excuse for hitchhiking. There are always alternatives, going closer to a job, taking a bus or riding a ride with a person you know. Many crimes are related to hitchhiking. Death has no holiday and life is precious, indeed. Why should we legislate anger and pretend that hitchhiking is safe?

Enough, no one can prevent suicide. No one can stop those who like to take great risks, to gamble their life for a nickel and a quarter. But how cheap and human existence is being treated? Or are we just human beings bent on self destruction?

K. PURGALIS, Seattle

The Times' opinion and comment:

Serious risks in hitch-hiking

THE shocking death of a 14-year-old Seattle girl, whose brutalized body was found in a wooded area near Olympia, is only the latest in an ever-lengthening list of crimes in which the victims were hitch-hikers.

Since the spring of last year, in fact, when hitch-hiking became legal in this state, the State Patrol has compiled a record of some 400 crimes related to hitch-hiking. Seattle police have compiled equally disturbing statistics.

Two were murders that also involved sexual assault, as in the recent tragedy of the 14-year-old Seattle girl. Others ranged from armed robbery and assault to theft and abduction. Approximately one fourth of them were moral offenses.

BECAUSE such records were not kept separately prior to the effective date of the 1972 law, it is not possible to establish a cause-and-effect relationship statistically

between hitch-hiking and violent crime.

But the pattern of the past 18 months is plain enough to reinforce the strongly held view that hitch-hiking subjects its participants to extremely serious risks.

Probably the vast majority of hitch-hikers and ride-givers are law-abiding citizens.

Experience with the state's hitch-hiking law has shown, however, that it has aggravated the crime problem, caused traffic hazards as a result of motorists stopping to pick up riders in designated areas and generally has made it more difficult for law-enforcement men to carry out their public-safety responsibilities.

In short, the benefits of the law are being far outweighed by its drawbacks, and it should be an early candidate for repeal when the Legislature meets in Olympia next month.

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Opinion

Protecting Teens

RIDING IN AN automobile is the greatest risk that most of us undergo; for young persons particularly the risk of injury or death by car seems like a greater hazard than illness or other kinds of accidents.

So you would think that one of the mentioned risks of hitchhiking would be the danger of riding in a car; but you seldom hear about that even though the persons who pick up hitchhikers probably comprise a category of high incidence of auto accidents.

What you hear about as a risk of hitchhiking, of course, is the danger of assault—both ways, to some extent, but more often now an assault upon the hitchhiker from the kindly ride giver. The last presumed such incident was reported this week when the body of a 14-year-old Seattle girl was found in Thurston County. She reportedly was last seen hitchhiking a ride and presumably became a victim to someone who picked her up.

Her family has started a drive to repeal the law which permits hitchhiking. Until the law was passed a year ago, hitchhiking was banned in this state. It was not a perfectly enforced law, of course, but there seems to be a much larger number of assaults, rapes and deaths from hitchhiking now than there was before the law was changed.

GOV. DAN EVANS was asked this week if he would favor a change in the law because of the increased problems resulting from the practice. He said he wants to have complete information on the problems before he makes a decision and that the State Patrol is compiling statistics.

It's only prudent, obviously, to want to know how bad the problem is before deciding to do anything about it. Recalling that Gov. Evans was an advocate of the change, however, and considering that it is impossible to recall when the facts ever caused him to change his mind on anything, it seems unlikely that the impetus for

making hitchhiking illegal again will come from the governor's office.

THE FAMILY of the dead girl intends to launch an initiative campaign and it would be interesting to have the hitchhiking measure put on the ballot to see whether legislative action is tuned to public impulse.

That is not necessarily to say that it should be; but it obviously has not been a couple of times in the recent past; without even mentioning Initiative 282 which rolled back state officials pay raises.

Another subject on which the Legislature has been twice rebuked by the voters in recent years is reform of the state's tax structure.

But a measure more similar to the hitchhiking issue was the Legislature's approval of a bill to lower the drinking age in this state to 19. Voters killed that in the fall election and they may have done the 19- and 20-year-olds of the state a great favor by their action.

There is considerable controversy over the effects of lowering the drinking age in other states and the following figures likely will be debated by some who favor the lower limits.

It was recently reported, however, that in Massachusetts, which lowered the legal drinking age from 21 to 18 on March 1, the number of teen-age highway deaths increased 136 per cent—from 25 to 59—in the following eight months.

According to the Massachusetts secretary of public safety, Michigan and Wisconsin also experienced increases in teen-age highway deaths after lowering the legal drinking age last year.

One hesitates to say today that adult voters ought to protect teenagers from themselves. But the only merit of lowering the drinking age, it seems to us, would be that the extra hazard of death from auto accident might serve to conceal the hazard of death by assault from hitchhiking.

Retain Hitchhiking

I quote from The Post-Intelligencer of Tuesday 18: "If you tell a kid it's legal, you're also telling them it's safe."

That's false, very false. Is alcohol safe for 21-year-olds because it's legal for them to drink it? And unsafe for 18-year-olds because it's illegal for them? If it is unsafe to go climbing alone in the mountains would you make a law against it?

If Katherine Devine had not chosen, herself, to hitchhike, she would not have been picked up. And even if hitchhiking were illegal she (or another like her) might have attempted it anyway (look at other states with laws against hitchhiking).

When will the law stop trying to protect people from themselves?

I have hitchhiked alone across the country five times, up and down both coasts, and all around Seattle and many other cities—many thousands of miles—without a single assault. Perhaps I have been lucky; perhaps I have learned to size up the person offering me a ride before I accepted it (and I have refused some).

Frequently hitchhiking has been the only way, and often the fastest way for me to get somewhere. Please, leave me that choice.

Try to educate the children and parents of the dangers if you will, but don't add another law to restrict freedom of choice in America.

KAREN INA MEYERS,
Seattle

Opinions expressed by Post-Intelligencer columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of The Post-Intelligencer.

An end to this tragedy

12-22-73

It is most difficult to imagine the inconsolable grief of the Seattle family whose young daughter was found brutally murdered in a wooded area west of Olympia after having been seen hitchhiking along a highway in North Seattle.

Having said this, let us state that we very much approve the determination of family members to see through their tears and take action against the undoubted cause of this tragedy—the Washington State hitchhiking permission law.

Sherrie Devine, sister of the slain Katherine, who would have been 15 on Christmas Day, is starting initiative petitions to give voters an opportunity to repeal this law and once again ban hitchhiking.

"We don't want anything to happen to anyone else," the teenage sister said. "We're not against hitchhikers. We just want to prevent hitchhiking."

The State Patrol has counted 400 crimes related to hitchhiking, some by motorists against hikers and some by hikers against motorists. Tacoma has had its own experience of the death of a

young girl picked up by a hitchhiker.

Young women have been the principal victims of this bad Washington law permitting hitchhiking. Caught up by the women's liberation movement, they see themselves as equals to men and under no compunction to refuse a lift. But they are not the equals of some animals searching the roads for victims.

The cars they enter often are traps. Recall the case of the young Tacoma rape victim who found the car door had no inside handle.

Most victims do not realize their danger. William Devine, Katherine's father, stated a very important point in this connection.

"When you tell a kid it's legal, you're also telling them it's safe."

Then it becomes a case of the law itself ensnaring the young girls.

It is the duty of the authorities to recognize the threat. We do not mean the police. They fought hard as they could against this law. The Legislature ought to do its duty now, or else the people once again will have to do it for them.

Anti-Hitchhiking Campaign Begun

SEATTLE (UPI) — The wreath on the bed that once was Katherine Merry Devine's speaks in red and green of Christmas and of sorrow.

It says that Katherine won't be home for the day that was to be both Christmas and her 15th birthday.

She was last seen alive by two classmates Nov. 25 as she stood hitchhiking at a North Seattle intersection. Her body, with clothing partly removed and her throat slit, was found two weeks later in the woods of a state park south of Olympia.

Because of that, her family announced Monday a campaign to repeal the state's 1972 law that legalized hitchhiking except on interstate or other limited

access highways.

"Our daughter wouldn't have been hitchhiking if it was against the law," Mrs. William L. Devine said.

"She thought because it was legal, it was safe," the girl's father added.

"I want it all banned," said Sherrie, Katherine's 16-year-old sister. "Nobody has to hitchhike. I don't want what happened to Kathy to happen to anyone else."

Sherrie said she remembered her history teachers saying that anyone can set out to change a law.

She said she originated the family plan to file a petition to submit a repeal initiative to the state's voters next year.

To succeed in that goal, the Devine family and their helpers must collect more than 117,000 valid signatures of registered voters.

"I think the people will be with us," Mrs. Devine said.

Since the law allowing hitchhiking became effective in mid 1972, statistics of the State Patrol and Seattle Police Department indicate the state has averaged about 20 hitchhiking-related crimes per month.

Only two hitchhikers became murder victims—Katherine and a 20-year-old Western Washington State College student, Laura L. Brock, killed in September 1972. Both crimes are unsolved.

Other crimes related to hitchhiking range from rape to robbery.

Hitching unsafe say patrolmen

Hitchhiking can be dangerous — for either the persons soliciting a ride or the driver, according to the Washington State Patrol.

This is reflected in statistics compiled by the WSP in nearly a year and a half of legal hitchhiking in the state.

Two persons have been murdered and at least 100 persons have been involved in morals offenses (everything from prostitution to rape), say the stats.

There were 72 robberies, 19 auto thefts and five abductions in the time period, as well as three burglaries, 38 assaults, 19 auto thefts and 13 larcenies.

Officers said 39 drug violations were connected with hitchhiking, five vehicles were damaged (mainly by hitchhikers who were passed up by autos) and 33 escapees from state institutions utilized hitchhiking as a vehicle to make good their escapes.

In addition, nine concealed weapon violations, one shoplifting incident, three resisting arrests, five misdemeanor warrants, two felony fugitive warrants, six parole violations and two selective service violations related in some way to hitchhiking.

Also, five persons who entered the country illegally and 98 runaways were connected to thumbing a ride.

The latest compilation was through October of this year. They resulted from reports of persons victimized or from apprehension of suspected criminals.

Most of the municipal police departments, sheriff's offices and the WSP itself contributed to the compilation, although it is not believed the statistics are complete because some agencies have discontinued their reporting.

WSP officials also say it is not known how many incidents, primarily morals crimes, went unreported to any agency.

So far in 1973 alone, troopers contacted 12,960 persons for hitchhiking in dangerous or prohibited areas (such as freeways). Of that number, 3,028 were arrested.

2 murders top long list of hitchhiking-related crimes

Katherine Merry Devine apparently was the second young hitchhiker in two years to be sexually assaulted and then murdered.

The slaying of Laura L. Brock, 20, also is unsolved. Her nude body was found on a Whidbey Island logging road September 14, 1972.

The State Patrol reports that since hitchhiking was legalized May 23, 1972, more than 100 morals offenses connected with hitchhiking have been reported in Washington.

A total of 387 offenses connected with hitchhiking — including 72 armed robberies and assault, theft

and abduction—were reported between March 1, 1972, and November 1, 1973, the patrol said.

Many hitchhiking victims have not reported offenses. Also, many police departments do not keep track of hitchhiking-connected offenses.

For example, the Seattle Police Department kept track only during a 10-month period last year after hitchhiking was legalized.

There are no statistics available in this state to compare the number of hitchhiking-connected offenses committed before and after the legalization.

Hitching Initiative

Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Tues., Jan. 8, 1974 S AS

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OLYMPIA — (UPI) — An initiative to outlaw hitchhiking in the state was filed yesterday by the mother and sister of a Seattle girl who was murdered last month.

Mrs. Sallyann Devine formally filed the initiative on behalf of her daughter, Sherrie Lynn, 16, who was too young to take the action herself.

Last month the body of Katherine Merry Devine, Mrs. Devine's daughter, and Sherrie's sister, was found in a remote area of the capitol forest south-west of here.

The girl was last seen alive hitchhiking in the Seattle area on Nov. 26.

Sherrie said that since the incident, the family has received more than 300 letters and calls with only three responses in favor of the state's liberalized hitchhiking law.

She said that so far the family has received a lot of help from a lot of people who don't even know us.

The Devines, who live at 743 N. 92nd St. and their supporters have, until July 5 to collect the 117,804 petition signatures from registered voters needed to validate initiative.

Grieving

family of slain girl wants others warned

By ERIK LACITIS

"I want you to put this on the front page. Maybe if some other kids could see the article . . . maybe they would learn about hitchhiking."

A few minutes earlier yesterday, Mrs. Sally Devine had finished talking to a team of investigators from the Thurston County sheriff's office about her daughter, Katherine, 14, found dead last Thursday near Olympia.

Mrs. Devine was in her modest Greenwood-area home at 743 N. 92nd St., surrounded by grieving relatives. She and her oldest daughter, Sherrie, 16, remembered the weekend of November 25, when Katherine ran away from home.

She fed a starving stray cat back to health. Now it's the family cat.

Sherrie hopes that Katherine's brutal death will deter other teen-agers who want to hitchhike. The older sister said the family plans to start a campaign to put the hitchhiking issue before voters.

"Nobody else should go through this thing," Sherrie said.



Katherine M. Devine

THE LAST person known to have seen Katherine here that Sunday was Gail Schwendeman, 11, a childhood friend and schoolmate at Ingraham High School.

Gail saw Katherine thumbing for a ride at North 92nd Street and Aurora Avenue North about 1:30 p. m. November 25. After about two minutes, Gail

said, a 1953 Dodge blue-grey panel truck driven by a heavy-set man with shoulder-length black hair stopped for the girl.

Gail remembered Katherine waving good-bye to her from the truck. Then Gail notified Mrs. Devine that her daughter had run away. Katherine's mother called the Seattle Police Department about 3 p. m. that

day. Mrs. Devine said a patrolman stopped by her home a short time later but refused to take a report.

"He told me there was a 24-hour waiting period for reporting runaways," Mrs. Devine said. "So I called the next morning, and they took it."

A spokesman for the department said today that there is no 24-hour waiting period for reporting runaway juveniles, although there is one for reporting missing adults.

TEN DAYS after she began her hitchhiking trip Katherine was found dead by a man and wife hired by the Department of Natural Resources to clean up debris around McKenny Park. "I was picking up litter when I saw her lying face

down," the woman worker said. "I thought somebody had played a joke and made a dummy, you know."

She said she thought a motorcycle gang that had held beer parties in the area had pulled a prank. The girl's hair had been parted by the rain. "From the back," the woman said, "she looked like one of those little dolls."

A spokesman for the Thurston County sheriff's office said yesterday it needs information concerning Katherine's activities or about the man who picked her up Sunday. Seattle homicide detectives are aiding in the investigation. "We've got her leaving here (Seattle) and finding her there dead. Everything else is a mystery," the spokesman said.

THE YOUNG hitchhiker was found partly disrobed in McKenny Park in the Capitol State Forest southwest of Olympia four or five days after she apparently was raped and murdered and 10 days after she was reported missing.

The King County medical examiner's office is coordinating laboratory tests to determine exact cause and manner of Katherine's death.

Sherrie said her sister had run away from home because of a variety of personal problems — Katherine had broken up with her boyfriend, her parents' separation 2½ years ago had upset her, the family is not well off financially. "She" said, "That's it, I'm

visit my cousin in . . ." Sherrie related. Sherrie said her sister frequently had hitchhiked "over the place" without encountering trouble.

A few days before Halloween, Sherrie noted, Katherine had tried to hitchhike to Oregon — but returned from Olympia.

WHAT KIND of a girl was Katherine?

Her mother remembered the 14-year-old as "impatient. . . . If she saw a pair of shoes she liked she had to have them now."

Sherrie said her sister "pretty . . . she always had a lot of boys coming after her, but she depended on herself to one per-

cent. . . . said Katherine wanted to be a Sunday school teacher and planned to enter the ministry.

She was a Bible on her lap and a flower in her dress yesterday. . . . She showed a flower in her hair. . . . the single word,

the poster was of a girl which had been on it. "Get right with the Lord." . . . Katherine loved animals.

12-22-73
**Letter
 indicates
Lacy
 murderer**

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Thurston County Sheriff Don Redmond said he is investigating an anonymous four-page letter purportedly naming the killer of a 14-year-old Seattle girl.

Redmond said he is looking for the author of the note which describes and names the alleged murderer of Katherine Devine, a hitchhiker who was knifed to death in McKenny Park Dec. 6. The letter includes a sketch of a mustachioed man and another of the man's scarred hand.

"This doesn't seem like the ordinary crackpot letter of the kind we always get during a murder investigation," said Lt. Don Snook. "We would like to hear more from this writer."

The note says the slayer is "sick and will kill again," Redmond said.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer
 A 16 S Thurs., Dec. 13, 1973



KATHERINE DEVINE
 Throat was slit

Theories In Death Of Seattle Girl, 14

Thurston County sheriff Don Redmond said yesterday it is possible that 14-year-old Katherine Merry Devine of Seattle was sexually assaulted, murdered and then left where her body was found south of Olympia last Thursday.

The girl, daughter of Sally and William L. Devine, was last seen hitchhiking at N. 92nd Street and Aurora Ave. N. on Nov. 25 by two classmates at Ingraham High School, according to Redmond.

The Thurston County coroner, Hollis Fultz, said the girl died of strangulation or by a knife wound. Her throat had been slit. Katherine's body was found in a wooded area of McKenny State Park, 12 miles south of Olympia, by park employees. The time of death was set at Dec. 1 or 2 by Fultz.

Redmond said the case may have been one of attempted rape and then homicide, with the body later dumped in the park. The girl's clothing had been partially removed.

She had been wearing bell-bottom blue denim pants, a peasant blouse, an imitation suede coat and "waffle stomper" shoes.

The sheriff said Katherine, who would have been 15 on Christmas Day, had broken up with her boyfriend recently and may have been hitchhiking to Oregon where she had friends.

Redmond and Thurston County detectives remained in Seattle last night investigating the case with the aid of Seattle homicide detectives.

Slain Girl's Sister to Crusade

BY SUSAN CHADWICK

Sherrie Devine, the 16-year-old sister of slain hitchhiker Katherine Merry Devine, announced yesterday that she intends to collect enough signatures to put the hitchhiking issue up to the people.

Sherrie and her family believe that "if it ever came to a vote, there would be no doubt the way it would go," said the girls' father, Bill Devine, in an interview at the Devine home, 743 N. 92nd.

Katherine Devine, who would have

been 15 on Christmas Day, was last seen alive by an acquaintance Nov. 25 when she stood hitchhiking at the corner of North 92nd Street and Aurora Avenue N.

Her partially disrobed body was found face down in the rain 10 days later in McKenny Park, southwest of Olympia.

"We don't want anything to happen to anyone else. We're not against hitchhikers. We just want to prevent hitchhiking," said Sherrie Devine, a junior at Ingraham High School and soon to be a Worthy Advisor in the Rainbow Girls.

"If you tell a kid it's legal, you're also telling them it's safe," said Bill Devine, who is separated from his wife Sally. "We figure Kathy never had an idea that anyone would do any harm to her."

Kathy Devine, who also was a student at Ingraham High, was a religious girl, somewhat of a "flower child," but not a fanatic, said her family. Her small bed-

Slain girl, 14, identified as Seattle hitchhiker

73-17592-12

A girl found slain last Thursday south of Olympia has been identified as a runaway from her Seattle home who last was seen hitchhiking in Aurora Avenue North the evening of November 25.

Kathleen Merry Devine, who would have been 15 Christmas Day, was identified yesterday by an uncle. Her throat was cut. The Thurston County Sheriff's office is investigating the death as a murder and attempted rape.

She had been reported as a runaway to Seattle police November 26 by her mother, Mrs. Sally Anne Devine. Kathleen who lived with her mother at 743 N. 92nd St., was a student at Ingraham High School.

Workmen cleaning Camp Margaret McKenny in the Capitol State Forest near Olympia found the partly clad body.

Thurston County officials believe she died about December 1. They asked that anyone who saw the girl or knows of her activities contact Seattle homicide detectives.

Kathleen was seen hitchhiking about 8:20 p. m. November 25 at Aurora Avenue North and North 90th Street. The girl, about 5 feet 8 and 120 pounds, had shoulder-length brown hair, parted in the middle.

She wore "waffle slippers," a peasant blouse,

navy bell-bottom pants and an imitation suede coat with fur trim.

The slaying of another young hitchhiker, Laura L. Brock, 20, is still unsolved. Her nude body was found on a Whidbey Island logging road September 14, 1972.

A student at Western Washington State College. Miss Brock was on her first hitchhiking trip, a three-day excursion to the Olympic Peninsula.



Kathleen Merry Devine

Devine, Katherine Merry
Beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Devine; sister of Sherrie and Charlene; Granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dayton, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Devine. Member Alpha Assembly No. 77 O. R. G. Memorial services Friday, 4 p. m., Green Lake Funeral Home.

Devine, Katherine Merry
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Devine; sister of Sherrie and Charlene; Granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dayton, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Devine. Member of Alpha Assembly No. 77 O. R. G. Memorial Services Friday, 4 p. m., Green Lake Funeral Home.

Seattle Girl, 14, Slaying Victim

BY MARTIN WORKS

A body found Thursday in a campground near Olympia was identified yesterday as that of 14-year-old Katherine Merry Devine of Seattle, who reportedly was hitchhiking near Aurora Avenue N. and N. 90th Street when last seen Nov. 26.

Authorities said the young woman's throat had been cut.

Thurston County Sheriff Don Redmond called the slaying "a very vicious crime."

Redmond and several deputies arrived in Seattle last night to work with Seattle Police Department homicide detectives in attempting to trace the teen-ager's movements since Nov. 26.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Devine of Seattle, reported her as a runaway on that date.

Thurston County deputies were working on the case in the Olympia area.

The body was found Thursday morning in the McKenny Park area of the Capitol State Forest, a short distance southwest of Olympia.

At first authorities believed the body was that of a woman in her twenties.

lied the body was that of a woman in her twenties.

A relative identified the remains yesterday.

An autopsy indicated the teen-ager had been dead for several days before being discovered.

Redmond said the teen-ager, an Ingraham High School student, would have been 15 years old on Christmas Day.

The sheriff asked that anyone who might have seen the young woman after Nov. 26 contact his office or the Seattle Police Department.

The teen-ager was described as five feet, eight inches tall, weighing about 120 pounds, and having shoulder length brown hair, parted in the center. She was wearing "waffle slippers" boots, a peasant blouse, navy bell-bottom pants, and an imitation suede coat with fur trim.

Sheriff Redmond said the killing had reaffirmed his opposition to the recent liberalization of the hitchhiking law in this state.

"I'm really against the hitchhiking laws of the State of Washington," Redmond told a reporter.

Slain Girl's Sister to Seek State Ban on Hitchhiking



WREATH DECORATED KATHY'S BED
It was donated by Rainbow Girls

From Page A-1
m is decorated with "Love" and "Get
h God" posters.
A crucifix hangs over her bed, which
decorated with a wreath from the
nbow Girls. A worn, white-leather Bl-

ble, given to her by her grandparents in 1969, lies on her bureau between pots of poinsettias and chrysanthemums.

The Devines must collect 117,804 valid signatures by July 5 to place an initiative to repeal the 1972 hitchhiking law on the Nov. 5, 1974, ballot.

Since the initiative measure cannot be filed with the state attorney general's office until Jan. 7, Sherrie Devine asked that people write to the legislature, the governor, and the President, to let them know how they feel about hitchhiking.

Volunteers who would like to march for their cause should write or call the Devine home.

The focus of concern over hitchhiking has shifted over the years from driver to rider as more and more young people, especially women, have taken to thumbing rides.

One amendment to the law, suggested in March of this year, would prevent women under 18 from hitchhiking. That idea was promptly quashed by equal rights advocates.

Hitchhiking has been banned at least twice since 1950 by the legislature, before it voted to legalize it in 1972.

Two public hearings held since the 1972 law took effect have confirmed public support for the measure, and a 1972 attempt to collect enough signatures to place the hitchhiking issue on the ballot was unsuccessful.



THE FAMILY OF SLAIN HITCHHIKER KATHERINE MERRY DEVINE
From left are Sherrie, 16, Mrs. Sally Devine and William Devine
—P-1 Photos by Phil H. Hober

Hitchhiking repeal

Family of slain girl to start petition

By ERIK LACITIS

"I want it all banned," Sherrie Devine, 16, said today. "Nobody has to hitchhike. . . I don't want what happened to Kathy to happen to anyone else. . . It's caused so much pain in the family."

Sherrie, sister of Katherine Merry Devine, 14-year-old hitchhiker found slain and apparently raped December 6 near Olympia, was announcing that she will head an initiative drive to repeal the law that allows hitchhiking.

Sherrie said she has received more than two dozen calls from persons — mostly young — interested in supporting the drive.

The small living room of the Devine home at 743 N. 92nd St. was filled with flowers from grieving relatives and friends. As Sherrie spoke, Maggie, the family cat, sat by her feet.

Katherine had adopted the cat when she had found it starving in the streets.

Mrs. Salley Devine, mother of the dead girl, urged the public to start a letter-writing campaign "to Olympia or even the President to get this thing really moving."

Gov. Dan Evans said Friday he didn't think the state ought to "respond governmentally in whatever we are doing on an 'incident-by-incident basis.'" "Everytime there is an incident there is a flurry of interest or concern about



Relatives of Katherine Merry Devine, 14, a hitchhiker who was found slain near Olympia, today denounced the law that allowed hitchhiking. From left were Mrs. Rosemary Dayton, her grandmother; Mrs. Sally Devine, her mother; Chuck Dayton, her grandfather; Bill Devine, her father, and Sherrie, 16, her sister, holding Katherine's cat.—Staff photo by Larry Dion.

the state's hitchhiking law,"

Evans said. He said that any changes in the law probably would depend on a report by the State Patrol on the number of hitchhiking-connected offenses recorded since hitchhiking was decriminalized May 23, 1972.

The secretary of state's office said today a hitchhiking initiative could be filed with that office no earlier than January 7.

The initiative's backers then would have until July 5 to get 117,804 valid signatures to get the issue on the November ballot. This

would mean the initiative would need at least 130,000 total signatures to make up for invalid signatures, the secretary of state's office said.

The last such grass-roots petition, Bruce Helm's Initiative 282, which rolled back sales tax

tors, other elected state officials and judges, gathered 799,000 signatures.

Bill Devine, Katherine's father, said his daughter would not have hitchhiked if it had been against the law. "She thought because it was legal it was safe," De-

Girl's family seeks hitchhiking ban

SEATTLE (AP) — The family of a 14-year-old Seattle girl who was murdered after she had gone hitchhiking announced plans Monday for an initiative campaign to put the hitchhiking issue on a state ballot.

Katherine Devine, who would have been 15 on Christmas Day, was last seen alive Nov. 25 when she stood hitchhiking at a north Seattle intersection. Her partially disrobed body was found face down in the rain 10 days later in McKenny Park southwest of Olympia.

"We don't want anything to happen to anyone else," said Sherrie Devine, the 16-year-old sister of the slain girl. "We're not against hitchhikers. We just want to prevent hitchhiking."

The dead girl's father, Bill Devine, said, "If you tell a kid it's legal, you're also telling

them it's safe. We figure Kathy never had an idea that anyone would do any harm to her."

The Devines must collect 117,804 valid signatures by July 5 to place an initiative to repeal the 1972 hitchhiking law on the Nov. 5, 1974 ballot.

The Devines are also urging citizens to write to the governor, the legislature and the President expressing opposition to hitchhiking.

The announcement of the initiative campaign was made at Devine's Seattle home.

One object remains

The only object in the White House that has been there since the original occupant in 1800 is a painting of George Washington. The painting was done by artist Gilbert Stuart who painted other portraits of the first president that are also in the mansion.

Daily Olympian

The Voice Of The Capital

Olympia, Washington, Tuesday, December 18, 1973

Ten Cents

Anti-Thumb Ban Wanted

SEATTLE (AP) — The family of a 14-year-old Seattle girl who was murdered after she had gone hitchhiking announced plans Monday for an initiative campaign to put the hitchhiking issue on a state ballot.

Katherine Devine, who would have been 15 on Christmas Day, was last seen alive Nov. 25 when she stood hitchhiking at a north Seattle intersection. Her partially disrobed body was found face down in the rain 10 days later in McKenny Park southwest of Olympia.

"We don't want anything to happen to anyone else," said Sherric Devine, the 16-year-old sister of the slain girl. "We're not against hitchhikers. We just want to prevent hitchhiking."

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The announcement of the initiative campaign was made at Devine's Seattle home.

6 The Daily Olympian, Monday, December 17, 1973

Autopsy Report Inconclusive, Thurston County Coroner Reports

An autopsy report, received Monday morning, has failed to shed any new light into circumstances surrounding the death of 14-year-old Katherine Merry Devine, Coroner Hollis Fultz said today.

Fultz said the pathologist, Dr. Besant Matthess, of Seattle, was unable to determine cause of the girl's death or how long she had

been dead before her body was discovered December 6 in a wooded area of Margaret McKenny Park near Littlerock.

A delay in receiving the autopsy report was caused by the Christmas rush of mail, Fultz added. He said the report had been mailed December 12 in Seattle, but it took this long to find its way into Fultz' mailbox.

Sheriff Don Redmond and his crew, along with personnel from the Seattle Police Department, are running down leads in an attempt to determine who killed the Devine girl. The victim was last seen November 26 hitchhiking south from the vicinity of her Seattle home.

The Daily Chronicle, 98531, Saturday, December 15, 1973



KATHERINE MERRY DEVINE — HOMICIDE VICTIM

Did you see this girl?

The Thurston County Sheriff's Department is seeking clues to the events leading up to the murder of Katherine Merry Devine.

The 14-year-old Seattle girl was found dead, a stab wound in her neck, Dec. 6 in Camp McKenny State Park, about five miles north of Littlerock.

The girl was five feet, eight inches tall, weighed 120 pounds and had light brown shoulder length hair with blue or grey eyes.

She was clad, at the time, in a brown mock suede coat with fur trim, navy type blue denims with a dragon patch on the left rear pocket, white peasant

type blouse and brown waffle stomper type boots.

In addition, she wore golden cross earrings, a Florentine friendship ring and an imitation blue green zircon ring.

The girl, a runaway from home, was last seen hitchhiking out of Seattle on Nov. 25. At the time the girl's body was found it was evident she had been dead several days.

The sheriff's office would appreciate it if anyone who saw the girl prior to her death would telephone the sheriff's office at Crime Check (357-6668). Or, persons may telephone Sheriff Don Redmond directly at 753-8100. Those desiring anonymity will receive it.

2 The Daily Olympian, Friday, December 14, 1973

Delay In Devine Autopsy Report Irks TC Sheriff

There is still no autopsy report on Katherine Merry Devine, 14, Seattle, and Thurston County Sheriff Don Redmond is unhappy about it.

The body of Miss Devine was found two weeks ago in a brushy area off the parking lot of Margaret McKenny Park near Littlerock.

An autopsy was performed last Friday by King County Medical Examiner Dr. Besant Matheiss. But no report has found its way to the sheriff.

"This is ridiculous," Redmond said Friday morning. "We are being put at a terrible dis-

advantage. With the pathologist not giving us a report, it is making our chore impossible.

Otherwise, there are no new leads in the killing, which deputies believe happened around December 1. Miss Devine was last seen November 26, hitchhiking south from Aurora and Ninety-second Street in Seattle.

The funeral service for Miss Devine has been set for 4 p.m. today in Seattle.