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HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

CASE: 74-9255-6

VICTIM: BRENDA JOY BAKER, Age 14
DOB: July 13, 1959, 5' 2", 143 lbs., brown eyes,
long brown hair (parted in middle), pierced ears.

Tan corduroy coat, heavy gray shirt (man's), dark
red blouse with plaid sleeves, red stretch pants, brown
shoes, gray socks, bra. Victim not wearing panties.

Dangling pierced earrings, friendship ring, two bracelets.
Victim not wearing her glasses.

SYNOPSIS:

Brenda was last seen alive on May 27, 1974 at approximately 5:30 p.m.
She was observed, by a friend, getting into a late-model blue Chevrolet
pickup truck occupied by two men. The vehicle was last seen entering
Puyallup from the direction of Sumner.

Brenda had stayed the nights of May 25 and 26 in Sumner with a friend.
She ran away from home on May 25, 1974 and hitchhiked to Sumner with
two males. On the way to Sumner, they were picked up by a Washington
State Patrol Trooper who cited them for hitchhiking. The Trooper then
gave them a ride to Sumner. They stayed the two nights in Sumner with
a friend.

Brenda indicated she was running away from home, and intended to go to
her sister's in Portland, Oregon. Brenda lived with her parents, brothers
and sisters in a home located at 24907 237th Avenue S.E., Maple Valley,
Washington.

Brenda was two months pregnant when she left home; her father wanted her to have an abortion, but she did not want one. An appointment had been made for her to see a doctor, and she told her friends that this was the reason for her running away.

Victim was found on June 17, 1974, concealed behind an old cedar-rail fence on the perimeter of Millersylvania State Park. This park is located approximately 10 miles south of Olympia and 2 miles east of Interstate Five. The area of the park where she was found is not accessible through the park. It is located off of a county road approximately 300 feet, down an old logging type road. Victim was laying face up next to the fence in heavy vegetation.

Her arms were along side of victim; the shirt, coat and blouse were laying on top of the body covering the head, neck and chest. Bra was pushed up to the neck area and sleeves on the blouse were turned wrong side out. The stretch pants were pulled up, shoes were tied, but the victim was not wearing panties. Victim was decomposed from mid abdomen to the head. The lower portion of the body was intact, but heavily infested with maggots. The clothing placed over the head was heavily soaked and crusted with blood. The jacket had gravel imbedded in the dried blood.

The autopsy did not reveal a cause of death. The skull was intact and not fractured. The pathologist did find small tears in the blouse that could possibly be knife cuts. He indicated that the heavy blood staining of the coat and shirt was not from postmortem bleeding. He found no fetus, fundus of the uterus, tubes or ovaries and could offer no explanation, unless animals had pulled these structures from the body. It could not be determined if the victim had been sexually molested.