



Kathy and Jack drove from the Keyes' home in Northville about 7:30 p.m. Sunday, January 31 destined for Clark station on South Main street. Instead they were seen min-

utes later at Cal's station. They were last seen alive driving south on Wing street. Their car was found about 14 hours later off Napier road. Jack had been shot twice. Kathy was missing.

Police Stymied, Seek Public's Assistance

Can You Help Find Kathy, Murderer?

It was to have been a pleasant evening for the young couple at the home of her parents who planned a late dinner for them that Sunday evening, January 31.

But before the night was over the boy was dead, the victim of an unknown killer's gun, and his girlfriend was missing - presumed kidnapped, or worse, murdered also and her body carefully hidden.

The tragedy that shattered two families and shocked the communities of Northville and Novi remains today - four weeks later - as revolting and mysterious as it did then. But it has an unrealness about it for many of the residents of the two communities who find it difficult to accept the fact that the killer remains loose and perhaps still walks their streets.

Wayne County Sheriff's Department and Novi detectives, who have sifted dozens of clues and theories, continue their around-the-clock investigations but admit that they are little closer to finding the killer of Jack Keyes, 19, of Northville, or locating his 17-year-old girlfriend, Kathy Radtke of Novi.

Detective Jack Grubb, assigned full time to the case by Novi Police Chief Lee BeGoje, has investigated a host of tips, many of which are so bizarre and unsubstantiated that their public disclosure could incriminate or malign innocent parties. Any many of the theories that police, in their investigative process, must themselves pose, analyze, abandon or tuck away in their minds fit this category.

But every "tip" is important in the investigative process of elimination and

that is why Grubb and those working with him are anxious to receive any thread of information citizens may yet be harboring because they feel it is unimportant.

Who, for example, may have seen Jack Keyes' car after he left his home at 142 Randolph Street at approximately 7:30 p.m. that Sunday night?

Jack, with Kathy, left her home at 23941 LeBost in Novi's Willowbrook Subdivision off Ten Mile Road, and drove to Cal's Gulf station, corner of Wing and Main streets, to get a defective thermostat fixed on his car. The station was crowded, however, and the night manager was out on a service call so the attendant declined Keyes use of the garage.

The couple left the station and drove two blocks to his home where one of his closest friends, Ronald Baggett of Northville Township, and several relatives were playing cards with his parents. They left minutes later, about 7:30, to go to Clark service station, 510 South Main Street, to purchase some pop for those at his home. They were to return immediately and then drive back to Kathy's for dinner with her parents and her brother, Ronald.

Jack and Kathy never arrived at the Clark station.

Instead, according to witnesses, he went back to Cal's, fixed his car, and "stayed for awhile to talk."

Statements of three witnesses place him at Cal's at 7:45.

One of the witnesses said the couple left, driving south on Wing Street.

As far as is known this was the last

time the pair was seen alive except by the person or persons who shot and killed Jack Keyes.

Christopher, Jack's older brother who had been in Detroit that weekend, arrived home late Sunday night. Ronald left the Keyes house late Sunday night, and returned home.

By the following morning, after frantic parents of the couple had notified police that their children had not returned, Ronald picked up

Christopher and the two went searching for Kathy and Jack.

Ronald was familiar with Jack's car, once having owned it. Christopher has no car nor driver's license.

Their search took them to a spot in Salem Township, off Napier Road near the C & O railroad tracks. They looked in this area, they explained, because Jack was known to have parked there on previous occasion and the boys feared Jack and Kathy might

have been overcome by carbon monoxide.

They found nothing, then drove south on Napier a short distance and spotted what looked like the tire marks of Jack's car in the snow entering a "lover's lane" inside Northville Township.

Back about one-quarter mile off Napier Road they found Jack's car some 20-yards off the lane and down a snowcovered hillside. Inside they found the partially clothed boy's frozen body. But Kathy was missing.

A subsequent autopsy disclosed that the boy was killed by two 22-caliber bullets in the face. They had been fired by an automatic weapon. In all four bullets had been fired, two striking the youth, one the steering column, and another the rear inside panel of the car. The boy had not been beaten.

Police estimate the time of death between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m.

The drivers window was open.

Police report the weapon apparently was fired from outside the car - at least three feet away since no powder burns were found on the victim. The boy, they say, apparently was lying face up when shot because of the entry path of the bullets. The car has a reclining seat.

A single 22-caliber casing was found inside the car.

Beside the boy's outstretched hand was his driver's license, as if, police say, the boy had been showing it to someone. Kathy's blood soaked jacket (it was his blood) was folded beneath the boy's head.

Detectives suspect that the shots that struck the steering column and the rear panel were deflected perhaps because kicked the gun in self defense.

Missing were Kathy, the car keys, the boy's billfold, his jacket, and her purse. His billfold contained about \$40.

Tire tracks of what was either a jeep or other four-wheel drive vehicle indicated that it had driven around the car leading detectives to believe that Jack's car might have been pushed or towed to the site. Jack's car had racing slicks (smooth tires) and the boy wouldn't have driven to the site knowing that he could not negotiate the hillside, police theorize.

The car had been shifted into a

park position.

Either because the person driving the jeep did not know the area or because he was trying to "throw off" police the driver had made a wrong turn in leaving the lover's lane, backed up and then returned to Napier Road, detectives explain.

Tire marks at the entrance of the lane indicate, they say, that both Jack's car and the jeep (or other four-wheel drive vehicle) had entered the lane from the south (in the direction of Five Mile Road).

The lane is located north of Five Mile off Napier - the boundary between Northville and Salem townships - and adjacent to the Detroit House of Correction property.

Both Ron Baggett and Christopher have been questioned extensively by police, and although they admit that the boys' search of the area raised obvious suspicion they are convinced the boys were not involved in the slaying.

Detective Grubb believes the murder may have been premeditated.

The slaying he and others believe, took place elsewhere. This being the case, the fact that a four-wheel drive vehicle was used and that the driver apparently knew the area well enough to turn up the lane might indicate that at least one of the persons involved was from the local area.

Police are convinced more than one person took part in the slaying. They wore gloves and carefully obliterated all finger prints in the car.

Kathy, they believe, was alive when Jack was killed. Had she been killed also, they theorize, her body would have been left in the car as well. Furthermore, because Kathy's jacket was folded beneath the boy's head it would indicate possibly that she tried to comfort the boy after he had been shot.

Police have ruled out any possible involvement of the girl in Jack's death. She had neither a motive, gun, nor transportation other than Jack's car. Furthermore, she had no idea where she and Jack would be at any given period since their route to Northville and vicinity was through happenstance.

Police checked the possibility that an escape by a Detroit House of Correction prisoner had occurred about the time of the murder. But there was none.

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Here's How You Can Help

Running out of clues and time, detectives seeking the whereabouts of Kathy Radtke and the murderers of her boyfriend, Jack Keyes, have issued a plea for public assistance. Persons who may have information about the following are asked to contact police (Novi Detective Jack Grubb, F19-2444) immediately.

- Whereabouts of Kathy Radtke, 5'7", 110 pounds, brown hair and eyes, last seen wearing lavender long sleeve shirt, purple "Mickey Mouse" T-Shirt, purple bell bottom slacks, brown moccasins, carrying a brown purse with shoulder strap.
- Billfold and 1967 Ford Mustang keys belonging to John (Jack) Keyes. The billfold contained two charge account cards.
- Black nylon windbreaker jacket with snaps on collar and pockets, owned by Jack, but possibly worn by Kathy.
- Anyone having seen Jack's Mustang car after 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 31.
- Anyone having seen a four-wheel drive vehicle, possibly a jeep, in or near the vicinity of Five Mile - Six Mile and Napier roads.
- Anyone who may have seen a Mustang being pushed or towed in this area.
- Anyone who may have seen anything unusual occurring in the Napier Road area on the night of January 31 - perhaps someone who may have heard a gun shot.
- Anyone who has not yet been contacted or questioned by police who may know of any motive for the gunshot slaying of Jack or the disappearance of Kathy.

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