

Investigators link 2 unsolved homicides

Dec. 14, 2007 12:00 AM

Cold case of the week: The headline of the Nov. 3, 2004, edition of *The Arizona Republic* read, "Body of woman found in Mesa identified."

The stories began: "Police have identified the woman whose partially clothed body was found in an alley Monday." For three years, Mesa police have had few leads in the murder of Alisa Marie Beck. The headline of the Nov. 9, 2007, edition of *The Arizona Republic* read, "Police asking for help after woman's body found." The most recent story said: "Who killed Karen Jane Campbell? Mesa police are asking for help to solve the case of a woman whose body was found in a roadway in a north Mesa neighborhood last month." On Saturday, Mesa police announced the homicides had been linked forensically, adding that they had no leads.

When & where: The partially clothed body of Alisa Marie Beck was found on Nov. 1 at 2:40 p.m. in the 1600 block of North Freeman in Mesa. The nude body of Karen Jane Campbell was found by a newspaper carrier at 4:53 a.m. in the 2700 block of East Leonora Street on Oct. 14. The bodies were found three years and five miles apart.

Summary: This week, Mesa police have asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to help them solve the two linked homicides. Detectives are checking with other Valley agencies to see if there are any other possibly related homicides, said Mesa police spokesman Detective Steve Berry. Both Beck, 21, and Campbell, 44, were transients, prostitutes and had histories of drug abuse and were known to associate with drug dealers, police said.

Campbell's nude body was found on the road in the 2200 block of North Winthrop Circle, near Lindsay and McKellips roads. Police said Campbell was known to hang around the area of Country Club Drive and Dobson Road. An autopsy revealed Campbell died of homicidal violence. Eden Randolph, a newspaper carrier, was delivering papers when her vehicle's headlights lit up a body when she turned on the street. She thought perhaps someone had passed out or the body was a mannequin that someone left as a "sick prank" with Halloween approaching. "Nobody deserves to be treated like that," Randolph told *The Republic*.

Beck was partially clothed, wearing a blue sweater, when she was found among broken glass and trash in an alley near Country Club Drive and McLellan Road the day after Halloween. She was a day shy of her 22nd birthday. Beck had been strangled. Not much has changed since police began investigating Beck's death three years ago. They said Beck was strangled, and evidence indicated she was likely killed someplace else and her body dumped. Beck's stomping grounds were central Phoenix. She spent time on the streets and sometimes visited a soup kitchen. She was a funny, outgoing girl who loved adventure, poetry and drawing and dreamed of going to school to become an artist, friends and family said. Police said Beck had no known job or address and had been in the Valley for a little more than a year. She reportedly had no ties to Mesa. During their investigation, they learned Beck was a fugitive from Pennsylvania with prior arrests for reckless endangerment, forgery and theft.

Investigator: Berry.

What bothers police most about this case: "We have a person out here committing these crimes and they are still on the loose, and we would like to find them as quickly as possible before they have the time to commit any more crimes," Berry said.

New technology's role in this case: Mesa police said forensic evidence connects both crimes but declined to provide further details.

How you can help: Call the Mesa Police Department at 480-644-2211 or Silent Witness at 480-WITNESS.

- Senta Scarborough

FBI asked to help solve 2 Valley murders

Senta Scarborough

The Arizona Republic

Dec. 11, 2007 12:00 AM

Mesa police are asking the FBI for help investigating the murders of two women killed five miles - and three years - apart. Police on Saturday said there is a link between the Oct. 24 murder of Karen Jane Campbell, 44, and the Nov. 1, 2004, murder of Alisa Marie Beck, 21. Both women had histories of drug abuse and prostitution and were known to associate with drug dealers, police said.

Mesa police spokesman Detective Chris Arvayo said Monday it is unclear what role the FBI would play. Mesa police are contacting other Valley law-enforcement agencies to check for other murders related to the cases. Patrol officers have been advised to make local prostitutes aware of the linked slayings for their safety, Arvayo said.

Campbell's nude body was found on the road in the 2200 block of North Winthrop Circle, near Lindsay and McKellips roads. Beck's partially clothed body was discovered in an alley near Country Club Drive and McLellan Road. Little has changed since police began investigating Beck's death three years ago. They said Beck was strangled, and evidence indicated she was likely killed someplace else and her body dumped in Mesa. Police said Beck had no known job or address, had been in the Valley for a little more than a year. She reportedly had no ties to Mesa.

During their investigation, they learned Beck was a fugitive from Pennsylvania with prior arrests for reckless endangerment, forgery and theft. Mesa police said forensic evidence connects both crimes but declined to provide further details.

Anyone with information can contact the Mesa Police Department at 480-644-2211 or Silent Witness at 480-WITNESS.

Mesa woman's slaying linked to 2004 murder

Lindsey Collom

The Arizona Republic

Dec. 8, 2007 09:02 PM

Authorities in Mesa have linked the slaying of a woman in October with a 2004 homicide.

The body of Karen Jane Campbell, 44, was found Oct. 24 in the 2200 block of North Winthrop Circle. Mesa police said Saturday that the Campbell homicide has been linked with the slaying of Alisa Marie Beck, 22, whose body was discovered in an alley near Country Club Drive and McClellan Road on November 1, 2004. Mesa police said forensic evidence connects both crimes but declined to provide further details.

Authorities say both women had a history of drug abuse and prostitution, and both were known to associate with drug dealers.

Anyone with information on either case is urged to contact the Mesa Police Department at (480) 644-2211 or Silent Witness at (480) WITNESS.

November 11, 2007 - 12:57AM

Meth led from wealth to unsolved Mesa killing

Gary Grado, Tribune

Mesa police have come up empty in solving the slaying of a 44-year-old woman whose nude body was dumped in the middle of the street in a neighborhood near Lindsay and McKellips roads. Karen Jane Campbell had no permanent address, but she roamed the area of Main Street between Dobson Road and Country Club Drive on foot and on her bicycle, flopping wherever she could. Mesa police also said she associated with drug users. Her body was found Oct. 24 in the 2700 block of East Leonora Street.



to

But Campbell did not always live like that. In the early 1990s she had \$500,000 in the bank and trust funds set up for her children. "That half-million is what killed her," said Michael Rowley, married to Campbell for seven years after she moved Mesa. Campbell was pregnant and caring for a baby when her first husband died in a car crash in Florida, Rowley said. She received a settlement of more than \$1 million from her first husband's crash — \$500,000 of which was hers after paying lawyers and creating trust funds for her children, Rowley said. He said Campbell had mental illness and didn't like the medication prescribed to her because it gave her a constant low-grade headache, so she turned to methamphetamine. Court and police records confirm Campbell used methamphetamine, and over the years was jailed for an assortment of other petty crimes. It's "just amazing" what

one type of drug can do to a person, Rowley said. He said Campbell was a great mother and stepmother and a "top-notch person" who taught Sunday school at her church when she was clean. "I had people come up to me and rave about how much their daughters loved my wife," Rowley said.

Campbell started having run-ins with the law after the couple divorced. Once, in June 1997, she was listed as a suspect in a house fire. A Tribune story from the time quoted police as saying they had received numerous

complaints about people coming and going at all hours from the house in the 8000 block of East Colby Street. She left the state after a 1998 drug conviction and returned in 2004 to regain custody of her children, relinquished to relatives seven years earlier. "She admits she has made mistakes in the past but has diligently tried to make amends and to lead her life in a simple and upstanding way," her attorney wrote in court papers in 2004.

Despite the mistakes, Mesa police spokesman Chris Arvayo said Campbell's background is no reason to dismiss her slaying. "We owe it to her to solve this crime," he said.

Police ask anyone with information about Campbell's death to call (480) 644-2211.

Linda & Leonora (2700 block) 10/14/2007

Sarah McLellan

The Arizona Republic

Oct. 24, 2007 11:59 AM

Police have ruled the death of a woman whose body was found lying in the roadway in a Mesa neighborhood a homicide. Karen Jane Campbell, 44, was found by a newspaper delivery person lying in the middle of the roadway on the 2700 block of East Leonora Street at approximately 4:50 a.m. on Oct. 14.

There were no visible signs of trauma, police said. An autopsy completed by the office of the Maricopa County Medical Examiner determined Campbell's death was a homicide. The exact manner of death is not being released while the investigation is ongoing. Eden Randolph was delivering newspapers that morning and found Campbell's body lying in the road.

Randolph said the headlights of her vehicle lit up the body when she turned onto the street. She said she thought maybe someone had passed out or perhaps the body was a mannequin. "I wasn't even sure if [the body] was real at first," Randolph said. Randolph said she thought this was somebody's "sick idea" for a prank with Halloween approaching. "I didn't want to believe it was real," she said. But Randolph quickly realized this wasn't a joke, and the body, in fact, was real. Randolph said discovering the body was surprising because it was found in a residential neighborhood where she "never felt uncomfortable."

Randolph said she still experiences anxiety every day when she approaches the street. "Every single day I get to relive it in my mind. I get sick to my stomach. Nobody deserves to be treated like that...stripped of all your dignity and dumped like trash." Randolph said she can't get the image of that morning out of her head. Randolph had her district manager stay on the phone with her to distract her as she drove down the street to deliver papers on one occasion since the incident. "It's just awful that anybody should have to die like that," Randolph said.

Anyone with information about Campbell's death is encouraged to contact police at (480) 644-2211 or Silent Witness at 480-WITNESS.