

Families
The Holidays

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Orange next for Big Red

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COLOR

Monday, December 7, 1992

Lincoln Journal Star

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Harms search believed over

2 arrested in robberies suspects

By Margaret Reist and David Swartzlander
Journal Writers

A strange twist of fate in a robbery investigation apparently has ended the 11-week search for 18-year-old Candice Harms.

Candice Harms and given police two suspects in the missing case of her disappearance.

Authorities suspect a body found Sunday in a snow-covered field near 124th Street and Yankee Hill Road is that of Harms.

Who had not been seen since leaving her boyfriend's residence near the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Sept. 22. Authorities said an autopsy would be conducted today to confirm the identity.

At a morning news conference, authorities confirmed that robbery suspects Roger Bjorklund, 26, 610 S. 22nd St., and Scott Barney, 27, 401 N. 56th St., were suspects in the Harms case.

He said no decision has been made on possible charges.

"I am not prepared to tell you that they will be charged," Lacey said. "We should know in a week."

Lacey said authorities did not suspect the two robbery suspects were involved in the Harms case when they arrested them last week in connection with a series of robberies that occurred this fall.

"The robbery cases were extremely difficult cases," Lacey said. "The good work on these cases ultimately led, by some quick of fate, to the discovery that was made yesterday," Lacey said.

Lacey refused to give details about how they believe Harms was abducted, except to say it did not appear that Harms knew her abductors or that they knew her.

He declined comment on what investigators believe happened before her death, or where or how she was killed.

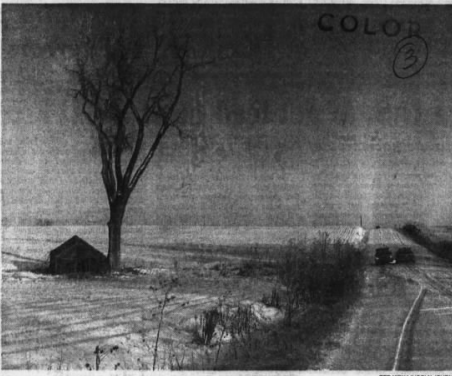
However, Police Chief Allen Curtis said community concerns about safety that were raised by Harms' disappearance can be calmed some what.

"It is always prudent to take care of yourself," he said. "Clearly, people need to be careful."

Lacey confirmed that Barney's attorney contacted authorities Saturday afternoon and wanted to discuss matters relating to the Harms case.

The attorney's call to Deputy County Attorney John O'Brien "initiated a flurry of investigative activity" that ended with the discovery of the body, Lacey said. He confirmed that Barney led authorities Sunday morning to the area where the body was found.

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In a snow-covered field about five miles southeast of Lincoln, a barren tree and a Police Department tent mark the site where a body, believed that of Candice Harms, was found Sunday.

News made soup supper difficult

By Margaret Reist and David Swartzlander
Journal Writers

While authorities searched a cornfield southeast of Lincoln Sunday night for a body they believed could be that of Candice Harms, family and friends of the missing 18-year-old gathered at a previously planned fundraising supper at Sheridan Lutheran Church.

"Community support" has been rock, our foundation," said Harms' father, in a telephone interview this morning.

"The soup supper last night just affirmed that love and support."

The supper was difficult for the Harmses to attend because of news reports of the search, which began shortly after the same time the supper started.

Harms said he and his wife were notified Saturday that police were following up on information about the search through news reports and people coming to the supper heard it on the radio.

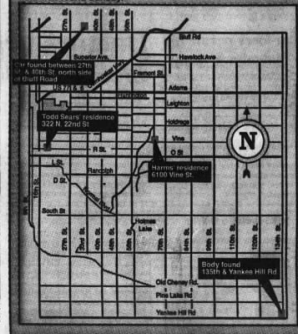
Harms, who was critical of the reports, said he wishes he would have known the story was going to air so he could have notified relatives.

Candice Harms' boyfriend, Todd Sears, who was the last person to see her alive on Sept. 22 when she left his house for home, said he was told by the Harmses of the new police search.

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Key locations in Candice Harms case

Candice Harms disappeared after leaving her boyfriend's home for her parents' apartment late the night of Sept. 22. Her abandoned car was found the next day. A body believed to be hers was found Sunday.



Suspects known to computer buffs

By John Rood
Journal Writer

A passion for computers and recent job changes connect the two men arrested on suspicion of several robberies who are now being linked by authorities to the disappearance of Candice Harms.

Scott A. Barney and Roger D. Bjorklund were arrested Wednesday after what police believe was a failed attempt to rob a credit union. Authorities are investigating whether the men also may have been involved in at least seven robberies that occurred in Lincoln in late August and September.

They have been charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and possession of a weapon to commit a felony; two counts of robbery and two counts of using a weapon to commit a felony; and two counts of theft by receiving stolen property.

Both men are known to Lincoln computer "hackers" after logging thousands of calls on local computer and bulletin boards. Barney, 26, 610 S. 22nd St., was arrested for burglary in 1986 for breaking into ComputerLand, 701 N. 48th St., and allegedly taking a computer and computer equipment.

The case was disposed of through juvenile court. Police served a search warrant on

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Events since disappearance

- Chronology of events in the disappearance of Candice Harms:
- Sept. 22: Harms, 18, left the home of her boyfriend, Todd Sears, 322 N. 22nd St., at 11:40 p.m. to return to 6100 Vine St., where she lived in an apartment with her parents, Stan and Pat Harms. She never got there.
- Sept. 23: Harms' parents report her missing; her abandoned car is found in a mile field on Bull Road, between 27th and 40th streets, Kenyatta Bush, 17-year-old Omaha North High School student, is reported missing.
- Sept. 25: Friends and relatives of Harms gather at Pluey High School with about 750 students to pray for the missing Pluey graduate.
- Sept. 26: Volunteer hoodlums ride south and north of Lincoln for four hours, nothing found. Also, authorities from Lancaster and Douglas counties meet in Omaha to discuss similarities in the disappearance of Harms, Bush and Mary Cronk, 27, of Palsion, last seen April 12, nothing found to link the cases.
- Sept. 28: Nebraska Air National Guard reconnaissance plane flies over area where Harms' car was found, taking infrared photos of the landscape to perhaps find some clues.
- Early October: Mace purchases increase in Lincoln, stores report.
- Oct. 2: Omaha police find body of Kenyatta Bush.
- Oct. 8: Marchers rally at UNL to support the family of Harms.
- Oct. 12: Lincoln police say they want to talk with a man who was seen in the area where Harms' car was found.
- Oct. 14: Lincoln-Lancaster County Crime Stoppers Board approves a \$1,000 reward — the largest amount Crime Stoppers offers — for information that could close the Harms case.
- Oct. 27: Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers charges UNL acted in a racist manner when its police contacted and asked to interview a group of black male students, one of whom was believed to have talked to Harms the day of her disappearance.
- Nov. 1: Fulfilling, they say, an overwhelming desire to tell their daughter that they love her, Stan and Pat Harms publish their feelings in a Sunday Lincoln Journal-Star advertisement.
- Nov. 5: UNL Police Chief Ken Cagle says he will take steps to ensure that procedural errors made by an officer who reviewed and photographed the black students in connection with Harms' disappearance don't happen again.
- Dec. 6: Body, believed to be that of Candice Harms, is found near 124th Street and Yankee Hill Road.

Harms said authorities are about "90 percent" sure the body they found is that of his daughter but they are still trying to positively identify it.

Court leaves intact abortion counsel law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today refused to challenge a Mississippi law that requires a woman to get counseling and wait 24 hours before ending a pregnancy.

The justices, without comment, left intact a ruling that denied abortion clinic operators a hearing when they tried to block the law before it took effect in August.

Although the court's action is not a decision on the merits of the dispute and sets no national precedent, it represents a significant rebuff for abortion rights advocates.

A federal appeals court threw out the challenge in August after Justice A. F. Polakiewicz said the law required Pennsylvania regulations that require

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Randy and Judy Bailey stand in front of their new Christmas display at 5310 Woodview Street.

The Baileys light up as the angels drop by

By A.J. LaRocca
Journal Writer

It took Judy Bailey of Lincoln 24 years to persuade her husband to see the light, or rather, lights.

As a child, Bailey recalls, she got a special feeling when she looked out her bedroom window and saw, through wondering eyes, the Santa, sleigh and reindeer that her dad had made and set on the roof.

Bailey, who grew up in Fairfield in Clay County, never lost that feeling. She vowed that someday when she had a house of her own, she too would have Santa on her roof. Her Christmas dream came true this year, but it didn't come easily.

"After 24 years of marriage, my husband got tired of me nagging him and decided to do it," she said with a laugh. "I've always been Christmas crazy. I finally got my husband there."

She and her husband, Randy, also a Clay County native, have turned their home at 5310 Woodview St. into a magical Christmas wonderland. Santa, with a handful of toys, and Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer are

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Local weather
Tonight: Areas of fog developing with increasing clouds, cold, low 14.
Tuesday: Continued increasing clouds, becoming cloudy by afternoon, high 37. — Page 18.

Editorial
Suddenly the climate for health-care reform has changed, with medical and insurance groups acting like they're rushing to catch a departing train. — Page 7.

Sports
The bowl coalition got its No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown, but the Cotton Bowl's decision to bypass Florida State for Notre Dame shows that self-interest still prevails. — Page 9.

Business
Insurance regulators approved a new standard for measuring life and health insurance companies, in Lincoln, Com and More Inc. sells popcorn and more. — Page 14.

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