

Friends extol slain Lincoln woman

By Lynn Zenchling
Star Staff Writer

In life, Patricia Alice McGarry reached out and touched her friends — with her job, with her compassion and with her love.

In her death, those same friends gathered together in a small, one-room church Sunday night, trying to reach out themselves. To reach out to Patty one more time, to reach out to each other in their grief, to reach an understanding over the sudden, tragic ending to their friend's life.

Last Thursday, Ms. McGarry, 25, was shot and killed in her duplex at 400 N. 44th St., along with her neighbor Catherine Brooks, also 25.

While the friends of Ms. McGarry met in the Fellowship Community Church at 6852 Havelock Ave., authorities in three states continued their hunt for the man they believe to be the woman's killer.

Back in the church, rays from the setting sun fell softly through the windows, the floral bouquet of pink and white chrysanthemums adorned the



Patricia McGarry ... slain mother.

altar while 50 friends filed in the church, to hear about their friend Patty.

"She gave us love as a good friend. She gave us peace and happiness," wrote Patty's friend, Jan Stapleton of Denver. Ms. Stapleton's eulogy was read by Lavern Holdeman, a member of the church.

"We will miss her. But, through her lifestyle and beliefs, she shared in the

struggle. She was a sister," Ms. Stapleton wrote.

"We mourn her laughter, her smile, her words and her presence for we know she'll never be physically with us again," Holdeman said.

"We're feeling sorry for ourselves," he said.

But, he admonished Patty's friends, "She suffers no more pain, she suffers no more heartache."

Some might think it ironic that Patty was killed just as she had reached a major turning point in her life. Ms. Stapleton called it "a time of renewed ambition." Patty had decided to go back to school.

She had just completed a clerical course at the Lincoln School of Commerce and was planning to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall. She wanted to become a businesswoman.

For the past four years, her life centered around her son, MacArthur. Friends said, a son nicknamed "Little

Mac." Patty and her husband MacArthur Rogers had separated about two years ago, friends said.

Patty's friends announced they have started a fund drive to place money in trust for "Little Mac" until he is 18. People wishing to contribute to the fund can contact Linda Ode, at 2524 Dudley.

Ms. Ode said many of Patty's friends are upset over some of the publicity given Patty.

"She was truly a fine person," Ms. Ode emphasized.

"Some may think that Patty died in vain," Holdeman said.

"It was an untimely death, a tragic death."

"Her death will be in vain only if we don't take the things she taught us and use it for our own betterment. If we can use Patty's death to teach others, she won't have died in vain."

As they had entered the church, so did they leave it — some crying, several holding hands, others grimaced and silent. But all were Patty's friends.

'No evidence' Williams knew Kathy Brooks

Deputy County Attorney Bob Gibson said Sunday he is "not aware of any evidence of any kind which showed that Kathy Brooks knew (Robert E.) Williams," who is sought in the deaths of Mrs. Brooks and Patricia McGarry. Gibson said he believed an earlier report that the two had been seen together was erroneous. He said the identification by an unidentified waitress was based on an outdated picture of Mrs. Brooks which, paradoxically, looked more like Mrs. McGarry than Mrs. Brooks.

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Divorce apparently begins trail of terror

The trail of terror allegedly left by Robert E. Williams, who is wanted in three states for abductions, rapes and murders, apparently began in Lincoln earlier this month with his divorce.

Williams' ex-wife, Merilee, 41, has theorized the trauma from their Aug. 3 divorce triggered his rampage. Following is a chronology of events which has led law enforcement officers on a three-state search for the former Burlington-Northern machine shop operator.

On Aug. 3, the Williams divorce decree was signed, ending their marriage of several years.

On Aug. 5, Williams allegedly kidnapped Merilee and assaulted her.

On Aug. 8, Williams was arraigned in Lancaster County Court on charges of kidnapping and using a knife to commit a felony. He was released after posting \$200 on a \$2,000 bond.

On Aug. 8, Wednesday, records show that Williams purchased a .22-caliber revolver from Montgomery Ward department store in Lincoln.

On Aug. 11, Thursday, police found the bodies of Catherine Brooks and Patricia McGarry, both 25, in Ms. McGarry's 1400 N. 44th St. duplex. Both women, who were neighbors, had been shot three times. Police believe that Mrs. Brooks had been raped.

Later that same day, a 25-year-old Lincoln woman told police a man fit-

ting Williams' description held her captive for six hours and raped her three times and forced her to commit oral sex.

On Aug. 12, Friday, the body of a northwest Iowa farm wife was found in her home by her husband and police. Dead was Mrs. Virginia Rowe, 51, of rural Cornell, Iowa. She had been shot and apparently sexually assaulted.

Later that same day, arrest warrants were issued by Nebraska and Iowa authorities for Williams' arrest. The FBI entered the case.

Aug. 13, Saturday, a man in his 30s reported to St. Paul, Minn., police that he had been kidnapped at gunpoint from his home in Fridley, Minn., about 10 miles northwest of the Twin Cities. The

man, who later identified his abductor as Williams, said Williams forced him to drive his car from Fridley to St. Paul, where the man was later bound and gagged in a railroad caboose.

Later Saturday, Katherine Billings, 20, of St. Paul, reported to police she was shot in downtown St. Paul, raped and then taken to suburban Stillwater where she was pushed out of her car. She remains hospitalized in serious condition.

On Aug. 14, Sunday, authorities said that despite an extensive search in the Twin Cities area, there was no trace of Williams or the car he was last known to be driving.

Farm families get little share of Venezuelan oil boom profit

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Maucuchas, Venezuela — Two farmers bent behind a crude wooden plow pulled by a pair of oxen slowly carved a furrow through a rock-strewn field in this village high in the Venezuelan Andes. The men, who stopped frequently to remove boulders from their path, wore heavy, frayed clothes almost matching the color of the deep brown soil they worked.

Day after day they and farmers like them try to urge better crops of wheat or potatoes from the cold, rocky soil on the western edge of the country. But the precipitous green slopes of this scenic, almost perpetually chill region yield little more than a subsistence income to its inhabitants. The people of Maucuchas, like thousands of other Andean families, have seen meager evidence of the petroleum boom that hit this nation in 1974.

Over the past three years, the government of President Carlos Andres Perez has spent over \$4 billion on domestic agriculture, not including hundreds of millions more for rural highways, electricity, water lines and other public works aimed at improving living conditions and productivity in the agricultural sector.

But comparatively little has reached Maucuchas, the rest of the state of Merida and the neighboring Andean states of Trujillo and Tachira, an area of Venezuela's western extreme which includes around 10% of the nation's 12.5 million people.

Although Venezuela enjoys the highest per capita income in Latin America and reaps billions of dollars from oil, much of its population continues to live in poverty, suffering the effects of disease, malnutrition, and a lack of basic health, education and

sanitary services. Most of the small farmers and farm workers in the Andean region rarely see the equivalent of the government-decreed minimum wage of \$3.49 per day. And prospects for change are about as dreary as they were before Venezuela's treasury began to swell from oil.

"This government has given us a little, but it means nothing," a wrinkled farmer in his 50s said as he guided two reluctant cows along the highway near Maucuchas. The money goes to the big cities, the big farmers. You can see for yourself this town hasn't changed in years."

The tourists who glide through Maucuchas leave little money behind. They usually continue on for 30 miles to the provincial capital of Merida, a city of over 80,000 founded in 1598 by a Spanish conquistador.

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