

# Witness says he saw Eric Hansen before murder

Sheriff's deputies have a witness who saw 18-year-old Eric Hansen, St. Francis, a week before his headless torso was discovered Oct. 4 at Petrifying Springs County Park.

Through Milwaukee news media, detectives asked Milwaukee area residents last week to come forward if they had information about Hansen's whereabouts during the last few days of his life. The tip came to detectives during the weekend.

Lt. Lee Ormson said a 39-year-old Franklin man told deputies he saw

Hansen about 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 27 at a bus stop in downtown Milwaukee. The witness said Hansen was standing along South Water Street, either at the East Buffalo Street or East Chicago Street intersection on the far southeast side of downtown.

The witness said bars in that area would have closed at 2 a.m. Hansen was standing outside a building that houses the Paradise Adult Book Store.

Detectives and a pathologist placed the time of death at six to

eight days before Hansen's partial body was found by a hiker. Ormson said it is possible the man was the last to see Hansen alive before the murder.

Ormson said detectives are collecting background on Hansen's friends, hoping they can provide more clues. After the sheriff's request for help appeared in Milwaukee newspapers, detectives received many calls from people who said they knew Hansen, but none who had seen him around the time the body was discovered.

The witness who came forth recently said he knew Hansen, though he did not consider himself a close friend.

Hansen's father said he saw his son on Sept. 23, 11 days before the torso discovery, when Eric visited his father's flat. Hansen's mother earlier said she had not seen Hansen for several weeks.

"He may have been going from one friend's house to another," said Ormson. "That is not uncommon among young people today who have

left their families."

Authorities in Kenosha and Milwaukee believe Hansen was a homosexual prostitute. He had dropped out of high school and never had more than a few itinerant jobs. His torso was identified on Oct. 11 through a comparison of child-adult X-rays at University Hospitals in Madison.

The key factor in the identification was Hansen's severely concaved chest — a deformity that always bothered the victim.



Eric Hansen