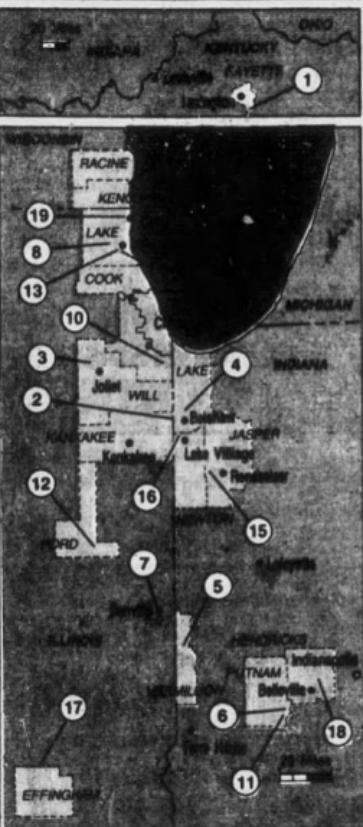


Male murder victims 24 bodies found in four states



Chicago Tribune Graphic;
Source: Chicago Tribune
news reports

Serial murderer a suspect in 24 deaths in 4 states

Kenosha may have to get in line to question Larry Eyler, who has been indicted in Chicago for murder in the dismemberment slaying of a teenage boy.

He is a suspect in as many as 24 killings in four states, including the dismemberment murder of Eric Hansen here, law enforcement authorities have said.

The torso of Hansen, 16, of St. Francis, was found wrapped in a plastic bag Oct. 4 in Petrifying Springs Park.

Kenosha County Sheriff's detectives were still waiting today for permission from Chicago authorities to question Eyler about the murder.

Physical evidence at the scene bears some similarities to that of the other cases, Lt. Lee Ormon said.

A Cook County grand jury Thursday charged Eyler with murder, felony murder, armed violence, kidnapping, aggravated kidnapping, unlawful restraint and concealing a homicidal death in the slaying of Daniel Bridges, 16.

Eyler, 31, was ordered held without bond in the Cook County Jail Thursday, pending his arraignment Sept. 13.

During a brief hearing before Cook County Circuit Judge Philip Sheridan, Assistant State's Attorney Mark Rakoczy recommended that no bond be set because Eyler is

charged in a "potential" death penalty case.

"Evidence will show that the murder was committed during a kidnapping," he said.

Illinois law allows the death penalty if a murder is committed during the course of another felony.

The Chicago Tribune reported today that Eyler is a suspect in 23 other slayings in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Kentucky since March 22, 1982.

The Tribune's list is based on information provided by the Lake County Sheriff, the Central Indiana Multi-Agency Investigative Team and local police departments.

Lake County Sheriff Robert Mickey Babcox said police have evidence placing Eyler at the scene of all 24 killings. Police have witnesses in some cases and documents such as credit card bills in others, Babcox said.

Eyler, a self-employed house-painter who was free on bond on another murder charge at the time of Bridges' death, was arrested Tuesday. The arrest came after a building janitor found trash bags containing human body parts in a dumpster outside Eyler's North Side apartment.

Bridges, a chronic runaway who had been sexually abused by a neighbor when he was 9, was positively identified by his parents after the pieces of his body were put together and a photograph was taken of his

face, police said.

Before Thursday's hearing, Cook County assistant public defenders Claire Hillyard and Thomas Allen were appointed to represent Eyler, who appeared in court wearing a blue T-shirt and torn blue jeans.

The public defenders indicated Eyler will not cooperate with law enforcement officers investigating Bridges' death or the 19 other slayings in which he is a suspect.

"He doesn't want to speak to anybody except his lawyers," Allen said before Eyler was escorted from the courtroom by Cook County sheriff's deputies.

An autopsy performed Wednesday showed Bridges was stabbed seven or eight times in the chest with a sharp object. One of the blows punctured his heart, killing him.

A man who had been in Eyler's apartment when he was arrested, the man's wife, the janitor who discovered the body parts and two police crime-lab technicians reportedly testified before the grand jury before the indictment was returned.

At the time of the Bridges' death, Eyler was free on a \$10,000 bond, reduced from \$1 million after a Lake County, Ill., judge threw out illegal evidence.

Indiana authorities had gathered the evidence while investigating the slaying of Ralph Calise, of Chicago, whose body was found in a shallow grave in Waukegan, Ill.