

# UNSOLVED

## Frustrated police and family members play a waiting game when they can't close the book on a murder case

Stories by  
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and  
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It's been nearly nine months since seven people were slain at a Brown's Chicken & Pasta restaurant in Palatine, and relatives are frustrated. It seems an interminably long time for such a crime to remain unsolved.

But police files throughout the suburbs are filled with murder and missing-persons cases that have remained open for months or years. Some of the crimes are 15, even 25 years old.

In some cases, police have no idea who they're looking for. In others, they're pretty sure they know the perpetrator, but they just can't prove it — yet.

These are the suburbs' unsolved mysteries, the cases that challenge detectives, keep families on edge and frustrate both. The victims are people like Amoco oil executive Charles Merriam, slain outside his Prospect Heights home; dancer Jamie Santos, who was found strangled in her Wheeling apartment after an anonymous caller phoned police from a nearby pay phone; Jasbir Sidhu, who came from Canada to take a two-week course at the Fermi Lab in Batavia where he was gunned down on a walkway.

Investigators charged with keeping track of these cases say they haven't forgotten about them and will not close the files until the killer/killers are arrested. But the toughest part is talking to the family.

"It's very difficult to sit down with relatives of a murder victim, even when we're telling them we've made an arrest," says Downers Grove Police Lt. Dennis Harrison. "It's even more frustrating to sit down with the family and say we can't do anything, but we will try everything we can. These cases are weekly, if not daily, brought to mind."

Families don't understand that in the midst of an investigation, police can't confide any findings, much as they'd like to, says Arlington Heights Police Lt. John W. Fellmann. "It looks like we're trying to protect ourselves," he says. "But they have to take us on faith."

"When they want the most feedback, they're getting the least," says his co-worker, Sgt. Jerry Lambert. "It's grim stuff for anyone involved."

### The perfect crime

"I always hear that the perfect crime has never been committed," said DuPage County Sheriff's Department Detective Clyde Motter. "But it's always the perfect crime until someone gets caught. When they don't get caught, people get bold and then they make mistakes and that's when we get them."

It is, says Cook County Sheriff's Police Lt. Len Marak, "always frustrating when you can't solve a crime." "Even more so when police think they know who did it but can't prove it. In those cases, investigators say, they must keep up the pursuit and hope the bad guy will slip up."

"Anyone you have more than one person involved in a crime, someone's going to have loose lips," says Harrison. "That's what happened in the Rinaldi case." Marak said. Dana Rinaldi was shot to death in her car Feb. 18, 1988, outside her apartment in unincorporated Palatine Township. "We had all three participants' names within three days of the homicide but we couldn't prove they did it, so we just kept people on the case and we knew it was just a matter of time before someone shot their mouth off."

The waiting game lasted five years. At the time, Marak said, police suspected that Dana's husband, Joseph, and two of his friends, Michael Permainian and Ronald Klinier, were involved in the killing. Without enough evidence to charge them, however, the three men went on with their lives. Rinaldi never remarried.

A few months ago, while re-interviewing witnesses, investigators began to hear from people that the suspects were talking about the murder, even admitting it to acquaintances. That helped detectives make an arrest.

But while the Rinaldi case is on its way to court,

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## Who killed Kristy Wesselman in 1985?

It may sound corny, it may sound cliched, but Kristina Wesselman was a young girl with everything to live for. She was a wholesome, bright-eyed teen-ager who hung with a good crowd and stayed out of trouble.

And eight years ago, she was murdered.

For the last five of those years, DuPage County Sheriff's Detective Clyde Motter has been the man assigned to find the person who killed Kristy. He has become so familiar with the case that he can recite its details without notes. He thinks about Kristy often, he says. He takes her death almost personally. Solving it has become a campaign.

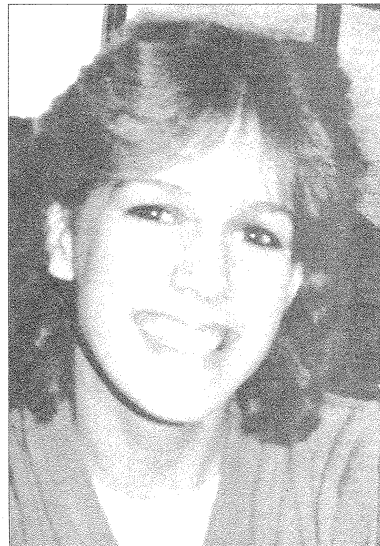
"Everytime I go by there I think about who did this and why? Why would they do this to her? She didn't give anyone any trouble!" Motter said.

On a warm summer evening, July 21, 1985, Kristy Wesselman, 15, walked out of her home in a section of unincorporated Glen Ellyn known as the Valley and headed to a nearby Jewel supermarket to buy herself some candy and a soft drink.

The Jewel, located at the intersection of Routes 53 and 56, was just a short walk from the house Kristy shared with her mother, Sandra, and two brothers. To get to the store, Kristy took the same route all the neighborhood kids took, through an open field behind the store. The route was so popular, a path had been worn in the weeds and wild-towers.

Witnesses would later tell police they saw Kristy at the Jewel and saw her leave the store and head back to the path. But she never made it home.

At first, Motter said, her mother thought Kristy had just met up with some friends and lost track



Kristy Wesselman of unincorporated Glen Ellyn was walking home from a neighborhood grocery store early on a summer evening in 1985 when someone murdered her. To this day, investigators follow leads around the country, trying to solve the murder.

of time, but by the middle of the evening, Mrs. Wesselman became concerned. She and her sons began looking for Kristy and calling around to friends to see if they had heard from her.

When they came up empty-handed, the Wesselmans called the police. Deputies from the sheriff's department came over and took a report and made some checks of Kristy's friends' homes. They also walked the path Kristy had taken but,

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## Other suburban mysteries

July 18, 1987: Jasbir Sidhu, 31, a student from Canada and originally from India, is shot while walking on a path at Fermi Lab near Batavia. Sidhu, who had recently been divorced, was at the lab for two weeks taking a class. DuPage County investigators say the case is open and they believe the killing was not random. Beyond that, they choose to say little and are hoping to make an arrest in the case soon. Anyone with information should call 682-7784 or 682-7256.

Dec. 31, 1990: The frozen body of Patrick Denesevich, 25, a student of osteopathy in Downers Grove, is discovered in the Des Plaines River near Hinsdale. Denesevich had apparently been strangled — either deliberately or by accident — during a sexual encounter, according to police. Denesevich was last seen on Oct. 5, 1990, leaving a bookstore that caters to a gay clientele. Denesevich reportedly left

the store with two men and left his car parked around the corner. He was not seen alive again. Anyone with information about his death is asked to call 682-7256.

May 15, 1970: Stephanie and Edward Andrews, both 62, of Arlington Heights, disappear after attending a party at a hotel on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Police theorize the couple got confused while driving on lower Wacker Drive and drove off the road into the river. There was no evidence of foul play or a planned disappearance. In 1986, the Army Corps of Engineers dredged the Chicago River, turning up 11 cars. The Arlington Heights police were not notified of the dredging and found out too late to inspect all of the cars. However, there has never been any proof that the Andrews' 1969 Oldsmobile was among them.

The missing persons case remains open. Anyone with information should call the Arlington Heights Police Department at 577-5019.

Feb. 21, 1977: The houseman of candy heiress Helen Voorhes Brach tells police investigators he drove Brach from her Glenview home to the airport for a Florida trip a few days before and has not heard from her since. Thus begins the long and mysterious story of Brach, who disappeared seemingly without a trace, leaving behind an estate worth millions of dollars.

Over the years, speculation has revolved around John Matlick, the houseman. But investigators have never been able to prove any involvement on Matlick's part. Several searches for the body have taken place, one as recently as 1990 when authorities opened a mass paupers' grave in the Southwest suburbs. The body was not found, and the case remains open.

### INSIDE:

It was a typical Friday night of socializing for Joyce Bateman.

She spent the evening of June 26, 1977, with a group of co-workers, drinking peppermint schnapps at the Villa Capri Lounge on Route 20 in Bartlett, according to police reports. After last call shortly before 4 a.m., Joyce, her friends and her sister wandered out into the parking lot.

The 21-year-old divorced mother of two got into her pink Pinto and, perhaps a little tipsy, backed into a maroon Continental on her way out. Bob Tabor, the rate owner of the Continental, jumped out and confronted her. Upset, she threw her keys and purse to her sister, Carol Shepack, and insisted on walking to the apartment the two shared a mile straight down Route 20 in Hanover Park, just across from the police station, reports say.

Carol never saw her sister alive again. Turn to Page 3



"Home" show co-host Sarah Purcell, shown here with Gary Collins.

## Teaching women to take control of their health, safety, well-being

By ANNE BURRIS GASIOR  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It's an interesting and perhaps unexpected threesome.

First, there's Sarah Purcell, the wholesome-looking co-host of the "Home" show. Then, there's Chicago police Detective J.J. Bittenbinder, a powerhouse of self-defense and protection. And rounding out the group is Steve Allen Jr., a physician and son of that other Steve Allen.

Seeing them listed here might lead people to wonder under what circumstances these rather diverse people would ever come together.

The answer seems obvious to Florence Northrop, director of nursing in maternal and child services at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. Purcell, Bittenbinder and Allen are the featured speakers at this year's "Women and Wellness" day.

"We are trying to help women survive in today's complex world,"

### Spotlight on DuPage

Northrop said of the daylong seminar that is being held Saturday, Sept. 25, at Drury Lane Oak Brook in Oakbrook Terrace.

And each of these people has a very special message about not only surviving, but thriving in an age when women are asked to do and be more than ever before.

"Women and Wellness" began last year and was a rousing success. Feedback that organizers received last year indicated there were certain areas of interest many women shared. They wanted to hear people talk about stress and time management and safety," Northrop said. "They

wanted advice on how to get things done and how to keep themselves and their kids safe."

So let's start at the top of the lineup with Sarah Purcell.

"When we sat down and started trying to think of who to have this year, we asked ourselves, what kind of program would make you give up your Saturday? We felt that Sarah Purcell was someone many women would really identify with."

Purcell is co-host of the "Home" show on ABC-TV, but the presentation she will give Saturday is based on issues that are very close to her heart personally. Purcell, whose mother suffers from osteoporosis, has made it her goal to empower women to take control of their health care.

Her talk, titled "You're Not Crazy, It Really Does Hurt: Emotional Health in the '90s," will try to teach women how to become their own health advocates. She will talk about finding the right doctor, about the val-

ue of a second opinion and how to deal with pain — emotional and physical.

Batting second is J.J. Bittenbinder, the colorful and charismatic police veteran who was the star of a PBS special on personal safety. Bittenbinder, like Purcell, is on a personal crusade to keep people safe. He preaches a sermon of awareness, empowerment and street smarts aimed at turning potential victims into victors in the street-crime war.

Finally, there's Steve Allen Jr., following in his comedian father's footsteps — sort of.

Dr. Allen has blended his comedic heritage with his medical background to put together a presentation on the healing power of humor. Allen involves the audience as he works to show them how to put by into each day and how laughter could be the best kind of preventive medicine.

In addition to these three speakers,

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# The Bateman murder still unsolved 16 yrs. later

By CHERYL TERHORST  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It was a typical Friday night of socializing for Joyce Bateman. She spent the evening of June 26, 1977, with a group of co-workers, drinking peppermint schnapps at the Villa Capri Lounge on Route 20 in Bartlett, according to police reports. After last call shortly before 4 a.m., Joyce, her co-workers and her sister wandered out into the parking lot.

The 21-year-old divorced mother of two got into her pink Pinto and, perhaps a little tipsy, backed into a maroon Continental on her way out. Bob Tabor, the irate owner of the Continental, jumped out and confronted her. Upset, she threw her keys and purse to her sister, Carol Shepak, and insisted on walking to the apartment the two shared a mile south down Route 20 in Hanover Park, just across from the police station, reports say.

Carol never saw her sister alive again.

Joyce's badly decomposed body was finally found nearly 50 miles south in Grundy County, lying in a ditch near railroad tracks along a country road.

The pathologist who did the autopsy couldn't determine how she'd died, according to the report. He found no calm or stab wounds, no sign of strangulation, no lacerations, no skull fracture. The body was so mummified, he couldn't determine anything more. Perhaps she'd died when thrown from a moving vehicle, police surmised.

Sixteen years later, her murder has not been solved, but police say they're not totally in the dark. Although there have been no new leads for years, the murder case

**“She obviously had some troubles in her life. But that doesn't mean she deserved this.”**

—Grundy County Sheriff Jim Olson

remains open in Grundy County.

“We definitely think it was someone she knew,” says Grundy County Sheriff Jim Olson. “There are obviously some unanswered questions.”

A couple leaving the bar at the time told Carol they saw Joyce talking to a man and woman in a yellow van who stood on the shoulder along Route 20. Police tracked down owners of the van, who were, as it turns out, still at the bar with others. Later, it turned out the sighting had been exaggerated and the couple wasn't sure they'd even seen anything.

Considering where Joyce's body was found, it would seem whoever picked her up drove straight down Route 59 to Grundy County. “There's a very strong possibility that she was not even murdered here,” says Olson. “She was probably murdered somewhere else and her body was dumped here.”

After Joyce left the Villa Capri and set off walking east, Carol started to walk toward the man whose car her sister had hit, and finally agreed to have him follow her home, so he could talk to Joyce and get the insurance information he would need to file a claim.

Carol drove east slowly, reports say, looking carefully along the dark, lonely stretch of road for her sister, but never saw her. She came home to an empty apartment, and waited along with the man and his friend for Joyce to re-

turn. After a half hour, Carol asked the men to leave — she was tired — and the next day, filed a missing-person report. Police were looking for a white female, average height and weight, straight, blond, shoulder-length hair. She was wearing a black scoop-neck short-sleeved blouse, gray pants and brown sandals. Because she had given her sister her purse, she had no identification or money.

Police checked the road and fields, and interviewed people she'd seen that night. Nothing. Her mother, Lavonne, and stepson, Ray Shepak, told police she had recently turned her children over to foster care and moved in with her sister.

Joyce had worked at Morton Salt Co. in Carol Stream until two weeks prior to her disappearance, but still saw Morton employees socially, according to reports.

On July 11, three weeks after Joyce's disappearance, a Rock Island Railroad worker walked away from co-workers to empty his bladder. He saw a body lying in the ditch, seven feet from McClinton road, which had been dragged out of by an animal, police say. Three rings were taken from the

body and weeks later, Carol identified them as her sister's. On Aug. 23, charts from Joyce's dentist in Glendale Heights confirmed the body was hers. Carol remembered fastening a beaded necklace around her sister's neck before going out for the evening. But it was nowhere in sight when her body was found.

Although the Hanover Park Police Department's missing person case is officially closed, it hasn't been forgotten.

“It's one I go back to every year or so and take a peek at,” says Hanover Park Police Lt. Dan Driscoll, who investigated it at the time. “The problem was, from the get-go, we couldn't come up with a little piece of the puzzle. We couldn't get out of the starting block.”

In talking about the Bateman case, Olson recalls a murder in Grundy County in 1967 that went unsolved until a witness came forward in 1990 to finally report seeing the incident. That could happen with Bateman, Olson hopes. Maybe there's still someone out there who hasn't thought of police the vital piece of information that will solve the murder.

Olson still thinks of Bateman from time to time. He got to know her as he helped investigate the murder. He knows her life was not all sunshine and roses, but her death should still be solved and justice done in her name.

“She obviously had some troubles in her life,” he said. “But that doesn't mean she deserved this.”

Anyone with information on this case should call the Grundy County Sheriff's Office at (815) 942-6645. To leave information anonymously, call (815) 942-8667.

# MURDER: Who killed Kristy Wesselman in 1985?

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in the dark, didn't see anything unusual about Kristy's body was found. They didn't see or hear anything.”

Evidence collected at the scene indicates Kristy was killed at the same spot where her body was found. She died of multiple stab wounds. In the aftermath of the killing, Motter said everyone became a suspect. When you don't know who killed someone, it seems anyone could have done it.

“You become suspicious of your neighbors of your friends,” Motter said. “People tend to close up a little.”

Motter remains hopeful the case will be solved. He recently traveled to Michigan to talk to police who arrested a man in connection with several killings, although he chooses not to give details. Even eight years later, Motter said, the case is so delicate one can't even mention it without risking loss of public confidence.

When and if he does find the killer, Motter said, it will be because the criminal makes a mistake, because he tells someone what he did, or because he kills someone else and gets caught. “It's the guy that's gotta live with this. He's gotta live with the fact that one of these days he's gonna turn around and see someone behind him,” Motter said. “I just hope it will be me. All these people make mistakes and this guy has made mistakes, too. We just have to find out what they are.”

Kristy is buried in a cemetery in Wheaton and each year on the anniversary of her death Motter drives by. He pays his respects and watches to see if anyone unusual comes to the grave.

And almost every day, Motter thinks about Kristy. He thinks about how frightening it is that a kid can't walk to the neighborhood store in broad daylight anymore and he thinks about what he would say if he finally was able to confront her killer.

“You're under arrest. Go directly to jail. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200. This is it.”

# Police still drawing blanks in the murder of the Schulzes

By CHERYL TERHORST  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Charles McCartney walked into his in-laws' near a ranch home in Downers Grove shortly before 8 a.m. on May 17, 1978, to find his 5-year-old son in the family room, crying. “Grandma went away with somebody,” he said, between sobs.

McCartney found his 2-year-old daughter crying in a crib, then searched through the house, calling for his wife's parents, Glenn and Betty Schulz, who had been baby-sitting the children for a few days, according to police reports. He made his way to the locked rear bedroom, forced open the door and found the two stabbed to death, Betty on the bed, Glenn on the floor. He ran out to the street and flagged down a motorist, who called the police.

Fifteen years later, no one has been charged with the murder of either Glenn or Betty Harrison.

Police say they have pursued some strong leads, but have never been able to bring charges. The killer — or killers — left no finger-

prints. The murder weapon was never found. But there was no sign of struggle, no forced entry to the home, no robbery, so police surmised Glenn Schulz knew his killer.

“Obviously it's frustrating having ideas and not being able to proceed any further, to run into a brick wall,” says Lt. Dennis Harrison, head of the investigations division of the Downers Grove Police Department. “We've tried DNA testing and every time a new development comes up, we try it, with negative results.”

Police investigations focus on a man who worked at American Wilder Burial Vaults in Forest Park, where Schulz was plant manager. While many of Schulz's co-workers “passed” the detector test, including the lead suspect.

“When you're the boss there are always employees who don't really want to work for you,” says McCartney, who stopped in on the Schulzes on his way to work, is not a suspect, nor are other family members, police say. Schulz

didn't show up to work that morning, his nephew and co-worker, Herbert Schulz, called McCartney.

Harrison said Glenn Schulz, at nearly 6 feet tall and more than 200 pounds, was a strong man. He was found wearing only a T-shirt, his feet and hands tied with rope. He was gagged with a piece of wood. He lay on his left side on the floor next to the bed. Betty Schulz, wearing a yellow nightgown, was lying on her stomach on the unmade bed, her face in a pillow, her feet and hands bound.

“I remember all of the shades and blinds were drawn and it was dark,” says Sgt. Riccardo Ginex, who was first on the scene, and a rookie at the time. He remembers the two had multiple stab wounds. “It was a brutal murder, almost a torture murder,” says Harrison. “It was as neat and methodical as it could be.”

McCartney had spoken to his father-in-law the night of May 16. Police believe the murder took place later that night.

McCartney had found the front door ajar, but neighbors don't re-

member seeing or hearing anything unusual.

But as a detective, Harrison knows “a high percentage of people are likely to know their murderer. Everything seemed to lead us back to the workplace.”

The McCartneys have evidently moved out of state and have been out of touch with the police for years, says Harrison.

Harrison continually hopes for someone to come forward with information. “A lot of crimes are not solved on physical evidence; they're solved because somebody talked, and that person is willing to do the right thing and come forward,” he says. But 15 years later, it would not be an easy case to prosecute, he says.

He hopes that if the murderer is never brought to justice, he at least suffers some mental anguish. “How somebody justifies that is beyond me.”

Anyone with information about the murder of Glenn and Betty Schulz should call the Downers Grove Police Department at 719-4601.

# Allende emerges as important writer with S. American-roots

By ANITA SNOW  
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The history and geography of Latin America have shaped the life and work of Isabel Allende, who has shared her magical tales of love and longings with aficionados around the world.

Now, with her latest novel, “The Infinite Plan,” the most important living woman writer from Latin America shows how the history and geography of California shaped an entire generation — people now in their 40s and 50s who sought, then lost, the American Dream, and are now trying to find their way back to their roots.

“We are shaped by our times and where we live. I feel very strongly about that,” Allende said in a recent telephone interview from her home in the San Francisco Bay area.

“The Infinite Plan,” released in early summer, is the first of Allende's novels set in the United States and the first to feature American characters. It explores the philosophical questions of life and love through the life of Gregory Reeves, son of a traveling preacher who roams the American West during the 1940s teaching his metaphysical religion, The Infinite Plan.

The family's wanderings end when the father becomes ill and they settle in a Hispanic barrio in Los Angeles, where Gregory is introduced to a new world and a new language, Spanish.

As the only white boy in the Mexican barrio, Gregory learns about violence, discrimination, but more importantly the warmth and sensuality of Latin cultures. He also meets Pedro and Immaculada Morales, a couple who give him the warmth and security his parents cannot, and their daughter, Carmen, who teaches him about love and friendship. He gains a sense of community.

When he leaves the barrio to attend law school at the University of California, Berkeley, Gregory is plunged into the tumultuous 1960s — radical politics, free love, the drug culture, a tour in Vietnam.

Over time, Gregory loses his way and finds his way back to his own personal Infinite Plan. “He got lost and collapsed with the times,” said Allende. “What happened to Gregory happened to a whole generation. They were brought up expecting the American Dream and they later found that the dream had betrayed them.”

“I think that the '90s for Gregory, for that entire generation, is a time to look inward, a time for change, a time to get back to roots and regain a sense of community,” Allende said. Born in Lima, Peru, in 1942, Allende's life was shaped by the history and geography of Chile, where she spent most of her childhood and worked as a journalist until 1973, when her uncle, President Salvador Allende, was overthrown by a military coup.

She fled to Caracas, Venezuela, to escape the repression of the new regime and lived there many years. Although many of the protagon-

ists in her books have been women, Allende said it was not difficult writing about a male protagonist from another culture.

“I've discovered there are more similarities than differences when we talk about gender, or race,” she said. “We are all people, motivated by the same emotions.”

After completing a recent book tour for “The Infinite Plan,” Allende is focusing on her latest project, a screen version of “The House of the Spirits,” to be released in Germany in October and in the United States in December.

# WELLNESS: Taking charge of their well-being

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there will be a number of exhibits included in this day dedicated to women and health, as well as a look at fall fashions, and free arthritis screenings.

“We want women to come away from this feeling that their time was well spent and that they learned about the resources that are available to them, resources

that are not just for when they are sick,” Northrup said. “We think it's important for women to take this time for themselves and not feel guilty about it.”

The seminar begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. The cost is \$35, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For information or to register, call 275-5782.

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