

TEEN CLEARED BY LIE TEST IN GRIMES CASE

One of Four Quizzed; Confess Sex Orgy

A teen-age acquaintance of the murdered Grimes sisters was cleared last night as a suspect in the murder investigation when, police said, a lie test indicated he had no guilty knowledge of the crime.

The test was taken voluntarily by Kenneth [Duke] Ryan, 17, of 3404 Archer av. He and three companions had been picked up and questioned because police received a report of a disturbance at Ryan's home at 2:10 a. m. Dec. 29. This was a few hours after the girls were seen alive for the last time.

The youth's father, Eugene, told police he was upbraiding his son for coming home late. Yesterday, young Ryan told police he had arrived home at 11:30 p. m., about the time Barbara Grimes, 15, and her sister, Patricia, 13, were reported seen near their home at 3634 S. Damen av.

Three Others Questioned

Also questioned were David Morgan, 16, of 3629 Archer av.; Ronald Rapp, 17, of 3329 S. Oakley av., and Fred Johanes, 17, of 3257 S. Leavitt st.

They told of riding around the night of Dec. 28, buying whisky and beer with forged identifications, and of picking up a girl, 17, with whom all had sex relations.

Morgan was released in custody of his parents. So was the girl, who was questioned. Rapp and Johanes, police said, would be taken to the sex bureau of the state attorney's office this morning.

All four had told police they knew the Grimes girls, and Johanes had said he once dated Theresa Grimes, 17, sister of Barbara and Patricia. Ryan told conflicting stories of what he did before going home after he and Morgan got out of Rapp's car.

New Search Fruitless

No clues were found in another search of the area around the site where the bodies were found Jan. 22 beside German Church rd., west of Willow Springs. Nine Du Page county deputies and 14 Cook county deputy sheriffs made the search. The party included Harry Glos, ousted last week as chief investigator for the coroner's office and hired Monday by Sheriff Lohman as an unpaid deputy to work on the Grimes case.

A hearing on a habeas

corpus writ for Edward L. [Bennie] Bedwell, 21, skid row character who "confessed" the slayings, recanted, and is now held under \$20,000 bond, was continued to April 3 by Chief Justice Wilbert F. Crowley in Criminal court.

Jail Four Youths In Grimes Quiz

(INS) — Four youths who reportedly were in the company of two girls on the night the Grimes sisters disappeared in Chicago were taken into custody Tuesday for questioning.

Brighton park police announced they were looking for other youths.

One of the boys — a 17-year-old — was seized when detectives found that his father had filed a complaint against him just before the Grimes sisters were reported missing.

The sisters — Barbara, 15, and Patricia, 13 — disappeared the night of Dec. 28 after setting out for a neighborhood movie. Their nude and frozen bodies were found Jan. 22 along a lonely road in suburban Willow Springs.

A check of the police report revealed that the father complained about the boy's late hours and drinking.

A squad of detectives seized the boy and took him to the station where he gave these details of his movements on the night of Dec. 28:

The youth, in the company of three or four other boys, had been drinking in a car driven by one of the group, in the Archer ave., and 35th st. area on Chicago's southwest side.

He said two girls — whom he would not identify — were with them and that one of the girls was assaulted by four of the boys. He stated the other girl resisted their advances.

The youth said that he and one of his companions were let out of the car between 11 p. m. and midnight and went into a bowling alley near the intersection of Archer ave. and 35th st.

The Grimes sisters were reported last seen by witnesses at that intersection shortly before midnight.

The two boys were kept in separate rooms and questioned by batteries of detectives. Their stories were to be checked later against each other.

GIRLS' MOTHER TELLS FAITH IN NEW WITNESS

Life of Grimes Family Returning to Normal

Mrs. Loretta Grimes expressed faith yesterday in the testimony of Earl Zastrow, 15, of 3833 S. Wolcott av., who told police he saw Mrs. Grimes' slain daughters, Barbara, 15, and Patricia, 13, at about 11:30 p. m. Dec. 28 at Seeley av. and 35th st. within two blocks of their home.

They were hiding in doorways, springing out to surprise one another, and laughing, he said.

"That's the first description that sounds like them," the mother said. "That's the way they were at home. Laughing, giggling, teasing one another. That's the way they would have been on their way home from the movie.

Sons Back in School

"My girls were good girls, and I'm sure one would not leave the other even to save her own life."

Meanwhile, in the Grimes home at 3634 S. Damen av., life began to assume a normal pace. James, 11, and Joseph, Grimes, 14, returned to classes in St. Maurice school. Theresa, 17, will return Monday to Kelly High school.

Mrs. Grimes, whose first act each day is to attend mass, does not plan for the time being to return to her job as file clerk with a pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Can't Forget Tragedy

"I've got to wait until this is all over," she said.

Classmates of the girls continued to call at the Grimes home. A \$532 check from

pupils at Kelly High school, which Barbara attended, was presented to the family.

The Grimes fund has swelled to \$20,118 and more than 2,500 letters have poured in.

"I can't believe it all," Mrs. Grimes said. "I never knew how generous and sympathetic people really are."

Baker Gives New Grimes Evidence
Daily Defender (Daily Edition) (1936-1969): Feb 14, 1957;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender (1910-1975)
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Baker Gives New Grimes Evidence

A 45-year-old Chicago baker who knew the slain Grimes sisters has told police he heard a youth threaten Patricia with, "You'll be sorry," on the night the two girls left home never to return.

William Absher, a neighbor of the Grimes family, reported seeing Barbara, 15, and Patricia, 13, around 7:30 p.m., Dec. 28, talking with three boys in a 1955 or 1956 car with a red body and black top.

As the younger sister stepped away from the car, Absher said, a youth in the back seat, whom Patricia had called "Jack," said: "You'll be sorry."

The girls whose nude bodies were found Jan. 22 in a frozen suburban Willow Springs ditch, were then on their way to a neighborhood theater. Several witnesses saw them at the movie and walking home as late as 11:30 that night.

The trail thus far has ended there but police believe they met their deaths only a short while later. The official autopsy placed the time of death around midnight.

Absher said two youths sat in the front seat of the car and one

in the back. He said the two in front were about 20 or 22 years old. Police have a partial license number of the vehicle and are sifting files at the secretary of state's office in Springfield.

Absher also was reported to have given police the name of one of the occupants.

Another late development in the mysterious slaying came from a long-distance truck driver who telephoned Chicago police to say he is certain that he saw the two sisters walking down a lonely suburban road at 12:30 a.m., Dec. 28.

The location given by the driver was less than a mile from the roadside culvert where the bodies were found.

Police said the driver, who only recently read of the slaying, would return to Chicago to give further testimony.

The truck driver said he was certain of the date and time that he saw the girls in the glare of his headlights because he had checked his trip ticket.

The official inquest ruled that the girls had been murdered by an unknown person or persons and death was attributed to exposure.

GRIMES CASE HIGHLIGHTS

- Discovery of Chicago Tribune article Feb. 20, 1957
“Teen Cleared by Lie Test” names 4 youths who molested teenage girl.
- Realization that articles involving Earl Zastrow and Ed Lorden took place within ½ block of the event involving Johannes.
- Statements in news articles from Zastrow did not make sense. Girls on north side of 35th St.. Lorden went around the block to view the girls again.
- Confession info from Robin Myers Cox given to Ray Johnson. Fritzzy forced girls to disrobe at knife point. Confession given before bodies found.
- Article from Chicago Daily Defender Feb. 20, 1957. “ Jail four youths in Grimes Quiz” same four, but unnamed. 4 boys molested 2 girls, two boys went into Peterson’s Bowling Alley at 35th & Acher.
- Interview of Earl Zastrow. He and Fritzzy were boyhood friends. Still in contact. Fritzzy was a strange guy. Earl knew all of the bad boys. Was to go into Air Force with Fritzzy, but had a criminal record. Earl, Fritzzy and others knew the German Church Rd. area used to go swimming at pool.
- Reaction from Earl Zastrow when Ray Johnson mentioned Fritzzy Johannes.
- Fritzzy has been convicted of theft twice. Second time event he testified for the State against leader of ring who appealed conviction.
- David Morgan Sr. another of the four. David is avoiding my attempts to interview him.
- Contact with Marianne Rapp, daughter of Ronald Rapp. Initially cooperative, but she stopped communicating when I asked about father’s knowledge of Grimes.
- Theresa Grimes Campadale Interview. Fritzzy avoided her after girls disappeared.
- Numerous attempts to pick up girls the week before in black & red car.
- Confrontation Dec. 27th involving black & red car.
- Party held in neighborhood the night of Dec. 28th.
- Wife of Fritzzy cousin stated he often took girls out to Willow Springs. Thought of himself as a ladies man. Could have taken girls.
- Grimes girls were molested in alley behind 2118 W. 38th St. Screams heard by Mrs. Boskie.
- Father of Ed Lorden was Wally Lorden. Wally Lorden was a Cook County Sheriff’s Dept. Court Bailiff. Known as “The Sheriff” in the neighborhood.