

Slayings of 7 Women to Be Focus of Probe.

By Gary Jarlson

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Faced with the murders of seven women and attacks on another four, six police departments and the Sheriff's Department will meet today with the aim of organizing a task force to investigate the crimes.

The cases, which date back more than two years, are similar in some aspects. The victims were mostly young women, they were alone at the time of the attack and they were severely beaten with some sort of blunt instrument.

Not all of the attacks follow the pattern exactly, but even those cases with dissimilarities will be reviewed by officers from Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Irvine, Garden Grove, Fountain Valley, Tustin, and the Sheriff's Department.

The most recent case involved a 24-year-old Tustin woman, Debra Jean Kennedy, whose body was found Sunday night in a house she shared with her sister.

Investigators said she was killed by a blow to the head.

This attack followed by one week an assault on another Tustin woman, 20-year-old Diana Green. Mrs. Green survived the attack and is in critical condition, but her unborn baby died [note this was before her husband became the prime suspect- they got it right the first time but Green was charged within a month.]

The cases to be reviewed at today's meeting include:

—Jane Bennington, 29, who was killed in her Newport Beach apartment in August 1977 [not the Bedroom Basher- still unsolved in 2007]

—Patricia Neufeld, 34, who was beaten to death in her Garden Grove home on Nov. 22, 1978. [still unsolved—*Sensing Murder* (Discovery Channel) covered this case in a 2006 episode, apparently making vague claims to links with the Bedroom Basher]

—Joan Anderson, 28, who was beaten to death last March 7 while she was home alone in Fountain Valley [solved but not a BB crime]

—Kimberley Rawlins, 21, whose body was discovered by her roommate in their Costa Mesa apartment, April 1. [Bedroom Basher crime]

—Savannah Anderson, 22, who was killed on May 14 at her apartment in Irvine. [not a Bb attacker- solved with killer arrested in 1984]

—Marolyn Carleton, 34, who was found dead Sept 14 by her 9-year-old son in their Costa Mesa apartment [BB crime]

In addition to Mrs. Green in Tustin, the victims who survived attacks live in Irvine, Costa Mesa and Santa Ana Heights. [I've never heard of this Irvine survivor case. I wonder if that's where the bad sketch (showing a man who looked nothing like Gerald Parker) came from?]

Only one of the survivors, the woman in Irvine, has been able to help police. She described her attacker as a 5-foot-10 white male in his 20s with a slender build and medium-length blond hair.

[I was right—this is obviously not Parker so this woman was attacked by a different person, giving us a new unsolved case in Irvine itself in 1979. Could this description and the sketch be of the linked killer? Probably not, but who knows?][for this sketch see <http://www.jjmcgr.org/BK/BB20%sketch20%1620%Oct20%79.pdf>]

The four Costa Mesa attacks, plus one that occurred there in 1977 but is not believed related to the others, happened within a four block area.