

OFFICIALS ABANDON AREA AIR SEARCH FOR MISSING BANKER LINDE ARMSTRONG

October 27, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: LARRY SHAW - of the Oregonian Staff | Section: NORTH ZONER | 312 Words

Page: B02

[OpenURL Link](#)

Authorities have called off the air search for the vehicle belonging to Linde I. Armstrong, 51, who disappeared Oct. 13 from her workplace.

The Civil Air Patrol and local volunteers had been conducting an air search of Clark County, north to Mount St. Helens and east to Stevenson in Skamania County.

Armstrong was reported missing in the early morning hours of Oct. 14 by her husband, Art, when she failed to return home from a self-improvement accounting course that evening.

Armstrong had left for her manager's job at Riverview Savings Bank in Battle Ground from her home in the Cascade Park area at about 7 a.m. Oct. 13.

She opened the bank before employees arrived but then called her superiors at the main branch in Camas to say she was re-locking the bank and leaving to buy some medicine for an upset stomach.

That was the last known communication with her.

Armstrong was born in Hameln, Germany, and became a citizen of the United States in 1974.

She visited her birthplace in June of this year to celebrate her mother's birthday. Recently her mother suffered a heart attack but Armstrong did not return to Germany.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office said that a check of international airports on the West Coast revealed no information on the disappearance

In an apparent unrelated development, the vehicle of a missing Clackamas woman was discovered Sunday afternoon in the parking lot of the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.

Sharon Frances Schlosser, 49, has been missing since Oct. 20 when she left her home for Mount Vernon, Wash., but failed to reach her destination.

Armstrong is 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighs 150 pounds, has brown eyes and light-colored hair and wears glasses.

Schlosser is 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 140 to 150 pounds and has short reddish-brown hair and hazel eyes. She was wearing a pink warm-up suit, and she sometimes wears glasses.

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SHARON FRANCES SCHLOSSER

November 1, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: OBITUARIES | 203 Words

Page: D17

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A prayer vigil for Sharon Frances Schlosser of Clackamas will be at 2 p.m. Monday in Ascension Catholic Church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Burial will be at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in River View Cemetery.

Mrs. Schlosser, who co-owned and operated the C&S Nursery, died of head injuries and was the victim of a homicide. Her body was found Oct. 27 in the Columbia River after she disappeared a week earlier. She was 49.

She was born in Portland on April 16, 1943. She graduated from Milwaukie High School and attended Portland State University. She married Charles M. Schlosser on Dec. 31, 1987.

Mrs. Schlosser was a member of the Arrowhead Golf Club, the Columbia Yacht Club and the Oregon Association of Nurserymen.

Besides her husband, survivors include her sons, Richard Gorham of Mission Viejo, Calif., Michael Gorham of Seattle, and Robert Gorham of San Francisco; daughter, Angela Gorham of Portland; parents, Joseph and Agnes Mahoney of Depoe Bay; sister, Ellen Re of Milwaukie; stepsons, Charles J., Christopher, Anthony and Timothy, all of Clackamas; and stepdaughter, Nicole of Clackamas.

The family suggests that remembrances be contributions to Franciscan Missions, in care of Ascension Catholic Church, 7507 S.E. Yamhill St., Portland, Ore. 97215.

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DETECTIVES SEEK TO TALK TO HUSBAND

November 26, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: HOLLY DANKS - of the Oregonian Staff | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 541 Words

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Detectives from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office said this week that they were continuing to seek information on the death of Sharon Frances Schlosser and had not eliminated her husband as a suspect.

"I don't know that I would call him a suspect; he's just not eliminated," Detective Karl. Hutchison said of Charles Schlosser.

Hutchison said Schlosser reported his wife missing Oct. 21, the day after she had left her Clackamas home to drive to a business meeting in Mount Vernon, Wash. Owner with her husband of C&S Nursery in Clackamas, she failed to show up for the meeting.

Her body was found Oct. 27 in the Columbia River. Authorities said Sharon Schlosser, 49, died of head injuries and her death is being investigated as a homicide.

Even before the body was found, Schlosser refused to talk to authorities on the basis of his attorney's advice. Since then, Schlosser has given conflicting statements to the Clackamas County and Multnomah County sheriff's offices and has refused to talk further, Hutchison said.

However, Schlosser's attorney, John Henry Hingson of Oregon City, said Tuesday that law enforcement officers were the ones giving contradictory statements. That's why he refuses to let his client talk to them, he said.

Hingson said he was informed that Schlosser was a suspect shortly after Sharon Schlosser's body was found, but the sheriff's office was quoted about that time as saying the husband was "no more a suspect than anybody else," Hingson said. Now, detectives are saying they can't eliminate Schlosser from the suspect list, he added.

"It appears that the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office is using The Oregonian to do indirectly that which they are forbidden by law to do directly -- namely, communicate" with Schlosser, Hingson said.

Hutchison said Schlosser had told Clackamas County officials, who began investigating the disappearance, that he and his wife had gone to meet a couple at the Columbia River Yacht Club on Oct. 19 because the couple were interested in buying the Schlossers' boat, a 47-foot Chris-Craft, the "Nikki."

During the one brief interview Schlosser granted to Multnomah County detectives Nov. 3, he stated that actually only one person, a man from Tacoma, had met them at a bank on Hayden Island on Oct. 20, the day before his wife disappeared, Hutchison said. The detective said Schlosser didn't know the potential buyer's name, and so police couldn't follow up on the information.

Police are interested in the potential buyer or buyers because they might have been among the last to see Sharon Schlosser alive.

"I'm not saying that these are fabricated stories. It could be there is some explanation" for the discrepancies, Hutchison said. "But we are not being supplied the explanation."

Hutchison said Schlosser's only interview with Multnomah County detectives "actually raised more questions than it answered."

Hutchison said detectives begin investigations by trying to determine whether homicide victims were killed by a stranger or by someone they knew. That routinely involves finding out the whereabouts of family members and friends, he said. Without being able to question Schlosser, they can't determine where he was.

"It's one of those little perplexing details that we can't do anything without clearing up," Hutchison said. "You really cannot go off

looking for the `bearded stranger' until you clear up the people who are close."

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SOMETIMES, A 'WHO DONE IT?' REMAINS A MYSTERY

December 7, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: ASHBEL S. GREEN - of the Oregonian Staff | Section: EAST ZONER MID COUNTY ZONER | 1118 Words

Page: B02

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: The lack of clues, witnesses and cooperation can stymie detectives in their efforts to bring murderers to justice -- for a while

His CB handle was "Dirty Diaper."

Tony Alvarez, a 35-year-old trucker, was hauling metal coils from Texas to Olympia in early 1990. Crossing Oregon on Interstate 84, he gassed up his rig Jan. 29 at Biggs Junction.

He barely made it to Troutdale. Alvarez was shot to death in his truck after parking on the shoulder of I-84 just west of the Sandy River. His body was not found until the next day.

The gasoline station attendant who filled Alvarez's tank at Biggs Junction does not remember him, much less whether anyone else was in the truck. But Alvarez rarely picked up hitchhikers.

And because he had a small amount of money and a few credit cards on him, detectives do not know whether he was killed in a robbery.

"Obviously, the problem with this case is we have no witnesses," said Jim McNelly, a homicide detective with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

The Alvarez case is one of six unsolved murders in the last three years that have stumped McNelly and his partner, Sgt. Pieter Van Dyke.

McNelly and Van Dyke arrested suspects in five other murder cases in 1990. But they have solved only one murder since then -- and that was an 8-year-old case.

"We've had a string of bad homicides," McNelly admitted. "I used to think any homicide could be solved. Now I think differently."

Unsolved murder cases have nothing in common except being unsolved. McNelly and Van Dyke have suspects in some cases. In one case they do not even know the name of one victim.

But each unsolved case does have an explanation.

With 34-year-old Elaine Johnson, it is that she was a cocaine dealer. Lots of people visited her. Lots of people could have stabbed her Oct. 13, 1991, in her Southeast 143rd Avenue home. Lots of people who might know who stabbed her are addicts and are afraid to talk to the police.

McNelly said it was difficult to persuade people that he was not interested in their drug habits.

"The only thing you're interested in is solving this homicide," he said.

Some of Johnson's relatives also have not cooperated completely, Van Dyke said. They know the name of her cocaine supplier but will not reveal it, he said.

Cooperation is also a problem in the murder of 22-year-old Cecilio Gaspar-Corrales, whose body was found Jan. 5 east of Troutdale

in a ditch on Southeast Kerslake Road near Wilson Road. His girlfriend at first discussed the case with police, but she later clammed up. A lawyer in the public defender's office then sent a letter telling Van Dyke and McNelly not to talk to her.

Language also has been a barrier. Gaspar-Corrales, his relatives and many friends are Hispanic, and some needed interpreters. Some were illegal aliens and afraid of the police.

- The unidentified victim

However, the most perplexing case of the lot is the shooting death of the unknown man who was found floating April 29 in the Columbia River. To begin with, the body was so decayed that either suicide or homicide remain viable alternatives.

If it is a murder -- McNelly believes it is -- tracking down the killer is almost impossible without first identifying the victim.

Getting fingerprints was not easy.

“We actually sent the hands to the FBI,” Van Dyke said. Even then, the prints were blurred. So a search of all fingerprints in the FBI computer produced too many possible matches to check them all.

McNelly dug up the prints of all the escaped prisoners, people who jumped parole and missing persons in Oregon. He narrowed down the possibilities, but an expert could not find a match.

What detectives need is a possible identity of the person. Comparing the prints side-by-side, an expert could then determine whether they are the same.

Sometimes, Van Dyke and McNelly get close.

Charlie Richards' truck was involved in a minor accident at Southwest Washington and Park streets about 9:30 p.m. Aug. 21, the night he vanished. A pickup sped off, but witnesses saw two men in the vehicle. One of them probably was Richards, 24, an east Multnomah County resident. The other probably was the man who later killed him. But the witnesses did not get a good look at either man.

And someone certainly could have seen the killer abandon Richards' pickup on Southeast Salmon Street near 30th Avenue. But McNelly and Van Dyke cannot find them.

Even piecing together the evening is difficult. Co-workers saw Richards leave the Portland Veterans Medical Center alone on the Friday night he vanished. He was not familiar with downtown Portland, and he usually played nickel-and-dime poker with friends in Vancouver, Wash., on Fridays. He was extremely dependable and did not use illegal drugs.

“It's frustrating,” Van Dyke said.

- A battle of wills

Van Dyke is also the lead investigator in the killing of Sharon Frances Schlosser, 49, of Clackamas. That case, however, has turned into a battle of will between the detectives and her husband, Charles.

Charles Schlosser reported his wife missing Oct. 21, the day after she left their Clackamas home to drive to a business meeting in Mount Vernon, Wash. Owner with her husband of C&S Nursery in Clackamas, she failed to show up for the meeting.

Her body was found Oct. 27 in the Columbia River. Authorities said Sharon Schlosser died of head injuries.

Even before the body was found, Schlosser refused to talk to authorities on his attorney's advice. Since then, Schlosser has given conflicting statements to Clackamas and Multnomah county sheriff's investigators, deputies say.

However, Schlosser's attorney, John Henry Hingson of Oregon City, says detectives were the ones giving contradictory statements.

That's why he refuses to let his client talk to them.

- Time a key element

The longer the case is unsolved, the less likely Van Dyke, McNelly and other detectives will catch anyone. Witnesses' memories get hazy. Evidence is destroyed. And new cases come up that require immediate attention.

Sometimes, however, old cases are solved.

McNelly and Van Dyke arrested a man Oct. 6 for an 8-year-old murder. Roland L. Barrett is awaiting trial for the 1984 murder of Cheri A. Brockman, a waitress at Krueger's Truck Stop in Troutdale.

In 1991, McNelly was at a funeral for the father of a friend. Looking down, he realized he was standing by Brockman's grave. McNelly, who had originally worked on the case, decided to use advancements in DNA testing to try to tie an old suspect to the murder.

With help from Van Dyke and their supervisor, Lt. Bud Johnson, McNelly made the DNA match and arrested Barrett.

“Nothing's shelved,” McNelly said of old homicide cases. “It's like with Brockman. We always knew he did it.”

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STEPSONS BECOME SUSPECTS IN KILLING

December 22, 1992 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: DAVE HOGAN and ASHBEL GREEN - of The Oregonian staff | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 605 Words

Page: B01

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Investigation continues into the mysterious death of Sharon Schlosser, whose body turned up in the Columbia River on Oct. 27

Four stepsons of murder victim Sharon Schlosser refused to answer questions before a grand jury investigating her death, citing their Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination.

The stepsons, ages 21 to 27, are now suspects in the case, along with their father, Charles Schlosser, according to Multnomah County sheriff's detectives.

The listing of the stepsons as suspects in the case is the latest development in an unusual case. Sharon Schlosser's body was found in the Columbia River west of Hayden Island on Oct. 27, six days after her husband, Charles, reported her missing. She died of head injuries.

On their attorneys' advice, the four Schlosser sons -- Charles Jr., Chris, Tony and Tim -- refused to answer questions before a Multnomah County grand jury last week.

Grand jury proceedings are secret, but the Schlosser case came to light when Deputy District Attorney Gary Meabe brought it into Multnomah County Circuit Court in a Dec. 15 hearing before Judge Philip T. Abraham.

Told that the four brothers had each claimed their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, Abraham declined to order them to testify. He explained that if he ordered them to testify, they would be immune from prosecution in the case.

James C. Tait, an Oregon City attorney representing Chris Schlosser, 27, said police already had interviewed each of the Schlosser brothers "at length." Now, they feel the investigators are unfairly singling them out.

"They are concerned that the police are focused on them instead of finding the real suspect out there," Tait said.

He said he had no reason to believe the Schlosser brothers had information that would assist the police in solving the case, and they don't know who committed the slaying. But he said Meabe and detectives would not assure the Schlosser brothers they were not suspects, so they declined to testify.

"There is no competent lawyer that will tell his client to go before a grand jury and testify if he's told he is a suspect, even if he knows he's innocent," Tait said.

Charles Schlosser reported Oct. 21 that his 49-year-old wife was missing, saying she had left their Clackamas home the previous morning for a business meeting in Mount Vernon, Wash., but never arrived.

The Schlossers had been married since December 1987 and operated C & S Nursery together in Clackamas.

On Oct. 25, Sharon Schlosser's yellow Mercedes-Benz was found in the parking lot of the Red Lion Inn at the Quay, just across the Columbia River from Jantzen Beach in Vancouver, Wash.

Two days later, a passing tugboat crew spotted her body floating in the Columbia off Matthew's Point, across from Kelly Point Park on the Washington side. She died of a blow to the head, said sheriff's Detective Pieter Van Dyke.

Charles Schlosser told Clackamas County detectives Oct. 25 that he got up about 5:30 a.m. the morning she disappeared to do volunteer work at a Southeast Portland homeless shelter, and his wife was still in bed when he left, according to Detective Karl Hutchison.

Schlosser also told investigators that he drove to Eugene that day and did not return home until after dark, Van Dyke said.

Van Dyke and Hutchison claim Schlosser has made contradictory statements to them.

In addition, police have obtained Sharon Schlosser's cellular phone records, and they contradict several things that Charles Schlosser had said, according to Hutchison.

Charles Schlosser's attorney, John Henry Hingson III, has said the authorities were the ones making contradictory statements and that was why he was telling Schlosser not to speak to them.

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UNSOLVED MURDERS PROLONG AGONY

November 4, 1995 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: CHASTITY PRATT - of the Oregonian Staff Section: LOCAL STORIES | 802 Words

Page: D01

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Groups exist to ease the pain of victims' families, but until the guilty ones are found, there is little solace

The last Friday in October marked the third year since Sharon Mahoney Schlosser of Clackamas was found dead in the Columbia River. Her mother, Agnes Mahoney, doesn't cry as much now, but when she does, it's laced with anger and frustration that the murder officially has never been solved.

Joanne Vaughn, an advocate for crime victims, has moved into the healing stage of grieving for her daughter, Nikki, who was shot in the back of the head in 1988.

She still can't look at Nikki's pictures. She is still angry that the killer served only 30 months. But she finds some solace in knowing who did it and why.

For people who don't have any answers to their loved one's murder, the mourning process is prolonged indefinitely, counselors say.

It's like an unpaid debt. The grief, anger and frustration linger until there's an explanation for the death and until the killer pays for the crime.

"The biggest fear is that others will forget their loved one" and that the investigation will die as a result, said Dawn Pitman. She's a grief and loss counselor with the Portland chapter of Parents of Murdered Children and Other Survivors of Homicide Victims, a national support group.

The main suspect in the Sharon Schlosser case is Sharon's husband, Charles. Her family thinks that he killed her or knows something about it. Detectives cannot reveal specifics about the investigation, but Charles Schlosser has not been charged.

He has not discussed the case on advice from his attorney, John Henry Hingson of Oregon City.

Police say Charles Schlosser gave them contradictory stories. But Hingson says police are the ones who gave contradictory statements to the media about his client.

Meanwhile, other than keep in contact with police, there's little that Sharon Schlosser's relatives can do to quell their 3-year-long anxiety.

Ellen Re, Schlosser's sister, sought counseling a year after the murder when she realized the effects of repressing her frustration.

"There's a lot of frustration when you want to see an end, and you know in your mind what happened, and you can't do anything," Re said.

In 1993, Oregon ranked 25th in the country in unsolved murders, with 72.1 percent of murders solved. According to the homicide division of the Portland Police Bureau, 10 of the 57 murders committed in Portland in 1994 remain unsolved, and no one has been arrested in 13 of the 29 homicides this year.

The average person's unfamiliarity with the justice system may add to feelings of victimization, said Helen Smith, the director and chief deputy of family services for the district attorney's office.

As a result, the office has advocates trained to help families of victims understand the legal process. Self-help groups for people

affected by violence also act as leaning posts.

But short of saying, "Get over it," supporters can only encourage mourners to talk about and accept their lack of control and fears.

"All we can do is listen to the yelling and the screaming and the total feeling of not knowing," said Vaughn, a member of Crime Victims United and volunteer for the help line for Parents of Murdered Children.

Pitman said mourners often are tortured by their own imaginations.

"They may wonder how it happened and think about it constantly, always trying to figure out were they screaming, was it fast, or did it take a long time?" Pitman said.

They also may fear that someone close to the victim is hiding information.

"We have people who say they look at all their loved one's friends and wonder if they did it or if they know something," Vaughn said.

"They say it's like looking over your shoulder constantly and not knowing who to trust."

Pitman said that when helping families confront this type of grief, the right tactic is to listen, and the wrong tactic is to say, "I understand."

"I tell them, 'I never thought I would feel better, but one day you wake up, and you feel better. Not 100 percent better, but better,'" said Pitman, whose sister was stabbed to death in 1981.

"It doesn't mean you're going to forget the loved one, but that you accept that you can't change the fact that they've been murdered."

Mahoney still visits her daughter at Riverview Cemetery and takes her flowers. She cleans off the gravesite and admires the view of Mount Hood.

Sharon Schlosser would have turned 52 this month.

Mahoney is optimistic an arrest will be made, but not a day goes by that she doesn't wonder when.

"We were thinking about having another memorial service when it's all over," Mahoney said. "There won't be any closure for me until the case is closed."

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JOSEPH E. MAHONEY

August 31, 1996 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Section: OBITUARIES | 118 Words

Page: D10

[OpenURL Link](#)

At his request there will be no service for Joseph E. Mahoney, who died Aug. 24, 1996, in Gladstone. He was at age 78.

Mr. Mahoney was born on New Year's Day in Jan. 1, 1918, in Butte, Mont. He married Agnes L. Larson in 1940. He worked as a food salesman and retired in 1966.

A His daughter, Sharon F. Mahoney-Schlosser, was murdered in 1992 in a Columbia River case that has never not been solved.

Survivors include his wife; daughter, Ellen L. Re of Milwaukie; and six grandchildren.

Disposition was by cremation. The family suggests remembrances to Parents of Murdered Children, 14427 S. Forsythe Road, Oregon City, Ore. 97045. Arrangements are by Omega Cremation & Burial Service.

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A FAMILY'S TRAGEDY NOT FORGOTTEN

April 30, 2000 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: Quinton Smith - The Oregonian Felicity Ayles | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 417 Words

Page: D01

[OpenURL Link](#)

Each April, the mother and sister of Sharon Mahoney Schlosser run a small advertisement on the obituary page of The Oregonian memorializing her birthday, her death and saying, "With God's help, justice will prevail. Please call 251-2409."

It's her relatives' way of remembering -- and reminding the public -- that Schlosser's killing in October 1992 remains one of the Portland area's most vexing homicide investigations.

Schlosser's body was pulled from the Columbia River downstream from Interstate Bridge on Oct. 27, 1992, six days after her husband, Charles, reported her missing. She had died from a blow to the head, not drowning. Multnomah County sheriff's detectives think she was killed up to 12 days earlier on the boat she owned with Charles, whom they say is the main suspect in the case. But Charles maintains that his 49-year-old wife disappeared while on a business trip to Mount Vernon, Wash.

Detectives have continually sparred with Charles Schlosser and his four sons. They have interviewed them extensively, searched Charles Schlosser's property and even summoned the sons to a grand jury in December 1992. On the advice of their attorneys, the sons claimed their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

After years of little progress, the Multnomah County district attorney's office took the case once again to a grand jury in January and February 1999. Fifty-six witnesses testified, but the grand jury and district attorney agreed there was not enough evidence to indict someone.

Not much has happened since then. Except for the little advertisement by Sharon Schlosser's mother and sister. The phone number in the advertisement is that of sheriff's Detective John Little, the latest investigator to monitor the frustrating case.

"We need a lead," Little said.

-- Quinton Smith

Children of man hit by car sought

The Clark County medical examiner's office is still looking for relatives of Robert D. Simmons. The 77-year-old Vancouver, Wash., man died April 13 after being hit by a car.

Medical examiner officials think he has two sons in the Portland area and a daughter near Seattle. They put the word out last week in hopes the children would hear about their father and get in touch.

So far, however, no family members have called.

Meanwhile, the medical examiner's office will hold Simmons' body, perhaps for months. If no relative is found, the body eventually will be cremated and Simmons' ashes stored at the medical examiner's office just in case one of his children comes forward someday.

The Clark County medical examiner's office can be reached at 360-397-8405. -- Felicity Ayles

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LAWSUIT SPOTLIGHTS UNSOLVED HOMICIDE

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Author: ASHBEL S. GREEN - The Oregonian | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 881 Words

Page: C01

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: A suit to determine Sharon Schlosser's beneficiary pits her husband against her children, who think he killed her

On the 10-year anniversary of Sharon Schlosser's unsolved homicide, a dispute over an insurance policy may shed some light on who killed her.

Charles Schlosser, her husband and the primary beneficiary, ordinarily would receive her \$150,000 insurance policy, which has grown to nearly \$215,000 with interest since her death in October 1992.

But the insurance company filed a lawsuit saying that it didn't know who should get the money.

The reason?

Charles Schlosser, the suit said, had been investigated by the police in the death of his wife.

And under Oregon law, a person complicit in a policyholder's death cannot receive the money from the policy.

So the insurance company filed a suit in U.S. District Court that asks the court to determine who gets the money: Charles Schlosser or the policy's secondary beneficiaries, Sharon Schlosser's four children from another marriage.

The unusual legal maneuver effectively pits Schlosser against his stepchildren in a proceeding that will look an awful lot like a murder trial.

Sharon Schlosser's children, who bear the burden of proof, will try to show that Schlosser is to blame, using whatever evidence is available, much like a prosecutor would in a criminal trial.

Schlosser's attorneys declined to comment, but in court papers he denies that he "took or procured the taking" of his wife's life and says he is entitled to the full amount in the policy.

Schlosser did not return a message left at his residence.

Attorneys for his stepchildren said the trial is an opportunity to vindicate their long-held belief that their stepfather killed their mother.

"They would like to have him prosecuted, (but) this is the most they can get now," said Margaret Fiorino, one of their attorneys.

The suit is unconnected to the ongoing police investigation into Sharon Schlosser's death, but prosecutors and investigators are watching the civil case.

"We're certainly aware of that case, and we're interested to see what comes out of that case," said Gary Meabe, a Multnomah County deputy district attorney. "There might be something in the case that helps further the investigation and helps us prosecute the case eventually."

Tugboat crew finds body

Charles Schlosser reported his 49-year-old wife missing on Oct. 21, 1992, telling police she had left their Clackamas home a day earlier to drive to Mount Vernon, Wash., on a business trip, according to Pieter Van Dyke, Multnomah County chief deputy sheriff.

Four days later, Sharon Schlosser's yellow Mercedes-Benz was found in the parking lot of the Red Lion Inn at the Quay in Vancouver.

Two days after that, a passing tugboat crew spotted her body floating in the Columbia on the Washington side of the river downstream from the Interstate Bridge.

An autopsy revealed she died of a blow to the head, said Van Dyke, one of the original investigators in the case.

Van Dyke said he and Detective Karl Hutchison interviewed Schlosser the same day the car was found and that he made contradictory statements about his activities.

Schlosser said his wife drove off early on Oct. 20, Van Dyke said, but a witness later saw him in her car at the marina where he kept his boat.

Gary Muncy, the sheriff's detective currently assigned to the case, said the records of Sharon Schlosser's cell phone also raise suspicions. Charles Schlosser told investigators he had her phone, Muncy said, and shortly after he said she left town, the cell phone was used up and down Interstate 5 and was in the vicinity of where her car was dumped.

If Schlosser did keep the cell phone, Muncy said, the records contradict what he said he did in the days following her disappearance.

Van Dyke, who is close to retirement, said the case is one of the most frustrating of his career.

"Basically, I don't think justice has been done in this case," he said. "I think he should have been indicted and tried."

Meabe, one of two prosecutors assigned to the case, said he could not discuss the strength of the evidence in the case.

But Fiorino says she thinks the evidence is more than strong enough to win her case, particularly since the burden of proof is lower in a civil trial than in a criminal trial.

"I might be proven wrong," she said. "But I think the evidence is much stronger than a preponderance of the evidence (the civil standard) and comes close to evidence beyond a reasonable doubt (the criminal standard) that he was complicit in her murder."

The task for Charles Schlosser's attorneys is to convince the jury that the evidence is not strong enough.

The winner takes home the money, but perhaps also a degree of vindication.

Although Sharon Schlosser's children and aging mother have tried to move on with their lives, Fiorino said, they have continued to hold out hope that her killer would be brought to justice.

On Sharon Schlosser's birthday, for example, her family has taken out a small ad in the obituary section of The Oregonian memorializing her and saying, "With God's help, justice will prevail."

The ad included a phone number for people to call with information.

"Her mother does not want to go to her grave knowing justice has not been done," Fiorino said.

Ashbel "Tony" Green: 503-221-8202; tonygreen@news.oregonian.com

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FAMILY OF WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN 1992 FILES WRONGFUL DEATH SUIT

October 23, 2002 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: ASHBEL S. GREEN - The Oregonian | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 480 Words

Page: C04

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: The civil suit accuses the husband of killing Sharon Schlosser and transferring property out of his name

The family of a Clackamas woman found dead in the Columbia River a decade ago has filed a \$500,000 wrongful death lawsuit accusing her second husband of causing her death and transferring his property to avoid paying a civil judgment.

The suit, filed on behalf of the estate of Sharon Frances Schlosser, accuses Charles M. Schlosser of killing her or arranging her death on Oct. 19 or 20, 1992.

The suit also claims that Charles M. Schlosser took steps to avoid paying a civil judgment for his role in her death.

Five months after her death, the suit claims, Charles M. Schlosser transferred title of his property to his four sons from a previous marriage, Charles J. Schlosser, Christopher Schlosser, Anthony Schlosser and Timothy Schlosser.

The Schlossers did not return telephone calls seeking comment on the suit, but Charles M. Schlosser has previously denied any role in his wife's death.

The wrongful death suit, filed Friday in Multnomah County circuit court, is the second civil action involving the death of 49-year-old Sharon Schlosser, whose body was found October 27, 1992, on the Washington side of the Columbia River downstream from the Interstate Bridge.

No one has been charged in the death, which the Oregon State Medical examiner's office labeled a homicide. But police have said repeatedly that they consider Charles M. Schlosser a suspect.

The second suit involves Sharon Schlosser's \$150,000 life insurance policy, which has grown with interest to about \$215,000.

Charles M. Schlosser, 60, is the beneficiary of the policy, but Oregon law prohibits anyone from receiving insurance money if they were complicit in the policyholder's death.

Because police consider Charles M. Schlosser a suspect in the death, the insurance company last year filed a suit that asks the court to decide who gets the money, Charles M. Schlosser, or the policy's secondary beneficiaries, Sharon Schlosser's children from a previous marriage.

That case is expected to go to trial early next year in U.S. District Court in Portland.

The civil cases resemble a criminal one, with attorneys for Sharon Schlosser's family seeking to prove that Charles M. Schlosser was responsible for her death, but they will not necessarily affect the ongoing criminal investigation.

Prosecutors will not discuss the strength of the evidence in the homicide investigation, but a significant difference between civil and criminal cases is the burden of proof.

In the civil cases, lawyers for Sharon Schlosser's family will try to show that Schlosser was complicit in her death by a "preponderance of the evidence," which means there is at least a 51 percent likelihood that he did it.

Criminal prosecutors, on the other hand, must prove a case "beyond reasonable doubt," which means there is more than a 95 percent chance that the defendant did it.

On the other hand, the case could unearth new evidence that would be available for a criminal trial.

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

ASHBEL S. GREEN - The Oregonian, 'FAMILY OF WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN 1992 FILES WRONGFUL DEATH SUIT', *Oregonian, The* (online), 23 Oct 2002 C04 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/0F6E054F59A4ED38>>

INSURANCE CASE PUTS '92 KILLING BEFORE JURY

July 16, 2003 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: ASHBEL S. GREEN - The Oregonian | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 963 Words

Page: C01

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Arguments begin in a fight over Sharon Schlosser's life insurance that may determine whether her husband had a role in her death

A federal jury was told Tuesday that it will have to decide who killed Sharon Schlosser more than a decade ago to determine who deserves \$215,000 in life insurance.

Charles Schlosser, 61, who was married to Sharon, 49, is the main beneficiary of her policy. But if he were involved in her death, her four children from a previous marriage would get the proceeds.

Margaret Fiorino, a Portland attorney who represents the four children, said she would present overwhelming evidence that Charles Schlosser was involved in the slaying.

In her opening statement, Fiorino said Sharon Schlosser was pressuring her husband to come up with the money for a new home, so he lured her to their boathouse where either he or one of his sons killed her with a hatchet.

Sharon Schlosser's body was later found floating in the Columbia River.

Fiorino said police will testify that they have long suspected Charles Schlosser, but prosecutors have not been willing to pursue the case.

"Charles Schlosser should not get one penny for the murder of Sharon Schlosser," Fiorino told the jury.

Robert Martin, one of Charles Schlosser's attorneys, described the case against his client as a "fantasy game."

Martin said Charles Schlosser is guilty only of having a bad memory, something he blamed on heart medicine and depression.

Schlosser has never been charged with a crime, and Martin suggested that one detective was helping Sharon Schlosser's children trump up a case against him.

Martin said Schlosser had not tried to collect on his wife's insurance policy. But when the insurance company finally asked the court to decide who should receive the money, Schlosser decided to put in his claim because his ex-wife's children had made his life miserable with their accusations.

Martin asked the jurors to clear his client's name.

"A man's whole life stands in the offing. He needs to be vindicated here," Martin said.

Charles Schlosser reported his wife missing on Oct. 21, 1992, telling police she had left their Carver home a day earlier to drive to Mount Vernon, Wash., to shop for tulip bulbs for their nursery business, according to police.

Four days later, Sharon Schlosser's yellow Mercedes-Benz was found in the parking lot of the Red Lion Inn at the Quay in Vancouver.

Two days after that, a passing tugboat crew spotted her body floating in the Columbia on the Washington side of the river downstream from the Interstate Bridge.

An autopsy revealed she died of a blow to the head.

Police said Schlosser made contradictory statements in an interview. They also said he became the chief suspect. Police also said his four sons from another marriage were suspects in the case.

Although prosecutors brought the case before a grand jury, charges have never been filed.

In her opening statement, Fiorino revealed extensive details about the case never before made public.

She said Sharon was pressuring her husband to sell his boat so they could buy a new home for their Clackamas River property. She said Sharon also told a friend she had uncovered something bad that her husband and his sons were involved in, but she vanished before she could tell.

Fiorino said a witness would testify that a week before Sharon was killed, Charles Schlosser offered him a Corvette and a few thousand dollars to kill his wife.

The plan, Fiorino said, was almost identical to the way Sharon Schlosser died.

Although Charles Schlosser told police his wife drove off on Oct. 21, Fiorino said he lured her to her death a day earlier, telling her to meet him at their yacht club so they could show the boat to a prospective buyer.

Fiorino said one of Schlosser's sons was there instead. Exactly who did what, Fiorino said she did not know. But Schlosser died after being struck twice with a hatchet, one blow landing on her forehead.

A witness saw Schlosser later that day driving back to his house in his wife's yellow Mercedes, followed by his son in a pickup.

A witness also later saw Schlosser hosing out his boathouse. Other witnesses saw Schlosser driving his wife's car a day after he said she had driven off in it.

Fiorino said Schlosser also had his wife's cell phone after she disappeared. She said Sharon Schlosser never would have left on a trip to Washington without it. And records from the cell phone placed it near where her car was abandoned.

After Schlosser reported his wife missing, he made no effort to find her, Fiorino said. Instead, he hired a criminal defense lawyer -- before his wife's body was found.

She said the evidence adds up to only one conclusion: "The man who is responsible for her murder is trying to collect money from her life insurance."

Martin cautioned the jury that there was another side to the story.

He disputed Fiorino's claim that Schlosser was feeling pressured by his wife to buy a home they could not afford, claiming that Schlosser has several profitable rentals, as well as a valuable boat. Martin described the Schlossers as a loving couple, with a strong Catholic faith that motivated them to do a lot of charitable work.

Martin also said Schlosser had had a difficult life. His first wife died of stomach cancer and his sister was run over and killed by a car as he helped her walk across the street when they were very young.

"He feels his mother never forgave him for that," Martin said.

Martin also pointed out that while police have pursued Schlosser for a decade, nothing has come of it.

"He's never been charged with anything," Martin said.

The trial, before U.S. Magistrate Janice M. Stewart, is expected to go into next week.

A representative of the Multnomah County district attorney's office is monitoring the trial.

Ashbel "Tony" Green: 503-221-8202; tonygreen@news.oregonian.com

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MAN DENIES KILLING IN INSURANCE CASE

July 23, 2003 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: ASHBEL S. GREEN - The Oregonian | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 420 Words

Page: C04

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: If a jury decides Charles M. Schlosser was involved in his wife's 1992 death, her children would collect

Charles M. Schlosser told a federal jury Tuesday that he did not kill his wife 10 years ago.

Schlosser, 61, also denied that he had a financial motive to kill his wife, saying he was worth \$900,000 when Sharon Schlosser was killed and dumped into the Columbia River in October 1992.

In fact, he said, he loved his wife and still does.

At issue is Sharon Schlosser's \$150,000 insurance policy. Charles Schlosser is the main beneficiary, but if the jury determines he was involved in her death, her four children from a previous marriage would get the proceeds, which have grown to more than \$215,000.

On cross-examination, an attorney representing Sharon Schlosser's children disputed Schlosser's estimate of his wealth at the time, pointing to his bad credit, delinquent property taxes and late loan payments.

Under questioning by Margaret Fiorino, Charles Schlosser acknowledged that he did not have the \$40,000 in cash he needed to have his new manufactured home assembled in Clackamas County.

Fiorino also accused Schlosser of lying repeatedly, contrasting statements he made on the stand with depositions taken a year earlier.

Tuesday was the fifth and last day of testimony in the civil trial. The packed courtroom included two dozen friends of Sharon Schlosser, at least two of Charles Schlosser's children from a previous marriage and three representatives from the Multnomah County district attorney's office.

Attorneys are to make closing arguments this morning.

During the first four days of testimony, Fiorino and co-counsel Lynne B. Morgan presented an array of witnesses, from police detectives to former friends and neighbors, who said Schlosser was uncooperative when his wife went missing and evasive when asked what happened to her.

On Monday, an admitted longtime methamphetamine user, Sam Hooson, said Schlosser offered him a Corvette and \$2,000 to kill Sharon Schlosser with a hammer at a boat house. At the time, Hooson painted vehicles for Schlosser's used truck lot on Southeast 82nd Avenue

Less than a week later, she was killed in a similar way.

Fiorino has said police have long suspected Schlosser, but prosecutors have not pressed charges.

Schlosser has been the main witness in his defense. His attorneys, James Callahan and Robert Martin, portrayed their client as a generous, church-going man who had dedicated himself to helping the poor since his wife's killing.

They said he is guilty of nothing more than having a bad memory.

Ashbel "Tony" Green: 503-221-8202; tonygreen@news.oregonian.com

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- **Citation (aglc Style)**

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JURY FAILS TO AGREE ON SLAIN WOMAN'S INSURANCE

July 25, 2003 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: ASHBEL S. GREEN - The Oregonian | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 419 Words

Page: E04

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Panelists split on giving Sharon Schlosser's payout to her children or her husband, a suspect in her death

A federal civil trial over a slain woman's insurance policy ended in a deadlocked jury Thursday.

The eight-member panel could not agree whether to give Sharon Schlosser's life insurance money to her husband, Charles, or her four children from a previous marriage.

Charles Schlosser is the primary beneficiary of the policy, which is worth about \$215,000, but the money goes to her children if he contributed to her death.

Police have considered him a suspect since a tugboat crew discovered Sharon Schlosser's body in the Columbia River in October 1992. Authorities determined that she had been killed with a hatchet.

Schlosser testified at the end of the weeklong trial that he did not kill his wife.

The jury split 5-3 over whether Schlosser was involved in his wife's death. A unanimous verdict was required. The jury was not asked in court in which direction the majority was leaning.

Kansa Kaufman, one of the jurors, said afterward that the majority voted that Schlosser was involved in the death. Kaufman said she was convinced because of inconsistencies in what he told police and friends.

Detectives testified that Schlosser told them his wife planned to drive to Mount Vernon, Wash., but he was seen later that day with her car.

Kaufman also noted that Schlosser had his wife's cell phone, which witnesses said she always carried with her.

"He had the car and phone," said Kaufman, who lives in Tigard. "And his stories seemed made up."

Kaufman said three jurors said the case against Schlosser was too circumstantial.

Police have never found a murder weapon, and they do not have any physical evidence tying Schlosser to his wife's killing. No one has ever been charged with the killing.

Four other jurors were asked to comment after the trial, but they declined.

Sharon Schlosser's four children said afterward that they were very disappointed but would try again.

"I think everybody in the courtroom knows we have the best case," said Mike Gorham, one of her sons.

Margaret Fiorino, one of the attorneys for Sharon Schlosser's children, said attorneys on both sides would meet with U.S. Magistrate Janice Stewart in early August to try to schedule another trial.

Calls to Schlosser's attorneys were not returned.

Three members of the Multnomah County district attorney's office watched the trial. Afterward, Norm Frink, a Multnomah County

chief deputy district attorney, would say only that the investigation into Sharon Schlosser's death would continue.

Ashbel "Tony" Green: 503-221-8202; tonygreen@news.oregonian.com

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E04 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/0FC8A1C422EAF56A>>

Schlosser siblings defer hope of justice

July 28, 2003 | Portland Tribune (OR)

Author: Ben Jacklet | Section: News | 1103 Words

[OpenURL Link](#)

Kids still seek conviction in mother's death despite mistrial in civil case

The children of Sharon Schlosser have waited more than 10 years for justice after she was killed and her body was dumped into the Columbia River.

Now they will have to wait some more.

'It's been our primary focus in life,' said Michael Gorham, one of four siblings who are convinced that Charles Schlosser killed their mother.

Sharon Schlosser's bludgeoned body was found in the river in October 1992. Her husband, Charles, has long been a suspect in the slaying, but no criminal charges have been filed, much to the chagrin of brothers Richard, Robert and Michael Gorham and their sister, Angela Burger.

Sharon's children Ñ from a previous marriage Ñ all say that their ultimate goal is a criminal conviction for the slaying.

The matter finally reached the courts last week in a federal insurance case that was watched closely by Multnomah County prosecutors. After more than a week of proceedings and five days of testimony, an all-woman, eight-member jury was unable to come to the required unanimous decision as to whether Charles Schlosser was involved in his wife's death.

Juror Kansa Kaufman said she was convinced Schlosser was involved in his wife's slaying despite his testimony to the contrary. But three other jurors thought there was not enough evidence to reach that conclusion. Kaufman said that although the jury was skeptical about Schlosser's testimony, key witnesses for the plaintiffs also had credibility problems, especially Sammy Hooson, who testified that Schlosser tried to hire him to kill his wife.

U.S. Magistrate Janice Stewart declared a mistrial Thursday and will reschedule the case next month.

Margaret Fiorino, an attorney representing the Gorhams, said she was 'flabbergasted' by the outcome.

Robert Martin, who represented Charles Schlosser, offered little in the way of comment. 'It would be nice if we had an answer,' he said. 'Write that down.'

Jim McIntyre, Multnomah County's lead prosecutor on the Schlosser case, said the deadlocked verdict in the civil case 'has no effect whatsoever' on the criminal case. He said he and his colleagues will examine all evidence from the civil trial with fresh eyes, particularly the testimony of Charles Schlosser.

The case has been before two grand juries. Most recently, in December 1998, McIntyre argued the Schlosser case before a grand jury during a three-week session in which 68 witnesses were subpoenaed. The grand jury did not file charges against Schlosser, but McIntyre said he's never given up on the case.

Deputy Sheriff John Little, who inherited the case from several now-retired cops in 1998, said he still believes Schlosser is the primary suspect.

Plaintiffs say money was the issue

At issue in the civil case was a \$150,000 life insurance policy (now worth more than \$200,000 because of interest earned while the

case has been pending) that named Charles Schlosser as the primary beneficiary. The insurance company would not pay him because of his suspected role in the slaying and turned the matter and the disputed money over to the courts.

'It's not about getting the money,' said Lynne Morgan, an attorney representing the Gorhams, while making her closing statement before the jury. 'It's about preventing the man who murdered their mother from getting the money.'

Morgan and Fiorino argued that Schlosser either killed his wife or got somebody to kill her for him. They presented a witness who said that Schlosser attempted to persuade him to kill his wife for him for several thousand dollars and a new Corvette.

After this man turned down the deal, the plaintiffs argued, Schlosser lured his wife to the Columbia River Yacht Club by saying he had found a buyer for his expensive motorboat, then either killed her or had one of his sons kill her.

Plaintiffs argued that Schlosser's motive was money. Schlosser's used-car business on Southeast 82nd Avenue and his plant nursery on the Clackamas River were both money losers, tax records showed, and he couldn't keep up with his credit and tax payments, much less pay for the new home that Sharon wanted. At the time of her death, Sharon lived with Charles in a small trailer with an illegal sewage system.

Schlosser took the stand July 22 and denied killing his wife. But he offered few details about his actions during the time of his wife's killing. 'As far as I remember, I've always told everybody the truth,' he said.

He said he could not recall the names of the prospective buyer of his boat or other details from 10 years ago, citing a bad memory made worse by heart problems and medications.

Fiorino charged that Schlosser's bad memory was 'conveniently selective.'

But Schlosser's attorneys, Martin and James Callahan, dismissed the plaintiff's case as a 'concoction' and a 'long, fancy story.'

They noted that no blood, DNA samples or fingerprints ever tied Schlosser to the killing. A murder weapon was never found.

Martin characterized a key witness Ñ Hooson, who claimed Schlosser tried to hire him to kill Sharon Ñ as a drug addict and a thief.

Hooson's testimony was important because he said Schlosser wanted him to meet Sharon at the waterfront and hit her on the head with a hammer Ñ a scenario almost identical to what investigators believe happened. But jurors may have questioned Hooson's credibility when he said on the stand that he has stolen more than 100 vehicles and used methamphetamine for years.

Martin argued that Hooson's testimony was not trustworthy; Fiorino countered that Hooson was precisely the sort of person one hires to commit murder: 'He's involved with criminal activity and can get the job done,' she said.

Siblings hope to see criminal trial

After the case ended in a deadlock, juror Kaufman approached the Gorhams on the courthouse steps and explained that one of the main reasons the jury couldn't reach a unanimous verdict was because Hooson came off as untrustworthy.

The Gorhams struggled to keep their frustrations in check as they digested the news. 'We're extremely disappointed,' Michael Gorham said. 'But this doesn't stop us in our ultimate goal of getting a criminal conviction.'

The Gorham siblings have scattered throughout the West in the decade since their mother was killed.

Michael, 38, lives in Tigard and works for Wells Fargo Bank in Portland. Richard, 39, lives in Laguna Beach, Calif., and works for Johnson & Johnson. Robert, 36, lives in Bend and works for Century Insurance Co. Angela Burger, 34, lives in Whitefish, Mont., where she runs a restaurant with her husband.

In spite of their physical separation, they remain close and talk on the phone weekly, Michael Gorham said. The biggest subject of conversation always has been the slaying of their mother and the hope for a criminal trial, he said.

- **Citation (aglc Style)**

Ben Jacklet, 'Schlosser siblings defer hope of justice', *Portland Tribune* (online), 28 Jul 2003

⟨<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/14BCB12C81B65AC0>⟩

HUSBAND OF SLAIN WOMAN ENDS INSURANCE SUIT

October 8, 2003 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)

Author: ASHBEL S. GREEN - The Oregonian | Section: LOCAL STORIES | 411 Words

Page: C04

[OpenURL Link](#)

Summary: Charles Schlosser, who remains a suspect in the 1992 killing, lets his wife's children benefit

A Portland man accused in a federal civil trial of killing his wife has given up any claim to \$215,000 in life insurance money due him.

In July, a federal jury could not decide if Charles Schlosser was involved in the 1992 death of his wife, Sharon, who was killed with a hatchet and dumped in the Columbia River. Schlosser has never been charged and at trial denied any involvement.

In a settlement with Sharon Schlosser's four children, Charles Schlosser admitted no wrongdoing in releasing any claim on the money. His two attorneys will receive \$42,000 from the policy, with the rest going to the children.

Robert Martin, one of Charles Schlosser's attorneys, declined to comment Tuesday on the settlement.

Michael Gorham, one of Sharon Schlosser's children, said Tuesday that he and his siblings were satisfied with the settlement.

"We really weighed the plusses and minuses of going back to court, and I think that settling in the manner that we did was the best thing for us as a family. We told our story," Gorham said. "We're just hoping that the new information that (prosecutors) heard will further compel them to pursue the criminal case. Because that's really again what the main goal of this was."

Norm Frink, a chief deputy Multnomah County district attorney, would not comment on how or if the insurance dispute affected the investigation into Sharon Schlosser's murder.

"The investigation is ongoing, and he remains a suspect," Frink said.

Sharon Schlosser left behind an insurance policy naming her husband as the primary beneficiary and her children as the secondary beneficiaries. If the primary beneficiary was responsible for her death, the secondary beneficiaries collected.

The policy lay unclaimed for nearly a decade after her death. Insurance officials knew that the police considered Charles Schlosser a suspect, so in 2001 they asked the U.S. District Court in Portland to settle the matter.

During the July trial, attorneys for Sharon Schlosser's children said Charles Schlosser was in a financial bind when he or one of his sons from a previous marriage killed her with a hatchet and then dumped her body in the Columbia.

A business acquaintance testified that Charles Schlosser offered to pay him to kill Sharon.

Schlosser testified that he was in good financial condition and loved his wife.

One juror said afterward that the vote was 5-3 in favor of Sharon Schlosser's children.

The settlement was reached Sept. 12.

Ashbel "Tony" Green: 503-221-8202; tonygreen@news.oregonian.com

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OBITUARIES - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005

December 20, 2005 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)
Author: The Oregonian | Section: Obituaries | 1829 Words
Page: D06
[OpenURL Link](#)

Travis Anderson

A funeral will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2005, in Sunset Presbyterian Church in Portland for Travis Anderson, who died Dec. 17 at age 34.

Mr. Anderson was born April 16, 1971, in Portland, where he lived all his life. He graduated from Benson High School and was a self-employed house painter.

Survivors include his parents, Rick and Mary; brother, Tom; and sisters, Kelly Kruszewski, Mandy Trujillo and Misty Anderson.

Arrangements by Ross Hollywood Little Chapel of the Chimes.

Mollie Blumenthal

A funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, in the Weinstein Chapel of Nevah Zedek-Rose City Lodge Cemetery for Mollie Blumenthal, who died Dec. 19 at age 94.

Ms. Blumenthal was born Nov. 29, 1911, in Portland, where she lived all her life. She was an executive secretary for an insurance company.

Survivors include her nieces and nephews.

Remembrances to Robison Jewish Health Center. Arrangements by Holman's.

Dr. Emerson J. Collier

A funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, in St. James Catholic Church in McMinnville for Dr. Emerson J. Collier, who died Dec. 15 at age 89. Recitation of the rosary will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, in Macy & Son in McMinnville.

Dr. Collier was born Dec. 1, 1916, in Butte, Mont. He graduated from the University of Alaska and the University of Oregon Medical School. He served in the Army during World War II and started his medical practice in Denver before moving to Portland in 1956. He later practiced in McMinnville and was twice president of the Oregon Urological Society. In 1979, he married Frances Sampson.

Survivors include his wife; daughters, Ell, Linda and Candace; stepsons, George Sampson, Steve Sampson and Rick Sampson; stepdaughters, Suzanne Sampson and Cindy Sawyer; brothers, Paul and David; sister, Helen Strike; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to the youth ministry at the church.

Dennis Herbert Fogarty

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, 2005, in St. John Fisher Catholic Church in Portland for Dennis Herbert Fogarty, who died Dec. 17 of cancer at age 79.

Mr. Fogarty was born May 10, 1926, in Valley, Wash. During World War II, he served in the Marine Corps. He moved in 1947 to

Recitation of the rosary followed by a memorial Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, in Laurelhurst Village in Portland for Margaret Elizabeth Lazrine, who died Dec. 15 at age 85.

Margaret Ryan was born July 16, 1920, in Portland. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy and a beauty school. She was a proof operator for First National Bank, where she worked for 30 years.

Survivors include her daughters, Barbara Navarra and Kathleen Birch; son, Robert; brother, Leo J. Ryan; 12 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to the Oregon Food Bank. Arrangements by Zeller.

Jerome Edward Le Gette

A funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, in Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Portland for Jerome Edward Le Gette, who died Dec. 17 at age 79.

Mr. Le Gette was born Oct. 6, 1926, in Portland, where he lived most of his life. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was a kitchen worker for various restaurants, hotels and nursing homes. He volunteered for the Northwest Pilot Project.

Survivors include his brother, James E.; and cousins, Geri Holzschuh and Gabe Peterson.

Remembrances to Northwest Pilot Project. Arrangements by Mt. Scott.

Paul Long

Paul Long died Dec. 15, 2005, at age 91.

Mr. Long was born Aug. 5, 1914, in Etna Green, Ind. He served in the Army. He was a laborer and lived most of his life in Portland. In 1954, he married Hildred Carey.

Survivors include his wife; daughters, Esther Hunt and Eileen McCafferty; son, Eugene; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to the National Parkinson Foundation. Arrangements by Portland Memorial.

~~Agnes Louise Mahoney~~

~~Agnes Louise Mahoney died Dec. 15, 2005, at age 88.~~

~~Agnes Larson was born March 1, 1917, in Eugene. A homemaker, she lived in Depoe Bay and Sherwood before moving to Milwaukie in 1997. In 1941, she married Joseph; he died in 1996.~~

~~Survivors include her daughter, Ellen Re; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Her daughter, Sharon M. Schlosser, was murdered in 1992.~~

~~Remembrances to Parents of Murdered Children. Arrangements by Omega.~~

Troy O. Newman

A funeral will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2005, in Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home for Troy O. Newman, who died Dec. 17 at age 79.

Mr. Newman was born March 17, 1926, in Wenatchee, Wash., and lived in Portland all his life. He served in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific, including on Iwo Jima. He was a heavy construction superintendent for the Donald Drake Construction Co. In

LIFE STORY Agnes Mahoney

January 15, 2006 | Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)
Author: The Oregonian | Section: Obituaries | 36 Words
Page: B06
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Born: March 1, 1917, Eugene

Died: Dec. 15, 2005, Tualatin

Survivors: daughter, Ellen Re; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Daughter Sharon Schlosser was killed in 1992.

Service: None

Remembrances: Parents of Murdered Children

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LIFE STORY A mother's crusade for justice

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SUMMARY: For 13 years, "Aggie" Mahoney

worked to keep her daughter's

memory alive --and to track

down the person who killed her

In family photos, she is always smiling. Agnes "Aggie" Mahoney was a happy person: a Milwaukie homemaker who loved to make big dinners for her family, pick berries to supply everyone with jam, read mysteries and romances, and get together with friends.

Friends dated to the 1930s and included passers-by she met while standing in the yard, gardening.

"Do I get a hug?" Aggie would say to acquaintances. Those who complied got a beaming grin. She was only about 90 pounds, so you'd think a strong hug would crush her.

This was the sweet woman detectives met in October 1992 when Aggie's daughter, Sharon Schlosser, a 49-year-old married mother of four, was bludgeoned to death. Sharon's body was found in the Columbia River days after her death.

Aggie began walking the path of those who have lost a child to violence.

The homicide frustrated detectives who got to know Aggie. For Aggie, it was heartbreaking that other homicides were solved but, for a variety of reasons, officials could not solve Sharon's. Especially because Aggie felt certain she knew who did it.

No one has ever been charged in the crime.

Dancing, horseback riding

Aggie devoted the past 13 years, until her death Dec. 15, 2005, at 88, trying to make sure her daughter's death was not forgotten, and hoping the killer would slip up.

Aggie, born Agnes Larson, was adopted. She thought she knew who her biological parents were.

Her adoptive parents were friends with the parents of Wendell Wyatt, who became a congressman, and Aggie joked that she slept in the same crib with infant Wendell.

She graduated from Eugene High School in 1935. Her parents divorced, and she and her mother moved to Portland, where Aggie worked in catalog orders for Montgomery Ward. Aggie became a party girl who loved to dance to "Begin the Beguine." She and friends went horseback riding, English style, at Jantzen Beach Saddle Club.

In 1938, she met Joe Mahoney, a salesman for Leslie Salt, and they married in 1940. Sharon was born in 1943, and Ellen three years later. The Mahoneys raised their daughters in Milwaukie.

When the girls were in high school, owners of a store called the Deb Shop in Milwaukie hired Aggie to work with her daughters. Mom and daughters delighted in dressing up in fashionable pleated wool knit skirts and pink mohair sweaters, and going on buying

trips for the store.

Devastating news

Aggie loved the job. The coffeepot was always on, and high school girls in bubble hairdos and pointy-toed flats bought Bobbie Brooks clothes at the shop on Southeast 21st Avenue, just a few blocks from Milwaukie High School. Aggie helped befuddled men buy gifts, and helped young girls with training bras.

She worked there until the store was sold around 1967; Joe was able to retire early, and they moved to the Oregon coast. In 1976, they moved to Depoe Bay, where Aggie was active in the garden club.

It was in Depoe Bay that they got the excruciating news of Sharon's death.

This so consumed Aggie and Joe that they moved back to the Portland area, to a mobile home park in Sherwood, so Aggie could work with law enforcement to try to bring Sharon's killer to justice.

She talked with all of Sharon's friends; anything might help solve the case.

She went to meetings of Parents of Murdered Children and Crime Victims United, finding others in the same spot.

And once in a while, she had a good cry.

She fussed over Joe, who was an alcoholic. After he died in 1996, she moved into an apartment, freed to go clothes shopping and swimming, and to lunch with her surviving daughter.

But most important, she was able to visit her grandchildren and great-grandchildren -- the grandchildren Sharon never knew.

"Our special angel"

Police have long suspected Sharon's husband, Charles Schlosser, played a role in her death. But grand juries that met in 1992 and 1999 said there was not enough evidence to indict anyone. A federal civil trial in 2003 over an insurance settlement ended with a hung jury and didn't resolve anything or restart the criminal investigation.

But the quest kept her going after her health began to fail. She wanted the case resolved for Sharon.

Aggie put small notices in The Oregonian every six months -- on Sharon's birthday, April 16 -- and on the approximate date of her death, Oct. 19 or Oct. 20. She did that to make sure the killer was aware that she hadn't forgotten and with the hope that somebody, somewhere, would supply a crucial piece of evidence.

The wording varied, but the message was the same:

Our special angel, never to be forgotten

Justice will prevail

Amy Martinez Starke: 503-221-8534; amystarke@news.oregonian.com

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