

Trail Grows Colder

Family, Friends' Concern Mounts For Missing Stateline Nurse

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — The trail of missing Stateline casino nurse Donna A. Lass is growing colder for police investigating her mysterious disappearance while concern for her welfare by immediate family mem-

bers and friends is mounting.

Sisters of the 25-year-old missing woman, Mrs. Dick Bellach and Mrs. Mary Pilker of Sioux Falls, SD, flew to South Lake Tahoe when they learned she had not been seen since

leaving work at 2 a.m. Sept. 6.

They have paid the rent for the remainder of this month on Donna's apartment in which she stayed only one night and are reluctant to plan beyond that date in the hope their sister will be found and their lives returned to normal.

Donna lived during the summer with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lowe, a young couple who had planned to return to college but are remaining here also in the hope of being of some assistance in locating her.

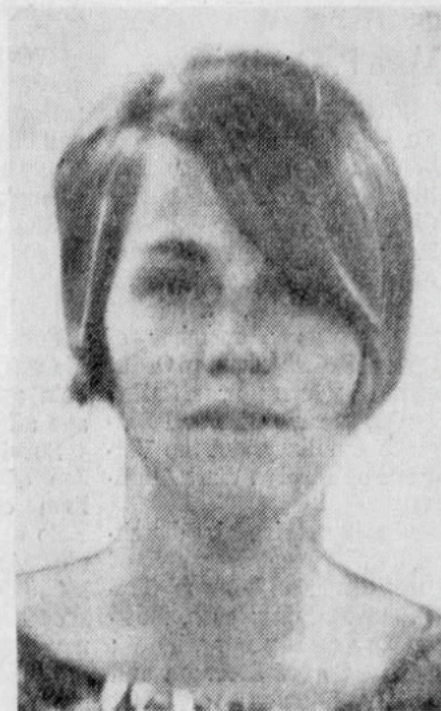
Mrs. Lowe also is a nurse and worked with Donna from 1967 to 1969 at Santa Barbara. The missing woman was working at Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco when she was persuaded to seek employment at South Lake Tahoe by the Lowes last June.

Donna was described by Mrs. Lowe as "shy and retiring," a girl who never smoked, who drank very little and generally was opposed to the free life style of many of her contemporaries. She attended church at St. Mary's in the Pines "every Sunday."

The mystery of her disappearance was compounded by a male caller who notified her employer and landlord Sept. 7 that she would not be available because of illness in her family. The sisters told police there had been no illness.

Donna's car, a domestic compact model found at her apartment, was completely paid for, according to the sisters. She had a bank account and many new clothes which were discovered undisturbed in the apartment.

Lt. John Crow said detectives have



Donna A. Lass

followed every lead and talked to everyone who knew her or saw her before she vanished. Anyone who may have information which might assist police is requested to call the police 541-4060.

There are similarities between this case and that of Sacramento nurse Judith Hakari, who was abducted March 7 from her Capital apartment and slain. Her body was found later in a shallow grave April 26 near Weimar, Placer County.



Concerned Sisters

Mrs. Dick Bellach, left, and Mrs. Mary Pilker, who flew to South

Lake Tahoe from Sioux Falls, SD, examine Donna's clothes.

Bee Photo