

Former sheriff responds to Sound Off

To the Editor,

To the person who is calling Sound Off concerning Loretta Lynn Willoughby's death:

I am glad to know you are interested in the death of Loretta Willoughby. You must have a great concern. I feel that if your concern is as deep as it appears, you will not have any problems or reservations about going before the Estill County Grand Jury and telling all that you know.

It appears from your sound off calls that you have evidence that could be used in the apprehension and conviction of the four people that you indicated were involved in her death.

I'm sure you wouldn't care to give the Grand Jury or authorities the names of those that were involved in her death.

It appears that you want to give the local authorities a black eye, when you are the person they are looking for -- for the answers. You stated in one of your calls that you were carrying out your own investigation, and that you had eliminated several leads, that you have narrowed it down, that you were ready to break the case, and that it would do no good to give it to the police because they wouldn't do anything.

So what do you intend to do with the evidence? Are you going to make the arrest yourself, or are you just going to go on mouthing? I guess you realize that if you are withholding information, and if your identity is learned, you can be charged with obstructing justice. So, what do you intend to do?

The Irvine Police Department got the initial report of Loretta's disappearance, shortly after she was discovered missing. My office at the time, the Estill County Sheriff's Office, was later advised of the situation.

We did try to locate Loretta. We also put her name in the computer at the Kentucky State Police, with all the necessary information, as a missing person. The Irvine police and our office were working to locate Loretta. Then her body was found in town on the hill behind John Winn's garage.

We notified the Kentucky State Police, and they sent detectives in to work on the case. All three departments, the Irvine police, the sheriff's office and the state police ran all the leads that were available to them. At no time have I tried to cover up or protect

any person in this case.

I tried to find the person or persons who committed this crime against Loretta. As to my report on the Willoughby case, Bob Walker was as interested in solving it as was I. So, he took the report that was at the sheriff's office with him so that he could continue working on the case.

As for the new sheriff, I've been right here all the time. If he wanted to know anything, he knows where I am. It's not my place to go to him and tell him what to do. There would be no problem getting any information he would need from the Irvine police or the state police. I have always found them more than willing to share. After all, the report that I had was from the state police.

I encourage you to come forward and give the authorities the information you have. Perhaps the case could have been solved long ago if you had been willing to share your information.

You must know who did it or your conscience is bothering you. I hope you will have guts enough to come forward from behind the Sound Off column and let your name or names be known.

Montie Parks

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