

## **SERIAL KILLING SUSPECT LEFT LITTLE MARK AS STATE TEEN**

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Suspected serial killer **Aileen Wuornos** left a trail of clues along the I-75 corridor in north-central Florida but barely a footprint in her hometown of Troy.

Wuornos, 34, a suspect in the shooting deaths of seven middle-aged men, was charged Wednesday in Ocala, Fla., with first-degree murder in the slaying of a 52-year-old Clearwater man.

The case attracted international attention as motorists' bodies were found month after month along the highway near resort towns, their cars dumped in remote spots.

In Michigan, questions about Wuornos drew blanks from her classmates at Troy High School in 1971, the year she withdrew after her freshman year and the year her sister, Lori, graduated from the school.

Aileen is pictured in the yearbook wearing a dark T-shirt and a large cross around her neck.

"I can't say I remember her at all," said Bill Hoekstra, 34, of Drayton Plains, a Troy High graduate who stood one student away from Wuornos in the picture.

"Aileen who?" asked Ruby Tabasco, 34, another classmate who now lives in Philadelphia. "Can't say I recall her."

Wuornos, according to police and Secretary of State's Office records, lived on Hickory Street off Livernois in Troy, an area of modest homes less than half a mile south of the gleaming office towers in the city's Big Beaver corridor. Neighborhood residents reached Thursday night and Friday did not recall the family.

Troy police said there are records of two miscellaneous police runs to the Hickory address. Secretary of State's Office records show that Wuornos was arrested in 1973 in Troy for driving without a license.

Troy school officials believe Wuornos left school to move with her family to Florida, and Sgt. Robert Douglas of the Marion County (Fla.) Sheriff's Department said she is known to have lived in Florida in 1976.

"She was a transient and a lot of things are unclear at this time," Douglas said.

Surrounded by undercover officers who had been following her for a week, Wuornos was arrested on a concealed weapons charge Jan. 9 near Daytona Beach in The Last Resort bar, where she'd been living out of a suitcase and sleeping on a couch for several nights, police said.

"She was in and out of the area," said Al Bulling, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle devotee who opened the bar 10 years ago. "She'd pop in and then you wouldn't see her again for a while."

Sometimes she brought her lover to the bar, a woman police say will testify against Wuornos about the slayings.

The victims were shot to death with a small-caliber handgun and their bodies dumped in remote areas along highways. Some victims were left nude or partially clothed.

Authorities said the men may have stopped to help a woman they thought was having car trouble or they could have been lured with promises of sex. Empty condom packages were found in some victims' cars.

The slayings occurred during the last 14 months.

Wuornos had worked odd jobs as a waitress, laborer and motel maid, using several different names -- Susan, Lori, Sandra, Cammie. In the last decade, she was arrested in four Florida counties from Daytona Beach to the Keys.

Caption: Photo United Press International

: Troy native **Aileen Wuornos** , 34, is suspected in the killings of seven middle-aged men in Florida. \*\*\*

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