

## WOMAN IS HELD AS SUSPECT IN SLAYINGS OF 7 LONE MEN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, January 18, 1991

Author: IKE FLORES Associated Press Writer

OCALA, Fla. -- Investigators announced Thursday they have solved the serial killings **of** seven middle-aged **men** with the arrest **of a** transient **woman** who hitchhiked the roads **of** Florida looking for victims.

Aileen Carol Wuornos, 33, was traced to **a** bar **in** the Daytona Beach area and arrested Jan. 9 on **a** concealed weapons charge, said Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland, whose office led the investigation.

Wuornos' onetime lover, Tyria Moore, 28, will testify against her, authorities said.

"I believe Ms. Wuornos **is a** killer who robs, not **a** robber who kills," said Steve Binegar, chief investigator **in** the **slayings** that took place over **a** 13-month period **in** north and central Florida. "We believe she pretty much meets the guidelines **of a** serial killer."

She was charged Wednesday night with first-degree murder **in** the Volusia County **slaying of** Richard Mallory, 52, **of** Clearwater. Binegar said other counties would pursue their own charges **in** six other cases.

Moreland and Binegar described the **suspect as a** transient who traveled much **of** the time with Moore but who **is** believed to have killed all seven **men** by herself.

Moore has not been arrested but " **is** talking to us and the prosecutors and will be **a** witness to the whole case," said Binegar.

Moreland and other investigators, including Commissioner Tim Moore **of** the Florida Department **of** Law Enforcement, told reporters they no longer believe that two missing male motorists also were murdered by the same killer.

The two cases "could not be tied to this person," Moreland said. **A** Georgia killing **is** still under investigation for firm links to the Florida cases.

No weapon has been recovered, but most if not all **of** the victims were shot to death, Binegar said. **A** number **of** personal items belonging to the victims have been recovered from **a** storage facility rented by Wuornos.

The motive appeared to be robbery, but very little money was involved and no credit cards were used.

Florida Law Enforcement reports showed Wuornos has a criminal history **in** Florida and was jailed from May 1982 to June 1983 on a conviction **of** robbery with a deadly weapon. She also has faced vehicle theft, grand larceny and bad check charges since then.

Police decided the highway **slayings** were connected after they discovered similarities among the crimes, which began **in** December 1989. All the motorists were last seen **in** their cars. All were killed while traveling alone. Some **of** the bodies were found nude or partially nude, and all **of** the **men** were shot with a small-caliber gun.

Authorities had theorized that the **men** either were killed after stopping to help a stranded motorist or perhaps were lured to their deaths with promises **of** sex. Empty condom packages were left behind **in** several **of** the abandoned cars.

\*\*\*

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 16A

Index Terms: HOMICIDE ; SERIAL ; WOMAN; FLORIDA

Dateline: OCALA, Fla.

Record Number: 9101030559

Copyright (c) 1991 Detroit Free Press