FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1269552-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 28
Page 67 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 69 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 71 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 73 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 75 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 79 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 127 ~ Duplicate - Serial 3;
Page 138 ~ Duplicate - Serial 4;
Page 139 ~ Duplicate - Serial 1;
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Page 145 ~ Duplicate - Serial 2;
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Page 156 ~ Duplicate - Serial 4;
Page 157 ~ Duplicate - Serial 4;

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Universal Case File Number: 02D-18-83245
Field Office Acquiring Evidence: IP
Serial # of Originating Document: 8/2197
Date Received: 8/2197

From: (Name of Contributor)  
(Address of Contributor)

By: (City and State)  
(Officer or Special Agent)

To Be Returned: □ Yes □ No
Receipt Given: □ Yes □ No
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e)  
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure: □ Yes □ No

Title: 

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: □ Original notes re interview of  
Photos of 5356 E 7th Street
5356 E. 72nd St.
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2018 11-02 N1N+03A-905
Universal Case File Number: 62D-1P-82345
Field Office Acquiring Evidence: 10
Serial # of Originating Document: 8-7-97
Date Received: 8-7-97

From: (Name of Contributor)
(Address of Contributor)
(City and State)

By: (Special Agent)

To Be Returned: No
Receipt Given: No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure: No

Title:

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: Original notes re interview of Photos of
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE
Date: 07/29/1997

To: Indianapolis
From: SA 7-MERA
Approved By: b6
b7C
Drafted By: slma0229.210

Case ID #: 62D-IP-NEW (Pending)
252B-HQ-1113775 (Pending)

Title: HERBERT BAUMEISTER (DECEASED)
SERIAL KILLER;
INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT,
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA;
DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION

Synopsis: Contact with SAC, Indianapolis.


Attached to this communication is a request letter from Indianapolis Police Department, Indianapolis, Indiana, dated 06/11/1997.

The purpose of this communication is to open a Domestic Police Cooperation case to capture any and all paperwork relating to the cooperation of SA and the FBI cadaver dog "Alex" as regards to the searches listed in attached letter. At the time of the telephone call between SAC Alford and SA SAC Alford advised that he had reservations regarding the request of SA of the Charlotte Division due to expenses that will be incurred by the Indianapolis Division.

Inquiries were made to Engineering Research Facility (ERF), Quantico, Virginia, regarding the possibility of the ERF as regards to payment of expenses out of that unit for travel expenses for SA. Advised that no expenses were available for payment of those travel expenses at this time.

As such, efforts have gotten underway by SA to locate another cadaver dog in this region that can assist in the cadaver searches which have been planned for the week of 08/04/1997. A preliminary viewing of the sites to be searched will be done on 07/24/1997, by SA and Detectivey
It is requested that a 62D matter be opened to capture all paperwork resulting from the cooperation with the Indianapolis Police Department in captioned matter.

CC: 1 - SAC  
1 - ASAC
FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

To: Merriville RA
Date: July 15, 1997

Facsimile Number: 
Attn: SA

From: Indianapolis - FBI

Subject: REQUEST LETTER

June 11, 1997

Special Handling Instructions: AIS hand carry

Originator's Name: FBI - IP
Originator's Facsimile Number: (317) 321-5193

Approved: UJF
Michael H. Zunk, Chief of Police
50 North Alabama Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Stephen Goldsmith, Mayor

June 11, 1997

Wayne R. Alford
FBI
F.O. Box 1186
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear SAIC Alford,

In reference to a telephone conversation of June 10, 1997, with SA of the Merrillville office, I am writing to request the assistance of SA and his cadaver dog, Alex. Additionally, I am requesting the assistance of SA of the Charlotte, NC office and his cadaver dog. There are three sites in Marion County which I suspect may hold human remains. This pertains to my investigation of Herbert Baumeister (FBI Case #2525-HQ-111,775) whose Hamilton County property yielded the remains of eight humans. The sites are as follows:

5356 E. 72nd St. - residence he and his family have had sole control of. (145'x90'x147'x118')

Residence (50'x144')

Residence (313 wooded acres)

For each site, permission of the owner has been given. A formal request through SA has been made by me to your Technical Programs Unit for an audit by Ground Penetrating Radar. Special Search Techniques Program Manager, requested that two or three teams of cadaver dogs run through the sites prior to their scheduling the GPR Search.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to the possibility of working with your specialists.

Sincerely,

Investigative Management Division
Missing Persons
FBI Indianapolis
IN 46204

INDIANAPOLIS
POLICE DEPARTMENT
565 North Keystone Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46218

TOTAL P. 02
Attached to this communication is a copy of a Consent to Search form dated 8/7/97, signed by [Redacted] and witnessed by Detective [Redacted] Indianapolis Police Department (IPD), Indianapolis, Indiana. This Consent to Search form is an official consent to search issued by the owner of the premises located at [Redacted] Indianapolis, Indiana allowing the FBI, the IPD and representatives of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (ISEMA) and the Vermilion County Emergency Response Team search the property surrounding the residence at this location for evidence of any clandestine graves and/or human remains that may exist on this property.

This search was initiated at approximately 7:00 a.m. 8/7/97 and the summary of the cadaver dog’s search is set forth on "Activity Report" number 97-0071, which is also attached hereto.
PERMISSION TO SEARCH
(Not In Custody)

Place

Date 8-7-97

Time 6:00 AM

I, ____________________________, residing at ____________________________, Marion County, Indiana, do knowingly authorize officers of the Indianapolis Police (Sheriff) Department and the FBI to search the following described residence (motor vehicles) (premises), over which I have control, to wit: the property surrounding my residence located at ____________________________, Marion County, Indiana.

I further knowingly and voluntarily authorize said officers to SEIZE any article that they may deem as evidence or pertinent to their investigation.

THIS PERMISSION IS GIVEN KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY UPON FULL KNOWLEDGE OF MY RIGHT TO REFUSE SUCH PERMISSION.

Signed: ____________________________

Age: ____________________________

Witnessed: ____________________________

Marion County Prosecutor's Office, 1982

IPD Form No. 10-1-39
ALEX'S ACTIVITY REPORT

EXERCISE TYPE: [ ] OBEDIENCE [ ] CADAVER SEARCH [ ] LIVE FIND
[ ] KNOWN PROBLEM [ ] KNOWN PROBLEM
[ ] BLIND

WEATHER: [ ] CLEAR [ ] LIGHT WIND AT 3 KNOTS
[ ] RAIN [ ] MODERATE FROM: WIND CHILL:
[ ] FOG [ ] HEAVY [ ] COLD
[ ] SNOW [ ] HEAVY [ ] 100° F or C
[ ] CLOUDY

SURFACE CONDITIONS: [ ] DRY [ ] GRASS [ ] SHORT
[ ] WET [ ] HILLY [ ] MEDIUM
[ ] SLOPE: [ ] SNOW [ ] WOODS [ ] TALL
[ ] ICY [ ] UNDERBRUSH [ ] OTHER: [ ] HEAVY
[ ] FROZEN [ ] RAVINES

AREA TYPE: [ ] RURAL [ ] RESIDENTIAL [ ] COMMERCIAL
[ ] STREAM [ ] RIVER [ ] INDUSTRIAL
[ ] LAKE [ ] BUILDING

SCENT SOURCE LAYED: / / at: ____________

LOCATION OF SCENT SOURCE:
[ ] SURFACE [ ] UNCOVERED
[ ] BURIED: [ ] COVERED WITH
[ ] UNDERWATER: ___ DEPTH
[ ] HANGING ___ HEIGHT
[ ] ELEVATED

DISTRACTIONS: N/A

WITNESSES:

NAME AGENCY ___ LPD ___ TX  
NAME AGENCY ___ LPD ___ TX  
NAME AGENCY ___ JSEMA ___ TX  
NAME ________ Vermilion County Emergency Response

REPORT #: 91-0071
DATE: 2-7-91
TIME: 700 AM
CASE NARRATIVE: THIS CASE INVOLVES THE SEARCH FOR CLANDESTINE GRAVES / HUMAN REMAINS RESULTING FROM THE SERIAL MURDERS PERPETRATED BY HERBERT BAUMEISTER. SEARCH CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO A CONSENT TO SEARCH.

PROBLEM NARRATIVE: THIS SEARCH SITE CONSISTED OF THE AREA LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE RESIDENCE AT _______________.


ALEX THEN RETURNED TO THE LARGE TREE.

HANDLER'S RATING OF DOG'S PERFORMANCE:

[ ] EXCELLENT [ ] VERY GOOD [ ] GOOD [ ] FAIR [ ] POOR
CONTINUED: (Pt 2 on TV sketch), jumped up against it, then alerted with multiple scratches on the south side of the tree right at the base.

Alex then moved into the problem narrative: middle of the south east section of this area and gave a third hard alert with multiple enthusiastic scratches (Pt 3).

It should be noted that two other cadaver dogs alerted in these immediate areas of points 1, 2 & 3. Indications of these alert points have been made directly on case photos.

Handler's Rating of Dog's Performance:

☐ Excellent  ☐ Very Good  ☐ Good  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor  ☐
Attached to this communication is a copy of a Consent to Search form dated 8/7/97, signed by [redacted] and witnessed by Detective [redacted] of the Indianapolis Police Department (IPD), Indianapolis, Indiana. This Consent to Search form is an official consent to search issued by the owner of the premises located at 5356 E. 72nd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana allowing the FBI, the IPD and representatives of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (ISEMA) and the Vermillion County Emergency Management Response, search the property surrounding the residence at this location for evidence of any clandestine graves and/or human remains that may exist on this property.

This search was initiated at approximately 8:00 a.m. 8/7/97 and the summary of the cadaver dog's search is set forth on "Activity Report" number 97-0072, which is also attached hereto.
PERMISSION TO SEARCH
(Not In Custody)

Place 5356 E. 72nd St.
Date 08-07-97
Time 8:00 A.M.

I, ____________________________, residing at 5356 E. 72nd St., Marion County, Indiana, do knowingly authorize officers of the Indianapolis Police (Sheriff) Department and the FBI to search the following described residence (motor vehicles) (premises) over which I have control, to wit: the residence and lot surrounding it located at 5356 E. 72nd St., Marion County, Indiana.

I further knowingly and voluntarily authorize said officers to SEIZE any article that they may deem as evidence or pertinent to their investigation.

THIS PERMISSION IS GIVEN KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY UPON FULL KNOWLEDGE OF MY RIGHT TO REFUSE SUCH PERMISSION.

__________________________
Signature

__________________________
Age

Witnessed: ____________________________

Marion County Prosecutor's Office, 1982

IPD Form No. 10-1-39
ALEX'S ACTIVITY REPORT

EXERCISE TYPE: [ ] OBEDIENCE [X] CADAVER SEARCH [ ] LIVE FIND
[ ] KNOWN PROBLEM [ ] KNOWN PROBLEM
[ ] BLIND [ ] BLIND

WEATHER: [X] CLEAR [ ] LIGHT
[ ] RAIN: [ ] MODERATE
[ ] FOG: [ ] HEAVY
[ ] SNOW: [ ] HEAVY
[ ] CLOUDY

WIND AT _______ KNOTS/MPH "CALM"
FROM: _______ DEGREES

IP AIRPORT READING:
TEMPERATURE: (65°F or C)
WIND CHILL: (°F or C)

SURFACE CONDITIONS: [X] FLAT [ ] GRASS
[ ] WET [ ] HILLY
[ ] SNOW [ ] UNDERBRUSH
[ ] WOODS [ ] MEDIUM
[ ] ICY [ ] CONCRETE
[ ] RAVINES [ ] TALL
[ ] FROZEN [ ] OTHER: _______

AREA TYPE: [ ] RURAL [X] RESIDENTIAL
[ ] STREAM [ ] RIVER
[ ] LAKE [ ] COMMERCIAL
[ ] INDUSTRIAL [ ] BUILDING

SCENT SOURCE LAYED: ___/___ at: ___ BY: ________________

LOCATION OF SCENT SOURCE:
[ ] SURFACE [X] UNCOVERED
[ ] BURIED [ ] COVERED WITH: __________
[ ] UNDERWATER [ ] DEPTH: __________
[ ] HANGING [ ] HEIGHT: __________
[ ] ELEVATED

LIST DISTRACTIONS:

N/A

WITNESSES:

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|            |        |       | Vermilion County
|            |        |       | Emergency Response |
CASE NARRATIVE: THIS CASE INVOLVES THE SEARCH FOR CLANDESTINE GRAVES/HUMAN REMAINS RESULTING FROM THE SERIAL MURDERS PERPETRATED BY HERBERT BAUMEISTER. SEARCH CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO A CONSENT TO SEARCH.

PROBLEM NARRATIVE: THIS SEARCH SITE CONSISTED OF THE ENTIRE PROPERTY SURROUNDING THE RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 5356 S. 72ND STREET. ALEX SEARCHED THIS ENTIRE AREA WITH NO ALERTS GIVEN WHATSOEVER. ALEX INDICATED INTEREST "EXCESSIVE SNiffING, Laying Down, Attempts To Get Under The Fence" IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE PROPERTY AT THE CORNER OF THE WOODEN FENCING. FURTHER INVESTIGATION DETERMINED THAT A MANHOLE WAS LOCATED JUST OPPOSITE THE FENCE. THIS SEARCH WAS NEGATIVE FOR ANY ALERTS BY ALEX.

HANDLER'S RATING OF DOG'S PERFORMANCE:

( ) EXCELLENT    (X) VERY GOOD    ( ) GOOD    ( ) FAIR    ( ) POOR
Attached to this communication is a copy of a Consent to Search form dated 8/7/97, signed by [Redacted] and witnessed by Detective [Redacted], Indianapolis Police Department (IPD), Indianapolis, Indiana. This Consent to Search form is an official consent to search issued by the owner of the premises located at 5356 E. 72nd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana allowing the FBI, the IPD and representatives of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (ISEMA) and the Vermillion County Emergency Management Response search the basement of the residence at this location for evidence of any clandestine graves and/or human remains that may exist on this property.

This search was initiated at approximately 9:00 a.m. 8/7/97 and the summary of the cadaver dog's search is set forth on "Activity Report" number 97-0073, which is also attached hereto.

Investigation on 8/7/97 at Indianapolis, Indiana

File # 62D-IP-83245 Date dictated 8/8/97
by SA :sls10308.220

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
ALEX'S ACTIVITY REPORT

EXERCISE TYPE: [ ] Obedience [ ] Cadaver Search [ ] Live Find [ ] Known Problem [ ] Known Problem [ ] Blind [ ] Blind

WEATHER: [ ] Clear [ ] Light Wind at _______ Knots/Mph [ ] Rain [ ] Moderate Wind From: _______ Degrees
[ ] Fog [ ] Heavy [ ] Snow [ ] Heavy [ ] Cloudy

SURFACE CONDITIONS: [ ] Dry [ ] Flat [ ] Grass [ ] Short
[ ] Wet [ ] Hilly [ ] Underbrush [ ] Medium
[ ] Snow [ ] Woods [ ] Concrete [ ] Tall
[ ] Icy [ ] Ravines [ ] Other: _______ [ ] Heavy

AREA TYPE: [ ] Rural [ ] Residential [ ] Commercial [ ] Industrial
[ ] Stream [ ] River [ ] Lake [ ] Building

SCENT SOURCE LAYED: / / at _______ by: ________________________________

LOCATION OF SCENT SOURCE:
[ ] Surface [ ] Uncovered
[ ] Buried [ ] Covered With: ________________________________
[ ] Underwater [ ] Depth: ________
[ ] Hanging [ ] Height: ________
[ ] Elevated

DISTRACTIONS:

WITNESSES:
NAME: __________________ AGENCY: ISEMA TX
NAME: __________________ AGENCY: TX
NAME: __________________ AGENCY: TX
REPORT #: 97-0073

CASE NARRATIVE: THIS CASE INVOLVES THE SEARCH FOR CLANDESTINE GRAVES HUMAN REMAINS RESULTING FROM THE SERIAL MURDERS PERPETRATED BY HERBERT BAUHEISTER. SEARCH CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO A CONSENT TO SEARCH.

PROBLEM NARRATIVE: THE BASEMENT OF 5356 E. 72ND ST WAS SEARCHED BY ALEX. ALEX MADE REPEATED EYE CONTACT WITH ME AT THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF THE BASEMENT, BUT GAVE NO ALERT. ALEX SHOWED NO MARKED INTEREST ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE BASEMENT.

THIS SEARCH WAS NEGATIVE FOR ANY ALERTS.

HANDLER'S RATING OF DOG'S PERFORMANCE:

[ ] EXCELLENT  [X] VERY GOOD  [ ] GOOD  [ ] FAIR  [ ] POOR
Wayne R. Alford
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigations
P.O. Box 1186
Indianapolis, In 46206

Dear SPIc Alford,

August 12, 1997

I am writing to thank you for authorizing Special Agent [redacted] and her cadaver dog Alex to assist me in my investigation of Herbert Baumeister. I learned a lot from talking to [redacted] and from watching her and Alex work. The information gained from their search will direct me in the next step of my investigation. I am grateful for your willingness to share your agency's expertise to assist us. Special Agent [redacted] assistance was an excellent example of law enforcement working together for a common goal.

Sincerely,

PD Missing Persons

(622)-1P-83245-5
FEI - Indianapolis
AUG 14 1997

Date Received: [redacted]
SA Copy: [redacted] (name)
File Copy: X (Check "x")
UNI Search ______ Manual Search ______ (Initials)
Indexed ______ (Initials)
Data Uploaded ______ By: [redacted] (Initials)
Supv. Approval ______ (Initials)

SAC [redacted]
ASC [redacted]

* Indianapolis - Host of the 2001 World Police and Fire Games *
The bodies were not cut up or deliberately distributed by humans," Nawrocki said. "The distribution was due entirely to water running downhill through drainage ditches. There is no evidence of dismemberment. They weren't deliberately buried."

He said investigators were convinced there were more bones to be found when digging was suspended last summer. The initial excavation was aimed at getting the most information as quickly as possible. "Nawrocki and about a dozen of his staff, students and about six sheriff's deputies returned to the farm Monday," Moore said about 15 bones and teeth were found.

See BONES Page 4.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE  Date: 08/08/1997

To: Indianapolis  From: SA

7-Mera  Contact: SA  b6

Approved By:  b7C

Drafted By:  sls10108.220

Case ID #: 62D-IP-83245 (Pending)

Title: HERBERT BAUMEISTER (DECEASED)  SERIAL KILLER;
      INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT (IPD)
      INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA;
      DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION

Synopsis: Cadaver Searches conducted in Indianapolis, 8/7/97

Details: Attached to this communication is a copy of an FD-302,
a Cadaver Search report and copies of two Consent to Search forms.

On the morning of 8/7/96, SA with FBI cadaver dog "Alex",
    Management Agency (ISEMA) with his cadaver dog, "Max" and
    of the Vermilion County Emergency Response team with his
cadaver dog "Tas", executed searches for clandestine graves
and/or human remains at two addresses in the Indianapolis Area.
IPD Detectives and were present during these two searches.

The first search was executed at approximately 7:00
a.m. at the home of Indianapolis, Indiana. The dogs searched a section of
this property where it was known that two large cement vaults
were buried. These vaults supposedly house the corpses of two
Saint Bernard dogs. One vault was placed in the ground in 1988.
The second was placed in the ground in 1995. The IPD suspected
that these vaults may also house some human remains as captioned subject took part in digging the large holes for these vaults. Captioned subject killed at least seven gay males whose remains he disposed of on a large estate he owned in Hamilton County, Indiana.

"Max", the ISEMA cadaver dog credited with 46 finds to date, searched this area first and alerted in a section of the search area directly over the burial site for the tombs. "Alex" searched the area second and alerted in three areas, one of which was exactly where "Max" alerted, the other two alert points were in the same immediate area. "Tas" went last and also alerted in the same place that "Alex" alerted. It should be noted that all attempts to train cadaver dogs not to alert on animal remains are made during training and none of the three dogs utilized during this search has a habit of alerting on animal remains.

IPD will be utilizing the GPR capabilities of the FBI-ERF during the week of 8/11/97. The results of the K-9 cadaver searches may well serve to provide part of the probable cause necessary for IPD to obtain a warrant, if needed, for the excavation and the subsequent search of the vaults and the surrounding pits for human remains. Detective [REDACTED] has advised that she will inform SA [REDACTED] of the GPR results when they are completed as well as the results of any excavation efforts at that site.

The second site searched was at the location of a residence owned by captioned subject. Baumeister's [REDACTED] is still an occupant at this location and is very cooperative with current law enforcement efforts. While all three dogs displayed interest in one section of the yard, no alerts were indicated. It was later determined that there was a manhole near that area and it is likely that the dogs were indicating interest in the scent of sewage emanating from that manhole, a normal reaction for cadaver dogs. The basement of this house was also searched. "Max" and "Tas" either alerted or showed interest in a corner of this basement. "Alex" gave no alerts at this location. IPD Detectives believe that this location may have been used by captioned subject to kill his victims and then he would subsequently bury them elsewhere. IPD discussed the possibility of using luminol to process this residence although the value of such investigation may have decreased due to the amount of time that has passed since Baumeister's death.

Three sites were originally set for search. However, the 3.3 acre site belonging to captioned subject's [REDACTED] was not
To: Indianapolis From: SA
Re: 62D-IP-83245, 08/08/1997

searched due to the fact that the [REDACTED] withdrew her consent to search prior to 8/7/97. It should be noted that it is highly likely—that Baumeister buried other victims at this location because the layout of the land is so similar to his estate in Hamilton County, Indiana and because he had unlimited access to this land. IPD is discussing the possibility of either re-approaching [REDACTED] for consent to search that land or obtaining a search warrant for the site. However, it does not currently appear that there is sufficient probable cause to obtain a search warrant for that property.

1 - SAC Wayne R. Alford
1 - ASAC
1 - 66-IP-A82391
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE  Date: 09/16/1997

To: CIRG  Attn: CASKU

From: Indianapolis
7-Mera
Contact: SA

Approved By: Alford Wayne R

Drafted By: slsl1116.259

Case ID #: 252B-HQ-1113775 (Closed)
62D-IP-83245 (Closed)

Title: HERBERT BAUMEISTER;
SERIAL KILLER
INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Synopsis: Request for Indianapolis Division to provide
CIRG/CASKU with copies of all information contained in
62D-IP-83245.

Enclosures: Enclosed for CASKU are two copies each of:
an EC dated 7/29/97, an Indianapolis Star newspaper article dated
5/3/97, an EC with attachments dated 8/8/97, and a letter
addressed to Wayne Alford, SAC Indianapolis, from Detective
Indianapolis Police Department, which is dated August 12,
1997.

Details: Reference SA_______ telcall to SA_______ FBI-
Mera, dated 9/16/97.

SA_______ requested that copies of all serials in
Indianapolis Domestic Police Cooperation case (62D-IP-83245) be
forwarded to the corresponding CIRG/CASKU case 252B-HQ-1113775 so
as to complete CIRG's file with all available information on
captioned matter. The enclosed material does not represent all
of the serials in 62D-IP-83245, however, it does represent all of
the information captured by the Indianapolis file.

There are several FD-302's (which are attached to the
EC dated 8/8/97) which were also entered into the file as
separate serials. The individual FD-302's are therefore not
enclosed due to their duplicative nature.

FBI - Indianapolis
Date Received: 9-16-97

SA Copy: (name)
File Copy: X (Check "x")
UNI Search /Manual Search (Initials)
Indexed (Initials)
Date Uploaded 1-7-97 By: (Initials)
Supv. Approval (Initials)
To: CIRG  From: Indianapolis

Re: 252B-HQ-1113775, 09/16/1997

62D-IP-83245 has been closed in as much as the cadaver search and related reports have been completed by SA [redacted] and her K-9, "Alex".

**
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

To: Indianapolis

From: SA

7-Mera
Contact: SA

Approved By: 

Drafted By: b6 sls10716.259

Case ID #: 62D-IP-83245 (Closed)

Title: HERBERT BAUMEISTER (DECEASED); SERIAL KILLER;
INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION

Synopsis: Change in case status

Details: Per instructions by Acting Supervisory Special Agent this case is being closed in as much as the requested cadaver search and resulting reports have been completed. Any and all forthcoming updates will be forwarded to this case while in the closed status.

\*\*\*

C&A Case 9-11-97

To: 

Classification:

Close Case 9-11-97 (O2)

Date Received: 9-16-97

SA Copy: 

File Copy: X (Check "x")

UNIT Search

Manual Search

Indexed 9-18-97 By: YS (Initials)

Data Uploaded By: ISC (Initials)

Supv. Approval ISC (Initials)
Automated Serial Permanent Charge-Out
FD-5a (1-5-94)

Case ID: 62D-IP-83245 Serial: 11

Date: 04/09/99 Time: 11:30

Description of Document:

Type: EC
Date: 04/02/99
To: INDIANAPOLIS
From: INDIANAPOLIS
Topic: SUMMARIZE RESULTS OF MAIL COVER

Reason for Permanent Charge-Out:

WRONG FILE NUMBER LISTED ON DOCUMENT

Transferred to:

Case ID: 66F-IP-A83145 Serial: 237

Employee: b6 b7C
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Page 49 ~ b7D; b7E;
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Page 69 ~ Duplicate;
0228 35781 0842
NCIC REPLY

VAFBJGTOO

MKE/MISSING PERSON - ENDANGERED
ORI/INIPD0002 NAM/GOODLET, ROGER ALLAN SEX/M RAC/W DOB/073060 WGT/510
WGT/150 EYE/BR O HAI/BR
SMT/MOLE BACK SOC/317703921 DLN/2400041741 OLS/IN OLY/98 MNP/MP
DLC/072294 OCA/245954GA
ORI IS INDIANAPOLIS PD IN
NIC/M755304361
IMMED CONFIRM MISSING PERSON STATUS WITH ORI

#035783
0403 44270 0920
NCIC REPLY

VAFB1GTOO

MKE/MISSING PERSON – DISABILITY
ORI/INIPD0002 NAM/HALE STEVEN S SEX/M RAC/W POB/IN DOB/1/14/67 HGT/600
WGT/155 EYE/BR O HAIR/BR
SMT/FC BEHAVIO SOD/309844228 MNP/MP DCL/071394 OCA/328079GA
ORI IS INDIANAPOLIS PD IN
SMT/TAT L ARM
NIC/M814950373
IMMED CONFIRM MISSING PERSON STATUS WITH ORI

#044273
FEB 24, 1997

CASE LINKAGE: 95IN3, 93IN20 AND 95IN8.

SUBJECT: UNSUB: (AKA) HERBERT E. BAUMISTER W/M, 4/7/47

VICTIMS: STEVEN SPURLING HALE, W/M, 11/14/67, DEC'D
ROGER ALLAN GOODLET W/M, 7/30/60 DEC'D
RICHARD DOUGLAS HAMILTON W/M, 5/5/73 DEC'D

SYNOPSIS: (V)'S SKELETAL REMAINS WERE ALL FOUND TOGETHER ON
(S) BAUMISTER'S PROPERTY. (S) BAUMISTER COMMITTED
SUICIDE ON 7/3/96 IN CANADA. WRITER IS WORKING WITH
SEVERAL INVESTIGATORS & SA(S), RE; REQUESTING AN
OFFLINE.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

PLEASE CONSOLIDATE CASES INTO 252A-NEW.

PLEASE LINK IN SYSTEM.

1 -
1 -
2 - (HR)
4

252A-7 R - 4726-4
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

4/11/97
Open 4/14/97
Close 4/14/97
Herbert Richard Baumester  
DOB: 4-7-47  
SS# 376-52-5743  
6'3"  
185 lbs  
Bfr. Hair  
Bfr. Eyes  

Did get blood and hair samples  
Sent Palm Prints to Ohio.  
There's stopped what  

OLD - 89/16089224  
4-7-52- NJ  
 airlines  
3/16-52-5743  
Nedball R Baumester  
2183/MT  TEX  IN  94  
1898/MT  TEX  IN  94  
1748/MT  "  94  
1748/MT  "  94  
49.6/95 94  
Nedball  
9636  94  
1975  

4911 5356  94  
996 0028  96  
TOTAL P.02  

- IS THIS ALL THE INFO THAT  
WAS OBTAINED ON SUBJECT?
THERE ARE MANY ARTICLES CONCERNING BAUMEISTER AND OUR CASES. I WILL GET THE INFORMATION FOR THE OFF-LINE AND SEND IT TO YOU.

THANKS
WHILE JULIE WAS AWAY

Family man Herb Baumeister led a secret life. Was he Indiana's worst serial murderer?

Some of the seven sets of human bones police found last summer at Fox Hollow Farm were in the woods, as more than 25 yards behind Herb Baumeister's house.

"Herb [in 1986] was meticulous," says Julie Baumeister [right, in 1986]. "He wanted everything to be perfect." Fearful of retribution for the killings, she declined to be photographed for this article.

JULIE BAUMEISTER WAS TROUBLED that day in the fall of 1994 when Erich, her 13-year-old, brought home a human skull. He’d found it in the woods of Fox Hollow Farm, the family’s $1 million estate in the Indianapolis suburb of Westfield. Julie was even more unsettled when Erich led her to the site of his ghoulish discovery. There, among the fallen leaves, lay a cluster of bones.

That night, Herb Baumeister, Julie’s husband of 23 years, dispelled her anxiety: The bones, he said, were from a medical school skeleton once owned by his late father, an anesthesiologist.

What they were doing in the backyard Herb didn’t say; days later Julie noticed they had vanished, carried off by an animal, she assumed. She quickly forgot the episode. "It wasn’t like I was sitting at home with nothing else to think about," she says.

In fact there was much Julie Baumeister, now 48, didn’t know about Herb. Every summer, Julie usually left town for part of each month, taking Erich, now 15, and daughters Marne, 17, and Emily, 12, to stay at a lakeside condo 100 miles to the north, owned by Herb’s mother, Elizabeth. Herb stayed home during the workweek. By day he would mind the couple’s business, a chain of local thrift stores called Sav-A-Lot. By night, Julie later learned, he would cruise the gay bars of Indianapolis.

Herb’s other secrets, police believe, were chilling and deadly. Last June, while he was visiting the condo, officers found hundreds of bones at Fox Hollow Farm, adding up to the remains of seven people. Four have been identified: Roger Alan Goodlet, 35, Steven Hale, 28, and Richard Hamilton, 20, all of Indianapolis, and Manuel Resende, 31, of Lafayette, Ind. All frequented the same bars that Baumeister did—and all went missing on
<Sgt. Ken Whisman of the Hamilton County sheriff's dept. says Julie and her children "did whatever they could to help us" during the search for bodies on their estate, "even though their lives were coming down in shambles around them."

days when his wife and kids were away.

For now, says Sgt. Ken Whisman of the Hamilton County (Ind.) sheriff's department, Baumsteir is merely a prime suspect "in the disappearance" of the four identified men, who won't be ruled homicide victims until forensic specialists determine a cause of death. But officials believe that when the bodies are vetted (six Indianapolis men who fit the profile of the suspect are missing), Herb Baumsteir may emerge as the most prolific serial killer in Indiana history.

If so, he is beyond earthly justice. The day after police began searching his property, the 49-year-old Baumsteir...
ter disappeared. He had been missing for eight days when campers discovered his body last July 3, lying beside his car in Ontario’s Pinery Provincial Park, shot through the forehead with a .357 Magnum. He left behind a rambling, three-page suicide note, apologizing for his family’s financial woes (the business was nearly bankrupt) but not mentioning the hideous crimes he is now thought to have committed. His widow was stunned. True, she and Herb had grown apart and were contemplating divorce. But Julie had blamed the tensions on their precarious finances. “The police came to me and said, ‘We are investigating your husband in relation to homosexual homicide.’” Julie says, recalling her first contact with detectives. “I remember saying to them, ‘Can you tell me what homosexual homicide is?’”

For Julie Baumeister the shock was all the more jarring because of the close-knit, even cloistered, family life she and Herb had tried to build at Fox Hollow Farm. The Baumeisters, who had few friends, showered their attention on their children. Herb, Julie recalls, was a dedicated parent, involved in all aspects of their children’s upbringing, whether it was choosing their preschool, buying their Christmas toys or making their peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches.

Perhaps he was trying to re-create what had seemed to be his own happy childhood. Julie says Herb grew up in a Beaver Cleaver kind of home in Indianapolis, the oldest child of Herbert and Eliza Baumeister. He entered Indiana University in 1965 but left after one semester. For a time he worked as a copy boy for the Indianapolis Star. Garry Donna, then an ad representative at the paper, recalls him as eager to please but eccentric. For one thing, he and a friend co-owned a secondhand henna. “I remember [friends] saying, ‘What’s the deal with this guy?’” Donna says. “I just said, ‘Well, Herb’s just Herb.’”

Herb returned to IU in the fall of 1967 and met Julie, also a student there. “He was nice, fun to be with and good-looking,” she recalls. “We both liked cars, and we were both Young Republicans.” They married in 1971 and soon bought a house in Indianapolis. Herb began clerking at the State Bureau of Motor Vehicles, where he would work his way up to supervi-

A Brain-damaged victim
Roger Goodlet was trusting.

A His sister recalls Richard Hamilton as a “wanderer.”

A Steven Hale had a record as a burglar and prostitute.

A Manuel Rezendez had worked at a children’s home.

sc. Julie taught high school English. “We did everything together,” she says. “He would push the mower, and I would trim the bushes.” But in the early ’70s Herb became so depressed that his physician father had him committed for over a month to a psychiatric hospital. Julie did not dispute the decision. He was “hurting and needed help,” she says now. In fact, ex-colleagues at the motor vehicle agency say he was a perfectionist given to sudden, unprompted rages.

After Herb left his job in 1985, he worked at a local thrift store. The experience inspired him to pursue what Julie calls their “joint vision.” In 1989, after borrowing $350,000 in seed money from Herb’s mother, they opened the first of three Sav-A-Lots, where they sold used clothing, giving some $50,000 of their profits annually to a charity benefiting neglected children. Attorney John Elghoff, who represented their business, says both partners were intelligent and “socially conscious,” though Herb was domineering. “Julie deferred to Herb,” he says, “but wasn’t very happy about it.” Oddly, Sav-A-Lot employees note, Baumeister would of-

ten disappear during the workday, sometimes for hours at a time.

After initial success, the Baumeisters’ business began to fail—as did their marriage. As Julie tells it, the long hours they put in at the stores, the pressures of parenting and, later, the financial strain, led to a kind of burnout. Herb moved out in February 1991 and filed for divorce. The couple soon reconciled, though, and that November, in spite of their business problems, bought Fox Hollow Farm. Purchased with a small down payment, the estate boasted a four-bedroom house and an indoor pool. Julie says they saw it as a “utopia” where their children “could ride on the driven without worrying about cars coming around the corner.”

Though she didn’t know it, by then Herb was also involved—perhaps un-

easily—in the gay nightlife scene. “Some people, when they come into a gay bar, act like they’re afraid of being here,” says Jim Brown, owner of the upscale Metropolitan Restaurant and Nightclub, which caters to gay professionals. “He didn’t seem like he was uncomfortable.”
"I don't know if I want to know how he died," Catherine Araujo says of her son Roger Goodlet.

Club owner Jim Brown says Baumeister seemed uncomfortable among his gay clientele.

"I asked them," Julie says of the police inquiry, 'Can you tell me what homosexual homicide is?"

It was in May 1993 that gay men began disappearing in the area—10 would vanish in a little over two years. Police scoured gay Indianapolis, interviewing bar-goers and posting flyers. But leads were scarce. Then, in the fall of 1994, a man told them of a strange tryst he had had that summer with someone named Brian: They had gone to Brian's sprawling estate and, at Brian's behest, had engaged in autoerotic asphyxia, a sexual practice involving suffocation, often to the brink of death. The informant remained shaken by the encounter. In the fall of 1995, he had spotted Brian again and, aware of the rash of disappearances, had taken down his license-plate number. It turned out to be the missing link: Brian was Herb Baumeister.

In November, detectives showed up at Fox Hollow Farm asking to search the estate. When Herb refused, police, lacking sufficient evidence for a warrant, went to work on Julie. Approaching her at a Sav-A-Lot, they told her about Herb's cruising—and that he was a suspect in the disappearances. "I was angry," Julie says. "I said, 'You're wrong. That can't be true.'" When she confronted Herb with the charges, he dismissed them; Julie pressed no further.

With nothing to go on but one man's brief and bizarre encounter, police made little headway for five months. When they approached Julie a second time, she rebuffed them again. Still, her apparent loyalty to Herb belied their escalating marital problems—by June, the couple were no longer speaking. Moreover, Julie, now haunted by the skull Erich had found, had become increasingly suspicious. "What if the police are right and I'm wrong?" she recalls thinking. On June 24, when Herb was away, she finally allowed police to inspect the property. Remembering the two-week search that followed, she says she clung to her children as if "huddling all my puppies together." Herb's eight-day disappearance before his suicide added to the agony. "I kept saying, 'Where is he?'" Julie recalls. "But no one knew."

The months since Herb's death have been particularly wrenching for Marne, Erich and Emily, who, Julie says, idolized a father now portrayed by police and local media as a monster. Still, she insists, "nothing can take away the love these kids had for their dad." Late last summer she and the children moved from Fox Hollow Farm back to the house in Indianapolis where she had begun her life with Herb nearly 25 years ago. "Our biggest question now is how he could have loved us and done this," she says of Herb's alleged atrocities. "Happiness as we knew it is never going to return."

RICHARD JEROME

ANNE WEINSTEIN in Indiana
To: Indianapolis  From: CIRG  
Re: 252B-HQ-1113775, 03/25/1997

WORK COPY ROUTING SHEET

CC: 1 - SSA  CASKU  
1 - SSA  CASKU  
1 - SSA  CASKU  
1 - SSA  CASKU  
1 - SSA  CASKU  
1 - SSA  CASKU  
1 - CA  PBAU, VICAP

**
(09/19/94)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE                      Date: 03/25/1997

To: Indianapolis                                  Attn: SA
    Cincinnati          Attn: SA
    Columbus RA

From: CIRG
      CASKU
      Contact: SSA (540) 720-4718

Approved By:                                      b6

Drafted By: hlm                                  b7C

Case ID #: 252B-HQ-1113775 (Pending)              10

Title: HERBERT E. BAUMEISTER, aka Brian Staats;
       RICHARD DOUGLAS HAMILTON - Victim (Deceased);
       STEVEN SPURLIN HALE - Victim (Deceased);
       MANUEL RESENDEZ - Victim (Deceased);
       ROGER ALLAN GOODLET - Victim (Deceased);
       MICHAEL KEIRN - Victim (Deceased);
       JOHNNY LEE BAYER - Victim (Missing);
       JEFFREY ALAN JONES - Victim (Missing);
       ALLEN WAYNE BROUSSARD - Victim (Missing);
       Indianapolis Police Department,
       Indianapolis, Indiana;
       05/28/1993 - 07/22/1994
       NCAVC/CASKU - SERIAL HOMICIDES
To: Indianapolis From: CIRG
Re: 252B-HQ-1113775, 03/25/1997

Synopsis: Change of Title - IO; advise receiving offices of determination of identification of four (4) skeletal remains. Three (3) of the identified remains are those of captioned victims and their missing status have been changed to reflect deceased. The fourth victim's identity has been added to the title. A fifth victim's identity, Michael Keirn, DOB: 09/09/61, has been added to the title, in that the victim's clothing had been recovered from the captioned subject's residence.

Previous Title: UNSUB(s);
JOHNNY LEE BAYER - Victim (Missing);
JEFFREY ALAN JONES - Victim (Missing);
RICHARD DOUGLAS HAMILTON - Victim (Missing);
STEVEN SPURLIN HALE - Victim (Missing);
ROGER ALLAN GOODLET - Victim (Missing);
Indianapolis, Indiana,
05/28/1993 - 07/22/1994;
CASKU - SERIES OF MISSING PERSONS

Reference: 252B-HQ-1113775 Serial 7

Administrative: Reference 03/12/1997 telcall between
Indianapolis detective and SSA CASKU, and 03/12/1997 voicemail message to SA
Indianapolis, from SSA

Details: On 03/12/1997, Detective Indianapolis
Police Department (IPD), Missing Persons Unit, Indianapolis,
Indiana, telephone advised CASKU of the recent
results of the examination of seven (7) skeletal remains
recovered from the captioned subject's property in June, 1996.
Three (3) of the identified remains are those of captioned
To: Indianapolis From: CIRG
Re: 252B-HQ-1113775, 03/25/1997

victims. The fourth identified remains are those of a homosexual Hispanic male, Manuel Resendez, residing in the Lafayette, Indiana, area and last seen in the Indianapolis, Indiana, downtown area at a gay bar on 08/06/1993. Victim Resendez’s disappearance was not investigated by IPD due to his Lafayette, Indiana, residency. Lafayette is a community of about 44,000 population, home of the Purdue University Boilermakers and about 66 miles northeast of Indianapolis.

A fifth victim, Michael Keirn, white male, homosexual, DOB: 02/25/1949, was last seen on 04/01/1995, at a gay bar in the Indianapolis, Indiana, downtown area. A jacket believed to be his was recovered from Baumeister’s residence. To date, it is unknown if any of the three (3) remaining unidentified skeletal remains are his. His missing status has been changed to homicide and related case closed by local authorities.

CASKU is attempting to develop background on Baumeister from IPD detective_____. Detective_____ advised there is an interest in attempting to determine whether Baumeister is responsible for a series of unsolved homicides involving homosexual males last seen in the downtown Indianapolis, Indiana, area and recovered in the Preble County, Ohio, area (incidents are further referenced in previous Serial #7).

Detective______ stated she has been coordinating her investigation with_________ detective, Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department, Noblesville, Indiana, telephone______ and_______ Investigator, Preble County Sheriff’s Department, Eaton, Ohio, telephone_________. These officials would be logical contacts for both Indianapolis and Cincinnati’s NCAVC Coordinators (in addition to other local officials both coordinators have already established).
To: Indianapolis From: CIRG
Re: 252B-HQ-1113775, 03/25/1997

CASKU requests Indianapolis and Cincinnati's NCAVC Coordinators to contact their respective local law enforcement officials who were involved with the homicide investigations of homosexual males between 1989 - 1991 (252B-IP-72746 and 252B-Cl-56934) and inquire whether there is still an active interest in reviewing these unsolved homicides in relation to the current solved homicides involving Baumeister. If a positive response is obtained, CASKU will gladly assist Indianapolis and Cincinnati in coordinating such a conference.

For the information of Indianapolis, IPD detective ______ is considering conducting a search of Baumeister's former residence for evidence of other homicides (4421, East 75th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana). Since the recovery of the skeletal remains from his current residence (1111 East 156th Street, Westfield, Indiana) and subsequent to his homicide, ______ has relocated to the Indianapolis address ______ Presently, ______ detective ______ inquired as to any non-evasive techniques to locate bodies.

Several techniques were discussed to include first using a cadaver canine and then the use of the FBI's Engineering Research Facility (ERF) services (ground penetrating radar, magnetometer, etc). An ERF questionnaire was transmitted to IPD via facsimile which outlined the procedures to request their services. Indianapolis' Technically Trained Agent ______ will be the point of contact for processing this request to ERF personnel. It is requested that Indianapolis NCAVC Coordinator, SA ______ maintain contact with IPD detective ______ and coordinate efforts between SA ______, ERF and IPD re: the
To: Indianapolis From: CIRG
Re: 252B-HQ-1113775, 03/25/1997

search of Baumeister’s property. Detective _______ advised she will first attempt to obtain _______ consent to search, but there is enough probable cause to obtain a search warrant if necessary.

CASKU will continue to support Indianapolis with the captioned matters and is available for on-site assistance if needed regarding the search of property and any conference to review Baumeister’s possible involvement in the series of unsolved homicides of homosexual males.

CC: 1 - SSA CASKU
1 - SSA CASKU
1 - SSA CASKU
1 - SSA CASKU
1 - SSA CASKU
1 - CA PBAU, VICAP
FBI FACSIMILE
COVERSHEET

To: NCIC USER-SERVICES
Name of Office

Facsimile Number: 304 625-3566

Attn: ____________________________
Name Room Telephone

From: (VICAP)
Name of Office

Subject: ____________________________

Special Handling Instructions: PLEASE RETURN SEARCH TO CA

PBAU/VICAP FBI ACADEMY, QUANTICO VA.

Originator's Name: CA __________ Telephone: 540 720-4924

Originator's Facsimile Number: 540 720-4956

Approved: HR/MPC

Brief Description of Communication Faxed: OFFLINE REQUEST
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<td>FRI. 07/22/94 0315</td>
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<td>150LBS, BROWN HAIR</td>
<td>W/M, BLUE VEH, POSS. OH PLATE</td>
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FOR LAW-ENFORCEMENT USE ONLY
CAVALIER, IN DOWNTOWN INDIANAPOLIS IN AN AREA OF PROSTITUTION. GOODLET HAS*****
ALCOHOL ABUSE PROBLEMS. HE LIVED AT HOME W/ HIS MOTHER & STEP-FATHER. HE WAS***
CLOSE TO HIS FAMILY. HE HAD AN EASY GOING NATURE. HIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION***
WAS BY BUS, WALKING, BUMMING RIDES W/ FRIENDS. THIS CASE IS SIMILAR TO THE*****
ABOVE STATED CASES INVOLVING HOMOSEXUAL AND/OR GAY MEN. GOODLET WORE A MUSTACHE
HE FREQUENTED GAY BARS IN THE DOWNTOWN INDPLS AREA. HE HAD NO PIERCED EAR.*****
SEE 95IN2-95IN6 & 8 & 93IN20.
**VICM02**

**CRIME CLASSIFICATION**

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**OFFICER'S NARRATIVE**

7/22/94 VICTIM LAST SEEN. MR. GOODLET HAS NUMEROUS ARRESTS FOR PROSTITUTION.**

HE WAS LAST SEEN GETTING INTO A 1978-80 BLUE CHEVROLET, POSSIBLY IMPALA OR*****
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE
Date: 07/18/1996

To: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS
SA, CINCINNATI
Attn: SA

From: SAC, CIRG
Child Abduction & Serial Killer Unit
Contact: SSA (540) 720-4718

Approved By: 

Drafted By: 

Case ID #: 252B-HQ-1112775 (Pending)

Title: UNSUB(S);
JOHNNY LEE BAYER - VICTIM (MISSING);
JEFFREY ALAN JONES - VICTIM (MISSING);
RICHARD DOUGLAS HAMILTON - VICTIM (MISSING);

ALLEN WAYNE BROUSSARD - VICTIM (MISSING);
STEVEN SPURLIN HALE - VICTIM (MISSING);
ROGER ALLAN GOODLET - VICTIM (MISSING);
INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT,
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA,
5/28/93 - 7/22/94,
CASKU - SERIES OF MISSING PERSONS

Synopsis: Discovery of human bones in Westfield, IN and subsequent suicide of property owner.

Administrative: Reference 07/17/1996 telcal between SA
IP Division and SSA CIRG; 07/17/1996
telcal between Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) detective
and SSA CIRG.
Details: On 06/25/1996, local law enforcement officials consensually searched the property of Herbert E. Baumeister for possible human bones based upon a previous find of a human bone by [redacted]. Law enforcement officials were accompanied by a forensic anthropologist from a local university. Early on in the search numerous human bones were located, to include parts of arms, legs, and skulls. A search warrant was then obtained and a more extensive search was conducted of this 18 acre property located at 1111 E. 156th Street, Westfield, IN (Hamilton County - a suburb of Indianapolis, IN).

To date, bones have been recovered from an estimated five (5) separate bodies. Two (2) hyoid bones have been recovered and determined to be fractured. One (1) was ruled as having been fractured prior to death. Skulls pieces have been recovered but no ruling as to whether any trauma is related to these pieces. Numerous loose teeth and a partial jaw bone with some teeth intact have been recovered. Many of the bones that have been recovered had been burned. At this time it is unknown whether the bones had been burned premortem or postmortem. The forensic anthropologist is currently processing the recovered bones and will attempt to determine the identities of the victims, stating that it will be a time-consuming process.

Baumeister owned this property and resided on it until recently. Baumeister was in the process of a divorce at the time of this incident and was residing at an Indianapolis address (4421 E. 75th Street). Baumeister denied any involvement with the recovered bones and refused to cooperate with authorities. On 07/03/1996, Baumeister committed suicide near Toronto, Canada. Baumeister left a suicide note but the content was more of a fantasy as to what he wanted to do with his life. It did not yield any information as to the nature of the recovered bones or the identities of the victims.

She informed authorities that she had recovered a complete skull sometime in December, 1994. She searched the area where the skull was found and located an almost complete human skeleton. This area was one where they (Baumeister family) continuously burned yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, bushes). She concluded that the
skeleton could not have been there very long due to the ongoing burning process. When she confronted Baumeister with this finding he told her that the skeleton was a medical model provided to him by his father who is a physician (anesthesiologist). She discarded the skull in the trash and did not further discuss this with Baumeister.

IPD and Hamilton County Sheriff detectives continue to develop further background information regarding Baumeister. It has been determined that Baumeister was involved with gay men and was not open about his homosexual activities. It has also been alleged that Baumeister was seen with captioned victim Roger Goodlet about two (2) weeks prior to Goodlet’s reported disappearance. Baumeister sometimes used an alias when meeting gay men and gave information to lead these men to believe that he was from or associated with the Dayton, OH area. Baumeister was employed at one time with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and had in his possession an Indiana driver’s license listing a fictitious date of birth. It is unknown at this time if he possessed any additional identification with fictitious names or descriptive data.

Detective IPD is currently working with the Preble, OH County Sheriff’s Department to determine if there is any association between Baumeister and a series of unsolved murders of gay males (252A-IR-2572, 252A-D2-3088, 252B-IP-72746, 252B-IP-73539 and 252B-CI-56934). Some of these victims were male prostitutes from the Indianapolis area and found dead in Preble County, Ohio. Preble County borders the Ohio/Indiana state line and is between Richmond, IN and Dayton, OH., traversed east/west by Interstate 70.

It is unknown whether any of the recovered bones from Baumeister’s property are those of the missing captioned victims. As previously listed above, it has been alleged that Baumeister was seen in the company of captioned victim Goodlet, prior to Goodlet’s disappearance. It is unknown at this time if any of the other captioned victims had any associations with Baumeister. IPD continues to develop background information on Baumeister which may yield further lead information.

VICAP’s services for an NCIC off-line search were offered to IPD of Baumeister and any vehicles he drove or had access to. Detective will consult will Hamilton County
To: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS  From: SAC, CIRG  
Re: 252B-HQ-1112775, July 18, 1996

officials to determine what NCIC off-line requests they may have already initiated. Bureau forensic and laboratory services were offered if the local resources already employed by IPD should need assistance. It not already done, it was recommended that known blood, hair and fingerprint specimens should be collected from Baumeister's body for possible comparison to any trace evidence collected from the crime scenes of the above listed Ohio/Indiana murders.

CASKU will continue to offer assistance as requested.

Descriptive Data:

Main Subject
Name -
  Last: Baumeister
  First: Herbert
  Middle: E.
  Alias: Brian Staats
Race: W
Sex: M
DOB: 04/07/1947 (true)
DOB: 04/07/1952
Address -
  House #: 1111
  Street Name: E. 156th
  City: Westfield
  State: IN
Address -
  House #: 4421
  Street Name: E. 75th
  City: Indianapolis
  State: IN

CC: 1 - 252A-IR-2572
1 - 252B-IP-72746
1 - SSA CASKU
1 - SSA CASKU
1 - MCS VICAP
1 - CA VICAP
The following investigation was conducted by SSA on 07/18/1996 at Stafford, VA:

On 07/08/1996, SA NCAVC Coordinator, Indianapolis Division, furnished to CASKU the attached photocopies of newspaper articles concerning the recovery of human bones from the property of Herbert E. Baumeister, 1111 E. 156th Street, Westfield, IN. The article titled "Farm Bones was furnished by the NCMEC on 07/04/1996.
Recent human remains found in woods

Resident uncovers bone behind Westfield farmstead

BY LAURA MINTER
and EVAN KLEINER

WESTFIELD — Police are investigating the discovery of human remains behind a house on 156th Street.

Wealthy and well-known, the homeowner is cooperating with authorities.

The remains, believed to be of a young adult, were found by a passerby.

Police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the individual.

Further details will be released as the investigation progresses.

Lauren Minter, reporting from the Hamilton County Sheriff's office.

This week's report will include updates on the ongoing investigation.

For more information, please contact the Hamilton County Sheriff's office.
At least 3 bodies in remains

By LAURA MUSALL
Leger city editor

WESTFIELD — Anthropologists have found the remains of at least three people — and possibly more — in the woods behind an upscale Westfield horse farm.

Hamilton County Coroner Joe Roberts said this morning anthropologists have determined that the remains found in the woods are human.

Several large bones — the largest about 12 inches long — have been found, but most of the bones discovered have been fragments, police said.

Anthropologists also uncovered some teeth, Roberts said.

Dr. Stephen P. Niewocki, a forensic anthropologist from the University of Indianapolis, is leading the search.

He could take four to five more days before a team of anthropologists has finished combing the half acres of woods, said Hamilton County Sheriff Joe Cook.

As soon as Norma Melton learned the remains of bodies had been found here, thoughts went immediately to her daughter, Doretha "Dot" Clinton who has been missing since October 1994.

She was last seen at the Carmel Motel on U.S. 31, about two miles from the farm.

"It's upsetting," Melton said from her home Wednesday in Columbus.

"Anyway you go, it's upsetting," she said. "There have been no new developments in her daughter's case."

Anthropologists are working now to collect the bones and then will begin to try to identify the bodies, investigators said.

Preliminary reports revealed the bones had been there less than a year.

University of Indianapolis anthropologists sift through dirt Wednesday in a wooded area near a home at 1111 E. 156th St. in Westfield. Bones found in the area are believed to be those of three human adults.

Remains: 3 human bodies

Continued from Page A1

Anthropologists and police investigators arrived at the upscale 16-acre horse farm — called Fox Valley Estates — Tuesday afternoon. It is located on 156th Street about a mile west of U.S. 31.

A resident at the home found a bone in the woods about 60 yards from the house on Tuesday. That person called police.

The bones were found on the surface, on a hill in the dense woods. The bones had been scattered either by animals or from erosion, said Hamilton County Sheriff's Sgt. Eddie Moore.

Anthropologists used orange flags to mark spots where possible bone fragments were found. About 24 hours later 50 flags dotted a clearing.

Police have also used cadaver dogs to help "identify areas where there may be possible remains."

Indiana University Professor Richard Ward said the first question anthropologists ask when remains are found is whether they are human. That's relatively easy to determine, he said.

The next question is whether they are historic, said Ward of Fishers.

At six months flesh would likely remain on the bones, Ward said. Investigators this morning said no flesh was on the bones and no other identification such as clothing or jewelry had been found.

"Identifying the age is fairly easy, too for someone with some experience," Ward said.

Depending on the number of bones found, the height, weight and sex of the body may also be determined, Ward said.

Finding teeth is like having a billfold, he said. Teeth can be matched with dental records to identify a body, he said.

"It's amazing what you can do with pieces," he said.

Anthropologists Wednesday dug out layers of dirt with hand trowels and placed fragments into 5-gallon buckets. They then used a sifter to shake loose the dirt.

There's a utility shed northwest of the site also believed to contain bones, police said.

"It's really too early to say anything at this point," he said.
Coroner: Human bones show signs of burning

By RON BROWNING
and LAURA MOORE

Byron Centre

Coroner: Some bones found on surface of small hill

Continued from Page A1

last five years, investigators have not released their names.

Police "will try to match the remains to any missing persons reports from around central Indiana," said Hamilton County Sheriff's Maj. Dan Nickel.

Leekamp said it is too early for her office to take an active role in the investigation, but she and an investigator from her office have been at the site.

"We're trying to make sure we're kept abreast of whatever they're doing out there," Leekamp said. "We don't know for certain what kind of investigation will result, but if whatever they find out there should result in criminal charges, we must be able to present information from all phases of the investigation, including these preliminary stages."
Site may contain as many as 5 bodies

Investigation shows human remains may be of young adults

By LAURA MUSALL, Ledger city editor

WESTFIELD - Investigators continue to unravel a bizarre mystery that has turned up the remains of as many as five people.

The biggest find came Friday when someone happened across even more bones about 50 yards northwest of the house. Archaeologists found a jaw with teeth intact and several other bone fragments, said Hamilton County Coroner Joe Roberts.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Department said the bones could be the remains of as many as five people.

Roberts said the bones look to be of older teens or young adults. Identifiers have not been made.

Investigators thought they were wrapping up the excavation of the woods in the back of the 18-acre horse farm Friday. It was near a creek where the bones were found Friday.

"They were surprised," Roberts said. "It was a bigger find than all the others."

Investigators suspect foul play because no clothing, watches rings or personal belongings have been found.

They did turn up a piece of cloth thought to be part of an underwear, Roberts said. It was near the bones, but it's unknown whether it's connected to the bodies.

After four days of searching the woods and now the creek area archaeologists have turned up jaw bones, teeth, a pelvic, femur, three left wrists and tiny pieces of human bone scattered beneath the brush and no more than an inch under the surface.

The volunteers Friday arrived on a bright yellow school bus and went immediately to work.

They walked shoulder-to-shoulder and removed brush.

Friday's find will mean three to five more days of digging on the farm less than a mile from boy U.S. 31 off 156th Street.

Hollow Valley Farm it's called.

It's there the mystery began Tuesday when a resident found a bone in the dense woods behind the house.

The resident - whom police have declined to identify - called police.

That has led to a four-day search of the 18-acre spread in an area of Hamilton County scattered with large horse farms.

The bones could be the remains of as many as five people, Hamilton County Prosecutor Sonia Leekamp said. Initial investigation shows the bodies could be of young adults or people in their late teens. The bones have been there nine months to a year, she said.

When archaeologists finish work on the farm, they will try to piece together the skeletons to identify the bodies and determine how they died.

The bodies were not buried. All the bones have been on the surface or about an inch under the surface, investigators have not identified the cause of death.

"We can't rule out anything," Sheriff Cook said. "We'll leave every avenue open."

Investigators will try to match the remains with reports of missing persons not only in central Indiana, but around the country, Cook said.

That would most easily be accomplished by dental records.

While archaeologists do the tedious excavation, residents of the home continue to stay there.

They have been interviewed and so has the home owner who lives out of town.

The house is at the end of a long winding driveway. Pastures fill the front part of the estate. The back of the estate, however, is bordered with thick woods. The only direct access to the woods is the lane leading to the house.

Archaeologists will return Monday morning. A sheriff's deputy stands post at the entrance of the estate around the clock. Everyone who enters or leaves the premises signs in or out.
Search continues for human remains

Daily Ledger 7-1-96

WESTFIELD -- Investigators have returned to a Westfield horse farm this morning to look for more human remains.

Investigators and the Hamilton County Highway Department were working on a plan to clear underbrush from the creek bed, said Hamilton County Prosecutor Scott Leckamp.

Archaeologists worked over the weekend setting up their lab at the University of Indianapolis, said Hamilton County Detective Tom Anderson.

None of the bodies has been identified, and police do not know how they died.

Investigators Friday said there were bones of as many as five people found in a woods and near a creek.

Human bones after a resident of the 18-acre horse farm on 15th Street called police.

Archaeologists, who finished their search of about a half acre of woods, said they will take three to five more days to search the area covered by a creek.

The search of the creek bed will begin a more thorough search of the creek bed this morning.
AP US & World 7/5/96 6:15 AM

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By ANTHONY JEWELL
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- The mystery began when a child stumbled upon human bones buried on an 18-acre farm, and deepened when police found the remains of five adults, handcuffs and shotgun shells on the property.

On Thursday, the case grew even stranger when the estate's owner shot himself to death in Canada, leaving many unanswered questions.

Herbert R. Baumeister was "a suspect big-time" in the investigation of the bones believed to be buried for nine to 18 months on his farm, an unidentified source close to the investigation told The Indianapolis Star.

Police near Toronto found Baumeister's body and Hamilton County Sheriff Joe Cook in Indiana told the newspaper that Baumeister, 48, killed himself.

Police had been trying to question Baumeister about the bones found last month on his Fox Hollow Farm estate in Westfield, 20 miles north of Indianapolis. Baumeister did not appear earlier this week at a divorce hearing, although he was not officially reported missing, his lawyer said.

Baumeister's son found the bones June 24 while playing in a wooded area. The remains of five adults -- including a jaw bone, several teeth and three left wrists -- remnants of 12-gauge shotgun shells and a pair of handcuffs have been found in subsequent searches of three locations on the property. Some of the bones were charred. Police planned to finish the search today.

Indianapolis forensic anthropologist Stephen Nawrocki said it could take more than a month to figure out the identities of the dead. Authorities are studying missing persons records to try to match the remains.

Baumeister and his estranged wife, Juliana, who owned two thrift stores in Indianapolis, moved onto the property five years ago.

Baumeister has lived in Indianapolis since he and his wife began divorce proceedings in January. Mrs. Baumeister and their three children -- ages 16, 14 and 11 -- have remained at the estate.

William Wendling, Mrs. Baumeister's divorce lawyer, said Baumeister's suicide could explain the five deaths.

"We can only hope that there will be something that he may have left, said, written, whatever that would help sort out this situation on their property," he said. "It isn't too great a leap to think that something is there."

Mrs. Baumeister had obtained a protective order against her
husband and was granted emergency custody of her children.

Wendling said she obtained the order because she was worried about how her husband would react to the investigation.
To: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS  From: SAC, CIRG  
Re: 252B-HQ-1112775, 07/22/1996

WORK COPY ROUTING SHEET

CC: 1 - SSA CASKU
     1 - SSA CASKU
     1 - MCS VICAP
     1 - CA VICAP

★★★★★
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

To: Indianapolis
    Cincinnati

Attn:

From: CIRG
    CASKU
Contact: SSA (540) 720-4718

Approved By:

Drafted By: mlm

Case ID #: 252B-HQ-1112775 (Closed)
          252A-IR-2572 (Pending)
          252B-IP-72746 (Pending)

Title: UNSUB(S);
  JOHNNY LEE BAYER - Victim (Missing);
  JEFFREY ALAN JONES - Victim (Missing);
  RICHARD DOUGLAS HAMILTON - Victim (Missing);
  ALLEN WAYNE BROUSSARD - Victim (Missing);
  STEVEN SPURLIN HALE - Victim (Missing);
  ROGER ALLAN GOODLET - Victim (Missing);
Indianapolis Police Department,
Indianapolis, Indiana,
05/28/1993 - 07/22/1994,
CASKU - SERIES OF MISSING PERSONS

Synopsis: Discovery of human bones in Westfield, IN and subsequent suicide of property owner.

COPY
To: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS From: SAC, CIRG
Re: 252B-HQ-1113775, Serial 6


Administrative: Reference 07/17/1996 telcal between SA_________ IP Division and SSA_________ CIRG; 07/17/1996 telcal between Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) Detective_________ and SSA_________ CIRG.

Details: On 06/25/1996, local law enforcement officials consensually searched the property of Herbert E. Baumeister for possible human bones based upon a previous find of a human bone by__________ Law enforcement officials were accompanied by a forensic anthropologist from a local university. Early on in the search numerous human bones were located, to include parts of arms, legs, and skulls. A search warrant was then obtained and a more extensive search was conducted of this 18 acre property located at 1111 E. 156th Street, Westfield, IN (Hamilton County - a suburb of Indianapolis, IN).

To date, bones have been recovered from an estimated five (5) separate bodies. Two (2) hyoid bones have been recovered and determined to be fractured. One (1) was ruled as having been fractured prior to death. Skull pieces have been recovered but no ruling as to whether any trauma is related to these pieces. Numerous loose teeth and a partial jaw bone with some teeth intact have been recovered. Many of the bones that have been recovered had been burned. At this time it is unknown whether the bones had been burned antemortem or postmortem. The forensic anthropologist is currently processing the recovered bones and will attempt to determine the identities of the victims, stating that it will be a time-consuming process.

Baumeister owned this property and resided on it with__________ until recently. Baumeister was in the process of a divorce at the time of this incident and was residing at an Indianapolis address (4421 E. 75th Street). Baumeister denied any involvement with the recovered bones and__________
refused to cooperate with authorities. On 07/03/1996, Baumeister committed suicide near Toronto, Canada. Baumeister left a suicide note but the content was more of a fantasy as to what he wanted to do with his life. It did not yield any information as to the nature of the recovered bones or the identities of the victims.

She gave consent to authorities to search the property. She informed authorities that she had recovered a complete skull sometime in December, 1994. She searched the area where the skull was found and located an almost complete human skeleton. This area was one where they (Baumeister family) continuously burned yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, bushes). She concluded that the skeleton could not have been there very long due to the ongoing burning process. When she confronted Baumeister with this finding he told her that the skeleton was a medical model provided to him by his father who is a physician (anesthesiologist). She discarded the skull in the trash and did not further discuss this with Baumeister.

IPD and Hamilton County Sheriff detectives continue to develop further background information regarding Baumeister. It has been determined that Baumeister was involved with gay men and was not open about his homosexual activities. It has also been alleged that Baumeister was seen with captioned victim Roger Goodlet about two (2) weeks prior to Goodlet’s reported disappearance. Baumeister sometimes used an alias when meeting gay men and gave information to lead these men to believe that he was from or associated with the Dayton, Ohio area. Baumeister was employed at one time with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and had in his possession an Indiana driver’s license listing a fictitious date of birth. It is unknown at this time if he possessed any additional identification with fictitious names or descriptive data.
(09/19/94)

To: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS From: SAC, CIRG
Re: 252B-HQ-11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Detective [Name], IPD, is currently working with the Preble, Ohio County Sheriff's Department to determine if there is any association between Baumeister and a series of unsolved murders of gay males (252A-IR-2572, 252A-D2-3088, 252B-IP-72746, 252B-IP-73539 and 252B-CI-56934). Some of these victims were male prostitutes from the Indianapolis area and found dead in Preble County, Ohio. Preble County borders the Ohio/Indiana state line and is between Richmond, Indiana and Dayton, Ohio, traversed east/west by Interstate 70.

It is unknown whether any of the recovered bones from Baumeister's property are those of the missing captioned victims. As previously listed above, it has been alleged that Baumeister was seen in the company of captioned victim Goodlet, prior to Goodlet's disappearance. It is unknown at this time if any of the other captioned victims had any associations with Baumeister. IPD continues to develop background information on Baumeister which may yield further lead information.

VICAP's services for an NCIC off-line search were offered to IPD of Baumeister and any vehicles he drove or had access to. Detective [Name] will consult with Hamilton County officials to determine what NCIC off-line requests they may have already initiated. Bureau forensic and laboratory services were offered if the local resources already employed by IPD should need assistance. If not already done, it was recommended that known blood, hair, and fingerprint specimens should be collected from Baumeister's body for possible comparison to any trace evidence collected from the crime scenes of the above-listed Ohio/Indiana murders.

CASKU will continue to offer assistance as requested.
To: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS  From: SAC, CIRG
Re: 252B-HQ-1112775, 07/22/1996

Descriptive Data:

Main Subject
Name -
  Last: Baumeister
  First: Herbert
  Middle: E.
  Alias: Brian Staats
Race: W
Sex: M
DOB: 04/07/1947 (true)
DOB: 04/07/1952
Address -
  House #: 1111
  Street Name: E. 156th
  City: Westfield
  State: IN
Address -
  House #: 4421
  Street Name: E. 75th
  City: Indianapolis
  State: IN

CC: 1 SSA CASKU
  1 - SSA CASKU
  1 - MCS VICAP
  1 - CA VICAP

***
Crime Analyst
Federal Bureau of Investigation
National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime
FBI Academy
Quantico, VA 22135
April 28, 1998

Crime Analyst
Federal Bureau of Investigation
National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime
FBI Academy
Quantico, VA 22135

Dear [Name]

Several years ago some members of the FBI came to the Hancock County Sheriff's Office and conducted a briefing on what they identified as a serial killer.

I thought you might be interested in the outcome of that investigation. It appears that the local authorities have closed their investigation and attributed the killings to a Herbert R. Baumeister.

Just for your information.

Sincerely,

[Name]

cc: [Name] FBI

Enclosure: One (1)
Police complete inquiry of 9 deaths

■ Cause of death, men’s ties to gay community link Herbert Baumeister to cases, Indiana, Ohio officials say.

By Rob Schneider
STAFF WRITER

GREENFIELD, Ind. — The partially clothed bodies of nine young, white males, dumped into shallow streams across central Indiana and western Ohio over the course of a decade, was an image that has haunted investigators.

Monday, some of those investigators laid the deaths at the feet of Herbert R. Baumeister, a man whose name raises other macabre images.

Baumeister committed suicide in July 1996, less than two weeks after the discovery of human bones on his 18-acre Fox Hollow Farm in Hamilton County. Authorities say they have unearthed the remains of seven to 10 individuals there.

Baumeister now is a suspect in at least 16 deaths.

At a news conference held by investigators from Hancock, Shelby and Hamilton counties, Hancock County Sheriff James Bradbury said investigators believe Baumeister was responsible for the killings between 1980 and 1990.

The men ranged in age between 15 and 29 and their bodies were found in Hamilton, Hancock and Shelby counties as well as in Preble and Darke counties just across the Indiana line in Ohio.

Bradbury said the strongest link between Baumeister and the nine deaths was the slaying of Mi-
NEWS CONFERENCE: Sheriff JimBradbury of Hancock County (left), Sheriff C. Michael Herndon of Shelby County and Captain David E. Wischmeyer of Shelby County spoke at a news conference Monday at the Hancock County Jail.

Staff Photo / Erin Painter

DEATHS
Continued from Page 1

Michael A. Riley. Riley was last seen leaving the Vogue Theater in Indianapolis in May 1983.

His partially clothed body was found in a small stream in Hancock County. He was neither the first nor the last, but he had something in common with the other victims. Bradbury explained:

"They were all found in a small body of water. They were all dumped over a concrete culvert out in rural parts of the county that just wasn't your everyday traveled parts of the county. All were partially nude. All were white males. They all had ties to the gay community in one way or another."

Where the condition of the body allowed investigators to determine a cause of death, it was the same — strangulation.

The Riley homicide had one thing the other eight cases didn't — a witness. On the night Riley disappeared, the witness saw him leave the Vogue with another person.

Until the Baumeister case exploded, though, investigators didn't have a suspect.

This February, Bradbury took a picture of Baumeister to the witness.

Before seeing the picture, the witness had recalled the man leaving with Riley was wearing a watch with a leather band with a silvery lining on the outside.

The picture wasn't a help. Trying to think back to five minutes of his life 15 years ago, the witness was unable to identify Baumeister. But then, Bradbury found another picture of Baumeister, taken 30 days before Riley disappeared. That's the man, the witness said.

In the second picture, Baumeister was wearing a watch with a dark band with a stainless steel edge.

Investigators determined other facts that pointed toward Baumeister.

He was known to hang out at the Vogue during the time Riley disappeared.

He was known to visit the area of Ohio where the bodies were found.

He was known to wear the type of clothing the witness recalled — a pressed button-down shirt.

Given that, Bradbury said he thought that there was enough evidence to obtain a conviction in the Riley case.

All along, investigators have assumed the same person committed the homicides, he noted. "Until someone comes up with some evidence to prove it's different, we'll continue to think that all the cases were done by the same person."

Hamilton County investigators have taken a similar stance, Sgt. Kenneth Whisman said.

"Two of the nine bodies were found in Hamilton County, and Whisman said his department will consider those cases closed unless something comes up. 'That decision is based on the common theme and method,' he said.

"As for the bodies at the Baumeister property, Whisman said there was evidence from the recovered bones that the victims could have been strangled.

"However, it couldn't be determined if this occurred before or after death," he added.

One of the bodies was found in Shelby County, and Sheriff C. Michael Herndon reached a similar conclusion about Baumeister.

"We think we have enough to convince a reasonable person," the sheriff said, alluding to other ties among the cases.

One was the time of year when the victims disappeared. It was always between May and October. That also coincided with pattern of disappearance for those whose remains were found on the Baumeister property, at least for those victims whose identities have been established.

Nearly all the victims disappeared off the streets of Indianapolis.

Herndon said Shelby County officials don't plan to do any more work on their case unless something new develops.

A Preble County investigator has told Bradbury that Ohio authorities agree with the Indiana investigators' position.

Investigators had told some victims' families of their decision.

One family appeared to be disappointed the suspect was dead. Another family was told police hoped the information would bring closure to the incident.

The information didn't seem to help, though.

"There will never be closure," was their response.

Killings linked to Baumeister

Police in several Indiana and Ohio counties say they are convinced that Herb Baumeister strangled the nine men whose bodies were found dumped in Indiana and Ohio during the 1980s.

- Hamilton County
  Michael S. Petrie, 15, found in a ditch, June 16, 1990.
  Maurice A. Taylor, 22, found July 21, 1982, in the northeastern part of the county.

- Hancock County
  Michael Andrew Riley, 22, found partially submerged in a ditch June 5, 1983.

- Shelby County

- Darke County, Ohio
  Thomas R. Clevenger Jr., 19, found Sept. 12, 1990, on an abandoned railroad bed.

- Preble County, Ohio
  Eric Allen Roetiger, 17, found in a creek bed May 9, 1985.
  Steven L. Elliott, 26, found in a creek bed Aug. 12, 1989.

Source: Police agencies