

Two found slain in Goleta; case similar to one in '79

By Dave Hardy

News-Press Staff Writer
S.B. News-Press 7-28-81

Sheriff's detectives are today investigating similarities between the brutal murder of a man and a woman found yesterday at 449 Toltec Way in Goleta and the nearby fatal shootings of a couple 1½ years ago.

The Toltec Way victims were identified today as Cheri Domingo, 35, a divorcee who was house-sitting at the residence, and her former boyfriend, Greg Sanchez, 28.

Mrs. Domingo was staying at the residence with her 15-year-old daughter, Debbie, who was with friends in Santa Barbara the night of the slay-

ings, said Russ Birchim, sheriff's public information officer.

Sanchez, of 7240 Davenport Road, Goleta, had broken up with Mrs. Domingo about six months ago, close friends of Mrs. Domingo said, adding that the two had remained good friends.

The cause of the deaths was still undetermined this afternoon, said Birchim. An autopsy was to be performed today.

Deputies said the bodies were found about 11:30 a.m. yesterday by a real estate agent who came to look at the

house. The property was put on the market three months ago after the death of the owner, who was a relative of Mrs. Domingo.

After discovering the murders yesterday, the agent then reportedly called the listing agent and told her, "I don't know what to say, but there's a body of a man face down in the bedroom." Detectives were then called.

A neighbor, who said she couldn't sleep Sunday night, said she heard a gunshot and dogs barking about 3:20 a.m.

See Page A-3, Col. 1

Two are found slain in Goleta residence

Continued from Page A-1

Virginia Wood told the News-Press, "I heard that gunshot just as plain as anything in the world, and I heard a woman scream."

Sgt. Bill Baker, head of the sheriff's major crimes unit, would tell the News-Press only that the most recent killings could be described as "brutal."

Birchim said that investigators are "looking into the possibility" that the same person who murdered the couple on Toltec Way may have also killed Goleta surgeon Robert Offerman and Santa Maria psychologist Debra Manning in Offerman's condominium at 767 Avenida Pequena on Dec. 30, 1979. But Birchim declined to comment on any similarities between the two killings.

A number of coincidences mark the two sets of slayings:

— Both couples were killed in the bedroom and found about the same time of day.

— Manning and Offerman were believed to have been shot at about 3 a.m.

— Neighbors in both slayings said they heard what could have been gunshots, but didn't report them because they thought they were holiday firecrackers.

To aid the investigation, detectives called in a 3-year-old bloodhound named Duchess from the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Domingo was laid off two weeks ago from her job as corporate administrator of Trimm Industries, a Santa Barbara-based company that manufactures computer furniture, said Maurina De Vane, a neighbor and friend who was laid off from Trimm at

the same time.

She described Mrs. Domingo as a very sociable, tidy and intelligent woman who was considering going into business for herself as a business consultant.

"She liked reading, swimming and dancing. She was really into people and fitness. She was very thin, very fit," said Mrs. De Vane.

An electronic engineering technician at Burroughs, Sanchez was planning to move to Florida soon, Mrs. De Vane said.

A neighbor of Sanchez described him as "very good looking" and "always in good spirits."

"He was real nice, real easygoing. Just the other day I said hello to him. I used to borrow his vacuum cleaner," said the young woman.

A memorial service for Mrs. Domingo has been scheduled for 8:30 p.m. tomorrow at El Mostecito Presbyterian Church, said Martha Spoon, Mrs. Domingo's mother. Burial is to follow in San Diego, where the woman grew up and met her former husband, Roger Domingo.

The couple married and moved to Goleta. He was a substitute teacher with the Goleta Union School District. When they divorced, she stayed in this area and he moved back to San Diego. Their son, David, 14, moved back to San Diego with his father last year, said Mrs. Spoon.

Mrs. Domingo's survivors also include her father, Wayland Cliff Smith Jr. of San Diego; a sister, Linda Moreno of Anaheim; a brother, Steven W. Smith of San Diego, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayland Smith Sr. of San Diego.

Two found slain in Goleta; case similar to one in '79

By Dave Hardy
News-Press Staff Writer
S.B. News-Press 7-27-81

Sheriff's detectives are today investigating similarities between the brutal murder of a man and a woman found yesterday at 449 Toltec Way in Goleta and the nearby fatal shootings of a couple 1 1/2 years ago.

The Toltec Way victims were identified today as Cheri Domingo, 35, a divorcee who was house-sitting at the residence, and her former boyfriend, Greg Sanchez, 28.

Mrs. Domingo was staying at the residence with her 15-year-old daughter, Debbie, who was with friends in Santa Barbara the night of the slay-

ings, said Russ Birchim, sheriff's public information officer.

Sanchez, of 7240 Davenport Road, Goleta, had broken up with Mrs. Domingo about six months ago, close friends of Mrs. Domingo said, adding that the two had remained good friends.

The cause of the deaths was still undetermined this afternoon, said Birchim. An autopsy was to be performed today.

Deputies said the bodies were found about 11:30 a.m. yesterday by a real estate agent who came to look at the

house. The property was put on the market three months ago after the death the owner, who was a relative of Mrs. Domingo.

After discovering the murders yesterday, the agent then reportedly called the listing agent and told her, "I don't know what to say, but there's a body of a man face down in the bedroom." Detectives were then called.

A neighbor, who said she couldn't sleep Sunday night, said she heard a gunshot and dogs barking about 3:20 a.m.

See Page A-3, Col. 1

Two are found slain in Goleta residence

Continued from Page A-1

Virginia Wood told the News-Press, "I heard that gunshot just as plain as anything in the world, and I heard a woman scream."

Sgt. Bill Baker, head of the sheriff's major crimes unit, would tell the News-Press only that the most recent killings could be described as "brutal."

Birchim said that investigators are "looking into the possibility" that the same person who murdered the couple on Toltec Way may have also killed Goleta surgeon Robert Offerman and Santa Maria psychologist Debra Manning in Offerman's condominium at 767 Avenida Pequena on Dec. 30, 1979. But Birchim declined to comment on any similarities between the two killings.

A number of coincidences mark the two sets of slayings:

— Both couples were killed in the bedroom and found about the same time of day.

— Manning and Offerman were believed to have been shot at about 3 a.m.

— Neighbors in both slayings said they heard what could have been gunshots, but didn't report them because they thought they were holiday

the same time.

She described Mrs. Domingo as a very sociable, "fddy and" intelligent woman who was considering going into business for herself as a business consultant.

"She liked reading, swimming and dancing. She was really into people and fitness. She was very thin, very fit," said Mrs. De Vane.

An electronic engineering technician at Burroughs, Sanchez was planning to move to Florida soon, Mrs. De Vane said.

A neighbor of Sanchez described him as "very good looking" and "always in good spirits."

"He was real nice, real easygoing. Just the other day I said hello to him."

"I used to borrow his vacuum cleaner," said the young woman.

A memorial service for Mrs. Domingo has been scheduled for 3:30 p.m. tomorrow at El Montecito Presbyterian Church, said Martha Spoon. Mrs. Domingo's mother, Burial is to follow in San Diego, where the woman grew up and met her former husband, Roger Domingo.

The couple married and moved to Goleta. He was a substitute teacher with the Goleta Unified School District