

Yuba County Sheriff's Department
Coroner's Report Narrative

Circumstances: 6-7-08/2002 hrs

Walter Knotts requested a Deputy at a vacant lot on Cascade Wy ¼ mile South of Neptune Ln reference a vehicle with a body inside.

Investigation: 6-7-08/2008 hrs

I arrived and contacted Knotts at the driveway to the vacant lot. Knotts said he walked onto the vacant property while trying to find a place where he could get good cell phone reception. While wondering around on the property he saw a white SUV parked on the property. He walked to the vehicle and discovered a large dryer vent hose taped to the tail pipe and run through the rear passenger window. He looked inside the vehicle and saw a badly decomposed body in the drivers' seat. Knotts walked back to the driveway and called 911.

Knotts said he had never seen the vehicle before. He stated he was worried about recent thefts in the area and wanted to check out the vehicle. I advised Knotts to return to his residence.

I responded to the location where Knotts said the vehicle was located. When I reached the top of the driveway I saw a white SUV approximately 200' south of the driveway. I walked to where the vehicle was located and discovered a white Chevrolet Suburban. The vehicle did not have any license plates on it. I noticed a long silver dryer vent hose was taped to the exhaust pipe and run through the rear passenger window. There was a blue jacket stuffed in the top of the window beside the dryer vent hose. In the drivers' seat I discovered the badly decomposed body of a human. The body was sitting in the seat with the left arm resting on the arm rest of the door. Both feet were on the floor board. The upper torso of the body was slumped over to the right and the head was resting near the center arm rest. Based on the state of the body I pronounced the unidentified subject dead at 2015 hrs.

I ran a DMV check on the vehicle by VIN (1GNFK1616ZX6J104716) and discovered the vehicle belonged to Edward Allen Baker Jr. Baker was reported missing to the Yuba County Sheriff's Department on 3-29-08 (Ref report #08-1584) and last seen driving that vehicle.

Detective Pomeroy arrived and processed the scene. (See supplement.)

Deputy Stoute and I removed the body from vehicle. Lipp and Sullivan arrived and transported the body to their mortuary. Detective Pomeroy responded to the mortuary for follow up.

While searching the vehicle for property I discovered a black wallet on the center console containing miscellaneous items of identification in the name of Edward Baker, checkbooks belonging to Edward Baker, prescription medication belonging to Edward Baker and \$22.00 in US currency. All items were seized and booked into YCSO Evidence for safekeeping.

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Also while searching the vehicle I discovered a receipt for the purchase of the dryer vent hose and a roll of duct tape from the Foothill Hardware Store located on Marysville Rd in Oregon House. The receipt was dated 3-29-08 at 0805 hrs. I discovered a roll of duct tape on the front passengers' seat of the vehicle and the wrapper from the duct tape behind the vehicle. All the items were seized by Detective Pomeroy as evidence.

Mitchell's towing responded to the scene and towed the vehicle to their tow yard as evidence. (See attached CHP 180.)

Based on the vehicle identification and the items of identification located in the vehicle the body was tentatively identified as Edward Allen Baker Jr.

Recommendation:

Case pending autopsy results.

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