

# CSW

## CRIME STORIES WEEKLY



### Woman takes dead fetus to hospital

TULSA — A woman who went to a Holdenville hospital claiming to be the mother of a dead fetus is facing a first-degree murder complaint.

The woman, whose name wasn't available late Tuesday, went to Holdenville General Hospital with the dead fetus about 4 a.m. Tuesday, Hughes County Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Metcalf said.

She was transferred to St. John Medical Center in Tulsa, where doctors determined she hadn't recently given birth, Tulsa police Detective Dennis Kinard said.

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents were taking the woman back to Hughes County, where she was to be jailed pending possible charges, Metcalf and Kinard said.

Kinard said he understood that the woman would be jailed on a first-degree murder complaint.

Investigators are considering whether the fetus belonged to a pregnant Okemah woman who is missing, Kinard said.

An Okemah police dispatcher confirmed late Tuesday that police there are investigating the disappearance of a pregnant woman who has been missing since Monday night.

# KILLING TO BE A MOTHER

One woman's despicable act to hold a baby in her arms

Effie Goodson stumbled into hospital clutching the tiny baby to her chest. It was 4am and, trembling, she told nurses she'd just given birth beside her car on a country road.

Safely inside the warm casualty department, Effie, 37, let the team of professionals take over. But as a doctor examined Effie and the baby boy lying still in his blanket, a horrific realisation dawned. Effie had not been pregnant or given birth recently – and she was holding a dead six-month-old foetus.

One question remained – where was the baby's real mother? The nightmare was only just starting to unfold.

At 8am in the town of Okemah, Oklahoma, 27-year-old Jerry Simpson had come home from his factory night

shift, convinced something was wrong. The house was eerily quiet and his pregnant wife Carolyn, 21, was missing.

'She hadn't left her usual cheery message on the answerphone saying where she was,' Jerry explains.

Fearing Carolyn had been rushed to hospital, Jerry rang her friends. But close friend Rita Baker, who would have driven Carolyn, hadn't heard from her.

And colleagues at the casino where she worked said they'd seen Carolyn leave at 11pm with her friend Effie.

Her disappearance was troubling, particularly given the couple's joy since she had fallen pregnant in August 2003. 'She told absolutely everyone,' he says.

Once she fell pregnant, Carolyn left her job at the place where Jerry worked and got a part-time position at Creek

County Casino. The new job suited her, she made friends easily – and customer Effie Goodson was one of them.

The pregnancy had gone well. 'She loved it,' Jerry remembers. 'I was the one with morning sickness, not her.'

Just two weeks earlier, the couple had seen the first ultrasound. They'd even chosen names – Anna-Marie for a girl and Justin Bradley for a boy. But when Jerry came home to an empty house on December 23, alarm bells rang.

He called the police and went to the station to file a missing person's report.

Returning home shattered, he waited, hoping he was wrong. At 4am on Christmas Eve, the police rang.

'They told me Effie Goodson had walked into Holdenville Hospital in Oklahoma with my dead son in her arms, claiming it was her baby.'

'I kept praying this wasn't my son,' he says. 'And that Carolyn was alive.'

Incredibly, Goodson told police she'd picked Jerry up when she was driving Carolyn home. 'She said we'd rowed in the car and she'd dropped us at home in the middle of an argument,' he says.

Stunned, Jerry explained to police that he'd been working the night shift alongside 150 people that evening.

Christmas Day passed in a blur. Carolyn's present – a new computer – stayed under the tree she had lovingly decorated. On Boxing Day, her anxious family visited Jerry and joined the search for her in Holdenville.

But once there, police explained that a deer hunter had found Carolyn in Lamar, 160 miles from Oklahoma City, ▶



Left: A grief-stricken Jerry. Below: With his much-loved wife Carolyn.



# KILLING TO BE A MOTHER



by a dirt road in a ditch. Her bag had been found nearby.

The killer first shot Carolyn in the head, sliced open her womb and removed her unborn child.

Meanwhile, more details of that terrible night started to emerge.

Goodson had befriended Carolyn a month earlier and witnesses claim Carolyn had told her she'd been expecting a girl.

On the night of the murder, Goodson had even offered to lend her a crib and clothes.

But Goodson had been living a strange secret life. Desperate to be a mum, she'd told family and friends she'd been pregnant, bizarrely, for 11 months.

They'd thrown her a baby shower and her husband had even driven her to doctor's appointments. What no one knew was that she'd had a hysterectomy 20 years earlier.

In Goodson's car, police found a baby crib and a packet of razor blades, with one missing.

The seats were soaked with Carolyn's blood. They also found bullets of the type that killed Carolyn but no gun.

Police charged Goodson with kidnapping and two counts of first-degree murder on New Year's Eve and Goodson's trial starts in April.

In a state that still has capital punishment, Jerry is hoping she's sent to death row.

'I want to watch her die slowly and painfully,' he adds. However, Carolyn's memory demands a different kind of justice.

'She loved people,' Jerry says. 'She wouldn't want me to be full of hatred. But how do I forgive something so evil?'

*By Rachel Dobson and Pilar Canas/Closer/Planet Syndication*

## A POISONOUS ACT

The son who turned into his mother's murderer

On April 4, two years ago, 34-year-old Matthew Wales asked his mother Margaret Wales-King, 68, and stepfather Paul King, 70, over for dinner at his home in Glen Iris, Melbourne.

He sat in silence as he watched his mother and her husband eat the home-made soup he'd laced with blood-pressure tablets and painkillers - knowing that it was just a matter of time before he would kill them.

As his wealthy heiress mother, worth an estimated \$6 million, got up to leave with his stepfather, he began to bash them with a piece of wood. His plan was to bludgeon them to death and he succeeded.

While Matthew murdered his own flesh and blood, his wife Maritza was putting their two-year-old son Domenik to bed upstairs. On returning downstairs, she found her husband covered in blood, standing over the lifeless bodies slumped in their courtyard.

It made her stomach churn and all she could do was watch as Matthew pushed past her and disappeared into the night. In shock, she went to their bedroom and cried herself to sleep.

Matthew returned to find her still sobbing and tried to hold her. 'Do you love me?' he asked. 'Do you hate me for what I've done?'

He didn't confess to the murders immediately. While police searched for his relatives, he begged his wife not to tell anyone what he'd done. He pleaded for more time with her and Domenik, free of his mother's 'dominating influence'. Two months later, Maritza cracked under pressure while being interrogated.

Matthew had buried the bodies in a shallow bush grave outside Melbourne. In April 2003, he was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Maritza pleaded guilty to making a false statement to police and attempting to pervert the course of justice. She received a two-year suspended sentence.



From left: Matthew Wales; Maritza, Margaret and Paul.



## CAN YOU SOLVE THIS?

### MISSING PERSON

**KAREN LEE-ANNE SKINNER**  
DOB 07/01/1975

Karen has not been seen by her parents since 1996, however she remained in contact with them each year by sending them a Christmas card. They received her last card in December 2001, but since then there has been no contact.

Karen may have been in Gympie, Queensland, as late as 2001, but despite extensive inquiries by family and police, her whereabouts remains unknown.



Anyone with information should speak to their local police, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or contact the National Missing Persons Unit on 1800 000 634.