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Dead woman's identity probed

By Gale Metcalf
R-J Staff Writer

The body of a woman was found lying in a drainage ditch just off Welter Avenue shortly after 9:30 a.m. Wednesday by a television news crew alerted by an anonymous tip.

Las Vegas Metropolitan homicide detectives were seeking to determine the identity and cause of death of the woman. They said the body was badly decomposed and had apparently been there for two or three days.

The woman was estimated to have been 25-45 years old.

It was still undetermined late Wednesday how the woman died. At first it was believed she had several abrasions and wounds but detectives said later the body was just badly decomposed.

The body was discovered by two newsreporters from KORK-TV less than 15 minutes after one received an anonymous call from a man informing him where the body of a woman could be found.

Ray Willis told officers he received the call at 9:22 a.m. and with Bill McCarty went to the location in the 2500 block of Welter and found the body. It was lying in the ditch just off the wide dirt road about two blocks east of the Lam Inn at 2398 S. Lamb Blvd.

Detectives said the body could have been either placed in the ditch or thrown from a passing vehicle.

Shortly after the body was found homicide detectives and officers of the Criminal Identification Bureau investigated the surrounding area but found no clues relating to the woman's death.

Authorities took X-rays of the body but no indication of bullet wounds, knife wounds, or a beating was found. One detective reported there was a possible hairline fracture across the right forehead but that an autopsy would have to be performed before anything could be determined. One was scheduled Thursday.

Detectives began a search through missing persons reports to see if a link could be made to the body from the reports. An officer said they were hoping the same individual who called the television news crew would call the department with any information he might have about the body.