

Area would never be the same

State park murders rock our sense of innocence

By the 'Newsies' Staff

A 19-year-old man, a police officer and a state park detective probed the crime scene in the woods near the State Park.

The body and remains of Edward John Park were discovered in a wooded area near the State Park. The body was found on March 10, 1960, near the State Park, Ill., where it was found by a hunter.

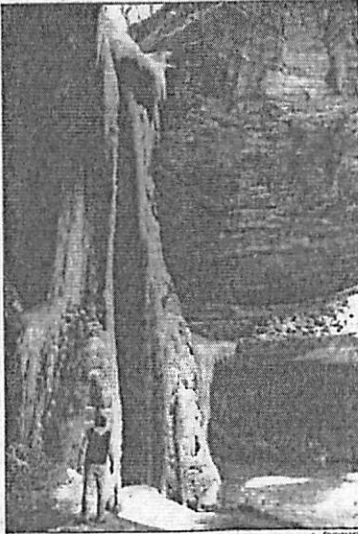
William Gering, killed Larkins and Frank Mayle, all sons of prominent Chicago businessmen, checked out the night, but both, and died in a crash March 10, St. Louis, where the plane crashed over a popular recreation park near the river.

The scene of the crime

Richard Barnes, La Salle County sheriff's attorney in 1960, can recall the details clearly today, more than 40 years later.

"I was playing golf nearby at the Chicago Club at about 11:30 when I noticed a helicopter and some FBI agents. Some boys from a nearby high school had heard the plane crash in St. Louis Canyon, and the sheriff was coming over to look at it," he said.

"I was not up to try to coordinate the investigation," he explained. "The evidence was supposed to be brought to me, and I heard upon the telephone, I would forward the photographs it was up to the state police and the sheriff's department."



THE CRASH SITE IN STREATOR BOON'S ST. LOUIS CANYON IS A DANGEROUS AREA FOR HUNTERS VISITING THE PARK IN THE WINTER. IT WAS THE PLACE WHERE THE AIRPLANE CRASHED AND WHERE THE BODIES WERE FOUND.



THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN IN A BROKEN CANYON NEAR THE BODIES OF THE TWO WOMEN, MARGIE LEVINSKY AND BETTY LEE, WHO WERE FOUND ON FEB. 11, 1960, IN ST. LOUIS CANYON.



LA SALLE COUNTY INVESTIGATORS ARRIVED AT THE CRASH SITE AFTER THE AIRPLANE CRASHED IN ST. LOUIS CANYON.

40th Anniversary of the STARVED ROCK MURDERS

March 14, 1960-2000

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At a dead end

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Lawyer turns detective

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Police fumble the ball

"I had confidence that the state police would know how to investigate it," Warren continued. "Of course, as it turned out, they didn't know where to begin. They thought the Mafia in Chicago was involved. They did take lie detector tests at the very beginning, and they had the leather jacket (that would later be used as evidence). They saw that the alleged offender at that time had scratches on his face.