

Abducted woman found alive

PONCA (AP) — The father of a man arrested in the four-day disappearance of his ex-girlfriend said Wednesday that his son led authorities Tuesday to a wooded area where she was found shot several times but still alive.

"He was looking for love and, he couldn't handle it, I guess," said Don Anderson of his son Brian.

Anderson didn't elaborate on what happened in the relationship his son had with Laura Kucera, 19.

Anderson said he knew Kucera had filed a protection order against his son and that he had spoken with his son about it.

"He confirmed to us that it was over," said Anderson, a farmer in Concord.

Kucera had allegedly been abducted at gunpoint by Anderson and had been missing since Saturday.

She was found alive Tuesday evening lying in a wooded area near Macy, but had been shot several times, her mother said Wednesday.

"We don't know how she survived other than she must be very

strong," Mary Kucera said. "She spent 3 1/2 days out exposed."

Laura Kucera was clothed but had no other protection from the elements, Mary Kucera said. Her daughter was in stable condition with multiple gunshot wounds, she said.

Laura Kucera was found by police and investigators using a helicopter from Marion Health Center in Sioux City, Iowa, took her to that hospital, Mary Kucera said.

Her daughter apparently was found where she had been left, she said.

Members of the family were at the hospital Wednesday morning until 4:30 a.m., Mary Kucera said. She said her daughter had been slipping in and out of consciousness.

The next days will be difficult for her, her husband, David, and their seven other children, Mary Kucera said.

"I don't know how we're going to cope," she said. "It's going to be a tough haul here."

Brian Anderson, 22, had told authorities that he dropped Kucera

off outside a fast-food restaurant in South Sioux City on Saturday and then turned himself in to Dixon County authorities.

He was charged in Dixon County Court on Monday with kidnapping, false imprisonment, use of a firearm to commit a felony, and operating a motor vehicle to avoid arrest, an authority said.

Don Anderson said his son had thrown the gun off a bridge somewhere.

Mary Kucera said her daughter and Brian Anderson had a volatile relationship but it didn't start out that way.

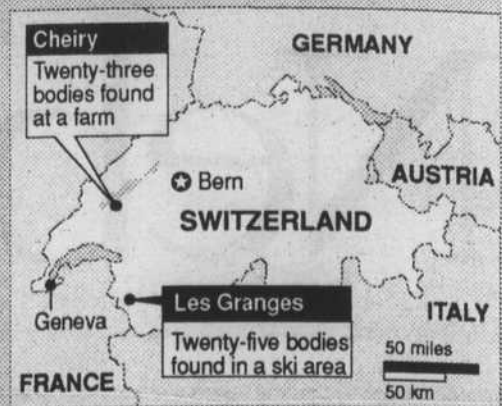
Brian Anderson allegedly had kidnapped her daughter in the past and assaulted her before the latest incident, Mary Kucera said.

"I can say she did have a protection order against him," Mary Kucera said. "He threatened her life twice before," she said.

Under the protection order, the family reported any contact or information they had on Anderson, but it apparently wasn't any help, Mary Kucera said.

Deaths tied to religious sect

Police discovered 48 people dead in two Swiss towns. The victims are believed to be members of the Cross and Rose sect. Ties to other secret societies are being investigated.



Order of the Solar Temple
This group, led by Luc Jouret, advocates stockpiling weapons to prepare for the end of the world. Jouret owned a building in Quebec that was destroyed by fire hours before the mass suicide; he had also rented one of the Swiss chalets where bodies were found Wednesday.

Rosicrucians

The Cross and Rose embraced some philosophy of this centuries-old group. Rosicrucians believe in occult lore, and include a rose and a cross among its symbols. They deny any knowledge of the Cross and Rose.

Other cult-related mass deaths

People's Temple: Rev. Jim Jones, leader
Jonestown, Guyana, 1977
More than 900 deaths

Branch Davidians: David Koresh, leader
Waco, Texas, 1993
More than 85 deaths

Distant deaths related

CHEIRY, Switzerland (AP) — Twenty-one bodies made a neat circle on the floor of a red, mirror-lined chapel hidden beneath the burning farmhouse.

Ten had plastic garbage bags tied around their necks with cords, and some had their hands bound. Twenty had bullets in their heads.

In three ski chalets 90 miles away, police discovered more bodies, badly burned by fires apparently set by remote control.

Authorities found the 48 bodies on Wednesday, and indications of a mass murder-suicide by a cult they hadn't known existed.

Clues led to Canada, where two bodies were found a day earlier in the charred wreckage of an unexplained arson fire. Police said the owner of the burned duplex, Luc Jouret, led apocalyptic cults in both Canada and Switzerland and had rented one of the ski chalets where the bodies were found.

Investigators said the fires in both countries were set off by remote-controlled electrical devices triggered by a timer or a telephone call.

Authorities were not ruling out the possibility that some of the victims were executed, investigating judge Andre Piller said.

Daily Nebraskan

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9258.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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