

## Officers investigate abduction connections

The apparent abduction of a 20-year-old Clinton woman late last week is being investigated as possibly linked to two other Ozarks kidnappings, including the kidnapping and murder of a Macks Creek woman.

The apparent abduction of Angela M. Hammond around midnight Thursday may be connected to the kidnappings of Trudy Darby in Camden County and Cheryl Ann Kenney of Nevada, police suspect.

Hammond had just gotten off work as a night processor at Union State Bank when she reportedly stopped at

a pay telephone in the empty parking lot of a grocery store to call her boyfriend.

Her boyfriend said that in her conversation to him she said she noticed a green pickup circling the lot. She described the man who got out as wearing glasses and overalls and having a mustache and a beard.

Then she screamed and the phone went dead, her boyfriend said.

Shafer, an 18-year-old senior at Clinton High School, said he jumped into his vehicle and raced to the parking lot. He said that as he approached the lot, he passed what he thought was a yellow truck. Then he heard Hammond shout his name.

He reportedly chased the truck about a mile before his transmission quit. He watched the Ford pickup believed built in 1969 or 1970 speed away. He thought it may have had a decal of a fishing scene on the back window.

Police found Hammond's car in the parking lot that night. Her purse was inside.

Law officers are checking gravel roads around the Harry S. Truman Reservoir. The FBI and Henry County Sheriff also are investigating.

Authorities believe Hammond's abduction could be related to the kidnapping of Darby, 42, who was last seen alive at the convenience store near Macks Creek in Camden County where she worked as a night clerk. Shortly before she disappeared about 10 p.m. January 19, she called her son and told him about a suspicious man outside the store.

When her son arrived five minutes later, he found only his mother's

purse and an empty cash drawer, police said. Authorities found Darby's nude body two days later in the Little Niangua River in eastern Hickory County. She had been shot twice in the head.

Area residents described a heavyset man with a beard and mustache who had been sitting in a pickup near the convenience store the night of Darby's abduction. A description of the truck was not released by police.

Kennedy, 30, also was a convenience store clerk. She disappeared about 10 p.m. February 27, just after closing up for the night. Her car was discovered the next morning outside the Nevada convenience store. Kennedy has never been found.

### 90th birthday

### celebration April 14

A reception to honor the 90th birthday of Blanch Andrews of rural Urbana will be held Sunday, April 14, 2-4 p.m. in the Urbana Methodist Church. The reception is hosted by her family and is open to the public.

3-Pc.  
Oak Finish

Black Lacquer  
3-Pc.