

Dugard kidnapping's ripple effect

By Kathryn Reed

"Carl (Probyn) showed up at my door that morning. He came running up the steps, busting through the door, not even knocking. He was in a flipping state of panic. He said, "Someone grabbed my daughter.'"

Soon thereafter law enforcement questioned Peggy Lynn about that fateful day that changed the lives of so many on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

Lynn was running a small day care out of her home at the time. Shayna, Carl and Terry Probyn's 18-month-old daughter, was one of her charges.

"The FBI came and interviewed me because (Carl) was apparently a suspect. I said you don't have that look upon your face when you are a suspect. It was indescribable how much he was upset," Lynn said.

For one interview with FBI agents the Meyers resident was hypnotized. She helped create a composite sketch of the suspects. She could do this because she had seen them days before Jaycee Lee Dugard, then 11, was kidnapped on June 10, 1991.

Lynn says the people she remembers look like Phillip and Nancy Garrido – the couple charged in the Dugard kidnapping.

She said the vehicle was out of place for her quiet neighborhood because only cars that belong there or people who are lost come down the street.

"They swung over to my side and slowed way down. This creepy guy in the driver's seat stared at me and my (18-month-old)

daughter. It was very unnerving to me,” Lynn said. “The person in the passenger side I didn’t get a look at the face, but (she) had long straight black hair.”

Lynn watched Shayna for just a little while longer before the Probyns wanted their daughter with them at all times – especially since they were not working.

Leave of absence

Terry Probyn interviewed for a job at the South Lake Tahoe office of the El Dorado County Public Health Department on one week, her daughter was kidnapped the next.

“We didn’t see Terry for six months. I just held the position open,” said Valerie Rudd, who was running the office at the time.

Probyn had been hired to be a medical office assistant. When she did begin work, a bit of awkwardness ensued as colleagues didn’t know quite what to say or how to act.

“Everyone learned to respect her and be supportive in their own way,” Rudd said.

Rudd describes Probyn as smart, composed and able to handle stress.

“I wasn’t surprised to hear Jaycee was running (Garrido’s printing) business because her mom was like that – if someone needed something, Terry would do it,” Rudd said.

Working in captivity

Mary Schwaab never met Allissa, as Jaycee Lee Dugard was called by the people she lived with for the last 18 years, but she did have interactions with the Garridos.

“He was always a wacko. We just thought he was a religious freak. He talked about starting his own church,” Schwaab said.

Schwaab, who lives in the East Bay of San Francisco, said for six years Garrido printed business cards and flyers for her office.

Sometimes Garrido delivered the paper products to the office, other times Schwaab went to his house. She never went inside.

"From the outside of the house it was hard to know what was going on," Schwaab said.

She said she was shocked like everyone else to find out about the reported horrors that had been going on in the backyard of the Antioch house for nearly two decades.

Flyers posted in Bay Area

Kirsten Rankins had just moved to Lake Tahoe from Concord when the Dugard kidnapping occurred. She was making regular trips between the two cities because of her son.

She took flyers all over the area – which is right next to Antioch, the town where the Garridos reportedly held Dugard captive for 18 years.

"I had flyers of her in the back of my Bronco in my windows as I drove around Concord," Rankins said. "People up here said if you are leaving the basin, please take flyers with you and take them wherever you go."

The flyers had sketches of the suspects.

"I can't believe she was found right there. There were pictures of her in that area," Rankins said.

Questions about Carl

Carl Probyn has been the loudest, most prolific speaker on the media circuit since his stepdaughter's release from captivity on Aug. 26.

"I don't think he is the best spokesperson because (the

Probyns) have been separated so long,” said Anna Richter, development director with the South Lake Tahoe Women’s Center. “I think there may be a little bit of capitalization on this.”

The Probyns live in Southern California, but have not done so as a couple for years even though they are not formally divorced.

Carl Probyn on Sept. 5 returned to the street where Jaycee Lee was last seen so a foreign television crew could interview him. He’s made the rounds to the New York studios. He showed up at the end of the Sept. 6 ceremony at South Tahoe Middle School that was for the South Shore community to come together to celebrate the release of Jaycee Lee.

Probyn was initially a suspect, which is common in cases like this. Plus, he witnessed the abduction and was the one to dial 911.

Even though no one is pointing fingers his way anymore, some say his actions indicate he has lost the focus – which they say is Jaycee Lee is alive, not that he has been vindicated.

Others are just as adamant that his behavior is normal for a man who has figuratively lived with a scarlet letter upon his lapel. They say he was wronged.

Tina Dugard, Terry Probyn’s sister, started speaking out on behalf of the family so another voice would be heard.

“We spent time sharing memories and stories and getting to know each other again. Jaycee remembers all of us,” Tina Dugard said during a televised press conference at the FBI office in Los Angeles on Sept. 3.

Time to heal

Richter, with the Women’s Center, said the family has a long road to recovery.

Trust is likely to be a big issue for Jaycee Lee, who is now 29, and her daughters. Reports are that the 11- and 15-year-old didn't know Jaycee Lee was their mother. This means both parents have not been truthful with them.

"I think Jaycee's daughters have the most challenges. They have limited experience to the real world," Richter said. "They essentially have been lied to by the person who held them captive and Jaycee had to go along with it for survival."

Anxiety, guilt, self-blame and depression are emotions the entire Probyn-Dugard clan is likely to experience now and for years to come.

"I do think it's natural and normal for any parent to wonder what they could have done differently," Richter said.

The family has been getting professional help to aid in coping with the last 18 years, and with what the future may hold. Jaycee Lee and her daughters did not go to school nor did they see a doctor while being stashed away in squalor.

"We need to look at (Jaycee Lee) as a hero of strength and courage. She will make the transition from victim to survivor," Richter said.

Belly dancing competition

Jewel of the Sierra belly dancing competition and gala evening show. Competition from 10:30am-6pm; gala at 7:30pm. Each costs \$10; LTCC's Duke Theatre.

Tahoe Sierra Century Ride

Tahoe Sierra Century Ride – 30, 60, 100 mile tours of scenic Tahoe, Truckee and Donner Pass. www.tahoesierracentury.com

Thousands rejoice in Jaycee's release from captivity

By Kathryn Reed and Susan Wood

The community needed this.

That was the overwhelming sentiment expressed during and after the pink ribbon parade through South Lake Tahoe on Sept. 6

The late morning walk from the county library to South Tahoe Middle School was the reverse route of the 10-year anniversary walk marking Jaycee Lee Dugard's disappearance. Sunday's walk, which brought out more than 2,500 people, was a time to celebrate her Aug. 26 release from captivity.

She left her Meyers bus stop June 10, 1991, an innocent 11-year-old. She came back to the world a 29-year-old woman with daughters ages 11 and 15. Her story is one that will reveal itself in the coming months and years as she begins to peel back the layers of abuse that have been inflicted upon her for the last 18 years, and as she and her family add new chapters to their lives.

Chris and Kathy Campion said they weren't surprised to see the

community pull together for the parade. Campion, the Tahoe FBI agent who has been involved in the case since the beginning, is convinced Jaycee Lee will eventually return to South Lake Tahoe for a visit.

That is also the hope of Melody Ulman, who was walking with husband Eric and their two dogs adorned with pink ribbons.

"I would hope she'd come back so we could let her know we love her. I hope she feels this. We never stopped looking," Ulman said.

Brooke Laine would also like the now 29-year-old woman to return to Tahoe.

"It's not important she come back now. She'll come back when she's ready. And maybe we'll have another parade," Laine said.

Laine is one of the many people instrumental in coordinating the parade. Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe gets the bulk of the credit. They put up the pink ribbons that dotted the side of the highway.

Carl Probyn, Jaycee Lee's stepfather, showed up at the end of the ceremony. Her mom, Terry Probyn, was not in town. (The Probyns have been separated for years.)

It was a sea of pink up and down Highway 50 before the throng turned on Al Tahoe Boulevard and ended the trek at the track. Honking motorists blared their support. It was a festive event – something so many commented on – adding they were so glad to not be at a memorial for Jaycee Lee.

During the procession Laurel Manzola carried a sign saying "Nevada Loves Jaycee".

"I have a daughter the same age. I'm a mom. That's all it takes to be here," the Sparks woman said. She was living in Auburn when the abduction occurred. "We don't get to celebrate too many of these."

Sergio Rodriguez, 9, stayed up the night before making a sign that said, "Hope never left our hearts." He walked with his family and neighbors.

Robert Karkheck's pink hat and shirt seemed a little out of place with his black leather vest – but he was more than comfortable to walk through town in that attire to remember Jaycee Lee. Pink was her favorite color.

Pink parasols, dogs in pinks, pink on bicycles – pink was everywhere. A fire truck drove by and the driver was holding a pink balloon.

Ray and Sandi Dudonis of Folsom sat on the edge of the highway near El Dorado Beach as the crowd passed.

"I'm impressed by the number of people," Ray Dudonis said. The couple heard about the parade when they came into town the Thursday before. They delayed their plans to go cycling to show their support.

When Jaycee Lee was taken, Loreen Norberg was teaching at Al Tahoe. (She's at Bijou now). A student of hers was good friends with Jaycee Lee.

"After this happened she was terrified. She wouldn't go to the bathroom by herself. She was terrified to go in public," Norberg said as she walked on the highway.

Emotions ran the gamut. Many are still in shock she was found alive.

Roberta Mason and Karen Houser agreed that children being snatched or in danger may happen more often than what is reported.

"If anything, it's taught our kids to be more aware," said Houser, the Lake Tahoe Boys & Girls Club executive director.

El Dorado County sheriff's Lt. Les Lovell echoed that

sentiment from the podium at the track. He said complacency is the enemy.

“Fight, kick, scream. I don’t care what you do. Fight your way out it,” Lovell said to a chorus of cheers.

As the four speakers wrapped up their short remarks, the song “Celebration” boomed from the speakers, people cheered and many of the pink balloons they had been carrying were lifted into the blue sky that was streaked with white clouds.

One could only wonder what Jaycee Lee was thinking, if she was watching the television coverage, if some joy is returning to her life.

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Kiwanis Oktoberfest

Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra Oktoberfest at MontBleu in Stateline.

SLT senior dance

Rainbow dance at South Lake Tahoe Senior Center; \$8; (530) 541.8380 or (530) 545.1277; multi-color clothes optional.

Tahoe City farmers' market

Farmers Market, Commons Beach, Tahoe City.

Lake Tahoe Marathon week

Lake Tahoe Marathon week. www.laketahomarathon.com

LTUSD, LTCC candidates' forum

Candidates forum for LTUSD and LTCC seats at Harveys sponsored by Soroptimists International of South Lake Tahoe, arrive a little early, \$15 includes lunch, reservations necessary, 866.801-8652.

Physical therapists' lecture

Barton's Home Health physical therapists teach about degenerative joint disease of the hip, arthritis progression, joint replacement and rehabilitation, South Lake Tahoe Senior Center, free. (530) 542.6094