

✓ CP CRIME & CRIMINALS - 1990 -

2 - Register-Pajaronian Monday, December 28, 1992

Woman's disappearance mystifies investigators

By LANE WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

When Arlene Tsuji disappeared in Aptos 14 months ago, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's deputies launched an extensive search and investigation.

Deputies haven't given up on the case, but neither have they

developed any solid leads on what happened to the quiet, 25-year-old travel agent who went for a walk and never returned.

"We're basically going on 'profile leads,'" on people who might fit the profile of a kidnaper, said Lt. Dennis Smith. "We've put a lot of emphasis on the case."

Deputies aren't certain that Tsuji was abducted, but there's nothing in her background that would indicate she would voluntarily disappear.

Tsuji left her home on Wilshire Drive, in the Vienna Woods area of Aptos, in the early evening of Oct. 24. Nobody

knows where she headed, although part of a cassette tape was found in an area she often walked.

Tsuji often took a cassette player with her on her walks, but deputies don't know if the tape was hers.

An FBI analysis of the case

said Tsuji kept a diary that "reveal a woman who enjoys being a mystery to people."

In one entry, she wrote, "Even my friends can't figure me out. Not like I'm trying to be a big mystery. I just don't want to share everything. Is that selfish? Maybe self-protection."

Analysts said Tsuji enjoyed

meeting new people but was conscious of her own vulnerability with strangers and was not a risk-taker.

Anyone with information about the Tsuji case or any other unsolved crimes is asked to call detectives at 763-8190 454-2311.