



Police composite of suspect.

Mid-County MURDER *Update*

by Anne Chavré

The death of Emily Shaw, a gentle independent 78-year-old woman, has left

the City of Capitola with many unanswered questions in the weeks that have followed.

Stephanie Harlan, Capitola's Mayor, called the murder "a terrible tragedy—a terrible situation," and expressed confidence that the case would be solved soon.

But nine days after she was struck from behind, near her car in the parking garage at the Capitola Mall, Shaw's killer remains unknown.

Police Chief Don Brauntton said that of the dozen or so prime suspects on their list, all had been investigated, and detectives were moving on to look at a pool of about 75 others.

A number of witnesses reported seeing the attractive,



Explorer Scouts search for the murder victim's purse in Coffee Lane Park.

clean-cut young man police are looking for as he waited near the parking lot in the hours before Shaw's murder.

"He was well-dressed," Brauntton said; "not a typical scumbag."

Though Brauntton said he doesn't think it was the assailant's first crime, he also said he believes "it was just a robbery that went bad."

Brauntton added that there have been no other muggings or violent crimes at the mall, and called the murder "an isolated incident."

The Capitola Mall, which employs 10-12 security people 24 hours per day has, according to Harlan, "put on extra

patrols, and they'll be there indefinitely."

Police continue to search for clues to the identity of the suspect, including a purse stolen from Shaw during the incident.

As the suspect was last seen running into the wooded area of Coffee Lane Park (off Gross Road), Brauntton asks neighbors to keep a look out for the missing purse or any other potential evidence.

He also said, "We'd like to talk to anybody that may have contacted him."

Messages for Chief Brauntton can be left at the office of the Capitola Police, 475-4242. □



The suspect was last seen running through Coffee Lane Park off Gross Rd.

Mid-County Post

Mid-County Post