

Suspect

The last time Lois saw Jesse Colter was on the second of May. He had just been paid and was in a hurry to leave town. He told her that he had gotten word he had inherited an oil well in Oklahoma. He was going to be rich. There were going to be legal hassles, though, and lawyers cost money.

Lois (she asked that her last name not be used) hesitantly agreed to help him out and loaned him \$2,000 to cover the legal expenses. He promised her that when he paid her back he would double her investment. He also promised her that they would be married this May.

"The day he left he told me that some men might come looking for him," she said, "and that it would be best if I said that I didn't know him."

The men who came looking for Colter were the Minneapolis Police. They told her that he was a prime suspect in the serial killings of three Indian women in the East Franklin Avenue area between July 1986 and last April. They also told her that his real name was William Glaze. She had lived with him for nearly a year.

There was a lot she didn't know about him. There wasn't an oil well in Oklahoma. He was not a

Choctaw Indian like he had claimed and he was wanted by prison authorities in Texas for a parole violation stemming from a rape conviction.

"He called me a couple of weeks later," she said. "He told me that he was in Albuquerque and that he had part of my money. I told him about the police and the accusations. He told me that he didn't do it."

Glaze was picked up at the end of May in Albuquerque on a drunk driving charge. From there he was transferred to Texas.

Lois recently filed charges with the Hennepin County Attorney's office against Glaze for theft by swindle. Federal charges were also filed against him for alleged Social Security fraud.

The charges were made public when it was announced that a Texas judge was considering releasing Glaze. Those charges would have allowed federal agents to take custody of Glaze and bring him back to Minneapolis to stand trial, but the Texas courts never released him.

Meanwhile, Lois said she doesn't know what to think about the whole affair. "I'm mad at him," she said. "Wouldn't you be? As for the other stuff, I don't

know. I think he needs help. I know that."

She said she remembers how they met in July 1986. They were in a bar called Dollies. She remembers that well, because she doesn't spend much time in bars. She would rather put in extra volunteer time for her local neighborhood organization, which last year voted her "Neighbor of the Year."

"Both of us liked each other right away," she said. "We spent a lot of time together the first three months. After that, he started to change."

He began to object to her attending neighborhood meetings every night. He said he didn't like to be left alone. She told him that she didn't like his drinking. One

night he told her that if she went to her meeting, he wouldn't be there when she returned.

A couple of nights when she came home late, Glaze hit her, she said. "He started to get very depressed," Lois said. "Once he asked me what I would do if I came home and found him hanging by a rope."

On the day police found the body of Kathleen Bullman, the first victim of the alleged serial killer, Lois said she came home from work and Glaze asked her if she had heard about the killing. She said she hadn't. "He told me that the killer had beat her up and had shoved a tree branch up her ass," she said. "That scared me, because later I found out that information was never reported

on the news or in the paper."

After Glaze left her, Lois began to find out other things about him — not all of them from the police. Her 21-year-old daughter told her mother how Glaze had propositioned her. Her son told her that he had seen Glaze in a bar on East Franklin with another woman, an Indian woman that Glaze introduced as his cousin. "They didn't want to tell me that stuff," she said. "They knew it would hurt me."

"He used to tell me that he loved me," Lois said, "but I guess he wasn't very nice to me. I'm not trying to get back at him now. I'm not saying whether I think he killed those girls, but I think he needs help."

— Jeff Hinkle