

Who is this woman?

■ Madison County police think stabbing victim may have had ties to Decatur.

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A mystery woman found dead in Madison County in July may have lived in Decatur, and authorities are asking for help identifying her.

A forensic artist has produced a likeness of the woman, whose badly decomposed body was found by highway workers July 20 in a field outside of Troy. She had been stabbed repeatedly, and authorities think she was killed two or three days before her

body was found.

The woman's death and identity have remained a mystery, but a Troy man has told Madison County sheriff's detectives that he met a woman resembling the artist's likeness in late June or early July. The woman told the man that she was from Decatur, that she had two children whom she had left here with her mother. She also said that she had hitchhiked from Decatur to St. Louis and from there to Troy.

The woman is described as being a white female about 30 years old, 5 feet 4 inches to 5 feet 6 inches, weighing about 125 pounds with auburn hair.

Madison County detective

Leonard Suhry asked anyone with information on the missing woman to contact his office in Edwardsville at (618) 692-6087.

The Troy man, a cab driver, told authorities that the woman's name was Donna. But Suhry cautioned that the name may have been false, or the man's memory may not be clear.

Authorities are not sure that the man's story correlates to the body, and Decatur police have no report of a missing person who fits the description. But Suhry said the possible Decatur link represents the best lead his office has in the case.

The detective said that the age of the body, set at 32 by a foren-



MYSTERY WOMAN: Police believe the woman whose body was found July 20 looked like this facial sculpture.

sic orthodontist and at between 25 and 35 by a pathologist, roughly matches the age of 31 that the woman told the Troy man.