

Cross-Dresser Killed Two Weeks After Town Learned Her True Identity

ROBYNN TYSVER January 1, 1994



HUMBOLDT, Neb. (AP) — A woman who posed as a man and dated women was found shot to death with two other people two weeks after residents of this rural area learned her true identity.

Two men accused of sexually assaulting Teena Brandon were arrested for investigation of murder. But authorities refused to say if the slayings were the result of the assault charges or Brandon's cross-dressing double life.

Friends said Brandon, 21, had posed for two months as a man named Brandon Teena and had told various stories of having an incomplete sex-change operation or of being a hermaphrodite.

"She said she felt like a man inside but she was a female outside," said Authorities had been investigating the kidnapping and assault allegations but did not issue an arrest warrant on them until after the bodies were found, Merz said Saturday.

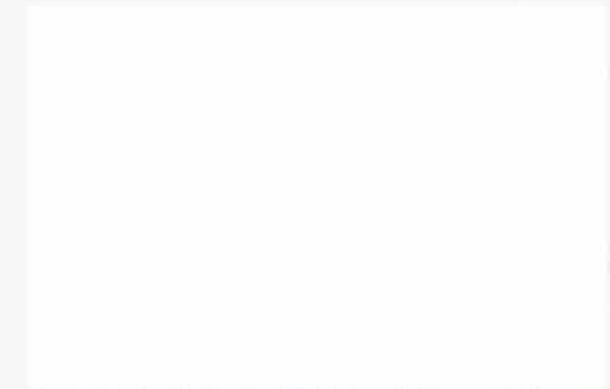
Brandon had lived with Lambert for about three months, but their relationship was unclear, Merz said. Her friends said she moved to the area from Lincoln about three months ago and went by the name Brandon Teena.

Among the women she dated was 19-year-old Lana Tisdell of Falls City, who said she met Brandon at a party in November.

The two dated for about a week, and Tisdell said she thought she was going in a few times to play pool.

In a photo taken in December, the slightly built Brandon looks like an adolescent boy, and Garrett said she demanded identification. She said Brandon produced a driver's license with the name "Brandon Ray Tenna."

Blurred text



Blurred text



Blurred text