

A Disappearance



Michele Wallace was an adventurous young photographer. She was excited when she called her family in August 1974. She was about to set off with her dog, Okee, for a short camping trip in the Rocky Mountains.

There was little reason to worry about her safety. “She was a tough little cookie,” recalled her father, George. “She climbed mountains, jumped out of airplanes, and roped cattle.”

Michele spent the summer photographing the spectacular Colorado landscape.



At the end of her trip, on August 30, 1974, Michele came across two men sitting in a battered car. They were Chuck Matthews, a local **ranch hand** who owned the car, and Roy Melanson, a **drifter**. They offered to give Michele a ride back to her car. She and Okee climbed in.

By the time they reached Michele’s car, Matthews’s car had broken down. So Michele drove the two men into town.

Chuck Matthews got out and thanked Michele. Then Matthews heard Roy Melanson ask Michele for a ride to his car. Matthews thought that was strange. Melanson had told him he did not have a car.

FACT FILE

The Crime

Victim:
Michele Wallace, a photographer living in Gunnison County, Colorado

Age: 25 years old **Motive:** Unknown

Date of Crime: August 30, 1974 **Location:** The Rocky Mountains, Colorado



Michele Wallace