Cold Case From 1982 Cleared

On November 29, 1982 Travis County Deputies responded to Tangleridge Circle (off Circle Dr.) regarding a badly decomposed body found in some brush covered with tree limbs. The initial investigation showed that the death was a homicide. Investigators had no clues as to the identity of the victim and distributed forensic sketches to the media and public asking for help in identifying the victim without success. In May of 2006 Detective Jim Anderson, Sheriff’s Office Cold Case Detective, reviewed the 1982 case and sent evidence to the University of North Texas (UNT) Health Science Center at Fort Worth to see if DNA could be extracted and uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). On January 5, 2009 UNT advised they had a confirmed DNA match between the unidentified person and a submission, from Lee County Sheriff Rodney Meyer, in reference to a missing person identified as,

Houston King Morris, 29.

Detective Anderson contacted the Lee County Sheriff’s Department and found that Sheriff Meyer had human remains, found on November 18, 1984, that was unidentified. In researching missing persons cases Sheriff Meyer found a 1982 homicide that occurred in Houston, Texas where the victim, Houston King Morris, had been dumped somewhere between Houston and Austin. He contacted the family of Mr. Morris and obtained DNA samples and sent them to UNT along with the DNA evidence. The family DNA wasn’t a match to his case but it was a match that cleared a 26 year old Travis County homicide case.

NOTE: According to the Houston Police Department, the suspect was arrested, tried and convicted of murder, without Mr. Morris’ body in September of 1986.

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