



Boulder Jane Doe, Who is She?



Boulder Jane Doe was found on April 8, 1954 by two University of Colorado college students who were hiking through Boulder Falls nine miles west of Boulder, Colorado. When they spotted her they thought it was a mannequin. "We didn't think it could possibly be a human body," one student told a reporter in 1954.

Her nude body found was lying on rocks next to a stream, blackened and bruised. Her skull was fractured, left arm and several ribs broken. She was approximately 5 foot 3 inches tall and weighed 100 pounds. She had strawberry blonde hair and was thought to be between 17 and 20 years old. The coroner estimated she had been dead up to a week and was probably still alive when she was left by the stream.

No personal effects were found, no clothing or jewelry. She had three bobby pins in her hair and an appendectomy scar. She had no cavities.

Her face and hands were damaged by animals. Her facial features and eye color were indeterminable and fingerprints were impossible to retrieve.

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In Memoriam



Fredric Rieders, Ph.D., Renowned Toxicologist

Fredric Rieders, Ph.D. died at his home on Nov. 26, at age 83. A renowned toxicologist, he was Philadelphia's first Chief Toxicologist, a Professor of Pharmacology at Thomas Jefferson University, and the founder of National Medical Services, one of the nation's largest and most respected forensic and clinical toxicology laboratories.

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Bookspan's Bullets

By Dr. Jolie Bookspan, Science Officer of the Vidocq Society

🔍 Diver Murdered His Wife Underwater

A Providence, RI civil trial found dive shop owner David Swain guilty of murdering his wife underwater during a 1999 dive trip to the British Virgin Islands. Swain was found to have killed his wife, Shelley Tyre, in 80 feet of water by turning off her air and holding her down. The motive was to inherit her property. The jury unanimously awarded Shelley Tyre's parents more than \$3.5 million in compensatory and punitive damages for her death. Swain, who had not been criminally charged with her death, says he may appeal.

- This is an advance release of the story that will come out in the April issue of Undercurrent Magazine.

🔍 Human Smell Bank Teaches Dogs to ID criminals

The city of Nanjing in eastern China, has set up the country's first human body odor bank to teach dogs to identify criminals. Only odors that elicit identical reactions from at least three trained crime dogs earn a place in the smell bank. The facility has a collection of 500 different smells. Each smell is kept on ice at minus 0 degrees F (18 degrees Celsius). Bank founder Song Zhenhua estimates that keeping smells at this temperature maintains freshness for at least three years.

- Reuters March 17, 2006

🔍 Man Suffers Eighty Years of Guilt

Pensioner Helmut Bleibtreu turned himself in for a crime he committed 80 years ago.

He told officers at Herne in the Ruhr region of Germany that in 1926 he had planted a firecracker on the line at his local railway station. He suffered a guilty conscience ever since. He said it was the only bad thing he had ever done, and asked what his punishment would be. Officers told him the statute of limitations had passed and that the offence had never been reported. They cautioned Mr Bleibtreu not to do it again.

- From correspondents in Herne, Germany reporting to The Australian, January 30, 2006

🔍 Crimes by the Elderly Increase

Japan has long been seen as one of the world's safest countries. But in the past 15 years, the number of crimes by the elderly has risen sharply. Nearly one in five Japanese is now aged 65 or older. One of Japan's major newspapers, the Asahi, has come out with a report by the National Police Agency data citing crimes by those over age 65. Data show they accounted for more than 10 percent of those arrested or taken into custody for crimes other than traffic violations in 2005, compared with 2.2 percent in 1990. Theft was the most common crime, while 141 elderly people were arrested for murder, more than three times the number in 1990. According to one report by the Asahi, an 81-year-old man was arrested last March on suspicion of strangling his 73-year-old wife to death after a quarrel over food she had prepared. Nearly one-third of the victims of crimes committed by the elderly in 2005 were spouses.

- Reuters, from correspondents in Tokyo January 31, 2006

🔍 Flawed Firearm Forensics

Forensic specialists often testify that finding certain particles means the suspect handled or fired a weapon. Now, scientific studies are finding that someone who

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Bookspan's Bullets

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has never fired a gun could be contaminated by someone who has, that different criminal investigators use contradictory standards, and that particles supposedly unique to gunshot residue (GSR) can be produced other ways. "None of what we do can establish if anybody discharged a firearm," says Ronald Singer, former president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and chief criminalist at the Tarrant county medical examiner's office in Fort Worth, Texas.

Investigators at the Institute of Criminalistics in Prague, Czech Republic, fired test shots in a closed room. They detected "unique" particles up to eight minutes after a shot was fired, and up to two meters away from the shooter. They concluded it was possible for someone entering the scene after a shooting to have more particles on them than a shooter who runs away immediately.

More work shows it is possible to pick up "unique" particles from a non-firearm source, such as industrial tools and fireworks. Car mechanics are at risk of being falsely accused, because some brake linings contain heavy metals, which can form GSR-like particles at the temperatures reached during braking. A study by Bruno Cardinetti and colleagues at the Scientific Investigation Unit of the Carabinieri (Italian Police) in Rome found that composition alone was not enough to tell true GSR particles from particles formed in brake linings. A study reported in 2000 by Debra Kowal and Steven Dowell at the Los Angeles county coroner's department reported that it was possible to be contaminated by police vehicles. Of 50 samples from the back seats of patrol cars, they found 45 particles "consistent" with GSR, and four with "highly specific" GSR particles. They showed that "highly specific" particles could be transferred from the hands of someone who had fired a gun to someone who had not. This doesn't surprise Arvizu, "If I was going to go out and look for gunshot residue, police stations are the places I'd look," she says.

- Forensic Science International, vol 153, p 132, and New Scientist Magazine, 23 November 2005, issue 2527.

Nathan Gordon Elected Penna. Polygraph Examiners Association, President



Nathan Gordon receiving the award from South African Police Commissioner, Daan La Roux

On October 20, 2005, Nathan Gordon, VSM was elected President of the Pennsylvania Polygraph Examiner's Association.

Mr. Gordon is Director and founder of the Academy for Scientific Investigative Training, with 32 years of investigative, administrative and polygraph experience.

After opening the Academy for Scientific Investigative Training in 1980 with Phillip Cochetti. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Cochetti ended their partnership in 1988. Mr. Gordon continued to run the Academy until William Fleisher retired from the U.S. Customs Service and became his new partner.

Mr. Gordon co-authored the book "Effective Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques" with William Fleisher.

Currently he is working with a team of doctors from Temple and Drexel Universities on the use of fMRI in the detection of deception.

Most recently he has helped prove the innocence of two Philadelphia men who spent 18 years in prison for a crime they did not commit.

In 2004 he received his Masters in Criminology from the University of South Africa.

He is a recipient of the Vidocq Medal of Honor for his help in solving the Terri Brooks case and has solved over 25 murders.

Boulder Jane Doe, Who is She?

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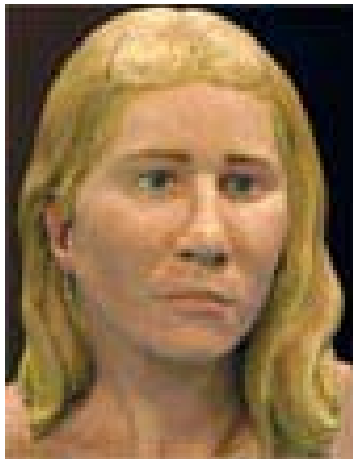
When news that a woman's body had been found reports of missing girls poured in, overwhelming the three man sheriff's department. No leads came from the inquiries.

When city officials announced that they would bury her at Columbia Cemetary in an unmarked grave sympathy came in the form of donations. A patrolman, a laundry owner, an electrician and others donated the \$95 needed for a private plot. A granite company created a headstone, and Howe Mortuary donated the casket and allowed its chapel to be used for the service.

Thirty people attended the service of the unknown woman. During the reading whenever her name would have been mentioned the minister simply paused.

The next day the newspaper headline read: "Will this Grave Mark an Unsolved Mystery?"

Forty-two years later a local historian, Sylvia Pettem, discovered the woman's grave during a "Meet the Spirits" cemetary reenactment. Three years following her discovery Pettem



wrote of the woman in a history column for the Boulder Daily Camera. Her research led to a stack of clippings in the newspaper's archives in the murder files under "U" for unidentified.

After several years of research in collecting information on the unidentified woman Pettem approached the sheriff's department with what she had found. Sheriff Joe Pelle and the detectives although enthusiastic, could not justify using taxpayer's money for such an old case.

On February 4, 2004, Sheriff Pelle announced at a news conference that his department was reopening if enough money could be raised to fund the investigation. Sylvia Pettem then took the microphone and asked the

people of Boulder for help. With sympathy for the victim and her family much the same as in 1954 the citizens of Boulder sent in donations that allowed the case to be reopened.

Almost four months later the victims body was exhumed. Drs. Richard Froede, Walter Birkby, and Robert Goldberg members of the Vidocq Society were on hand to assist with the recovery. During the recovery it was determined that the coffin had collapsed. The recovery took on the air of an archaeological dig as the body was removed one bone at a time. The victim's skull was in fragments and was reassembled by Dr. Birkby. An autopsy was performed by Dr. Froede. The event was filmed for the TV program "Americas Most Wanted." The show has not aired.



In February of 2005 a nuclear DNA profile of the victim was completed by Dr. Todd W. Fenton and his students at Forensic Anthropolgy Laboratory at Michigan State University. In November of the same year a second DNA profile (mitochondrial) was completed confirming the results of the first test. Neither test has resulted in match to a missing person.

Vidocq member Frank Bender completed a bust of the victim based on her skull in the Spring of 2005. The busts on these pages can also be seen on www.boulderjanedoe.com.

Frank Bender noted that similarities in the hair style, age and bust size between Boulder's Jane Doe and Twylia May Embrey who disappeared in the early 1950s are important markers and should not be overlooked. DNA test between Boulder's Jane Doe and a relative of Ms. Embrey have come back without a match. Bender feels that the DNA samples may have been contaminated and that the test should be run again.

Internet Aids in identifying Human Remains

With about 40,000 sets of unidentified remains throughout the nation cataloging and identifying them is a slow process. Even the FBI has only catalogued 5,600 of nations unidentified remains on the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC).

In New Jersey state police forensic anthropologist Donna Fontana, VSM has for the past two years has used the internet to help in her work of identifying the deceased. The state police website displays a photograph of the body along with any possessions found with the body. Fontana's web page lists about 230 unidentified bodies found in New Jersey since the 1970's.

New Jersey state police have never solved a case through their website but have identified two bodies by posting their cases on the Doe Network. The Doe Network is an international center for unidentified and missing persons serving the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe.

The state police had been trying since 1984 to identify the remains of a woman found in Somerset county. They posted the case details and photos of jewelry found with the body on the Doe Network. Within several weeks a family from Michigan searched the website and recognized the jewelry.

According to New Jersey State Police detective John Donegan, "It happens more often than you think, that someone sees something on a web page and makes a call."

According to David Quain VSM, Philadelphia's chief investigator in the medical examiner's office, "We're willing to try anything, but cases are rarely solved through web sites."

Philadelphia is slow to use the internet for identification. It recently started a web site without photographs after being criticized for failing to identify several bodies.

Quain feels that shoe leather and luck get the best results. The Philadelphia morgue has eight full-time investigators who go door to door with photographs looking for someone who may know the deceased. Katrina Johnson called the Philadelphia morgue for two years searching for her sister Unisha Jefferson. Her

sister's body had been at the morgue all along. She wasn't identified until last November after David Quain read about her in the news.

Johnson thinks that if Philadelphia had a web site similar to that of the New Jersey State Police they may have found her sister much sooner.

Fredric Rieders, Ph.D, Renowned Toxicologist

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In recent years, he established and led a charitable foundation for education and research, the Fredric Rieders Family Renaissance Foundation. During a scientific career that spanned more than five decades, Dr. Rieders testified in court as an expert in such cases as the O.J. Simpson murder trial, established Philadelphia's Poison Information Center, lectured internationally, and authored over 120 research and expository publications and book chapters. His numerous awards include the Alexander O. Gettler award, the Thomas Jefferson University Distinguished Alumnus Award, and just last year, an honorary doctorate from Arcadia University.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Fredric Rieders emigrated alone at age 16 to the United States, escaping the holocaust that was to envelope Central Europe. After becoming a US citizen in 1944, he served his country as surgical technician in the 20th Armored Division of the US Army in France and Germany, where he remained for a period after the war as part of the U.S. military government's denazification efforts. After returning to the States, he completed his education at New York University, earning a Master's degree in 1949. In 1952, he received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology at Thomas Jefferson University. Remaining in Philadelphia, Dr. Rieders was recruited to the faculty at Thomas Jefferson and also to his position at the City's Medical Examiners office as Chief Toxicologist, beginning a long career dedicated to science, teaching and service in public health and justice.

Upcoming Vidocq Society Meetings

April, 20, 2006

May 18, 2006

June 15, 2006

September 21, 2006

October 19, 2006

November 16, 2006

Meetings commence at 11:30 am in the
The Down Town Club, (215) 925-2040 - located on the top Floor of the Public Ledger Building
at 6th & Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, across from Independence Hall.

The Vidocq Society
1704 Locust Street, Second Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
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Mystery of the Month

How did Mr. Sherrinford narrowly miss becoming the world's greatest detective?

If you know the answer email us at: paudav1@earthlink.net

Answer to January 2006 Mystery of the Month

The CIA made a deadly poison from shellfish. The media called it "shellfish toxin" during the Congressional investigations of the 70's. A special silent gun which I believe used compressed air or gas as the propellant was also developed to deliver the toxin. (It could be delivered in other ways as well, as by a thin needle.) Shellfish toxin broke down in the body after death, making the cause of death difficult to determine, thus concealing the fact that the victim had been assassinated. — Philip A. Bauso

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