

Vidocq Journal



The Vidocq Society – Solving Unsolved Murders and Cold Cases

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Boulder Jane Doe Identified as Dorothy Gay Howard

By Paul Plevakas, Editor In Chief

A young woman found murdered 54 years ago outside Boulder, Colorado, was identified this year as Dorothy Gay Howard. Mitochondrial DNA comparison with the victim and Dorothy Howard's sister confirmed her identity according to Sheriff Joe Pelle of the Boulder, Colorado Sheriff's Office. Frank Bender's sculpture of her predicted likeness matched closely.

On April 8, 1954, Howard's naked, battered body was discovered by two hikers along the banks of Boulder Creek near Boulder Falls, eight miles west of Boulder, Colorado. The body was disfigured by wild animals and no identification was found. An investigation by the sheriff of who the woman was, and what had happened to her, turned up nothing.

Sympathy for the victim led the people of Boulder to collect donations for her burial, shortly after. A

Seasons Greetings

From William Fleisher, Commissioner

Dear Friends and Family:

It seems like the Holiday season was just last month and now it's here again. But, do you know what? I love this time of year.

Regardless of your religious beliefs, the Holiday Season is a time to reflect, extend kindnesses, exchange gifts of peace and goodwill.

It is also an opportunity to remind family, friends, and colleagues just how important they are to you. It is also the time to make resolutions to be a better person I want all who receive this message to understand how important you are to me. How I cherish your friendship, loyalty and trust. I promise you that I will do everything in my power to be a better friend and colleague to each and every one of you. I am proud to be a Vidocqian.





Bookspan's Bullets by Jolie Bookspan, MEd, PhD, FAWM, VSM

Welcome to "Bookspan's Bullets" by Dr. Bookspan, Science Officer. Each issue brings you fast forensic news and education. Enjoy.



Man in Breathalyzer Costume Gets DUI

On Halloween night 2009, James P. Miller, 20 was stopped by Oxford Ohio police for driving the wrong way on a one-way street. Miller was dressed as a breathalyzer device for measuring blood alcohol. Police found beer in his front seat and car trunk. Upon testing by breathalyzer, Miller was found to have a level of 0.158. The legal limit for driving is a blood-alcohol level of .08. Miller was arrested and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, underage possession of alcohol, having an open container and a fake ID, and a one-way street violation.

—Source: www.cbsnews.com



Forensic Nursing

Forensic nursing is a medical specialty. Nurses may specialize in areas of domestic violence, child and elder abuse, and patients injured violently. They may assist in death investigations, work with criminals in prison, counsel schoolchildren who fire guns, work as sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs), and may train to serve as legal nurse consultants or attorneys.

Faye Battiste-Otto, RN, of American Forensic Nurses, works with law enforcement agencies in four counties. She states, "Hospitals don't like to hear this, but it is becoming necessary because of the increase in crime. Forensic nurses are especially needed in the emergency room to gather and package evidence. Nurses are taught to cleanse a wound, but if it's a suspect in a criminal case, we are washing away valuable evidence," she said. "Hospitals need to learn that throwing away valuable evidence is costing taxpayers a lot of money."

The term forensic nursing was officially coined in 1992 in Minneapolis when 70 nurses gathered for what was billed as the first national convention for sexual assault nurses.

— Sources: International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN): www.iafn.org; www.nurseweek.com/



Are You Too Quick In Presuming Death?

This is the second in a series of documented cases where individuals pronounced dead were still alive; some were left to die from withholding required care on the scene, others killed by autopsy, dissection, or embalming their presumed corpse. Still others are confirmed to have been buried alive. Marjorie Halcrow Erskine died in 1674 in Chirnside, Scotland, and was buried in a shallow grave. Records state that the sexton returned later to steal her jewelry. While he was in process of cutting off her finger to retrieve her ring, she revived. She lived a number of years more and gave birth to two sons. No further information was available about the sexton.



Man Steals Woman's Car On First Date

At a Buffalo Wild Wings in Detroit, a man told his date that he had left his wallet in her car. He asked for her keys, then drove away in her 2000 Chevrolet Impala, without paying for his dinner. The woman says she knew the man only as "Chris" and they had met at a Detroit casino a week earlier. Police identified 23-year-old Terrance Dejuan McCoy by a photo he had previously sent to the woman's cell phone, with his own number. McCoy was charged with a five-year felony for unlawfully taking the car. He waived preliminary exam and was bound over for trial.

— Source: AP News



Forensic Web Site

ForensicMag.com is a free on-line trade forensic publication. It is published 6 times a year. It includes articles, webinars, job board, advertising, buyers guide, industry news, and videos.

— Source: <http://www.forensicmag.com>



Forensic Quotation

"Forensic Science can be defined as the application of the laws of nature to the laws of man."

— Michael J. Camp, (quoted by P. ChandraSekharan in, *Indian Journal of Forensic Sciences* Vol 5, April 1991, No. 2, p. 37.)

Boulder Jane Doe Identified as Dorothy Gay Howard

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gravestone was erected at her grave that reads, "Jane Doe, April 1954, Age about 20 years."

In 1996, Silvia Pettem, a columnist came across the grave marked "Boulder Jane Doe" at a "Meet the Spirits" event in Columbia Cemetery. Pettem became focused on the unidentified person buried beneath the gravestone. "I was intrigued by the mystery of the unidentified woman, but when I learned that she had been a murder victim and her killer not only took her life but also her identity, I became indignant that Jane Doe was buried without her name."

Pettem contacted the Boulder Sheriff to request that they reopen the Boulder Jane Doe case. Pettem helped raise funds for exhumation and forensic work, and contacted the Vidocq Society. In early 2004, Vidocq Society doctors Richard Froede, Walter Birkby, and Robert Goldberg, worked on exhumation and autopsy of the skeletal remains. Dr. Birkby reassembled the skull, which was in small pieces due to earth compaction. Vidocq founding member Frank Bender produced a forensic reconstructive sculpture from the skull in the Spring of 2005.

Michelle Marie Fowler, Howard's great-niece had been searching for her great aunt and followed events on the website www.boulderjanedoe.com. A person thought to be the murder victim was identified as Katherine Farrand Dyer. However, Dyer was later discovered living in Australia. With Boulder Jane Doe's identity still uncertain, Fowler contacted lead investigator Detective Steve Ainsworth and presented information she had on her great aunt.

In February of 2005, a nuclear DNA profile of the victim was completed by Dr. Todd W. Fenton and his students at Forensic Anthropology Laboratory at Michigan State University. DNA comparison was of a sample taken from Howard's younger sister Marlene Howard Ashman, and a DNA profile of the victim completed in 2005, establishing a match and verifying identity of Boulder Jane Doe.

The family was notified on October 23, 2009. Howard's younger sister Marlene Howard Ashman said Howard was extremely strong-willed and lived quite a life in her 18 years, including marrying twice. "Once she

decided on a course, it would take heaven and earth to stop her."

Howard was the oldest of three sisters born in the Texas Panhandle. The parents moved the family to Phoenix in 1942 for "greener pastures."

At age 15, Howard married her first husband with her parents' permission, but divorced and remarried unbeknown to her family. The family found out about the second marriage years after Howard disappeared. The last her family heard from her, Howard was working as a live-in nanny in Phoenix. The family reported her missing when she didn't show up to take one of her sisters to the movies.

Because Howard was strong willed, and had run away from home once before, Ashman said the family thought she didn't want to see them again. "We always waited to hear from her," she said.

Ashman still has a letter that her sister wrote to her parents soon before she disappeared. "She just said, 'Here's some money to help out.' She signed it, 'Love always, Dot.'"

Case Still Open

Dorothy's killer has not been identified and the case remains open. Detective Ainsworth has built a circumstantial case against Harvey Glatman, a serial killer known as the "The Lonely Hearts Killer" who admitted killing three women between 1957 and 1958 in California.



*Dorothy Gay Howard,
9th Grade*



*Dorothy Gay Howard,
Undated*



*Frank Bender's Sculpture of
Boulder Jane Doe*

Vidocq Society 2009 Awards



Medal design of Eugène François Vidocq by Frank Bender



L - R: Commissioner William Fleisher announces Special Achievement Awardees: Dr. Haskell Askins, Dr. Peter Hahn, Paul Plevakas. Joseph O'Kane, VSM, at right, assists.



Honorable Lynne Abraham, Philadelphia District Attorney, recipient of the Vidocq Society 2009 Person of the Year Award, with Paul Plevakas, Special Achievement awardee and Editor-In-Chief of the Vidocq Journal.



Frank Bender, founding member and recipient of the 2009 Halbert Fillinger Lifetime Achievement Award.

Letter From the Honorable Lynne Abraham Thanking the Society for Her Award



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October 26, 2009

Commissioner William Fleisher
The Vidocq Society
1704 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6177

Dear Bill:

It is impossible to convey deeper thanks to you and my fellow Vidocqians than I did last night, except by reiterating some of the same sentiments this morning. The dinner was a truly exceptional experience. Last year I couldn't attend as my husband Eddie had a stroke on October 15th, 2008 and he was in critical condition in Jefferson Hospital. This year, although my best partner ever was gone, I was able to attend with full heart and much appreciation.

The magnificent award you provided to me will be one that will always carry with it special meaning. It is made more important to me because the medal was fashioned by our own Frank Bender, as he has done in the past with the Vidocq statue and larger medal with the French Tricolor Ribbon. Probably what made the medal presentation more poignant was the fact that Frank confided in me shortly before you made the presentation to him of the Halbert Fillinger Award for Lifetime Achievement, that he had terminal mesothelioma and would be dead in 8 months or so. While I tried to console him, he, not uncharacteristically, said that he had lived a good life, did what he wanted to, felt fulfilled, etc, I know, however, that at 68, or so, his life has never reached its true potential. Who knows, maybe the powers that be will give him extra time so that Frank can experience more of what life promises us, but on a very short lease term? It was so thoughtful of you to say things about Frank while he was there to bask in the afterglow of expressions that one has lead a worthy and meaningful life and contributed to the welfare of others over oneself and is truly loved. I am going to visit him today, so we can chat a bit more privately, and because he wants to give me his book--with his autograph.

The roster of all of the other honorees was impressive indeed, and each has contributed to the value of the Society. That I would be so honored is a joy, but that I also received the extra added bonus of being included in that company of Vidocq stalwarts, was really special. I was also moved to recognize Bill Kelly and his team of resolute men who continue to search for the "boy in the box" killer, after more than 52 years. Now, that's tenacity!

For icing on the cake, to be able to enjoy a beautiful, warm and delightful early Fall evening with so many "old friends" and new, set in the extraordinarily beautiful surroundings provided by the Pen-Ryn Home and Estate, was just fabulous to behold.

Please extend my sincere thanks to all who put the evening's festivities together and a special "Thank You" to you, Bill and my fellow Vidocqians, once more. I look forward to wherever I will land next, certain in the knowledge that I will be attuned always to the precepts that Vidocq established for us whether in law enforcement, or other pursuits.

Kindest regards,



Lynne Abraham

Boulder Jane Doe Identified as Dorothy Gay Howard

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Glatman was arrested on October 27, 1958 for the assault on Lorraine Vigil. After his arrest, police found a toolbox full of photos depicting women tied and gagged. Some were clothed, some not. Most, Glatman took himself. When asked whether these other women were still alive told police, "Yes, unless they've been run over."

Glatman showed the Los Angeles Police the location of the women's bodies. He gave police a detailed statement of how the crimes were committed. Glatman is suspected of killing more women than the three he admitted to. Glatman gave accurate details of his victims, remembering their names and hometowns. When asked about the one of his victims, Glatman told police, "I didn't mark her name down and never saw her again." Detective Ainsworth believes this victim could have been Dorothy Howard.

Detective Ainsworth called Frank Bender after identification was made, and said, "All along, you said that when she would be identified, she would have blue eyes, and you were right!"

Glatman was found guilty of first degree murder and executed in the gas chamber of San Quentin State Prison on September 18, 1959.

For Dorothy Howard's family, the searching is over. Rather than bringing comfort, learning Dorothy's fate has brought new anguish. "I'm sorry in a way that my parents never found out what happened to her," Ashman said, "but I'm also relieved they didn't find out how she died."

Ashman has a message for the people of Boulder, who buried her sister and watched over her. "Please thank them for taking care of her. They must be very nice people."

More information on those involved in identifying Boulder Jane Doe, the history of the case, and her possible killer can be found in the book "Someone's Daughter" and website www.boulderjanedoe.com. This case was featured in an episode of "America's Most Wanted" <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2669606/>.

Seasons Greetings

From William Fleisher, Commissioner

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Let us all pray for our armed forces men and women serving in harms way will soon "have peace on earth and goodwill to all."

I send this message to understand how important you are to me. How I cherish your friendship, loyalty and trust. I promise you that I will do everything in my power to be a better friend and colleague to each and every one of you.

The one thing I have learned in life is that we are all in this together. So, I extend my warmest wishes that you have a Healthy, Happy and Joyous Holiday and a Prosperous New Year.

Peace Be With You,
William Fleisher, Commissioner
Vidocq Society

Update, Bill Kelly

Bill Kelly, VSM, recently fractured his hip and pelvis. Please take a moment to send a card or give Bill a call. Below is a note from his daughter with contact information:

Dear Mr. Fleisher,
Thank you for sending out this information for my father, Bill Kelly. Thank you for all your care and concern. My father is progressing nicely and is working hard in Rehab. He has been moved from Moss to Lafayette-Redeemer Room 325. His current phone number is 215-214-3860. Please know how much it means to him to talk to you.



Congratulations to VSM George Cronin, PhD on Receiving the Richard Block Dissertation Award for Homicide Research

George Cronin, PhD, was announced this month as the inaugural winner of the [Richard Block Dissertation Award for Homicide Research](#) from Temple University, College of Liberal Arts, Department of Criminal Justice. Dr. Cronin graduated with a PhD from the Department of Criminal Justice in 2008 with a dissertation titled **“Structural and Situational Determinants of Homicide in Rural Pennsylvania.”**

The Richard Block Award is presented to a graduate with an outstanding dissertation on homicide or lethal violence, and will be awarded every year by the Homicide Research Working Group, a national body dedicated to collaborative, interdisciplinary research on lethal and non-lethal violence. Each recipient receives a monetary award of \$500 and a plaque commemorating his/her achievement. Dr Cronin’s dissertation (chaired by Professor Jerry Ratcliffe, Criminal Justice) built on his long career as a homicide investigator with the Pennsylvania State Police. The award was presented at the 2009 meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA, last week.



Dr. Cronin is shown with Professor Richard Block, for whom the award is named in recognition of his long career in homicide research.

Solve The Mystery

A new mystery each issue

Q. By what physiologic descriptor do we know that all Santa's reindeer pulling the sleigh are female?

Super-sleuths, send your verdicts to
Dr. Bookspan, science editor

Solution to July 2009 Solve the Mystery:

Q. *When was forensic linguistics first used?*

A. Forensic linguistics was first used in an analysis of a suspect statement in 1968 by a Swedish linguist by the name of Jan Svartvik. However, it did not make its first appearance in court in any serious way until the 1990’s.

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