

# CRIME HUNTER: Puzzling Michigan cold case finally solved

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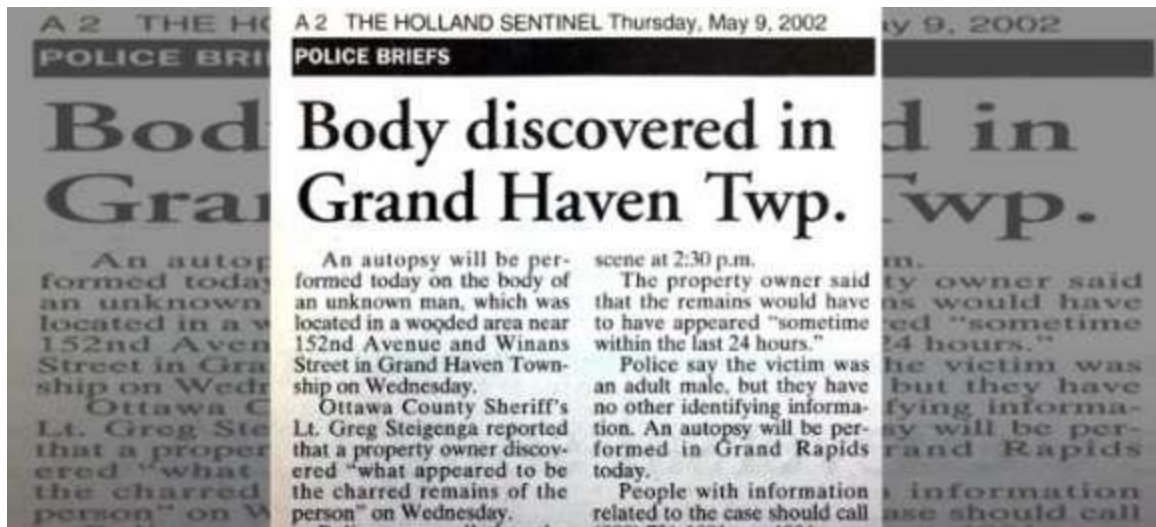
For more than a decade, murder victim Roberto Caraballo did not have a name. Instead, cops called him Jack in the Box.

It was a darkly whimsical touch.

The man with his head bashed in and burned beyond recognition lying dead in a small wooded area near a Michigan blueberry field needed more than whimsy.

But whimsy it was and detectives skipped the usual John Doe and tagged the corpse Jack in the Box for a bit of personality.

Almost from the moment in May 2002, when the battered corpse was discovered by a farmer, cops were up against the wall.



How the Holland Sentinel covered the slaying.

The crime scene was a long ways from the mean streets of Detroit. It was discovered in pastoral Ottawa County in western Michigan.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

What was left of the man was located in a metal foot locker that had been torched.

There was no ID, no match to local or state missing persons reports.

But from the beginning, detectives believed the unfortunate departed had been murdered elsewhere and dumped.

The ruling was homicide due to blunt force trauma.

And then, a first-class, one-way ticket to Nowheresville. Without a name, cops were unlikely to get far catching a killer.

“For a long time this investigation sat stagnant until some clues started to come in,” said Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Kempker.



**Cops say Beverly McCallum, her daughter Dineane Ducharme and her friend Christopher McMillan murdered Caraballo. McMillan,**

Help came via a college film studies documentary on the case called Jack in the Box.

“They found the information on the internet, reached out to our detectives and the case took off from there,” Kempker told reporters this week.

Somewhere along the line the publicity twiggged some cloudy memories.

And in April 2015, Jack in the Box got his name back: He was Roberto Caraballo of Charlotte, Michigan.

He was 37-years-old at the time of his demise.

“This is where several of our tips and clues came from once family members began to search for clues or any information that may have led to resolve the death of (Caraballo),” Kempker said.

Det. Bob Donker believed Caraballo had been murdered somewhere in neighbouring Eaton County. Donker and Eaton County Det. Jim Maltby investigated the case.



**It is believed Beverly McMullan, far right, was the ringleader.**

With an investigation that led them to Florida and Michigan, cops finally found what they were looking for in the basement of a house on Horatio St. in Charlotte.

Forensics told the tale; that's where Caraballo died.

At the time of his death, he had been married to a woman named Beverly McCallum.

This week, cops announced that McCallum, now 58, her daughter Dineane Ducharme, 38, and her friend Christopher McMillan, 40, have been charged in Caraballo's murder.

The trio have been charged with homicide, conspiracy to commit homicide and disinterment and mutilation of a dead body.