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Holly Jo Glynn (September 11, 1966 – September 20, 1987)^[1] was a formerly unidentified [American](#) woman who is believed to have committed [suicide](#) in September 1987 by [jumping off a cliff](#) in [Dana Point, California](#). Her body remained unidentified until 2015,^{[2][3]} when concerns previously expressed by friends of Glynn that the unidentified woman may have been their childhood friend, whom they had been unable to locate for several years, were proven to be true.^[4]

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Discovery[\[edit\]](#)

At 6:40 on the morning of September 20, 1987, the body of a young [Caucasian](#) woman was discovered by joggers at the base of a cliff at Dana Point, California. Her body had no form of identification on her possession, although at the top of the cliff, investigators discovered a half consumed can of Coca-Cola, a purse containing small change, a packet of cigarettes, matches, and two maps of [Southern California](#). On the rear of one of these maps was written the telephone number of a local taxi firm in addition to other notations she had written, indicating she may have asked several individuals for directions.



Original [facial reconstruction](#) of the Dana Point Jane Doe

Distinguishing characteristics[\[edit\]](#)

An examination of her remains indicated that death had occurred approximately two hours before her body was discovered, and that she was between 18 and 23 years old when she had died. She wore a tan dress, men's underwear and turquoise-colored canvas shoes, all of which were believed to have either been second-hand clothing or hand-me-downs.^[6]

The woman had been between 5 feet 3 inches (1.60 m) to 5 feet 8 inches (1.73 m) in height, and weighed 127 pounds (58 kg). She had freckles, and her hair was [strawberry-blond](#) or light brown and long, reaching to the middle of her back. Her body had no distinctive tattoos, scarred tissue, or [birthmarks](#), although she did have healed [acne](#) marks on her upper back and shoulder.^{[6][5]} Nonetheless, the woman had pierced ears, and had received several distinctive [dental fillings](#) in both her upper and lower jaw.^[7]

A further examination of her remains revealed she may have been pregnant or undergone a [dilation and curettage](#) procedure at one time during her life,^{[4][5]} and may have also worn [braces](#) in her childhood or adolescence.^[7]

Eyewitness accounts[\[edit\]](#)

Investigators contacted the taxi firm written on the map found at the top of the cliff from where the woman had either fallen or jumped to her death; they subsequently spoke with a driver who informed them he had provided transportation to a female who matched the description of the decedent^[3] sometime between 3 and 4 a.m. on September 20. The woman had asked to be picked up from a Unocal Station in [Mission Viejo](#) in southern [Orange County](#),^[8] requesting to be driven to [Laguna Beach](#), or as far as the \$18 she had in her possession would take her. According to the taxi driver, the woman had informed him that her car had broken down close to the gas station from where he had picked her up, but had otherwise been largely uncommunicative throughout the remainder of her journey in his taxi, although he did note she seemed very unhappy in demeanor.^[4] This driver further informed investigators he had dropped the young woman off at the Chart House near the intersection of Cove Road and Scenic Drive, and that he had last seen her walking in the direction of the cliff where her body had been found.^{[5][8]}

Before entering the taxi, the woman had earlier been seen at the Unocal Station in question, and had used the bathroom at the premises. Investigators would also discover that the woman had earlier entered a nearby [Hampton Inn](#) and asked a clerk if there were any "high end hotels" in the area.^[6]



2014 reconstruction of the Dana Point Jane Doe, created by the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)

Further investigation^[edit]

From all evidence discovered at the scene of the death, investigators believed that the woman had climbed over a fence at the edge of the cliff and deliberately jumped to her death.^[9] As such, her death was ruled a suicide. Nonetheless, other theories initially remained, including the possibility she may have been pushed from the cliff, or had accidentally fallen.^[3] She had initially survived the fall, and had moved somewhat before her death, leaving impressions similar to that of a [snow angel](#).^[8] The dead woman would colloquially become known in the press and other media as the Dana Point Jane Doe.

The purse in the Dana Point Jane Doe's possession was [embossed](#) with a woman's name: Carol L. Pinkham. Authorities proceeded to trace all women who had this name; all of whom were found to be still alive. One of these women informed investigators that she had had a purse of this description stolen some 12 years earlier, in 1975.^{[6][7][n.1]}

In efforts to trigger recognition from those who may have seen the victim in life, a [composite drawing](#) of the woman was created by a forensic artist from the Orange County Police Department.^[2] Nonetheless, despite these efforts, the woman remained unidentified, and her death gradually became a [cold case](#).^[n.2]

Identification^[edit]

The Orange County Sheriff's Department Coroner Division subsequently contacted surviving relatives of Holly Glynn and obtained [DNA](#) samples for formal comparison with the Dana Point Jane Doe. ^[12] It was eventually announced by [Unsolved Mysteries](#) that, via this technique of [DNA analysis](#), the Dana Point Jane Doe had been Holly Jo Glynn. ^{[1][2]}

See also[\[edit\]](#)

- The Doe Net
- Unidentified

- **California portal**

Notes[[edit](#)]

1. **Jump up**[^] Pinkham did not know who had committed the theft, and no person has ever been charged with this offense. No evidence exists as to how Glynn came into possession of this purse, or to her committing the theft.^[10]
2. **Jump up**[^] The [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) would later release a further rendering of Dana Point Jane Doe in 2014.^[5]
3. **Jump up**[^] The Facebook "Help ID Me" page is managed by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

References[edit]

1. ^ Jump up to:^a^b *"Jane Doe"*. unsolved.com. [Unsolved Mysteries](#). 2015. Retrieved 19 June 2015.
2. ^ Jump up to:^a^b^c^d *"87-04457-FL"*. OCSO.org. Orange County Sheriff Department. Retrieved 25 May 2015.
3. ^ Jump up to:^a^b^c *"Identity Of Dana Point "Jane Doe" Still A Mystery Twenty-Five Years Later"*. letsfindthem.wordpress.com. Retrieved 12 July 2014.
4. ^ Jump up to:^a^b^c^d *"Did a woman fall to her death off a cliff or was she murdered?"*. unsolved.com. [Unsolved Mysteries](#). Retrieved 12 July 2014.
5. ^ Jump up to:^a^b^c^d^e *"Jane Doe 1987"*. missingkids.org. [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#). Retrieved 12 August 2014.
6. ^ Jump up to:^a^b^c *"Case File: 23UFCA"*. doenetwork.org. [The Doe Network](#). Retrieved 12 July 2014.
7. ^ Jump up to:^a^b^c *"Dana Point Jane Doe, CA"*. meyahna.tripod.com. Retrieved 12 July 2014.
8. ^ Jump up to:^a^b^c^d Brazil, Jeff (26 April 1994). *"The Search for Names of the Dead: Orange County has a striking number of John and Jane Does who were neither poor nor loners. Many left clues--a*

room key, a bus ticket--that torment investigators trying to find out who they were". Los Angeles Times. Retrieved 3 January 2015.

9. **Jump up**[^] *"Dana Point : Body of Young Woman Found in Dana Point".* Los Angeles Times. 21 September 1987. Retrieved 14 October 2014.
10. **Jump up**[^] Needham, John (17 August 1989). *"ID-ing the Dead : Bodies of John and Jane Does Trigger Special Concern Among 34 Members of Coroner's Office".* Los Angeles Times. Retrieved 6 October 2014.
11. **Jump up**[^] *"It's History: Murder He Wrote".* Dana Point Times. March 10, 2016. Retrieved May 20, 2017.
12. **Jump up**[^] *"Is Dana Point Jane Doe Holly Glynn of Whittier Elementary?".* jbrwdi.forumotion.com.

External links^{[[edit](#)]}



Wikimedia Commons has
media related to *[Holly
Glynn](#)*.

- *[Holly Glynn](#)* at *[Find a Grave](#)*
- *[Contemporary article](#)* pertaining to the identification of Holly Jo Glynn

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