

Cold case victim 'Daisy Doe's' identity discovered, along with 'strange' tale involving other killings

By COREY JONES World Staff Writer | Posted: Saturday, March 14, 2015 12:00 am



Jeanette Ellen Coleman, or "Daisy Doe"

VICTIMJeanette Ellen Coleman, or “Daisy Doe”: A daisy tattoo on the shoulder led to the nickname prior to her body being identified.

A cold case homicide victim dubbed “Daisy Doe” — who was found tied to a concrete block in the Grand Neosho River below the Fort Gibson Dam nearly three decades ago — was identified by investigators this week after they realized her hands were preserved in cold storage.

Cherokee County Undersheriff Jason Chennault spoke with the Tulsa World on Friday regarding Daisy Doe’s “strange” story — one that involves connections by association to multiple homicides — in the hope that tipsters will come forward to help them solve her killing.

Chennault said a woman’s body tied around the waist to a concrete block was found in the river in May 1988. Investigators, unable to determine who she was, referred to her as Daisy Doe because she had a daisy tattoo on her shoulder, Chennault said.

On Tuesday, Chennault said she was positively identified as Jeanette Ellen Coleman, who was 31 when she died. He noted that her husband was Charles Troy Coleman, whom he called a serial killer. Charles Coleman, who was executed at age 43 in 1990, was the first inmate to die by lethal injection in Oklahoma.

Chennault said that a couple months ago, he and an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent began preparing for a Daisy Doe presentation to cold case detectives at an upcoming meeting. As they gathered evidence, the state Medical Examiner's Office discovered that the woman's hands were in cold storage, Chennault said.

"I'm not real sure why her hands were separated from her body," he said. "That wasn't an injury from her murder."

New technology allowed investigators to take fingerprints, which they then determined matched those of a woman who was arrested in connection with a 1979 Muskogee County double fatal shooting during a house burglary but who was never charged — Jeanette Ellen Coleman.

Charles Coleman was convicted of and executed for the murder of John Seward during the break-in. Seward's wife, Roxie, also was killed. Charles Coleman was accused of Roxie Seward's slaying and one other homicide but was never convicted of those slayings, according to Tulsa World archives, which reported details of his violent crime spree.

After his arrest in the Seward slayings, Charles Coleman escaped from the Muskogee County Jail and fled to Luther. There, he handcuffed a police officer in his patrol car and slit his throat, but the officer survived.

Charles Coleman then came to the Tulsa area, where he fatally shot a man and stole his vehicle. He was apprehended in Arizona after he abducted a sheriff's deputy there.

Chennault said investigators ultimately determined that Jeanette Coleman didn't have anything to do with the Muskogee County slayings, which occurred nine years before her body was discovered.

Charles Coleman was behind bars awaiting his execution when her body was found.

Now the next step is to find out who killed her and why, Chennault said. Her last known address was in Muskogee in 1979.

"She's been unidentified for 27 years," Chennault said, noting that investigators are struggling to find someone in the area who was familiar with her. "It's going to be tough to work against the time."

Authorities on Thursday were able to notify her next of kin — a sister in Bakersfield, California. Charles and Jeanette Coleman originally were from California and came to Oklahoma in the late 1970s, Chennault said.

He added that Charles Coleman was charged in Bakersfield during the mid-1970s with killing Jeanette Coleman's father. He was tried and acquitted, and the couple left California shortly thereafter, Chennault said.

"It's weird; it's strange," Chennault said. "It really is."

The Daisy Doe presentation was made Wednesday to law enforcement personnel in Oklahoma City before the unanticipated revelation of her identity. Now Chennault hopes publicity about her story will lead to tips.

Anyone with information about Jeanette Coleman is asked to contact Chennault at 918-456-2583 or call 918-456-0653 to speak with OSBI Special Agent Vicky Lyonn.

Source: Tulsa World

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/crimewatch/cold-case-homicide-victim-daisy-doe-s-identity-discovered-as/article_a4ca45bc-0eeb-56ee-8db9-cba1b41500ae.html

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