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Remains Found in Car Linked to Mysterious 1978 Missing Teens Case

Jan 23, 2015, 4:50 PM ET

By MEGHAN KENEALLY via GOOD MORNING AMERICA

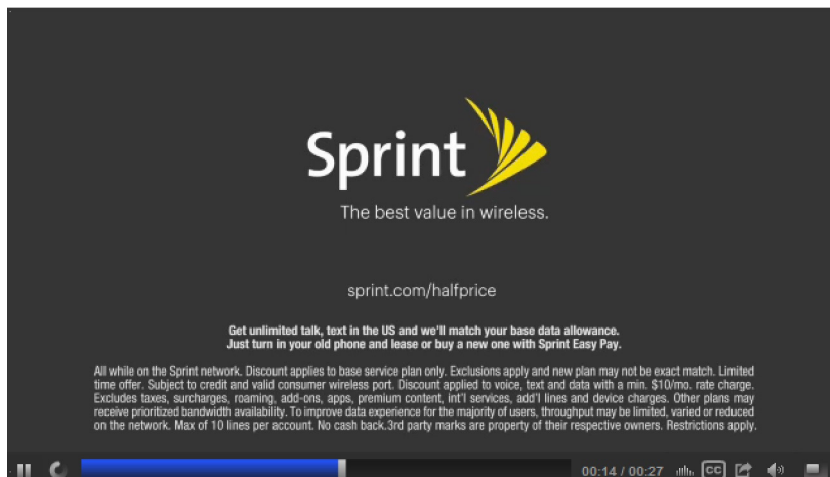
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A second search of the Florida canal where a 1969 Dodge was found has led to the discovery of human remains at the scene, police said today.

Harry "Wade" Atchison, 19, and his friend Dana Null, 15, were last seen driving away from his home in his car on the night of Oct. 7, 1978, and the first break in the case in decades came when his car was found on Wednesday.

Now, a dive team has recovered bones, police said, though they need to be tested by the medical examiner's office before any DNA matches can be confirmed. Atchison's sister, Donna Amaya, told ABC News that the investigator said the bones were from the lower half of person's body, "like a femur," but she was not given any further information.

Amaya said the discovery of her brother's car was when she truly believed that her brother was dead, and now after the discovery of remains, "it's a whole different ballgame."




"When I first got the call, I was kind of stunned, I guess you could say," Amaya said of when she learned that her brother's car was found at the bottom of a canal. "Afterwards, in letting the extended family know about it, it finally sunk in."

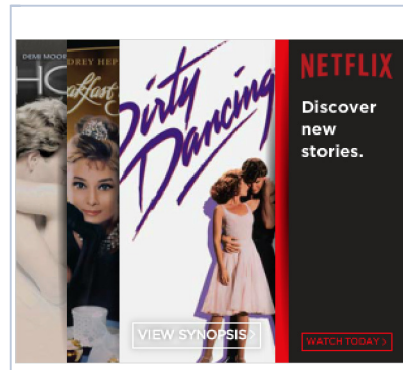
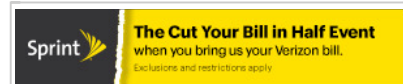
Car Found in South Florida Canal Connected to 1978 Missing Persons Case

The mystery deepened with a lack of evidence, delays in reporting the situation and police protocols that kept Atchison's parents from filing a missing person's report since their son was 19 and no longer a minor at the time he vanished.

Both Atchison's parents and Null's parents have since died but both have sisters who were notified when the car was discovered by a sanitation worker in the town of Sunrise on Wednesday.

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...ce have no firm timeline of the hours leading up to the teens' disappearance but Atchison's ...ives were able to get an understanding of what happened after talking to his friends.



PHOTO: Harry "Wade" Atchison and his sister, Donna Amaya, are pictured in this undated photo.

Amaya said that she wasn't sure if he and Null were dating but the pair definitely knew each other since they both lived in the same mobile home park.

"I don't know if they met through friends or through schools even though they went to different schools but they lived the same neighborhood," she said.

On Oct. 7, 1978, Atchison's parents were in New York visiting Amaya, who is three years older than her brother.

Atchison went to a concert with Null, and, like so much in this case, there are conflicting reports about the show, Amaya said. Many local reports placed the pair at a Foreigner concert but Amaya said that they actually went to a **Journey** concert, and she knows that because they have the ticket stubs.

From there, Atchison reportedly had friends over to his house for a "get-together" since his parents were out of town, his sister said.

"Wade and Dana got into an argument and my brother jumped into the car to blow off steam and she ended up jumping in the car with him," Amaya told ABC News.

By the time her parents got back to Florida after a week in New York, they couldn't get in touch with him and heard what happened the night of the party. When his father went to the police station to file a missing persons' report, he was turned away because Atchison wasn't a minor, Amaya recalled.

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PHOTO: A photograph of Dana Null before she went missing on Oct. 1978, left, and an age-progressed image of what she may look like at age 48, right.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

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