## The long road to identifying the 'Orange Socks' murder victim as an Abilene woman

by Nick Bradshaw
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ABILENE, Texas — It was October 31, 1979, and a young woman only wearing orange socks was found dead in a ditch off of I-35 in Georgetown.

"'Orange Socks' has been identified as a Ms. Debra Jackson, Debra Jackson was a 23-year-old white female from Abilene, Texas," said Williamson County Sheriff Robert Chody at a press conference on Wednesday.

Jackson went missing in 1977, but she was never reported missing because it was not unusual for her to leave home and not make contact with family members.

After seeing the sketch of "Orange Socks" on the news almost 40 years later, Jackson's sister came forward, thinking that the sketch might have been one of her missing sibling.

When Social Security activity on Jackson was pulled, there had been no signs of activity since 1979.

Officials told KTXS that Jackson lived in Abilene, Amarillo and Azle, Texas.

Records show that Jackson worked at a hotel in Amarillo in 1978 and also at an assisted living facility in Azle during the same year.

Chody said that detectives spent over 1,000 hours investigating the case.

In 2017, a new team was assigned to the "Orange Socks" case and a sketch based off of DNA results was released.

After seeing the sketch on the news nearly 40 years later, Jackson's sister came forward, believing that the sketch may have been one of her long-missing sister.

"The identity process was made with Debra Jackson and orange socks photos obtained from family members were compared to images of 'Orange Socks,'" Chody said.

On Wednesday, because of family reaching out and DNA testing, authorities were finally able to identify the woman known for almost 40 years as "Orange Socks."

Henry Lee Lucas, who claimed to have killed 600 people, took responsibility for Jackson's murder, was convicted of her murder and was given the death sentence.

However, Lucas came back and said that he lied about being responsible for Jackson's murder and many other murders.

Then-Governor of Texas George W. Bush commuted Lucas' sentence to life in prison.

Lucas died behind bars in 2001.

Law enforcement officials believe that Jackson was strangled and they are asking for help in solving the case of her murder.

If anybody has any information on Jackson's murder, they can call the Williamson County Sheriff's Office at 512-943-1300 or 512-864-8282.

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