

Body found on Bolt Mountain positively identified as that of woman who went missing in 1977

- [Jessica Farrish | The Register-Herald](#)
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Police said Tuesday that they have positively identified the body of a woman found on Bolt Mountain in 1993 as that of Margaret “Margie” Dodd, a 27-year-old bank employee who was reportedly abducted from Beaver in 1977.

Dodd, who was originally from Akron, Ohio, had left her job at Cardinal Bank in Beckley and was driving to her Shady Spring home when she pulled her vehicle into an abandoned gas station in Beaver on Sept. 7, 1977, and was reportedly abducted by two unknown male suspects.

Based on the circumstances of her disappearance, Raleigh County Sheriff’s Office Capt. Larry Lilly reported Tuesday, she’d been officially declared dead.

Lilly said he and a team of investigators, including former Beckley Police Department Chief Detective Frank Pack and West Virginia State Police Sgt. R.A. Daniel, will be working to identify the person or persons responsible for her death.

Pack was the original investigator on the Dodd case in 1977.

Police asked anyone with information on Dodd’s disappearance to contact police.

“Circumstances change in people’s lives,” said Lilly. “People who were loyal to the offenders in this case may not be so loyal now.

“Hopefully, these people will reconsider now,” he added. “I’m sure somebody knows something.

“Maybe... they’ll be more willing to come forward than they were in 1977.”

RCSO Chief Deputy J.C. Canaday said any bit of information is important.

“It’s important people don’t try to judge how good their tip is,” Canaday said. “Something that they may not see as beneficial may be the missing piece we need.”

Lilly urged anyone with knowledge of Dodd or her abductors to contact the Raleigh Sheriff’s Department at 304-255-9300, West Virginia State Police at 304-436-2101 or Crime Stoppers at 304-255-STOP to place an anonymous tip and possibly receive a cash award.

Source: http://www.register-herald.com/news/body-found-on-bolt-mountain-positively-identified-as-that-of/article_da6b7a08-6bd3-11e7-b95f-73267f43fc85.html

Doe Network cases 404DFWV and 858UFWV

Investigators identify body in nearly 40-year-old cold case



BECKLEY, W.Va. (WVVA) Her disappearance rocked the tight-knit community of Beaver in September of 1977. Nearly forty years ago, Margaret Dodd, 27, left her job at the Raleigh Mall in Beckley and never made it home.

At the time of her disappearance, two witnesses spotted Dodd en route to her Beaver home pulling off at the old Amoco gas station on Route 19. The father and child who lived nearby said they saw a second car pulled in behind her and a struggle ensued. The witnesses said they left to call police, but by the time they returned, Dodd and her attacker were gone.

"They knew something was very very wrong," recalled retired Beckley Police Chief of Detectives Frank Pack, who worked 22 hour days in the weeks following the abduction.

Pack said one of the witnesses described her attacker as 'the Fonz' off of Happy Days, a popular television show at the time. There were many leads during that time, he said, but no body until now.

It would not be until nearly 40 years later that investigators would get a break in the case. In January, Raleigh County Sheriff's Capt. Larry Lilly decided to take a closer look at the case of a 1993 body found on Bolt Mountain.

"There were loose ends," said Capt. Lilly, and he brought in Dodd's family to compare jewelry, clothes, and mitochondrial DNA found on the Bolt body. (Mitochondrial DNA testing was not available at the time of Dodd's disappearance).

Dodd's family recognized the items, said Lilly, but it was not until this week that he learned the mitochondrial DNA was a match.

"Now, there's people we want to talk to. I've talked a lot with Sgt. Daniel and we're going to be actively working this," said Capt. Lilly, who is working closely with Raleigh County's new Cold Case Committee and Sgt. R.A. Daniel with the West Virginia State Police.

Sgt. Daniel said he was included in the investigation because of his familiarity with several of the people who were interviewed or witnesses in the case. "It's difficult, but not impossible to convict someone when you don't have a body. But now we have that missing piece."

Why were Margaret Dodd's remains on Bolt Mountain? What was her killer's connection to the area?

Those are the questions investigators need help from the public in answering.

Those with information can call CrimeStoppers at 255-STOP or visit their new website at <http://CrimeStoppersWV.com/>. Tips may remain anonymous.

Source: <http://www.wvva.com/story/35904384/2017/07/Monday/investigators-identify-remains-in-40-year-old-cold-case>

Remains confirmed in decades-old Dodd Case

By [Mike McCullough](#) in | July 18, 2017 at 12:55PM

BECKLEY, W.Va — A joint news conference between the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department and the West Virginia State Police Tuesday morning revealed a break in the 1977 Margaret "Margie" Dodd case.



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Margaret "Margie" Dodd was 27-years-old at the time of her abduction.

On September 7, 1977, Dodd was heading to her Shady Spring home from her job at Cardinal Bank in the Raleigh Mall. She traveled her usual route but pulled into the Amoco Service Station in Beaver. That's when another vehicle pulled in behind hers. The first call to police came at

around 8:45 p.m. when residents living around the service station could hear a woman screaming. Another report said they had seen a man forcing a screaming woman into the vehicle behind hers. Police responded quickly but were unable to locate the vehicle or any trace of Dodd.

The case went with little evidence until 1993 when personal belongings were recovered on Bolt Mountain near the Wyoming County line. Items such as an engagement ring were recovered, but due to years of exposure the items were unable to be tested for DNA. Cpt. Larry Lilly of the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department said despite this, there was still a way to test the remains.

"We ended up finding some mitochondrial DNA had been obtained from these remains several years ago," Lilly explained. "We were able to find a brother of Margaret and have those remains compared with his DNA."

Last week, the department received confirmation from the lab the collected DNA closely matches her brother's. Cpt. Lilly said this confirms the remains belonged to Dodd. West Virginia State Police Sgt. R.A. Daniel said the technology to reach this connection did not exist when the remains were discovered in 1993.

"The only thing we had were some dental x-rays," Daniel said. "They weren't even good enough to make a positive ID. Things have really changed and come a long way since then."

While authorities have reached a milestone in the case, there is still a lot of work to do. Both departments strongly encourage anybody with any memory of Dodd or the night she went missing to call them. Lilly says any and all information is important to the investigation.

"This should breath some new life into it," Lilly said. "Hopefully with that information the people that were in this area back then may bring something forward that they haven't thought of."

Dodd was 27-years-old at the time of her abduction. She is survived by a husband and three brothers. Anyone with any information is urged to contact the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department or the West Virginia State Police.

Source: <http://wvmetronews.com/2017/07/18/remains-confirmed-in-decades-old-dodd-case/>