

Remains found at Lake Mead in 1987 ID'd as missing San Diego woman

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LAKE MEAD, AZ (AZFamily) — Authorities say the human remains found along a popular recreation site at Lake Mead nearly four decades ago are those of a woman who vanished from San Diego.

On July 15, authorities positively identified those remains as belonging to Carol Ann Riley, who was a nurse at Scripps Clinic in San Diego and was reported missing in 1986, nearly a year before her body was found in northwestern Arizona.



Carol Ann Riley was a nurse at Scripps Clinic in San Diego, according to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office.(Mohave County Sheriff's Office)

According to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, a person at Bonelli Landing at Lake Mead found a skull on the ground, and later found remains in a shallow grave wrapped in a yellow blanket on May 16, 1987.

At that time, authorities believed the remains belonged to a 5'3" to 5'7" woman, aged 20 to 40, with light brown hair. Forensic officials later entered her information and dental records into the national database of unidentified persons.

In 2011, Mohave County detectives were contacted by investigators in Austin, Texas, who suspected that those remains were a missing person from their area. While those records didn't match up, bone remains were sent to the University of North Texas, where a DNA profile was created.

More than a decade later, in April 2024, Mohave County's Special Investigations Unit was assigned to the case. At that time, investigators sought a forensic genetic genealogy report, but the sample was too degraded to be analyzed.

In February 2025, Mohave County investigators sent portions of the victim's clothes and blanket to the Arizona Department of Public Safety in Flagstaff, where law enforcement attempted another DNA analysis, but it was unsuccessful. Her remains had also been cremated in 2016, and her ashes were reportedly scattered at an unknown location.

Later that year, investigators were notified of a match after a forensic odontologist from the California Department of Justice analyzed a dental sample that was linked to Riley.

Mohave County officials say Riley was dating a man named Robert Howard Smith and that she had a dinner date scheduled on the date of her disappearance. She had planned to break up with him.

Investigators had investigated Smith, who claimed that Riley had canceled the date. He then left town. Investigators discovered his real name was Robert Dean Weeks and learned he had a history of fake identities.

Weeks' ex-wife, Patricia Weeks, disappeared around the same time after their divorce was finalized. Later, he was believed to have dated Cynthia Jabour, a real estate agent who also vanished. Weeks' business associate was last seen in May 1971 after a reported argument in a Las Vegas parking lot with a bloodstained vehicle.

Weeks was arrested in Tucson on fraud and embezzlement charges related to his business shortly after the case aired on the then-hit show [Unsolved Mysteries](#) in April 1987. The following year, he was convicted of Patricia's and Cynthia's murder despite their bodies never being found.

Although the bodies were never found and he was never charged in the deaths of Riley and Shaw, he was sentenced to life in prison in Nevada before he died in 1996.

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