

Harris County Does - 1981 - Identified as Harold Dean Clouse and Tina Gail Linn by Identifinders International



Fountain Valley, CA – Identifinders International, in conjunction with the Houston Institute of Forensic Sciences and audiochuck, announces the identification of 1981 Harris County murder victims as then 21 year-old Harold Dean Clouse and spouse 17 year-old Tina Gail Linn.

The newlywed couple, who married in June 1979, was found together in a heavily wooded area 100 feet south of Wallifville Rd. in Houston, TX. They had been deceased approximately two months prior to their discovery on January 12, 1981, when a dog living nearby led searchers to their remains. Mr. Clouse was found beaten, bound and gagged. Ms. Linn had been strangled.

The couple left their home in Volusia County, Florida in 1981 with their one year-old

baby for Mr. Clouse to pursue carpentry work in Texas. Soon after, the couple's car was returned to the family by a stranger who led them to believe the couple had joined a religious group and no longer wanted contact with the family.

The couple's bodies were exhumed in July 2011 by Dr. Jennifer Love, Forensic Anthropology Director of the Identification Unit at the Harris County Medical Examiner's office for the purpose of collecting DNA to determine if the two were related. In 2021 the genealogy research was funded through audiochuck, an Indianapolis-based media company that produces CrimeJunkies, a popular true crime podcast. Working with case manager and forensic anthropologist Deborrah Pinto at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, the case was solved by Identifinders Senior Forensic Genealogist Misty Gillis and former colleague Allison Peacock. Gillis identified Harold Dean Clouse within 10 days of taking the case. When his family mentioned his wife was also missing, Peacock was able to identify the other murder victim as his wife Tina Gail Linn. "I'm very thankful to have been given the opportunity to work on this case. It was a difficult case emotionally." commented Gillis.

Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick, President of Identifinders International added "We are pleased that the Forensic Science Institute placed its confidence in us and we were able to bring closure to the Clouse and Linn families after so long. We thank audiochuck for their generous support in funding the work on this case."

But the closure of these cases has led to another mystery: the whereabouts of their baby Hollie Marie. No baby was found with the couple's bodies and so far no Baby Doe cases have been found that match her description.

Work is continuing to file a missing persons report and list Hollie Marie Clouse with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Anyone with information about her whereabouts can contact Identifinders or the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences at (832) 927-5000

Identifinders International is a fee-based forensic service that works with law enforcement agencies and medical examiners to apply genetic genealogy to violent crime cold cases and unidentified remains cases. For more information, please visit

www.identifinders.com. Media Relations contact Lori Jonasson-
ljonasson@identifinders.com