

Idaho Cold Cases

August 24, 2008 - Los Angeles County, California

(I've been given permission by ISP District 5 to release this info. Thanks guys!)

Dwain Goodwin, 55, disappears from Los Angeles California. Due to his mental condition and other factors, family thought he'd come home as he always did. Not this time.

After a while, Goodwin is entered as a missing person, and his family waited and prayed for answers as thousands do.

Fast forward to May 5, 2020. Part of a human skull is located a few miles south of recreational area Downata Hot Springs on US 91. ITD employees had been excavating, and brought the large dirt pile to the ITD yard in Preston when it was discovered.

Go back to August of 2008. Dwain Goodwin drove himself to Idaho and experienced car troubles. On 8/27/08, an ISP trooper contacts Goodwin on a motorist assist call. The car was towed and Goodwin was fine. He planned to get the car fixed and continue on his trip. He may have been headed to Washington, but no one can be positive.

Goodwin stays at Flags West Truck Stop 8/27-8/29/08. Then he left. Months later, the business where his car was towed calls police and says "hey, he never came back for his car".

Now back to May 2020. Quietly and dilligently, ISP detectives work towards finding the owner of the skull. It's sent to UNT for analysis and a DNA search against a large database of missing people. Police wonder if the missing car owner could be our newest John Doe. They start connecting the dots.

Serendipitously, DNA results only came back last week and it's complete coincidence I posted yesterday.

We have a match folks. Dwain George Goodwin is our John Doe.

His family was notified, after 14 long years of waiting.

He may have died due to blunt force trauma. But how? Fell and hit his head? Hit by a vehicle? Something else? Until new information comes to light, the case is at a standstill.

Police, especially in Idaho, work quietly behind the scenes. It's not a "pat yourself on the back" sort of state. They hunt down leads quietly without fanfare. I really, really appreciate that about our law enforcement.

I want to thank Idaho State Police District 5, Idaho State University, University of North Texas, and the Los Angeles County Police for working this case to a conclusion. It means a lot to families.

My condolences to Mr. Goodwin's loved ones.

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