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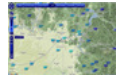
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Missing Spokane teen identified as Arizona cold case victim

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Missing Spokane teen identified as Arizona cold case victim

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Investigators say DNA evidence identified a murder victim found in 1987 as Deanna Lee Criswell.



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At 16, she left home to chase after her boyfriend.

"Her boyfriend Bill had sent her a bus ticket and she was going to go to Arizona and live with him," said Deanna's sister Debbie Renn.



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Besides one phone call to say she was safe, no one ever heard from her again.

"She was just a sweet kid with a wild streak. You know, and they're wasn't a lot of parental involvement, and you know we were making our own decisions," said Deanna's step brother Scott Wing.



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For nearly three decades, Renn hopes Deanna had changed her name and was living another life elsewhere.



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"I was so hoping I would be able to see her again someday. That we would find her alive and well somewhere," said Renn.

But the family heard nothing.



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"My dad and I saw it on unsolved mysteries like 20 years ago and we strongly suspected it was her but Bev, her mom, she just didn't want to deal with it," said Wing.

Last year, an uncle began searching for his long lost niece.

"He went on the Doe Network and he looked through tens of thousands of photographs," said Renn.

After ten months, he finally found a match.

"He started last March and he came across the picture about 2 months ago and we all looked at it and it was pretty much undeniably her," said Renn.

Later, a DNA sample confirmed it was Deanna. She was shot by her boyfriend William Knight in November of 1987.

"Now that we know she's gone, we know that it's not because she didn't like us anymore that she didn't call us. It's because she couldn't call us," said Renn.

Her killer won't face justice. He died in prison ten years ago after being convicted of a string of armed robberies.

Deanna's family hopes her story will serve as a cautionary tale for others.

"I want the young girls out there to know, that are running around out there on the street, that when they meet a man and a man goes off to another state and offers to send them a ticket to come and be with him, to please be careful," said Renn.

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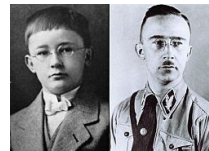
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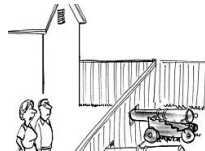
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