

## SUMMARY

### **Terry Dolowy Homicide**

**LaCrosse Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
Vernon Co. Sheriff's Dept.**

On February 14, 1985, Terry Dolowy, age 24, was reported missing by her fiancé, Russell (Whitey) Lee. Terry and Russ resided in Bostwick Valley Mobile Home Park located near the intersection of CTH O and CTH B in the township of Barre, LaCrosse County. This is located approximately 7 miles east of LaCrosse, WI and 4 miles south of West Salem, WI.

The LaCrosse Co. Sheriff's Dept. took a report from Russell Lee shortly after 8:00 am. Investigators immediately started an investigation because of the circumstances of her disappearance. Terry had left her purse at the residence, had no car and her dog was also missing.

On February 18, 2005 at approximately 11:00 pm, the Vernon Co. Sheriff's Dept. responded to a report of something burning in a culvert on Mohawk Valley Rd. approximately 6 miles south of LaCrosse. It was discovered that the burning body of Terry Dolowy was at that location. Her body was found decapitated and burned with the use of an accelerant. Her head or dog has never been located.

At the time of the autopsy which was performed at St. Francis Hospital in LaCrosse, it was discovered that semen was present in the vagina and was subsequently collected. Several years later, the Wisconsin State Crime lab was able to conduct a DNA profile of the semen. No match has ever been made with the semen including with the fiancé, Russell Lee.

Terry Dolowy was a college student at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse majoring in finance, scheduled to graduate the following May. Terry and Russell were engaged, however, Terry had confided in others that she would not be marrying Russell and she planned on ending the relationship following her graduation with intentions in moving to Chicago to become a bank examiner. Terry worked full time as a bar manager at an upscale restaurant in LaCrosse known as Piggy's.

Russell was known to have a gambling and a possible drug problem. He was rated as one of the best pool players in the LaCrosse area and was known to gamble and lose playing pool. He did not always hold steady employment, did not have a car as he crashed it a few months before the homicide, and had to borrow Terry's car. These issues were a conflict in the relationship as well as the dog which Terry owned.

Since the DNA profile was made on the semen, Investigators have conducted submitted approximately 12 DNA samples of possible suspects. At this time, all submissions have been negative including that of Russell Lee.

Other physical evidence collected was a paint chip that was located some years after the investigation. The paint chip was located in a sheet that had wrapped the body of the victim. The chip was located by the Crime Lab and subsequently analyzed and identified as being an after market paint belonging to a specific year and make of vehicle. It is believed that the chip was from a repainted vehicle. The color is called Glacier Blue which was used on '75 GM products, '77 Cadillac's, '75 Buick and Oldsmobile's. It was used on '66 – '74 Toyota's as Horizontal Blue, '75 Pontiacs as Arctic Blue, and '75 Chevrolets as Medium Blue. The vehicle was never located. It is thought that the paint was possibly from the trunk of a vehicle that the body was transported in.

In 2003, Investigators took all records and reports from the investigation and scanned them into digital format. At the same time, an excel spread sheet was compiled which reference every report generated in the investigation. The spread sheet allows investigators to access all reports by date, name, occupations, officer, etc. An advertising campaign was also done with the use of three large billboards asking for citizen cooperation due to the upcoming 20 year anniversary of her death. Some tips were generated and followed up on with negative results.