

# Cold case murder solved after 28 years

By **Craig Smith**. CREATED Feb 11, 2015

MARANA, Ariz (KGUN9-TV) - It's a murder mystery that's stayed a mystery for 28 years.

But now Marana police know the identity of a 16-year-old girl found dead in a culvert---and they're confident they know the name of her killer.

A Marana crime scene specialist had the remains of a teenager with no ID in a case from 1987.

An aunt told him she thought it was a niece missing for many years.

When their efforts came together they solved a mystery and found a killer.

For 28 years the teenaged girl found inside a culvert near I-10 in Marana was a murder victim without a name.

But Marana Police Crime Scene Supervisor Tom Mooney decided to re-open the cold case.

Meanwhile, in Spokane, Washington a family had fading memories of a teenager who'd be 44 now.

Scott Wing is the stepbrother of the missing woman. He says, "For a couple years it was like, maybe she'll get in touch, maybe she'll call, but after a few years, we knew...or at least strongly suspected."

Tom Mooney convinced the FBI to create a clay model of what the girl might have looked like.

He put it on a [website for finding missing people](#). A named Ellen Criswell called him from Florida.

She had just gotten back in touch with her family after being estranged for many years.

Only then did she learn her niece Deanna Criswell had been missing since she left Spokane in 1987.

Tom Mooney DNA tested the family and they matched the mystery girl.

The family suspected William Ross Knight brought Deanna to Tucson. He had already come from Spokane pulling a string of armed robberies on the way.

When police arrested him for robberies in Tucson he had a .22 caliber pistol. Deanna Criswell was killed with a .22. Testing 28 years later found his DNA on her body.

But Knight will never stand trial for murder. He died of cancer ten years ago while he was still in prison for robbery.

Tom Mooney says, "I was happy that the family knew what had happened to their daughter. I was proud for my department that we were able to solve this case."

But Mooney wanted to give Deanna Criswell's family something to reach across all those lost years.

He bought two identical necklaces. One is with Deanna Criswell in her grave. He wants to send the other to the family who lost her 28 years ago.

Source: <http://www.jrn.com/kgun9/news/Cold-case-murder-solved-after-28-years-291603631.html?lc=Tablet>