



Monterey County District Attorney's Office

Cold Case Task Force

1964 and 1973 Unidentified Human Remains Cases

On November 27th, 2023, the Monterey County Sheriff's Coroner, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Cold Case Task Force and members of the Fresno State University Anthropology Department exhumed two potential homicide victims that had been buried decades ago in Monterey County Potter's Field in Salinas. A brief overview of each case is outlined below:

1964 Jane Doe

On May 29th, 1964, the body of a woman was found floating in the Pacific Ocean along Marina State Beach. Although attempts to identify her were unsuccessful, there was a possibility that the woman was the victim of an unreported domestic violence homicide from the city of Marina. Family members had reported that a mother had disappeared and was never listed as missing by her husband.

Once her remains were exhumed in 2023, her DNA was compared to the DNA of the possible woman's known surviving children. Unfortunately, the DNA confirmed that the woman was not the missing mother.

The investigation continues into identifying the woman, and the Cold Case Task Force is using Investigative Genetic Genealogy to attempt to identify her.

1973 John Doe

On May 7th, 1973, the body of an unidentified black male was found dumped in the Carmel Highlands. The male had skull fractures, a rope around his neck, and was possibly wearing military related clothing. To date, no missing person has matched this John Doe. His death was ruled a homicide, but without knowing his identify or his history, the initial investigation went nowhere.

Once his remains were recovered, items were sent to a forensics lab so that a SNP DNA extraction could be made. This has been completed, and the Cold Case Task Force is now attempting to identify the murder victim via Investigative Genetic Genealogy.

Coroner records indicate that there are numerous unidentified individuals, each with their own life story, that have been buried in Potter's Field. Many of these people were the victims of homicide.