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His brother, 81, has been missing for almost 3 years Without a trace  
Evidence sparse in veteran's case

By RYAN LaFONTAINE

SUN HERALD

HANCOCK COUNTY - J.C. Price has accepted the thought of never seeing his brother alive again, and now he's pleading with the community, the police and the FBI to help him catch a killer.

Floyd Price, a disabled World War II veteran who will be 82 years old next month, vanished without a trace from his Diamondhead home in February 2004 and Hancock investigators say the case went cold about five months later.

A car salesman, who J.C. believes is responsible for his brother's disappearance, is still listed as a suspect, but police don't have enough evidence for an arrest.

The lack of evidence has left investigators unsure of whether they are looking for a killer or a war veteran who doesn't want to be found.

"The investigators knew who did it two days after Floyd went missing," J.C. said. "But, the police haven't done anything in two years."

According to J.C., the two brothers attended a VFW meeting and each had a beer at the Diamondhead Country Club the night before Price disappeared.

J.C. told police he dropped his brother off at home, where he lived alone, and watched him walk inside. That was the last anyone has seen or heard from Price.

Hancock's lead investigator Kenny Hurt said the car salesman and another man were the only people ever listed as suspects, but aside from an unlikely confession police have little to go on.

"We've interviewed the (salesman) extensively and we just don't have enough on him," Hurt said. "We don't have a body or anything, no physical evidence and there was nothing that we know of that was missing from (Price's) home."

Since the beginning, investigators have treated the case as a homicide, searching a golf course pond and sewer lines in the community, but there were no signs of a struggle inside Price's condo, according to the state crime lab.

A month after his brother disappeared, J.C. told the Sun Herald the family had lost hope of ever seeing Price alive again.

Since then, the family has hired a private investigator and through their own research J.C. said Price likely knew his attacker, which is why police found no signs of a crime inside the condo. Price's two cars were left in the driveway.

J.C. said the day Price went missing two \$3,000 checks, written from Price, were deposited into two bank accounts, one in Gulfport and the other in Lafayette, La. The accounts belonged to the car salesman who had sold Price a car about five months earlier.

J.C. said he believes the salesman somehow swindled Price out of \$500 around the time he purchased the car and his brother had been calling the man about repaying the money.

"Floyd was pretty tight with his money and he wasn't going to give a stranger \$500," J.C. said. "I think that's how he got into the condo, by telling Floyd he was coming to repay him the money."

According to investigators, the salesman said Price loaned him the \$500, but police would not comment on the \$3,000 checks.

J.C. said the family's private investigator discovered that the salesman had allegedly phoned the car dealership the day Price disappeared to say he would be late to work that morning, because his wife's car was stuck in the mud.

However, the Price family later learned that the salesman's wife didn't drive a vehicle, according to J.C., but police would not discuss further details of the case.

The FBI helped search for Price shortly after he vanished, but the lack of evidence and substantial leads has made it an arduous case for any agency that joins the hunt.

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The missing Floyd Price, a disabled World War II veteran who will turn 82 years old next month, vanished without a trace from his Diamondhead home in February 2004 and Hancock investigators say the case went cold about five months later. A car salesman, who J.C. believes is responsible for his brother's disappearance, is still listed as a suspect, but police don't have enough evidence for an arrest.

Kenny Hurt, Hancock County investigator

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#### MISSING MAN'S CASE CLUELESS TWO-YEAR SEARCH FINDS NO ANSWERS

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RYAN LaFONTAINE, rlafontaine@sunherald.com

HANCOCK COUNTY --- It was nearly two years ago when divers here searched the murky bottom of a golf course pond for clues in the disappearance of a 79-year-old Diamondhead man.

Floyd Price, a disabled World War II veteran, will turn 82 next month, and the only thing police know for sure is that he is still missing.

"We don't have a clue," said Hancock Sheriff Steve Garber. "He basically just vanished from the face of the earth."

Price, who lived alone in a condominium, was last seen Feb. 4, 2004.

Earlier that night, he and his younger brother, J.C., attended a VFW meeting and shared a couple of beers at the Diamondhead Country Club.

His brother told police he dropped him off at home and watched him walk inside. That was the last anyone has seen or heard from Price.

Chief investigator Kenny Hurt said police first treated the case as a homicide, searching the golf course pond and sewer lines in the community, but there were no signs of a struggle inside Price's condo and nothing was missing.

Price's two cars were still in the driveway, and his outdoor jackets and shoes were found in the condo, along with his suits and most of his belongings.

"There was a small drop of blood in the bathroom, and his brother said (Price) hit his elbow earlier that day," Hurt said. "The spot of blood was really small. To me, it looked like he may have cut himself shaving."

Shortly after Price disappeared, crime scene investigators from the state crime lab searched his condo but failed to find evidence suggesting a crime had occurred.

The FBI helped search for Price for several months, Hurt said, but the lack of evidence and substantial leads has made it an arduous case.

"We treated it like we would a homicide, and we worked the foul play angle, but we couldn't get anything," Hurt said. "We've run every lead, and we've turned up nothing."

A month after his brother vanished without a trace, J.C. told the Sun Herald the family had lost hope of ever seeing Floyd alive again.

"There's no doubt he's dead," J.C. said in March 2004. "And we're a little concerned that there hasn't been more of an outcry that something like this could happen in our neighborhood."

> [http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Arc ... adeable=no](http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Arc...adeable=no)

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The Net is like having thousands of informants

Leave a comment on this post below E-mail this Post to a Friend Carole Moore

Missing Persons Contributor

[Officer.com](http://Officer.com)

and everyone of them is working for you. That's what controlled release of information, a good working relationship with the community and the help of certain civilian volunteers can be when you're working a missing person or unidentified found person case.

The truth is that chasing a missing person cases can be both expensive and very time-consuming. Not many agencies have the resources to keep following one of these cases. Even cold case squads have their limits. And if a lead that a missing person might have popped up in another jurisdiction surfaces, the successful conclusion of that lead very often depends on how much shoe leather that other jurisdiction is willing to invest in YOUR case.

I have several goals with this blog. I want to put investigating these cases into perspective so that the public will better understand the impediments law enforcement agencies are up against. I also want to find and spotlight tactics, technology, products and people that can help. Additionally, I'll find the answer to your questions whenever it's possible to do so and from this

point on, I'll spotlight a missing /unidentified person. Please follow the link in my blog and take a look. In so many cases, it's a matter of the right pair of eyes in the right place at the right time.

This link is to a missing man from Mississippi whose granddaughter wants closure. I think we can all understand that. Here's the link to Floyd Price:

Floyd Price Missing Person Page

[http://www.theyaremissed.org/ncma/galle ... 200604300S](http://www.theyaremissed.org/ncma/galle...200604300S)

Next entry we'll start looking at organizations and resources out there for both law enforcement agencies and the families of those who still need to be found.

[http://www.officer.com/interactive/2008 ... /#more-283](http://www.officer.com/interactive/2008.../#more-283)

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Sunday, Nov 16, 2008

Posted on Sun, Nov. 16, 2008

MISSING LINK?

By ROBIN FITZGERALD

Law enforcement officials here and the family of Floyd Price said they had an eerie feeling when Biloxi police named a person of interest in a Biloxian's recent disappearance.

The man questioned in the Oct. 31 disappearance of Frank Roberts, 78, of Biloxi, also was a person of interest in Price's 2004 disappearance, said a Hancock County sheriff's investigator. Price was 79 when he was last seen in Diamondhead the night of Feb. 4, 2004.

Both victims were retired, affluent and had loaned money to John Paul Necaise, authorities said, and Necaise had been in contact with both men just before their disappearances.

Roberts was found stabbed to death in Gulfport four days after he was abducted and held for ransom. Price, though his body was never found, has been declared dead.

Necaise hasn't been charged in either case, although he was arrested after Roberts disappeared. Necaise remains in custody on federal firearms charges.

"Oh, yes. It rang a bell with us as soon as we heard the Biloxi man came up missing," said Hancock County Sheriff's investigator Kenny Hurt. "As far as resemblances, it's almost a textbook case."

Leads in the Price case have grown cold and Hurricane Katrina swept away the department's case file. The agency has never closed the case and is taking another look, Hurt said.

The FBI also is reviewing the case.

J.C. Price said that's the best news he's heard since he last saw his brother nearly five years ago. He dropped Floyd off at his condominium that night after a VFW meeting and a round of beers at the Diamondhead Country Club. It's the last time Floyd Price was seen alive, as far as authorities know.

Floyd Price was a widower and a disabled World War II veteran. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in the Denver area. He was one of eight siblings. After his wife died he moved from Lafayette, La., to Diamondhead to be near J.C. and another brother.

The brothers visited each other or at least talked by phone daily.

"What I miss the most is probably his company," J.C. Price said. "I remember he had told me how much he really loved his brothers and sisters."

Floyd's brothers played golf. He didn't, but he would wait at the Country Club for their return from the golf course.

Secrets and private eyes

J.C. later learned that Floyd had loaned Necaise \$500, and Necaise deposited two \$3,000 checks from Floyd's account the day Floyd disappeared.

"He didn't have too many secrets from me," J.C. said. "Floyd would tell me everything, about sex or anything. I regret he didn't tell me a couple of things that could have saved his life or helped us find him."

"I hired a private investigator and got copies of the cancelled checks."

Sheriff's investigators have confirmed Necaise borrowed the \$500, but they haven't commented on the other checks.

The other secret, said J.C., is Floyd didn't want to stay out late that night, claiming he expected an early-morning phone call from his stepdaughter; she later said no call was planned.

"I think he was just too embarrassed for me to know he had loaned money to a stranger so he made something up," J.C. said.

Relatives said it wasn't like Floyd to loan money to strangers.

"He was as tight as bark on a tree," said J.C.'s wife, Patricia.

"Frugal," J.C. retorted with a smile. "He had money but he was frugal."

## The investigation

Investigators responding to J.C.'s missing-person complaint called in a state crime-scene unit to Floyd's condo at Lanai Village. They found no evidence of foul play, no sign of a struggle.

Floyd's gold Honda Accord and white Ford Ranger pickup were parked outside. His cell phone was in his truck. His briefcase and income-tax papers were on his couch.

His gun, checkbooks, wallet and keys were missing, along with the sandals Floyd wore as house shoes. His jacket was draped over a kitchen chair and his bed wasn't made.

"I remember how cold it was," J.C. said. "Floyd didn't take his jacket. He wouldn't go anywhere without making his bed. He wouldn't leave home wearing sandals."

Investigators questioned a number of people. Divers searched the golf course pond. They checked sewer lines. It was as if Floyd had vanished into thin air.

"The FBI was working the case with us and we found nothing to go on," Hurt said.

Investigators also questioned Necaie.

"The guy denied any wrongdoing at all," Hurt said. "We've got to have evidence before we can make an arrest."

The FBI declined to discuss the case.

J.C. has one of Floyd's prized possessions, a framed letter from President Harry Truman. The letter to World War II veterans extended "heartfelt thanks of a grateful nation."

A year after he disappeared, his family held a reunion and memorial service. At center stage was a large collage. It has a map noting places Floyd had been and pictures showing the story of his life.

"We can't put him to rest in our minds until we know how he died and see the one who killed him punished," J.C. said.

<http://www.sunherald.com/pageone/v-prin ... 57661.html>

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Investigators say missing evidence after Katrina hurts some cold case murders

WAVELAND, MS (WLOX) - A capital murder charge against a Gulfport man has sparked interest in a cold case. ON Monday, Gulfport police charged 42-year-old John Paul Necaie with killing 78-year-old Frank Roberts. The family of 79-year-old Floyd Price is troubled by this recent

development. Price turned up missing in early 2004 and was later declared dead. A relative told WLOX that on the day he disappeared Price wrote a sizeable check to John Necaise.

A Hancock County Sheriff's investigator said he is looking into possible connections between Necaise and Price, yet admits losing most of the evidence to hurricane Katrina is a major setback.

Today Danielle Thomas talked to another law enforcement agency that saw its cold case evidence to the storm.

Back in 2001 a mother and her son were found murdered at Kim's Oriental Spa on Highway 90 in Waveland. In time, the case surrounding the deaths of 54-year-old Hwan Kim of Bay St. Louis and 35-year-old Joon Kim went cold. Then a few years later, Hurricane Katrina dealt another blow to this unsolved murder.

Chief James Varnell said "We lost every bit of evidence that we did have. As you know it was a one story building. Nine and a half feet of water so it destroyed every bit of evidence that we had. We had a couple of old murder cases that were affected. That we had on the books that were still being investigated.

Chief James Varnell says now Waveland investigators don't even have a starting point for the 2001 double murder or another cold case murder that dates back to the '80s. Varnell says the department did gain an invaluable lesson.

"In the future, we won't let that happen again," said Chief Varnell. "We'll move whatever evidence we have in felony crimes to a much safer spot this time. I think everybody understands that we need to move if it's an ordered evacuation. We need to move everything out."

District Attorney Cono Carana said "Things that we tried before the storm I think they listen to a bit more now. The need to get things up to the crime lab very speedily instead of letting something stay in your evidence locker for a period of time longer than absolutely necessary. You need to get them up there and get that evidence processed and then if you lose that evidence, you have those reports you can proceed with your case."

Waveland police say Katrina may have made their job more difficult, but it won't stop them from looking for who ever is responsible for these murders.

"We had actively worked on both of those cases even up into the hurricane, we were still getting information on both those cases," said Chief Varnell.

District Attorney Cono Carana says there were very few cases in Stone, Harrison, and Hancock counties that had to be dismissed because of evidence destroyed in the storm and only one was a felony. The rest had duplicate documents in other locations.



<http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?s=944695>

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The salesman had allegedly phoned the car dealership the day Price disappeared to say he would be late to work that morning, because his wife's car was stuck in the mud.

It did not rain on the 3rd or 4th of Feb.  
Rained 0.11" on the 5th.

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Missing person's organization comes to South MS to help with cold case  
Posted: Oct 07, 2013 9:55 PM CDT Updated: Oct 08, 2013 12:43 PM CDT

By Caray Grace - email

HANCOCK COUNTY, MS (WLOX) -

Hancock County welcomed a national missing person's organization to town Monday. The group stopped in Bay St. Louis to pursue a nine year old missing person's case.

Monica Casion and her crew are on their 10th Annual "Road to Remember" tour. The non-profit organization travels from state to state rallying with the families of missing people, hoping to shed some light on these cold cases.

"We work hand in hand with all these families so they're just not on our website or they are not just a file number. We're in touch with them. Speak with them. Visit them, and search with them," said Casion.

Community United Effort Center for Missing Persons, or CUE for short, was asked to stop in Bay St. Louis on behalf of Floyd Price. Price went missing in 2004, after writing a large check to a Mr. John Necaize.

Necaize was later arrested and charged with the murder of a Harrison County man.

Hancock County investigator John Luther tells WLOX why the connection between Price's disappearance and Necaize was never fully pursued.

"I believe the primary suspect in Mr. Price's disappearance was John Necaize. John Necaize is now deceased," said Luther.

The missing person's organization has been in contact with Mr. Price's family for several years. Casion's happy they've finally been able to stop in Mississippi to start on his case.

"They registered the case I think it was about five years ago, and I know a lot about the case and what's been going on and just recently they finally have come to an area that they believe needs to be searched and we will be returning to the area," said Casion.

Those with CUE believe Mr. Price's case is just like the rest. Someone's loved one, vanished into thin air.

"That's what people don't understand, families sit back and they live in this longer, in this unknown fade of a missing person. And they just want a resolution. They just want the person found," said Casion.

Price's granddaughter lives in Colorado. She was unable to come to Mississippi for the stop, but investigator Luther said she has never stopped praying for her grandfather to be located.

"Mr.Price is still on their minds, the family wants Mr. Price to be found or his remains to be found so they can have closure," said Luther.

CUE will make their next stop in Florida where they will visit 10 more families hoping for a lead on finding their lost loved ones.

WLOX

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