

JACKSON COUNTY, MS (WLOX) -

A picture could finally give detectives answers 31 years after a man was found murdered.

Pascagoula Detective Darren Versiga found out about the man just two years ago when he was re-opening another cold case. The man's remains were being stored in Oklahoma where the autopsy was done in 1982.

Versiga sent the man's remains off to a volunteer artist with University of Tennessee Project Everyone Deserves A Name. The artist has just created a computer generated sketch of what the murdered man may have looked like.

"I sent off for DNA testing. Once that was complete, they sent those remains to UNT under the direction of Todd Matthews, and basically they did a reconstruction of it and it looks like a real photo," Versiga said.

Versiga said there was no DNA match, but now that he has a picture he hopes someone will be able to recognize the man.

He was found on December 8, 1982, in the Dog River underneath the eastbound lane of Interstate 10 in Jackson County. Divers were searching the water after a young girl was found floating four days earlier. She has never been identified either.

The two were found only 60 yards from one another.

"The black male was found thrown off the bridge it seemed like. He was shot is what the pathologist had confirmed," Versiga said. "We don't know if he is from the area or was driven here and thrown off the bridge."

Investigators believe the man was between 18 and 22-years-old, weighed about 120 pounds and was about 5'6".

"We have the clothing that was found then, and now we have a face to put to that man that has been unidentified since 1982," Versiga said.

The man was found wearing brown pants and a Hawaiian printed shirt. Investigators believe he had been dead six months to three years before he was found.

"Hopefully we will bring closure to a family somewhere," Versiga said.

If you have any information about who the man is, you are asked to call the Pascagoula Police Department at 228-762-2211.

If detectives are able to identify him, they can begin asking questions to try and find his killer.

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MOSS POINT, MS (WLOX) -

40 years, that's how far back the mystery goes. Two victims. Their remains - discovered decades ago in Jackson County.

On December 27, 1977 skeletal remains were discovered in the woods at a location in Moss Point. Five years later another discovery of skeletal remains, five miles from the location of the 1977 remains.

Even though its been 40 and 35 years since the skeletal remains were discovered...thanks to computerized generated images, you might be able to identify the missing persons.

Look closely at the images -- you might recognize the victims.

I met with Pascagoula Detective Darren Versiga, Lori Massey of Crime Stoppers and Restoration Christ of God Pastor Charles Malone - they've put together a flyer with the images -- with a headline: Do You Know me? They are now distributing those to churches throughout Jackson County.

Massey said, "The reconstruction on him, when you look at his eyes, he is just looking into your soul. It's like he's saying please help me find my family. I need an identification and that's what Crime Stoppers is trying to do here."

The man, who was shot in the head, was believed to be between 19 to 25 years of age, around 5'5" and between 120 to 130 lbs. A trucker discovered his remains.

Detective Darren Versiga said, "They found his skeletal remains, still had his clothes, but he had been their quite awhile, from three years to six months based on the condition of he remains."

Detective Versiga believes someone picked up the woman the night of December 27, 1977, later drove down Frank Griffin Road in Moss Point and dumped her body across the street from a cemetery.

"She was found in the woods by some rabbit hunters, "said Detective Versiga. "They were basically just run through the woods and found skeletal remains and called law enforcement."

Versiga says they sent the remains to an expert in Oklahoma who estimated the woman was between 35 to 45 years of age, 5'8" and 120 lbs. She was a smoker, had two gold teeth and that she probably had a child.

Versiga said, "We're hoping based on what we've done from 2009 till 2017, that now we can put these out to the people and see if they can identify them."

And its a joint mission to find out just who these two victims were and offer closure to their loved ones.

Pastor Charles Malone said, "That's what we do is Out Reach. So, we what to do whatever we can to be an assistance with them and helping them in whatever way possible."

If anyone has information on any of these crimes or possibly know the identity of one of these persons, contact Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-877-787-5898.

Date Found:
Dec 9, 1982

Location Found:
Moss Point, MS

Estimated Age:
18-22

Sex:
Male

Race:
Black

Hair Color:
Unknown

Eye Color:
Unknown

Estimated Height:
5'6"

Estimated Weight:
130 to 170 lbs

On December 9, 1982, an unidentified male was found on the banks of the Escatawpa River under the Interstate-10 bridge in Moss Point, Jackson County, MS. He had been deceased for approximately 6 months, possibly up to 3 years. The male was black and in his late teens to

early twenties. He stood approximately 5'6" tall, weighed between 130-170 pounds. The male's hair color and eye color could not be determined. An anthropological exam showed a healed injury on the front of his head, which would have left a scar on the left side of his forehead. The male had a strong overbite and had fillings in several teeth. He also had advanced periodontal disease. The exam indicated that he was most likely left handed. The male was found wearing brown slacks with a 28" waist and 30" inseam. He was also wearing a faded Hawaiian themed sport shirt. A Converse right shoe with red trim on the sole, size 7.5, was also found. The left shoe was not found.