

Neely family still seeking answers after eighteen years

■ Charlie Neely disappeared on a hunting trip on Oct. 25, 1996, and was never seen again

By **JASON PATTERSON**
Editor & Publisher

It's been 18 years since Charlie Neely disappeared, and his family is still looking for answers.

Neely never returned from a hunting trip on Oct. 25, 1996, and extensive searches never uncovered a single clue.

"They never found his clothes, his gun or anything," said Danny Neely, Charlie's son.

Charlie Neely went squirrel hunting with a friend at Panther Swamp on the morning he was last seen. The 67-year-old was a veteran hunter who knew his way

around the woods.

The pair parted ways that morning to hunt. Neely stayed behind as his friend entered the woods because he was still putting on some of



Charlie Neely

his hunting gear. When Neely didn't return to the vehicle at the expected time, the friend called for help.

His family quickly feared foul play was involved.

Authorities led by the late Sheriff E.O. "Buddy" Passons and volunteers searched the area for 10 days.

Dogs were brought in, but never picked up a scent. A helicopter

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Family wants closure after 18 years of uncertainty

searched from the air. Every square inch of the area where Neely was last seen was searched.

"They did everything they could do," Danny Neely said.

The friend who went hunting with Neely agreed to take a polygraph test. Investigators determined that he was not a suspect.

Eventually they ran out of places to look.

Years passed by without any news, but recently a possible clue emerged.

Around a year ago, Danny Neely said his family was told that a man admitted to several people that he killed Charlie Neely, but the family was unable to get anyone to investigate the claim.

"They said there

wasn't any real evidence, but several people said this man boasted about killing him and said no one would ever find him," Danny Neely said.

That person has since died. Neely fears the best chance his family has of getting some closure

"It has been very hard not knowing what happened."

Danny Neely, son of missing man

may have died with him.

The Neely family hopes that someone who knows what

happened will come forward and give them the peace of mind they haven't known for the last 18 years.

"It has been very hard not knowing what happened," Danny Neely said.

Anyone with any information may contact Crimestoppers at 746-TIPS or the Yazoo County Sheriff's Department at 746-5611.

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