

HERMANTOWN POLICE DEPT.

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Press Release

Contact: **Deputy Chief Shawn Padden** FOR IMMEDIATE
Phone: (218)729-1200 RELEASE

Case Numbers: 76-000171
Date: May 9th, 2012
Incident: Cold Case/Unidentified Human Body
Location: 3900 block of Lavaque Road- Hermantown
Incident Date: 04/16/1976
Incident Time: 12:30 p.m.

Hermantown Police Department Synopsis

On April 16th, 1976, Hermantown Police responded to an address in the 3900 block of Lavaque Road in Hermantown to investigate the discovery of a dead human body. When officers arrived, they found skeletal remains partially unearthed in the backyard area of a residence. Along with deteriorated clothing, some coins and personal effects were found. After an exhaustive effort by investigators at that time, the identity of the person is still unknown.

The cause of death is unknown and the time of death is believed to be between 1961 and 1972.

With the advent of DNA analysis and further investigative resources, the Hermantown Police Department, with assistance from the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's office and Hamline University Forensic personnel, is re-opening this case in an attempt to identify this person before finally laying him to rest.

We are asking for the public's help in providing any information which may be related to this case. Through recent extensive examination of the remains, the following conclusions have been made:

White-male, approximately 30-50 years of age at time of death, 5'3" to 5'11" tall, advanced osteoarthritis, developmental defect noted suggests the man walked with a limp

favoring his right side, which may be attributable to a childhood disease, upper and lower dentures, upper teeth porcelain, lower teeth plastic.

Remnants of clothing found on/near the body include:

Leather work boots, wool trousers, "Mackinaw" type wool hat, long winter underwear, "Blizzard" Railroad type cap with fur lined earflaps, suspenders, knee length wool socks, leather chopper type mittens with green wool liners, possible sweater. Also located was a cigarette lighter with letters on the base of A.T.C. and LUX Japan, as well as several coins with the most recent mint date of 1961.

DNA was recently extracted from the remains and a match will be possible if we receive DNA from any living relative. If you know of any missing person or relative in the Northern Minnesota area that may fit this description, please contact Deputy Chief Shawn Padden at the Hermantown Police Department at 218-729-1200.

06/11/13- UPDATE

There will be a Press Conference at the Hermantown Police Department, 5111 Maple Grove Road on Wednesday June 12th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. to provide an update on this case. Facial reconstruction of the skull completed by the Forensic Imaging Unit of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is complete and will be available for review.