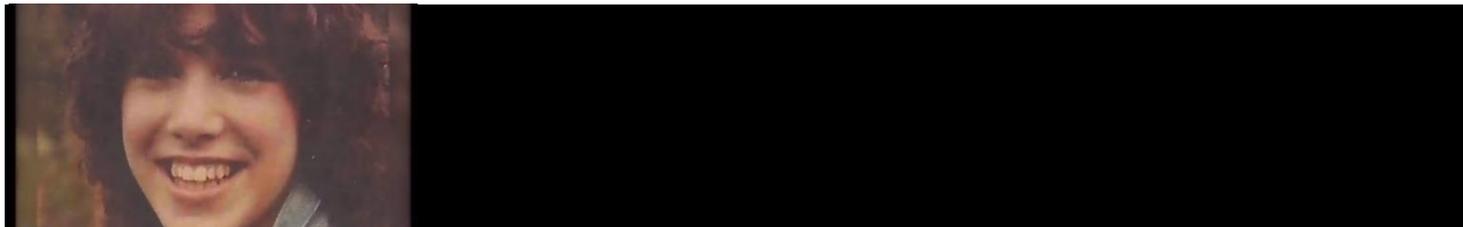


DNA match links deceased man to 1981 cold case homicide

By Raeanna Marnati



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DULUTH, Minn. (NNCNOW.com) - "Beautiful. She was artistic. She was a sweet girl. She was kind of a quiet girl. She was," said Melanie Anderson, and Deb Susnick, old high school friends of Carolyn Andrew.

Friends of Carolyn Andrew now have answers.

"After more than three decades of investigation and advances in forensic science, we have now identified the man who was involved in the assault and murder of Carolyn Andrew," said Drew Evans, Assistant Superintendent with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Police believe 30-year-old Cecil Wayne Oliver, who is now dead, murdered Andrew.

Andrew was last seen in May of 1981 when she left her family's home on Farley Lane heading to Ridgeview Lanes bowling alley... but she never made it.

Andrew died of a single gunshot wound to the head. Her body was taken here to Twin Ponds and dumped off of that bridge.

Despite a 33 year investigation... more than one hundred interviews... and hundreds of leads.. the case went cold...until last year. BCA scientists conducted a search of the state DNA database using the male portion of DNA obtained from Andrew's remains.

"A new BCA process that would search the unknown male DNA profile from the victims body against the state convicted offender database to determine if any of the convicted offenders could be related to the person who left this evidence behind," said Catherine Knutson, Director of Forensic Science Services with the MN BCA>

The DNA was a match.

"The BCA lab was able to provide the Duluth police department with a name of a convicted offender from the state of Minnesota who was likely closely related whose DNA was found on the body of Miss Andrew," said Knutson.

Authorities say Cecil Wayne Oliver died as a result of a single gunshot wound to the head in 1988.

Despite years of the case sitting cold, police never gave up.

"Cases like Miss Andrew often take many years to solve. They may no longer be on the front page of the newspaper or on the front headlines. They are never far from the minds of the criminal justice professionals, investigators or scientists who work these cases," said Evans.

A full male DNA profile was built in this case in 2004 based on DNA left on Andrew's body. It was continuously run in a database, but never matched.

Police do not believe Oliver and Andrew knew each other.

They do say, however, a man believed to be Oliver repeatedly tried to get Andrew's number at the Cove Bar in Superior the night before but his attempts were unsuccessful.

Police believe he visited several of the same establishments as Andrew but there is no relation.