



CITY OF REDDING

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1313 California Street, Redding, CA 96001-3396
530.225.4200 FAX 530.225.4553

Leonard F. Moty
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2009

Contact: Peter T. Hansen, Chief of Police
530-225-4211 www.reddingpolice.org

CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION "Best of the COPSWEST" Award -- Cold Case Category

On October 20, 2009, the **Redding Police Department** will be receiving an award from the California Peace Officers Association during their annual COPSWEST Tradeshow and Training Conference. The purpose of these awards is to recognize law enforcement agencies and/or personnel for excellent service to their community. Below is a summary of our submission of the solving of a cold-case homicide that was chosen to receive a "Best of the COPSWEST" award:

On Sunday, August 7, 1988, the Redding Police Department responded to Caldwell Park in regard to a possible victim of a homicide. The partially nude body of Judith Hasselstrom was located in the bushes of the park covered with bamboo stalks. Those responding to the scene collected evidence, including blood and fingerprints. The collection process was meticulously done with the idea that the responsible person would be caught and successfully prosecuted.

For 21 years, although the case had remained unsolved, it was never forgotten. Those officers who were originally involved continued to pursue leads as they came in. Investigators newly assigned to the Major Crimes Unit, as well as Evidence Technicians, would routinely review the case file seeking something that may have been missed.

On February 18, 2009, the California Department of Justice Forensic Laboratory notified our department that a DNA sample submitted to CODIS as part of the Hasselstrom investigation had been matched to a known person. The suspect, Brian Harper, was currently in custody at Corcoran State Prison on unrelated charges, his first "major" crime since Hasselstrom's murder. Following the notification, investigators visited Harper in prison, interviewed him and obtained a confession. Prior to the filing of murder charges, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office requested another interview with Harper be conducted in regard to special circumstances, which could potentially lead to a life-without-parole sentence if convicted.

This is a significant case in our department's history. Many current and former employees worked diligently in hopes that one day the suspect would be identified. With technological advancements and good old fashioned police work, Judith Hasselstrom can now truly rest in peace and her family can have closure.

Following is a list of employees, current and retired, who had a hand in solving this case.

Current Employees

Investigator Todd Cogle
Captain Paul Grooms
Sergeant Jay Guterding
Lieutenant Allen Long
Investigator Shawn McGinnis
Captain Damon Minor
Sergeant Steve Moravec

Ole Olson (Retired Sergeant)
Investigator Jon Poletski
Investigator Joe Simmons
Sergeant Mike Wood
Sergeant Dean Stainberg

Retired Employees:

Captain Chuck Byard

Officer Steve W. Davis
Sergeant Dan Kupsky
Investigator Larry Liebscher
Sergeant Rich Nance
Captain Dave Mundy
Lieutenant Tom Sears
Corporal Pat Tennant

/cf