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Disappearance Solved After 19 Years

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ABSTRACT

In Palovec, a village near Čakovec, Croatia, the disappearance of a young woman missing in 2000. was solved. The body of the unlucky missing young woman was found on February 16th, 2019 in the family home in which she lived. The body was found 19 years after the disappearance in the freezer of the family home. Arriving at the scene of a criminal event, the police said it was a murdered young woman missing in 2000. In other words, the sister killed her sister and hid her body in a freezer which no one opened for 19 years. The body found the murderer's daughter who accidentally opened the freezer. The body was covered with food stored in freezers.

Keywords: *Missing, Murder, Woman, Investigation, Forensics*

INTRODUCTION

The solution of many crimes (and certainly all major ones) depends to a large extent on scientific support for the investigation team [1]. This can cover a wide spectrum of specialisms both inside and outside the police service, and includes the police surgeon. Initial crime scene examination is mainly carried out by police or civilian scene examiners supplemented by other experts where their specific knowledge and expertise is required. The formation of scientific support departments within police forces has varied greatly from force to force but most incorporate personnel responsible for photography, fingerprint, marks/impressions and forensic examination either as individual or multi functional disciplines.

Detailed analysis of trace elements left at a scene by the perpetrator, and subsequent comparison with samples taken from a suspect, will frequently solve a case; therefore it must be ensured that a complete and comprehensive examination of the scene is carried out and that all material seized is properly packaged and preserved for future analysis. The potential value of the information gained from such a careful examination is so important that those who have access to the scene for whatever purpose must appreciate the severe consequences of displaying a careless or haphazard attitude.

INVESTIGATION

Criminal investigation is a reconstructive process that uses deductive reasoning, a logical process in which a conclusion follows from specific facts [2]. Based on specific pieces of evidence, investigators establish proof that a suspect is guilty of an offense. For example, finding the suspect's watch at the scene of a burglary is one piece of evidence that supports the premise that the suspect was at the scene. An issue that might arise is whether the watch could have been planted there. Investigators need to anticipate what issues might arise and what evidence is needed to support the prosecutor's case. All issues in dispute must be supported by evidence. The more evidence an investigation yields, the stronger the proof of guilt. Equally important, however, is evidence establishing innocence.

The purpose of the crime scene search is to discover evidence that will be useful in determining what happened, with the ultimate goal of identifying the person or persons responsible for committing the crime, and thus resolving the case [3]. Evidence discovered at the crime scene will play a crucial role later at the criminal trial in establishing the truth and convicting the guilty parties. The general scope of the crime scene can cover structures of any kind, including but not limited to vehicles, open fields, mass transit systems, water vessels, waterways, aircraft, and the like. In some cases, there may be multiple crime scenes for one crime. Suppose, for example, that a shooting happens in a residence and the suspect subsequently places the body in the trunk of his car and drives the body to an open field located in a rural area where he buries the body in a

shallow grave. In this situation, there are three separate crime scenes: the residence where the shooting took place, the vehicle that was used to transport the body, and the open field where the body was buried. Investigators would be responsible for diligent searches for evidence at each of these areas.

Forensic Science

When a body is discovered, the first consideration is whether death has occurred [4]. If a person is still alive, or possibly so, emergency resuscitation measures need to be commenced. Attempts to preserve life take precedence over concerns about preserving evidence. Except when there is evidence of rigor mortis and/or decomposition, it can be quite difficult for the person who finds a body to determine whether or not to commence resuscitation. This particularly applies to those situations where prolonged resuscitation might be successful (e.g. a body retrieved from cold water after a recent drowning episode). When death has clearly occurred, a doctor is called to confirm death and examine the scene.

On finding a body, any suspicion that death was not due to a natural disease process will prompt initiation of a detailed investigative process. If there are no initial concerns, but concerns arise later, it is almost inevitable that the opportunity to gather some vital information and clues from examination of the scene will be lost. For this reason, the investigating police officers tend to adopt a low threshold for declaring a scene of death as 'suspicious', with the forensic physician often being called upon to assist with this initial analysis.

The role of the forensic scientist is to carry out appropriate scientific examinations in support of the investigation of crime [5]. Through advances in science and technology and with less reliance being placed on other types of evidence such as admissions or witness evidence, forensic science has become one of the principal means of investigating crime.

While most of the work of the forensic scientist is carried out at the laboratory, the forensic scientist may also undertake examinations at the scene of crime. Examinations at the scene may be vital in helping to establish exactly what went on. The interpretation of bloodstains can help to identify the location and nature of an attack. The identification of several seats of burning may establish the cause of a fire as arson. Attending the scene also allows the forensic scientist to select the most appropriate material for detailed examination at the laboratory. Most laboratory examinations are, however, carried out on material selected and recovered by others such as crime scene examiners (CSE), police officers, the pathologist or the forensic physician. In many instances the forensic scientist may have little knowledge of the circumstances of the case beyond those provided on the case submission form and associated documents such as medical examination forms.

Medical expertise is crucial in death investigations [6]. It begins with body examination and evidence collection at the scene and proceeds through history, physical examination, laboratory tests, and diagnosis – in short, the broad ingredients of a doctor's treatment of a living patient. The key goal is to provide objective evidence of cause, timing, and manner of death for adjudication by the criminal justice system. Death investigation has been performed for centuries in all societies, although not always by medical professionals. The association of law and medicine dates back to the Egyptian culture as early as 3000 B.C. The English coroner system was mentioned in documentations around the 12th century B.C.

Although the primary goal of a death investigation is to establish the cause and manner of death, the role of the death investigation extends much further than simply answering these two questions. A common question asked is, "Why does it matter? The person is dead." While it is true that the dead cannot benefit, the value in death investigation is to benefit the living and future generations. In a culture that values life, explaining the death in a public forum (the meaning of "forensic") is crucial for many reasons. And this interest goes beyond simple curiosity.

Autopsy

The first task is to check the labeling of the body [7]. Then, there is the general photograph to be taken, with the label bearing the expert's number (for which a stepladder is very useful).

Following the photograph is the radioscopic or X-ray examination by the particular technician. The aim of this is, of course, to investigate the existence of metal objects such as bullets, lead, shrapnel, and, in other situations, to identify traumatic lesions on the skeleton (such as fractures) or even in the soft tissue, either to determine the cause of death or to compare

findings from the necropsy with antemortem data in order to achieve a positive identification. It also serves to identify pointed or sharp objects that could be hazardous for workers; these should be duly marked.

There are essentially two types of autopsies—the clinical or academic autopsies done at hospitals and the forensic autopsies executed in the medicolegal settings [8]. The aim of the clinical autopsy is to find out, clarify, or confirm diagnoses that remained unknown or are not sufficiently clear during the stay of a patient in a hospital or health institution. The forensic autopsy is performed under the supervision of a legal authority such as a prosecutor, a procurator fiscal, a magistrate, a judge, a coroner, medical examiner, or the police. The forensic or medicolegal autopsy primarily focuses on violent deaths (accidents, suicides, and homicides), although in many situations, it also deals with natural deaths that should be the object of a clinical autopsy. Suspicious and sudden deaths, deaths without medical assistance, and deaths that are litigious or related to surgical or anesthetic procedures, must also to be clarified by a forensic autopsy.

When a typical forensic necropsy is performed on an identified corpse, a categorization of goals can be established. To begin with, it is necessary to diagnose the cause of death and to distinguish it as either a natural ora violent death, which can be achieved often at the same time at the autopsy table, solely based on macroscopy. If the case corresponds to a violent death, three possibilities arise: traumatic injuries, asphyxia, or intoxication. Next, traumatic wounds should be classified according to the instrument /weapon that produced them: blunt, incised and perforating, or a mix. "What was the weapon used?" is precisely one of the first questions the police officers usually ask the pathologist as soon as a crime investigation begins in order to plan the investigation. Incised wounds are produced by sharp instruments, whereas perforating injuries can be the result of different weapons, from pointed, sharp instruments to firearms. One should note that the nomenclature of these wounds is not precise in every country or language, which frequently yields additional difficulties in interpreting an autopsy report.

The final step of a violent death autopsy is the establishment of the manner of death: homicide, suicide, accident, or undetermined. Many cases (intoxications and natural deaths, for example) are not ascertained at the necropsy table and need further investigation, including complementary examinations.

IDENTIFICATION

Hard (qualified) homicide is a murder involving qualifying circumstances such as the age of the victim (child, juvenile, adult) [9]. The age of the victim as a qualifying circumstance should be assessed according to the criteria for determining the time of perpetration of a criminal act. It is important to determine the time of the perpetration of a criminal act, regardless of when the incident occurred. Killing is criminal act with which is intentionally endangers the life of one or more persons, murder in a particularly cruel and insidious manner, killing from self-seeking for the purpose of perpetration or concealment of another criminal act, killing from the irresistible revenge.

Murder investigations involve a double "who" to accompany the "why, what, where, when, and how." [10]. The first "who" that needs to be answered is the identity of the victim, the second being the identity of the perpetrator. In the vast majority of homicides, the tentative identity of the victim is readily known, from either relatives or friends at the scene or from personal identification on the victim's body. In these cases, these friends or relatives will usually make a positive identification to the coroner or medical examiner prior to the autopsy. Sometimes, however, the identity of the victim may not be known, because of either disfigurement, dismemberment, decomposition, or a lack of identifying documents, friends, or relatives. The importance of knowing who the victim is cannot be overstated. For example, a stabbing victim found on the side of a quiet country road with no personal identification on their person would leave nowhere to go to locate relatives, friends, coworkers, or the victim's residence, vehicle, etc. Sure, there may be other evidence, such as tire marks, footmarks, and blood, at the scene, but the bulk of the investigation will begin, perhaps even leading to an additional crime scene or two, once the victim has been identified.

Personal identification is a field where pathology, anthropology, odontology, and even genetics must merge [11]. Specific features and descriptors (such as scars, moles, gross anomalies) may be sufficient for identification. However, in more complex cases, four main disciplines are involved in the identification of human remains: DNA, fingerprint analysis, odontology, and anthropology (or better yet, osteology). Genetic and fingerprinting methods

give a quantitative result, or at least statistics have been performed on the specific traits studied, which allow one to answer in a quantitative manner on the probability of two individuals having similar characteristics—in the first case, for the distribution of different alleles within a population, and in the second, for the frequency of minutiae on the finger. Forensic anthropology and odontology methods, which compare the status and shape of teeth and bones, are valid alternative methods. Methods include comparison of dental work, bone, and tooth morphology, in particular frontal sinus patterns, and craniofacial superimposition. They are advantageous methods because faster and less costly; however, they may suffer, in the view of some judges, from the qualitative and nonquantitative responses they give.

The end result of decomposition of humans is more intimately familiar and perhaps of greater interest to forensic pathologists than to any other group whose duties include the evaluation and investigation of postmortem remains on a routine basis [12]. From such remains, the forensic pathologist may be asked to make an evaluation of the cause and manner of death and, perhaps, how long the body had been *in situ*. These determinations may be challenging, even for the experienced investigator, depending on the condition and location of the remains. The extent, pattern, and nature of decomposition in a specific circumstance may be of great significance and utility in the forensic investigation of a death. Conclusions and inferences drawn from the investigation can be the subject of scrutiny, consideration, and documentation.

Clearly, an understanding of the processes of decomposition can be of benefit for such purposes as estimation of the postmortem interval, recognition of postmortem artifacts, and in an overall evaluation of the death scene. For the forensic pathologist faced with the even more complex issues associated with partial remains, such as the lower extremity, knowledge of the mechanistic processes of decomposition may facilitate an understanding of the specific circumstances of the death in question.

In contrast to the synthetic functions of the living organism, postmortem decomposition of the body is reflective of a collection of physical and degradative biochemical processes that will be situationally dependent for any given body. To an extent, the temporal sequence, and even occurrence, of particular decomposition events in a specific situation will be the result of the combined effects of environmental conditions and the physical setting of the body, as well as the physical actions associated with death. Similarly, the rate at which changes will occur—correlating with the physical state of the remains at any point—will also be a function of those circumstances. With the exception of physically disruptive processes, decomposition is essentially a biological and biochemical phenomenon, mediated by enzymes that are already present in the body, by digestive enzymes and the activities of exogenous flora and fauna colonizing the remains. All of the processes are driven by the stored chemical energy that the decomposing body represents.

EVIDENCE

While committing crimes, people may make mistakes [2]. They almost always leave some type of evidence. They may overlook tangible evidence such as a jacket, pen, purse, piece of paper or card that connects them with a crime scene. Such evidence may be left for any number of reasons: carelessness, panic, underestimation of police capabilities, emotional or mental instability or the influence of drugs or alcohol. More often, however, criminals leave trace evidence, less visible evidence such as fingerprints, small particles of glass or dirt, a faint footprint, body hairs or clothing fibers.

A primary purpose of an investigation is to locate, identify and preserve evidence—data on which a judgment or conclusion may be based [2]. Evidence is used for determining the facts in a case, for later laboratory examination and for direct presentation in court. Best evidence, in the legal sense, is the original evidence or highest available degree of proof that can be produced. Investigators should be cognizant throughout an investigation of the best-evidence rule, which stipulates that the original evidence is to be presented in court whenever possible.

Although crime is a national problem, its control is primarily the responsibility of local government [13]. When officials cannot prevent or deal effectively with crime, other problems are created. First, if individuals commit crime and escape prosecution, future illegal acts are encouraged. Second, unchecked crime requires that resources, which could be devoted to other social problems, be diverted to crime control, resulting in further entrenchment of such ills as poverty and substandard housing. Third, as crime increases, our system of government faces

the real possibility of a crisis of confidence in its ability to maintain public welfare. Finally, crime tears the fabric of social relations and living patterns. People become fearful of strangers and of being on the streets after dark, homes become fortresses, and families move to new locations in search of a secure life. A terrible reality is that until significant inroads are made in controlling crime, the overall quality of life is lower than it could be.

Certain qualities are common to successful investigators, such as good communication skills, strong ethics, initiative, and resourcefulness. All crimes assigned to investigators must be investigated effectively and thoroughly. This responsibility includes not only complete preliminary and follow-up investigations but also understanding the importance of physical evidence in a criminal investigation. The contributions of physical evidence to an investigation are diminished primarily by the inability, unwillingness, or failure to locate, properly collect, mark, and preserve the evidence, and by the drawing of improper conclusions from its analysis.

PSYCHOLOGY

The term mind-set is frequently used to explain the posture an investigator must take to avoid jumping to conclusions, formulating opinions based on prior experience, actions of witnesses or suspects, or just plain biases [14]. At the outset it is important to recognize that it is virtually impossible in any situation to avoid speculating or formulating conclusions based on the information at hand. For example, most people, when they first meet someone, make conscious or subconscious decisions about the individual based on a number of variables, such as dress, speech, personality, body language, or the observations of others. How often do you conclude that you like or dislike someone at first, only to change your mind later as you get to know the person? Or, in sizing up something by observation—such as viewing a photograph or picture, how frequently do you find that another person has a different perception of what they see?

Perhaps the biggest problem an investigator faces is his or her own understanding of their personal psychological makeup. We all bring to any situation our own beliefs, experiences, morality, and ethical standards based upon a great many factors. These may include upbringing (relationships with family), education, training, motivation, and personal goals.

CONCLUSION

For the perpetration of this terrible criminal act, a suspected young woman's sister which disappeared in 2000. She confess the murder. However, given the passing of time, a task which is set on the investigators, will be very difficult to solve. Investigators conducted criminal investigation and made certain conclusions and that's all they could do. After 19 years, it is practically impossible to find any material trace and weapon with which the murder could prove. Confession is not enough for raise the accusation.

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