

Grand Jury Indicts Falconer Man In Cold Case Murder Investigation

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In 1978, a man named Carroll Bonnet was stabbed to death in his apartment. Police had collected evidence including latent fingerprints and palmprints from the victim's bathroom. They had believed that the killer was attempting to wash the blood off to eradicate any evidence. The victim's car was then stolen shortly after. The car was eventually found in Illinois, however even after collecting latent fingerprints from the car, there was no matches found in the databases and the case soon became cold.

About 30 years later, in late 2008, the Omaha Police Department received an inquiry on the case. The group that took on the case carefully examined the fingerprints and they had returned a match by a name of Jerry Watson. He was currently serving in prison on burglary charges. This team travelled to Illinois to question Watson and gathered DNA samples from him. They tested the samples from the ones found at the crime scene and found a match. As Watson was just about to be released from prison, they were able to charge him with murder and sentence him to life in prison.

In regard to DNA samples from people that weren't convicted of a crime. I believe that they should be properly analyzed and registered into a digital database and then disposed of afterwards. This way, it will be easy to match an analysis of DNA to the ones on file.

Reference

FBI. (2024, November 12). *30-Year-Old Murder Solved | Federal Bureau of Investigation*. Federal Bureau of Investigation.
<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/30-year-old-murder-solved>