

CORONER'S REPORT – CASE SUMMARY
E.G. PRIETO, Sheriff-Coroner

Investigator: Laurel Weeks
Decedent: Victorene Lee Pyrskalla

Case #: 10305-212-1996

1 The remains were located on 05/25/1996, floating near the west bank of the Sacramento River, in
2 West Sacramento, approximately 100 feet south of “Crawdad’s Restaurant”. Cause of death was
3 determined to be probable drowning by forensic autopsy. Toxicological analysis revealed trace
4 positive findings for methamphetamine. Manner of death was undetermined. No identification
5 was located on the decedent. The remains were clad in green stretch pants and blue socks. A
6 white metal ring with a green stone was present on the third digit of the right hand. Fingerprints
7 were unable to be obtained due to decomposition. Post mortem interval was believed to be one
8 month or more. Attempts to identify the decedent included dental charting submitted to the
9 Department of Justice for identification and multiple checks against missing person cases by
10 DOJ Criminal Identification Specialist II Gwen Ng. No identification was established and the
11 remains were released to the Yolo County Public Administrator for burial at the Woodland
12 Cemetery. Various possible matches were investigated over the years but did not result in
13 identification.

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15 On 12/27/2002, specimens were provided to the Department of Justice DNA lab for analysis. On
16 01/22/2003, this office requested a case review from the Department of Justice with no resulting
17 match. On 08/28/2003, a DNA profile for the decedent was reported to this office with no
18 resulting CODIS match. In October of 2007 an updated Unidentified Deceased Reporting Form
19 was submitted to the Department of Justice. No new information was received as a result of the
20 re-submission.

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22 On 05/16/2013, this office was contacted by the Department of Justice with a report of a “cold”
23 CODIS DNA hit positively identifying our case to Victorene Lee Pyrskalla, a female reported
24 missing from Butte County on 01/04/1996. On 05/17/2013, I made contact with John Tonkyn
25 with the DOJ Missing Persons DNA program and confirmed the match. I then made contact
26 with Butte County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Pat McNellis regarding the identification.
27 Deputy McNellis made notification to the decedent’s family.

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1 On 05/17/2013, I spoke with the decedent's sister Lori Lawrence, regarding the case and Coroner
2 Policy and Procedures were explained. I also requested and obtained a copy of the missing
3 persons report from Butte County. Per family and the missing persons report, the decedent had
4 resided in Missouri with her spouse, Fred Pyrskalla. She returned to Butte County in December
5 of 1995 for a scheduled court date. During the trip to California, the couple experienced vehicle
6 trouble in New Mexico. The decedent continued to California alone, via air, and arrived in
7 Sacramento prior to her 12/13/1995 court date. The decedent's spouse returned to Missouri.

8
9 The decedent had been residing in a travel trailer on the property of her father, Wendell Harmon
10 Wright. She was last seen on 01/03/1996, when she had visited her mother, Edith Prieheim, and
11 a friend and she spoke with her daughter and husband on the phone during the evening hours of
12 01/03/1996. On 01/04/1996, family arrived to check on Wright's property as he was out of
13 town. They found the decedent's vehicle at the residence resting against a tree with light bumper
14 damage and the key in the ignition, a broken window at the main residence, an open door to the
15 travel trailer and two blood pools on the ground approximately 25 feet from the trailer. The
16 Butte County Sheriff's Department was contacted and conducted an investigation.

17
18 After the identification was made, this office provided copies of the autopsy, toxicology and
19 investigators report to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. A ring held as evidence by this office
20 was mailed to the Butte County Sheriff's Office as evidence in their investigation and for
21 subsequent release to family as property. Family was provided with contact information for
22 Woodland Cemetery. An amendment to the death certificate was submitted to the California
23 Department of Public Health Vital Records section for registration.