

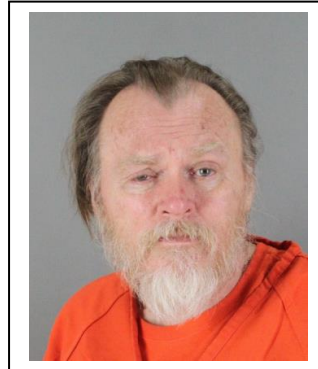


SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856



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NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date and Time: Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 11:00 am
Location: 400 County Center, Redwood City (Hall of Justice)
3rd Floor Criminal Justice Training Room
Type of Crime/Incident: PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT RE:
*Arrest of Rodney Halbower
for 2 Gypsy Hill Cold Case Murders*

Summary:

Redwood City, CA: This morning, Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 11:00 am, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe and San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks will be joined by Acting Pacifica Police Chief Joe Spanheimer and FBI Special Agent in Charge David Johnson, to announce that 66 year old Rodney Halbower has been successfully extradited from Oregon State Prison to San Mateo County. Halbower is being charged with two counts of Murder and the Special Circumstance of murder during the course of a rape, the victims being Paula Baxter, whose body was recovered in the City of Millbrae, CA, and Veronica Cascio, whose body was recovered in the City of Pacifica, CA.

The murders with which Halbower is being charged are two of the 1976 Gypsy Hill Murders. Halbower previously became a person of interest to local authorities when a DNA link discovered by the San Mateo County Crime Lab and the Washoe Co., Nevada Crime Lab, with the assistance of the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division, during an examination of cold case DNA profiles. These charges come as a result of a collaborative effort between the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Pacifica Police Department, South San Francisco Police Department, Daly City Police Department, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and the Reno, Nevada Police Department, and the FBI. Investigation into the remainder of the Gypsy Hill Murders will remain ongoing and as such the FBI Tip Line (415-553-7400) will remain open and active for anyone who feels they may have information to share regarding this investigation. Callers to the FBI Tip Line should press 0 and advise it is in regard to the Gypsy Hill cases. All calls are confidential.

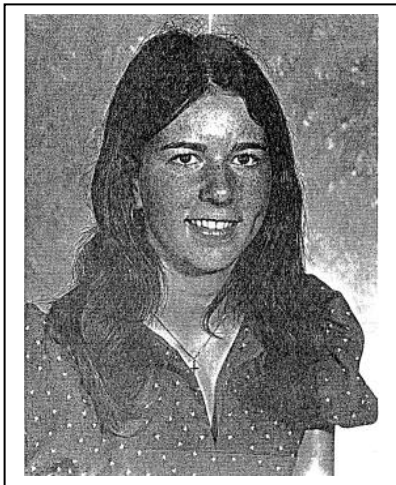
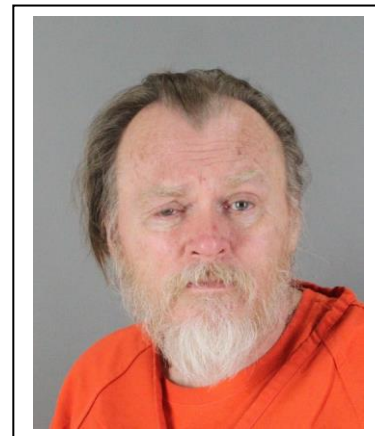
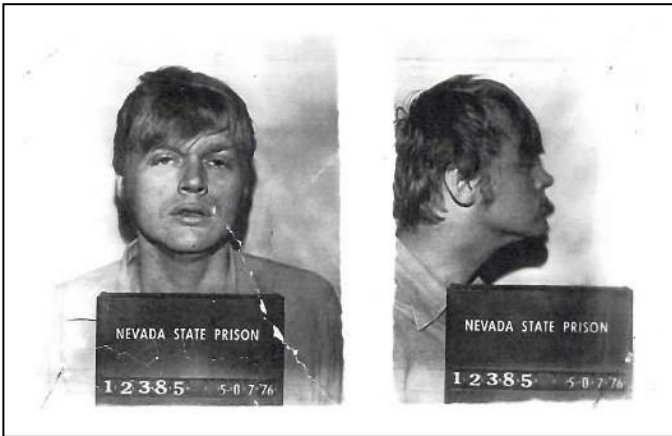
Attached are pictures of what Rodney Halbower looked like in 1976 as well as what he looks like now, in his booking photo taken just this past evening, as well as pictures of the two victims he is being charged with murdering.

Release Date: January 22, 2015



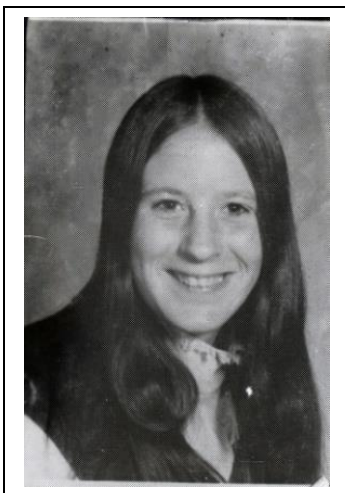
Suspect Rodney Halbower (circa May 1976)

Suspect Rodney Halbower (01/21/2015)



On Feb. 4, 1976, 17 year old Paula Baxter was last seen leaving the parking lot of Capuchino High School in Millbrae, California. Early the next morning her car, a bronze 1972 Chevy Vega station wagon, was located parked on a nearby residential street. Her body was found 2 days later hidden in the brush behind the Latter Day Saints Church on Ludeman Lane. This is currently being investigated by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Paula Baxter
Last seen: 2/4/1976
Body recovered: 2/6/1976
City: Millbrae, California



On Jan. 7, 1976, 18 year old Veronica "Ronnie" Cascio was last seen in the Fairway neighborhood of Pacifica walking from her home to the bus stop located at the corner of Bradford Way and Fairway Drive in Pacifica. Her body was found the next day at the Sharp Park Golf Course. This is currently being investigated by the Pacifica Police Department.

Veronica "Ronnie" Cascio
Last Seen: 01/07/1976
Body recovered: 01/08/1976
City: Pacifica, California