



## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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# NEWS RELEASE

**Incident Date and Time:** Sunday, March 24, 1974  
**Location:** Sandhill Road, Woodside CA.  
**Type of Crime/Incident:** 187 Homicide (felony)  
**Suspect:** **John Arthur Getreu, 74-year-old, Hayward resident.**

### Summary:

On Thursday, May 16, 2019, Investigators from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office served an arrest warrant on 74-year-old John Arthur Getreu from Hayward, California for the 1974 murder of Janet Taylor. Getreu was transferred to the San Mateo County Jail this morning from the Santa Clara County Jail where he was being held for the 1973 murder of Leslie Perlov in that County. Getreu will be arraigned in San Mateo County today for the charge of 187PC – murder. Getreu will be returned to Santa Clara County jail immediately after his arraignment in San Mateo County and will face charges in that County first.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1974 a delivery driver was making his way along Sand Hill Road west of Interstate 280 and saw the body of a young female off the side of the highway. The San Mateo County Coroner's Office took possession of the victim and concluded that the manner of death was a homicide. The victim was discovered to be Janet Taylor and the homicide was a result of strangulation. Although the coroner's investigation concluded the victim was not raped, evidence clearly indicates a sexual motivation for the crime.

The murder investigation was assumed by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and, within days, our homicide detectives began conferring with their counterparts in Santa Clara County. It was their belief that the murder of Janet Taylor was potentially connected to the slaying of 21-year old Leslie Perlov in Santa Clara County the year before. The suspect's MO was very similar and both victims were last seen leaving the Stanford University campus area before their murders. For many years, both killings remained unsolved despite the sincere efforts of seasoned investigators.

In 2017, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Cold Case investigators David Tresmontan and Rick Jackson re-initiated the investigation into the Janet Taylor murder. Once again, they began working in conjunction with homicide investigators from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. As part of our combined efforts on this case, both agencies submitted evidence to our respective crime labs for DNA analysis. Unfortunately, there was no DNA evidence in items we submitted but Santa Clara County's crime lab located an unknown male DNA profile on evidentiary items submitted by their

Sheriff's Office. Through further investigation, they determined that the DNA belonged to 74-year-old John Arthur Getreu of Hayward, California. On November 20<sup>th</sup> of last year, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's arrested John Getreu for the murder of Leslie Perlov. Getreu remains in custody without bail.

After the identification of a suspect in the Santa Clara County case, our Investigators in the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office combed through more evidence in the Janet Taylor case and submitted additional items to our crime lab. This time, the crime lab was able to find male DNA profile on clothing worn by Janet Taylor and that DNA profile was consistent with that of John Getreu's. Through our investigation, we learned much more about the suspect in this case.

Our investigation into John Getreu revealed that he had been connected to the Palo Alto area during the time both Janet Taylor and Leslie Perlov were murdered. We also learned that in addition to him now being a suspect in two cold homicides on the Peninsula, in 1964 he was put on trial for rape resulting in the death of a 16-year-girl in Germany. Getreu was just 18-years-old at the time. Further, we learned that he was also convicted of raping a woman in Santa Clara County. Many of the records on Getreu are old and/or incomplete so we are still researching his past.

Our case was presented to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office and on May 10, 2019, an arrest warrant was issued for John Arthur Getreu for the 1974 murder of Janet Taylor.

There are many people from various agencies whose dedication over the years has helped us to now bring justice to the victim in this case. Our Sheriff, Carlos Bolanos, would like to thank past and present members of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office for their strong support and partnership in this investigation. In addition, we would like to extend our appreciation for the hard work and professionalism of the San Mateo County Forensic Laboratory, the San Mateo County Coroner's Office, members of the Behavioral Analysis Unit from the FBI, all the former Sheriff's Office investigators and volunteers who helped canvas the scene in 1974, and many members of the public who came forward initially and are continuing to assist us.

Investigators have contacted the family and close friends of the victim and they request that their privacy be respected at this time.

Statement from family of Janet Taylor:

*"Janet lived life with enthusiasm and courage. As a spunky, fun-loving youngest of three children, she added much laughter and joy to our family. She loved animals and cherished her friends. We have missed being able to have her in our lives. Janet's future was bright. It would have been wonderful to see what she would have done. We can't ever know all that we missed, but whatever she pursued, Janet would have served others with passion and kindness.*

*We're grateful today for the diligent, meticulous work of the law enforcement officers whose efforts have resulted in today's announcement. They've done this difficult work with integrity and excellence, and with compassion for our family."*

If anyone has any information in this case, or further background information about suspect John Getreu, please call the **San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.**

Release date: May 16, 2019  
Case: #74-02309

