



SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date: March 25th, 1974

Location: Sand Hill Road, Unincorporated San Mateo County

Type of Crime/Incident: PC 187 - Homicide

Suspect: **John Arthur Getreu – 08/26/1944**

Summary: On the morning of March 25, 1974, the body of Janet Taylor was found dumped along Sand Hill Road, West of Interstate 280. The murder investigation was assumed by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office but for many years, Taylor's murder remained unsolved despite the efforts of law enforcement. The case was picked up again in 2017 when San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Unit Detectives re-initiated the investigation into Ms. Taylor's murder. Evidence on the Taylor case was submitted by investigators to the San Mateo County Forensic Laboratory for forensic analysis.

On January 3, 2019, San Mateo County Detectives received a report from the San Mateo County Forensic Laboratory, indicating that a partial male DNA profile was obtained and matched with a person named John Getreu. Getreu was already in custody on a separate homicide investigation in Santa Clara County. San Mateo County Sheriff's Office detectives re-contacted numerous prior witnesses, located and interviewed new witnesses, processed evidence, consulted with the FBI, and conducted a deeper background check on John Getreu.

On August 11th, 2021 the murder trial of Janet Taylor began, and finished on September 14, 2021. Once the jury instructions were provided by Judge Robert D. Foiles, it took the jury just over an hour to deliberate. At 4:30pm, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty of PC 187(A) - first degree murder with the enhancement of PC 1203(E)(3) - infliction of great bodily injury.

Sheriff Carlos Bolanos said, *"Though it has taken 47 years, Investigators with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office have never wavered in their desire to bring justice to the family of Janet Taylor. Through the collaborative efforts of the Investigations Cold Case Unit, the Sheriff's Investigations Bureau, and the District Attorney's Office, we are proud to have finally secured a guilty verdict and closure in this horrific case. I would finally like to thank the jury for all their hard work and dedication to seeking out the truth. Ms. Taylor, you are not forgotten."*

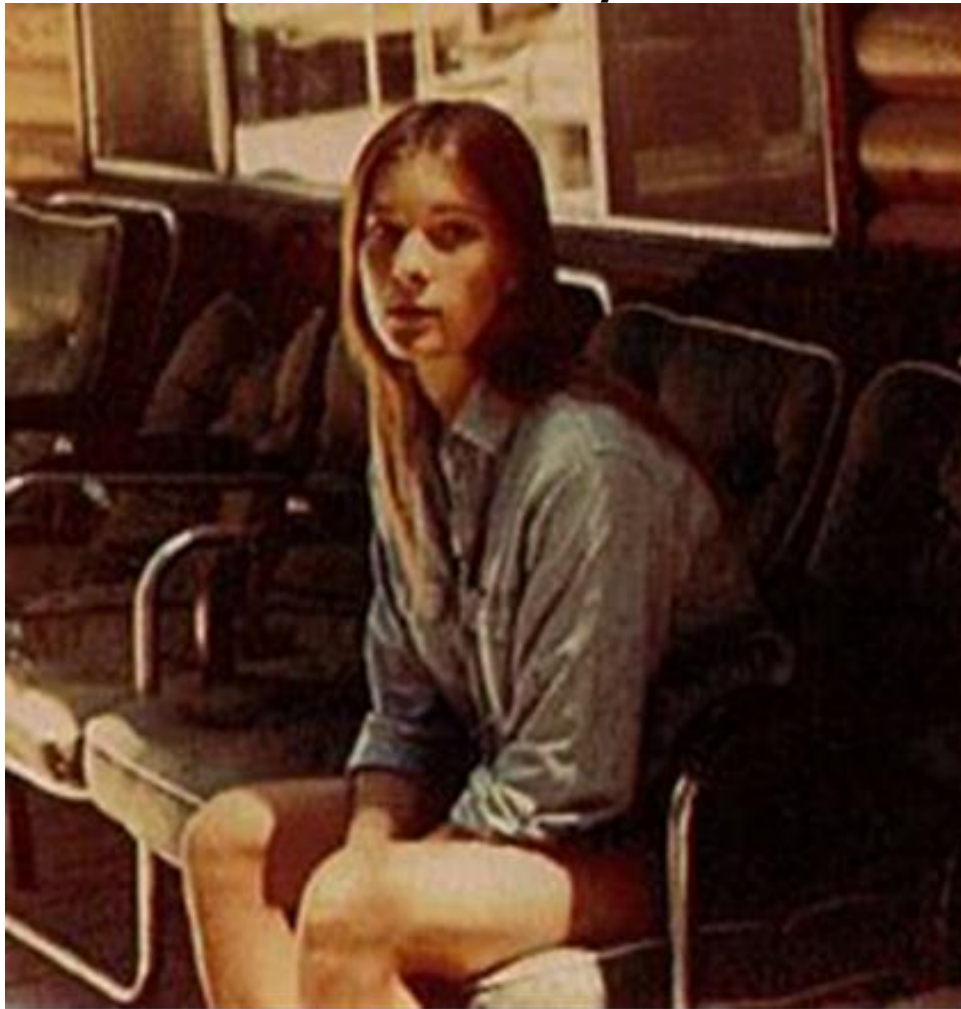


The defendant remains in custody on \$10,000,000 bail and his sentence hearing is scheduled to be on November 5th, 2021.

If anyone has any further information about incidents involving John Arthur Getreu, here or in other jurisdictions, please contact the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Investigation Bureau, and we will pass on the information to the proper authorities. Please call Detective Gordon Currie at 650-363-4051 or email Gcurrie@smcgov.org. or call the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.

Written by Sergeant Joe Cang
Case # 74-2309
Release Date 9/15/21

Victim – Janet Taylor



Suspect John Arthur Getreu

