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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **WOMAN WITH SANTA BARBARA TIES LAST UNKNOWN VICTIM OF 'HAPPY FACE KILLER' KEITH JESPERSON**

**RIVERSIDE** – Recent advances in DNA technology have allowed cold case investigators in Riverside County to come the closest they've ever been to identifying the only remaining unidentified victim of serial killer Keith Hunter Jesperson, known as the "Happy Face Killer."

The woman's body was found on Aug. 30, 1992 along Highway 95, approximately seven miles north of the city of Blythe, California. After his arrest in another case, Jesperson confessed to a news reporter in Portland, Oregon, and later to Riverside County Sheriff's Office deputies, that he killed her and seven other women. Decades later, investigators have now identified the unknown woman's father as a former Santa Barbara man.

Jesperson pleaded guilty to the murder in Indio on Jan. 8, 2010, and was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison, but the woman Jesperson referred to as 'Claudia' was never positively identified. On the anniversary of his conviction for that murder, the Riverside County Regional Cold Case Homicide Team, led by investigators from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, is seeking help around the world in putting a name to the woman's face.

"Our goal is to identify this victim and provide closure to her family, wherever they may be," said District Attorney Mike Hestrin. "We are hopeful someone hearing any of these details may remember anything that could help us reunite this woman with the family who may have been looking for her for over three decades."

In the years since the woman's death, improvements in forensic science have allowed investigators and genealogists to determine some familial relatives, including her biological father, who is now deceased. The victim's father was from Cameron County, Texas, but traveled all over the country, including Texas; Santa Barbara County, California; Washington state and Oregon. Several half-siblings were identified, unfortunately, these living relatives are not biological matches to the victim's mother, and so these individuals were not aware of 'Claudia,' and cannot assist with her identification. However, at the time of her probable conception, the woman's father, Alfonso Sandana Gonzales, was living in Santa Barbara, so it is possible that she may have relatives who also lived in that area. There is also reason to believe the woman's maternal side of the family has ties to the Louisiana and/or southeast Texas area.

The Riverside County DA's Office is calling on the community to contact our investigators with any additional leads that will grant dignity to the victim and answer long-asked questions from her family. Any leads, no matter how insignificant they may seem, can be reported to the Cold Case Hotline at (951) 955-5567, or by emailing [coldcaseunit@rivcoda.org](mailto:coldcaseunit@rivcoda.org). For example, those who may have known the woman's father, or who he was dating in the '70's and '80's.

If you believe that you are a relative in this case, or other unsolved homicides, please consider contacting [GedMatch](#) for DNA comparison.

The Regional Cold Case Homicide Team is comprised of members of the DA's Office Bureau of Investigation, the Riverside County Sheriff-Coroner Department, the FBI, and the Riverside Police Department. The team is available to assist in the investigation of cold case homicides for all Riverside County law enforcement agencies.

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