

# Fishing for Answers:

FISHERMAN THOMAS CARBINE'S MURDERER HAS EVADED JUSTICE FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS



Thomas Carbine with his two sisters, Gail and Cynthia

Photo Dated: January 1982

Nearly three decades have passed since 27-year-old Thomas M. Carbine was found dead in the parking lot of the Beachcomber bar off of Mission Road in Kodiak, Alaska. Sometime during the early morning hours of July 15, 1982 someone fatally stabbed Carbine. The police also believe that Carbine was robbed in the attack.

Carbine, a fisherman by trade, was originally from Maryland. He spent a few years of his life traveling up and down the west coast working on various fishing vessels. In the months before his murder, Carbine fished the waters of Bristol Bay. He had just gotten off the boat in Dillingham and flew into Kodiak.

From what law enforcement could piece together, Carbine landed in Kodiak in the late afternoon of July 14, 1982. Carbine went to a local lodge to drop off his bags he carried with him from Dillingham before heading to the Beachcomber.

That day, Carbine was wearing a blue and gray striped vest and a long sleeved brown pullover that had dark blue stripes running horizontally. He also had on blue corduroy pants over his red and white tennis shoes.

Witnesses told investigators that Carbine was talking with people in the bar and buying rounds of drinks. The bartender asserted that Carbine had lots of cash on him. The last time anyone claimed to see him alive was at 3:30 in the morning. A little more than ten minutes later, Carbine was found dead between two parked cars in the parking lot with no money in his pockets. His wallet was missing and his belt buckle had been ripped away. It was also found lying on the ground.

Police investigated the death, followed up on leads and interviewed many people. The case has since gone cold and found its way to the desk of Investigator Jim Stogsdill. Investigator Stogsdill is a part of the Alaska State Troopers' Cold Case Unit. He spends his time reviewing cold cases, going over the details and evidence of unsolved homicides. After reviewing the files on the Carbine murder, Stogsdill believes there is a chance the cold case could thaw.

“Thomas Carbine was robbed and killed within a few feet of a large number of people. Almost certainly someone there saw or heard something which could be helpful in finding the person responsible,” said Inv. Stogsdill. “Often times a random observation or an overheard comment may be the final piece of the puzzle.”



The next step is to go over the case again with the people that were there or the people who were in the area. There is even a possibility that someone not even at the scene of the crime could hold the answer- people talk.

Carbine's family hope that answers are out there and the killer will be found. "I hope that someone who knows what happened to Tom will volunteer what they saw or know so that Tom and our family can have some resolution to his early and violent death. We loved him," said Carbine's cousin, Sharon Carbine.

**If you have any information regarding Carbine's murder, if you were at the Beachcomber the night of his death, or if you heard a detailed story about what happened to Carbine contact Investigator Jim Stogsdill at 262-4453.**

