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For Immediate Release- Media
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Cold Case Detectives Arrest Suspect in 1973 Murder of Leslie Perlov

On Tuesday, November 20, 2018, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Investigators arrested John Arthur Getreu for the murder of Leslie Perlov.

Getreu, 74, was arrested at his residence in Hayward, California.

On February 13, 1973, at approximately 3:00 PM, Leslie Marie Perlov, 21, was last seen at her place of employment in Palo Alto, California. That same day, Leslie's 1972 Orange Chevrolet Nova was discovered parked at the gate of an old quarry located near the intersection of Old Page Mill Road and Page Mill Road.

On February 16, 1973, a Sheriff's Office Reserve Mounted Unit located Leslie's body under an oak tree in the hills, west of where her vehicle was abandoned. The Medical Examiner determined Leslie's cause of death was strangulation by ligature and the manner of death was homicide.

The case remained unsolved for decades.

Recently, our Cold Case Investigators began to give Leslie's case another look. Investigators submitted numerous items of evidence for DNA examination. Upon review by the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory, a Criminalist located an unknown male DNA profile on evidentiary items provided by the Sheriff's Office.

In July 2018, Sheriff's Office Investigators sought the services of Parabon NanoLabs (Parabon), a DNA technology company in Virginia. The Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory submitted the unknown DNA profile to Parabon for analysis and evaluation.

Law enforcement agencies across the country use the company's Snapshot DNA Analysis Service to advance investigations when traditional DNA methods fail to produce a match. The service uses advanced DNA testing in combination with innovative genetic analysis, sophisticated identification techniques, and traditional genealogical methods to establish the relationship between an unknown subject and his/her known ancestors.

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Parabon submitted a genetic data profile created from the unknown crime scene DNA sample to a public genetic genealogy database for comparison in hopes of finding individuals who share significant amounts of DNA with the unknown subject.

These genetic matches served as clues to inform traditional genealogy research: first, family trees of the matches were constructed back to the set of possible common ancestors using online genealogy databases, newspaper archives, public family trees, obituaries, and other public records, after which descendancy research was employed to enumerate the possible identities of the unknown subject. Other information, such as age, location, triangulation between matches, and/or ancestry and phenotype (trait) predictions, were used to narrow down the possibilities before a final list of leads was produced to the Sheriff's Office.

Upon receiving Parabon's report, the Sheriff's Office continued to investigate the murder of Leslie Perlov. As a result, John Arthur Getreu was identified as a suspect in our investigation.

Sheriff's Office Investigators acquired DNA samples from Getreu and were submitted to the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory for DNA testing.

On November 9, 2018, the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory confirmed that the newly acquired DNA positively matched the DNA profile from the crime scene evidence. Per the Crime Laboratory report, the probability of a random, unrelated individual could be included as a possible contributor to this deduced profile was approximately 1 and 65 septillion individuals.

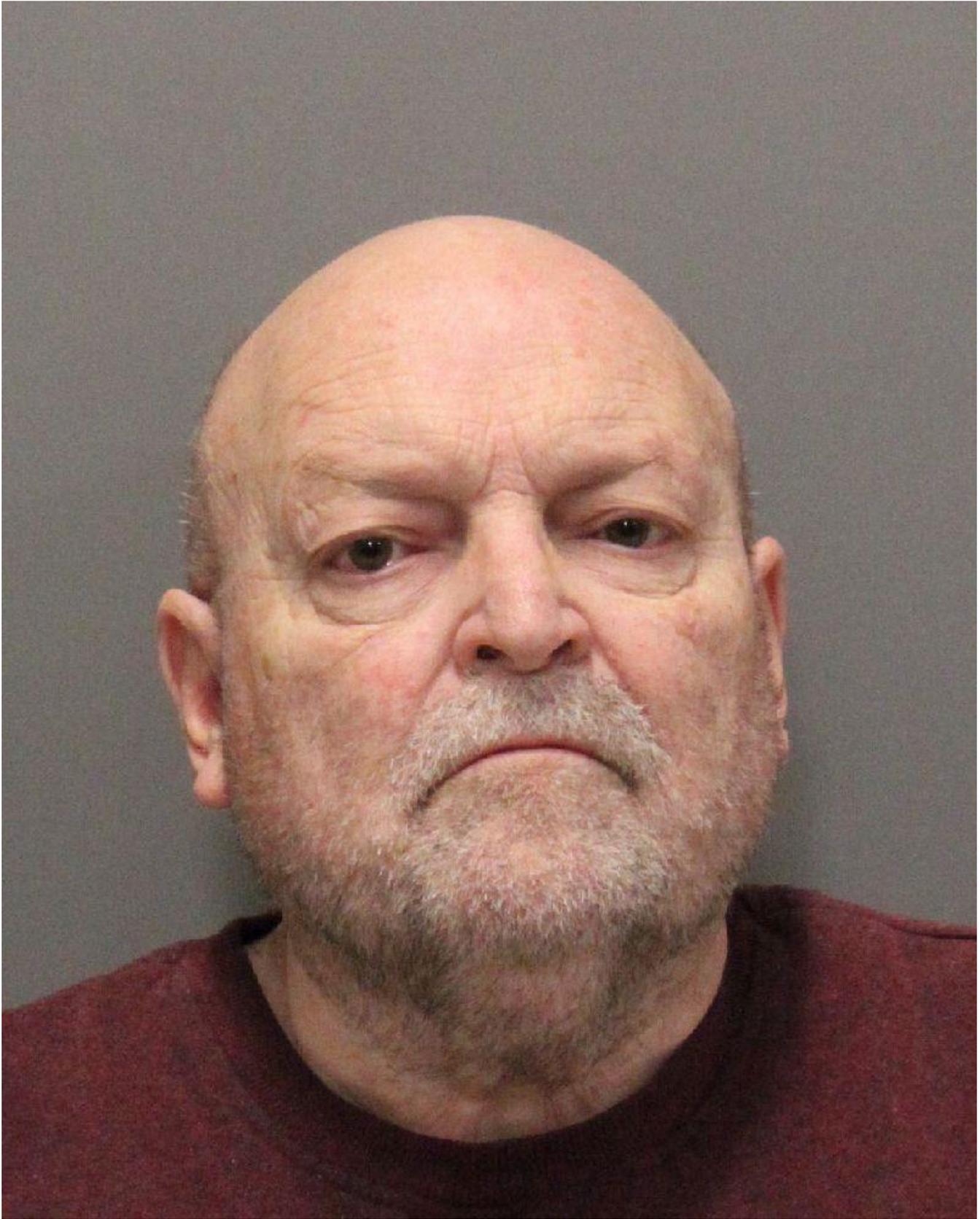
John Arthur Getreu was interviewed by Sheriff's Office Investigators and booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail.

The Sheriff's Office has been working in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies locally and abroad to learn more about Getreu and determine his possible connection to other unsolved criminal investigations.

(See Attached for Booking Photo)

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John Arthur Getreu, 74 Years Old

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