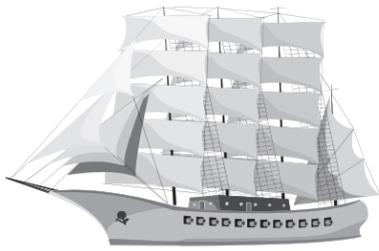


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Cold Case from page 1

the FBI did any testing and wondered if results implicating Cass would have even shown up.

The break in the case came when investigators reopened the case in 2013. The prints revealed a man with a lengthy police record, including possession of a sawed-off shotgun, armed robbery while wearing a mask, aggravated assault and manufacturing drugs at a federal prison.

Following the three interviews – at which time Cass was told evidence existed linking him to the crime and a search of his house failed to find the murder weapon – he shot himself in the right side of his head, a handgun found near his body.

Cass was 20 at the time of the murder, 71 at the time of his own death.

Delano died at age 49. He was married to Blanche Sanborn, who died in 2006 at the age of 78. The family asked for privacy on Wednesday. One of Delano's children, Darlene Delano, submitted a statement to the press.

It read, in part, "Our family would like to take the opportunity to not only thank the initial investigators of our father's homicide, but also the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit. Without their diligent efforts, we would not be here today. We are happy this day has come where our family has been given a small measure of justice.

"For almost 53 years, our family has wondered what happened on September 1, 1966. There was a very long time our family didn't know if we would ever receive the answers about what happened that day. Today, our family has the long overdue answers we have been waiting for."

Delano's murder was not originally filed with the Cold Case Unit when it opened in 2009 "likely due to its age," the AG's report said, and was added only after an inquiry as to why it wasn't on record was made by a member of Delano's family in 2013.

From there, it took only months to crack the case. Morrell said Wednesday that her office waited more than five years to announce its findings due to routine verification procedures, made more difficult because her department lacked the full-time resources needed to



Thomas Cass, career criminal and murderer of Everett Delano. Top photo taken in 1971 and bottom taken not long before he took his own life.

go public in a timely fashion.

Morrell added that the information did not fall through the cracks and catch her office by surprise, saying, "I don't believe it was ever lost."

She said the department's efficiency suffered after its lone full-time prosecuting attorney, Will Delker of Concord, was promoted to superior court judge in 2011, leaving only part timers on staff. Morrell recently was moved to full-time duties in the unit, replacing Delker, and hopes the next state budget will include money for two more full-time prosecutors.

"Between 2014 and now, there has not been an attorney here who is dedicated to working on these cold cases," Morrell said, "so those types of reviews take time and effort, and even during that review process more work had to be done."



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