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Cold Case Conviction for 1982 Murder

(KENAI, Alaska) – Yesterday a Kenai Jury found 56 year of old Fairbanks resident Jimmy Lee Eacker guilty for one count of Murder in the First Degree. The conviction relates to the March 6, 1982 murder of Toni Lister of Seward. Lister was 29 years old at the time of the murder. The trial against Eacker lasted multiple weeks.

On March 6, 1982, Calvin Lister reported to the Seward Police Department (SPD) that his wife of nine months, Toni Lister, did not return home after drinking at the local bars with several friends. On April 17, 1982, Toni Lister's body was found in a wooded area near the Seward City Dump. An autopsy revealed Lister had been stabbed multiple times in the chest and neck with a Phillips screwdriver. SPD conducted an extensive investigation. Despite its efforts, no one was charged or prosecuted for Toni Lister's death.

In August 2006, SPD requested the assistance of the Alaska State Troopers Cold Case Unit to help solve the two-decade-old murder. After reviewing the case, Jimmy Lee Eacker was developed as a person of interest. The Cold Case Investigators requested that SPD submit items to the State of Alaska, Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory for testing to assist in the investigation.

A year later, the cold case unit had gathered evidence for a strong case against Eacker. On August 31, 2007, a Kenai Grand Jury indicted him for one count of Murder in the First Degree and one count of Murder in the Second Degree. Less than a week following the indictment, Fairbanks AST patrol and ABI investigators arrested Eacker for the Murder of Toni Lister. He was remanded without incident on \$250,000 bail at Fairbanks Correctional Center. Eacker's murder conviction closes the 27 year long investigation.