# Jimmy Hoffa Disappearance Investigation



# By

Senior Private Investigators

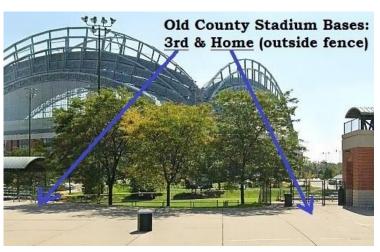
Jim Christy, Carren Corcoran & Donna Johns



## **Table of Contents**

Background on Senior Private Investigators Christy, Corcoran & Johns	3
Executive Summary	
The 3-Year Investigation  The Suspected Hoffa Buriel Site ( <u>2020</u> : Through Aerial Photos & GPS)	10 12
K9 Search for Hoffa Remains (2023: With Cadaver Dog "Hits")	
Hoffa Timeline	
Sgt. Harold J. Walthers' Forest Property (1975-95)	





<u>Left</u>: Drone above Milwaukee's American Family Field, with little league diamond's suspected Hoffa CSI site in distance. <u>Right</u>: Old stadium's former base locations.

## **Background on Senior Private Investigators**

**Jim Christy** (Special Agent Ret, VA, DC, MD.) was the Director of Cyber Crime Investigation & Digital Forensics for the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). Following that Assignment, he was detailed to Sen Sam Nunn, as a US Senate Investigator to lead 4 hearings on Cyber Threat to National Security where he testified twice. A week after the attack on 911 he became the Director of Operations for the Defense Computer Forensics Lab, the world's largest digital forensics lab where he created the Clearinghouse for Media Exploitation (CHIME) to process digital media seized in theater during the Global War on Terrorism, at DOD Cyber Crime Center (DC3). Altogether, 42 years of public service and working cold cases since 2016.

**Carren Corcoran** was a City of Madison Police Officer for 30 years and retired in March of 2020. She has been training and handling working dogs for 23 years as a fully sworn police officer and as an independent handler-volunteer. Corcoran has trained/handled four Human Remains Detection Dogs that have been utilized by Law Enforcement in the USA and Canada. She has participated in over 280 search and rescue and recovery missions as a cadaver dog handler, and also provides training and certifications for both LE and Civilian HRD handlers.

Additionally, Corcoran was a dual-purpose patrol dog as a full-time police officer for the City of Madison for 10 years from 2010-2020. The patrol dog was trained to detect illegal narcotics, apprehend suspects, conduct scent-specific man trailing, and search buildings for suspects, SWAT assists, and article detection. She averaged 200 deployments a year as a K9 Handler for the City of Madison PD. Corcoran provides scent-specific man trailing training to LE handlers.

**Donna Johns** (Special Agent, Ret) served as a criminal and fraud investigator with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). She served as a Seminar Advisor for AFOSI and was later assigned as the Source Manager for AFOSI's Investigative Operations Center, Andrews AFB, MD. After retiring from the Air Force, Johns obtained her Private Investigators license and opened her PI Agency, working a multitude of case types, including criminal, fraud, and domestic for over 22 years. She was selected to investigate fraudulent cases as a result of the BP oil spill on the Gulf Coast. Johns worked for years with both the Department of Defense and the Department of State conducting background investigations for security clearances.

#### Senior Private Investigators (SPI) Contacts

Forensic, PI Jim Christy, 42-yr (Baltimore., MD): 443-478-0860; <a href="mailto:Jim.Christy@comcast.net">Jim.Christy@comcast.net</a>
Forensic, PI Carren Corcoran, 30-yr LE/K9 (Pound, WI): 608-692-0531; <a href="mailto:Coren0120@gmail.com">Coren0120@gmail.com</a>
Inv. Donna Johns, 20-yr USAF (Miramar Beach, FL); 850-835-4834; <a href="mailto:Donna@donnajohns.net">Donna@donnajohns.net</a>

#### SPI Team's 10 Specialists

APUS, College Adjunct Instructor Jen Bucholtz – USA CI, LE, Instructor (Peyton, CO)

Chicago PD Cmdr. Terry Freeman (ret.) – 11/1/23: covering for Corcoran (Delavan, WI)

Forensic, Cyber Inv. Courtney Lancaster - CI operative, DOD Instructor (Baltimore, MD)

Forensic, DNA Expert Kelly Elkins – Towson University (Towson, MD)

Forensic, DNA Expert Francine Bardole – Lab/Ballistics (SLC, UT; lab/ballistics)

Forensic, Doc Examiner Linton Mohammed (Ex-President, ASQDE; S.F., CA)

Forensic, Pathologist/Instructor Priya Banerjee, M.D. (RI)

Geospatial, Expert Hasten Biddlecome (Chicago, IL)

LE Officer/JTTF/Gaming Special Agent Jim Zimmerman (ret.) – Hoffa Lead (London Mills, IL)

PI Bill Proctor, Retired PD/Active PI (Bloomfield Hills, MI)

## **Executive Summary**



**HOFFEX:** The FBI code name for Hoffa Investigation

### The Investigation of the Disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa

Our team has been investigating the Hoffa Disappearance for more than 3 years.

#### **Bottom Line Upfront:**

In our investigation, sources brought forth evidence that we learned involved the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa in 1975. It initially led the Senior PI Team to believe that the labor leader was murdered and buried in a 55-gallon barrel, on or near property owned by an ex-law enforcement official named Harold J. Walthers. But in 1995, a secret document revealed that Hoffa was quietly moved and reburied under the 3<sup>rd</sup> Base of the old Milwaukee County Stadium – torn down in 2001. The new replacement stadium was built south of the old stadium site. The SPI team believes Hoffa's body is/may be located in a section of the parking lot, adjacent to Helfaer Field that is directly north of the new stadium.

The SPI Team has performed Global Positioning System (GPS) analysis and tracked down the old 3<sup>rd</sup> base location. We followed that up with Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) at the location, which indicated a soil disturbance/anomaly approximately 5 feet below that former 3<sup>rd</sup> base. In addition, we had a volunteer Cadaver Dog Team brought in on Oct 2, 2023, and they searched the same area. The K9 alerted in the same area, indicating human remains are or were located there.

#### **Recommendation:**

The SPI Team recommends state or local government authorities closely examine the evidence collected by the team and perform a dig at this location. If human remains are discovered, we'd of course suggest DNA testing to confirm if they are Hoffa's remains.

#### **Background:**

Over 48 years after Jimmy Hoffa's unsolved vanishing, Jimmy Hoffa, the son of an Indiana coal Miner, is still missing. Hoffa first worked as a stock boy and warehouseman for several years, then began union-organizing activities in the 1930s. His managerial skills and bull-doggedness during company negotiations led to his presidency at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) in 1957.

Critics though point to his long association with organized crime. Hoffa survived a series of governmental prosecutions until 1967, when he entered the federal prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, to begin a 13-year sentence for jury tampering, fraud, and conspiracy.

But President Richard Nixon commuted his sentence in 1971, stipulating that he could not engage in union activity until 1980. Hoffa was released and fought that restriction in court and continued efforts to take back his position. But the mafia families around the country vowed not to let that happen; his IBT stand-in allowed the pension money to build Las Vegas casinos. When Hoffa threatened to change all of that, his life was threatened.

Jimmy Hoffa vanished on July 30, 1975.

### The Evidence that leads to the SPI Team's Assertion and Recommendation:

Team was approached by Jim Zimmerman (London Mills, IL), a former Task Force Officer on the FBI's Chicago Human Intel Squad, creator of the Terrorism Liaison Officer Committee (TLOC), Special Agent at the Illinois Gaming Commission, past Commander at Niles P.D., and a SPI specialist on the team. Zimmerman learned of this Hoffa tip and the initial evidence through retired Cook County Deputy Michelle Walthers, a trusted friend of Zimmerman's since 1992.

AIUPPA WALTHERS



Michelle Walthers is the niece of Harold Walthers – a former LE officer with 20 years of service at 3 police agencies. But Walthers faced charges of extortion, fraud and bribery; this made him an ideal mafia recruit. A senior gangster, "Chicago Outfit" mob don Joey Aiuppa, was so enthralled, he gifted Walthers a house next to his own estate. Our investigators have confirmed Walther's pool house was adjacent to mob don Aiuppa, who the FBI credited with at least 14 hits,



bombings, stabbings and fatal beatings. Months before Hoffa's 1975 vanishing, sources say Walthers moved to the northern woods to "case" Hoffa.

Niece Walthers first learned this information 26 years ago (1996), months before her favorite uncle's passing, when she visited Walthers at his remote trailer near Canada's border. As a 1960s teen, Niece Walthers never understood why the former police sergeant Walthers left a home with a pool in a classy suburb, for a trailer in the northern woods.

When Walthers' niece walked into her uncle's trailer in 1996, the 74- year-old man was in failing health. Walthers then revealed a playing card, covered in handwriting. Niece Walthers spotted the word "Hoffa" at the top, the crime boss's name, a rendezvous date, and a precise burial spot. After returning the ace of spades to its hiding place, Walthers gave Niece Walthers fateful final words: "If something happens to me, you'll know what to do."



After her uncle died, Niece Walthers inherited his small estate. She'd earlier confided in her long-time boyfriend-cop, the aforementioned Zimmerman and after consoling, he reminded her of her badge: "Don't forget to look for that card." But while reabsorbing its damning details, Niece Michelle became fearful for her own family and relatives in multiple states. It was her call, and Zimmerman agreed they would keep the card's existence between them.

Now 28 years later, Zimmerman is one of the SPI Team specialists.

He contacted his former Illinois girlfriend, Niece Michelle, and convinced her that all the gangsters she was worried about were long gone. While she admits the disturbing new evidence about her dead uncle's double life has scrambled her emotions, the retired county deputy has wholeheartedly agreed to help the team tackle this Hoffa investigation.



After the ace of spades was sent to the SPI Team, they found 3 remote witnesses in her uncle's former northern woodlands who recalled hearing some of the same specifics. The SPI Team suspects that CSI forensics will show Hoffa's body was initially hidden in Harold Walthers' former northern property area in 1975. Then 20 years later, for a reason only known to dead men, his remains were moved hundreds of miles away to a particular spot referenced on the playing card (<u>FYI</u>: Back of card on page 7).

On 2 June of 2020, with the help of old aerial pictures and satellite imagery-analysis photos, a veteran historian, and a geophysicist's ground-penetrating radar, the SPI Team believed they found the exact burial site noted on deceased Walthers' playing card – a site that appears to have been quickly "excavated and backfilled."

On 2 Oct 2023, SPI members searched the suspected area with a cadaver K9 team, and the K9 indicated the presence of human remains in the exact area of our GPR hit in June 2020.

The investigators also discovered and reviewed old documents and photos, then interviewed the separate witnesses in 3 states. The 3 witnesses claimed Harold J. Walthers told each of them he had secretly helped a notorious mafia leader surveil, kidnap, murder and bury Jimmy Hoffa.

##

## The 3-Year SPI Investigation



**2020 4/7** Former deputy Michelle (69, with grandkid's "snapchat" crown) agrees to work with Jim Zimmerman and the SPI Team. While sharing old records, she reveals the 1<sup>st</sup> note on her ace of spades: Hoffa was reburied inside of "*Milwaukee Ball Park.*" But Michelle gives an update: The arena was moved "*across the street*" in 2000; the alleged burial spot is now somewhere in a game-day cement parking lot! FYI (9/29/23): Learning the truth about her corrupt ex-cop Uncle Harold Walthers has left Michelle troubled with a spectrum of emotions.

- **2020 4/23** SPI Team member Zimmerman locates ex-LE brass that ran Chicagoland PD agencies. They provide corruption details and stories involving Walthers, Aiuppa & town officials.
- Team reaches out to **Gregg Hoffmann**, an award-winning author who spent a decade researching the definitive 2000 book on old Milwaukee County Stadium. He's agreed to quietly consult with the SPI Team. <u>FYI</u>: The Hoffman, a now-retired sports/book writer, provided details to help the SPI investigators pin down exact location of the former 3<sup>rd</sup> base Hoffa's alleged gravesite.
- Walthers' 2 former fishing pals "best friend" Richard Pierce and wife Patti (74; she has most recall) are in Woodruff, WI. She claims that Walthers boasted that he had "cased Hoffa" before the 1975 kidnap, and that he was eventually "buried at [either] home or 3<sup>rd</sup> base" in an MLB stadium. Richard added, "He was always talking about Hoffa to the very end." FYI: Patti says there are NO photos or video burned up in a 2000 home fire. (Richard died in 2022; Team-R&PP; pic; MW)
- 2020 6/2 SPI Team Member Zimmerman and geophysicist use a GPR scanner to locate Jimmy Hoffa's alleged 3<sup>rd</sup> base grave site. (JZ; pics/vid)
- Team locates Pam Saari (57), the widow of the Minocqua, WI cop who had colluded with Walthers for decades. Before her husband Gary died in 2016, Sarri claims he had written "hundreds of pages" (from Walthers' forwarded CDs) for a book on the Chicago mob history documenting the corruption and secret murders, including Hoffa's. FYI: Pam revealed she knew the grave's exact location (same as on Michelle's inherited 1995 playing card). But when widow stated Gary had been told Walthers had "torn up" ace of spades, Team corrected her. She hasn't spoken to SPI Team since (Talk to Team).





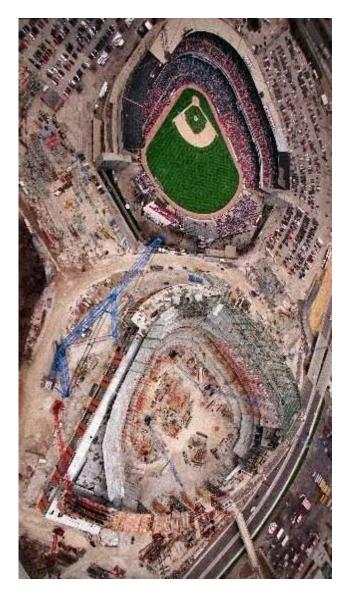
**2023 10/7** The SPI Team convinces Michelle to share the critical casino card for 1) chain-of-custody confirmation and 2) proof for the Hoffa relatives that the SPI is on the right trail.

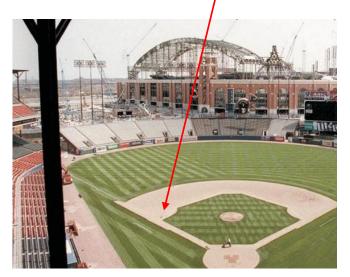
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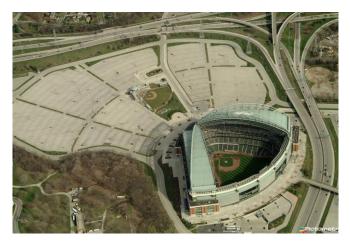
## The Suspected Hoffa Burial Site



In 2001, Milwaukee County's Stadium (MCS is in top-left and top-right photos) was torn down after the completion of the Brewers' American Family Field. At right, it's being built beyond the field. But 3 former cops (Michelle Walthers, Jim Zimmerman and deceased Garry Saari) were informed that, <u>6 years before MCS</u>'s demolition, **Jimmy Hoffa's** remains were removed from a secret location near the Canadian border and reburied at this old arena's 3<sup>rd</sup> base.







The former stadium was transformed into a massive, game-day parking lot (above). But if you look closely, you'll see a <u>tiny baseball diamond</u> in the middle of all of that concrete. Named Helfaer Field, it opened in 2002 and is advertised today as a "Field of Dreams" for Milwaukee's little league teams.

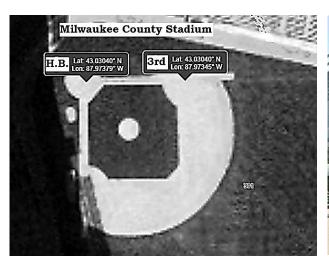


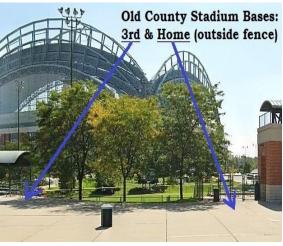






**Gregg Hoffmann**, an author who wrote a historic book on MCS, always believed a plaque (above) along Helfaer's 3<sup>rd</sup>-baseline walkway marked the exact site of old home plate. But with help of UW-Madison's aerial imagery library, the SPI Team used the arena's former longitude/latitude photo coordinates to "geo-tag" the <u>exact positions of both old bases</u> (below) – just outside of the little league field's fence.

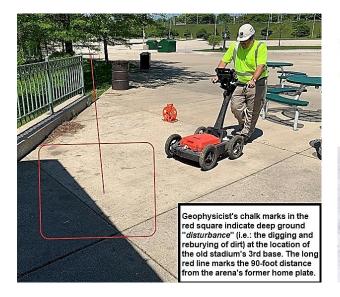


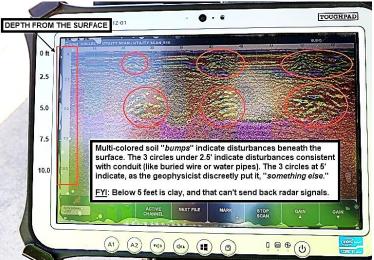


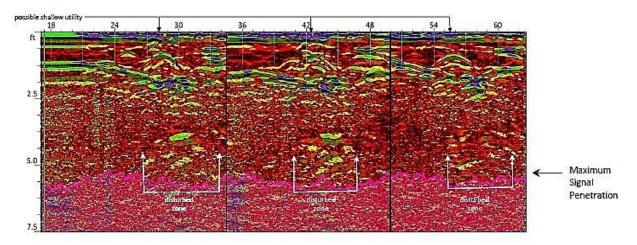
Ninety feet from home, sources have told us we will find Hoffa's remains.



**On 6/2/20**, SPI Team Member Jim Zimmerman – a former Chicago street cop – and 2 others donned construction vests and drove to the alleged Hoffa interment location on unfenced public property. One of those joining was <u>a senior geophysicist/geologist</u>, using a ground-pentrating radar (GPR) scanner.







After carefully sweeping the adjacent courtyard, the geophysicist found only one deep disturbance – at the stadium's <u>former 3<sup>rd</sup> base</u> (3 GPR passes are above). SPI Member Zimmerson called the news "*very interesting*." Report's other disclosure suggests mob diggers brought in tools to speed things up:

#### Report Detailing Results of Limited Geophysical Survey at Helfaer Field in Milwaukee, WI:

The purpose of this investigation was to locate possible disturbed areas or buried targets using GPR. The survey area was understood to be in the vicinity of the original location of Home Plate and Third Base from the former Milwaukee County Stadium. GPR profiles were collected on closely spaced profiles within the survey areas. Additional profiles were performed in an effort to delineate the extents of anomalous reflections observed during the initial data collection. The GPR survey found two areas that had a signal response different than the otherwise relatively uniform soils across the areas. These 2 anomalous areas indicate potential disturbed soils and possible buried targets.

#### Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)

GPR is a non-destructive, non-intrusive geophysical technique that involves the transmission of very high-frequency electromagnetic (radio) waves into the near-surface. Reflections are produced when the electromagnetic waves encounter a subsurface interface or discontinuity in electrical character. These reflections are recorded by the field instrumentation and provide continuous, high-resolution subsurface images that are output real-time to a Toughbook tablet computer. GPR signal penetration is partially controlled by near-surface conditions. Electrically resistive Earth material such as unsaturated, coarse-grained sediments optimizes GPR signal penetration. In contrast, GPR exploration will be limited by relatively conductive materials such as saturated or fine-grained sediments, clay-rich soils, ash, or reinforced concrete. GEI utilized its GSSI Dual Frequency (DF) digital radar system outfitted with an integrated 300 and 800 MegaHertz (MHz) antenna for this investigation. This antenna is capable of resolving interpreted features ±0.5 ft vertically and ±1.0 ft laterally. Due to clayey soil conditions, the maximum GPR signal penetration was estimated to be 5.5 ft below ground surface.



#### Data Interpretation

GPR profiles were collected on June 2, 2020, on an approximate 2 to 2.5 ft spacing. These profiles were performed in several directions as shown on Figure 1. The data were visually monitored during the field effort and reviewed in the office to identify subsurface targets that potentially had a shape consistent with a buried target or disturbance. Besides shallow utility trends (possible conduit, sewer piping), two areas were observed that looked different from the rest of the surrounding soils. Figure 2 shows screen- captured images from the GPR profiles over these features. First, a target was observed behind and slightly west of the former Home Plate. The target is labeled on the upper panel of Figure 2, and it was several feet long and approximately 3 ft deep. Location seems localized around the concrete curbing north of a planted tree.

The second anomalous area showed a lower-amplitude (weaker) response, that suggests a potentially disturbed zone in the

general vicinity of the former Third Base. A different signature was noted in the GPR record at about 3.5 ft depth where a change in the stratigraphic layering was observed. This type of response may indicate an area that was excavated and backfilled. This area is noted as disturbed zones on the lower panel of Figure 2 where three closely spaced passes were performed. The rough extents of this disturbed area are shown within the yellow ellipse on Figure 1. It is uncertain at this time whether these features are associated with remnants of the former stadium, or are related to the grading and construction of Helfaer Field.

## K9 Search for Hoffa's Remains

Based on witness interviews, documentation, and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) results, on October 2, 2023, the SPI team decided to use a Cadaver K9 team to verify our results in 2020.

The 4-member team we put together:

- Jim Christy, Retired Special Agent, AF OSI, Team Lead
- Cindy Murphy, Retired Madison PD Det and Digital Forensics expert
- Carren Corcoran, Retired Madison PD Officer and K9 handler for 20 plus years
- Hasten Biddlecome, GEI Consultants, Drone Operator

The search was scheduled for Mon 2 Oct 2023 at 11 am, the day after the Brewer's final regular season baseball game and their first home-playoff game.

Search site was the area of the parking lot, the pavilion, and the area surrounding the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of Helfaer Field – a Little League field built on the site of the old Milwaukee County Stadium (MCS). It is about 100 yards North of the new "American Family Field," the new home of the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Team.

Jim Christy arrived in the parking lot of Helfaer Field at 10:30 am on 2 Oct 23 (bottom-left). When he entered, he encountered a local TV news crew from FOX Channel 6 (bottom-right). The crew was set up and broadcasting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> base pavilion, which happened to be our search site.

Christy casually approached the news reporter and cameraman and realized they were broadcasting TV "live shots" for the morning news – reporting on the Brewers that were scheduled to start their playoff run the next day. Christy inquired how long they were planning to be there and the reporter said, "all day."





When the reporter got up and went to her car, Christy started a conversation with the cameraman. Christy told him that we had scheduled a training session for our K9's in this location, but would not interrupt them and would work around them.

The camera-man then told Christy they would be packed up and done by noon.

Christy also noticed that the Little League Field that was constructed on the old MCS site was about 10-12 feet below the level of the surrounding parking lot.

Christy approached a grounds-crew member that was preparing the Little League field for winter closure, and asked: "What was the original level of the old stadium? Was it the lower level of the Little League Field, or was the parking lot the actual level of the old stadium?"

The young crew member informed him the Little League Field was the original level at the old MCS, and the parking lot had been backfilled to build the grand-stands, picnic areas, pavilions, and press box.

That information conflicted with our GPR data, which indicated the entire area had no subsurface disturbances – <u>except</u> the former MCS 3<sup>rd</sup> base location, our target area.

Later, Christy stopped a senior groundskeeper and asked the same question. The senior groundskeeper informed him the Little League Field was excavated out, and the parking lots and surrounding area around it was in fact the original MCS field level.

This was a relief to the SPI team; it meant the 2020 GPR data was accurate.

That also suggests the location of the Little League Field might have been <u>placed in a spot that made sure the original 3<sup>rd</sup> base area would not be disturbed</u>. The MCS stadium Home Plate is recognized in a cement walking path at the Little League Field (below-left) and a sign indicating it was the original location. That is not the original location of home plate, according to our GPS analysis. The actual location of the original home plate outside the gated stadium on the walkway.

When designing the Little League Field, it would seem likely that you'd keep the field's Home Plate at the original spot in MCS. If they had done that, the old 3<sup>rd</sup> base area would have had to be excavated and Hoffa's body would have to be relocated again.

By placing the Little League Field the way they did, the body didn't have to be relocated and would also be covered by a large slab of concrete.

3rd Base View, 10/2/23



1<sup>st</sup> Base View, Circa 2002





SPI "canine handler" Carren Corcoran had done some research prior to this field investigation. She discovered that a Civil War-era cemetery – the Calvary Cemetery and Wood National Cemetery – were located about 1,500 feet southwest of the little league search site.

Corcoran advised that her K9, Moxy, was her most senior Cadaver K9 and might be able to scent the old remains from the massive cemetery. This could be a limiting factor.

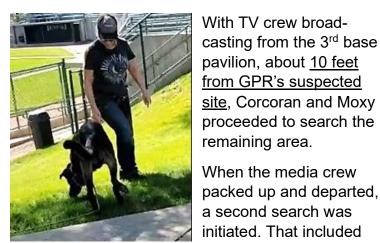


Corcoran requested her search to be a blind search. She didn't want to know the facts about what led us to this area or the results of our GPR scan in 2020. She just asked for the general area we wanted her and Moxy to search.

She was informed we wanted the parking lot, buildings, and area on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side of Helfaer Field searched, which included approximately two acres.

Corcoran was then alerted we were looking for the remains of Jimmy Hoffa that we suspected were moved to this area in 1995.





When the media crew packed up and departed, a second search was

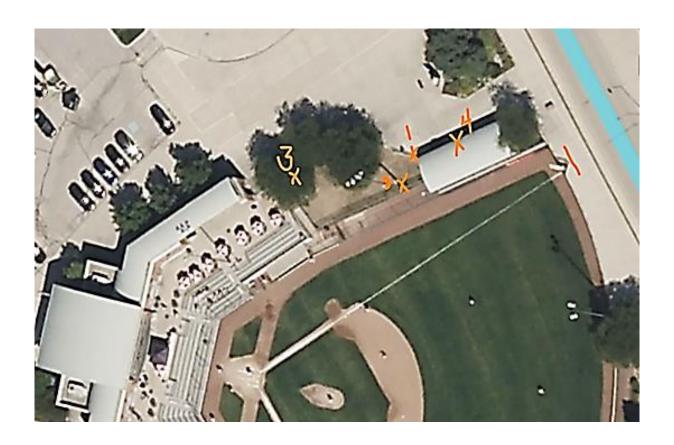
pavilion, about 10 feet

the 3<sup>rd</sup> base pavilion area and the 2020 GPR-hit location.

14

## SPI Corcoran and K9 Moxy's Results

We had <u>four areas of positive indications of human remains</u> by K9 Moxy and handler Corcoran, in order of strength of indications by Moxy.



1. The strongest, most significant hit was in location 1 on the map – and that coincides with the GPR hit from June 6, 2020, and location of the original 3<sup>rd</sup> base.





2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> most significant hit was down a grassy slope directly downhill from the #1 hit location. This would make sense if human remains were buried up the hill about 20 feet away. The scent would come from normal water drainage from the body location.





2020: GPR Hit

2023: 4 Cadaver Dog Hits, Same Site

3. <u>The 3<sup>rd</sup> hit</u> was an indication in a grassy area closer to the original Home Plate area, near the seating area of the old MCS ballfield.





4. The 4<sup>th</sup> was a hit in the 3<sup>rd</sup> base pavilion.

## **Suggested Leads**

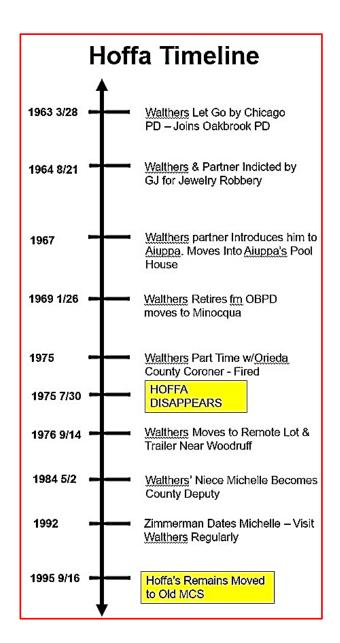
- Search of the two former Walther's properties in Woodruff area with Cadaver K9's (next page). The possible location of Hoffa's remains from 1975-1985
  - 2. Suggest that when presenting our final results to the authorities, we <u>propose a less</u> invasive and less expensive test: Use a borehole drill in the indicated area and have the resulting samples be examined by the Cadaver K9's. This would eliminate the scent contamination possibility from the cemetery. ##

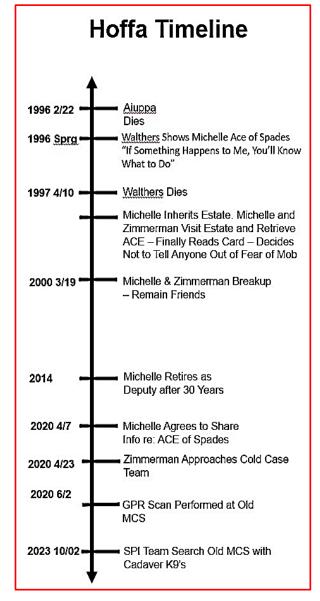
**Walthers** 



## Aiuppa







## Sgt. Walthers' Forest Property



Just before Hoffa's 1975 vanishing, Sgt. Walthers (introed on p. 5) moved to northern Wisconsin. The next year, Walthers bought a remote lot with a trailer near the town of Woodruff (**Red-marked lot and circled** below). Credible sources state he remained there for the last 20 years of his life – bragging to fishing buddies and friends that he had "cased" Hoffa before his murder. That said, could this former right-hand man to a Mafia don have been <a href="https://disabs/hoffa/sbody-there">hiding Hoffa's body there</a>, before the '95 stadium reburial? FYI: Team is planning to approach the current property owner for a cadaver dog search.





