



3-9-1995

AMSEC 17 -- Ruth McNeill Murder

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RUTH McNEIL

Ruth McNeil, a widow, age 78, was found beaten to death in her home October 4, 1981. She lived at 2071 Baxterly Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. The murderer apparently gained entrance through a rear door. Police stated that a screen had been cut and a window in the rear door was broken. However, retired detective Vince Kremperger, who investigated the murder, stated he believed the window was broken out. Exhibit 80. He believes it was somebody she knew. There was nothing stolen from the home that police and relatives could determine. Exhibit 75, coroner's verdict. Exhibit 74, news article.

Gail Higgins lived next door to Ruth McNeil at the time. Higgins told Cynthia Cooper, Exhibit 77, Cooper affidavit, that McNeil had been concerned over someone attempting to break into her house. According to Higgins, McNeil thought it might be someone who had previously stolen a ring from McNeil. Higgins stated that McNeil "was not known for her sweet personality." As a consequence, Higgins thought it humorous when she heard McNeil laughing during a conversation with McNeil's window washer. Higgins said that McNeil had her windows washed twice a year.

The coroner's report indicates that there was an injury to the joint of the *fourth* left finger (ring finger). Exhibit 75.

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