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**San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
Coroner Division**

Autopsy Protocol

Coroner's Case Number: 701306966

Autopsy Number: A-1297-13

Name: Ryan Jerell Singleton

aka: John Doe #111-13

Age: 24

Sex: Male

Time of Death: Reported Found 1945 hours, September 22, 2013

Race: Black

Time of Autopsy: 1005 hours, September 25, 2013

Place of Autopsy: San Bernardino County Coroner's Facility

Deputy: Mark Johnson

HISTORY OF DEATH:

Deputy Coroner Investigator's Report Summary: According to the deputy coroner investigator's report, from information received from San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies, on September 21, 2013 at 1945 hours, two men were walking in the desert west of Baker when they found what appeared to be human remains. They called 911 and San Bernardino County Fire Department responded and confirmed death. The body was discovered by a local resident who was hiking in the desert with his cousin. It was thought that the decedent might be an individual who had been reported missing in Baker on July 10, 2013.

When the body was examined by the deputy coroner at 0900 hours on September 22, 2013, the body was clothed in black shorts, faded black high top court shoes, black socks, and an orange rubber bracelet with "Tri Camp 2013" etched into it on the right wrist. No trauma was noted, although it was thought that one of the sutures in the skull may be dislocated. Several bones appear to have been removed from the body by animal activity. Most of the ribs on the left side of the body had been moved away from the body and it appeared that the thoracic organs were missing along with the thoracic musculature.

The body appeared to match the description of Ryan Singleton. A missing person report was made regarding Ryan Singleton on July 10, 2013. According to that report, Singleton had a same sex spouse in New York City, but had left New York to live with his mother in Georgia. He then had flown to Los Angeles, where he stayed with a friend of his on July 06, 2013. On July 07, he left for Las Vegas. On July 08, he called his friend in Los Angeles, stating he was on his way back from Las Vegas and on July 08, 2013, at approximately 2200 hours, he again called his friend in Los Angeles saying he was going to pull over and sleep for a while. On July 09, he called to say he was running low on fuel and money. His friend deposited \$60 in Singleton's bank account. Singleton called him again at 1500 hours on July 09, saying he was in Baker and asked if his friend could come and pick him up. His friend drove to Baker, looked for Singleton, but could not find him and returned to Los Angeles and the friend filed the missing person report on July 10.

During the missing person investigation, it was learned that Singleton had been found wandering along Interstate 15 by a California Highway Patrolman. Singleton saying he was looking for his car and had been attacked by small animals. Singleton and the Highway Patrolman drove the freeway looking for the vehicle but did not find it. The Highway Patrolman dropped Singleton

off at an AM/PM gas station in Baker. It was the officer's opinion that Singleton did not appear under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Also refer to Coroner's Investigative Report 701306966.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: These are the partially skeletonized remains of an adult male, lying within a body bag. The remains are identified by a coroner's tag as "John Doe #111-13 701306966". The weight of the remains is 50 pounds. The hair is black. The eye color and skin color are undetermined. The hair on the head is short and tightly curled, consistent with Black ancestry.

Clothing: There are high top canvas Chuck Taylor All Star shoes on both feet (size 13). There were also socks on both feet. There are possibly what might have been athletic shorts with a tie closure. There is no apparent clothing on the upper torso.

Evidence of Medical Intervention: None.

Evidence of Postmortem Change: The body is nearly completely skeletonized. There is markedly mummified dark skin over both feet that were protected by shoes. Over the dependent portions of the legs, the skin is heavily mummified and leather-like.

Evidence Collected at Autopsy: None.

Tattoos: None found.

Radiographs: Multiple radiographs are taken of the head, torso, abdomen, pelvis, and long bones of the upper and lower extremities. No unusual metallic fragments or significant disease process are noted.

Examination: The head has missing flesh down to bone on the right side secondary to animal activity, exposing the right temporal and parietal bones. The skin of the face is markedly dehydrated. There is short dark curly hair and a goatee-type beard and moustache. The flesh around both eyes as well as the eyes themselves have been removed by animal and/or insect activity.

The flesh on the right side of the neck is absent, exposing underlying cervical vertebrae. There are extensive dried, dead insects within this area.

The chest has absent flesh on the right anterior chest, exposing all of the ribs on the right side of the chest. There is a strip of intact mummified skin extending from the chin down to the pelvis. The anterior soft tissue is absent in the pelvis, exposing the pelvic bones, as well as the sacral bone. The right scapula and manubrium are present. The left scapula and manubrium are seen but most of the ribs of the left chest have been removed by animal activity.

The bones of the right upper extremity are present. There is a thin strip of mummified tissue of the upper arm. The skin around the elbow is mummified and the skin of the right hand is markedly mummified. All digits are present. All soft tissue, other than the mummified skin, of the upper forearm on the right side is missing by animal activity.

The left upper extremity is nearly completely disarticulated from the body, attached only by a thin piece of mummified skin attached near the elbow. All of the skin and soft tissue around the humerus is absent. The skin of the anterolateral proximal forearm is absent, but there is skin over

the wrist and fingers which is markedly mummified.

The right lower extremity is disarticulated from the body. The femur is relatively intact and is only attached by a thin bridge of soft tissue at the knee. There is minimal soft tissue, primarily mummified skin, on the proximal right lower leg where the skin around the foot is intact but markedly mummified.

The left lower extremity is partially disarticulated from the body, connected by a long strip of skin posteriorly. There is skin on the right foot. Most of the skin and soft tissue of the lateral lower extremity is absent.

There is patchy mummified skin over the back.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

HEAD: The head is opened using a bone saw. When this is done, it can be seen that there is an approximately 4 cm layer of decomposed brain layered on the dependent right side of the skull. The inner layer of the skull overlying the left frontoparietal lobes to the level of the tentorium is stained red-brown. The dura of the tentorium is still intact. When this is pulled off of the skull, the skull underneath the dura on the left side is pale, suggesting a possible hemorrhage on the right side. When the decomposed brain is stripped off of the skull, the outer layer of this decomposed brain is stained dark red-brown, again suggesting some superficial hemorrhage.

The brain is removed and the inner portions of the skull are cleaned. When this is done, a fracture line is noted on the lateral wall of the left temporal fossa, extending posteriorly to the lateral aspect of the left petrous ridge. This fracture line begins or ends at one of the saw cuts, so it may be an autopsy artifact.

The inner aspect of the fractured bone was examined by the undersigned and forensic anthropologist. There was no evidence of decompositional material within the left temporal bone fracture line, suggesting that it did not occur prior to the body decomposing.

NECK: The skin and adjacent soft tissue underneath the jaw line were removed. Radiographs taken of this tissue show the body and one of the greater horns of the hyoid bone without fractures. The thyroid cartilage is not found.

BODY CAVITIES: No internal organs of the chest, abdomen or pelvis are present, secondary to animal activity. There are single linear fractures of the mid portions of both right and left scapula. These are both markedly sun exposed and this is likely a postmortem drying artifact.

TOXICOLOGY: Decomposed brain was sent for toxicology. While the screening ELISA test for amphetamines was presumptive positivity, no amphetamines were detected using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION:

Sections of scalp (1, 2, 3, 4) show severe autolysis and extensive postmortem bacterial growth. There is dermal vascular congestion but no definite evidence of hemorrhage or antemortem injury.

SINGLETON/AKA: JOHN DOE #111-13 AUTOPSY CONTINUED

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- DIAGNOSIS:**
- I. Decomposed partially skeletonized body of an adult male found in desert near Baker.
 - II. Body identified by postmortem fingerprints as Ryan Terrell Singleton.
 - III. Left temporal fossa fracture, likely an autopsy artifact.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Undetermined due to advanced decomposition.

Manner of Death: Undetermined

WITNESS PRESENT: Detective W. Doemner; San Bernardino Sheriff's Department.

Autopsy Completed 1220 hours, September 25, 2013.



Steven Trenkle, M.D.
Pathologist

Date: 6/4/14

ST:pm