

1986 Homicide Solved by Grady County Sheriff

On May 23, 1986 a homicide occurred in Grady County located southeast of Alex at an oil rig site. The victim was Robert Allen Poole, who was a roughneck for Ward Drilling Company. The victim died at the scene of a gunshot wound to his neck, the case was never solved.

Last week, the Grady County Sheriff acquired information pertaining to the cold case homicide which led them to Champagne Illinois! First Degree Murder affidavit will be presented to the Grady County District Attorney's Office against James Armstrong, 41. Information obtained alleges Armstrong had committed the offense while a resident living in Alex and later left the area. The crime went unsolved till recently when Armstrong confessed after being incarcerated in Illinois for another crime. Armstrong allegedly notified Correctional Staff about his involvement of a murder that occurred in Grady County Oklahoma in 1986.

Information was related to Grady County Sheriff on 3/26/2011 at which time an investigation immediately began. After an extensive search of the department's archives, the original report has not yet been located. At this point, research began into inquires of the exact date and victim.

This led Sheriff Kell and Investigator Chiarappa to Enid Oklahoma late 3/28/11 to interview victim's former wife and receive detailed information relating to the homicide.

With information obtained from the victim's wife, details and pertinent information was sufficient to piece together the sequence of events and corroborate the suspects details related to Illinois Sheriff's Department. Affidavits are expected to be presented to Grady County District Attorney requesting a warrant for First Degree Murder against James Armstrong.