

CHAPTER 1

FORENSIC DENTISTRY

DATAFILE

T I M E L I N E

March 1850

Dental evidence is first used in a U.S. court to identify a body.

February 16, 1972

The Vampire Rapist, a Canadian serial killer, is sent to prison.

July 29, 1994

Megan Kanka, age 7, bites her attacker's hand. The bite helps convict her murderer.

Where is Montreal, Quebec, Canada?

FORENSICS

K E Y T E R M S

controversy—an issue people disagree on

interpret—to explain the meaning of something

odontology—the study of teeth and gums

orthodontist—a type of dentist who fixes crooked teeth

subjective—based on opinion rather than fact

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2005, Ray Krone was on the TV show *Extreme Makeover*. Krone used to be known as the Snaggletooth Killer. He was proven innocent in 2001. The show replaced five of his front teeth as part of his makeover.

FORENSIC DENTISTRY

In October 1969, Canadian police found a young woman's body. It had been dumped behind some apartments. Shirley Audette, 20, had been murdered. There were bite marks on her body.

Her killer, Wayne Boden, later became known as the Vampire Rapist. He raped and killed four women in Montreal. He savagely bit them during the attacks. Then he moved nearly 2,000 miles away to Calgary. He attacked another woman there. Police caught him shortly after that.



Investigators, comparing a cast of Boden's teeth to the victim's bite wounds, were able to prove that he was the Vampire Rapist.

convict Professor John Webster. He was hanged for murder.

Tidal Wave!

Forensic dentistry is also used after mass disasters. It's hard to identify victims when there are many bodies. That's where forensic odontology comes in.

A tsunami struck southeast Asia in 2004. The huge tidal wave killed more than 200,000 people. Dental records helped identify the bodies. Some victims had never been to a dentist. Many of these bodies remain unidentified even today.

Bite Marks Can Prove Guilt

Bite mark evidence is another important use of forensic dentistry. Wayne Boden was the first murderer convicted by this type of evidence. Infamous serial killer Ted Bundy was another. Bundy killed

FORENSICS

Is Bite Mark Evidence Real Proof?

There is some *controversy* about bite mark evidence. It's not always foolproof. A bite mark in something like wax is pretty clear. But human tissue has many layers. Skin can stretch or shrink. Fluids can fill in spaces. The evidence can be *subjective*. One expert can *interpret* it differently than another.

Ray Krone is a good example. A court convicted the former postal worker on bite mark evidence. One of his top front teeth stuck out. He was nicknamed the Snaggletooth Killer.

A woman had been murdered in a Phoenix bar. There were bite marks on her body. Ray Krone had a clean record. But the bite mark evidence convicted him of murder. In 1992 the court sentenced Krone to death. At a new trial in 1994, his sentence was changed to 46 years in prison.