

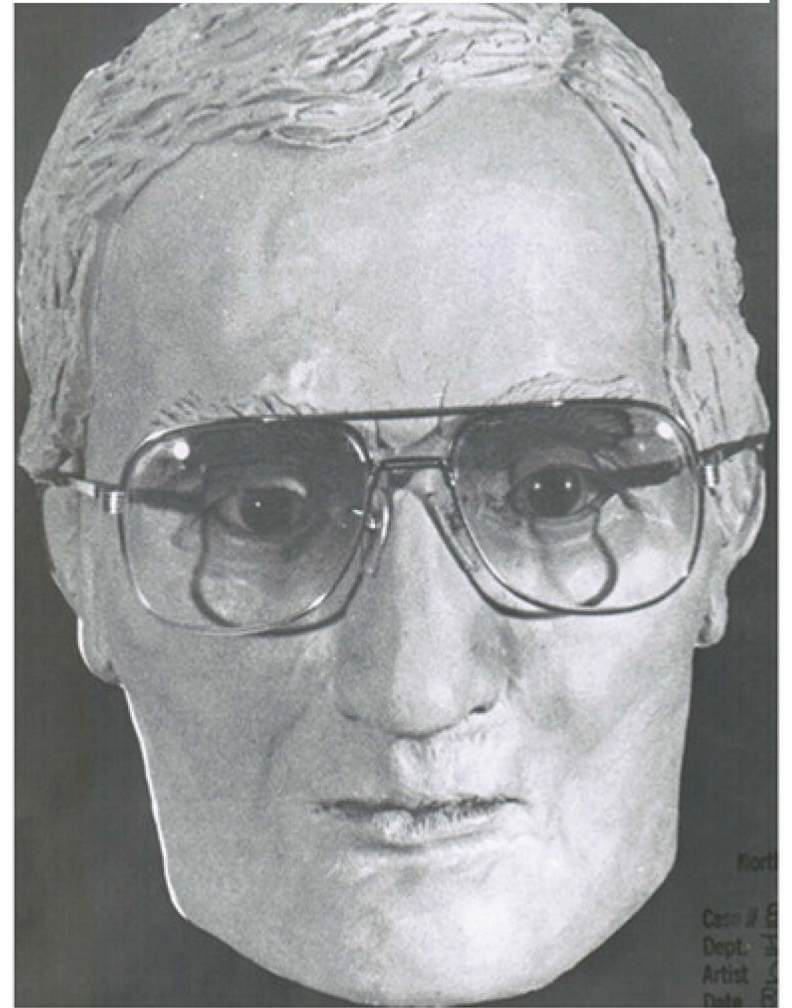


## Idaho deputies solve mysterious 'Mr. Bones' case after remains found in 1984

by KBOI STAFF

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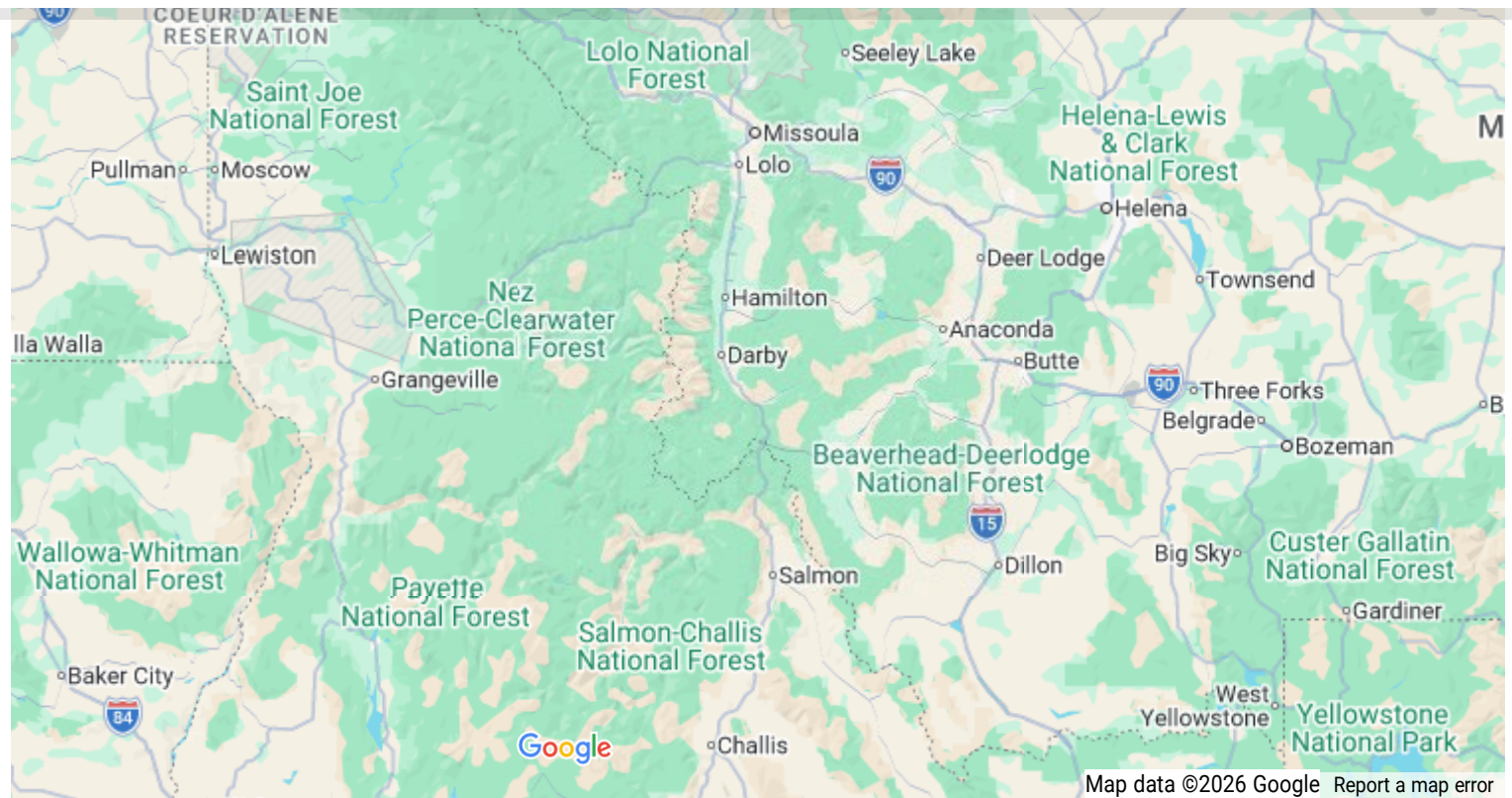
GRANGEVILLE, Idaho ([KBOI](#)) – Deputies with the Idaho County Sheriff's Office have answered a question they've been asking each other for more than 35 years.

Who was Mr. Bones?

On Sept. 19, 1984, hunters stumbled upon a human skeleton about 400 yards from White Sand Road in Idaho County and about one mile from an abandoned camp discovered about a year prior. They found clothing, a pair of prescription eyeglasses with one lens missing, a jacket, and some white tennis shoes.

But no identification was found.

"Based on the condition of the remains, and the previously found abandoned camp, it was most likely that John Doe had died in late 1982," the sheriff's office said.



Over the years, the human remains were sent to various labs and anthropologists across the region (including one in San Francisco). At some point, John Doe adopted the nickname "Mr. Bones" by officials assigned to the case. Despite the new nickname, officials were unable to identify the remains – though composite sketches were drawn up and guesses were made of his gender, height and other physical characteristics.

It wasn't until January of this year until the Idaho County Sheriff's Office learned the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System offered to fund genetic genealogy testing on Mr. Bones. A couple months later, a representative of the lab called to say they found a potential sibling of the remains.

It was a match.

Mr. Bones was Roger Brian Bennett, who was born in Oklahoma City in 1955. Why and how he died in a remote and rugged wilderness area like Idaho County will likely never be answered.

"Many new questions replace the answered, but ICSO is pleased that Roger has been identified and his remains will be returning to his family," the sheriff's office said. "After 37+ years and hundreds of hours of investigation, it was deeply satisfying to see Roger's face and talk to his sister."



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(Courtesy Idaho County Sheriff)*

The sheriff's office wrote of Bennett's story growing up and how he was interested in the Lewis and Clark expedition and wondered what it would have been like traveling back in 1804. Is that why he was in the region? In an attempt to recreate the expedition?

"ICSO extends our condolences to Roger's family. We hope this news brings some type of comfort to you, even though the loss is ever-present," deputies said. "Our prayers are with you."