

NIBIN NEVER FORGETS: AN ALABAMA STORY



March 1996, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office investigated a home invasion that resulted in the robbery and murder of Hazel Love, a 68 year old woman in McCalla, Alabama.



Investigators recovered several discharged cartridge cases as evidence at the scene and later bullets at the autopsy. The evidence was submitted to the Department of Forensic Sciences Lab (DFS) in Birmingham.



In 1998, IBIS operators at the DFS Lab entered the evidence into the NIBIN database, later that year the NIBIN equipment was removed but the database was preserved.



September 2000, Police in Adamsville, Alabama, conducted an investigation concerning a felon in unlawful possession of a Firearm. At the time a firearm was retained as evidence and stored without being test fired.



September 2001, the State Fire Marshall's Office developed information linking the firearm in the Adamsville case to an unidentified investigation of a home invasion being conducted by the Birmingham Police Department.



August 2002, the NIBIN equipment was re-installed at the DFS Lab in Birmingham.



December 2002, Birmingham Police while investigating another home invasion that occurred in 2000 learn of the firearm stored in Adamsville. Investigators request a NIBIN check on the firearm.



Two weeks later, the DFS Lab reported a NIBIN link between the Adamsville firearm and the 1996 murder of Hazel Love. The match was later confirmed by an expert.



February 2003, Jefferson County Sheriff's arrested two men linked to the Adamsville firearm for the murder of Hazel Love as well as for an arson involving multiple murders and other burglary related crimes across the County.



One of the suspects is serving multiple life sentences without parole. Sheriff Mike Hale was quoted as saying ". . . This was a great team effort and a great example of what new technology can do for law enforcement."