

REAL LIFE FORENSIC FILES

Dr. Dobersen's Cases Filmed for Television

Aside from innumerable appearances and interviews on the news, Dr. Dobersen also appears in the following episodes.

""Creature of Habit" Boggs/ "Over the Edge" Atchison." *Extreme Forensics*. Michael Hoff Productions Inc. Emeryville, CA. Television.

This episode chronicles the "Black Widow" case where Jill Coit was eventually convicted for the murder of husband Jerry Boggs on October 22, 1993. Dr. Dobersen analyzed the stomach contents to determine the time of death which left Jill Coit and her accomplice Michael Backus without an alibi. Dr. Dobersen also experimented with anesthetized pigs to attempt to replicate the marks left from a stun gun on Boggs's cheek and ear. The marks matched the stun gun marks, which in turn tied the stun gun found in Coit's vehicle to the murder case. Dr. Dobersen provided hours of expert witness testimony of his findings in her trial. The forensic findings were paramount in convicting Jill Coit and Michael Backus for the murder of Jerry Boggs.

Dead Reckoning: Body Clues. The History Channel. Television.

This episode begins with a description of forensics as a way of speaking on behalf of the victims and covers the aforementioned case of Jill Coit also referred to as the "Black Widow." This episode covers in more detail the experiments Dr. Dobersen pioneered on stun guns. After exhuming the body of Jerry Boggs Dr. Dobersen was able to measure the microscopic changes on the victim's skin matching those which he had found from his experiments on anesthetized pigs. This evidence was crucial in the conviction of Jill Coit

and Michael Backus because it was the only piece of evidence which directly linked them both to the murder of Jerry Boggs.

""Order Up" #155." *Forensic Files*. Medstar Television. Allentown, PA. Television.

Also about the "Black Widow" case, this episode focused primarily upon the importance of Dr. Dobersen's findings of the stomach contents as a forensic tool to determine the time of death. Jerry Boggs always ate the same meal, at the same time, at the same restaurant everyday. The presence of hash browns in the stomach contents helped determine the time of death. This evidence on stomach contents destroyed Jill Coit and her accomplice's alibi leaving their whereabouts at the time of the murder unaccounted for.

"Serial Wife." *American Justice AJ 235*. A&E. 28 Oct. 2004. Television.

Again another account of the "Black Widow" murders Dr. Dobersen's efforts and critical experiments and forensic evidence are again credited for helping solve the case.

""Pride and the Fall"" *Cold Case Files*. A&E. 15 Oct. 2002. Television.

In 1993 the wife of Robert Spangler was found dead at the bottom of a cliff in the Grand Canyon. Her death was ruled accidental with no reason to investigate at the time. Detective Bruce Cornish reopened the case when he found that Robert Spangler's first wife Nancy Spangler, and children Susan and David had died of gunshot wounds in Littleton, Colorado December 30, 1978. This case was ruled at the time to be a double murder suicide as they found a typed suicide note at the scene supposedly written by Nancy. Dr. Dobersen was asked to take a new look at the evidence. Dr. Dobersen found unburned gun powder which was characteristic of an intermediate range wound. Dr. Dobersen found the trajectory of the bullet to be inconsistent with a suicide and changed the cause of death from suicide to homicide helping the police to eventually convict Robert Spangler in the murder of his wife, children, and also second wife.

Schiller, Lawrence, dir. "Ramsey Special 2006." *Court TV*. KLS Communications, Inc. 07 Mar. 2006. Television.

Called in as an expert to examine burns found on the back of six year old JonBenet Ramsey, Dr. Dobersen found the burns to be consistent with burns from a stun gun he had found from his previous experiments used to convict the "Black Widow." There were two theories to the case, the first being a member of the Ramsey family had killed JonBenet and the second that an intruder incapacitated the child and murdered her in the basement. His examination of the burns proved she was alive while stunned and therefore tended to make the first theory, that she had been murdered by a family member, harder to believe since a family member most likely would not have needed to subdue her with a stun gun. This case remains open today.