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Ex-Maquoketa police chief, homicide investigator says 40-yearold murder likely to go unsolved



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MAQUOKETA, Iowa — Officials are holding out little hope of solving the murder of an 84-year-old woman 40 years ago in Maquoketa, according to a former police investigator in the case.

Hulda Fischer was found dead in her Maquoketa home on the evening of Feb. 25, 1975. A widow, Fischer had been strangled and repeatedly stabbed.

Retired Maquoketa Police Chief Bob Andersen told the Dubuque Telegraph Herald (http://bit.ly/1AUGYx5) that he doesn't think the case will ever be solved. Andersen, who was the lead investigating officer in the killing, said no new information has emerged in Fischer's death since the case went cold decades ago.

Fischer's body was found by Ronald Keller, whose business and house shared a backyard with Fischer's, Keller's

aunt, Hattie Petersen, and his business partner, Thomas Goodwin.

Those neighbors grew concerned when Fischer did not attend a scheduled social meeting and went to Fischer's home looking for her.

There, they found clothes laid out on her bed and cold water in the bathtub. They then spotted one of her legs while peering down a basement door.

Authorities determined someone had attempted to clean up blood smears in Fischer's kitchen. Tracks in the snow led away from Fischer's back door.

"It was one of those cases that you had a lot of information that didn't go anywhere and very little information that did," Andersen said.

The neighbors who found Fischer's body and a one-time suspect in the death have all since died, Andersen said.

"It would have been nice to solve it and find out what the cause was," he said. "Maybe with TV doing cold cases now, something will come up."

Information from: Telegraph Herald, http://www.thonline.com

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