



HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

TROY J. PETERSON
SHERIFF

P.O. BOX 1480 ♦ GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39502 ♦ 228-896-0606

*****PRESS RELEASE*****
For Immediate Release

On Monday, November 19, 2018, Sheriff Troy Peterson announced a warrant being issued for the arrest of 78 year old Samuel Little, who is currently incarcerated in Wise County Correctional Facility in Texas, for the charge of Murder.

On January 22, 1978, Harrison County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a dirt pit in the North part of Saucier, MS in reference to a body of a deceased female being found down a cliff. Upon arrival, Deputies located a deceased white female, later identified as Julia Critchfield. An autopsy ruled that the cause of death was asphyxiation due to strangulation. With no viable suspects at that time the case went cold.

On October 4, 2018, Harrison County Sheriff's Investigators received information from the Texas Rangers that they had Samuel Little in custody for a cold case homicide that occurred in Texas. It was also disclosed that Little is currently serving three life sentences for three murders that occurred in Los Angeles, California. During his interview with the Texas Rangers, Little disclosed to committing a murder in the 70's in Harrison County, MS. The information Little disclosed to the Texas Rangers matched up to the murder of Julia Critchfield.

On October 31, 2018, Harrison County Investigators traveled to Wise County Sheriff' Office in Decatur, TX to interview Samuel Little. During the interview, Little confessed to the Murder of Julia Critchfield, giving details of the murder that only the suspect would know. Little will eventually be extradited to MS when he answers other charges pending against him in other States.

Investigative Officer: _____

Arresting Officer(s): _____

Approved For Release: _____

Troy J. Peterson, Sheriff, Harrison County, Mississippi