

# EXCERPT & EVIDENCE

## ABOUT THE MURDER OF BOB CRANE

Excerpt from Chapter 1

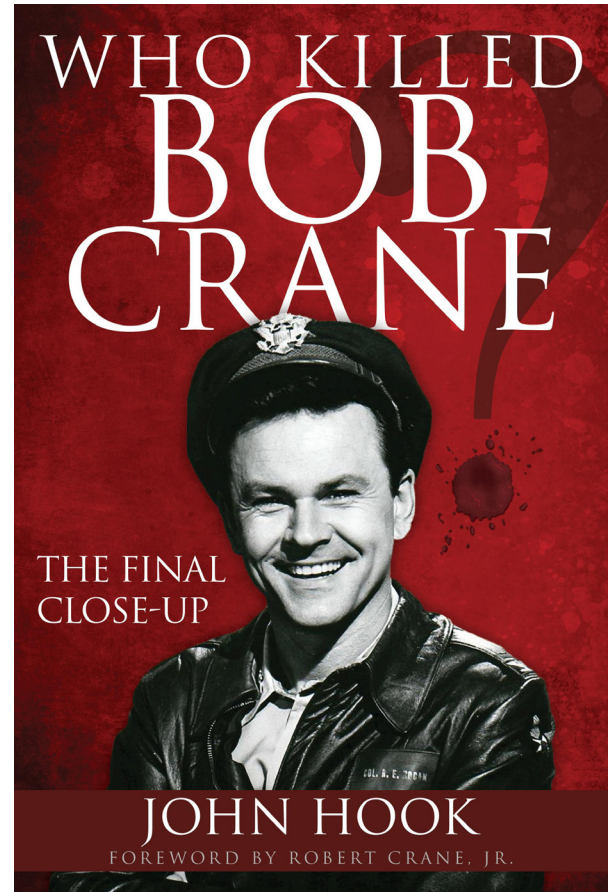
### June 29, 1978: The Murder

The door to Bob Crane's apartment was unlocked. As actress Victoria Berry slowly turned the handle, she was surprised. Bob always locked his door. For a man so reckless in his personal life, he could, at times, be cautious. It was a quarter past two in the afternoon, and getting hot—already 104 degrees outside. Berry was dressed for it, in a tank top and tight running shorts. Her blonde hair spilling over her shoulders and her breasts spilling out of her tank top.

Bob had planned for her to come over that day to do a voiceover of a scene from the play they were performing in. Who knows what else he had in mind. After all, she reminded herself, they'd had sex twice before. Both were starring in the cast of *Beginner's Luck*, a play that was in its final week at the Windmill Dinner Theater in Scottsdale, a 10-minute drive from the apartment Bob Crane had rented. For Crane, who had been a big TV star, this kind of work was beneath him. But it paid the bills and attracted plenty of women, both within and outside the show. Berry noticed that the morning paper was still on the sidewalk outside his front door. She picked it up and knocked several times on the door of 132-A at the Winfield Apartments with no answer. As she looked around, she saw Bob's car parked in front of the apartment complex. He must be here, she thought. Maybe he's swimming in back...

Berry knocked again and then slowly turned the door—

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### About the Book

In an unprecedented investigation, reporter John Hook retests the original blood evidence using modern DNA science in a final search for answers. Scientists believe this is the last chance to test DNA from the crime scene—the final close-up—in identifying Bob Crane's killer. Hook has exhausted all remaining avenues to unearth answers in this intriguing and haunting cold case to answer once and for all who murdered Bob Crane.

knob. To her surprise, she found the door was unlocked and she gently pushed opened the door. She called out "Bob... Bob... Bob?" No answer. She put the paper on the kitchen table and placed the bag she was carrying on the floor as she slowly walked through the apartment.

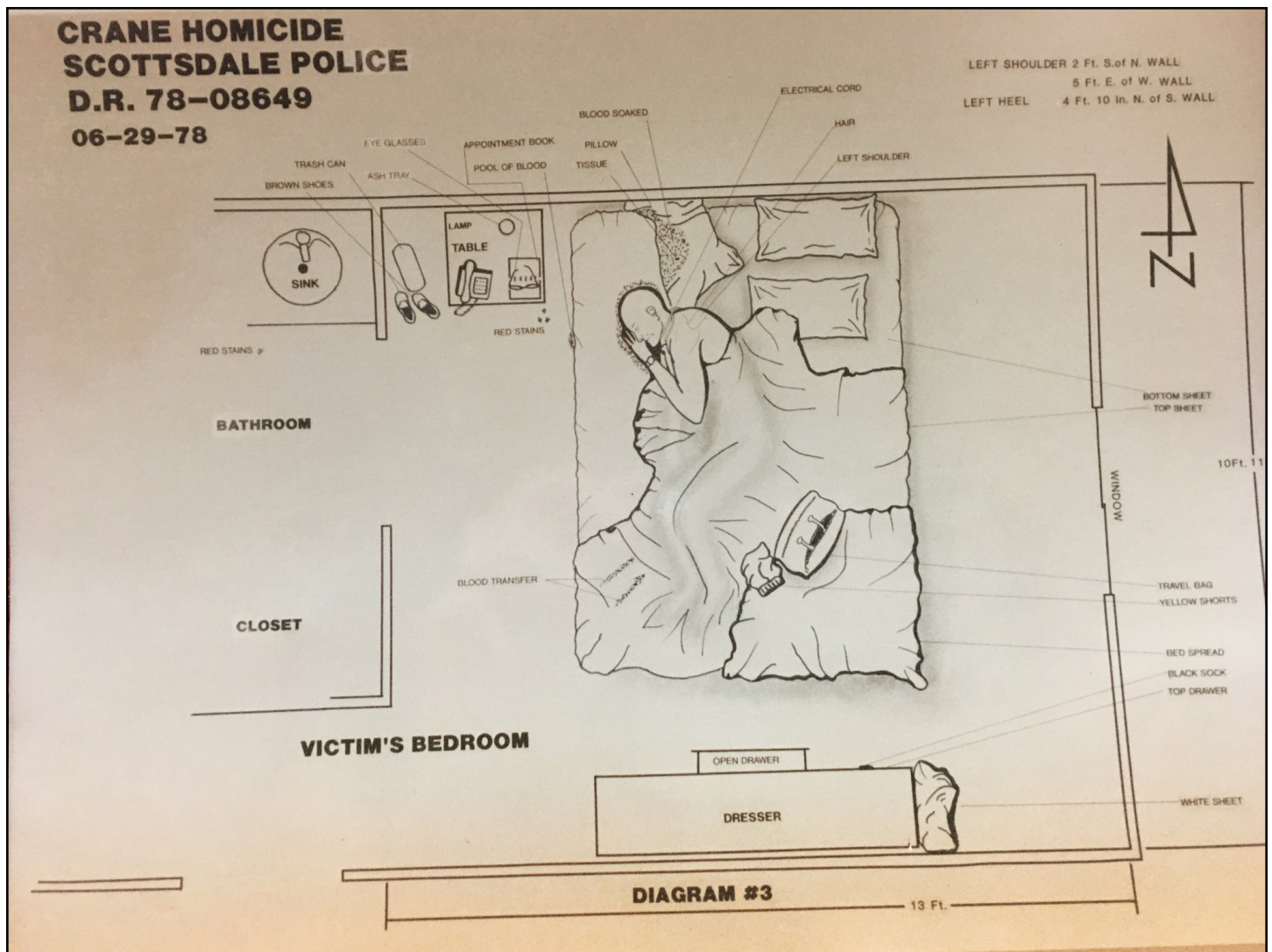
It was pitch dark. All the drapes inside were closed. As her eyes slowly adjusted to the darkened room, she could make out the video equipment—camera and cables scattered about the living room, as usual. Crane was obsessed with this new technology. Everywhere his acting jobs took him his video equipment was in tow. Berry called out again: "Bob...Bob?" Again, no answer.

Victoria walked to the arcadia door that led to the pool in the center of the complex. He must



be out there... she thought. She pulled back the curtains that covered the arcadia doors, Bob was not at the pool. She turned back toward the in-

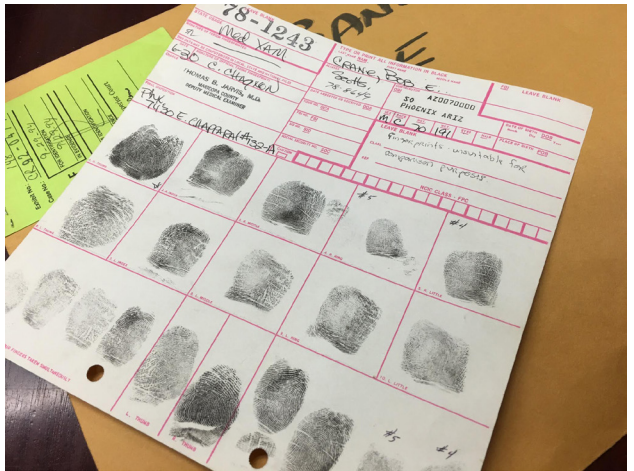
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side of the apartment, and made a right turn toward Crane's bedroom. The door was slightly ajar. She pushed it open.

Someone was lying in bed, but she couldn't make out the form. At first, when she saw the dark streaks, she thought it was a woman with long hair lying on her right side. But as her eyes adjusted, she could see it. Blood! Blood was everywhere. All over the pillow, the bed sheets, and spatters of it on the wall above the bed. She let out a scream. Her mind raced. "Oh my God... what the hell is going on?" she thought. As panic set in, she could feel her heart beating in her head, her breathing becoming a pant. At first she thought it might be a woman. One of Bob's girlfriends who had killed herself? As she fixed her gaze on the lifeless form, she realized it was a man. But was it Bob... or his good friend John Carpenter? Carpenter often stayed with Bob when he was on the road. She didn't know. The head was bloody and unrecognizable. Blood was



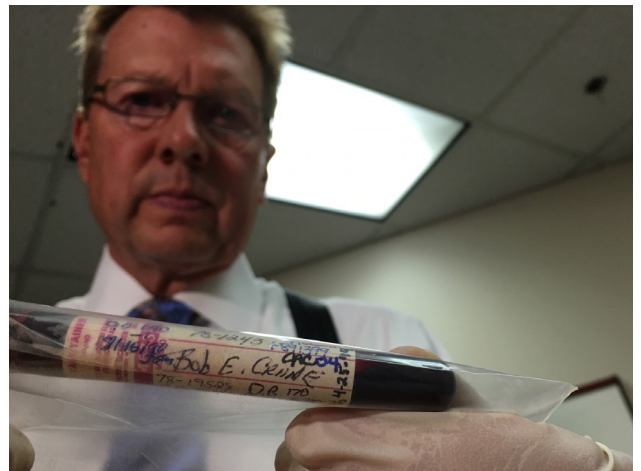
Bob Crane's fingerprints taken after his death.



A photograph taken of Bob Crane's headwound during the forensics examination.

pooling and had poured out the victim's nose. And then she noticed an electrical cord, with the plug on one end, wrapped around the victim's neck. She let out another scream, backed out of the bedroom and ran outside.

Her heart pounding in her chest, panting, and sobbing she saw Mary Lou Hawkins, a neighbor, walking by. "Can you please help me?" she asked, crying. "There's a man dead in the apartment. I'm afraid



Author John Hook holds Bob Crane's blood taken from his autopsy on June 30, 1978.



John Carpenter's handprints taken after Bob Crane's body was found.

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it's Bob!" Berry followed Mrs. Hawkins to her apartment. She grabbed the phone, and dialed the operator. "Connect me to the Scottsdale Police Department, please!" she shouted. A Scottsdale Police dispatcher came on the line and asked "What's your emergency?"

Hawkins answered, "There's a man apparently dead in apartment 132-A Winfield Place Apartments."

Berry paced outside the apartment, in a daze, crying and shaking. Her mind racing with the possibilities. "Is this really

happening?" she thought. Did Bob kill himself? Was it really Bob in that bed? Maybe it's his friend, John? She still wasn't certain exactly what she'd seen. But she knew that, whomever was in that bed, he had met with a violent death...

CHAPTER 1 CONTINUES...

## Why I Wrote The Book

In March of 2015, I had the pleasure of interviewing Bob Crane Jr. on the release of his new book about his father "Crane: Sex, Celebrity and My Father's Unsolved Murder."

At the conclusion of the interview, I could not shake the feeling that the case remaining "unsolved" for nearly 40 years still deeply troubled family, investigators and everyone connected to the case.

For days after that interview, the story consumed me. I've witnessed executions, covered murders, and seen some amazing things in my career, yet I found myself thinking about the "Crane Case" non-stop.

Then I had, what I would call, an "ah ha moment". I wondered if modern DNA testing might solve the mystery of "Who Killed Bob Crane?" So I set out to track down the original blood evidence and have it retested at one of the top DNA labs in the world.



## About the Book

Who Killed Bob Crane? is Hook's first-hand account of a two-year investigation and search for the truth. It's seen through the eyes of the people who were there—witnesses, detectives, prosecutors, jurors, and family members. John Hook takes readers on an incredible reporter's journey for an inside look at the sensational physical evidence in a final attempt to learn the truth in Who Killed Bob Crane?

## About Author John Hook

A veteran news reporter and television anchor for over 30 years in Arizona, John Hook has won more than a dozen Emmys for his reporting. Named Associated Press Anchor of the Year five times, he has covered every major story from the O.J. Simpson murder case to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, the 1989 earthquake in San Francisco and Presidential elections. He anchors FOX 10 News and hosts Fox 10 Newsmaker Sunday.