# Human Bones Found in 1989 Wisconsin Music Store Chimney Identified as Ronnie Joe Kirk



Human bones discovered in a chimney of a Wisconsin music store in 1989 have been identified as Ronnie Joe Kirk, who last contacted relatives in 1970. The identification was announced by the DNA Doe Project, a nonprofit organization that uses genealogy for forensic purposes.

The skeletal remains and skull were found in a narrow chimney of the since-demolished store in Madison, Wisconsin. Attempts to identify the individual, previously dubbed “Chimney Doe,” were unsuccessful until 2018 when Madison Police Detective Lindsey Ludden involved the DNA Doe Project. Hair samples from the skull, sent to Astrea Forensics in California, led to the development of a suitable DNA profile for genetic genealogy after two years.

Ronnie Joe Kirk, born in 1942 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was adopted, married twice, and had three children. His last confirmed contact was in 1970 after divorcing his second wife in Missouri.

The case has reopened investigations into the circumstances of Kirk's death. His living relatives, who were unaware of each other until contacted by investigators, have requested privacy.