

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: September 5th, 2025

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

The human remains recovered from the Mississippi River in August have been positively identified as Roy Benn.

In September of 1967, Roy George Benn was reported as a missing person to the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Benn, who was 59 at the time of his disappearance, was last seen on September 25th, 1967 at about 4:00 am in a café in Sartell. For several years following his disappearance, interviews, searches, and other investigative steps were taken in hopes of finding Benn. None of these efforts met with success. Over the last 57 years, the Benton County Sheriff's Office has continued to pursue leads in hopes of finding Mr. Benn.

On August 10th, 2025, boaters on the Mississippi River near Sartell noted a shape on their electronics that they believed was a submerged vehicle. This submerged vehicle was reported to the Stearns County Sheriff's Office. Stearns County Sheriff's staff responded to the location noted by the boaters and, using their marine electronics, found the same object in the river suspected to be a vehicle. On August 13th, 2025, members of the Stearns-Benton Dive Team searched the river at the site of the suspected vehicle and did locate a 1963 Buick Electra in the water. The vehicle was recovered from the water and searched by investigators from the Benton County Sheriff's Office, Stearns County Sheriff's Office, Sartell Police Department, and Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Investigators confirmed that the recovered vehicle was registered to Roy Benn. Several items belonging to Roy Benn and a set of human remains were found inside the vehicle. The human remains were sent to the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office for the purpose of determining the identity of the human remains along with a cause and manner of death.

On September 4th, medical examiners at the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office were able to confirm through DNA testing that the human remains recovered from the Mississippi River were those of Roy Benn. The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office continues to work on a determination of the cause and manner of Mr. Benn's death. An additional press release will be issued once we have a determination of the cause and manner of Mr. Benn's death.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office was assisted in this investigation by the Sartell Police Department, Stearns County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff