



The last-known picture of Chris and Peta together, taken the day before they set off for Australia in December 1977



An underwater photograph showing a thick, brown rope with a knot, floating in clear blue water. The rope curves from the left side of the frame towards the right. The background is a deep blue, suggesting an underwater environment.

# DEAD

# IN

# THE

# WATER

**WHEN GAP YEAR GRADUATES CHRIS AND PETA WERE MURDERED BY A SERIAL KILLER, THE AUTHORITIES BUNGLED THE INVESTIGATION. REAL CRIME SPOKE TO CHRIS'S SISTER ABOUT HER FAMILY'S 38-YEAR BATTLE FOR JUSTICE**

WORDS DR. ABBY BENTHAM





## “PETA SIGNED OFF, ‘I DON’T THINK THERE’S ANY MORE NEWS – NOTHING MUCH HAPPENS ON A BOAT.’ HOW WRONG SHE WAS”

**ABOVE** Aboard the Norma, a sloop owned by an English man and his Australian girlfriend. The owners of the Norma introduced Chris and Peta to Duane Boston

**BELOW** Chris and Boston's sons, Vince and Russell, on board Boston's boat, the Justin B. This photograph was taken approximately a week before Chris and Peta were murdered



Childhood sweethearts Chris and Peta with Chris's parents Charles and Audrey. Chris and Peta's families lived opposite each other in Chorlton, Manchester

In 1977, round-the-world gap year adventures were far rarer than they are today. At that time, only about 12 per cent of the UK population attended university, with most people leaving school and entering employment as soon as mandatory education finished at 16. But childhood sweethearts Dr. Chris Farmer and Peta Frampton weren't like most others: the high-achieving couple had recently graduated – Chris in medicine, Peta in law – and they were looking forward to seeing more of the world. Although naturally apprehensive, their families weren't overly worried: Chris and Peta were highly intelligent, well-travelled, capable people. Nobody thought for a moment that just eight months into their adventure their bloated corpses would be found floating off the coast of Guatemala.

Chris's mother Audrey remembered how “wherever [Chris and Peta] went, they generated a feeling of excitement,” and Chris's sister Penny concurs. She told **Real Crime**, “Chris was a colourful character – life was more exciting when he was around.” However, Penny is clear that while Chris was spirited and adventurous, he was not a risk-taker. He was a passionate humanitarian and a champion of the underdog. His people-centred approach made him perfectly suited to his chosen career in medicine. Peta and Chris's gap year was to be loosely based around Chris's medical postings: a role with the After Hours Medical Service in Brisbane saw them start their travels in Australia. From there, they'd explore the South Pacific, go from LA to Mexico and via Central America to Trinidad, his next posting.

In the spirit of the times, Chris and Peta kept a loose itinerary, and Penny recalled how the letters and tape

recordings the pair sent home described an “agenda [that] changed daily, depending on who they met, the vagaries of public transport and even the vicissitude of the weather.” Their fate was sealed by a series of chance meetings – an English couple they met in Villahermosa inspired them to travel to Belize to snorkel the longest coral reef in the western hemisphere. There, Chris and Peta met an Englishman and his Australian girlfriend, on whose sloop, the ‘Norma’, they enjoyed sailing around the Belizean cayes. After several days snorkelling the reef, the Norma put ashore at Caye Caulker, where the skipper introduced Chris and Peta to Silas Duane Boston, an American acquaintance well known locally as a charismatic raconteur.

Boston was a heavy-drinking, loose-living ladies' man who offered unlicensed sailing trips to tourists looking to make the most of the paradisiacal Belizean coastline. He was accompanied on his 9.7-metre sailing boat, the ‘Justin B’, by his sons Vince, aged 13 and Russell, aged 12. Boston agreed to take Chris and Peta 220 kilometres south to Honduras, for a fee of \$500. Chris's sister Penny has often pondered the wisdom of their choice, noting that “it must have occurred to them that being on a boat with a total stranger could pose a potential danger.” She told **Real Crime** that any fears Chris and Peta may have had were probably allayed by the fact that Boston was accompanied by his children. Certainly, Chris and Peta could not have known that Boston was a fugitive from the law, on the run from his native California after skipping bail on a statutory rape charge, or that he had a criminal record stretching back 20 years. And they would never have guessed that he was also a cold-hearted psychopath – one of America's most elusive serial killers.

In a letter to her mother dated 28 June 1978, Peta described how their schedule was disrupted when Boston stopped off at Dangriga to source ballast for the bottom of the boat. After a week of searching, Boston secured 320 kilograms of engine parts, and the party went on its way, confident that the extra weight the machinery provided would improve the stability of the boat. On 29 June, Peta added a postscript to her letter, as she always did when she hadn't been able to post it immediately. She told how life on the Justin B was no longer quite so idyllic, due to the “practical difficulties of living on this tiny boat with four other people,” particularly the seemingly endless squabbles between Boston's two young sons, Boston's heavy drinking and his angry outbursts. Peta signed off, “I don't think there's any more news – nothing much happens on a boat.” How wrong she was.



## THE PSYCHOPATH STRIKES

Tensions on the Justin B heightened when, on 30 June, Boston announced that he intended to take a seven to ten-day detour from the agreed route. Chris and Peta objected, pointing out that they had agreed to pay Boston \$500 for their passage to Honduras and that if the trip was to be cut short, the fee would need to be renegotiated. Although the argument did not escalate at that moment, Duane Boston began drinking heavily, and by Saturday 1 July he was extremely drunk and spoiling for a fight. As usual, his chosen target was his youngest son, Russell, who lived in perpetual fear of his father.

Boston began barking orders at the 12-year-old, demanding food and rum, before insisting that the boy jumped overboard and dived down to unhook the anchor. When Russell climbed back onto the boat and began to raise the anchor, Boston attacked him from behind, punching him hard in the small of his back. He continued to rain blows on the child even after he collapsed on the deck, stopping only when Chris pulled Boston away. Boston took a swing at Chris but ended up falling overboard, much to the amusement of Chris, Peta and the nearby local fishermen. When Chris extended his hand to Boston and helped him back on board, an uneasy truce was established. It was agreed that the following day Boston would drop Chris and Peta off on the peninsula, so they could get a ferry from Livingston, Guatemala, to their onward destination.

**BELOW** Duane Boston, with his children Vicki, Vince and Russell. Boston is believed to have murdered their mother, Mary Lou, in September 1968, when she was 23



## DIALLING CAPTAIN DEATH

## FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF HEADWAY BEING MADE, IN JANUARY 1979 CHRIS'S FATHER INTERVIEWED BOSTON HIMSELF

Convinced of Boston's guilt, Charles Farmer, a former journalist, called Boston long-distance and asked him about Chris and Peta's movements. The conversation, recorded by Charles, was highly revealing. In it, Boston claimed to have dropped Chris and Peta at a beach near Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, at some point between 3-6 July. He said they planned to travel to Livingston, with the intention of hiring a boat in which to travel to Costa Rica. He also said he thought he saw them board a ferry in Livingston on 9 July.

Boston's statements were at odds with those he made to the British Consul in December 1978. He told the consul that he'd put the pair ashore at Cabo de Tres Puntas, not Puerto Barrios. Furthermore, the coastline in that area is largely jungle and at that time there were no access roads down to the coast. It is highly unlikely that Chris and Peta could have made the journey as described by Boston. Boston also lied about the ballast he picked up in Dangriga, claiming it was only coconuts and mangoes, rather than the engine parts he actually bought – and put to deadly use.

**Charles:** ...you landed them where?

**Boston:** *Near Porto Barrios, in Guatemala.*

**Charles:** What sort of coastline?

**Boston:** *The beach.*

**Charles:** You were at Hunting Caye on the 29th June, when did you drop them off, what date, and when did you get to Livingston?

**Boston:** *I dropped them off somewhere about the 3rd to the 6th July, I don't remember.*

**Charles:** We have records showing you entered Livingston on the 6th.

**Boston:** *Don't remember, but if you say so.*

**Charles:** Were they clear on their next destination?

**Boston:** *They were travelling to Mexico, then changed to go to Costa Rica.*

**Charles:** How would you expect them to get to Livingston?

**Boston:** *Hire a dory [a lightweight, flat-bottomed boat].*

**Charles:** Have you any idea what might have happened to them?

**Boston:** *No.*

**Charles:** What cargo did you pick up at Dangriga?

**Boston:** *No cargo – only coconuts and mangoes for ballast.*

**Charles:** There is no trace of them ever having been in Livingston, except your report of seeing them on a ferry.

**Boston:** *Oh – I guess I saw them around the 9th boarding a ferry, but when I had walked round they had gone.*



But Chris and Peta never reached Livingston. At dusk on Sunday 2 July, Boston asked Chris to go to the front of the boat and pull up the anchor. Obliging, Chris moved forward, but while his back was turned Boston crept up behind him and began beating him around the head with an antique billy club that he used to stun and kill fish. Chris fell to his knees and curled into a foetal position, trying to protect his head with his arms while shouting at Boston to stop. Undeterred, Boston continued the attack, and Vince can still recall the horrifying cracking sound that Chris's skull made as it fractured. When Peta came running up from the galley and shouted at Boston to stop, the madman screamed at her in rage, warning "Get back down in the fucking galley now or I will shoot you with the spear gun!"

When the billy club snapped, Boston grabbed a fillet knife and stabbed Chris so hard in the chest that the blade broke. Still the psychopath showed no mercy, stopping the attack only when he grew too exhausted to carry on. Chris was bloodied but survived the malicious attack.

Later that evening Boston complained to Chris that he had wrenched his back while beating him, so he injected Boston with a muscle relaxant to help him sleep. Chris's family have often agonised over this action – had Chris been less altruistic, he could have incapacitated or even killed Boston and made his escape. But Chris was an honourable man, dedicated to saving lives, not taking them, and he would never have left two young children in danger.

The following day, Boston told Chris and Peta that he would drop them at a remote point on the peninsula so

## “THE EVIL KILLER THEN... TOSSED CHRIS AND PETA OVERBOARD, WITH THE HEAVY ENGINE GEARS WEIGHING THEM DOWN”

he would have time to escape before they contacted the authorities. He said he would tie them up in order to slow their escape, but assured them that he would only tie their hands in front of them and that their bonds would not be tight. Over the course of the day, however, Boston tightened the ropes around Chris and Peta's wrists and bound their legs, leaving the petrified couple completely helpless. He also stripped them naked and separated them, holding Chris in the galley to the rear of the boat and Peta in the sleeping cabin to the front.

On Tuesday 4 July, Boston dragged his captives onto the deck, loosened their bonds and roughly dressed them before retying their bindings, this time securing their hands tightly behind their backs. He also placed plastic bags over their heads and attached heavy-duty nylon ropes to the bindings on their legs. The ropes were attached to the engine gears bought as ballast in Dangriga. Constantly reassuring Chris and Peta that all he wanted to do was escape, Boston said that he would push them out of the boat and into the shallow water close to the shoreline. The evil killer then steered the Justin B out to sea and tossed Chris and Peta overboard – with the heavy engine gears weighing them down, the couple stood no chance of survival.

# TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WHEN THE PROMISING GRADUATES COMPLETED THEIR DEGREES, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY HAD THE WORLD AT THEIR FEET. TRAGICALLY, THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION WAS DEATH

### 19/05/78 - 24/05/78 GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Peta and Chris toured Mexico, starting in Guadalajara and moving on to Oaxaca. Rather than writing, Chris sent home recorded tapes of him speaking about their experiences. He was particularly interested in local politics and culture, and was filled with hope about the future.

### 06/06/78 BELIZE

In a letter to her mother, Peta wrote that she and Chris had changed their travel plans: "We didn't go straight to the Yucatán from Oaxaca. Instead, we caught the bus to Villahermosa and met an English couple on their way to Bolivia through Belize so we decided to go with them as Belize boasts the longest reef in the western hemisphere. As we were full up with ruins, having spent the last few days at Mitla, Yagul and Monte Alban in Oaxaca, we thought some snorkelling was in order."

### 18/06/78 THE JUSTIN B (LETTER POSTMARKED LIVINGSTON, GUATEMALA)

"We have just set off from Placentia [sic], a small fishing port in the south of Belize and it's about 7am"

### 29/06/78 THE JUSTIN B (LETTER POSTMARKED LIVINGSTON, GUATEMALA)

In a postscript to her letter dated 18/06/78, Peta wrote, "Another reason I wouldn't mind ending my sailing career now – I'm down as a sailor on the papers! – is the 2 sons of Duane. They are 12 & 13 years but behave more like 8 & 9 & I find I have no patience at all with them. Of course they squabble most of the time and I see now how irritating we must have been in that respect. But on a boat there's nowhere you can go. What makes it worse is that Duane curses & puts them down continually, often when things are not going quite right..." Peta ended that letter by writing "Enough of the future. I don't think there's any more news - nothing much happens on a boat."

### 13/06/78 BELIZE

In a postscript to the letter dated 06/06/78, on 13 June, Peta added, "Sorry, I forgot to post this in Belize on Saturday so am adding a little now as all our plans have changed... We originally meant to get the bus to Merida but then an American called Dwayne [sic] who owns a Belizean boat called the Justin B offered to take us up to Chetumal [Mexico] by sail so we decided to do that... Dwayne wanted to take the boat down to Costa Rica to sell it anyway we thought it was an opportunity not to be missed espclly [sic] as Chris wanted sailing experience."

### 05/12/77 AFTER HOURS MEDICAL CENTER, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

The first three months of their adventure were spent in Brisbane, where Chris did out-of-hours medical work and Peta temped as a secretary.



## UNMARKED GRAVES

On 8 July 1978, a fishing boat came across Chris and Peta's putrefying bodies, floating just 180 metres off the coast of Cabo Tres Puntas. Although still attached to the engine parts that had dragged them to their deaths, the ropes with which they had been hogtied had come loose, allowing their bloated corpses to rise to the surface. Identification was neither possible nor attempted, and following brief post-mortems, the bodies were buried in unmarked graves in Puerto Barrios cemetery. No police investigation was mounted into the couple's murders.

Back in Manchester, the Farmers and the Framptons grew concerned when July passed without any kind of communication from Chris and Peta. Their fears were temporarily allayed in early August when a letter from Peta arrived, although her family was puzzled by the fact that the postmark showed it had been posted in Livingston on 18 July, almost three weeks after it was written. This was extremely out of character for Peta, who, if she was unable to post a letter straight away, would always update it with a postscript. The families waited anxiously for a further letter or phone call explaining the delay, but nothing came.

In September the Farmers and the Framptons contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), which authorised a rigorous search from the US border down to Peru. Both sets of parents also wrote independently to all the consuls in Central and South America, asking for help. Chris's father Charles, a BBC journalist, orchestrated an intensive media campaign, splashing Chris and Peta's story across national newspapers, radio and television. He also wrote to the acting harbour master in Belize City, asking for the Justin B's clearance records from the port of Dangriga, which Peta had mentioned in her last letter home. The family also sent letters, written in Spanish and accompanied by photographs of Chris and Peta, to every hotel and tourist haunt in Livingston in the hope that somebody would recognise them.

After several weeks, the acting harbour master in Belize wrote to confirm that, on 26 June, the Justin B had sailed from the port of Dangriga in Belize bound for Puerto Cortés, Honduras. Boston, Chris, Peta, Vince and Russell were recorded as crew, but when the Justin B re-entered Dangriga on 9 August, Chris and Peta were no longer on board. The FCO reported that Boston and his sons left the country soon afterwards, with flight records showing they flew from Guatemala to Miami on 14 August. When a consul official telephoned Boston to question him about Chris and Peta's whereabouts, his vague, evasive answers were so suspicious that they advised the families to contact the police. On 30 October 1978, the case was taken on by Detective Chief Inspector David Sacks of Greater Manchester Police. However, without bodies, hard evidence or a confession, little headway could be made.

The first devastating breakthrough in the case came in January 1979, when a Belizean private investigator working for the families learned that the tortured corpses of two unidentified westerners, matching Chris and Peta's description, had been recovered from the sea the previous July. On the instructions of the families, the bodies were exhumed so that identification could be made using dental records sent over from England. In April, the Farmers and Framptons received the news they'd been dreading: Chris and Peta had been tied up, tortured, weighed down with engine parts, then thrown into the sea to drown. The families strongly suspected that Boston had killed them, particularly



Boston with his wife, Mary Lou. It was an open family secret that he murdered her when she was 23. He never revealed the whereabouts of her body

because the postmark on Peta's last letter, posted in Livingston, tallied with the date that he was known to have been in the town – two weeks after Chris and Peta were killed. The families' conviction that Boston was responsible was heightened when Interpol revealed that Boston was also suspected of killing his third wife Mary Lou, mother of Vince, Russell and their sister Vicki, in 1968.

By May 1979, Boston, aware that he was the prime suspect in the case, had vanished along with his sons, and the investigations by Interpol and Sacramento Police ground to a halt. In Manchester, too, the case soon lay dormant; in early 1980 DCI Sacks was assigned to a new post, heading up Special Branch at Manchester airport, leaving Charles and Audrey Farmer as de facto lead investigators. Boston's arrest in 1981 on child abduction charges should have allowed the enquiry into Chris and Peta's murders to begin in earnest, but he was released on a technicality and disappeared once more. The Farmers continued to pursue every possible avenue in their search for Boston and his sons, but by 1981 the trail was cold, and they heard nothing more from the police.



**ABOVE** Boston attacked Chris from behind, beating him savagely around the head with an antique truncheon. Boston's son Vince heard the sickening cracking sound that Chris's skull made as it fractured

**BELOW** These engine gears are identical to the ones that Boston tied to Chris and Peta before throwing them overboard, alive and fully conscious. They had no chance of escape

## "THE FINAL F\*\*\* YOU"

In 2015 Penny had an epiphany while walking her dogs: "like a shaft of bright sunlight streaming through the crack of an open curtain in a darkened room, the thought came to me, some 37 years on from their deaths, that the Internet could hold the key to unlocking the mystery and give us the answers we had been searching for." Rushing home from the walk, she immediately set about searching Facebook for





# A SUPERNATURAL TWIST?

THIS STRANGE CASE IS MARKED BY UNCANNY COINCIDENCES AND AN OTHERWORLDLY EXPERIENCE

The early morning of 4 July was to have a weird resonance throughout Chris Farmer's short life. The first instance came when, aged three, he fell through the window of his first-floor bedroom and landed on the concrete below, fracturing his skull. Doctors warned that brain damage was highly likely, but Chris made a full recovery and was released from hospital within a week. His mother Audrey never forgot the image of the toddler's crumpled body lying on the concrete – the time and date of the accident seared onto her brain. So she was astonished when, almost 60 years later, she learned that Chris and Peta had died early in the morning of 4 July, and that the first injury Chris sustained was a

fractured skull. Had her son spent 22 years living on borrowed time, waiting for Fate to claim him?

That time and date has significance for Chris's older brother, too. On 4 July 1978, he was driving to a meeting, deep in thought, when suddenly he heard a disembodied voice speaking to him: "The voice sounded as though it was either Chris or myself talking, but the message was quite clear; it said that dying was no big thing, it was a bit like the shock of diving into a cold pool on a summer's day, but it was not the end." It was only years later, in 2015, that Nigel realised this experience coincided with the time of Chris and Peta's deaths.

any signs of Boston and his sons. It didn't take long to yield results: first she found Vince, by then a 50-year-old aviation electrician and engineer, living in Tucson, Arizona. Soon afterwards she discovered Russell, 49, an artist and illustrator who lived near Laguna Beach in California. Even now, Penny is amazed by how easily she located them: "I couldn't believe it – we'd spent a lifetime trying to trace these people and there they were in glorious technicolour!" 74-year-old Duane Boston was also on Facebook, and as Penny stared at his profile picture she felt consumed by a strange mixture of fury and relief. She told **Real Crime** that "he looked like the sort of serial murderer you see on Netflix. The words 'trailer trash' instantly came to mind. I was so angry – here's this guy, living a normal life. Why was he free? There was also a strong sense of relief in knowing that he was still alive and thus presumably able to face justice."

Penny called Greater Manchester Police to request that the investigation be reopened, and in October 2015, accompanied by her mother Audrey and brother Nigel, she travelled to Manchester to discuss her findings with Detective Superintendent Martin Bottomley, head of the Cold Case Review Unit, and Detective Constable Michaela Clinch. Clinch informed the Farmers that she had searched the archives for the original case file, but it appeared to have been lost. Luckily, Penny had gone prepared; in addition to her Facebook and Internet research, Penny had also taken the huge dossier of information compiled by her mother and father in the immediate aftermath of Chris and Peta's deaths. The bulging file contained original documents, photocopies of port records and official reports, tape recordings, and correspondence from the FCO and San Rafael PD. Buoyed by Greater Manchester Police's assurances that they would make some initial enquiries, the Farmers felt hopeful of



BELOW Penny found Boston's Facebook page in 2015. Looking with revulsion at his profile picture, she thought "he looked like trailer trash – or a serial killer from a horror movie"



A contemporary news article about the case. It addresses the mysterious fact that a letter written by Peta was posted in Livingston some weeks after her death





**“VINCE LEFT HOME AND JOINED THE US NAVY. HIS FIRST ACT OF INDEPENDENCE WAS TO CONTACT POLICE IN LONDON AND REPORT CHRIS AND PETA’S MURDERS”**



finally obtaining justice for Chris and Peta.

Incredibly, a week after the meeting, Detective Constable Clinch was able to locate the missing case file: although the official dossier hadn't been seen since at least 1982, a working copy of it had lain in the garden shed of Detective Chief Inspector David Sacks ever since his retirement from the force in 1987. Contact with Sacramento Police Department took longer to establish, but when Clinch finally got to speak to Detective Amy Crosby in Sacramento Police's Missing Persons Unit, she realised that by an amazing coincidence she and Crosby had reached out to Interpol at almost the same time – and both enquiries were related to the Bostons. Detective Crosby had been investigating the disappearance of Vince and Russell's mother, Mary Lou, after Vince gave a statement to say that his father had murdered her in 1968. Vince also informed Detective Crosby that he had witnessed the murders of Chris and Peta. Russell corroborated Vince's account and supplied police with photographs and other evidence, which proved that Chris and Peta had been present on the Justin B.

As the investigation gathered pace, Detective Superintendent Bottomley was able to supply the Farmers with a definitive explanation of what had happened to Chris and Peta, based on Vince and Russell's eyewitness accounts. He also informed them that Boston was suspected of killing many others – including a young couple he took onto the Justin B just two weeks after he murdered Chris and Peta – and that his murder spree had continued well into the 1980s.

Perhaps some of those deaths could have been prevented. In 1982, at the age of 16, Vince left home and joined the US Navy. His first act of independence was to contact police in London and report Chris and Peta's murders. Despite giving a detailed account of his father's crimes and Chris and Peta's full names, police told him there was no record of the murders. Vince reported the crimes numerous times over the years, and as late as 2012 the UK's National Crime Agency was insisting that they could find no trace of Chris and Peta. Penny finds this particularly hard to swallow: “Even if there

was no police file, as a doctor, Chris was eminently traceable. All police had to do was call the General Medical Council, but nobody bothered to do that. It was very sloppy policing.” Russell also repeatedly reported Boston's crimes, only for his accounts to be dismissed as hearsay.

When Penny contacted police to request the case be reopened in 2015, she had a very different experience – there was now huge interest in Boston and a great deal of impetus behind the investigation. Greater Manchester Police was stunned to discover why: Sacramento Police suspected that Boston was the Golden State Killer, the serial killer and rapist believed to have committed 50 rapes and 12 murders in California between 1976 and 1986. Boston's MO was similar to that of the Golden State Killer, and he quickly became the prime suspect in the case, ruled out only by DNA. However, the sustained focus of the investigation had convinced detectives that Boston was a serial killer, and they decided to aggressively pursue a conviction for the murders.

In December 2016, the ailing Boston was arrested at his nursing home and charged with the murders of Chris and Peta. With a conviction almost guaranteed, Penny and her mother looked forward to finally being able to face the killer in court. Tragically for them, Boston's health took a turn for the worse. After a lifetime of heavy drinking, heavy smoking, illegal drugs and hard living, Boston was suffering congestive heart failure and liver and kidney failure. Doctors advised that with dialysis he would survive at least as long as the trial, but Boston decided to exercise his legal right to refuse any and all medical interventions. He died on 24 April 2017, just three weeks before the Farmers were due to face him in court. A man who by his own admission had killed 33 people was himself dead; Penny described his death as “his last Houdini trick and the final ‘fuck you’ to our family.” Despite being robbed of justice, the Farmers and the Framptons are now at peace, the monster that was Silas Duane Boston having finally been beaten by love and determination.

**ABOVE-LEFT** Penny Farmer located Boston and his sons via Facebook, a breakthrough which led to Boston's arrest. Following Boston's death, Penny and her son Charlie met with Russell Boston in California

**ABOVE-MIDDLE** Chris and Peta's bodies were exhumed so identification could be made. This silver ring was retrieved from one of the corpses and shown to the families, but nobody recognised it

**ABOVE-RIGHT** The certificate awarded to the Farmer family by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, to acknowledge their indefatigable persistence in seeking justice for Chris and Peta

Penny Farmer's story of how she tracked down her brother's killer after nearly 40 years is available on Amazon and via [www.pennyfarmer.co.uk](http://www.pennyfarmer.co.uk)

