

**DNA Tests Clear Convict in Ventura Killings**  
**Paul Schneider Didn't Kill Attorney Lyman Smith, Wife**

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A DNA test has eliminated one of California's most notorious criminals as a suspect in the 1980 slayings of a Ventura couple.

Paul "Cornfed" Schneider's genetic fingerprint did not match evidence in the bludgeoning deaths of Lyman and Charlene Smith, according to Larry Pool, an investigator with the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

In 2000, Orange County detectives discovered a DNA link between the Smith killings and homicides in Irvine and Dana Point in the early 1980s.

Pool heads a task force searching for the killer, known as the Original Night Stalker. Schneider caught his attention because he lived in Orange County at the time of the killings and is a violent felon.

Serving a life sentence at Pelican Bay State Prison, Schneider made headlines when a pair of Presa Canario dogs he gave to his former lawyers mauled to death Diane Whipple in a San Francisco apartment house in January 2000. Those attorneys -- Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller -- await sentencing on involuntary manslaughter convictions in Whipple's death.

The 41-year-old Schneider, a member of the white supremacist prison gang the Aryan Brotherhood, is under federal indictment in the Midwest for arranging the murders of other inmates.

After Schneider declined to supply blood for DNA analysis, the Orange County District Attorney's office sought and was granted a court order to force him to comply.

His blood was taken in May, and he was eliminated as the possible perpetrator in these serial killings last month.

Lyman Smith was a prominent attorney who was in consideration for a judgeship when he and Charlene were found dead in the bedroom of their hillside home in March 1980.