



Institute for Canine Forensics

est. 1997

Non-invasive Remote Sensing of Human Remains
Specializing in Historic and Pre-contact Burials

***You know its windy when Labradors look like they are
ready to take flight.***



Clio on a project when the wind started to really blow. Strong winds are far from ideal search conditions.

We thank Dr. Lorna Pierce for being in our lives.



Lynne, Lorna and Adela

In 1999, in the early days of ICF, it was a world of trying, learning, figuring it out, and stepping outside of the box. The world knew about search dogs and detection dogs, but dogs that could find graves that were thousands of years old? That was a concept that was not proven, and many did not believe it was possible! But I found out a long time ago that if you surround yourself with smart, creative people, their drive and energy will help you create something amazing you could only have imagined.

Lorna was one of the people who saw possibilities and encouraged me to explore and take the path least traveled. In our early days we worked cold cases with law enforcement. Lorna worked with the medical examiners office as a forensic anthropologist on crime scenes to recover and identify human bones. She taught us how to identify human bones, how not to disturb a crime scene and the importance of never letting the dogs damage human remains. She encouraged us to start attending professional conferences and to write papers. She introduced us to other professionals in the field as well as working with Native Americans.

We had many adventures with Lorna but my favorite was at Goose Lake in Oregon in October 2014. During World War II the airport near Lakeview, OR was used by the military for training pilots. The final approach to the airport was directly over Goose Lake. There were several accidents, resulting in the loss of the pilots' lives. Some remains were recovered, but not all.

Oregon had suffered from an ongoing drought in 2014, the lake bed was dry and debris from some of the aircraft was exposed and was being looted. This debris had been underwater since the mid-1940s.

Goose lake runs along HWY 395 in both California and Oregon. The lake is 26 miles long, and the Lake County Sheriffs office in Oregon and the Modoc County Sheriffs office in California were responding to calls about people taking airplane parts. One call said a machine gun had been found and taken. Officially, any military aircraft crashes with possible human remains are designated a "military cemetery" and it becomes a federal crime to disturb them.

We were asked to see if human remains were still present at any of the crash sites. Our dogs did identify one of the planes as having human remains.



Piper and Jasper agreed that this, mostly buried, plane has human remains still in it.

We zipped along the dry lake bed in our ATV's, checking any location that showed plane wreckage. This was a bright beautiful day and we were having a blast looking for plane parts and working our dogs.



As we walked the dry lake bed, the dogs soon figured out we were looking at the plane wreckage. They would quickly race over the sand and head for objects to search.

All of a sudden we looked around and saw a massive sand storm coming our way. This is an alkaline lake, so the sand coming fast at us was alkali dust and sand. The sky turned from a bright sunny day to a dark ominous sky. You could not see more than 10 feet in front of you. We immediately took off to get back to our parked cars. The strong winds and stinging sand were battering our skin and eyes. You had to drive with your eyes open a small slit. We were covered

in alkali sand by the time we got back to the cars.



Lynne and Piper and Lorna

The sunny day is gone and a big black sandstorm is engulfing us. Time to run away ... fast!

Lorna had ridden with the sheriff's deputy from Modoc County and they shared stories of their professional lives. The sheriff's deputy said they had not had an unsolved crime scene with human bones for many years so they had no need for a forensic anthropologist. Thirty minutes after we arrived "home" in Oregon, we got a phone call from the deputy from Modoc County. He said, "guess what happened while I was gone". Skeletal remains had been found and he asked if Lorna was willing to drive 56 miles to their office in Alturas to help sort them out. We jumped back in the car and drove an hour to their office where Lorna started her job of putting the bones in anatomical order to find out what was missing and to get clues on sex, age and any trauma the bones might have undergone. Lynne and I were given a list of the missing bones and we went back to where the skeletal remains had been found. Working our dogs we

located most of the missing bones and brought them back to where Lorna was writing a report of her findings. Sadly, it appeared that this was a homeless man who had died, alone, in a field while wrapped up in his sleeping bag.

All in all we considered this to be a great day working in the field. When we finally got "home" we all took showers because we were still covered in the alkaline dirt from the sand storm.

~Adela~

Congratulations to Colette and Kaze



Meet Colette Falco and Kaze, our newest certified team. Colette is no stranger to working a detection dog. Starting in 2005 she has certified several dogs. She is active in her county SAR group, works with the Maricopa County Sheriff's office and the FBI. She brings to ICF an experienced team ready to work projects. ICF is proud to call her one of our certified teams.





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We are happy to talk with you about your project and how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials. Call, email, or check us out on Facebook or our website. (You can find past newsletters there, too.)

Please feel free to pass this newsletter along to anyone who might be interested.

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