

# Ruland, James



Missing Since: October 24, 1995  
Missing From: Ripon, Fond Du Lac County  
Age: 40 years old  
Date of Birth: June 23, 1955  
Sex: Male  
Race: White  
Height and Weight: 6'0, 160 pounds  
Clothing: A green camouflage-print jacket  
Hair: Brown, a mustache  
Eyes: Blue, silver or gold wire-rimmed eyeglasses  
Medical: Has two damaged fingers on his right hand and a plate implanted in the back of his head. He has scars on his forehead, his left knee and the back of his neck  
Parents: William & Marcelaine Renninger Ruland  
Exclusions: 8

## Details of Disappearance

James S. Ruland was last seen October 24,1995.  
Ruland's sister reported him missing nine days after he was last seen. His vehicle, with the keys still in the ignition, was located at the Stretch Truck Stop, 500 block east Pioneer Road, Fond Du Lac along with the keys and personal effects.

From Charley Project:

"In the two weeks prior to his disappearance, Ruland got a new car and asked his parents, who lived in Florida, to mail him \$2,500. They did so on October 16. On November 2, he didn't pick up his paycheck. Over a week later, Ruland's car was found. There was blood on one of the car tires, and cigars in the front of the vehicle; Ruland did not smoke.

Ruland's roommate in Ripon, Jerome Baier, cashed the \$2,500 check Ruland's parents mailed him, and also used another check made out to Ruland, for \$46,32, to pay the gas company on November 1. Baier was charged with two counts of forgery and one count of uttering a forged check. Investigators searched Baier's pig farm in 1997 but didn't find sufficient evidence to charge Baier in his roommate's disappearance.

In 2000, the message "James Ruland lies here" was found written on near the bathtub in the Ripon house that Ruland and Baier had once shared. Authorities investigated the writing, and Baier's sons admitted they'd written it there as A JOKE."

Vicap has a slightly different date missing and information: On Thursday, October 26, 1995, James S. Ruland was last seen hitchhiking in North Fond du Lac.

## Action

Ask do they still have the cigarettes? Test for dna? Emailed 11/5/24

## More Information

Charley Project

Doe Network

NaMus

Article

ViCap

Websleuths

Case Owner:  
Fond Du Lac County Sheriff  
(920) 929-3390  
Agency Case Number 95-25831