

Coral Watts dies of cancer - Death comes week after he was sentenced to 2nd life sentence in '74 slaying.

Detroit News, The (MI) - Saturday, September 22, 2007

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LANSING -- **Coral Eugene Watts**, an Inkster native and notorious serial killer who bragged to police he may have killed as many as 80 women, died of prostate cancer Friday in Foote Hospital in Jackson.

The death came one week after the man who terrorized Ann Arbor in the 1970s as the Sunday Morning Slasher was sentenced to a second life sentence for the 1974 slaying of a Western Michigan University single mother.

The 53-year-old sat in a wheelchair Sept. 13 during his sentencing at Kalamazoo Circuit Court. In the courtroom was Joe Foy, a Westland man, witness to one of **Watts**' murders and confidante of several victims' relatives.

He told **Watts** "every day, Hell is getting hotter for you." On Friday, Foy said he has no doubt that's where **Watts** is now.

"It is over now," Foy said. "There is just one final thing I have to do. I'm going to find out where he's buried and I'll (urinate) on his grave. That is not a joke."

Foy came forward to erase the possibility **Watts** would walk free from a Texas prison, despite confessing to killing former Detroit News reporter Jeanne Clyne, 44, in 1979 and 12 Texas women in the early 1980s.

Arrested in Houston in 1982, **Watts** received immunity for confessing to those murders as part of a deal with Texas prosecutors. He was given a 60-year sentence for burglary with intent to murder, but mandatory release laws and an appeals court ruling reduced his sentence by more than 35 years.

Just before **Watts** was scheduled to be released, Attorney General Mike Cox reopened old cases and implored the public to come forward with information

Foy was the star witness when an Oakland County jury in 2004 convicted **Watts** of killing Helen Dutcher, 36, in Ferndale. Kalamazoo authorities also convicted him of the 1974 slaying of Gloria Steele, a 19-year-old single mother who was stabbed more than 30 times.

Department of Corrections spokesman Russ Marlan said **Watts** was transferred to a secured room in the hospital Tuesday from the maximum security prison in Ionia.

Cox declined comment.

"He was a murderer and he was convicted," he said through a spokesman.

Watts went into great detail with detectives about how he stabbed, slashed, choked and drowned women he suspected of having "evil eyes," but he denied killing Dutcher or Steele.

Before his Kalamazoo sentencing, he went into a diatribe equating abortion to mass murder. He repeated the denials in 2005 when he broke his long media silence by writing a letter to The Detroit News that insisted, "I say it's all about putting **Coral Eugene Watts** in jail and keeping him there."

Caption: **CoralEugeneWatts** , an Inkster native, bragged to police he may have killed as many as 80 women.

Section: Metro

Page: 03A

Company Name: #keywords2#

Index Terms: MURDER-SERIAL ; CRIMINALS ; DEATHS ; PRISON

Dateline: LANSING

Record Number: det30946859

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