

OLD BONES ARE LINK TO AN ARREST - AFTER 13 YEARS, BODY DUG UP SUSPECT HELD

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Hiag Grigorian might have gotten away with a 13-year-old killing had a family not unearthed a skeleton in their backyard while putting in a new driveway two weeks ago, police said.

Instead, he is now in the custody of Detroit police, having reportedly confessed to the 1990 slaying of his brother-in-law, **James Ember**, said Inspector Craig Schwartz. **Ember** was 43 when he disappeared in 1990.

"This is very strange, very unusual," Schwartz said Thursday as he announced first-degree murder charges against Grigorian.

Grigorian, 42, is a truck driver who lives in Livonia. He's married with children and has no criminal record.

Police say he came to his sister's aid in 1990 as she was having a domestic dispute with **Ember** in their home on the 1000 block of Beard in southwest Detroit. Rose **Ember** had locked her husband out of the home and he had broken into her basement when she placed a call to Grigorian, police said.

Her brother borrowed a handgun from someone without their knowledge, confronted **James Ember** in the basement of **Ember**'s home, and shot him twice in the head, killing him, Schwartz said.

Grigorian then buried the body in the backyard, and the next day covered the shallow grave with a slab of concrete, police said.

The body was discovered July 1, when Eric Garza, who now lives at the house on Beard, was breaking up the concrete to build a new driveway. Garza, 27, found a Jordache tennis shoe, then a set of bones. Police were called and found an entire male skeleton.

Pathologists determined the body had been there since about 1990. Investigators then determined who lived there at the time and learned that Rose **Ember** left the home abruptly in 1994, leaving most of her belongings, police said.

Rose **Ember** now lives in Pennington Gap, Va., and has not been charged in the death. Deputy Chief Harold Cureton said police interviewed her and the case remains under investigation.

Her boyfriend, Ronnie Woodrod, answered the phone at her Virginia home Thursday. He said **Ember** was in Detroit.

"I need to hear from her," he said. "I need to find out what the facts are myself." He refused to comment further.

Schwartz said that had it not been for the Garzas constructing a driveway, **James Ember's** body may have never been found.

No one was looking for him. He had drug convictions, little family in the area and repeatedly assaulted his wife, Schwartz said.

At the time of his death, **James Ember** broke into the home looking for money to fuel a drug problem, Schwartz said.

Grigorian is now in custody and is expected to be arraigned today in 36th District Court on a first-degree murder charge.

Police say they have also recovered the weapon.

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Caption: Photo

Hiag Grigorian, 42, of Livonia is to be arraigned today.

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