

FBI Accepts Assumed Evidence from 'Cooper' Chute Dig



Like Cooper's, NB-8 with center pin-cover flap; the 8-3-17 Dig Find



Found foam, and parachute's foam backpack pad -- like Cooper's.

Photo of remote "Cooper Corridor" dig zone – between alleged recovered parachute strap and backpack pad foam.

8/19/17 Press Release (Bend, Oregon): An odd piece of buried foam (Above-right), one of the key materials believed to make up D.B. Cooper's 1971 parachute backpack, was officially accepted by the FBI in Bend, Oregon yesterday. It is among three "unknown" fabric samples delivered by local resident Hadley McCann (Below, 2nd from left without hat) – a former Bureau supervisor who for two weeks oversaw a private forensic team at a remote mountain excavation.

The materials were found in the same area where a strip of fabric was recovered on August 3 (Above-left) – a fabric some described as a parachute "strap" or "pin-cover flap." In a scene burn test, the material wouldn't catch fire or drip. An on-call forensic expert suggested that could mean it is flame-retardant, like an old NB-8 military parachute – Cooper's chute of choice.



The excursion was organized by Thomas J. and Dawna Colbert, organizers of a 40-member Cooper Cold Case Team spearheaded by former FBI agents. For six years, their sleuths have been focused on a former Cooper suspect that they believe the agency wrongly released: 73-year-old Vietnam veteran Robert W. Rackstraw Sr. The team's hunt was featured

last year in a History Channel documentary and in an investigative book, co-authored by Tom Szollosi, called *The Last Master Outlaw* – a 2016 winner of three national awards for true crime.

Nine team members traveled to a private forest in Washington State after being tipped to a story about the hijacker's escape. Many of the alleged getaway details were validated in old FBI field notes and memos, released by the Colberts' successful FOIA suit last January. The story tipster then provided the burial site (In 1971, it was ten miles from the nearest mountain home).

A week ago, the Colberts quietly turned over the confidential location and the name of the cooperative property owner to the FBI. The couple also provided the names of two alleged living crime-partners whom they believe helped the skyjacker escape and bury the evidence.

Available: Book, articles, video samples, court docs & research at www.DBCooper.com

VIDEO: Watch team's 2013 S.D., CA Video Ambush of Rackstraw (3½ minutes): <http://bit.ly/2amxQOV>

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FYI (4/28/19): The FBI told Colberts in 2016 it would reconsider opening the Cooper case for the missing money or parachute. But after this development, the Bureau sadly went silent.