

100 MOMENTS

EVANSDALE

By Mike Roehrkasse (2006-2017)



LYRIC COOK

On July 13, 2012, a community was forever changed following the reported disappearances of Lyric Cook, 10, and her 8 year old cousin, Elizabeth Collins. As word circulated throughout Black Hawk County regarding the disappearances, local law

enforcement, with the assistance of members of the community, began going door-to-door and searching nearby neighborhoods, businesses and parks.

Most incidents involving missing children are resolved, mercifully, in a manner of minutes as the child is oftentimes found playing outside or at a friend's house, but as the search wore on and Lyric and Elizabeth's bikes were located at the south entrance of Meyers Lake, it started to become clear that this was anything but "routine".

Within the first 24 hours, several agencies, including the DCI, FBI and National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) were deployed to Evansdale to assist. While the search effort continued with the help of over 1,000 volunteers, investigators began a monumental, multifaceted investigation which consisted of triaging tips received from the public, canvassing neighborhoods, conducting roadblocks and reviewing hours of surveillance footage.

While investigators and search parties worked around the clock, local businesses showed their support by providing food and lodging.

For months the investigation captured the public's attention as law enforcement worked tirelessly in an effort to bring Lyric and Elizabeth home.

The DCI continued to send dozens of agents from around the state to Evansdale to assist with the investigation. These agents remained in Evansdale, away from their own homes and



ELIZABETH COLLINS

families, often working around the clock for several days at a time.

Sadly, on December 05, 2012, the girls' remains were located in the Seven Bridges Wildlife Area in rural Bremer County. The discovery of the remains reignited the investigation bringing another flurry of local, state and federal agencies to the area. While the case remains unsolved, the DCI is committed to leaving no stone unturned until the person, or persons, responsible for this heinous act are brought to justice.

MIKE ROEHRKASSE – 2021

Currently a sheriff's deputy in McHenry County (IL), Mike spent 11 years with the DCI. He was the original case agent on the investigation into the disappearance of Lyric Cook and Elizabeth Collins.