

Summary:

In the early morning hours of June 18, 1982, 20-year-old Kelly Bergh Dove was working the night shift at the Imperial gas station on South Main Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Starting at 2:27 a.m., Kelly called the police three times to report an obscene phone call, a suspicious person outside the station, and a silver or gray car. During her third call at 2:30 a.m., Kelly was abducted. She has not been seen or heard from since.

Drive with flyers, photos, and articles:

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1. Background on the victim - Kelly Bergh Dove

- a. Kelly Jean Bergh was born on August 30, 1961, to parents Rachel and Ernest Parnell in Virginia. She was one of five children born to Rachel and Ernest. [source 2, 10]
 - i. Kelly was the true middle child of the clan, with two sisters, one brother, and one foster sister the parents brought into the family. [source 8, 10]
 1. Elaine and Kelly shared a room growing up, which meant they were very close. They sometimes shared a room with all the sisters as well. [source 10]
- b. When she was a child, Kelly's parents separated. Her mother, Rachel, then met Fred Bergh and the two married in 1971. He adopted Kelly and her four siblings, and according to Kelly's younger sister, Elaine, they thought of him as their dad, so when I refer to their father throughout the research, I am talking about Fred. [source 3, 10]
- c. Wanting a quieter life for their family, Rachel and Fred moved from Virginia Beach, Virginia to Bridgewater, Virginia in 1975. [source 3]
 - i. Bridgewater is an unincorporated town with around 3,000 people in the 70s. It's located around 20 minutes from Harrisonburg, Virginia, a town with around 20,000 people in the 70s. Harrisonburg is and was known for being home to James Madison University.
- d. Kelly's younger sister by two years, Elaine, told WHSV3 News that her sister was "a fun and happy young woman and was scrappy when she needed to be." She recalled a time when they lived in Virginia Beach. Kelly had been wearing a tube top and a boy pulled it down. Kelly punched him. Elaine said, "If someone bothered her, she would speak her mind." [source 5]
 - i. In another incident, Elaine said that she and Kelly and a friend from the neighborhood went to a muscular dystrophy walkathon on the beach and they walked 20 miles up and down the beach. The girl that they were with took off her tennis shoes, tied the laces together, and threw them in the ocean. When they got back to their neighborhood the friend's mother asked where her shoes were and the girl said that Kelly and Elaine threw them in the ocean. Elaine said that Kelly was furious and "wanted to beat her up." [source 10]

- e. Elaine said that Kelly loved animals and used to push their cat around in a doll carriage. [source 10]
- f. Elaine described Kelly as “creative and tomboyish.” [source 10]
 - i. Kelly also didn’t mind keeping herself company or playing by herself as a child. [source 10]
 - ii. Kelly was also very athletic and gymnastically inclined. Elaine said that Kelly could do multiple back and front handsprings in a row. [source 10]
 - iii. Kelly never backed down from a challenge. [source 10]
 - iv. Kelly used to skateboard barefoot down a hill near their house. [source 10]
- g. Elaine also told NBC that Kelly “made her feel fearless.” She described a sister who met every challenge head on and who didn’t back down. Kelly always encouraged Elaine to try new things. [source 5]
- h. One of Elaine’s favorite memories of Kelly is from Christmastime when the phone rang and Kelly and Elaine ran to answer the phone and in the process knocked over the Christmas tree. When their parents came into the room, the sisters were crawling out from underneath the tree and trying to put it back up again before their parents noticed. After that point, their father tied the tree to the wall so it couldn’t fall again. [source 10]
- i. During high school, Kelly was introduced by mutual friends to Dale Dove, a construction worker who was 5 years older than her. Despite the age difference, they quickly fell in love with each other. At 15, Kelly became pregnant, and the two married on July 9, 1977. Kelly became Kelly Bergh Dove. [source 3, 15]
 - i. Kelly’s father Fred was not happy about the pregnancy. Dale told Fred that he was going to marry Kelly and take care of her and the baby. Fred agreed but his one condition was that Kelly finished high school, which she did. [source 10]
 - 1. One of Kelly’s neighbors babysat her daughter during the day so she could finish high school. [source 10]
 - 2. Kelly attended Turner Ashby High School in Bridgewater, VA, and graduated in only 3 years. [source 4]
- j. According to Elaine, although she was young herself, Kelly was very excited to have a child. While still pregnant, Kelly and Dale moved into their own apartment about 20 minutes from her parents’ house. After she was born, Kelly utterly doted on their daughter, Tami, who was born in December 1977. [source 8]
 - i. Elaine stated that she was devastated not to have Kelly in the house anymore. Remember, they shared a room for basically their whole lives. [source 10]
 - ii. Although she was excited, Elaine remembers Kelly being scared to have a baby. But, Kelly was a good mom and took to it quickly. [source 10]
- k. Kelly had a job at the [Imperial gas station](#) at 2141 South Main Street in Harrisonburg. Her oldest sister, Debbie, was the manager, and two other sisters worked there along with Kelly. [source 8]

- i. The gas station was located on an isolated stretch of road, about a mile from James Madison University. [source 1]
 - ii. Elaine said that Kelly worked a lot, but spent her free time with Tami. Elaine would go over on the weekends (she was 13 when Kelly moved out) and hang out with Kelly and Tami. [source 10]
 - iii. A woman from Bridgewater watched Tami when Kelly was working.
- l. Kelly's mother, Rachel, told NBC that a few years after her daughter was born, Kelly decided she wanted to return to school so she could better her daughter's life. She registered at Blue Ridge Community College and was set to begin in September 1982 to study nursing. Rachel gave Kelly some money, but Kelly was determined to pay for it herself. She was saving money from her job at the Imperial gas station to pay for her classes. Tragically, she'd never get the chance to start school. [source 8, 10]
- m. At some point before Kelly's disappearance, she asked her parents if she and Tami could temporarily move in with them so she could look for a place of her own and so she could have help going to college. [source 10]
 - i. At this point, Kelly was still with Dale but was most likely going to end things. Elaine didn't share details about Dale or his behavior but explained that Dale grew up in a toxic household. Kelly's family doesn't believe Dale was involved in Kelly's disappearance, so I don't think there's a need to focus heavily on them possibly going to split up. [source 10]

2. The Abduction Occurs

- a. 20 year old Kelly was not scheduled to work on June 17, 1982; however, one of her sisters asked her to switch shifts and work the night shift for her (which would mean she would work June 17 into the 18th). It was common for the siblings to work the overnight shift at the Imperial gas station, however, according to Elaine, Kelly normally worked the day shift. [source 10]
 - i. Elaine told WHSV that Kelly and her sisters "didn't have a problem working overnight, none of them did." [source 5]
 - ii. Kelly was dropped off for work at 10:00 pm by Dale. She was to work the shift by herself, which wasn't uncommon. [source 18]
- b. On the 17th, Elaine stopped in the store, which was routine because her sisters all worked there. Elaine told us that something her sister Debbie said had upset her so she went into the bathroom and Kelly followed her. Kelly cheered Elaine up and they agreed to see each other over the next weekend, which was Father's Day weekend. They told each other they loved each other and that was the last time they spoke. [source 10]
 - i. At around 11 PM, Rachel and Kelly spoke on the phone. Kelly said the gas station had been busy. Rachel later told WHSV, "Then we said goodnight, see you tomorrow. I guess I was the last one to talk to her." [source 5]

- c. Kelly called 911 at 2:27 AM ([Starts at 1:07](#)) on what was now June 18. On the call, she stated: "I'm working the third shift at the Imperial Gas Station. I just had an obscene phone call. This guy came in earlier, and he was kind of dressed improperly but I kind of ignored him. I think it was that guy because he just drove through the parking lot a few seconds before I got the call. Could, you know, have somebody come keep an eye on me?" [source 7]
 - i. Although she did not specify what "dressed improperly" meant, police believe he might have exposed himself to her. [source 1]
 - ii. Kelly's sister, Debbie, later told the media that obscene phone calls and gestures were common when the female employees worked at night. She said, "We get those all the time." This could help explain why Kelly wasn't sounding *super* concerned in her first call. [source 23]
- d. Two minutes later, at 2:29 AM, Kelly called 911 again to complain that the same suspicious person was outside the gas station. She mentioned that the person was driving a silver or gray vehicle, possibly a Ford. She stated that he had entered the gas station and continued to harass her and that he was dressed improperly. [source 4]
- e. At 2:30 AM, Kelly made a 3rd and final call to 911. According to police, she sounded frightened and panicked. She said, "Please hurry, he's back." Kelly told them that he had called her from the payphone outside the gas station and was making obscene comments. Then, the operators could hear a shuffling noise on the phone before the line went dead. [source 4]
 - i. Elaine said that in the call you can hear "something in the background and you hear the phones slam down and her call's done and that's it." [source 10]
- f. Rachel, Kelly's mother, later listened to the 911 calls and stated that she could hear Kelly's fear increasing with each call. [source 8]
 - i. Elaine reiterated this statement. In the first call she describes Kelly as sounding matter of fact. In the final call she can hear fear and urgency in Kelly's voice. This is what makes Elaine believe that something was seriously wrong and Kelly was really scared. Elaine continuously referred to Kelly as scrappy and implied that for others to tell that Kelly was scared, she must have been very frightened. [source 10]
 - ii. Kelly's family was upset that the police didn't show up right after the first call. Rachel told the media, "I felt like they should have been more concerned about her and gone on the first call instead of waiting for the second one. If they had, she would have been saved." Rachel said Kelly sounded calm during the second call because she assumed police "would be there in time." [source 19]
 - iii. Later, the lead detective acknowledged that a faster response could have made a difference. He said he wishes the seriousness of the situation had been immediately apparent. He said, "You can always hindsight this case. At that time it was a routine call. She wasn't excited." [source 19]

- g. At 2:31 AM, a patrol officer with the Harrisonburg Police Department arrived at the gas station to find the store empty and Kelly missing. Kelly's purse (with money still in it) and a magazine she'd been reading were on the counter, and a partially smoked cigarette was found in an ashtray. [source 1, 16, 18]
 - i. There were no signs of a struggle. The cash register had not been disturbed, and no cash was missing. [source 4]
 - 1. Lt. Hubert Myers from the Harrisonburg Police Department was assigned to the case. He later told the media, "It looked like somebody, pardon the expression, just went to the toilet." [source 18]
 - ii. The case was immediately classified as an abduction. [source 5]
 - 1. When police arrived, there were no cars in the parking lot, which at first, made the police think that Kelly had been taken from the station in her own car. However, around an hour later, they learned that Kelly had been dropped off at work. [source 18]
 - a. The police started looking for the silver Ford Kelly mentioned in the 911 call, however, they were open to investigating any car. They weren't sure if Kelly's description was 100% correct or not - she would've been looking at the car through the glass inside the gas station. Plus it was dark outside. [source 18]
 - 2. Police believe it could have taken as little as 15 seconds for the person to grab Kelly and force her into their car. The police and family believe the person must have been armed with a weapon because Kelly would have tried to fight back otherwise. Lt. Myers later said, "She was a right smart scrapper. The man was armed. He caught her by surprise, we feel sure." [source 1, 18]
 - a. The distance from the phone where Kelly called the police to the door through which she was taken was about 10 feet. It was likely the abductor pulled his car up to the door, so he could force her in immediately. [source 18]
 - iii. Elaine told NBC how she found out that Kelly was missing. She said that her mother called her and said, "They can't find [Kelly]. We need to find her." The family hurried to the gas station after the police notified them. Elaine can recall searching the field behind the gas station, but they found nothing. [source 8]

3. Investigation

- a. The Bergh family told WHSV3 that the original investigation was chaotic and disorganized. According to Elaine, "When we walked into the gas station, there was no police tape, they weren't even doing fingerprints, customers were still coming in thinking it was open. It was just kind of weird that they didn't do that." [source 6]

- i. When the family arrived at the store they were confused by the cop's lack of action and the fact that the store was still open with customers able to walk around as if the store was open and operating. They were the ones to mention securing the scene to the police but the police didn't do anything and they were rude to Rachel when she asked about it. [source 10]
 - 1. This rudeness ended up being a pattern. In news reports, Lt. Myers rarely referred to Kelly by name. He typically called her things like "that woman." In one encounter Lieutenant Myers made Rachel cry. [source 10]
 - ii. The police did not attempt to recover fingerprints, saying there would be too many to process since it was a gas station. [source 6]
- b. Police canvassed the area and spoke to employees at other stores near the Imperial. They also spoke to customers of the Imperial gas station who had come in before Kelly was abducted. Through these conversations, the police were able to narrow the timeline down to 2:15 am as being the last time anyone saw Kelly. They knew that 12 minutes later, she called 911 for the first time. So the abductor had shown up in that time period. [source 19]
 - i. An employee of a Hop-In convenience store said that a man driving a two tone, silver car had driven by around three times before Kelly was kidnapped. The last time he saw the man was around half an hour before Kelly's disappearance. The employee described the person as a thin, white male between the ages of 20-25 with shoulder-length blond hair and wearing a light-colored shirt. The employee additionally told the police that the driver of a silver car had exposed himself to a female employee about two weeks earlier. [source 19]
 - ii. A [composite sketch](#) of the man with blond hair was created and distributed. However, as the police pointed out, this sketch wasn't extremely helpful as it could match half the male student population at James Madison University. [source 9, 18, 19]
- c. As the investigation was underway, the family searched for Kelly on their own. Kelly's best friend Connie had her husband search creeks, and Rachel took her dog to her search for Kelly. [source 10]
 - i. Dale told the Associated Press that he drove around trying to find Kelly. He didn't expect to have any luck, but he wanted to try. He said, "I know it's a wild goose chase, but it's better than sitting around." [source 15]
 - ii. Kelly's sister Debbie said they took out a four-wheel-drive vehicle and searched up to the mountains. They were also looking for cars and men who matched Kelly's descriptions. [source 23]
- d. Since Dale was Kelly's husband, he was questioned by the police multiple times but they couldn't find anything tying him to Kelly's disappearance. Elaine told us that when Kelly first disappeared, their father thought Dale might have had something to do with it (they didn't think he was the actual abductor as Kelly would've been able to identify him, however they thought it was possible he'd

hired someone or something like that). Elaine shared that the thought passes through her head every now and again. However, he's never been accused of the crime and as you'll find out later, there is a suspect in the case who is not Dale. [source 10]

- e. On June 29, it was announced that an anonymous citizen was offering a \$1,000 reward (which would be more than \$3,400 today) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who abducted Kelly. [source 17]
 - i. That day, the police said they had learned "nothing, absolutely nothing" that might help them find Kelly. They said they were checking reports of similar incidents in Virginia and other states, and had investigated dozens of tips, all to no avail. [source 17]
- f. Eventually, investigators came to the conclusion that Kelly was not specifically targeted. They believed her abduction was a crime of opportunity, committed after the suspect noticed a lone woman was working at the isolated gas station. [source 1]

4. Continued investigation

- a. In late July, six weeks had passed since Kelly was abducted. [source 18]
 - i. At that time, Lt. Myers sat down with the media to discuss the case. He said he kept a picture of Kelly on the wall, however, the longer the picture hung on the wall, the less the chance that Kelly would be found alive. He said, "We will find her sooner or later. We're hoping she's alive, but as every day goes by it's a strike against us." [source 18]
 - 1. Myers said the police had chased down every lead. Much of the investigation centered on men with histories of sex crimes or unusual sexual behavior. The police believed the crime could have been sex-related because of the number of obscene phone calls received at the Imperial station before the abduction occurred. Since then, the station had received only one such call. [source 18]
 - 2. The police also used a psychic to help in the investigation. It was the first time Harrisonburg police had used a psychic for an investigation, but they were desperate for answers and willing to do anything. Myers said authorities were reluctant to discuss specific information contributed by the psychic. [source 18]
 - 3. Myers said that by far, most leads came from the community. He said, "We've had a number of people call in about shady characters in the neighborhood. They say 'You might want to look at this man,' 'You might want to look at that man. He has a silver colored car.' 'This guy doesn't have a gray car, but he's acting strange.'" None of the leads led anywhere. Myers said the false leads can be irritating, however, he was happy to have people calling in to try and help. [source 18]

4. Myers said the case had him frustrated, but he wouldn't give up. He said, "We're not about to throw the towel in. In 31 years (on the Harrisonburg Police Department), this is probably the most challenging thing I ever got into. Sooner or later we're gonna get a break on it...we will find *that woman*." [source 18]
 5. When speaking to Myers, the media brought up that a lot of people asked if Kelly was truly abducted. The police said they ruled out the possibility of her running away almost immediately - they specifically stated they didn't think she left under her own will. [source 18]
- ii. Dale also sat down with the media. He said, "I've got to have hope, but the odds are against her." He said his and Kelly's 4-year-old daughter had accepted "fairly well" that "somebody took her mother." [source 18]
 1. Dale added, "There's no way she would have gone off on her own. Not with money and cigarettes there and the magazine open and her little girl." [source 18]
 2. After Kelly's disappearance, Dale gave Kelly's parents custody of his and Kelly's daughter after they had offered to raise her. [source 8]
 - a. Eventually Fred, Rachel, and Tami moved out of Virginia because being there was "destroying" Rachel. [source 10]
 - b. August 30 brought Kelly's 21st birthday. She wasn't there to celebrate.
 - c. In January 1983, Lt. Myers sat down with the media again to provide more information. This time, he shared what happened with the psychic. He said that the psychic said she was putting herself first in the mind of the abductor and then of Kelly. The psychic described roads, a residence, and a burial site. Many of her descriptions fit nearby areas of Rockingham County. She indicated that the suspect drove a refrigerated truck and might have injured his knee recently. Police followed every lead, but found nothing. [source 19]
 - i. Myers also said one informant underwent hypnosis and was able to remember all but one letter of a license number on a silver car she had seen. Myers said, "We ended up with hundreds of cars from that. We've got them everywhere. The address of one of them was aboard a ship at sea." [source 19]
 1. Myers said they considered the possibility that Kelly disappeared because she wanted to. They looked into her past, including the fact that she was close to her family and to her daughter, now 5. Myers said, "Since we got no leads that she was alive ... since she was a family woman ... she's dead. And she's buried within 50 miles." [source 19]
 2. Myers said the police and family had repeatedly searched the area, and the FBI even got involved, however they hadn't found Kelly. [source 19]

- ii. Rachel also spoke to the media and said while nothing like Kelly's abduction had ever happened in their small town before, she thought the police could have been more thorough, especially in the beginning. She added that she wants to believe Kelly is alive, but she finds that hope hard to sustain. She said, "When I'm driving to work in the morning, I think, 'Do I pass her body every day?'" Tragic. [source 19]

5. The case goes cold

- a. Despite interviewing several people and following many leads, the police never found the perpetrator, and the case went cold. [source 1]
 - i. Eventually one possible lead was found: one day, Rachel saw a car parked on the street that matched the description of the car Kelly described in the 911 call. She told the police, and they asked the owner if they could search the car. They said yes, and the police vacuumed the trunk and placed what was found in evidence. More on this later. [source 10]
- b. At some point the Virginia Bureau of Investigation started working on the case at Rachel's request. Lieutenant Myers was not happy about this and thought that Rachel was undermining his authority in the case. [source 10]
- c. In 1989, after Kelly had been missing for eight years, she was declared dead. [source 1]
- d. In 1993, the Daily Progress reported that there could be a possible link between Kelly's abduction and the case of Paula Jean Chandler, an 18 year old restaurant worker who went missing from nearby Charlottesville (which is around an hour from Harrisonburg) one day after Kelly was abducted. Two days after she was reported missing, Paula's body was found in a reservoir near Charlottesville. As far as I can tell, her murder remains unsolved to this day. [source 20]
 - i. The Daily Progress also reported that both of those cases could be related to the disappearance of a 12 year old girl named Katie Worsky in Charlottesville, who went missing within a few weeks of Paula and Kelly. I won't get into detail on her case except to say that a man was convicted for her murder even though her remains have never been recovered. 23 year old Glenn H. Barker was the person convicted, although he was only sentenced to 18 years. [source 20]
 - 1. He had previously been arrested for abducting an 18 year old woman at knifepoint. The woman escaped and Barker was arrested, however, he was allowed to plead guilty to a lesser charge of assault. [source 21]
 - ii. The Daily Progress reported that Barker could be a suspect in Kelly's case, along with Paula's. They pointed out that Barker had visited the restaurant Paula worked at multiple times, and he'd been seen driving around the areas where she was last seen and where her body was recovered and pointing out the sites. [source 20]

- iii. Regarding Kelly's case, the Daily Progress article pointed out that Barker's car matched the general description of a car witnesses reported seeing in the area at the time she vanished. Within days of Kelly's disappearance, Barker painted his car a different color, according to Charlottesville police reports. Also according to those reports, Barker told investigators that he frequently drove to the Harrisonburg area late at night. [source 20]
 - 1. The police told the Daily Progress that they had briefly viewed Barker as a suspect in Kelly's disappearance but that he was eliminated from serious consideration after they identified another car that also matched the description Kelly provided. Police said, "That didn't totally eliminate him as a suspect, but there was no other evidence to tie him to the case." Barker was never interviewed by Harrisonburg police in regards to Kelly's case. [source 22]
 - 2. Kelly's mother Rachel told the Daily Progress that she spoke to Katie Worsky's mother and they ended up comparing notes on their daughters' cases. Rachel then went to the Harrisonburg police and asked them to investigate Barker, but she "got no cooperation at all." She said, "We got so frustrated we had to call and write Governor (Charles) Robb and our senators for help. The State Police offered, but the [Harrisonburg] police apparently didn't want their help." Rachel said she heard nothing from Harrisonburg police about Barker. She said, "We were never satisfied with the way the Harrisonburg police handled the case. I think they bungled the investigation from day one." [source 22]
- iv. In 1992, Barker was released from prison for killing Katie Worsky after serving less than half his sentence. That same year, he sat down with a newspaper for an interview. During the interview, without prompting from the interviewer, he mentioned two other unsolved cases. Although Barker's recollection of the timing and the exact events was off, it was obvious that he was referring to the killing of Paula Jean Chandler and the disappearance of Kelly Bergh Dove. He said he brought up the cases to show that police were under pressure to find the person or persons responsible in Katie's case and that he was picked up because they had to arrest someone. [source 22]
- e. After the Daily Progress article was released, authorities announced that they would be re-looking into Kelly and Paula's cases. They said they were going to have a staff meeting, where they would look over the Daily Progress article, and review it to see if there was anything that matched stuff in their files. [source 20]
 - i. There were very few updates in the media after this article. It appears that Barker was eventually ruled out in Kelly and Paula's cases. However, I do want to point out that in 1993, Barker was caught with a pellet gun and handcuffs (which authorities thought was a "murder rape kit"). Then in

1996, a woman he was dating was found murdered along with her daughter. Although he was not charged in that case, many believe he was responsible.

- f. Years went by without any reporting in Kelly's case.

6. Tragedy strikes Kelly's family again

- a. In 2008, Kelly's paternal half-brother Dwayne Parnell, was shot and killed in Waffle House in Jacksonville, Florida. [source 10, 11]
 - i. Dwayne was in Florida from North Carolina on a construction job to work on the River City Marketplace in Jacksonville. [source 11]
 - ii. Dwayne and a friend named David Korosko were at a Waffle House when they got into a confrontation with a couple, Barry Edward Carrell and Melanie Berry-Ayala, who believed that they had called Barry the N-word. [source 10, 11]
 - 1. Witnesses state that David punched Barry during the argument. Dwayne then started getting physical as well. During the argument, Melanie threw ketchup and syrup bottles at Dwayne and David. [source 11]
 - 2. Both David and Dwayne were believed to have been drinking for most of the day. [source 11]
 - iii. After the argument ended the couple separated - the man, named Barry Edward Carnell went outside and the woman went to pay their bill. Barry re-entered the restaurant and, after a struggle at the door in which witnesses tried to prevent him from entering, shot both Dwayne and his friend. Dwayne died. [source 10, 11]
 - 1. Barry and Melanie left the restaurant but were eventually found by police. [source 11]
 - iv. Barry's defense lawyer tried to paint the incident as self defense due to the racial slurs being used and the claim that after re-entering the restaurant David and Dwayne attacked Barry again. [source 11]
 - 1. The prosecution argued that the altercation would have been over if Barry hadn't re-entered the restaurant with a gun. [source 11]
 - v. Barry Carrell was found guilty of third-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, shooting deadly missiles and two counts of aggravated assault. [source 12]
 - 1. Barry had also been charged with second degree murder but was not convicted of that charge. [source 12]
 - vi. Barry is still in prison with a set release date of 2077. He has attempted to appeal multiple times but all his attempts have been denied, including a 2023 request for a rehearing which was denied in September 2024. [source 13, 14]
 - vii. Kelly's biological father died seven months after Dwayne was killed from a heart attack. [source 10]

7. Reopening the case

- a. In 2020, 38 years after Kelly's disappearance, Elaine met Virginia delegate Tony Wilt at a polling station. She asked him how she could get a bill passed and explained that she wanted a bill prohibiting people from working alone in a 24-hour convenience store, which led to her explaining Kelly's case, which Tony was familiar with. He was shocked to learn that nothing had been done in the case and that no one was helping the family. [source 10]
 - i. The next day Elaine got a call from the Harrisburg City Police Department stating that they were going to reopen Kelly's case. [source 10]
- b. Harrisonburg police did reopen Kelly's case. Detective Brooke Wetherell (weather-ell) of the Major Crimes Unit was assigned as the lead. [source 6]
 - i. Detective Wetherell took Kelly's case very seriously and has carried Kelly's case with her in the department even after being promoted. [source 10]
 - ii. Another detective who started looking into the case on his own is related to the original lead detective on the case, Lieutenant Myers. Elaine believes that he knew how the Bergh family felt about their interactions with Lieutenant Myers and wanted to make it right by them. [source 10]
- c. When the case was reopened, the evidence vacuumed from the car Rachel saw on the street was sent off for testing. The family also learned new information, like how when that car was searched, the print of a tennis shoe was found in the carpet of the trunk. The print was the same size of shoe that Kelly wore, although it is unknown if Kelly was wearing tennis shoes when she disappeared. [source 10]
 - i. Elaine is not sure if the testing has come back yet. [source 10]
- d. In 2022, Wetherell said she had been working with the DMV to collect vehicle information from cars that matched the one Kelly reported seeing. [source 7]
 - i. Wetherell also acknowledged the difficulty of working such an old case. She told WHSV3, "We're working against the clock. This happened 40 years ago and the people we need to talk to are not always still around." [source 7]
- e. In 2023, Detective Wetherell told WHSV3, "The biggest challenge for us has been taking the evidence that we have and finding what's most valuable to this investigation. Having DNA is not as simple as it sounds; anything we have that we can send to the lab might have DNA on it but what if that sample is degraded? The biggest challenge for us has just been identifying and getting clean samples." [source 6]
 - i. She also stated that she is working closely with Virginia State Police cold case analysts. [source 6]
 - ii. Wetherell revealed that during the years she has been investigating, she believes they may have narrowed down the subject to one person. Wetherell said that before making this conclusion, she re-interviewed every suspect who had already been interviewed and ruled them all out. [source 10]

1. She added the caveat that, "Knowing and feeling confident that you know what happened and being able to prove it are two very different things and so that's kind of where we're floating at right now. Within the last year we're trying to get across the bridge of what we know and what we can prove." [source 6]
2. She acknowledged that the gas station was close to I-81, and the abductor could have been an interstate traveler. [source 7]
- iii. According to Elaine, the remaining suspect is a man Kelly went to high school with. This person, who has never been named publicly, had a record of indecent exposure and making obscene telephone calls. He also matched the sketch and owned a car that matched Kelly's description. [source 1, 10]
 1. Elaine said Kelly didn't really know this guy though, and likely didn't recognize him outside the gas station. And that's because after having Tami and getting married, Kelly kind of just went to school and then home to Dale - she didn't interact much with kids her own age outside of school. [source 10]
 2. According to Elaine, this man is aware that he is being investigated in connection to Kelly's case. [source 10]
- iv. At one point, the Harrisonburg Crime Solvers, a non-profit, received an anonymous letter about Kelly's case which mentioned the suspect by name - which has never been publicly released. This stood out and Detective Wetherell responded to the letter but never heard back. [source 10]
 1. She hopes that this person will respond and may have the key to arresting the suspect. [source 10]
- f. In 2024, Dale passed away at the age of 67. His obituary stated in part, "In 1982 his wife, Kelly Bergh Dove, was abducted, and he always had hopes of her return. They had a beautiful daughter, Tami." [source 24]
- g. As of today, the suspect has not been named and no arrests have been made yet. Kelly is still missing. [source 6]

8. Where are they now?

- a. Kelly's sister, Elaine, praises the work of Detective Brooke Wetherell. She told The Daily News Record that Wetherell has "paid more attention to this case the past two years than anyone at HPD had done before." [source 7]
- b. Elaine and Rachel (Kelly's mother) try to keep awareness of the case. They still seek closure and would like to know what happened to Kelly. [source 9]
- c. Elaine says that by keeping Kelly's memory alive, it may spur someone with information to come forward. [source 9]
- d. Elaine told The Daily News Record, "There's somebody out there, after 40 years, that knows something" [source 9]
- e. In speaking to WHSV3, Elaine said that some people have asked why she still advocates for Kelly. "Some people say, 'Well, isn't the hope gone? It's been 40

years. I don't think the hope ever goes away. I think sometimes it gets distant for awhile and then you think, you gotta keep holding this hope. Keep the hope alive." [source 7]

- f. Elaine told NBC, "This man took away a sister, daughter, mother and my best friend. He took away her future, her chance to have more children, and to enjoy being a grandma to two amazing little boys. I never knew I could miss her more today than I did when she first went missing." [source 8]
- g. Elaine believes that if people know what happened to Kelly they are afraid to speak up because they are afraid of the man who killed Kelly. She wants them to know that they can submit anonymous tips to the police to protect themselves. Elaine wants her parents to know what happened to their daughter before they die. [source 10]
 - i. Elaine told MAM that when her son was in high school, the mother of one of his friends told him that she needed to speak with his mother about Aunt Kelly. When Elaine tried to talk with this woman she would avoid the subject. When Detective Wetherell tried to talk to this woman she avoided her calls. People like this are who convinced Elaine that people are afraid of the person who killed Kelly. [source 10]
- h. Elaine has grown close to Shawna, sister of Emma Compton, and Christy, sister of Brenda Lambert. We have shared Emma and Brenda's stories on MAM. All three of them know what it's like to lose a sister, something they wouldn't wish on anyone else. The three of them call each other sister, and find comfort in speaking to each other.

9. Recap & Description

- a. Kelly Bergh Dove was 20 when she went missing on June 18, 1982. She was last seen at the Imperial gas station on South Main Street in Harrisonburg, VA.
 - i. Kelly was 5'1" tall with brown hair and brown eyes. She weighed between 100-120 pounds. She had a partial dental plate that replaced her two front teeth. She had a scar on the back of her head, one on her forehead along her hairline, and a scar on her right wrist.. She also wore contact lenses and glasses. [source 1]
 - ii. At the time of her disappearance, she was wearing a light-colored pinstriped sweater or top, and tan or cream-colored slacks. She also wore a Turner Ashby High School class ring with the initials KJB inscribed inside. The ring might have had a peridot stone. [source 4]
- b. The suspect was a thin, white male between the ages of 20-25 with shoulder-length blond hair and wearing a light-colored shirt. He was driving a silver or gray vehicle, possibly a Ford.
- c. How you can help:
 - i. Share this episode and [Kelly's flyer](#) so her story gets spread around and encounters someone who has information in the case. [source 10]

- ii. Elaine hopes that the suspect sees the information about Kelly being spread and knows that she won't stop fighting for her sister until justice is served. [source 10]
- d. Those with information about Kelly's case should contact Detective Wetherell at 540-432-7788 or by e-mail at Leslie.Wetherell@harrisonburgva.gov. Those who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050. [source 7]

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