On February 12, 1979, a Florida Forest Service employee was responding to a small brush fire in a heavily wooded area of Alachua County. After the fire had been extinguished, the forest ranger discovered a clothed skeleton underneath a tree while doing a perimeter check. A small rope was found adjacent to the body with a noose.

An anthropological assessment of the remains indicates the remains most likely belonged to a white male, aged 25-40 years old, and stood just under 5 feet 6 inches tall with a muscular build. It is believed the skeletal remains had been exposed for months, perhaps as long as a year prior to death. This individual had a number of traits unique to him that may aid with identification including: untreated dental pathology, ante mortem tooth loss, dental fillings in the upper left premolars and molars, and healed fractures on both the left and right sides of the upper front ribs in the chest from a prior injury.

The lead (Pb) isotopes are consistent with USA origin. The oxygen (O) isotopes, however, indicate that the decedent was not born “locally” in Florida. The tooth O isotopes suggest that he was born and grew up to the north of FL. A number of possible states for birth/childhood, include northern GA and AL, NC, VA, TN, KY, IN, OH. His rib O isotopes are even lower than the tooth, suggesting that he did not spend a significant amount of time in FL during the years prior to his death, perhaps just few days to few months before death. The low O isotopes (lowest from all of the cases in this cohort) in the rib suggests that he most likely lived in the Western to Northwestern American States like CO, UT, NV, or possibly the Eastern (in-land) parts of WA and OR.

He was wearing brown tie up shoes, brown worker pants, a light colored patterned shirt with short sleeves, and a light blue nylon windbreaker.