LOTT, FRANK (RED) CALHOUN TIMES JULY 10, 1999 Unsolved murder of Polk County sheriff could reach conclusion 25 years later

CEDARTOWN — The 25-year-old unsolved murder of former Polk County Sheriff Frank "Red" Lott could reach resolution this week in the trial of a Leesburg, Ala. man.

Larry Harold Johnson, 51, was arrested in connection with the murder in February 1998 after new leads in the case pointed investigators to the recovery of the weapon used to kill Lott and wound jail trusty Benny Clark on the night of June 23, 1974.

Johnson is charged with felony murder, malice murder, and aggravated assault.

Lott was shot three times by an assailant while he and Clark were investigating a possible burglary at Cedartown High School

A man was seen sitting in a vehicle, and as Lott approached the man fired several times with a .22-caliber pistol. Lott was hit three times.

Initial leads in the case failed to identify the offender. Although Johnson's home is in Leesburg, investigators said

he was living near Aragon in Polk County at the time Lott was killed. In February 1998, Polk County detectives and GBI agents executed search warrants at properties in Alabama connected to Johnson. In the course of the searches, investigators recov-

ered a .22-caliber pistol from the house of Johnson's mother. Ballistics tests of the gun matched the bullets that killed

Lott and wounded Clark, investigators said.