

This interview is taking place August 6, 1996 at approximately 1000 hrs. at [REDACTED], City of Manitowoc. Present are C.I. Gene Kusche and Detective Fred Nicholson.  
GK = Gene Kusche; FN = Fred Nicholson

GK: Det. Nicholson, were you a detective with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Dept. in 1985?

FN: Yes, I was.

GK: Were you involved in an investigation concerning a Steven Avery?

FN: Yes, I was.

GK: Do you recall during your investigation you received any information concerning a look-alike suspect from Sheboygan County?

FN: No, I did not.

GK: Do you recall any talk about a look-alike suspect from Sheboygan County?

FN: No, I do not.

GK: Do you recall if Lt. Jim Gospodarek was involved in this investigation?

FN: I do not recall.

GK: Do you recall if Det. Leo Jadowski was involved in this investigation?

FN: I do not recall.

GK: Do you recall what activities you did during this investigation?

FN: Yes.

GK: Could you relate them please.

FN: I don't recall the exact date, it was approximately ten years ago. I was performing time-distance studies on suspected travel routes from the Molesch Creek area on the shores of Lake Michigan to Neshota Park in Two Rivers and then to Green Bay, Wisconsin.

GK: Do you recall any conversation after the case was completed about any other suspects that might not have been checked out or investigated?

FN: No, I do not.

GK: Do you recall Det. Gospodarek ever talking about the case?

FN: I assume being a fellow investigator we discussed the case but I don't recall that he worked on it.

GK: How about Det. Jadowski?

FN: Same light.

GK: Do you have any other comments to make at this time?

FN: No, I do not.

GK: Thank you, Mr. Nicholson.

FN: You're welcome.

GK: This terminates the interview at approximately 1004 hrs., August 6, 1996.

(Transcribed by Kathy Leist)

On Sept. 10, 1996 C.I. Kusche went to the [REDACTED] by former detective Leo Jadowski. Time was approximately 12:30 pm. C.I. Kusche asked Leo Jadowski how he had come to talk to an attorney from Steven Avery's appeal. Jadowski stated that he did not know how the attorney had gotten his name but he had received several phone calls from the attorney. Jadowski further stated that the attorney wanted to know what he knew of the Avery case, and Jadowski replied that he had told the attorney that he did not work on the case, that the only thing he knew was he heard a comment from Jim Gospodarek stating that there had been a look-alike suspect in Sheboygan. Jadowski stated he didn't know any more about the suspect or the information, and that he had no further recollection as it had been about ten years since the incident and he was not directly involved in the case. C.I. Gene Kusche /kl

This is an interview taking place August 7, 1996 at 1030 hrs. at [REDACTED] with C.I. Gene Kusche and retired detective Al Kolanczyk.

GK = Gene Kusche; AK = Al Kolanczyk

GK: Al, I have asked you about your recollections of the Steven Avery case concerning a possible look-alike suspect that may haven't been investigated or you may have heard about. Could you tell me what you recall of the investigation, who was involved in the investigation, and anything about the look-alike suspect. What I'm talking about who was involved in the investigation, I'm saying who from the department were the primary investigators and specifically was Detective Jadowski or was Jim Gospodarek to your knowledge involved in the investigation. If you don't recall, you don't recall.

AK: Okay, regarding that case, I was called in by Dispatcher Judy Wallander, I believe, and I had talked to Bill Beck by phone. He was the officer that was at Memorial Hospital at the time with the victim. I could not get there immediately but I did arrive approximately an hour, an hour and 15 minutes later. At this time Sheriff Kocourek was there, and he advised me he was taking charge of the case. A little bit later, Gene Kusche arrived to take a composite as I recall and I was informed at that time Bruno Frauenfeld, who also had the dog at that time, was up at the park apparently investigating the scene of the crime. Also at the hospital at the time was Judy Dvorak who was with the victim. She was a female deputy at the time. After the hospital thing, the next day I was asked by the Sheriff to transport the evidence to a crime lab, I believe it was Milwaukee which I was not aware of. Judy Wallander and I and Sheriff Kocourek and Gene Kusche then executed a search warrant on the Avery residence.

GK: You said Judy Wallander.

AK: I'm sorry.

GK: Judy Dvorak.

AK: Judy Dvorak, Judy Dvorak, too many Judy's here. Yea, Judy Dvorak. We then executed a search warrant on the Avery residence, I don't...it was the northern part of the county, I don't recall the address. After that, that seemed to be more or less the end of my involvement in the case.

GK: Do you recall if Jim Gospodarek was involved in the investigation at any time to your knowledge?

AK: It is very possible. I think Jim at that time was training officer. I'm sure that Leo might have been--Leo Jadowski--might have been. Definitely Don Belz, was Captain of Detectives at the time, was involved. Might have been a possibility Larry Conrad, I'm not sure because it's kind of faded away from there. My position in this thing kind of proceeded to investigative it.

GK: Do you recall any information or conversation amongst the detectives concerning look-alike suspects?

AK: I do recall, and I don't know who really mentioned this. There was supposed to be some type of a look-alike, possibly from the Two Rivers area, and that is...I don't know who, I don't know where this all came from but it was if you want to call it the scuttlebutt or whatever around the office.

GK: Do you recall any conversation or information concerning a look-alike suspect from Sheboygan County?

AK: That I have no knowledge of. I have not heard that. The only one would have been somebody from Two Rivers, and I don't know yet who that would have been or what. Like I says, I was assigned other duties or did not get totally involved in this case.

GK: Are there any other comments you would like to make about this?

AK: Oh, I don't know. Let me think awhile on that, I don't know. I just know what the outcome was. I did not participate in the procedures or the court areas or anything of that sort so that was it. I know that Avery was arrested at that time.

GK: Alright, thank you for your statements. This terminates the interview at 1035 hrs. on August 7, 1996.

(Transcribed by Kathy Leist)

This is an interview of Detective Larry Conrad by Chief Investigator Gene Kusche, taking place at the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department Detective Bureau, August 6, 1996 at 1404 hrs.

GK = Gene Kusche; LC = Larry Conrad

GK: Now Det. Conrad, would you speak up so that the tape will record your answers.

LC: Yes.

GK: Det. Conrad, in 1985 were you a detective with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department?

LC: Yes, I was.

GK: Do you recall a case involving Steven Avery?

LC: Yes.

GK: Were you assigned to conduct any investigations concerning that case?

LC: I was involved to conduct some follow-up, but I was not the lead detective nor was I involved in the initial investigation of that case.

GK: Do you recall who the lead detective was?

LC: I believe Det. Al Kolanczyk had something to do with the initial phase of the investigation, but to be very honest with you I'm not really sure who the first detectives were that were assigned.

GK: Do you recall Jim Gospodarek?

LC: Yes, I do.

GK: Do you recall whether he had any investigative duties with that case?

LC: To the best of my knowledge, I don't believe Jim Gospodarek did because I believe he was a lieutenant of training at that time.

GK: Do you recall Det. Fred Nicholson?

LC: Yes, I do.

GK: Do you recall whether he had any investigative duties with that case?

LC: I don't know.

GK: Do you recall Det. Jadowski?

LC: Yes.

GK: Do you recall whether he had any investigative duties with that case?

LC: I don't know.

GK: Do you recall conducting any investigations concerning look-alike suspects, people that looked like the sketch or the mug shots of the individual involved?

LC: Yes.

GK: Do you recall who you investigated?

LC: I interviewed an individual identified as C. M. [REDACTED]--I believe it's M. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He was a resident at [REDACTED] which is a [REDACTED] and at that time was located [REDACTED] the Sheriff's Department, 1025 South 9th St. He had similar facial appearances from my recollection of a composite that was prepared by Chief Investigator Kusche, and I interviewed him and we were able to determine that he had an alibi and could have not been at the location where the crime took place.

GK: During this time, did you ever investigate a look-alike suspect from Sheboygan?

LC: No sir, not that I'm aware of.

GK: Did anybody ever mention to you there was a look-alike suspect in Sheboygan?

LC: No.

GK: In conversation in the Detective Bureau, did you ever hear of another detective mention such a person?

LC: No, sir.

GK: Did you ever discuss this case with Jim Gospodarek?

LC: I don't believe so.

GK: Do you ever recall Jim Gospodarek making a statement about a suspect from Sheboygan?

LC: No, I don't believe that happened because Jim was, I guess what I would call, a stickler for facts. And if he would have had that type of information, it would have been investigated or at least would have been in the police report.

GK: Have you ever talked with Det. Jadowski about this case?

LC: Not that I recall.

GK: Do you ever recall Det. Jadowski making comments about this case?

LC: No.

GK: If you had any information about someone who might have looked like the composite, what would you have done?

LC: Investigated it immediately and turn the information over to the lead investigator or the Captain of Detectives, who I believe was Don Belz at that time, so someone else could check it out.

GK: Do you know of any direction by anybody on this department to hide or conceal any information about other suspects?

LC: Absolutely none.

GK: Have you any other comment reference the Steven Avery case and what occurred during the investigation phase?

LC: No, I don't.

GK: Thank you. This terminates the interview with Det. Conrad. The time is now 1410 hrs.

(Transcribed by Kathy Leist)