

# Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation

## ACISS Investigative Report

Report Number: DCIR13280/39

Report Date:

Report Information	
Report Number:	DCIR13280/39
Type Of Report:	Investigative
Description:	dci2intrnicholson
Approval Status:	Approved
Approved Date:	04/12/2004
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Narrative	
CASE ACTIVITY REPORT Wisconsin Department of Justice DJ-DCI-2 (Rev. 8/91) DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION	
1. Case Number	GC-13280
2. Date	10/10/2003
3. Case Title	STEVEN AVERY PROSECUTION
4. Activity	Interview/Fred Nicholson
5. Date of Activity	10/06/2003
6.	<p>On 10/06/2003, Special Agents Amy A. Lehmann and Debra K. Strauss interviewed FRED NICHOLSON, currently residing at 1906 Friday Street, Manitowoc, WI 920-684-4804 (h) and 920-793-1348 (w). NICHOLSON is currently employed at Comfort Solutions as the General Manager, a job that he obtained after retiring from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department 3 1/2 years ago. NICHOLSON served 27 years as a detective with the sheriff's department and therefore would have been a detective in 1985 when STEVEN AVERY was arrested for the attack on PENNY BEERNTSEN. NICHOLSON provided the following information about that time period.</p> <p>NICHOLSON stated that he assisted with the investigation by doing a "pace-off", driving a police vehicle to the Shopko store in Green Bay. The sheriff's department wanted to know how long it would take to get from the scene of the crime to the Shopko. NICHOLSON said that he drove as fast as he could, approximately 20 miles over the speed limit. NICHOLSON said that there was a second police vehicle that also drove that distance, however, the vehicle was driven at posted speed limits. Deputy JUDY DVORAK drove the second vehicle.</p> <p>NICHOLSON said that they drove fast to see how long it would take to get to Green Bay and obtain a receipt and alibi if AVERY was looking for one for his defense. NICHOLSON was asked if it was taken into account that AVERY and his wife said that they had their five children with them when they went to Shopko. NICHOLSON stated that he couldn't remember if he knew AVERY had children at that time or not. NICHOLSON was asked if he knew the time frame that was needed to put AVERY at the scene of the crime. NICHOLSON stated that he was not aware of the time frame for AVERY to be a viable suspect.</p> <p>NICHOLSON relayed that he would have written a report about the drive that he made to Green</p>

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### Narrative - Continued

Bay.

NICHOLSON stated that he did not assist in the search warrant or arrest of AVERY.

NICHOLSON relayed that he did not know who GREG ALLAN was until he saw him on the news recently as the person who committed the crimes against BEERNTSEN.

NICHOLSON said that he had a "gut feeling" that AVERY did not commit the crimes he was charged with. When asked why he had that "gut feeling", NICHOLSON was unable to explain why he felt that way, other than to say that the only evidence was the positive identification.

NICHOLSON was asked if he was aware of any other suspect that was looked at in the course of investigating this case. NICHOLSON stated that he was not aware of any other suspects. NICHOLSON relayed that other than doing the drive to Green Bay, he was not involved in the investigation.

NICHOLSON was unable to provide any additional information and the contact was terminated.

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### Record Static Information

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