

Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation

ACISS Investigative Report

Report Number: DCIR13280/7

Report Date:

Summary Information

Report Number: DCIR13280/7
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Description: dci2 int mertens
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Notes

CASE ACTIVITY REPORT Wisconsin Department of Justice
DJ-DCI-2 (Rev. 8/91) DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

1. Case Number

GC-13280

2. Date

09/30/2003

3. Case Title

STEVEN AVERY PROSECUTION

4. Activity

Interview: MERTENS

5. Date of Activity

09/23/2003

6.

On the morning of September 23, 2003, S/A Debra K. Strauss and S/A Amy A. Lehmann interviewed:

NAME: JILL A. MERTENS
DOB: 10/20/1958
ADDRESS: 1070 S. 39th Street, Apt. B, Manitowoc, WI
HOME PHONE: 920-682-6384
WORK PHONE: 920-683-4309
EMPLOYMENT: Case Manager, Child Support Agency, Manitowoc County

The purpose of this interview was to obtain information MERTENS may have regarding the arrest and conviction of STEVEN A. AVERY, DOB 07/09/1963, in July, 1985.

MERTENS provided the following information:

From 1979 to 1991, MERTENS worked in the Manitowoc County District Attorney's office. In July, 1985, MERTENS was working in the Manitowoc County District Attorney's office as either a legal secretary or paralegal.

MERTENS told the Special Agents that while she was working in the district attorney's office, she was working near BEVERLY BADKER and BRENDA PETERSEN. MERTENS recalls that neither herself, BADKER nor PETERSEN thought AVERY was the one who committed this crime because there were too many inconsistencies. For example, PETERSEN used to comment on how the victim stated her assailant's hair was curly and AVERY had straight hair. Even though the

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Narrative - Continued

prosecution stated the reason AVERY's hair was so curly was because of the humidity, neither MERTENS, PETERSEN nor BADKER felt this was a reasonable answer. Instead, they thought a person's hair would go more straight in the humidity instead of curly.

MERTENS said they also had concerns about the timeframe that was established by the detectives. More specifically, they were concerned about the detectives' statement that AVERY would have had time to commit the assault and then drive to the Shopko in Green Bay. MERTENS said when the detectives made this trial run, the detectives did not have to deal with several small children, including two newborns. MERTENS said that, based on the timeframe, there was no way AVERY could have went to the Shopko in Green Bay and still have committed this crime.

MERTENS was then asked how it came to be that she thought GREGORY A. ALLEN, DOB 01/17/1954, might have committed this crime. MERTENS said she does not remember how it came to be that she thought ALLEN may have been the perpetrator of this crime. MERTENS stated she knew of ALLEN through her work in the district attorney's office, and MERTENS believes that ALLEN must have come to the D.A.'s office at one time. If he wouldn't have, there was no other way MERTENS would have known what ALLEN looked like. MERTENS described ALLEN as someone who was hot headed, quick tempered, and someone who had the ability to be extremely violent.

MERTENS said she was familiar with ALLEN's background and she described ALLEN as a "peeper" and someone who had a history of sexual assault. MERTENS thought ALLEN is the type of person who would have committed a crime such as this.

MERTENS was asked if she ever saw the composite drawing prepared by Gene Kusche. MERTENS said she could not remember ever seeing the composite drawing.

MERTENS said that when she would be sitting with BADKER and PETERSEN, MERTENS would discuss her concerns about this case. MERTENS believes that either BADKER or PETERSEN may have discussed their concerns directly with Manitowoc County District Attorney Denis Vogel. MERTENS said she did not ever express her concerns to Vogel.

MERTENS told the Special Agents that she did not think there were any other suspects for this crime. MERTENS recalls there was a sense of urgency to get this case done very quickly. When MERTENS was asked why there was this sense of urgency, MERTENS responded it was her impression that the victim was someone well known in the community and someone of status. As a result, this investigation had to be completed.

MERTENS was asked if she ever sat through any of the AVERY trial, and MERTENS said she did not.

MERTENS was then asked if this investigation was handled differently from other investigations. MERTENS responded she did not know. MERTENS stated that what made this investigation so unique was the severity of the crime and the status of the victim. MERTENS again stated there seemed to be a great sense of urgency about this case.

MERTENS had no additional information and the interview was at that time terminated.

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