

Marinette County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
Original Report

COPY

Date: November 7, 2005
Page: 1 of 6

Officer: Sgt. Michael Sievert
Case: 05-4120

Requested Date of Assistance: November 5, 2005

Subject: Missing Person Assist Manitowoc and Calumet
County

Missing Person/Victim: Teresa M. Halbach (female Caucasian DOB 03-22-80)

Venue: [REDACTED] Highline Lane, Town of Stephenson
Marinette County, Wisconsin

On November 5, 2005 at approximately 11:30 a.m. I was contacted by Detective John Dederling of the Calumet County Sheriff's Department requesting assistance with an investigation relating to a missing female party, Teresa M. Halbach (DOB 03-22-80). Detective Dederling requested that we check on the cabin and properties listed to Allan K. Avery (male Caucasian DOB 05-03-37) on Highline Lane in the Town of Stephenson, Marinette County Wisconsin. I did request for the area patrol car to respond to Parkway Road and Highline Lane; and until I got there, not to allow any vehicles in or out of that area. I also requested the assistance of Detective Tony O'Neill.

Upon my arrival, I met with Deputy Curran, Deputy Mahoney, and Deputy Kostuch, who did have the road blocked off. I did go down Highline Road and noticed multiple vehicles parked at [REDACTED] Highline Lane, which would property owned by Allan Avery. I also saw a flatbed towing truck there with "Avery" name on the side of it. I then went back to the area of Parkway and Highline Lane and met with Detective O'Neill. At that time I was contacted by Detective Dederling via telephone requesting that we go down and interview all parties located at that residence and attempt to obtain consent to search the area. I was also informed to contact Special Agent Kim Skorlinski from DCI. I did contact Special Agent Skorlinski and advised him of what we had. He advised me that he was enroute and would be at the location within a couple of hours.

At that time all officers went to the Allan Avery residence. At first I did make contact with Charles E. Avery (male Caucasian DOB 07-13-54) and explained to him that we would like to talk to his father, Allan. Allan did eventually come outside, and I explained to him that we were there at the request of the Manitowoc and Calumet County Sheriff's Departments, and it had to do with the salvage yard owned by Charles Avery. I also explained to him that we would like permission to search his property and all buildings on the property. After a short time of talking, Mr. Avery did give a verbal consent for a search of the properties. That was done by road patrol officers. We then asked if Steven

Marinette County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
Original Report

Date: November 7, 2005
Page: 2 of 6

Officer: Sgt. Michael Sievert
Case: 05-4120

Avery was there, and he said yes; however, he didn't want to come out. Mr. Avery then went back into the cabin, and came out a short time later and told me that Steven would like to see me inside the cabin. I did go inside the cabin, and I introduced myself to Steven Avery. I explained to him that we were looking for a missing person and that since he was the last person to see her, we had been requested by the Manitowoc Sheriff's Department to try to get some more information to locate this female.

At that time, Steve Avery agreed to talk with us, and he went out with Detective O'Neill to his unmarked police vehicle. I then asked Charles Avery to come outside and talk with me. Charles and I went to my black F150 pickup truck, which is an unmarked police vehicle. At the time of this interview and the second interview, I had very limited knowledge of what was going on in Manitowoc County. I did obtain the first statement from him, which reads as follows:

I am the owner of Avery's Auto Salvage in Two Rivers Wisconsin. I was at the salvage yard the day the girl came to take a picture of the Dodge mini-van. Steven went down to the trailer house that he is staying in with the girl. I don't know the girl's name but she is the one who normally came to take pictures. I don't know if Steven was in the girl's vehicle or if he took his own. Steve was gone for about 10 minutes and I did not see the girl after they went to take the pictures or before. I asked Steven where he went and he told me to take pictures with the girl to place in a magazine to sell the van. Steven told me that the girl left. Just Steve, my brother Earl and I were at the salvage yard that day.

END OF STATEMENT (please find a copy of that original statement attached to this report)

After about 10 minutes, I then made contact with Charles Avery and obtained a second statement which reads as follows:

On Thursday 11-03-05 around 6:30 p.m. Steven and I were going to Menards and Steven saw taillights by the trailer that he is staying in. I turned around on Jambo Creek Road. We went back and pulled into my sister's driveway. I did not see the taillights. Steven checked around by his trailer but didn't find anything. I stayed by my sister's house. If there was a vehicle back there the only road out was past my sister Barbara's house. A vehicle could get out by driving across the field.

On Friday 11-04-05 when I was leaving to come up to the cabin in Marinette County I saw headlights behind my house on Avery Road, I called Steven and asked him to check it out. Steven called me back and said he didn't find anything.

Marinette County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
Original Report

Date: November 7, 2005

Page: 3 of 6

Officer: Sgt. Michael Sievert

Case: 05-4120

I made a map of my property on a sketch/diagram that Sgt. Sievert gave me. I called Steven at 7:20 p.m. and Steven called me back at 7:25 p.m. These times are from my cell phone.

END OF STATEMENT (please find a copy of the original statement and the sketch made by Charles Avery attached to this report)

I then made contact with Allan K. Avery and I asked him to come out to my vehicle. He gave me a very short statement, which reads as follows:

I have no personal knowledge of what is going on. I didn't find out about the missing woman until on saw it on TV. (sic)

END OF STATEMENT (Please find a copy of this statement attached to this report)

I next talked to Delores A. Avery (female Caucasian DOB 08-20-37). She would be the wife of Allan Avery and the mother of Charles and Steven Avery. She also gave me a very short statement, which reads as follows:

The only thing I know about the missing woman is what I saw on TV.

END OF STATEMENT (Please find a copy of this statement attached to this report)

After I obtained my statements and Detective O'Neill finished his statement with Steven Avery, we met with Special Agents Kim Skorlinski and Deb Strauss. We decided to go back out to the roadway to discuss what we were going to do. We did return back to the Avery property a short time later. It should be noted that Mr. Avery had been consuming beer in front of us, and appeared to be intoxicated with slurred speech, glassy eyes, a little bit of staggering and a loud voice. He did start to become quite irritated that officers were around his house, and wanted to know what we were waiting for. We told him that we were waiting to see what Manitowoc had to say.

We then pulled our vehicles out of his yard and parked on the road. Detective O'Neill and I left the area for a short period of time, and when we returned we were informed that Allan Avery had made threats towards officers, saying that he was going to get a gun. He did come back driving a golf cart, and was quite boisterous. I did ask him to calm down, and I was able to talk him down. At that time we decided to leave that immediate area and go back out to Parkway Road and Highline Lane for both their safety and ours.

Marinette County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
Original Report

Date: November 7, 2005
Page: 4 of 6

Officer: Sgt. Michael Sievert
Case: 05-4120

After a period of time, it was decided that it would be safest to approach the Avery's in the morning with search warrants for the two vehicles that were of interest. I did set up two patrol cars to be there throughout the night with two officers together at all times.

I did return at approximately 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 6, 2005 and relieved one of the patrol cars and stayed there with Deputy Degnitz until Special Agents Strauss, Skorlinski, and Detectives O'Neill and Baldwin arrived on scene. After everyone was on scene, we did go back down to the Avery residence. They were cooperative with us, and I obtained a third statement from Charles Avery in the presence of Detective Baldwin and Special Agent Strauss. That statement reads as follows:

I opened the business at 8 a.m. on Monday. Steve, Earl and I were there. I have a tablet to keep track of hours worked, the tablet is kept at my mom's house. Steve works in the shop stripping cars. Earl and I are in and out. I would have to check the log book on what hours Steve and Earl worked that day, but normally we work 8-5 during the week and Saturdays 8-12.

On Monday, October 31st I'm pretty sure I was home, I live by myself. Nobody came over or called. On Monday afternoon I remember working with Steve in the afternoon.

Last night after I talked with Sergeant Sievert I asked Steve when he left on Monday, I'm pretty sure Earl worked all day and was in and out.

We all operate the front-end loader, Earl normally operates the crusher. I think Earl showed Steve how to operate the crusher. I think Steve has run the crusher once or twice. I log in all the vehicles that come into the lot. The crushed vehicles are sold to Mushkin out of Manitowoc, Norbs out of Denmark. Norbs hauls the vehicles that are crushed.

On Thursday Steve and I went to the Menards in Manitowoc and we picked up trusses and insulation and a few odds and ends at 6:30 p.m. We got back about 9:30-10:00 p.m. Steve and I both went home. I left for the cabin at 7:20 p.m. on Friday. That's when I saw the headlights behind me and called Steve on his cell 920-323-4038. My nephew Brendon Dassey rode up north with me. We took the flatbed wrecker to haul up the trusses and insulation.

On Friday when I left Steve was at home, my mom was home because they were coming up in the morning. I don't know if my sister was home. During the week

Marinette County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
Original Report

Date: November 7, 2005

Page: 5 of 6

Officer: Sgt. Michael Sievert

Case: 05-4120

Monday through Friday I did not hear any gun shots. If there were any shots fired on my property I would have heard them. Family and friends use my pit to sight in their guns.

I have no idea how the girl's car got into my salvage yard.

A front-end loader would be needed to put a car in any row, even a tow truck would have a very hard time. The front-end loader is kept in the red building or the blue building and the keys are left in it. The red and blue building are locked at night. Steven has a key for the blue building only, Earl and I have keys for both of the buildings. The front-end loader has lights but they don't work. One or two nights last week the front-end loader was left outside.

END OF STATEMENT (please find a copy of this statement attached to this report)

It should also be noted during the interview on November 6, 2005 that Charles Avery did draw a second drawing of his property showing locations of vehicles by make. That will also be attached to this report.

After we finished interviews, we then met again back on Highline Lane and Parkway Road. Before we left, we did inform the Avery family that we would keep them informed on what was going on. After discussions, Special Agent Strauss and myself did return to the Avery residence and spoke with Allan and Charles Avery. We explained to them that the Crime Lab was on the property in Manitowoc County, and nobody would be allowed on that property until they were finished processing it. The Avery's said that they understood, and we told them when we knew how long it would be, we would contact them.

We then did go back out to the roadway with the other units. Deputy Degnitz and myself maintained surveillance on the road while the other units left the area for a short period of time. During that time, the blue Pontiac with license number 187JJF did leave the area traveling north on Parkway Road. I then directed Deputy Degnitz to stop that vehicle. I remained at Highline and Parkway in case the other vehicle attempted to leave. Other officers were contacted and met with Deputy Degnitz at the location of the stop, and the vehicle was seized.

After that, we did go back to the Avery residence. Special Agent Skorlinski did give them a search warrant showing that we had a search warrant to seize the Pontiac Grand Am and also their flatbed tow truck. After some discussion, the Avery's were


Marinette County Sheriff's Department
Investigations Division
Original Report

Date: November 7, 2005
Page: 6 of 6

Officer: Sgt. Michael Sievert
Case: 05-4120

concerned that the flat-bed truck would be damaged while being towed. A decision was made to allow Charles Avery to drive the truck to the Marinette County Sheriff's Department impound garage along with Detective Baldwin. At that time we did clear the area. I did meet Charles Avery and Detective Baldwin at the Marinette County Sheriff's Department. The flatbed truck was put into impound and secured there. Sheriff's tape was placed around that vehicle and also around the Pontiac awaiting a decision on where the vehicles will be processed.

Case Status: Investigation continuing


Sergeant Michael Sievert
Marinette County Sheriff's Department

MS:am

Attach.

