

Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation

ACISS Investigative 05-1776/21

Report Date: 11/12/2005

Primary Information

Description: TERESA MARIE HALBACH: Search Scene: Burn Pit
 Occurrence From: 11/08/2005 13:30
 Occurrence To: 11/08/2005 17:00
 Dissemination Code: Agency
 Reporting LEO: Sturdivant, Thomas A (Wausau Narcotics DCI)
 Backup LEO: Strauss, Debra K (Appleton Financial Crimes DCI / Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI)
 Approval Status: Approved
 Approved Date: 11/14/2005
 Approved By: Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson DCI)

Related Addresses

Address	Relationship
12930 Avery Rd, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241, United States of America	Search Location

Related Subjects

Name	Type	Sex	Race	DOB	Relationship
Avery's Auto Salvage	Business	---	---	---	Subject of Interest
Avery, Charles Earl	Person	Male	White	07/13/1954	Person of Interest
Avery, Steven Allen Sr	Person	Male	White	07/09/1962	Person of Interest
Halbach, Teresa Marie	Person	Female	White	03/22/1980	Victim

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Knutson, Andrea L (DCI Appleton Field Office / Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI)
 Record Origination Date: 11/12/2005 15:51
 Last Update Operator: Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI)
 Last Update Date: 11/14/2005 09:29

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Sturdivant, Thomas A (Wausau Narcotics DCI)		Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson DCI)	9/12/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2005, at approximately 1:30 p.m., while at Avery's Auto Salvage, located at 12930 Avery Road, Two Rivers, S/A Thomas A. Sturdivant, along with SAIC Pete Thelen and S/A Debra Strauss, were requested to examine various locations of interest (e.g., earthen sites, ash piles, vehicles, items of interest, etc.). These locations had been identified by search teams (e.g., State Troopers) during a systematic search. It was necessary to determine if the locations or items had any evidentiary value.

Eventually S/A Sturdivant, along with S/A Debra Strauss, examined an item that Deputy Jason Jost, Manitowoc County Sheriff's Dept., had marked with a red flag. Deputy Jost was standing near the item (approximately 1" in length) and suggested that it might be bone material. Investigator JoAnn Mignon, who was monitoring the emptying of the septic system for the property, had also looked at the item. The item was located behind (south) Steven Avery's detached, single story, faded, light blue and red two car garage and approximately 8' south from the raised dirt pile (consisting of rock and sand). A burn pit was at the end of the gravel and S/A Sturdivant noticed what appeared to be other charred bones.

S/A Sturdivant had previously worked in the Arson Bureau and had some experience with charred remains to include charred bone. S/A Sturdivant recognized the item to be what he believed to be bone matter. A short distance (north towards the rear of the garage) from this item was a pile of charred debris. S/A Sturdivant observed additional suspected charred bone material within and around the debris pile. Some bone material was intertwined within what was believed to be the remnants of steel belted tire (wire). Also observed by S/A Sturdivant was what was suspected to be skull bone.

A large intimidating (barking and charging) German shepherd dog stood atop the dirt pile. The dog was on a long leash and could reach from the north edge of the dirt pile to the south edge of the burn pit. The dog house was also on top of the pile and the leash appeared to be secured to it. The dog was positioned such that the dog prevented people from getting near the dirt pile.

The dirt pile was located directly behind the garage (south side), which is to the east of Steven Avery's red trailer. The elevated dirt pile (1'x 2'H) was approximately 30'W x 30'L in diameter. The dirt pile (rock and sand) area was as wide as the garage.

The specific area of interest (burn pile) was at the south side of the dirt pile and centered at the end. An approximate 6' rectangular area (gravel, dirt and sand) had been removed (scraped down to the ground level surrounding the pile) from the south side (dug into) and this was where the burn pit was located that contained the charred incomplete bones. The dirt pile appeared to have been added (dumped on top) to the existing landscape (grass lawn).

S/A Sturdivant had been told that there were burn barrels throughout the area and Steven Avery had allegedly burned animal carcasses before. Therefore, the discovery of suspected bone material did not seem that unnatural or unusual at the time. However, S/A Sturdivant felt it was important to collect the material and have it analyzed by the Crime Lab. The site could be revisited if it contained human remains. The site was not excavated below the soil or processed completely. The charred material was sifted rapidly due to approaching darkness.

S/A Sturdivant requested the assistance of Madison Crime Lab personnel, who were busy processing and collecting evidence elsewhere from burn barrels. John Ertl, Chuck Cates and Juang Zhang eventually arrived at the site and set up a sifting apparatus. S/A Sturdivant and Deputy Jost assisted with the sifting, examination and selection of suspected bone material and suspected teeth that were placed into a Crime Lab box. Additionally, pieces of a zipper and metal grommets were placed into the box. The box of suspected bone and teeth were taken by the Crime Lab. The sifting took place over a 6' x 8' brown tarp. The Crime Lab personnel used a shovel and hand tools from their vehicle to gather the contents of the burn pit. No photos were taken at the site during the sifting. A hoe and a sand rake from the adjacent residence were used to scrap the ground surface.

Also noticed in the debris was a blade from a hack saw, seatbelt fastener, the metal strands from steel belted tire(s), a plastic jug containing an unknown substance (miniscule amount) and other unidentified items. In addition, within the site was a shovel, hammer, screwdriver, tire and the frame of a burned vehicle seat.

The debris that was sifted was collected in the tarp. The tarp and contents was doubled bagged and placed in the storage trailer by S/A Sturdivant, S/A Strauss and Det. Rick Reimer. It was recommended that the site be photographed and re-examined the following day during daylight hours.

The search of the burn was completed at approximately 5:00 p.m.

S/A Sturdivant made a sketch of the area showing the location of the dirt pile and burn area on the property in relation to Steven Avery's home and garage. The sketch will be attached to this report as a related object file and forwarded to DCIR.

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