

Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation

ACISS Investigative 05-1776/193

Report Date: 01/11/2006

Primary Information	
Description:	TERESA MARIE HALBACH: Interview/Jessey W. Werlein
Occurrence From:	01/05/2006 14:35
Occurrence To:	01/05/2006 15:40
Dissemination Code:	Agency
Reporting LEO:	Skorlinski, Kim J (Appleton Special Assignments DCI)
Backup LEO:	Christophersen, John E (Eau Claire Special Assignments DCI / Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI)
Approval Status:	Approved
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Approved By:	Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson DCI)

Agency Reference Numbers	
Agency	Case/File Number
Eau Claire Police Department	1-05-029178

Related Subjects					
Name	Type	Sex	Race	DOB	Relationship
ARYAN BROTHERHOOD	Organization	---	---	---	Mentioned
Werlein, Jessey W	Person	Male	White	08/18/1962	Interviewed
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:	01/17/2006 09:00
Last Update Operator:	Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI)
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Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Skorlinski, Kim J (Appleton Special Assignments DCI)		Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson DCI)	9/12/2016

Narrative begins on the following page.

On Thursday, January 5, 2006, at approximately 2:35 p.m., S/A Kim J. Skorlinski and S/A John E. Christophersen interviewed Jessey W. Werlein, DOB 08/18/1962, at the Eau Claire Police Department, regarding this investigation. The interview was conducted at the request of Investigator Mark Wiegert, of the Calumet County Sheriff's Department, after Werlein went to the Eau Claire Police Department on December 7, 2005, and provided information about Steven Avery. The information was that Werlein and Avery were inmates at the Green Bay Correctional Institution and during this time Avery had drawn up plans for a torture chamber that he was going to use on females once he got out of prison. The information from Werlein is documented on an Eau Claire Police Department Incident Report, #1-05-029178, dated December 21, 2005.

Werlein resides at 627 Balcom Street, Eau Claire, with his wife, Jane, home telephone 715-514-0012, and cell telephone 646-281-9787, (issued out of New York). Werlein is an over-the-road truck driver and works for TransCam, a company in Tampa, FL. Werlein completed his GED and has taken some college courses.

S/A Skorlinski advised Werlein that he had received a copy of the Eau Claire Police Department Incident Report and wanted to talk to Werlein about that. Werlein said he met Avery, whom he called "Smurf," while at the Green Bay Correctional Institution, in the mid 1980's. Werlein said he was sentenced to prison in 1982 for attempted first degree intentional homicide and served about 7 years before being paroled. Werlein said while at the Green Bay Correctional Institution, he became the leader of the Aryan Brotherhood. He recalled that sometime around 1984 or 1985, Avery arrived at the Green Bay Correctional Institution. Werlein said he met Avery when they both resided at the South Cell Hall. He believed at that time Avery was going to school in the prison, possibly to get his GED.

Werlein said Avery became friends with a guy with the last name of Myron, whom he described as a white male with short dark hair and in his early 20's. Werlein said at that time the Green Bay Correctional Institution was handling all the young violent offenders, so just about every inmate was in his 20's. He said there were a lot of fighting among the inmates and the prison was like a school for Gladiators. Werlein said Avery and Myron and a couple of other guys were into Satan worship and the game Dungeons and Dragons. Werlein said the white inmates called Avery "Smurf," and the black inmates called him "Troll."

Werlein recalled the time in the recreation room, he and another guy with the last name of Bower or Bauer, who also knew Avery, were pretending to play cribbage, so they could discuss prison business without getting in trouble from the guards. He said on that occasion, Avery and Myron approached him with a diagram that Avery made of a torture chamber. Werlein said the torture chamber was already drawn on the piece of paper and he thought that Myron was carrying it and handed it to Avery who displayed it to him. Werlein said Avery did all the talking about the torture chamber. Werlein said as the leader of the Aryan Brotherhood, it was common for inmates to approach him and try to become his friend for the purpose of obtaining favors or protection.

Werlein said the diagram was a side view of a torture chamber, which Avery said he wanted to build underground when he got out of prison. Werlein believed that it was about 8'x10', and had

a bed, a hole for going to the bathroom, and an air duct. Werlein said Avery also talked about soundproofing the walls. Werlein said Avery and Myron talked about building this torture chamber for kidnapping, raping and torturing, and killing women. They were going to build this once they got out of prison. Werlein said there was another guy that played the guitar that hung around with Avery and Myron and he might have known something about the torture chamber. Werlein said Myron was the guy's last name and he described him as medium height and build, and in his early 20's.

Werlein said at first he did not think that Avery and Myron were serious, because he knew that the Satan worship guys talked about killing people to obtain their skin, which apparently gave them some type of power. Werlein said one of the guys that Avery and Myron hung around with was a guy from Chippewa, who was very strange and dangerous. (At the time of the interview, Werlein could not remember his name, but then later telephoned S/A Skorlinski and said his last name was Schroeder.)

Werlein was asked if he could remember when Avery showed him this diagram, and he said it was just before Bower went into segregation for hitting another inmate in the chow line. Werlein believed it was a day or two before the incident with Bower that Avery showed him the diagram. Werlein said Bower was from Eau Claire, and he had a girlfriend that came to visit him on occasion by the last name of Knutson. Werlein said he had a tough time remembering first names and only knew last names.

S/A Skorlinski asked Werlein to draw a diagram of the torture chamber, which he did. Werlein started with a rectangle, which he described measured 8'x10', and he put the bed inside the torture chamber, a circle that was the hole used for the bathroom, and then drew an inner wall, which he said was the soundproofing. Werlein also drew an air duct rising from the torture chamber to the surface.

Werlein said when Avery showed him the diagram, Avery asked if he thought that would be a good torture chamber. Werlein said he did not pay too much attention to Avery, but Bower stated it looked like a jail cell. Werlein remembered that Avery seemed excited about getting out someday and building the torture chamber.

Werlein was asked why he came forward with this information to the Eau Claire Police Department. He said while working as an over-the-road truck driver in Texas, he was telephoned by his wife who told him that some guy in Manitowoc who got released from prison was re-arrested for killing a woman. Werlein said when his wife told him the guy's name, Steven Avery, he recalled that he met Avery in prison. Werlein said when he got back to Eau Claire, he went to the Eau Claire Police Department and provided the information. Werlein said that was not the first time that he provided information to law enforcement. He believes that it is only right that someone comes forward with information that may be helpful.

Werlein then asked how the woman, Teresa Halbach, was killed. S/A Skorlinski said that has not been determined yet, however, Avery did burn her body in a fire pit behind his house after he killed her.

Werlein said he never saw Avery draw the torture chamber, but from the conversation he believed that Avery, rather than Myron, drew it. Werlein thought they were just talking and fantasizing about it and were not serious. Werlein suggested that the agents locate Myron, who may be able to say that he saw Avery draw the torture chamber. Also, Werlein said there was a black male whom he described as a homosexual, who was always hanging around Avery and Myron. Werlein said maybe this guy also saw Avery draw it or talk about it.

Werlein was asked if he ever saw the diagram of the torture again or if Avery ever talked about again, and he said yes. Werlein said Avery approached him sometime after that, while Werlein was waiting in line for something, possibly for a shower. He recalled that Avery showed him the diagram again and had added something to it, such as chains or some type of restraints on the walls, and may have added a ladder or some way to access the torture chamber. Werlein said Avery may have also indicated how far deep in the ground he was going to build it.

Werlein said during the first conversation, Avery bragged that he had an auto salvage yard and had plenty of land where he could build the underground torture chamber. Werlein said after hearing about the auto salvage yard, he asked Avery if he was able to sell stolen auto parts through the salvage yard, and Avery said yes. Werlein said he knew some guys that were into that, and he just wanted to have that information from Avery. He said he never put those guys in contact with Avery.

Werlein was paroled in 1986 and never had any contact with Avery after that. Werlein said he was back in prison in 1987, after he beat up three guys that raped his girlfriend. He was released about a year later, and has 6 months left on his parole. Werlein said he does not have a parole agent yet, but his former agent was Susan Graham, Eau Claire office. Werlein said he is scheduled to get a new parole agent in March 2006.

Werlein asked when Avery was suspected of killing Halbach, and S/A Skorzinski said it was on Halloween, October 31, 2005. Werlein said Halloween is an important date to the Satan worshipers. He said that day, called Hallows Eve, could be significant to Avery killing Halbach.

Werlein was asked if Avery ever talked about the type of woman that he would want to kidnap and put into the torture chamber, and he said no. Werlein recalled that Avery did have a wife and on one occasion she brought their kids to visit. Werlein said the kids were making so much noise in the visitation room that he had to tell Avery to keep it down.

Werlein said Avery did mention that when he got the woman in the torture chamber, he would not feed her a lot so she would become hungry and start hallucinating. Werlein said that Myron and the guitar player tried this on themselves, and only lasted a few days. Werlein said the guitar player as a hippie looking guy with long hair and about 6' tall, thin build. He recalled the guitar player also hung around with a guy by the name of Tony Myers or Meiers, who was a "doper." Werlein remembered that Myers convinced the guitar player to cut his hair one time.

Werlein said he knew Avery for about 2 to 3 years while they were in prison, and saw him just about every day. He said other than those two conversations about the torture chamber, he cannot recall ever talking about it again. Werlein said he had no contact with Avery after he was paroled in 1986, and did not even know that Avery was paroled in 2003. Werlein said he was aware that Avery was in prison for sexual assault, and he recalled that Avery said he was innocent.

Werlein recalled that the second time Avery showed him the diagram of the torture chamber, again Werlein was not that interested because he believed that these Dungeon and Dragon guys were always talking or fantasizing about stuff like this. Werlein said he was more interested in telling Avery to pay back some money he owed to one of Werlein's friends. Werlein remembered during the second conversation, Avery told him how he would get rid of the body by burning it. Werlein told Avery that was not the best method because of forensics and DNA testing that could be done. Therefore, Werlein said he suggested either lime or battery acid to dissolve the body.

At approximately 3:15 p.m., S/A Skorlinski asked if Werlein would write out a statement regarding Avery and the diagram of a torture chamber, and he said he would. The statement was completed at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Werlein was then asked if his cooperation in the past with law enforcement had resulted in successful convictions, and he said yes. He said he provided information on a guy who tried to commit a murder in Bloomer; and about a guy who committed an arson in Eau Claire. Werlein said he knows a lot of the local police officers, but knows Detective Don Adams, of the Eau Claire Police Department, the best.

S/A Christophersen asked if he and Werlein ever met, and Werlein said he did not believe so. Werlein was then asked if he remembered the names of any former or current DCI agents, such as Dennis Miller, John Rehauer, Lou Tomaselli or Ron Ebben. After hearing those names, Werlein said they do ring a bell, but he could not say for sure if he knew them.

Werlein said if the agents need any further information from him, they can call him at any time. The interview was terminated at approximately 3:40 p.m.

A copy of the Eau Claire Police Department Incident Report, the diagram of the torture chamber, and Werlein's statement will be electronically attached to this report and a copy will be placed into the case file.