

Wisconsin DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation

ACISS Investigative 05-1776/222

Report Date: 02/07/2006

Primary Information

Description: TERESA MARIE HALBACH: Interview Roland A Johnson  
 Occurrence From: 02/06/2006 14:04  
 Occurrence To: 02/06/2006 14:49  
 Dissemination Code: Agency  
 Reporting LEO: Fassbender, Thomas J (Appleton Special Assignments DCI)  
 Approval Status: Approved  
 Approved Date: 02/15/2006  
 Approved By: Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson DCI)

Related Addresses

| Address  | Relationship       |
|--|--------------------|
| W200N16235 Pine Dr, Jackson, Wisconsin, United States of America | Interview Location |

Related Subjects

| Name                   | Type     | Sex    | Race    | DOB        | Relationship |
|------------------------|----------|--------|---------|------------|--------------|
| Auto Trader            | Business | ---    | ---     | ---        | Mentioned    |
| Avery's Auto Salvage   | Business | ---    | ---     | ---        | Mentioned    |
| Johnson, Roland A      | Person   | Male   | White   | 05/11/1938 | Interviewed  |
| Avery, Allan K         | Person   | Male   | White   | 05/03/1937 | Mentioned    |
| Avery, Steven Allen Sr | Person   | Male   | White   | 07/09/1962 | Mentioned    |
| Scherrer, Lloyd        | Person   | Male   | Unknown | ---        | Mentioned    |
| Stachowski, Jodi Marie | Person   | Female | White   | 09/11/1969 | Mentioned    |
| Halbach, Teresa Marie  | Person   | Female | White   | 03/22/1980 | Victim       |

Related Telephones

| Telephone Number | Relationship       |
|------------------|--------------------|
| (262) 677-3858   | Listed On Document |

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Price, Denise (DCI Appleton Field Office)  
 Record Origination Date: 02/13/2006 13:24  
 Last Update Operator: Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI)  
 Last Update Date: 02/15/2006 15:04

| Reporting LEO   | Date | Supervisor                           | Date      |
|---|------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Fassbender, Thomas J (Appleton Special Assignments DCI) |      | Kelly, Carolyn S (Madison Arson DCI) | 9/12/2016 |
|   |      |                                      |           |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On Monday, February 6, 2006, at 2:04 p.m., S/A Thomas J. Fassbender and Investigator Mark Wiegert, of the Calumet County Sheriff's Department interviewed Roland A. Johnson, DOB 05/11/1938, at his residence, W200 N16235 Pine Dr., in Jackson, WI, 262-677-3858. Upon Johnson coming to the door, Investigator Wiegert introduced himself and S/A Fassbender to him and asked if they could ask him questions related to the Steven Avery investigation. Johnson advised they could and invited them into his house. The investigators interviewed Johnson in the living room of his house. No one else was present to their knowledge. During the interview, business cards were provided to Johnson.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if he was any relation to the Avery's and he advised he was not.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson to talk about how he got to know the Avery's and purchase property from them. Johnson advised that he leased a tavern at Harp's Lake and that Allan Avery also had one a couple miles away. Johnson advised they got to know each other and would borrow stuff to each other and such. Johnson advised he liked to work on cars and would go over to the Avery Salvage Yard for parts.

Johnson said he bought a used trailer from a farmer and put it by the tavern at Harp's Lake. Johnson advised he ultimately gave up the tavern and he needed somewhere to put the trailer. Johnson advised Allan Avery had a trailer slab on the northwest portion of his property that had the utility hookups in place. Johnson advised he rented the land and moved the trailer there. He said he rented it for about two or three years. Johnson advised that Allan Avery ultimately agreed to sell the property to him. Johnson advised it was a one acre plot of land. Johnson advised he lived there at that time.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about the garage adjacent to the trailer and he advised he built that garage and that he essentially owns everything on that acre parcel of land. Johnson said it was in the late 70's or 1978 or 1979 that he moved there and lived there for about 13 years. Johnson advised that he and his wife were going through a divorce process and as a part of reconciliation, she wanted to move back to the Milwaukee area and he agreed to do so. Johnson advised they moved back to the Milwaukee area in the late 1980's but he kept the trailer because it was a place to go to. Johnson advised that he ultimately did get divorced from his wife. Johnson advised that after moving back to Milwaukee, he would go up to his trailer every weekend until about six years ago when he got rid of house in Milwaukee.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about Steven Avery and his girlfriend, Jodi Stachowski. Johnson stated he let Jodi live in the trailer. Johnson advised he offered the trailer to Steven Avery when he got out of prison, because he figured Steven Avery needed a break. Johnson advised that he let Jodi live in the trailer in 2004.

Johnson then commented that the two guns in the trailer were his. Johnson described them as a 50 caliber black powder mussel loader and a Marlin 22 long rifle automatic. Johnson advised there was no powder for the mussel loader, but there were 50 caliber balls at the trailer.



Johnson was asked if there was an agreement between him and Steven Avery RE: rent for the trailer. Johnson essentially advised that Steven Avery agreed to maintain and take care of the trailer, advising that he had done some painting.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about the area behind the garage, where there is a mound. Johnson advised he had the mound put there. Johnson advised the material, which he later described as all gravel, was taken from the pit and placed there. Johnson advised he was planning on extending his garage and he needed materials put there just for that. Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about the burn pit dug out of that mound and Johnson advised he did not put that pit in there.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about burning barrels and if he burned in a barrel when he was there. Johnson advised he had a regular barrel for burning stuff in, which was located to the front area of the trailer. Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if he ever burned cameras and he advised he may have. Johnson advised that they would have been cheap ones, however. When asked if Johnson could remember the brand name of any cameras, he thought one of them may have been a Petri (unsure if he said Petri). Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if he had burned any cell phones and he advised he had not burned any telephones and commented that he doesn't and has never had a cellular telephone. Johnson advised his burning in the burn barrel would have occurred a long time ago.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson which of the guns in the trailer Steven Avery would use and Johnson advised he would never have used the guns to his knowledge. Johnson commented that the 22 was too small to do any hunting with.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about the underground cellar located just outside the trailer. Johnson said he put that cellar there. Johnson described it basically as a storm cellar. Johnson advised that he had a big oil tank in there, although he never used it for oil like he had intended. Johnson advised that it's like a bomb shelter and that it has iron steps going down into it.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson when he was last up by the Avery's. Johnson initially advised that he has not been up there since the Halbach investigation began at the Avery property. Johnson advised he does not want to go up there and does not want to be in the middle of it or involved in it. Johnson advised the last time he was out there was four times after Jodi had gone to jail. Johnson advised that it was probably about April or May of 2005.

It should be noted that at the beginning of the interview and during the interview, Johnson stated several times that he had stayed away from there since the investigation.

Johnson advised he had an individual that helped keep an eye on the trailer. When asked, Johnson advised that the individual was a Lloyd Scherrer, from Sheboygan. Johnson advised Scherrer is a brother-in-law of Avery's.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if he knew about the burn pit and he advised that he had no knowledge of the burn pit. Johnson then started talking about burning in the burn barrel and that

it was used to burn paper and such. Johnson advised that it wouldn't be used to burn brush to speak of, because there were no trees around there.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if he went up to his trailer to visit Steven Avery after he got out and he advised yes, but it was normally to go up and visit Al and then he would go down to look at the trailer and see that everything was fine. Johnson advised that most everything in the trailer and the garage is his.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about any ammunition he may have on the property and he advised he may have a brick of 22 shells up there. Johnson advised there was probably a bag of shotgun shells in the garage for reloading.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson what he thought about Steven Avery after he got out of prison. Johnson advised that it seemed as if Steven Avery had not aged any while he was in prison. Johnson explained he meant maturity. Johnson made the comment that Steven Avery went in at 20 something and came out at 20 something.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about Avery's personality or demeanor. Johnson described Steven Avery as having fairly normal demeanor. Johnson advised he never saw Steven Avery get mad at anyone and advised he knew Steven Avery as a kid and reminded the investigators that he lived at the Avery property.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson what he thought about Steven Avery's claim that he didn't do it and it was all planted. Essentially, Johnson advised he does not know, but stated that you can't burn a body in a barrel and why would you leave a car around the property when they have a crusher there. Johnson further commented that Steven Avery had the best teachers in the world and listed several of the prisons that Avery had been in. Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson how he explained Steven Avery's blood in Halbach's car. Johnson commented that Avery had a cut on his hand and stated that he remembered seeing the cut and described it as a puffed up cut as if it was infected and that it was on his finger. After saying that, he then stated that he must have been up there just prior to October 31, 2005, because he remembered seeing the cut. Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson how Steven Avery accounts for his blood being found in Halbach's car and Johnson stated that he "don't account for that." Investigator Wiegert then talked about the things found in the burn pit. Johnson stated he guaranteed that if phones and cameras were found in the burn pit, they were not his.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about the garage. Johnson stated that he has an Oldsmobile 98 that should now be in the garage. Johnson advised he asked the Avery's to bring it down from their storage area and put it in the garage and that this was after Steven Avery's arrest.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if Steven Avery had any idea who did it and he advised Steven Avery has no idea. Johnson again commented that Steven Avery has been around too good of a college to do something that stupid or to kill someone.



Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if Steven Avery has every talked about buying and selling cars through Auto Trader. Johnson initially advised that Steven Avery has talked to him about buying and selling cars, but not specifically about or through Auto Trader.

Johnson remembered the reports of the missing person in that area and it had never dawned on him that the missing person would end up being associated with the Avery's.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson who had keys for his trailer. Johnson advised that Scherrer had keys. Johnson advised that Scherrer is 73 or 74 years old and not about to kill a young gal.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson which of the Avery's he talks to and Johnson advised he talks to all of them yet. Johnson again advised that he has not been up to the Avery's since this happened.

Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson about things that were in his garage and Johnson advised that there was a snowmobile of his in the garage or should be. Johnson advised the snowmobile was a 1978 El Tigre, black with green striping.

S/A Fassbender asked Johnson why one of his rifles in the trailer had tape on it with the name of Steven on the tape. Johnson advised he did not know why that would be on there. Johnson advised there should be no powder residue in the barrel of the 50 caliber because it's been years since that has been used. Johnson also advised it has been a couple years since he used the 22.

S/A Fassbender asked Johnson to clarify where the material came from and what the material was in the mound behind the garage. Johnson described it as bank run gravel put there by a front end loader and that it was dug out of the pit. Johnson advised it was a long time ago, probably 12, 14 or 15 years ago.

Finally, Investigator Wiegert asked Johnson if he had an opinion as to whether Steven Avery killed Halbach and he advised he has no opinion on whether he did or didn't do it. Johnson said Steven Avery says he did not do it.

No further questions were asked and the interview was concluded at 2:49 p.m.

The investigators asked Johnson to contact them if he thought of anything else or had any questions. The Investigators then exited Johnson's residence.