

# **APPENDIX E**

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 1  
#1993-02576

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT SHINN BY DETECTIVE STACY SAMPSON

 COPY

SS: Detective Stacy Sampson  
RC: Chief Criminal Deputy Ron Cameron  
RS: Robert Shinn

SS: The date is 11/21/08, the time is 1543 hours. This is Detective Stacy Sampson with the Clallam County Sheriff's Office and I am here with Robert Shinn, is that correct?

RS: Yeah.

SS: Okay. And Robert is it okay if I record our conversation?

RS: Yeah.

SS: Okay. Also present is Chief Criminal Deputy Ron Cameron. He's also with the Sheriff's Office. And Robert, how do you spell your last name?

RS: S-H-I-N-N.

SS: Okay. And your middle name?

RS: Troy. T. Troy.

SS: Okay. And your birthdate?

RS: 7/18/72.

SS: Okay. Where are you residing right now?

RS: 3522 Canyon Edge Dr.

SS: Is that Sequim or Port Angeles?

RS: Port Angeles.

SS: And your phone number?

RS: 360-452-6707.

SS: Okay. You have a cell phone number?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM

PAGE NUMBER: 2

#1993-02576

RS: No.

SS: Okay. And we're here down at DOC um because we were told you may have some information for us. What can you tell me about that?

RS: Um well, back in my drug crazed years, I guess, when I was using drugs I was hanging out with numerous individuals and one of those individuals was a man by the name of John Linninger. John Hines. John Linninger.

SS: Okay.

RS: Um, and um.

SS: That's one of the twins, right?

RS: One of the twins.

SS: Okay.

RS: Exactly. His brother's is Tom. We um, we were hanging out one night and he started talking and we were high, you know, um. He started talking about um a murder and he just broke down and.

SS: When you mean broke down?

RS: Started crying.

SS: Okay.

RS: I had never experienced John to be that way and didn't really know him all that well. I mean I knew him, but not like in the aspect of him coming to me or talking to me about this type of thing and breaking down and crying and being visibly upset. Um, I attributed it to maybe he was high at first. You know.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: So, but I sat and listened. And basically he told me this huge drawn-out story about a man by the last name of Stenson, and that how him and numerous other, well how not him specifically but in some way he was involved, had um.

SS: Stenson or John?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM

PAGE NUMBER: 3

#1993-02576

RS: John.

SS: Okay.

RS: Had developed a plan, a group of people had developed a plan to acquire numerous Japanese artifacts, swords, numerous things that Mr. Stenson had at his home, property of his home. And they wanted those things. They wanted them and they were gonna go out to get them any way they knew how. The reason being, the reason John said, the reason why they knew that those possessions were in the house is because of another individual by the name of Tariya Chapman, being her parents were i.e. family friends at some point of the Stensons and at some point in her life or she had known of specifically the swords that were in the house. That's what started the whole effect, was another individual by the name of Pat Nelson and Simone Nelson wanting these swords. He wanted to possess them. He wanted them.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: And basically what he said was that numerous individuals, the individuals that he named at the time were Ennis Caynor, Tanya Chapman, Simone Nelson, Pat Nelson, Tom Hines, and himself.

SS: Okay. And Tom Hines being Tom Linninger?

RS: Tom Linninger, his brother.

SS: Right.

RS: The twin. Not his dad. Not Tom Sr. Tom Jr.

SS: Just to clarify, Tom Hines and Tom Linninger are the same person?

RS: Right. And he told me a story and broke down throughout the story saying that the group of people and or a member of the group of people had actually committed the murder and after the murder had actually been residing or squatting in Mr. Stenson's home after his conviction. That they had ransacked the place, that they had stoled everything, that they had basically just, the way he said it was, made it look like havoc. Like they just destroyed this place. And um,

RC: I'm sorry, who's they, Robert?

RS: The individuals that were involved. That would be.

RC: So they all stayed there?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 4  
#1993-02576

RS: Yes.

RC: They all camped out?

RS: Yes. They squatted in his home after he was arrested. And basically what he told me was, the motive behind all of it was to take his possessions. They were priceless. These swords were, he was a collector of rare swords.

SS: Stenson or?

RS: Stenson was a collector of rare swords and antiquities from China and Japan.

SS: Who ended up getting them?

RS: Mr. Nelson.

SS: Okay.

RS: Is my understanding. Now I was not involved. This is all secondhand information, but after he told me this stuff you know of course it was on my conscience. I wanted to talk to somebody about it. But I didn't. And I should have. But I didn't. You know, part of it was that I don't trust police. You know, I was in the drug trade, drug world.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: I was \_\_\_\_\_ chemically, you know I mean, my mind and everything else was, you know I just put it out of my head. Oh, whatever. You know. Doesn't involve me, I'm not gonna involve myself was my plan.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: And it's been out of my head for years and years and years. Last night I'm watching the Channel 4 news and all of a sudden, you know, they have this, you know, Stenson character pop up. Here's his face. And I recognize his face. And they're talking about how they're gonna execute him on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the murders. And it just hit me like a fucking brick. I was like man, you know, cuz when John talked to me about this he showed sincerity. And he had too much information about the case for him just to be saying stuff. You know.

96 to page 6  
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SS: Do you remember exactly when you had this conversation with him?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 5  
#1993-02576

RS: This was years ago. I mean we're talking seven, eight years ago at least. This is years ago that I had this conversation with him. And I felt like I should've said something then because he seemed like, at the time he seemed like he wanted to talk about it.

SS: Okay.

RS: He seemed like he wanted to tell people. I mean of course, he must have wanted to talk about it and get it off his chest or he wouldn't have been talking to me.

SS: Okay. Where were you at when you had this conversation with him?

RS: Um, at the time I was living at the Wildwood Terrace Apartments.

SS: Okay. And they were at your place?

RS: He was at my home, yeah. My apartment.

SS: Do you remember what apartment number you were in?

RS: We were in number 111. Yeah.

SS: Okay. Did you share that apartment with anybody?

RS: Um, I did but they weren't there at the time um, of this, that this happened they um, no they weren't there. It was my, my wife and kids and I know they weren't there because I believe that at that time, at that specific time um she, she was at the hospital, um getting ready to go into labor with my son.

SS: Okay.

RS: If I remember specifically what the time frame was, it was right before my son was born that we had this discussion.

SS: When was your son born?

RS: Um, I'm sorry I have to do this in my head here. January, February, March, April 28<sup>th</sup>. January, February. My son was born March 14<sup>th</sup>. My other son was born April. Doggone it, I can't think of his birthday right now specifically. I can't.

SS: How old is your son?

RS: He's 8.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM

PAGE NUMBER: 6

#1993-02576

SS: He's 8?

RS: Yeah.

SS: Okay.

RS: And of course I know his birthday but I can't bring it up right now, I just can't. I'm sorry.

SS: That's okay. Now did you know Mr. Stenson?

RS: No. Never met him before in my life.SS: You'd never met him. Okay.

RS: Don't know him. Never really heard his name until John was talking about it, of course I'd heard it in the news. I thought man, that guy, you know that's terrible. You know, he did that to his family, and you know, you know of course I, I made the, you know an opinion of the whole thing from what I heard and it was like man, you know, I hope that guy, you know, I hope he pays for what he did.

SS: Okay.

RS: And then later.

SS: Do you know if John, Tom, Pat, any of those guys, did they know Mr. Stenson?

RS: No. I don't think they did.

SS: Okay.

RS: I don't. Because um the whole thing is.

SS: How about Simone or Tanya?

RS: Tanya was the only one that would have even had any, any, any connection to Stenson at all because her family knew Stenson apparently. That's what John said. Cuz I asked him the same question. I said how in the heck did you guys know this guy? He was a bird collector, you know he collected peacocks as pets, had rare birds and he had an extensive amount of money on the property um and they knew it. He had um, um swords of, of very high quality, uh collectible antique swords. He had um lots of faces, Chinese, from like really, like priceless stuff. I mean, we're talking high-end, big money items in his house and to make a long story short, there was a plan devised from what

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Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 7  
#1993-02576

John said, there was a plan devised to frame Mr. Stenson for the murder. Period. That's what was said. I don't know whether it's true, I don't know whether there's any validity to it because I was not involved.

SS: Did they say.

RS: But I feel like if somebody could find John and talk to John about it, I feel like that he would open up and that's all I want to happen out of all of this, I want the truth, if there is anything that isn't come up, I consciously can't not say something about it. If five years ago you would have asked me the same situation five years ago, I would be at home right now and I would not even think of coming down here and doing what I'm doing today but I'm a different person now than I was then.

SS: Okay. Um, when was the last time you saw John?

RS: That day. That night.

SS: So eight years ago, or so?

RS: Haven't seen him, I really haven't seen him since.

SS: Okay.

RS: Honestly.

SS: Have you seen, have you seen any of the other people?

RS: Periodically, here and there, but not.

SS: Did that conversation ever come up with any of them?

RS: No.

SS: Okay.

RS: I never once talked to any of them about it, and I never once mentioned it because I was too scared. Because if there was, I felt like that if there was any validity to what John was telling me, and if they found that he was saying what he was saying to me, that they would either hurt him or they would hurt me.

SS: Okay.

RS: I never talked to them about it.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM

PAGE NUMBER: 8

#1993-02576

SS: Okay.

RS: Ever.

SS: Um, did he say whether or not he had, or he or any of the other people involved had been interviewed by the police?

RS: He did not say.

SS: Okay. And.

RS: To my, to my understanding, what he said was the police were clueless to what they had done.

SS: Okay.

RS: Period. That's what he told me.

SS: Okay. Did he ever discuss any other um people that he might have done this to?

RS: He made reference to something that Ennis had done at some point but it was just jumbled, nothing really behind it. But he made reference to that, this is something that had either been done before that was done by somebody else and in some way they had devised a plan behind what somebody else had done before in the community here. About, I don't know, I don't remember who it was or what it was all about.

SS: Okay. So you don't remember whether it was just a burglary or homicide or.

RS: I don't. I know that they were actively. I know for a fact that this group of people were actively doing large burglaries, huge burglaries. And what they were doing is taking all of the items that they were receiving from places, collecting them into large storage units, collecting them, itemizing them, and then taking them out of town and selling them in large quantities at one time. I know that's what they were doing but I don't know any more specifics to that because that's just what he told me they were doing. And I wasn't involved. That's what really surprised me, the fact that of course we were using drugs and of course we were under the influence of methamphetamines at the time, but what surprised me is why he was talking to me about it specifically. And I think to this day, right now I think the reason why he was telling me is cuz he thought that I was somebody that would tell. I think that he wants, I think that he wanted somebody to know.

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SS: Okay.

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Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 9  
#1993-02576

RS: And I think that he might.

SS: And confirming, that was John and not Tom.

RS: John.

SS: Okay.

RS: I think that he might have been talking to me because he felt like I was somebody that would've taken that information and talked to somebody about it. I, I really.

SS: Okay, so and, and just clarifying, there was only the two of you in the house at the time, no, nobody else showed up.

RS: No.

SS: Okay. And did you ever see any of the property?

RS: Never. No.

SS: Okay.

RS: All I know is what he told me.

SS: Okay. Did, did you.

RS: The only reason I know that he was a sword collector at all is because John told me. The only reason I know there was large monies in the house is because John told me. And the reason I know that there was property taken is cuz John told me. The only reason I know that they ransacked the house is cuz John told me.

SS: Okay.

RS: Apparently there was evidence that was, that was uh, apparently there was evidence that they at one point had planted and/or disturbed or done something with.

SS: Did he say what that evidence was?

RS: No.

SS: Did he describe the scene as to what happened to who or how it happened?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 10  
#1993-02576

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RS: No. He didn't get into that. He just specifically said that, that Mr. Stenson was innocent and that he was framed.

SS: Okay. Did he say how many people went to the house to commit this crime?

RS: He did not say how many people committed the crime of the murder. No. But he did say that all of those people including himself were involved in some way with the property.

SS: The ransacking of the property? Um, but he didn't say who committed the murder.

RS: No. But he did say that the reason behind the murder itself was the want of acquiring what was in the house.

SS: Okay.

RS: And I know that sounds crazy and it sounded crazy to me at the time, but that's what he told me. And it's the truth. I'm not lying.

SS: Okay.

RS: I have no reason. You know I'm, it's just my conscience. I couldn't sleep last night, I was in school all day today, I couldn't even focus. You know I'm trying to, I'm trying to, you know, in some way, to think well just put it out of your head. You know, it's not your business. You get involved in this, you're asking for trouble. You're asking for trouble for yourself, and you're asking for trouble for your family. You know. You need to just mind your business and. But then in a whole other aspect, my, my morals have changed throughout the years and I can't consciously just keep that stuff in my head, even if it was just some tweak story that wasn't true. He had too much undermining information about the house and about what they did at the house, and about the property in the house, and what happened with the property. And why the murder actually took place.

SS: Okay.

RS: That led me to believe that what he was telling me wasn't just a story.

SS: Okay.

RS: It was a, you know, I mean it wasn't a lie. I, I really feel like, I feel like right now that if, if somebody was to interview Mr. Linninger and talk to him about the specifics or,

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 11  
#1993-02576

or in some way open up a conversation about Mr. Stenson that he would break down and tell you exactly what I just told you today.

SS: Okay.

RS: And that's the God's honest truth.

SS: Do you have any idea how we can get a hold of.

RS: Don't know.

SS: Mr. Linninger?

RS: I don't know.

SS: Do you, do you know if he's still local?

RS: I don't know.

SS: Okay.

RS: I have no clue.

SS: Okay. Is there other information that you think is important for me to know that I haven't asked you about?

RS: That's all I know.

SS: Okay. Do you have any questions?

RC: Yeah, I do have a question. Robert, you keep saying he had too much information for it to be a lie.

RS: Yeah.

RC: I want you to think carefully. What do you mean by that? You really haven't given much detail that, you know, seven, eight years ago might not have been well known.

RS: Well, he said he didn't know him, he didn't know John, or Mr. Stenson, John didn't. But he talked about the inside of the house.

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Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 12  
#1993-02576

RC: What did he say specifically that made you think that, that he had intimate knowledge about the inside of the house?

RS: Because uh.

RC: There must've been something that triggered you to.

RS: The trigger, the trigger was the break down of the money that was in the house that he told me. Said there was, there was in excess of \$10,000 to \$13,000 or something like that, I can't remember what it was. Over \$10,000. And um he was real specific to the parties that they threw in the house when they were squatting in the, in the house afterwards. He was real specific to the fact that they had ransacked the place and, and that um. Like I didn't know anything about the case at all but when he started talking about all of the property that they had acquired, it started adding up to. Man, you know, like if I, if, if even at that stage, stage of my life uh, if somebody were to have knowledge of somebody having that much property or things in their home.

RC: Oh, sure.

RS: And that, you know, they might have the ability to get it.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: Um, knowing those people.

RC: *On phone in background.*

RS: And who they were I think they might have. I think they possibly. You know, knowing Pat and Simone and all those people I think that they possibly would have um had the ability or the. I, I think that they, you know, it's probable.

SS: Okay.

RS: That they may have committed the crime. Whether or not, whether or not uh the particular people that are involved actually had, whether or not the people that are involved in the, the moving of the, the property that was taken were involved in the actual murder, I don't know. But what I do know is, A) was they had to, they had to in some way get Mr. Stenson out of the equation in any way they could and I don't know. Like I said, he wasn't real specific on any of that stuff. Any time he started talking about that stuff he would get real upset and close up. It was like, you know, he'd get to the point where he would say yeah, you know, then he talked about specific. Just, what led me to believe that he, he was involved in the actual murder itself was how he talked about the way they did. How they watched the house prior, how they had been watching the house

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Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 13  
#1993-02576

for numerous days and how they had collected uh, uh. They had a breakdown of when he left, when he was home, where he went, the time that he was gone. They had a, he said that it was something that they had planned. Now.

SS: Now did they ever mention um Stenson's wife or children?

RS: They mentioned the fact that, that they were murdered. But they, he never, he never, he never in any way ever implicated Mr. Stenson.

SS: Okay.

RS: He always said when he was talking to me, when he, he always said throughout the whole story that he was telling me, that Mr. Stenson was being framed.

SS: Okay. But did he say who was murdered?

RS: Um, he said something about the wife but um, I never knew anything about the kids. All I know is something about the wife. I remember something about somebody was murdered but no, he didn't give me specifics.

SS: Okay. Did he, did he say how many people were murdered? Whether it was just the wife or whether there was other people?

RS: There were other people. Apparently, I don't know. I, something about wife and kids. Now I don't know, I don't even know to this day what happened, whether, all I know is he's in jail for murder. I don't know if he killed his wife, I don't \_\_\_\_\_. I don't know if he killed his kids. I don't know who killed them. I know that there was a murder committed. The reason behind, I don't know that. I, what he told me was a murder was committed. Murders were committed. And the reason being behind it was to acquire the possessions of the house. And um he did also say that this is something that with the, the moving of property or whatnot that they were getting from burglaries.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: Was something that they were, they had been doing, you know. And that it had kind of just stone \_\_\_\_ just, it, it got so big that at some point murders had been committed.

SS: Okay.

RC: Okay. Um, were you associated with these guys when this, this supposedly occurred? Were you aware that they were living up there at that time?

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Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 14  
#1993-02576

RS: No. Um.

RC: Do you know how long they supposedly lived in this house?

RS: Apparently it was um after the police had been through and all of that stuff, apparently they, they were up there for what he said were months.

RC: Several months? Or at least more than one?

RS: That's what he told me.

RC: Using the plural.

RS: Yeah.

RC: Okay.

RS: Um.

RC: And it was all of them, and I think I put down on the list of people. Let's see, who all did I say. You got uh John of course. I just want to make sure I had everybody. Tanya Chapman, Simone Nelson, Pat Nelson, Ennis Caynor and Tom. Did I miss anybody? That was the group that you were referring to. And you never visited them when they were there?

RS: No.

RC: Not suggesting you were involved, just thought maybe they were.

RS: I never been up there.

RC: Okay.

RS: This is months after, this might have been even years after the actual commission of the crime that John was talking to me. So at that point it was already said and done. Mr. Stenson was already in prison. And he was telling me, you know, hey, you know, he was crying.

*when he was told of murder*

RC: Mmhuh.

RS: He was visibly upset. He told me that, that that man was not guilty.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL

CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE

11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 15  
#1993-02576

RC: And you said he was under the influence, John was under the influence at the time?

RS: He was.

RC: So, so that's not in question. Um, he didn't talk about the murder itself.

RS: No.

RC: It doesn't sound like.

RS: No.

RC: Cuz you, you, you haven't given me any real details describing what occurred.

RS: No. He, he um went around that. And I'm thinking that.

RC: What do you mean by that? Can you, can you try to recreate that for us?

RS: Well the only way I can recreate it is any time that that murder came up he would go around it. And it made me believe that he was there at the time. That's how it, that's, because he would start talking about specifics and they'd be real broad and then he'd start talking about specifics and then all of a sudden he would be like oh, uh uh uh and then he would break down, I can't talk about that.

RC: What kind of specifics? Can you, can you remember some of the specifics?

RS: The clean up.

RC: What did they, what did he say about that?

RS: He said that um, he said that they at some point, that they cleaned up um or not, not the clean up, the actual, at some point in some way they had planted certain evidence at the crime that would directly implicate Mr. Stenson. I don't know what that evidence was, I don't know how it was um, how it was, how it played out. But he, he said that, that they, the people that were involved did um purposefully contaminate the crime scene to make it look like Mr. Stenson was involved. He did say that. That's what gave me the direct, the direct feeling that, you know, if if, that, if he's talking about that type of thing and giving me that kind of detailed information even though he's not going on with it, it made me feel like the, that the story had validity. That's what made me feel that way.

*Cover up!*  
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RC: I understand. Okay.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Written and signed in Clallam County,

Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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CLALLAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
CASE REPORT NARRATIVE11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 16  
#1993-02576

SS: Most of the details he gave you, though, is basic theft of the property.

RS: Basically the theft of the property, right.

SS: Which occurred after Stenson was already.

RS: In jail.

SS: In jail. Okay.

RS: But that was, but the reason behind Mr. Stenson going to jail was the fact that they wanted that property. Now I don't know what went down. I don't know if he knows any of these people. I don't know if they know him. Like I said, I don't know if he was involved and he had these people commit the murder. I don't know whether there was some kind of payoff. I don't know none of that stuff. All I know is what John told me. And it's secondhand information, what you consider hearsay, so therefore what I wanted to do was come in here, talk to Gerald first because I trust Gerald.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: I was gonna talk to Mr. Cannon, but uh, um I came down here first and then I was gonna call Bob, but Gerald, you know, told me this is what you need to do, after I told him what, you know, what I knew. And he said well, you know, you need to go these avenues, and he helped me with that.

SS: Okay.

RS: So um. Like I said if, if I hadn't been sitting there watching the news last night I wouldn't be here today. Because um although, you know throughout the years I, I probably, it probably has, I brought up some recollection or some memory about the incident, you know. But it's kind of one of them things, out of sight, out of mind, you know what I mean? You don't, you know it's, you get into this certain mentality and this certain way, way you live your life when you're into drug, uh into drugs.

SS: Mmhuh.

RS: And you got this kind of moral code thing going on. And that's flipped for me. Five years ago, I'd, I'd be sitting here, I'd be sitting at home, you know, wondering where I was gonna get my next fix. Today I'm a different person. And I can't morally, I can't morally in my mind see any, any reason why. I, I had to come forward with what I knew. Even, even if it's, there's no validity to it. Even if, even if John was in some methamphetamine induced coma, talking out the side of his neck. I still had to come in

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CASE REPORT NARRATIVE11/21/08 7:06 PM  
PAGE NUMBER: 17  
#1993-02576

and say something because I felt like I had to. That's what it comes down to. That's what it all boils down to.

SS: Okay.

RC: Okay. If we have any other questions, can we call you/

RS: Of course.

RC: Cuz we very well might. There's no question about that. Okay. I uh, I don't have anything right now. I mean. I want you to think about it. I think what's really in particular important to me is the specifics. And uh, you know, specifics as best you can recall them. Because that's what's important right now. So.

RS: Okay.

RC: If you think of anything, call me. I'll give you my card before we go and you can call me.

RS: I just, I just really feel like I, you know like I said, I, in my heart of hearts I feel like that if, if Mr., if John, Mr. Linninger was questioned on this matter I, I think that he'd be able to fill in some of them holes.

RC: Okay. All right. I don't have anything further, Stacy. Thank you.

SS: I don't either. Do you have anything else you want to add before I turn this off?

RS: No.

SS: Okay. Well then I'm gonna end the interview, and the time is 1614 hours. This will be the end of the interview with Robert Shinn.

*End of recording.*

(T-11/21/08, so)

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