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WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

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CRIME LABORATORY REPORT

Agency: Thurston County Sheriff's Office Laboratory No. 186-2827
Suspect: Cosden, William E. Jr.
Victim: Devine, Katherine Merry Agency Case No. 73-17592-12
Officer: Sgt. Paul H. Barclift

Clothing Exam - Ms. Devine Items #16, 19, 18, 14, 15, 13.

Ms. Devine's right shoe (Item #16) has a deposit of light soil on the surface with no leaf debris observed on the tread. The deep grooves between the treads are clean in appearance. The shoes appear relatively new. This indicates that the shoes had little contact with muddy areas or extended use in the woods where heavy vegetation would be observed.

The jeans (Item #18), underpants (Item #19), and jacket (Item #13) pockets have been slashed with the blade of a knife or other sharp-edged instrument. The jeans and underpants are both cut in the back; the jeans are cut from the waist to the crotch, the underpants on either side of the buttocks. There was no soil or debris observed in the cuts. The jeans are heavily soiled in front from just below the waist to just below the knees. There is little soiling in the back in comparison to the front however, there is some on the inner right leg.

Multiple hairs were recovered from the jacket (Item #13) by the officers (Item #26) and the criminalist. These hairs exhibit the same microscopic characteristics as Ms. Devine's head hair standards and could have originated from her. Also, these hairs are cut at both ends and a combination of cutting and tearing was observed at the proximal end (root end) of the hair.

Bloodstains were observed on the jacket collar (Item #13).

Summary:

According to conversations with Thurston County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Paul Barclift, Ms. Devine was located face down in the woods and it was in question as to whether her throat was cut or she was strangled.

The cut hairs off the jacket supports the hypothesis that her throat was cut. Also, the bloodstain pattern on her blouse indicates she was on her back in a prone position at the time of the bleeding.

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The condition of her jeans (the mud in the front and the clean cuts in the back) as well as the condition of her shoe suggests she did not walk but was transported to the woods after her throat was cut as there are no indications she was on her back at the site.

It is not possible to determine at what point the cuts in the jeans, underpants and jacket occurred.

Hairs - Items #55, 56, 26, Hairs from Items #37, 18, 31/32, 14, 42, 13, 58, 19, 100, 57.

The hairs from the following items exhibit the same microscopic characteristics as Ms. Devine's head and pubic hair standards (Item #57) and could have originated from her:


- #14 Shirt - 5 hairs
- #18 Jeans - 2 hairs
- #13/26 Coat - 15 hairs (please refer to the clothing exam section for these results)
- #31/32 Rope - 1 hair
- #37 Body bag - 1 hair
- #42 Throat area - 12 hairs
- #58 Pubic hair combings - 23 hairs

Three hairs are dissimilar to Ms. Devine's head and pubic hair standards and Mr. Cosden's head, pubic and body hair standards (Item #100) and could not have come from either of them. One of the hairs is from Item #56 (from the anus) and two are from Ms. Devine's pubic hair combings.

One hair from Item #5 (from Ms. Devine's arm) is a grey hair which has limited microscopic characteristics suitable for comparison and is of little evidentiary value. Because Mr. Cosden's head hair standards fall within this range he can neither be suggested nor eliminated as a possible source of the hairs.

Seven short hair fragments - five from Item #13 and two from Item #14 (the shirt) and one body hair from Item #18 (jeans) are similar to Ms. Devine's hair standards and she cannot be eliminated as a possible source.

Of three hairs from Item #13 (jacket), one has insufficient characteristics for comparison purposes and two are debris hairs.


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Twelve hairs from the items are animal hairs or wool fibers and not examined further. These originated from the following items:

- #14 Shirt - 4 animal hairs, 1 fiber
- #18 Jeans - 1 animal hair
- #13/26 Coat - 2 animal hairs
- #19 Underpants - 2 fibers
- #37 Body bag - 1 animal hair
- #56 Anus - 1 animal hair, 1 fiber

Miscellaneous Items 5, 31/32, 59, 60, 61, 62, 35, 36

Items #5 and 31/32 are pieces of three stranded natural fiber rope, cut at both ends. Item 31/32 is six and a half inches long; Item 5 is approximately two and a half inches long. The ropes were examined visually and stereomicroscopically.

Items #35 and 36 (bags from the hand) Items 60 and 61 (fingernail scrapings), Item 59 (fingernail polish of victim) were examined. No evidence of apparent significance was recovered.

Item #62, a "metal fragment from body" was examined stereomicroscopically and microscopically (magnification to 100X).

This particle is very small; it is unlikely that a source can be suggested by further testing. However, if a control sample should be available this can be submitted for comparison. Then this particle can be tested microscopically and for elemental content. Beyond that, further appropriate testing can be conducted by a laboratory specializing in very small particles.


Lynn D. McIntyre, Criminalist

October 23, 1986