

Ben Adolph Eberhart
c/o E. V. Schrantz
Roosevelt, Washington

Mr. Eberhart was interviewed by Lane County Deputy Sheriff Sergeant James Misner and Corporal Jack J. Winchester at his residence. Interview was commenced at 2:30 P.M., November 25, 1964 concerning the activities of Mr. Harden and son between November 9 and November 12, 1964. Mr. Harden was known to Mr. Eberhart as Mr. Scott and son was introduced to him only as Doc.

Mr. Eberhart advised that Mr. Neely (a good friend of his) had called him by phone Sunday evening from Goldendale, Washington and said that his brother-in-law and his son were visiting with him and there was nothing in Goldendale for them to do. He asked if he would like some company. He told him that they would like to get out of town and stay on a ranch for a few days. Mr. Eberhart told Neely that it was alright all they had to do was to bring out some grub with him. Neely said "o.k." they would bring some grub with them.

Between ten and eleven A.M., Monday morning, November 9, Neely brought a man and a boy out to his place and introduced the man to him as Mr. Scott and referred to the boy by the name of Doc. They brought groceries and meat with them. He put Mr. Scott and his son up in the upstairs bedroom. Both Mr. Scott and his son slept together in a double bed and used the bedding that was on it. During their stay there was no focal point to their discussions. Mr. Scott talked about logging and about where he used to live in Washington. He never said anything about his family difficulties. He told him that he had been hurt in a logging accident and this was the reason that he limped. He mentioned once that he had been in a mental hospital in Washington but did not go into detail. He found both Mr. Scott and his son to be quiet and nice people to get along with. Both were particularly interested in their physical fitness and worked with chest expanders and a compressor. Mr. Scott and his son took walks together nearly every day. Mr. Eberhart stated that he did not observe them in conversation which would appear to be of a serious nature and did not hear Mr. Scott say anything to the boy that would indicate that he had been involved in anything of a serious nature. On one occasion he asked Mr. Scott if he wanted to go hunting and Mr. Scott said no that he didn't have a Washington hunting license.

During the Scotts' stay a conversation came up about a knife. When Mr. Scott and his son observed a hunting knife laying on the front room table. Mr. Scott remarked

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that he had one just like it and got it out of his suitcase and showed it to him. Scotts' knife was just exactly like the one of his except that it was a little bit more weathered. They did not have a sheath for theirs and the boy in a kidding way tried to make a deal for him for the sheath and he told him nothing doing and suggested that he get a piece of leather and make one for himself. They also had another knife with them which was either a "marble" or an "abar" hunting knife with about a four or four and a half inch blade. He also observed a pocket knife that Mr. Scott had and recalled Scott saying that he had to sharpen his pocket knife with a razor hone. He does not recall any conversation about the boy owning a pocket knife like Scotts'. The only phone call that Mr. Eberhart could recall receiving for Mr. Scott was on a Thursday morning. The call came from Springfield, Oregon and Scott told him later that it was his wife that had called. He does not recall any of the conversation on the part of Mr. Scott. After Scott had hung up he turned to his boy and told him that his mother wanted them to come home. He states that Mr. Scott talked only once on the phone while he was at his place that he had any knowledge of himself. After receiving the phone call from his wife Mr. Scott asked him to call Mike Neely to come after them which he did. Mike told him that he would be out Friday morning but came the same day instead. Scott and his boy were ready to go when Mike arrived and they got into the car with him and left. During their stay at his residence the boy indicated that he didn't like school and was anxious to go to work. He heard his dad tell him that if he would go on to school and raise his grades to not less than a B he would buy him a new 22 caliber rifle (not a pistol).

From Mr. Scotts' actions (not from anything he said) he took it that he might be having some marital difficulty. Upon leaving Mr. Scott thanked him for not being inquisitive as to why he and the boy wanted to be out in the country for a few days. Mr. Scott further stated that he was in a little jackpot, nothing serious, and that he just wanted to stay out of sight for a few days.

The boy had a little cold while he was at his place and apparently had it before he came. He took the boys temperature one evening and it was 102. He gave him some Excedrin and rubbed him with Vic Vapor Rub. He had snapped out of it pretty well by the time he left.

He states that while Mr. Scott and the boy were at his residence no effort was made on his part or Mr. Scotts' part to conceal the fact that the boy was at his residence

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While at his residence the boy often took walks down the canyon by himself and never took a gun with him.

Mr. Eberhart emphasized the fact that one day is not much different to him than the next and that he could possibly be mistaken on his dates and days of the week. He is quite sure that he did not give the right dates to Sergeant Combs. He also made it clear to the officers that he considered Mr. Neely to be one of his very closest friends having known him and worked with him for the past five or six years and it was quite clear that he would not give any information that might put him in a bad light with the law.

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