

KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
STATEMENT

Victim ☐ Witness ☒ Date 10-07-82 Time 2057 hrs

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Taken by OFFICERS MCLACHLAN/GREEN Serial # #01690/08520
Statement of CURTIS E. MILES Age 43
Alias _____
Address 5316 Johnson Pt Road, Lacey, WA Zip 98506 Phone 4565445
Date of Birth 03-06-40 at _____
Occupation & Employer Contractor-Self Employed C MILES CONTRACTING Bus. Phone 4565445

DET: Okay, MR MILES, you're familiar with a gentleman by the name of MR FOSTER?
MELVIN FOSTER?

WIT: Yeah.

DET: Is that correct? Okay. Could you start out from the time that you first met MR FOSTER and the circumstances of that meeting and just go from there about your..your..about how much you've known about him.

WIT: Uh, well he was renting my mother-in-law's trailer. Which we collected the money from. And ah he just, we didn't really try to get in..too involved with a rental or our neighbors, whatever. But anyway, when get ready to go to town or whatever, why...

DET: Could you clarify for me, MR MILES, where the location of that trailer was?

WIT: Uh. Well it was just on the south side of the house, just two yards. It was just.

DET: This house?

WIT: No, the house up on front up on...

DET: But it's on the same property here?

WIT: No. It's complete different property. It's on the front of Johnson Pt. Road.

DET: Okay.

WIT: Uh, which we used to ..we owned and we sold and..and ah..at the time.

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DET: Okay. And when was this?

WIT: In '73. And we uh..Late '73, maybe early '74 and uh..Anyway we'd get ready to go to town and ah we'd open the door and..and ah he'd be standing at the door and say, will you drop me off at mom and dad's or toward town or whatever.

DET: And this is....

WIT: At the time he was driving a taxi.

DET: This is MEL FOSTER, we're talking about?

WIT: Yeah, MELVIN...would be standing at the door and ah..Anyway we would ah we'd need to go get groceries or go to town and get our personal stuff we'd open the door and he'll be standing there and um, so we'd take him with us to town, yeah, he could ride.

DET: Do you recall what the name of the taxi cab company was that he worked for?

WIT: No.

DET: Where that was located at?

WIT: No. I..I think he worked for two or three different ones. Now I don't know which one at the time.

DET: Did you ever see any of the cabs?

WIT: No.

DET: That he drove?

WIT: No. He would...uh have is just his big talk about, you know. He was always a big wheel with the taxi cab company.

DET: But it was in Olympia, here?

WIT: Yeah. It was...I think it was

was..was the owner of the

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company and I think he used to drive for RED ISAAC which owned ah Red Top Hamlets and Cab Service. And ah...Anyways we'd be driving along and he'd just come out of the blue and just say that he come from California and..and ah he'd just say well, man there was this ..there was this murder right next door which was..the house was about four, five foot apart and he said, man we didn't hear nothin all night from ah..ah disturbance or what else. He didn't know how they'd missed it. And ah I think that he said, a few days later, I believe, if I remember right. He said that they'd found this girl and she'd been strangled and ah ... They was, I guess the way he talked, it must have quite a few, well, two or three different girls killed around his..around his area, they were real close to their house. And ah, his wife ah had been seeing a psychiatrist, and they moved up here on account of a mental problem with his wife with all the killings going on. And ah I'm not..I don't know ah He'd mention the towns or wherever he was from but I don't remember now. And anyway ...we were out here..About the time that he was there, they was a girl killed up around here someplace. Anyway they found her up, I believe in Cedar Creek Camp area, or anyway it was Capi Forrest Camp grounds or somewhere up in the..in the ah hills. And her picture was in the paper and ah....

DET: Now, this was right after he moved here from California?

WIT: Yeah.

DET: And he rented your trailer here?

WIT: Mm hmm. Uh anyway the picture come on the paper which they figured animals or whatever had chewed her face up and chewed her up pretty bad

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so that plaster of paris or whatever they used to form 'em back so their.. you know, somebody recognize 'em. But anyway at the time, I don't remember uh what...what kinda pickup or the exact color of it right now, but ah at the time the pickup that they was awantin' uh the pick up that they was lookin' for, why ah, it was the one like that he had. And ah he ha it for a few days or a week or so. And it had just come up missin'. I mean it'd just disappear.

DET: Can you describe the pick up to us?

WIT: It was an older, I think if I remember right, it was in the '50's and it was either a Ford or Chevy. And ah I think it was a kind of a light blue. And ah...

DET: Was it a pretty nice looking truck or was it pretty beat up?

WIT: No. It was just an average...No it wasn't beat up, it was just an average old pick up.

DET: Now, you say he only owned the truck for a couple a days?

WIT: Well, it had California plates on it. And I don't know whether he owned it or whether it was borrowed or what but it...it did come up ah I know it was settin' at the trailer at the time. And then right after this come out in the paper, and they was lookin' for this pick up, like he had, why it would come up missing. And ah at the time, we always, th My wife and us, we always just made a joke out of it that he probably run it off in a river or a lake someplace, got rid of it.

DET: Did you ever ask him about the pick up truck when it happened?

WIT: No. No. We never. He was just kind of a weird guy to talk to so we never did get personal with him. And ah...But anyway he would just..anytime he

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was around or we'd...be with us in the car or whatever, when we'd take him to town, why, he'd just come up with all kinds of weird things about like when the girl, they did find the girl dead or ahHe'd be talkin' a maybe about one that had got killed somewhere and he'd say , well, she deserved it or ..or..or, she had it coming or whatelse, you know and jus

DET: Did you ever see him talking to any girls that, other than his wife, the younger girls?

WIT: Yeah, oh yeah. I've seen him lots of times. You know, be talkin' well he walked for quite awhile after the pickup disappeared and ah that's when he'd come up to the house or, wait for a ride or I don't know. I guess he was listening at the door more than anything. And then he was always out in our front yard, or whatever. And we had two girls and the was both uh, in their teens and un, we always kept an eye on them becaus he was uh, just keepin' his eyes on the..on the two girls. And then he tried to...I don't know...lure the...lure the one girl...try to get her to come over on their side of the yard and talk to her and whatever... Whatever. And we just kept pretty close eye on the kids and told 'em to stay away him or whatever. But ah, we sold our place then and uh...

DET: When was this about?

WIT: In '74. Okay, then we moved back to Missouri and we was..and we had our place up for sale with real estate and we was in the antique business uh, with our business, other business. And ah, Anyway, we brought a load of antiques out and we had some business to take care with our, our home up here and ah ...So we setup our antiques here for the weekend then we was going to California.

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DET: And MR FOSTER was still renting the trailer at that time?

WIT: Yeah, mm hmm. And ah as we was going to California on the ah on the Capitol Way on-ramp to the freeway, why, when we left the house why he left just about the same time we did and when we got down to the freeway. Why he was stopped there along side of the road trying to talk to some girl and giving her a ride, I imagine. And ah, so anyway, me and wife, we both got

DET: What kind of a car was MR FOSTER in at that time?

WIT: I don't know.

DET: You don't remember?

WIT: Not at all. But ah, anyway we, at the time, well we..we just said well there's..there's MELVIN and the kids used to call him MERVIN BABY is what the kids called him. And ah that was always just a family joke. But ah... Anyway when we seen him along the freeway with this girl, why ah, me and my wife both and just..we just ...was kinda silent for quite a ways down the road and thinkin' to ourself. And after we got down toward California I told her , I says, you know I'll bet that those girls that was disappearing, you know. The one up in the hills or whatever, why, I'll bet MELVIN has been the one that's..that's gettin' rid of the girls. The ones he can't find or whatever. And my wife, she said well, she'd been thinking the same thing. So anyway, we'd went on

DET: Was there anything else that led you to think that way or...?

WIT: Well, he had told us quite a few different times about uh well, he talked about girls alot. When he was with us. When we were driving along.

DET: Can you recall some of the things that he said?

WIT: Not really. Just ...I just remember he used to talk alot

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about the girls that was gettin' killed and just..he was just kinda weird to talk to really. He just...be coming...he'd just come out of the blue with..with this odd talk and whatever. And we..we really didn't even pay you know, pay alot of attention to him. We was just glad to get rid of him when we dropped him off but ah... Anyway we was in California for ah, a few days. I'm not sure just what..how many now. But we went on back to Missouri. Well, we come back up and... and I had a trailer and we all loaded up here to a antique dealer and left it all in charge of him and then when we went back to Missouri, ah..One night anyway, I was laying there and couldn't sleep or whatever so I woke my wife up and I told her. I said, you know that..that MERVIN BABY or MELVIN whatever the kids call him, why, I told 'em, I says, I told my wife, anyway, there's quite a few night I had thought about it, couldn't sleep. And I told her, I said, you know, he's the one that's gettin' rid of those gir I says, he just..he just gotta be the one. So I called DWIGHT KARIN tha night.

DET: Whose DWIGHT KARIN?

WIT: At that time DWIGHT KARIN was a Criminal ah..Chief of Criminal Deputy of Thurston County. And ah..and which we had known him personally because my wife had babysit quite a bit for their kids. So anyway, I called DWIGHT, it was, which, two hours difference, time it..it wasn't as late here so I figured they would still be up. And if I remember right on hand, I musta called him, musta been nine, ten o'clock here. Ah, Olympia time. So, and I called him up and I told him that I..that I couldn't sleep and I just got to thinkin' about this guy that lived in the trailer and

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told him that..that MELVIN had...that I just...Me and my wife got to talki
and we just decided that..tell him some of the stuff that had been goin'
on, what he talked to us about and..and I told him I didn't know whether
it was over, if anything or not but anyway. Maybe he could check on it
or whatever. And...So he..he of course, why he just appreciated this
call and said he'd look into it or whatever. And ah...We'd mentioned
that, I guess, quite a few times ah...to some other deputies here that
had come out on some other business at the trailer and whatever. And
we'd talk to 'em and told 'em that while we lived here, we got the idea
that maybe MELVIN was behind some of that stuff. But anyway, I called
DWIGHT from Missouri, I guess, I think twice for sure. Uh, I called
him twice I guess for sure. And I don't know whether I called three ti
or not but anyway...Of course I..you know, I didn't know really whether
it's anything to it or whether..whether, you know, I should make a big
deal out of her or what. But anyway he was tellin' me how, that, oh
they always go on just family talks or suspicions or whatever and so...
Uh, and at the time we..I had a brother-in-law, which is my wife's
brother, that was here that did the rentin' of the trailer. And he dic
rent it to MELVIN and then he went to California for awhile and left us i
charge to collect the rent. And everytime we'd collect the rent it was
always in cash. He always paid cash. I mean it was..no checks or what
And ah, but anyway we always commented on how he always kept his shoes
real shiny and he really wore nice clothes and you never did see him
dirty. But I always took it that that was part of his taxi service but
ah...Anyway, we did hear anymore out of what had..what had happened or

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anything else. But my brother-in-law that did rent it, uh..

DET: What was your brother-in-law's name?

WIT: FRED PITMAN, FRED PITMAN JR. And ah. So we called him up one time and we was talkin' and and ah...I guess his wife was talkin' to us on the phone. And she says, you know that MELVIN that lives in that trailer. Says, he just..he just..he has to be you know, in on this girls missin' And which we had already told them that we had called DWIGHT KARIN and told him about it. But ah...Anyway, just the...just the things, I don't know what they had told him. But just the things that ah MELVIN had told FREDDIE and..and whatever, why they got the same idea. And..But ah..

DET: FRED is living in California right now?

WIT: Yeah. Hes..he's in California right now. Which he had been back up. Which he owned the real estate downtown here for a few years.

DET: Do you happen to have his telephone number off the top of your head?

WIT: FRED PITMAN's?

DET: Right.

WIT: No. He was..they was building a barn in New Mexico and they just moved back to Tulare. In fact I don't know really how to get all the But ah...anyway is a reason, I guess is when we..we heard the other morning, I guess was the first thing then ah, was on the radio, the Olympia man and ah I'd been talking about the killings, I guess. On the ah girls a missin' up around Seattle and ah so we, me and my wife, was listenin' to the radio so we decided we'd call the Sheriff's department here in Olympia and tell 'em that he used to be a neighbor of ours or whatever. And that was, I guess when he turned himself in. We've..we've thought

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about MELVIN quite a few times since. In fact it was just a few weeks ago here that we had wonderin' what had ever happened to him. And then my wife seen him over in ah, south sound someplace and he kept his eyes on her and he kept everyplace she would walk, why he'd walk behind her whatever. Just, just, he was just, she just..decided to come on home.

DET: Can you think back to any specific incidences that, that ah MELVIN was involved in or the types of things that he talked about as far as ah ma be hurting people. Doing any violent acts or maybe any sort of particular time or or things that he might have done with girls that you're aware of? That you ever observed or saw him do?

WIT: No. Nothing that we actually seen him do or...

DET: Did he ever tell you....?

WIT: Well we did see....No, he never did come out and say that it was him. Uh. When he would talk about a girl. But we always just got the idea that he was talkin' about himself.

DET: Okay. Was there any times that he might have talked about violent acts toward anyone else?

WIT: No. It was always just ah, I don't know..He was a...Any time he would talk really, that...it would just be about ah, talk about some girl or something and he was always talkin' about he had some big deal goin' on and when he got his big deal goin' why, man he was gonna have all the money in the world. He was just...I guess it was another....

DET: You were gonna say, you did see him do something a minute ago and I cut you off.

WIT: Well just talk to the girls. We've seen him talk to girls, you know?

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DET: Where did you see him, what type of girls, strange girls or ...?

WIT: Well, I don't if he knew 'em or not. But anyway where we're in south sound and then like on the...like on the highways or wherever one'll be hitchhiking or whatever.

DET: Can you describe the girls? Were the majority of them a certain age group? Ah...

WIT: Well, yeah, I guess you could call it certain ages. Probably in their late teens and early twenties.

DET: Black or white girls?

WIT: It was all mostly.....I've never seen him talk to a black girl. It was always white. And...

DET: Did you ever meet MEL's wife?

WIT: We never did. Ah, in fact he didn't know that they had two kids. And the only time I ever seen her and the kids was when they'd come home and get out of the car. I never did ...

WIT: I never did...

DET: Do you know whatever happened to her or....?

WIT: No, we just...the last we heard is..the last thing he told us that ah she was a..he was taking her into a mental ...the mental hospital or ah mental place. He was gonna have to put her in. Into a mental institution of some kind. And that was last we ever heard about her or seen. And as far as we know, when we left here, why she was still living with him.

DET: Okay. Is there anything else that you can think of right now, that might help us in this investigation?

WIT: Not not me. My wife might.

DET: Okay. That's the end of the statement. The time now is