

EX 1

SBI CASE: 1999-02250
ACTIVITY: July 18, 1999
VICTIM: Christopher Conrad Gailey
DICTATED: August 3, 1999
RECEIVED: September 2, 1999
TYPED: September 8, 1999
COPIES: (1) Records; (2) SA J. A. Reid;
(3) SAC R. H. Clark, Jr.;
(4) District Attorney G. N. Yates

Danny Ray Lanier, Jr., W/M/DOB: 02/10/1980; Residence:
231 Whip-o-will Cove Road, New London, North Carolina,
Telephone: 336-461-3205; Business: Bud Landscaping @ Uwharrie
Point, 310 Dalton Avenue, Charlotte, North Carolina 28206,
Telephone: 704-334-1494; (Witness):

Lanier was interviewed on Sunday, July 18, 1999, at 12:05 a.m. by SA J. A. Reid of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. The interview was conducted at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office located at 111 East Main Street in the town of Troy, North Carolina. This interview was conducted subsequent to the initiation of a homicide investigation looking into the death of victim Christopher Conrad Gailey.

Lanier stated that he first met Scott David Allen approximately two to four weeks ago. He stated that Allen came to his residence located at 231 Whip-o-will Cove Road with Chris Gailey. He stated that he remembered Gailey introducing Allen as "Byron Johnson." According to Lanier, Gailey indicated that "Johnson" was an old friend that he had not seen in awhile. He stated that both Gailey and Allen arrived at his residence riding in Gailey's 1998 GMC full-size, extended-cab pickup truck. Lanier stated that the truck was white in color, low to the ground, and had tinted windows. Lanier stated that he could not recall the time of day but did remember that it was already dark outside when they arrived. Lanier stated he remembered that his wife, Tanzy Lanier, her brother, Shannon Deihl, and Robert Johnson were also there at the house. According to Lanier, everyone was smoking Marijuana and drinking beer at the time.

Lanier further stated that Scott Allen appeared to be a very friendly person and seemed to get along well with everyone at the house. He stated that he thought Allen looked "weird" because he was wearing black and camouflage. He added that Allen also had a shaved head with tattoos on his head and the rest of his body. According to Lanier, Allen had a tattoo of a

pentagram on his neck and a tattoo with the word "HATE" on the side of his head. Lanier stated that he also observed a tattoo with flames on his back, along with a skull with a Mohawk on one of his legs. Lanier stated that Allen always seemed to be wearing something that resembled a turtleneck. He indicated that it was black as well. Lanier stated that Allen put this on every time he left the trailer. He stated that Robbie Johnson had indicated that Allen was carrying a knife but he, Lanier, stated he never personally observed it. Lanier stated that both Gailey and Allen spent the night this particular time and both left the next day after lunch. Lanier stated that he just assumed that Gailey was taking Allen back home.

Lanier stated that both Gailey and Allen again showed up at his residence approximately two days later. He stated that Allen was again dressed in all black clothing. He added that they again arrived in the evening but he could not recall the time of day. Lanier stated that just like before, his wife was there at the residence along with Shannon Deihl and Robbie Johnson. Lanier stated that everyone, just as before, smoked Marijuana and drank beer. According to Lanier, Chris Gailey usually had Marijuana with him when he came to the residence. Lanier indicated that Gailey would usually sell Marijuana to other people if he had some extra that he was trying to get rid of. Lanier stated that he never personally purchased Marijuana from Chris Gailey. Lanier stated that both Gailey and Allen again spent the night at his residence. He added that both got up the next morning and left after lunch.

Lanier went on to say that both Gailey and Allen returned to the mobile home approximately five to six hours later with a white female named "Vanessa." Lanier stated that he and everyone else assumed that Vanessa was Allen's girlfriend because she was always sitting on Allen's lap. He stated that he could not remember the time of day when they arrived but it was in the evening hours. He added that Vanessa began smoking Marijuana and drinking beer with everyone else. According to Lanier, all three spent the night. Lanier stated that he could not recall the particular date that this occurred. Lanier stated that all three of them got up the next morning and left. Lanier stated he thought that Gailey had taken Vanessa back to Charlotte. According to Lanier, Vanessa had led them to believe that she was from the Charlotte area.

Lanier stated that approximately two days later, at approximately 4:30 p.m., he and Robbie Johnson were out on the front porch of the residence and observed Vanessa walking up the

driveway. According to Lanier, Vanessa asked them if they had seen Chris Gailey. He stated that they replied, "No." Lanier stated that Vanessa had indicated that Gailey was about a day and a half late in picking both she and Scott Allen up. He stated that she then asked if they minded if she and "Byron" stayed at the trailer. Lanier stated that he replied, "No." Lanier stated that Vanessa then asked if he could give her a ride to pick up "Byron."

Lanier stated that he and Vanessa left in his 1990 Nissan pickup truck en route to pick up Allen. He described his truck as being blue in color with a yellow driver's side door. He stated that he went back out to Blaine Road to NC Highway 109. He stated that he made a right turn and then took the very next dirt road to the left onto Center Methodist Church Road. He stated that he drove a pretty good ways. He stated that at some point and time, Vanessa told him to stop the vehicle. Lanier stated that Vanessa got out of his vehicle and indicated that she would be back in a minute. He stated that she walked by a gate located on the dirt drive and walked on up into the woods. Lanier stated that he remembered smoking a cigarette and listening to the radio while she was gone.

Lanier stated that Vanessa and Byron returned to his truck approximately ten minutes later. He stated that upon their arrival, Vanessa got in the back of the truck and Byron got into the front of the truck with him after placing a black bag in the back with Vanessa. He stated that it began to rain. Lanier stated that once it started raining, Byron retrieved the black bag from the back and placed it in front with them. He indicated that Vanessa got in front with them as well. He added that Byron was again dressed in black. Lanier stated that they went directly back to his residence on Whip-o-will Cove Road. He stated that he could not recall the time of day. Lanier further stated that Chris Gailey showed up at his residence sometime later that same evening. He stated again that he could not recall the time of day. He stated that Vanessa, Gailey, and Byron spent the night at his mobile home residence. According to Lanier, he indicated that they continued to stay at the residence until Friday, July 9, 1999.

Lanier stated that Gailey would continue to leave and return to the residence over a period of days. He stated that Gailey would stay gone for a couple days at the time. According to Lanier, Gailey had a sawed-off shotgun that he kept at the residence. Lanier stated that Gailey left it there because he

did not want to keep it in his truck. Lanier stated Gailey was aware that the barrel was 1/2" too short and did not want to get in trouble.

Lanier further stated that last Friday, July 9, 1999, at approximately 9 p.m. in the evening, just before dark, Gailey asked him if he could borrow his (Lanier's) truck so he could take Vanessa and Byron to see his (Byron's) mother. He stated that once they left in his truck, that was the last time he had seen either Chris Gailey or Byron (Scott Allen).

Lanier stated that between 12 midnight and 1 a.m. on Saturday, July 10, 1999, Vanessa came back to his house. He added that she was driving his truck that Gailey had borrowed hours before. Lanier stated that Vanessa came into the trailer and began talking to his wife Tanzy. He stated that Vanessa stated she was scared driving his truck because she claimed that she could not see good at night. He stated that Vanessa was asked where Gailey and Byron (Scott Allen) were. According to Lanier, she indicated that both would be back at the residence later on. Lanier stated that he and his wife went to bed approximately one hour later.

Lanier stated that the next morning, he and his wife woke up and noticed that Vanessa was gone. He stated that they soon realized that Gailey's white truck was gone as well. He stated that it was approximately 11 a.m. at this point. Lanier stated that Robbie Johnson had looked and noticed that Gailey's shotgun was also missing from a bedroom closet. Lanier stated that he thought the shotgun was loaded while it was at the residence.

Lanier stated that last Monday, July 12, 1999, Adam Latham came down to the house to tell them what he had heard concerning the death of Chris Gailey. Lanier stated that he was at work at the time Latham arrived at his residence. Lanier stated that once he returned home, he indicated that Robbie Johnson was there with Latham and Dustin Maness. He stated that at some point, Robbie had contacted Gailey's mother to confirm what had happened to Chris. Lanier stated that Maness was there to find out what they had heard concerning Gailey's death. He stated that Maness was acting strange and was shaking a lot.

Lanier stated that later on that same evening, Jamie Fender also arrived at his residence to see if they had heard the news concerning the death of Chris Gailey. He stated that the entire time he was there, he never came inside the residence. He stated that Fender remained on the front porch of the residence

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SHOTGUN IDENTIFIED AS GALEY'S PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE WHIP-D-WILL
LOCATION BY S.I.B.E. AND SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT

the entire time and talked to Robbie Johnson. According to Lanier, Jamie Fender told Robbie that he had heard Gailey had been sleeping with Byron's (Scott Allen) ex-wife and that Byron had heard that Chris was going to turn him in for escaping from the Department of Correction.

In conclusion, Lanier stated that approximately three weeks ago, Byron (Scott Allen) asked he and Robbie if they could take him to Thomasville to a Western Union located in a Winn-Dixie. He stated that Byron (Scott Allen) indicated he had some money that he needed to pick up. According to Lanier, Byron did not indicate who was sending him the money. Lanier stated that once they arrived at the Winn-Dixie, he got out with Byron and Robbie. He stated that he went in to use the restroom and came right back outside and got back into his truck. He stated that Byron did not indicate how much money he had received but that Robbie later informed him that Byron had received a total of \$75.

This interview was concluded at 2 a.m.

JAR:vmg