

MRS. MARY PILKER

CASE NUMBER 314-10-70

SUBJECT: DONNA ANN LASS, MISSING PERSON

October 2, 1970, retainer fee received in Des Moines office for investigation to begin.

After several long distance collect calls with Client, conference was scheduled for October 3, 1970 at Clients residence, 1609 South Grange, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

October 3, 1970 conference held in afternoon, 4:30 - 8:00 P.M., at the above address.

Investigation continued with completed data from above described conference, and preliminary investigation pertaining to a trip to south Lake Tahoe begun.

October 5, 1970 Missing Person Data completed with furnished photo and other data, lacking finger print classification.

October 6, 1970, efforts completed to secure reservation on flight # 671, United to Denver Colorado and flight # 583 from Denver to Reno. Ticket # 016-253-303-792.

October 7, 1970 emplaned at 3:35 P.M. Arrived Denver, Colorado for Brief stop over. Dinner at White Spot Inc. Denver. Arrived Reno. Deluxe Cab # 34 to Leo's Court. Supper at Harolds Club.

October 8, 1970, breakfast at Greyhound terminal, took Greyhound Bus to Lake Tahoe. Taxi to South Lake Tahoe Police Dept., Taxi # 68.

October 8, 1970 10:30 A.M. Conference with Sargent Bezanson at South Lake Tahoe Police Dept.

Sargent Bezanson produced records and gave testimony pertaining to an investigation made by the South Lake Tahoe Police Department.

As near as can be determined, John Schott of Sahara Tahoe Security telephoned the South Lake Tahoe Police Department and spoke to Sargent Tucker, requesting that their department check on whereabouts of subject. It was learned that no accurate record was made of the time of the call, and no accurate record was available to examine to determine which operator was on duty to handle the call.

Our investigation reveals that there was no documented activity by the South Lake Tahoe police department between the time that John Schott originally called, and the time that our client visited the police department

at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday September 19, 1970.

Security guard Gordon Petrovich claims he received a telephone call from a "Mr. Davis" relating the following: On either September 7 or 8, he spoke with this party and was told Donna wouldn't be able to work that day. She had to leave the city of South Lake Tahoe because of illness in her family. Petrovich claims he left a note on the Security Desk of the call, did not recognize the voice and could not tell what time the call came in, and didnot remember if it sounded like a long distance call. Couldn't be sure if it was Tuesday or Wednesday.

Testimony from Mr. Nick Davis, former manager of the Monte Verde Apartments, discloses that he had received a call from the security office of Sahara Tahoe on Friday, September 11, 1970. He in turn called the South Lake Tahoe Police Dept. and talked with dispatcher Bob Morgan. Mr. Morgan revealed that he had had a call from the Douglas County Sherriff's office about the subject, and that he understood that their was some sickness in the family. He felt that Undersheriff Bradovich was the one who raised the question of subject's health, and that subsequent conversation carried the health aspect, and that then he, Mr. Davis then called back to the Sahara Tahoe, and said there

was a health problem, and that this is the very same call that Gordon Petrovich misunderstood to be in the earlier part of the week, the 7th, or the 8th, when it was in fact on the 11th, Friday.

The following Friday, September 18, 1970, John Schott called Subject's mother, inquiring of Subject. Client and Mrs. Dick Bellach then arrived next day, Saturday September 19, 1970.

Mr. Davis had accompanied subject on an inspection tour of the apartment on September 5, 1970, and his inventory sheet is dated September 5, 1970. Also, with him was Mr. Frank DeSimone.

Mr. Frank DeSimone, New Manager of the Monte Verde Apartments entered Subject's apartment on this Friday September 11, 1970, and observed the apartment was neat and clean, bed made, nurses cap on dresser. Bathroom light had been left on.

Sargent Turker picked up Subjects mail at Post Office, for box 4689, and turned over contents to Client.

Client moved into Subject's apartment # 6. When checked apartment intact, cosmetic bag in the apartment. Telephone No. 544-5993.

Mr. Davis also testified that Mrs. Janowski who lived where subject used to live had called him, on September 10th or 11th expressing concern over not seeing Subject for several days.

Mr. Davis then entered the apartment on either the 10, 11, or 13th., he was not sure which date. Apartment was the same as when he had observed it in the presence of Subject on the 6th, even though his inventory sheet showed the 5th.

On September 13, 1970 at 7:00 P.M., Mr. Davis called the South Lake Tahoe Police Dept. and made request that Subject's condition be observed. Davis at that time had knowledge of the alleged call that Subject had left town to visit a sick relative. This coincides with the call that Gordon Petrovich had received under the same circumstances only on different dates.

There were no fingerprints taken from the apartment what so ever. Also No fingerprints were lifted from inside or outside of car, 1968 Camero Convertible. License # 447BJS 1970 California Plate.

No effort was made to remove drains from plumbing, secure cosmetics and other personal articles.

The visits by Mr. Davis, Mr. DeSimone, Sargent Tucker, Sargent Bezanson, our Client and Mrs. Bellach destroyed all possibilities of gathering evidence.

No Photographs of the positions of the furniture and other articles were taken. As near as could be determined, none of the investigation procedures for a supposed abduction were carried out. All evidence of value was tampered with before our office had an opportunity to evaluate.

Subject, a White Female Adult, 25 years, D.O.B. November 3, 1944, Blonde hair, Blue eyes, 5 foot 4 inches 139 lbs. Hair cut short, good teeth, pierced ears, wearing contact lenses, ring on right ring finger, no further description of ring, white Gold dainty wrist watch, with small chain, size 8 shoes, 13 dress, possibly wearing a blue pant suit, with white stripes and rust colored raincoat.

Subject last seen alive at the Casino and positively identified by Mrs. Glen Bentley, 4882 Nelson St., Fresno, California, Telephone # 415-824-9080. Joan Bentley Testified that while treating her, subject was very congenial, and happy, in the chit-chat and small talk that ensued, Subject was looking forward to

skiing that winter. Subject said nothing about plans for evening, and also stated she liked her job, and was planning to stay there. Subject was in uniform, minus her hat at the time subject entered at 1:15 A.M. time on the log, but it is unknown when log entry was made, and no one remembers her leaving the Casino.

George Victor Jonasson, white male adult, 6' 3", 235 lbs., Blonde hair blue eyes, Date of birth, June 22, 1944, from 535 Harvard St., Grand Forks, North Dakota. No Criminal record of ~~sparty~~ found as of this report in either North Dakota or California. Jonasson is a security guard at Sahara Tahoe who worked the same shift as Subject. Was seen with subject on numerous occasions. Described as un-stable and a heavy drinker, also not to be believed all the time.

One observer, Jane Allen 4180 Saddle Road, South Lake Tahoe stated subject on occasion had had drinks with her after hours, but not a close friend.

Her testimony was that she saw subject on Wednesday night, September 9, 1970 when Dwight Stogsdale was driven to San Francisco to join the Army. When Police were investigating, she called Dwight on September 19, 1970, and he stated to her he had not seen subject since the Wednesday he was driven to San Francisco.

We believe Miss Allen was mistaken by exactly one week, and that she had reference to trip of September 2, not 9th.

Reference is here made to a conference with South Lake Tahoe Police Department and JoAnne Goettsch, 225 Mallorca Way, San Francisco, California, Apt. 307 Telephone # 415-931-3886. She testified that Jane had a card from Dwight stating that he had seen her on the 2nd when Subject and "Tiki", had driven him to San Francisco.

Teke Holland Stated she rented a car and took Subject and Dwight to San Francisco on September 2, after leaving work at Sahara Tahoe on September 1, working the swing shift.

When this trip was over, Teke Holland drove Subject to 4054, Hiway 50, where she lived on September 2nd.

Teke Holland lives at 810 Merced, South Lake Tahoe, Telephone # 544-8381. This individual also knows identity of two men who work at "Barneys" that Subject was seen with two days before the San Francisco trip.

Ann and Larry Lowe, 4054 Hi Way 50, Telephone # 544-2427, testified that subject had lived with them all summer, and last saw subject on September 4, 1970 at



11:30 P.M. Also revealed that subject knew a "Dave" at Stateline Chevron Station. This party worked the 4-11 P.M. shift at Chevron Station Laurel and HiWay 50, Telephone number 544-9918. Dave observed Subject many nights walking to work in uniform, and had gone to the Sahara Tahoe to visit with her, but had not dated her. This has not been confirmed.

The Lowe's also mentioned the Maitre D at the Sahara Tahoe as one who dated Subject, and that he offended Subject by an attempted kiss, and that an apology was made the next day. This party identified later as Ramon Vasquez, Telephone number 544-7388, who worked evening shift. His testimony revealed that he was acquainted with Subject, and that he saw her several times on the Labor Day weekend, and he was very busy at the time. His testimony was that he had never taken Subject outside of the Club, and that his relationship with her didn't go beyond having a drink with her.

Investigation disclosed that Subject had dated a Keno writer by name of Tony Chapman, 3608 Terry Lane, Apt. 27 Telephone 544-6237. This party testified that he never REALLY dated Subject, but that activities consisted of having drinks together for a few hours

after Subject would get off work. These events might continue until 5:00 A.M. This party stated that he had not seen subject since the night of September 2, 1970. At this time he, subject and Vern Lauflin, 3608 Terry Lane, South Lake Tahoe, Apt. 27. Telephone number 544-6237, had went out for a drink for 2 hours after work. This party was friendly with Subject, but testified that he had taken her out at least three times, and had as yet to kiss her.

Mrs. Clarise Chapman at Tahoe National Bank contacted, and as of September 21, 1970 no checks had been received since September 1, 1970. They were flagging the account.

Mrs. Tooker at the Lake Tahoe Ambulance checked her trips from September 6th thru September 23rd, and carried no one answering Subjects description, and no Jane Doe's.

A Missing Persons teletype was sent to all area 1 and Area 2 stations on September 23rd, 1970 at approximately 1:P.M.

On September 23, 1970 Sargent Bezanson contacted John Schott, and obtained a letter written to Subject by Mrs. Keith Stitzel, 5601 Grand Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nothing of value in the letter.

Subject had written a partial letter to Nancy, dated August 25, 1970.

Coroner's office in Reno and the Douglas County Sheriff's office were interrogated for anyone answering Subject's description with negative results.

Officer Watson of the South Lake Tahoe Police Department checked Barton Memorial Hospital, South Ave., & 4th, Telephone 541-3420 for a Jane Doe answering Subject's description, with negative results.

Douglas County Sheriff's office, Deputy Joe Delorey stated he had received a phone call from a Man in Sacramento who did not identify himself, and wished to speak to the investigator in charge of the case of the Subject. This party stated he would call back at noon after learning that the investigator was not in. This call was received at approximately 10:00 P.M. on September 22, 1970.

Our investigation at this time revealed one of reasons why different investigatory bodies do not get too concerned over missing persons cases. Three females were supposed to be missing from Harrah's, but when his office investigated, the reports subsequently proved to be unfounded.

Douglas County Sheriff's office reported that two Female employees of Saharah Tahoe were assaulted in the parking lot in recent weeks, but no connection to this disappearance was proved.

Mr. Goggin<sup>5</sup> of the Bank of America branch at South Lake Tahoe, contacted. Subjects checking and savings account at Bank of America, 3701 Balboa St., San Francisco, inactive since June, 1970. Account flagged for notification.

Investigator Roth at the Bank Armericard office at San Francisco was contacted and it was learned that Subject used her Card # 019-121-157-226 to make a \$3.94 purchase and that her account would be flagged in the event of future activity.

3:15 P.M. on September 25, 1970, Sargent Bezanson called JoAnne Goettsch and learned that JoAnne was intending to visit with Subject on the night of the 7th. of September, but that on arrival in South Lake Tahoe, were unable to contact the Subject. JoAnne and her friend went to the Sahara Tahoe, and visited with Victor Jonneson who gave very little information about the Subject, and continued to visit with them until approximately 4:00 A.M. September 8th, insisting all the time that he knew nothing about Subjects whereabouts.

After interviewing those who knew Victor Jonneson, his evasive conduct and manner left him as most likely person responsible as far as motive, opportunity and reason was concerned.

Decision made to execute plan whereby Jonneson might reveal his true knowlege about subject. This reporter did not interview party and made plans for subsequent visit, in a few weeks.

Efforts made to locate witnesses of late evening and early morning traffic,--no results.

Labor day weekend weather was very warm in the low 80's in the daytime, and mid 70's in the evening.

There was so much activity on the Lake that the Marinas were swamped with activity. No Police efforts were made with respect to screening boat rentals or questioning dock managers.

Subject's driving liscense had not been flagged for notification. At this reporter's request a stop flag was placed in her file, in the event Subject's liscense would ever be inquired of, or used for identification purposes.

*541-2980*  
Mrs. Dorothy Cullison, of Tahoe Paradise, 541-2984, who is with the Tahoe Tribune was interviewed as the

result of her seeing Subjects picture in the Sacramento Bee on September 24, 1970. Her testimony was that she saw Subject on Labor Day, September 7, 1970, at approximately 3:00 or 4:00 P.M. At the time of her observation Subject was south bound on Pioneer Trail near the Bottle shop in the company of a blonde man with a clean shaven countenance. This party could offer no further description of the man, his clothing etc., and could not even remember what the girl was wearing, even though she absolutely insists a photo of the subject is the person she saw, and states she spoke briefly with her, for a short while. If this story is true, Mrs. Cullison is the last known person to see Subject alive. This party could not prove conclusively that it was the Labor Day weekend, and this point warrants further investigation, due to sceptitism on interviewers part, also previous testimony that Subject wore White Shorts. This party was unable to be interviewed at this time.

Conference by telephone with Client for 45 minutes, work completed at this point.

Lunch at Smorgy's, South Lake Tahoe, Returned to Reno via Greyhound 2341120542. Whittlesda Taxi to Holiday Inn, registered in room 204. Invoice #47366. Supper at Harold's Club #979219.

Returned to Des Moines on Flight # 632 Western Airline,  
Ticket # 017-20-1-089-213.

Plans made to continue investigation as per telephone  
plans with Client.

October 21, 1970, conference with F.B.I. in Des Moines  
with agent Joe Hershley, and suggestions received to  
expedite matters for a civilian stop order in Subject's  
file in Washington.

October 24, 1970 information for preliminary sent to  
F.B.I. in Washington as outlined by Mr. Hershley.  
Carbon Copy sent to Client.

October 25, 1970, conference with Client via Long Distance.

October 26, 1970, letter to Sargent Bezanson, with data  
on Lowe Family.

October 27, 1970, 45 minute long distance conference  
with Jeremiah Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota,  
Attorney, Telephone # 605-336-2424. Mr. Murphy was  
given a brief of investigation to this point. Mr.  
Murphy explained that through his office, and Senator  
Mundt's office in Washington, D.C., that perhaps Mr.  
Hoover, F.B.I. Director, might intervene on behalf  
of Client. No follow through call was ever received  
by this office.

October 28, 1970 two more conferences with Client and disclosure made of conversation with Mr. Murphy. Mention made of error in F.B.I. report as per year of Subject's Car.

October 29, 1970 Additional plans made for return trip to South Lake Tahoe, and for Security reasons, these plans are not reported in this report, although they were delivered to Client and Client's then Attorney, Jeremiah Murphy.

October 30, 1970 brief letter to Client enclosing F.B.I. note and proposed costs for November trip to South Lake Tahoe.

November 2, 1970 Investigation dis-continued in the matter of tracing long distance Telephone call, that came person to person at 10:00 A.M. on October 7, 1970 through operator Delores Hudkin at the Sahara Tahoe switchboard for Subject. Call was routed to extension 330 and John Schott took call and heard both a man and a woman give instructions to the long distance operator to terminate the call. This call came in just an hour before this operator entered John Schott's office. All efforts to trace this call failed.

November 3, 1970 conference with South Lake Tahoe Police Department pertaining to teletype from Detective



Regan, Santa Barbara Sheriff's office. Hair and skull fragments found by their office was later identified as not Subject's.

November 4, 1970 investigation continued. Officer Wootan classified Subject's fingerprints from card sent from Douglas County Sheriff's office. Classification 13 M/W 1/1 u/u 000/100 17/16 sent to C II.

November 5, 1970 Additional funds received from Client.

November 6, 1970 this office learned that Governor Reagan's office received a letter of complaint from the Lowefamily. A noted cooling of relations between our office and the State of California immediately followed.

November 9, 1970 Telephone report to Client advising what Lowe family had done, and of the possible consequence. Client knew about this letter and stated she was glad--maybe it will shake things up.

November 10, 1970 State of California officially began an intensive inquiry into the Police handling of the investigation. Decisions made at our office so that our plans to leak certain information in the case to trigger certain events would NOT interfere with State of California investigators. All security plans for

our office changed at this point.

November 11, 1970 Telephone report to Client requesting a delay in subsequent trip--permission denied--Client quite anxious, and upset.

November 12, 1970 Reservations made for United Flight # 603 for Sunday, November 15, 1970 -- 8:30 P.M. departure, ticket # 016-453058220.

November 13, 1970 Emplaned for Reno via Denver, with lay over.

November 16, 1970 2:30 P.M. arrived Reno. Conference with office in Des Moines. Limousine service to South Lake Tahoe.

November 16, 1970 4:15 P.M. News Bulletin that a missing nurse from Central California HAD IN FACT been found but NOT Subject. News media carried story and emphasised that it WAS NOT Subject.

November 16, 1970 4:30 Lunch at Smorgy's.

November 16, 1970 5:30 P.M. Surveillance plans all dropped and entire operation as previously planned were cancelled.

November 16, 1970 6:55 Conference with office in Des Moines, decision made not to stir to much trouble, as

California State investigators were on scene and best to lay ground work for same type of plan, to be executed later.

November 17, 1970 Early morning bulletin that ANOTHER body had in fact been found, 90 miles south of South Lake Tahoe, that of missing Las Vegas night club entertainer--white female, 31, Alyce Deeter. Couple in Illinois later arrested.

November 17, 1970 Efforts to contact Dorothy Cullison unsuccessful.

Decision made not to post reward at this time for information. Conference with office in Des Moines. Await decision by Client pertaining to reward. Attempt to contact Client unsuccessful at this time.

Conference with Sargent Bezanson at South Lake Tahoe Police Department, and information exchanged. Learned that the following persons were contacted by them some time previously.  
with the following results:

Carol Emeric, 415-752-7327, a close friend of Subject was aware that Subject was missing but had not heard from her nor had any idea where she might be.

Mrs. Phillip Lee, 702-329-8937, Reno Nevada, also a close friend of Subject had been in contact with family, knew Subject was missing, could add nothing for the investigation.

Mrs. Robert M. Jones, 702-359-3664, Sparks Nevada, also a close friend of Subject, knew Subject was missing and could add nothing of value.

November 17, 1970, 4:30 P.M. Received information that perhaps F.B.I. had entered case, and were in Club. This was not accurate, Agents were California State Agents. Decision made not to interrogate any one at the Club.

Learned that on September 25, 1970 South Lake Tahoe Police Department was contacted by Lt. Peter Ables, from the Placer County Sheriff's office, at Auburn. Lt. Ables is working with Inspector Reynolds of Sacramento Sheriff's office on the Homicide case of another Nurse. There was a remarkable similarity between that case and the disappearance of Subject.

Sargent Bezanson was asked about the Lab. report on Subject's uniform, and were told that the results

were not back from the State, but that they would notify our office in Des Moines when the report came in.

Attempt to contact Jane Allen, 4180 Saddle Road, not successful.

Decision made to have supper served in room.

November 18, 1970--Breakfast served in room.

Conference with office in Des Moines--decision made to reserve flight back to Des Moines on late evening flight.

Conference with Client, given permission not to post reward at this time, was told I was returning to office that evening. Situation explained about coincidence of TWO bodies being found at the most inopportune time. Client was very disappointed

November 18, 1970 Checked out of Sahara Tahoe before noon deadline.

Investigation continued, located Raymond Jacobs, local Cab Driver of Cab # 66. Party lives at 3780 Aspen Ave., this party had lived at the Monte Verde Apts. all the time Subject had lived there, and he

occupied room 11. Stated he had observed Subject on many occasions, and that he drove a Cab on the street at the same time Subject was getting off work, but had never seen her on way home walking. Party stated he had not observed any male companions around her apartment on any occasion. This party is well acquainted with area, and knows many people. This party was given authority to inquire on our behalf for any information he might obtain and \$25.00 was the limit for his expenses that we authorized and guaranteed to re-imburse for. Also, permission was granted to call collect to our office in Des Moines in the event anything of value might be learned.

Returned to Reno on Limousine and plans made for possible re-instatement of original plan to be carried out at later date.

Returned to Des Moines, after being bumped on flight in Denver. Had to purchase 1st class ticket # 016-453 058220, for continuation of flight #176.

November 19, 1970 A.M. telephone call from Client expressing extreem disappointment of progress of investigation, wished to have a report on activity, was told report would be delayed a little pending some final notes of our own to be prepared.

Decision made in Des Moines to continue investigation pending approval of Client.

November 23, 1970 Request made by South Lake Tahoe Police Department to secure Dental records of Subject as soon as convenient.

Several telephone conferences with Client who was crying at the time. Emotions seemed to be playing an important part in negotiations.

Telephone conference with John Teeman mistakenly thought to be an attorney for same. Did not recognize his voice. Was told that he would go into action on his own if something not developed soon.

December 8, 1970 Telephone report to client at noon, explaining what had transpired so far, request again made for written report. Apology given for not having it completed.

December 14, 1970 11:25 A.M. Telephone conference with Sargent Bezanson at South Lake Tahoe Police Department, exchanged data, and was asked again to secure Dental Data. Given F.B.I. reply to our communication of November 3, 1970 that Mr. Hoover personally answered this reporter on November 11, 1970. Lab. report on uniform still not in.

December 21, 1970 Plans made to resume investigation in California in event necessary.

Long Distance telephone call from Marwin K. Balin, Attorney, representing John Teeman, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and gave party 45 minute resume of case.

Office closed over Holidays thru January 3rd, 1971.

January 4, 1971 Blizzard closed office

January 5 thru 6, 1971 Blizzard continued office closed.

January 7, 1971 Telephone report to Client. Still upset and crying as near as could be determined.

January 8, 1971 Telephone conference with Client requesting that we plan another trip to follow through on matters un-finished on previous visit. Was informed our schedule would not permit a trip in the immediate future. No time available but would try to work out something.

January 11, 1971 Received information that Governors office in California had received a letter from entire Family, signed by Pilker's, Teeman's, Diffey's, Lounsberry's, Lass, and the Bellach's.

Information back to our office not able to be evaluated



as far as hindering or helping our investigation. Time would tell. Our plans continued Status Quo.

January 12, 1971 Letter Sent to Client enclosed with request for Dental information to be transmitted to Dr's. Iverson and Dr. Alman.

January 15, 1971 Conference with Client, requested to obtain an appointment with Governor Reagan, and told Dental Data would be forth coming.

January 18, 1971 Plans made to adjust schedule to be able to make another trip 1st week in February.

January 19, 1971 telephone conference with Sargent Bejanson and given details of lab report received back that day.

Report as follows:

Garments soiled from normal wear, no abnormal perspiration, very few hairs, no stains, no blood, no urine, and no semen--a very negative report.

January 19, 1971 Telephone call to Client, informed work shift change, Client had gone to work at 3:30.

January 20, 1971 A.M. telephone conference with Client again requesting our schedule be changed to get started with 3rd trip as soon as possible.

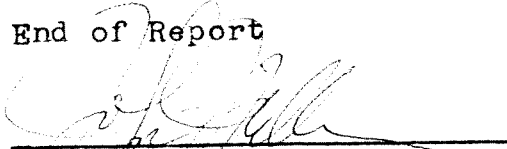
January 21, 1971 telephone conversation with Governor Reagan's secretary, Mrs. Phillips, and given instructions on applying for appointment. Letter sent immediately, copy to Client.

January 22, 1971 Authorization received by office to keep requested appointment if granted, and also to follow through on following items:

1. Items requested by Client after reviewing report.
2. San Francisco investigation of subjects contacts there, and details of the trip with Teke Holland.
3. Conference with Jane Allen.
4. Conference with Dorothy Cullison
5. Conference with Joe Delory about circumstances of call from Sacramento.
6. Conference with Dick Turner, assistant to the Governor.
7. Obtain all items for Client belonging to Subject as per telephone discussion.

January 28, 1971 Reservations made for Flight #441 to San Francisco, 6:05 P.M. Sunday January 31.

End of Report



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