

STATEMENT SUMMARY

NAME: Caleb Gourneau

Significance to Beach's Clemency Application: Calvin Lester claims that he saw Caleb Gourneau at the Kim Nees murder scene. J.D. Atkinson, a witness Beach intends to call at his clemency hearing, claims that Sissy Atkinson mentioned to him that Gourneau was present when Kim Nees was killed.

Summary of March 22, 2007 Tape Recorded Statement:

On June 15, 1979, Gourneau recalled that he, his girlfriend Shannon, and Beach were swimming at Sandy Beach. Beach got his vehicle stuck. Beach left Gourneau and Shannon and walked towards town. (4-5.) Gourneau stated that they waited, but Beach never came back so they too walked to town. Gourneau did not see Beach again until the next day. Gourneau walked Shannon to her grandmother's house in Poplar, kissed her goodnight and then headed home because he had a curfew. (5.) Barry Buckles and Nolan Birthmark gave him a ride home. (4-5.) Gourneau lived a mile west of Poplar and his family's home was set about 50 feet south of Highway 2. (6.) On the ride home, Gourneau recalled seeing Kim Nees parked alone in her green pickup truck at the Exxon station. Gourneau estimated that he saw Nees around 10:30 p.m. or 10:45 p.m. (5-6.)

Gourneau estimated that he got home around 11 or 11:30 p.m., and his mother, brother and sister were there. (4, 6.) After he got home, the Gourneaus' dog started barking and it charged towards the highway. (4, 6-7.) Gourneau and his mother went outside to investigate. (4, 7.) There were people who lived on the North side of Highway 2 across from the Gourneaus, but Gourneau could not hear anything coming from that area. (7.)

Gourneau's mother, Mary, heard something on the North side of the highway. (7-8) Mary accompanied Gourneau to his interview with the State, and she described what she had heard coming from the North side of the highway. Mary explained that she heard a loud discussion or group disagreement. (8.) It was not screaming or anything like a fight. (8.) When they went back inside, Mary looked at the television and the show Midnight Special was coming on. Because the show came on at midnight Mary knew the time when she heard the dog barking and the noise. (8-9.)

*Not true -
brother out
contested
prior
statement*

Gourneau stated that the next morning someone called the Gourneaus' home and told him about the murder of Kim Nees. (9.) Gourneau then drove down the highway and saw other people stopped looking towards the river. He did not drive down by the river. (10.) Gourneau saw Beach that day and asked him "where were you," because Beach had not returned to pick him up. (15.) Gourneau recalled Beach telling him that he went somewhere. (15.)

After Kim's murder, Gourneau stated he was not in a car with Beach and a third person when the third person gave him a necklace and a key chain. (14, 15.) He also stated that he was not in a car with Beach and a third person who had head hair missing from their scalp. (15-16.)

Gourneau explained that a few months after the homicide, while walking his dog by the river, he had found a broken necklace South of Highway 2 near the boat landing. (10-12.) Gourneau showed the necklace to his mother, and then turned it over to Officer Steve Greyhawk. (11-13.)

Gourneau is a devout Catholic. He explained that he was brought up that if you did something you admit it "because you got to clear your conscience because in the next world you got to take care of it there." (18.) Gourneau stated he was not down by the river or near Nees's truck when Kim was killed. (17-18.) He never saw who hit Kim and did not know who had killed her. (18.)

When asked whether he had been contacted by Centurion Ministries, Gourneau replied: "Ah, them guys, they stick things in your mouth." (18.) He told Centurion Ministries that he knew nothing, but they kept contacting him, and accusing him of things that were not true. When Gourneau was asked if he felt like Centurion Ministries was harassing him, he stated: "I feel like if there if there's a law for slander, I'd be the first one standing up trying to sign, sign one." (19.)

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INTERVIEW

State V Beach

Caleb Gourneau

March 22, 2007

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CASE NO. State V Beach
DATE: March 22, 2007
TIME: 11:05 a.m.
LOCATION:
AGENT: Agent Ward McKay
PRESENT: Agent Ward McKay (WM), Tammy Plubell (TP), Mike Wellenstein (MW), Caleb Gourneau (CG), Mary Gourneau (MG)
INTERVIEWEE: Caleb Gourneau – Mary Gourneau

WM: The date is March 22, 2007, the time is approximately 1105 hours the purpose of this recording is to document a conversation with Caleb Gourneau, spelling G O R N E A U also present at this interview.

MG: It's G O U R

WM: Excuse me. We – our documents don't show that, I've been corrected on the spelling of Caleb's last name it's actually G O U R N E A U. Also present at this conversation besides Caleb and I, is Mike Wellenstein and Tammy Plubell from the Attorney General's Office and Caleb's mother Mary. Caleb would you say, or give me your date of birth please?

CG: 6/5/62

WM: And your soc?

CG: [REDACTED]

WM: Caleb the reason for this meeting with you, first of all are you here with – on your own free will? Have you been threatened or, or ah, promised anything to be here?

CG: No, I haven't I was just um telephoned yesterday and by Rich McDonald and he said there are some gentlemen and a lady that would like to visit with me about the Barry Beach case.

WM: And you agreed to do it.

CG: And, and I, I agreed I said well I'll be in tomorrow at 11 on the 22nd.

WM: Okay. Um, and when the Barry Beach case phrase was used, do you understand ah, what we're talking about when we say the Barry Beach Case?

CG: Well, not so much, ah, it's been quite some time and I'd have to look up my statements ah, to even think about things ah, during the course of time it's - I've had major car accident, head injury, ah, drug you know courts and I can't remember too much.

WM: Okay. That's all right, now, and we, we can talk about all of that but as far as today goes, are you sober today?

CG: Yes, I am.

WM: Okay, you're not under the influence of alcohol?

CG: No, I'm not.

WM: Are you under the influence of any ah, illegal drugs?

CG: Not illegal drugs, medication.

WM: Medicated?

CG: Yes.

WM: Ah, from a doctor?

CG: Yes.

WM: Prescription?

CG: Yes.

WM: Okay, and are they effecting your judgment in any way today?

CG: Ah, I, I don't believe so.

WM: Okay. Ah, if, as we're going along here, if you don't understand the question or whatever ah, ask me to repeat it, we'll talk about it, this is your statement Caleb, not mine, not anybody else's, it's yours so if, if somebody says something incorrect, or it's not quite right, you correct me. Okay?

CG: Okay.

WM: Again, it's your statement, nobody else's.

CG: Is this my second statement?

WM: Well I think it's that because we have records that where you talked to law enforcement officers in 1979 and, and you talked to an FBI Agent in 1979 about or where you were on that night and, and what you seen and heard and, and also we have a ...

CG: Is he the guy that gave me the lie detector test too?

WM: I don't know, but the important thing is that you gave statements on or about a day or two after Kim Nees was found murdered. Do you remember ah, law enforcement officers or the FBI coming up and talking to you about where you were and what you seen or heard?

CG: I recollect it yes.

WM: Okay. Well, when did you first learn of Kim Nees being killed?

CG: The next day.

WM: Okay, and how, do you recall how you heard that?

CG: Well I was - we got a telephone call, ah, it must have been that morning or something to that effect and that's where I learned from it.

WM: Okay.

CG: I was at home.

WM: All right, and the night before, that that actually would have occurred on a Friday night or early Saturday morning, and that would have been June 15th, 1979 in the late evening hours or possibly in the early morning hours of June 16th, 1979. And do you remember what time you got home Friday night before you heard that she was killed?

CG: Well, the best that I remember right now is I was swimming up north on Sandy Beach, we got stuck, Barry left, I don't know where he went or what he done cause I haven't seen him till the next day and what happened next is me and Shannon O'Brian walked back home. I walked all the way to her house and then from there I walked over to TJ's, I got a ride from Barry Buckles and Noland Birthmark and they took me home, I walked in the house about 11, 11:30 and that's when me and my mother heard them noises across the highway, our dog was barking and we went out and checked it out and went back in the house. *not true*

WM: Okay and you told law enforcement about being out at Sandy Beach with Barry Beach,

CG: Yes

WM: Right? And Barry Beach getting stuck in the – burning the tranny out of his car and then he headed on to town and a couple of you stayed there by the car, didn't you?

CG: Just me and my girlfriend.

WM: Right. That's what I meant. Beach leaves, and this is – what time of day is that?

CG: It's about 6 - 7 maybe.

WM: Okay, in any event Beach leaves and walks towards town, right?

CG: Yes.

WM: And he never comes back.

CG: Never does. I never seen him till the next day.

WM: So you guys got tired of waiting of waiting and headed to town yourself.

CG: Yeah.

WM: Okay. And then between that time, and getting home, where were you and what did you do? Do you remember?

CG: Well, we walked barefooted, didn't have no shoes, just only trunks on, and I was cold. Um, got to Shannon's mom, grandma's house, across from the old Ford garage and kissed her good night, walked down cause I had to get home because we had a curfew. We had a curfew that – we always had a curfew. Um, then got a ride from Barry, Barry Buckles, and Nolan, gave me a ride home.

*Nolan with
Wend
smooth*

WM: Okay.

CG: And on the way home, on the way home, we seen Kim Nees at Exxon, parked at Exxon. So we just, we didn't think nothing of it, just – they gave me a ride home after that.

WM: And when you say Kim Nees parked at the Exxon, did you know Kim Nees?

CG: Not really.

WM: But you knew of her, or enough to recognize her?

CG: Yup.

WM: And what was she, what kind of vehicle was she in?

CG: She was in her green pickup.

WM: Okay. And was anybody with her that you seen?

CG: No.

WM: Okay, what time would that have been?

CG: Gees ah, maybe about 10:30, about 10:30 around there, a quarter to 11.

WM: Okay, all right. And you said that these other people gave you a lift home, and where was home at the time? Where were you living?

CG: I was one mile west of Poplar.

WM: Okay. And is it – when you say one mile west of Poplar, is it on the north or the south side of the Highway 2?

CG: On the south side of Highway 2.

WM: And how far from the Highway?

CG: About 50 feet.

WM: 50 feet to the south of the Highway but about a mile from the, from Poplar.

CG: Yes.

WM: Okay. Then when you got home, was somebody waiting up for you?

CG: My mother and my brother. Ah, my sister Gwen was sleeping cause it was her birthday, the 15th, we had like a little picnic that day on the 15th.

WM: Okay. Then you mentioned earlier that a little while later or, or whenever the dog starts barking and raising heck, right?

CG: Yes.

WM: And how long after you got home was that?

CG: I don't know, my mother was kind of – she was the one that heard them. You know that's why I brung her today to – if you wanted to ask her side.

WM: Okay, and we'll, we'll sure get to that but in any event at some point, the dog starts barking, right and raising cane?

CG: Yes, they were black lab yes.

WM: And what kind of actions were the dog or was the dog taking?

CG: He was kind of like defending ah, kind of like charging, backing up, charging, backing up, towards the highway.

WM: And so he was, would it be true to say then that he was charging from like the front of the house north towards the highway and dodging out there and dodging back?

CG: Yes.

WM: And did that 'cause you guys to go outside?

CG: Yeah.

WM: And when you got outside, you seen him doing these things, right?

CG: Yeah.

WM: Did you hear anything?

CG: I didn't hear nothing.

WM: Okay. You didn't know what the reason was, why he was barking and carrying on?

CG: No, usually there's raccoons, ah, raccoons and skunks and stuff that used to come through there cause it's kind of ah, there wasn't that many people around.

WM: Right, it's, it's kind of away from houses, but people lived across Highway 2 to the north of you, didn't they?

CG: Yes.

WM: And could you hear anything coming from that area?

CG: Nope.

WM: Okay. Mary, let me ask you, do you recall this occurring, this chain of events with the dog charging back and forth towards the highway?

MG: Yes, I do.

WM: Okay, when you went out, do you recall hearing anything?

MG: It was like not really screaming but kind of a loudness like ah, you know like ...

WM: Voices?

MG: Yeah.

WM: But ah, kind of muffled or something?

MG: Ah, I, I ah, it's hard to explain, it's like ah, everybody talking at one time, like a group of disagreement – everybody talking at one time.

WM: And where was –

MG: It wasn't escalated like you know screaming or anything,

WM: Like a fight?

MG: No.

WM: It was just like a loud discussion or something going on?

MG: Mmm mm (affirmative) But see the people that lived across ah, the Red Eagles, they had, you know they were kind of like a drinking family and then Nelson's lived over here and there was just one child in that family and the mother and so we just went back in the house and thought maybe they were having a party over there at Red Eagles or somebody having a party but the dog acted really aggressive.

WM: And was that unusual?

MG: I was unusual for me to see the dog act like that.

WM: And the dog is charging back and forth then but the, the noises that you heard were they to the north of Highway 2?

MG: Yes, to the north, right, right across, straight across from our approaches was in that area.

WM: Okay.

MG: And so I just thought maybe Red Eagles you know they – I just thought maybe it was a party and we went in. And as we were going in the door, I looked at the TV

because they TV was on the north side of the wall the house and the mid-night special was coming on.

WM: And ...

MG: That's how I knew the time.

WM: And because the midnight special was coming it came on at mid-night.

MG: Yeah.

WM: So that tied in the time of the dog.

MG: The noise and stuff and the dog.

WM: Okay.

MG: And that's the only, only way I could I ah, you know I remembered it.

WM: Good. Now Caleb, we have your trial transcript and stuff where you, you testified to these events at trial and ah, we have some other materials, but the, the next material that we have regards after the trial when people talked about seeing and hearing things and your name comes up. Ah, it's also important for us, let me step back just a minute, it's also important for us to talk about – you heard about the, the murder of Kim Nees the next morning from a phone call of someone right?

CG: Yeah.

WM: Um, what did you do in response to that? Anything?

CG: Told my family.

WM: Excuse me?

CG: Told my family.

WM: Okay, um, did you go down ...

CG: I mean I didn't get the phone call.

WM: Oh, oh ...

CG: One of the kids or ah, at the house did.

WM: Okay. So after learning about the homicide then did you go down to where the homicide occurred or did you go see anything down there or anything like that?

CG: Drove on the highway.

WM: Did you turn off on to the dirt road there going down by the river at all?

CG: No.

WM: Or did you stay on the highway?

CG: Stayed on the highway.

WM: And were there other people stopped and looking down that way towards the river?

CG: Yup. It was kind of like a, you know a big thing.

WM: Well, certainly it is. Did you ah, did you ever within the next few days walk down there by the river?

CG: Um, no. Ah, maybe a few months later.

WM: Okay.

CG: Because I'd always take my dog swimming.

WM: Okay.

CG: In a hole up off the creek, that's where everybody went swimming.

WM: Okay. Do you remember anything about a necklace or a broken necklace?

CG: Yes, I found one, yes I found a broken necklace in, in the sand on the bank towards the, towards the dike, when I was throwing sticks to my dog.

WM: Okay, when was that do you reckon?

CG: Gee

WM: Fall? Okay and ...

CG: Around hunting season.

He's changed his story so many times, he is probably lying about finding necklace

WM: And do you know, do you know where her pickup had been parked or where her body was found?

CG: Nope, I don't know nothing about that.

WM: Okay, in relationship to the bridge then, did you find this necklace upstream or downstream?

CG: I don't know, I just – I found it was in 10 you know 10 acres, I mean it's been so long ago I, I don't know.

WM: Was anybody with you?

CG: Ah, nope.

WM: Okay, what did you do with it?

CG: I turned it over, first I took it home, and showed my mom and she said you should go turn it in. So I took it and gave it to Stevie Grey Hawk.

WM: And who was Stevie Grey Hawk?

CG: He was ah, ah, police chief or something.

WM: Local law enforcement officer?

CG: Yeah.

WM: Okay.

CG: And he said, "Don't worry about it." And I said, "All right."

WM: Okay and that was much later?

CG: Yup

WM: After the, after the homicide?

CG: Yup.

WM: Can you, can you remember even close to where it was, was it, was it south of highway 2 along the river?

CG: Well, the boat dock is right there where ...

WM: Yes, yes I know where they are,

CG: The bridge is right there, it must have been from, from, the from the docks the cement, the cement slab there right in here.

WM: Okay. And where would the railroad trestle be from you?

CG: About let's see, a quarter mile.

WM: Down stream?

CG: Yeah,

WM: Okay.

CG: Maybe further.

WM: Okay. Did you find it closer to the boat docks than to the trestle?

CG: Yeah, next to that cement pad.

WM: Yeah, the launching pad?

CG: Yup.

WM: So it was closer to the ...

CG: Launching pad

WM: ...launching pad. And what did that look like?

CG: I can't even remember.

WM: Was it just a necklace or did it have anything on it or do you know?

CG: There was just a, like a, like a it was just a necklace. You know at that time you know necklaces mean, you know mean a lot of stuff to people.

WM: Yeah.

CG: I mean to Indian people, to us it does too you know and ...

WM: Sure

CG: ... I showed it to my mom and she said, "Gee, maybe that might be, you know her's." So I went and took it up to Steve Grey Hawk and I gave it to him.

WM: Mary, do you remember this?

MG: Yeah, it was you know like a standard size but it has to – it was some kind of pendant like. But I didn't really look at it.

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: The shape of the pendant?

MG: Yeah, it was you know I'd say about the size of my, you know.

WM: Maybe a ½ inch in diameter?

MG: Yeah, it was kind of like a petite type thing.

WM: Okay, but was it a round, the pendant?

MG: No, it was kind of like, you know kind of jagged like.

WM: Jagged around the edges?

MG: 'Cause I really didn't look at it, I, I just knew it was like a pendant on this chain.

WM: Okay and did the pendant run up and down the chain or loose on the chain or was it solid pendant?

MG: Well, when you hold it like this, ah, 'cause I really didn't pick it up and look at it, I just told him you take it.

WM: Sure, okay.

MG: And see those bridges like the kids used to take the dogs down there. And he, Caleb more so than the rest of them cause he always hunted and fished and so like those bridges, they make the difference cause when they take the dog, sometimes they let him jump from the bridge and they'd run, run down the creek with him.

WM: Mmm mm (affirmative)

MG: And everybody in Poplar knew we took our dog down there.

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: How old were you about that time do you remember Caleb?

CG: Sixteen.

WM: Okay. So ...

CG: Cause my birthday was June 5th.

WM: Okay, um then did you ever go, and there's reasons why I ask you this because there's, there's a couple of people who say that you know you were down by the river at a certain time. Do you remember ever walking down by the river and finding another necklace?

CG: That was, that was ...

WM: Or a necklace?

CG: ... the only one.

WM: Okay. Do you ever remember being in a the car with a couple people, well you knew Barry Beach, right?

CG: Yes.

WM: And did you run with him a little bit?

CG: Not really, I you know everybody was friends back then.

WM: Okay. Well, do you remember being with Barry Beach in a car after this homicide, did you still maintain a friendship with him where you were driving around with him?

CG: Oh, yeah, he come down to the house.

WM: And do you remember ever during the presence of Barry Beach in a car somebody giving you a necklace?

CG: Nope, nobody's never did.

WM: Do you remember being in a car with Barry Beach when somebody gave you a key chain?

CG: Nope. I never was, I never was in a vehicle with Barry Beach after Kim's murder, he came down to the house. He was visiting us and my mom.

WM: But you never had occasion to drive around with him?

CG: I don't think I did.

WM: Okay.

CG: Because that was – I seen him the next day and I just said, “Where, where were you?” You know and ...

WM: Meaning – when you asked him where he was it’s because he never came back and picked you up.

CG: Never came, yeah, never ah, I didn’t know where he was at.

WM: Okay, well what did he say?

CG: Oh, he said he went somewhere it’s been so long, I, I really don’t know.

TP: Okay.

CG: But I just thought you know I just I was kind of upset then I went home. Then he came down later, he was visiting me and my mom.

WM: Okay, but apparently and you correct me if I’m wrong, but from what you’re saying, apparently you guys weren’t good enough friends to where you loaded up in his vehicle and cruised around in the evening or anything like that or did, or did that happen later on after the homicide? Were you ever in a vehicle with him cruising?

CG: You know what, I don’t think I ever was.

WM: Okay, that’s – whatever you remember. Then let me continue on with this. If somebody said you were in a vehicle with Barry Beach and another person, there was three of you in the vehicle and this other person supposedly gave you a necklace, do you recall that happening?

CG: I’d say bullshit.

WM: Then somebody also, that third person, not Barry Beach, that third person in the vehicle giving you a key chain. Do you remember that?

CG: No, I’d say bullshit.

WM: Then do you remember talking with somebody that at that – supposedly at the same time, that this person in the vehicle, the third person again had hair missing from their head and there was a comment by somebody ‘how did you get that hair pulled out of your head?’ Do you remember being in the car with somebody that had missing part of scalp and head hair?

CG: Nope, never was.

WM: Okay.

CG: I don't know where you're coming up with all these stories.

WM: Well, there's a reason I ask because other people, there's another person that said that and we don't have any other reason to believe that, we know who the third person was in the car, that was also named besides you and Beach. And we've talked to that person, and its the same answers.

TP: Yeah, they

WM: No, never happened. So somebody's making something up.

CG: Yeah, that's what I mean about people, people ah, slandering your name, slandering – see that's what happened to me, and, and you know that's why I stick by myself, I stick with my family. And, and I ain't got no friends, you know I – there, there just people you got to deal with in this place, in this town. You got political you got all kinds of things. And I was raised, I was born and raised a Catholic, I was an alter boy, I did good in school, I did my best, ah, took my dad when he was ready to pass away, I drove him up to the hospital, carried him in there, and he told me, he said, "Be a good kid and go to school. Do what you can in this life and be honest." And that's what I've been.

WM: That's good advice.

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

CG: You know as long as last time with um, with the last case, and the, and they twisted and turned it and everything else and, and I got sent away. I got taken away from my family and everything.

WM: You said you were an alter boy – at what church?

CG: Catholic church.

WM: Who was the Father?

CG: Pete.

WM: Did you know Father Jim?

CG: Ah, a little bit, I really, I really, bonded with Father Pete.

WM: Um, who were some of the other alter boys when you were?

CG: Oh, Barry Buckles, um, Sonny Buckles, we lived right behind 'em. Um, Mike Lineand,

MG: Your brother Greg.

CG: Yeah, my brother Greg, my, my other brother he's in Catholic school and my sister is in Catholic school ah,

WM: Do you know Carl Four Star?

CG: Yes, I do.

WM: Is he quite a bit younger than you or is he about the same age?

CG: Oh, Carl Junior. or Carl Senior?

WM: Junior.

CG: Not too much, I know the old man.

WM: Okay, ah, were you an alter boy at the same time Carl Four Star was?

CG: I don't know, I was in Poplar.

WM: Oh, oh, okay, okay, all right. That could be the difference, he was, he was here, Father Jim was here.

CG: In Wolf Point.

WM: In Wolf Point, yeah.

MG: We lived in Poplar since '68.

WM: Okay.

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative) sorry.

WM: Sorry. Okay, well let me re-read something here so I can ask a question, I'm referring to some, some other statements by a person. Um, a question comes to mind, did – let me ask you some pointed questions. Were you down by the river that night in the area of where Kim Nees got killed?

CG: No, I wasn't.

WM: Were you in the area of her pickup that night that she got killed down by the river?

CG: No, I wasn't.

WM: Did you – have you ever touched Kim Nees's pickup?

CG: No, I have never.

WM: Did you ever see Kim Nees get beat up or hit with anything?

CG: No, I never.

WM: Did anybody ever offer you money or other compensation like ah, being able to live in a house rent free to keep your mouth shut about the Kim Nees homicide?

CG: Never.

WM: Do you know who killed Kim Nees?

CG: No, I don't.

WM: Does anybody have any questions, Mary?

MG: No, I don't.

WM: Do you have anything that you want to talk about Caleb that we haven't touched upon?

CG: Well, not really, you know, it's the, the way I was brought up was like my mother said, if you, if you did something admit to it. You know you, you – because you got to clear your conscience because in the next world you got to take care of it there. And I go to church, I take my daughter to church you know I'm a devout Catholic and I believe everything in this world needs to be straightened out for the better of people.

WM: Has, has anybody from Centurion Ministries ever contacted you?

CG: Ah, them guys, they stick things in your mouth.

WM: Well, so apparently they have contacted you.

CG: Ah, I – when he tried to accuse me of this, I just shut the door, I don't want nothing to do them, I said, "I just don't need to deal with you. I got my other issues that I'm dealing with right now and, and I don't care what you promise me um, my – I don't know anything." Just what I stated to you sir is the actually truth as God hears me in heaven.

WM: And did they come to you or try to find you even after you told them that's all I have to say good-bye?

CG: Yes, they, they, they attacked me in prison, they attacked me at my home, at my mother's, um, um, accused me of things, um, and, and it ain't true.

*I want
him a letter*

WM: Did you feel like they were harassing you?

CG: I feel like if there's a law for slander, I'd be the first one standing up trying to sign, sign one.

WM: Um, did they offend you?

CG: Yes, they have.

WM: Has that effected you – the, the, the rumors and bologna that's been going on and said about certain people?

CG: Sir, it, it effects my life, it effects my um, ability in the community but I overcome stuff like that because I'm a better person, I ain't got nothing in my ski – my closet. I ain't got no skeletons. I fight with our tribes to clean our homes up for meth, and whatever they want to ah, try and throw at me, let's get it on. I'm ready for 'em.

WM: Okay. Mary, let me ask you. Has that bothered you as well the way Centurion Ministries?

MG: It, it has bothered me but I know one thing is I didn't have to talk to 'em, neither one of us have to talk to them. And if it was such, such a reality and such a validity to it, I'm sure that we would all be sitting here, but it was like 'come in and go out and could I speak to you – no you can't speak to me.' I wasn't there.

WM: Yeah, but apparently they kept coming back and, and ...

MG: Yeah.

WM: ... and bothering you and bugging you and trying to get you to talk about something and they

MG: And I didn't have to talk with them.

WM: Well, basically you didn't know anything so

MG: Yeah, I wasn't there, that's what I told them.

CG: See the ah, Native Americans you know we, we ask you to come in, sit down at our table, some, something to drink and ah, we did that with them.

MG: Hospitality.

CG: Yeah. But when they start attacking you right after that you know that's – I learned if you ain't got a warrant or anything then don't talk to me. I learned that.

WM: Well, and, and that's okay Caleb, and but that's not unique to Native Americans either and I, I know culturally where you're coming from with that, welcoming a guest into your home, but then when they start getting accusatory, or trying to put words in your mouth, that welcome might change a little bit, right?

MG: It did.

WM: Okay. the time now is approximately 1140 hours. This will complete the conversation with Caleb and Mary Gourneau.