

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INTERVIEW

State V Beach

Rhea Red Dog

March 20, 2007

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CASE NO. State V Beach
DATE: March 20, 2007
TIME: 1:25 p.m.
LOCATION: Transitional Living Center Poplar Montana
AGENT: Agent Ward McKay
PRESENT: Agent Ward McKay (WM), Tammy Plubell (TP), Mike Wellenstein (MW), Deputy Sheriff Richie McDonald (RD), Rhea Red Dog (RR), Tammy Plubell (TP), Mike Wellenstein (MW)
INTERVIEWEE: Rhea Red Dog

WM: This is Agent Ward J. McKay of the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation. The purpose of this recording is to document a conversation with Rhea Red Dog. The date is March 20, 2007, the time now is approximately 1325 hours, we are located in Poplar Montana at the Transitional Living Center. Ah, it just so happens that this is the place of employment for Rhea Red Dog, ah, we obtained a conference room here ah, for the purposes of the meetings of various people and Rhea was nice enough and available to take some time out of her work day to meet with us. Also present in the room is Tammy Plubell and Mike Wellenstein who are Assistant Attorney Generals for the Montana Department of Justice Attorney General's Office, and Deputy Sheriff Richie McDonald from Roosevelt County. Rhea, would you state your complete name please?

RR: Ah, Rhea Lynn Red Dog Star, my married name.

WM: Okay. And can I call you Rhea?

RR: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: Rhea, what is your date of birth please?

RR: 11/19/56.

WM: And your Social Security?

RR: 

WM: And what is your place of residence Rhea?

RR: Ah, Poplar.

WM: Okay. And we already know that you're employed at the Transition Center here.

RR: Yeah.

WM: Thank you for dropping by. Have we ever met before today?

RR: I don't think so.

WM: Okay. Um, and prior to, to ah, going on tape here, have we ever talked before to your knowledge?

RR: I don't think so.

WM: Okay. I don't think we have either. Um, the, the purpose of this, ah, meeting is to give you an opportunity to tell about what you know, if anything of the Kim Nees homicide in 1979 here in the Poplar area and possibly what you may know about Barry Beach or ah, the, the whole surrounding couple of days regarding the homicide of Kim Nees.

RR: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: Ah, have you been interviewed by any other law enforcement officers regarding this matter?

RR: No.

WM: Have you been approached by representatives of the Centurion Ministries?

RR: Um, twice.

WM: Do you recall on approximately what dates?

RR: Um, I know they came and seen me here, so I was working here and it had to be — I think it must have been in the summer time or somewhere. It was nice out anyway. And then they came again to my home.

WM: Okay

RR: And that was the second time.

WM: And ...

RR: And the last.

WM: How long ago was this?

RR: Um probably, maybe a year later after they seen me here or maybe a little later than that it might have been a little longer than a year later.

WM: Okay. Are we talking ah, within the past few months or years or are we talking five - six years ago?

RR: No, the only time they came and seen me I was still working here and then I quit here in 2003, so it had to be

WM: Prior to 2003.

RR: It had to be, it had to be. 'Cause I, I resigned in March of 2003 here.

WM: Okay. Um, I'm looking at a document that was produced by Centurion Ministries here and they talk about an interview date with you of May 13th of '01 – May 13th 2001, is that a possibility?

RR: Yeah...

WM: And was that the first time?

RR: That was, yeah, that was the first time.

WM: And then you say after that they talked to you again at your home?

RR: Ah, yeah, they came to the door.

WM: How long after that date?

RR: Gee, I really couldn't tell – probably maybe a year, maybe a little longer.

WM: Okay.

RR: Maybe 2000, late 2002.

WM: All right. Was it the same people that came to see you?

RR: Ah, no it was the same organization cause they, they identified themselves at the door.

WM: But it was ...

RR: But I don't know if it was the same person.

WM: Okay. Do you recall any of their names like in the first interview?

RR: No, I didn't pay too much attention, they, they – the first time I sat down and listened to them the first interview, I sat down and listened to them. We talked maybe 10 - 15 minutes maybe.

WM: Okay.

RR: Not very long.

WM: All right. Um, the homicide of Kim Nees took place in the late evening hours of June 15th, 1979 or the early morning hours of the 16th. We're talking late evening of a Friday night or early morning Saturday ah, in 1979 June.

RR: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: Do you recall where you were on the 15th or the 16th of June in 1979?

RR: Um, I – what I remember of that was early Saturday morning and we seen a bunch of cars cruising up and down on the highway and then my friend, he lived right off the – right off the highway, he had a trailer house there and ah, we rode down town, rode around for a while then we seen all the traffic and this is maybe a few minutes, we cruised down that way and I – and we asked one of the cops that were there what was going on and then he said that they had found somebody dead over there and ...

WM: Okay, when you say on the highway are you talking Highway 2?

RR: Highway 2 yeah.

WM: And west of town?

RR: Yeah.

WM: Okay

RR: We were going down the hill by the, by the, by the high school, by the ah, football field.

WM: Okay. And ah, you seen cars parked there and they were ...

RR: Yeah

WM: And then you talked to an officer and he said there'd been a – there is a body found?

RR: Yeah, they said they found somebody dead.

WM: Okay. Did you see any – where was the, where was the scene at the, the, scene where they found the body, do you know?

RR: Well, we seen ah, we seen ah the cop cars and stuff down by the train bridge, towards that way, we seen a few cop cars down there.

WM: Down by the river?

RR: Yeah

WM: Towards the train bridge?

RR: Towards the train bridge, yeah.

WM: Okay.

RR: And who – he said nobody can go down there and so we went down and there's, there's a road that parallels the road that's going toward the dock so we just turned in front of the trees and went back up on the highway and then we came back.

WM: So you didn't drive down in there by the river and the other cop cars.

RR: No, there's, there's a first approach by the, the, the football field, and then there's another approach then the docks are over here by the river that goes this way. And they were down here by the train bridge. Well we took that road, he was parked right here to make sure nobody goes down there so we asked him what was going on and he told us so then we just pulled along that way and popped up on the other side and came back on the highway.

WM: Rhea, how old were you in 1979?

RR: Oh, gosh, I'm 50 now so.

WM: Well, you were born in '56

RR: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: So '79 you were about 17 - 18 years old probably.

RR: Oh, probably, oh, let me see, no cause my girl was born in yeah, my girl was born in '74, I was ...

WM: Oh, excuse me, my addition is off too.

RR: ... probably 18 yeah.

WM: Rhea, I was, I was wrong I miscalculated, I'm sorry. Ah, 1956 to 1979 is more like 23 or 4. Does that sound better?

RR: Yeah, Yup that's more yeah, that's more like it yeah.

WM: So, when, when you left home that morning, did you have any idea that there'd been a body had been found?

RR: No I had um, I had spent the night at my friend's house that night.

WM: Okay. And you – did you – did you – when did you first find out that there was a body found, when you talked to the cop?

RR: Yeah.

WM: That was stopped there?

RR: Yeah.

WM: So you're just driving around, see the cars parked and stopped and wondered what the commotion was.

RR: Yes, we were just wondering what was going on.

WM: Okay. And when you say we, who was that?

RR: That was ah, Louie Jack. Ah, Louie Youpee.

WM: Okay, and that's Youpee?

RR: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: Okay. So basically you just drove up on this.

RR: Ah, yes,

WM: The cars stopped and stuff and then once you found out you, you made a turnaround and where did you go then?

RR: I think we just continued riding around and then probably went back over to his house.

WM: Okay, and was Louie the only person in the vehicle?

RR: Ah, yeah, yeah with me.

WM: With you?

RR: With me yeah.

WM: Okay and what vehicle were you in?

RR: I think at that time I think he had a canary yellow Chevy pickup. Do you remember that pickup?

RM: I wasn't an officer then, I, I had left to go to school.

RR: Oh,

WM: Did you later learn whose body they found?

RR: Ah, yeah just ah, um, not right away but later on I heard who it was I mean I was I went to school with the girl and everything but I was never I was I never had any kind of um I was never, I was acquainted with her in school only.

WM: Okay

RR: Other than that when I left school I, I, I dropped out when I was um, 16 and um, I had my girl, my first baby when I was 17 so I didn't have much to do with my school friends other than my close school friends you know and they were just Indians ah, she was white and then she had I didn't have much to do with the white people.

WM: She had different friends then you did.

RR: Yeah, I, I don't even, yeah she did because I didn't have ...

WM: She was younger than you as well, wasn't she?

RR: Must have been, I don't know. I, I - the only - her mother was the secretary at the high school that was about the closest association that I had probably with the family.

WM: Okay, um, do you remember - did you ever make a comment that Sissy Atkinson might have been involved in the homicide?

RR: No.

WM: Do you have any reason to believe that Sissy was involved in it?

RR: No, I don't have - I don't think so.

WM: Do you have ...

RR: I, I was told that I, I had said that you know and I told them no, they, they who ever is saying that is ah is lying I think that's a bunch of bull I never ever made that statement.

WM: Okay and that that's why I asked is because ah, people from the Centurion Ministries alleged that you said something like that. It's - and did they ...

RR: It's wrong.

WM: And did they, did they ask you that or is it something you said? You responded ...

RR: No,

WM: ... to their question?

RR: What they said was - he said, she said, you said this, this you know and I said, they said I told Dale, Dale Smith, apparently I told Dale Smith ah, I said this. And Dale Smith told this to ah, ah, ah, Joe Youpee. Okay, and Joe Youpee was the one that was supposed to have told them. And so then um, then I asked her and ah, I don't even, I don't even go around these people, why would I say anything to them? I have ah - I don't have any associate association with them. Other than ah, Dale having an association with um, my boy's dad, I, I never did talk to Dale, even when he was out before, before he even went to prison I never hung around him or anything I never.

WM: Okay, so Dale eventually makes it to prison.

RR: Yeah, and how they got this information from him, I don't know because I never ever talked to Dale.

WM: Okay, and is Joe related to Louie?

RR: Yeah. They're first cousins.

WM: Okay. Had you ever talked with Joe about it?

RR: Joe was in prison at that time.

WM: As well.

RR: Yeah.

WM: Okay.

TP: Is this at the time of the homicide? Is it that time or?

RR: Um, I'm pretty sure he was. I think they got him for I think – I don't know what they got them for, but I know they was in and out of prison, he wasn't never, and Dale got sent up at the same time as ah, ah, those other two that were in that ah, homicide with ah, Allen Joe Heard and that was in 197 ah, I think that their homicides happened in '76 or early part of '77 but they got, they got thrown in prison then in '77 they went to court. That's when um, Terry and ah, Butch Birthmark and Dale Smith, they all were busted for that murder and then they got sent up but I never even, I never even ah, talked to him I mean even when he was at the same time – same – if he was ever at the same party I was ever at, I never even, I never even talked to him, he always um, struck me as a very strange person and I just never really – he was never somebody I would talk to, I mean I would say hello, I'd be civil and you know and ...

WM: So ...

RR: But I had my people I hung with and, but I would never...

WM: So if Dale and Lou – ah, Dale and Joe are talking about these things, they ...

RR: I asked 'em.

WM: They're making 'em up apparently.

RR: Well yeah, if they, if they had said it you know. But I asked Joe, I said, I said, "Hey," I said, we were at ah, at Tribal Express and we were just going by and ah, and I said, "Hey, Joe," I said I hear these people come to my work, I said, "And said that you said that Dale told you that I said this and," I said, I said, "I never ever said anything like that." And he said, "That's a bunch of bull Rhea, he said, "I never told those people nothing." He said, "They're lying." He said I ran them off, he said. When they came to my house, he said, I heard that they, they were saying that I said this about you and he said, and I told them they're lying, he said, I never said that. And I said, "Well, it is a lie," I said, cause I never did ever talk to Dale Smith.

WM: Well now did you, did you know Alex Trottier?

RR: Yeah, I know Alex.

WM: Did, ah, did you know anything about his relationship with Sissy?

RR: Um ah, they had a relationship; yeah they, they have a girl together.

WM: Yeah. And of course you knew Sissy.

RR: Oh, yeah, yeah.

WM: And hung with her at times.

RR: Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

WM: Um, did you have any reason to believe or did you know that ah, Alex also hung out with Kim Nees?

RR: I don't know who all Alex hung out with, you know he was a Soggy eye he's half Indian, half white, so he hung out with both people, you know he hung out with the Indians – hung out with the whites, you know so ...

WM: Whoever he was with at the time apparently.

RR: Yeah. So and so I didn't know ...

WM: Did you know of that – was – did you have any independent knowledge?

RR: That he was – that he was involved with her or something?

WM: In any way?

RR: No, I never knew anything. Like I said, you know I knew of Alex and then ah, and I knew of his relationship with Sissy but again you know he's not the kind of person that I, that I ever hung around with, you know. I mean it's somebody I would, I would be civil to and whatnot and but it's not – I never sought out his company or rode around with him you know you'd have to be pretty close to somebody to cruise around town with them you know and I never ever rode around with him.

WM: Did Sissy ever tell you that she was jealous of Alex being with Kim?

RR: No. Huh uh (negative) no. I I've – there was, there was a group of us girls we would always hang together and if somebody was jealous of somebody, I mean it was pretty well known.

WM: Yeah

RR: You know ...

WM: So if if that happened, do you think you'd have heard it from Sissy that she was jealous?

RR: Oh, yeah, oh yeah. I would have heard.

WM: Yeah. What about ah, what about Kara yeah, I know she's quite younger than you, like by ten years or so.

RR: Mmm mm (affirmative) yeah, 10 she was exactly 10 years younger than me.

WM: Really.

RR: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: Was she running with you guys at the same time?

RR: No. She was too young.

WM: Well, there's a reason I asked, Rhea, is because they imply that. Meaning Centurion Ministries

RR: It's (unintelligible) they said, you know and, and that's their theory, she said, he said, you said, you know I mean, all that and you know and, and I was 24. She was 14 years old. You know it's just, she was just too young, she was still at home.

WM: Do you know Maude Red Hawk? Or excuse me

RR: Maude Grey Hawk.

WM: Grey Hawk.

RR: Yeah, I know Maude.

WM: Okay, did you hang out with her too, was she part of your?

RR: No, Huh uh (negative) she again she was, she was, she was too young for me to hang out. I was always um, I was basically tried to stay on the right side of the law so if they were young, ah, I, I wouldn't hang around them. And if they, ah, if there was jail bait at a party or something then I would leave or I would tell whoever was having a party, 'hey that's jail bait you know.' Um, if you want me to stay, I ain't gonna, I ain't gonna stay unless you get rid of them. You know either tell them to leave or ah, because ...

WM: They'd get you in trouble.

RR: They'd get us in trouble. You know and so that's basically what it was, if they were, if they were closer to Maude than they were of me and then, then I would just leave.

WM: What about Connie and Jordis Ferguson?

RR: Again, they were, they Maude's age and they were that, they were just too young, I never hung around those girls, I never.

WM: Did they, did they run around with ah, with Sissy and or to your knowledge or?

RR: No, not really hung around – they were associate of they, she knew 'em, she was friends with them and – but I've never known her to, to hang around with them you know. And when we got together we'd go to the bar and that was ah, and play pool and, and hang around and just, just us girls you know but those girls were never ever involved you know because it was just, it was just us, you know and when it was just us you know then bringing somebody else in would be you know, I mean we'd say, now what are they doing here you know and ah, because they were too young you know we didn't want to hang around the young kids you know and just trouble.

WM: Yeah. When we talked about Sissy, they make a quote here and I'd like to read it to you and see if you agree with this. Sissy would get mad at the oddest things, like the way someone looked at her, the way they acted, or they talked. Is that true? Would Sissy twist off at small things like that?

RR: To the point of where she would mouth off to them, or say something to them but not to the point where ah, where she would react physically if that's what they're, if that's what they are aiming at, that's not what, you know if she would, she would – if they gave her a mean look or something yeah, she'd tell 'em you know, "What are you looking at me for?" You know I mean just about what anybody else would do you know I mean all of us girls had pretty much the same demeanor you know and say, "What are you looking at me for?" you know. How come you're staring at me, you know what did I do to you, you know and you know. It was the same thing you know but not to the point where you would react physically you know you're -

WM: Did – did any of these girls, like Sissy or Maude, or anybody else ever tell you that they were involved in any way in the Kim Nees homicide?

RR: No, ah, one time ah, I was over at Sissy's and she told me she said ah, she said, "Rhea," she said, "we just got a call from Maude." Or she just got a call from Maude, and she said, she said that she had a bracelet or a necklace or something of ah Kim's and I can't remember if she said she found it by the river, or how she became, how she – it got into her possession. But Sissy immediately told her brother Robert – Bobby he was the police officer then. So he told Sissy, you tell her to stay right where she's at right now and I'm going to go over there and I'm going to talk to her. So that's what Sissy told her. And I must have just dropped in when she just hung up, because that's what she had told me right then.

WM: Okay, other than Maude getting possession or, or finding this necklace, do you have any reason to believe that any of these girls are involved in the homicide of Kim Nees?

RR: I really can't say, like I said you know Maude and, and these other girls ah, they were, they weren't the kind of people I hung around with. You know and I can't say what kind of person they are you know if they would react that way or ah, or wouldn't. You know I can't say one way or another.

WM: But do you have any independent knowledge that they were involved?

RR: No, I don't.

WM: Okay

RR: I don't.

WM: Have you ever heard from anybody's lips that they were involved?

RR: You know there's so much gossip around here you know I don't.

WM: Anybody you trust though?

RR: No, nobody I trust, no, just gossip.

WM: Do you recall what you were doing the night of that homicide?

RR: Probably ...

WM: Friday night?

RR: Probably down town drinking and playing pool.

WM: Okay. Did you see Barry Beach that night?

RR: I, I - like I said, he was white, I don't hang around - I didn't hang around white people.

WM: You wouldn't even notice him if he ...

RR: I wouldn't even notice if he came - unless he made himself, if he got in my face or something or caused a commotion or something and something that was something that would make me remember. Other than that, you know he was just a white kid to me you know I mean, I, I, I heard his name, I knew of his name, but I didn't even know his face so I, I wouldn't have known, I never ran into him or nothing ever happened to make him stick in my head other than this here thing.

WM: Okay. Do you, do you know who killed Kim Nees?

RR: No, I don't.

WM: Does anybody have any questions?

TP: I don't think so.

WM: Richie, do you have any questions?

RM: No, I don't.

TP: Oh, wait, I'm sorry, excuse me, one, so you considered Sissy to be a friend?

RR: Yeah

TP: That was one of the people – who else would have been in your circle of friends that you and Sissy might have hung around with?

RR: Well, the ones that – the ones that I hung around with was ah, Sissy Atkinson, Pat Jackson, Laura Foot, ah, those are the, the three the, the main three.

TP: Okay.

RR: And then the younger ones that that this we let come around us and party with us was ah, Les Jackson, ah, ah, Georgia DeMarris and Della K. Brown. And just those ones, those were the only ones. Other than that, I mean we just, we didn't allow, I mean, I mean, we didn't allow a lot of people around us you know so, we just pretty much hung around with ourselves you know and ...

TP: And tried to, tried to keep out of the radar?

RR: Well, yeah, you know just tried to stay out of trouble you know I mean we, we were all of age, and we were all interested in the same thing. We all liked to play pool and we all – at that time, we all, we all liked to drink beer you know and just sit down town and ...

TP: Sure.

RR: You know and that was about it.

TP: Okay.

WM: Rhea, how were these people that came to visit you from the Centurion Ministry?

RR: Very, very pushy and they – they tried to ah, they tried to twist things around because ah, what I, what I had told them and then they went back over it, so you mean this than, so this is what you mean. Then I – I said, “That’s not what I mean.” You know that’s, that’s not what I said, you know I, I said you know she would ask ‘em you know yeah, what are you staring at me for, what are you, you know how come you’re acting like that towards me you know and, and ah, but not, not to the point where she would get in their face you know but that’s what they wanted me to say. That’s what I – they want – I got from them. They didn’t say that but that’s what I got from them.

WM: They wanted to put their own spin on what you were saying.

RR: Exactly. Exactly.

WM: And so not listening very well apparently, they weren’t.

RR: No. Huh uh (negative)

WM: They, they weren’t interested as much as in what you wanted to say and what they wanted you to say?

RR: Exactly. They didn’t ask me who I was with, ah, they didn’t ask me ah, you know, I mean – if I wanted to find out about somebody, where you were, and he was kind of demanding, you know ‘well where were you 20 years ago, where were you, what did you do,’ you know and this, ah, I said well, you tell me where you were 20 years ago. And, and, and I’ll tell you because I mean, right away he, we got off on kind of like on the wrong foot you know I mean, I tried to be nice you know, and took some time out of my time to go over to there and talk to them I mean, go to the front and talk to them but then right away you know he’s just you know, ah right there, and so I, I mean, I said, and I had to think about it because it’s, it wasn’t a – it didn’t involve me, you know. I, I have nothing, no reason to remember 20 years ago.

WM: What about the second time when they came to the house.

RR: They came to the house in the same, of the same way. You know the same, you know, right away they came to the door and they said, “Um, can we talk to you? Ah we are from the Centurion Ministry or whatever.” And I go, “Oh, gosh here we ago again.” And I said, “What do you want?” And he said, “Well, we got some new information and we want to talk to you about it.” And I said, I said, “Your new information, I said, from the ba – from the from what your old information was.” I said, “I, I disagree with it, I don’t have nothing more to add to it, I gave you my statement or whatever.” I said, “And from what you got out of it, you have been going around telling people, well Rhea said this. Well Rhea said that.” I said, “And that’s not right.” I said, ‘Cause I didn’t say all this – you told Kara, they told Kara that I, I told them that she knew who, who killed Kim. And I

said, "I did not say that." And she came to me and she said, "Rhea, did you tell them that I knew how killed Kim Nees?" And I said, "No." And she said, "Well, that's what they told me." And I said, "Kara, they're just trying to, you know, pound on doors and see who answers you know to see who's guilty or whatever you know, see what they can find out." I said, "That's just a bunch of bull." I said, "I didn't say nothing like that." And I said, "I don't want to talk to you guys any more." I said, "I, I talked to you once," I said, "And, and you're spinning everything around, you know telling everybody I said this, I said that, I said that's not right. I don't want to talk to you no more." I said, "This is the last time," I said, "Don't ever come to my door, don't come to my work, I don't have nothing more to say to you people." And that was that and they never did.

TP: I think Ward probably already asked you this but they never taped, tape recorded anything that you told them?

RR: I don't know if they did or not, they did a lot of writing and what not you know and, and I don't know if he did or not, you know I mean, like I said, I don't care if they taped me or wrote it down or whatever you know I mean I, I took the time out of my day to answer their questions you know and but then they, they just kind of, it kind of made me mad the way they were trying to, then they went back around, well then you said this, is this what you mean? You know and, "No, that's not what I mean, that's not what I said." I mean I said that, but I didn't mean it that context. You you're trying to put your own, you know whatever on it. You know and that ...

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative) Okay.

RR: And that's all that it was, you know I just ... So then right away we got off on you know I just didn't care for their - I just didn't care for them after that, you know I thought well, I, I did what you wanted me to do, I answered your questions or whatever but I don't have nothing to do with this, I don't know nothing about it,

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

RR: And so that's it. And their new information, I don't know what their new information was, but it didn't interest me, cause it doesn't involve me none.

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

RR: And I don't know nothing about it, so.

WM: Rhea, is there anything that we haven't talked about here that should be talked about, is there anything that you want to say?

RR: No, I don't have nothing to say about this, cause like I said, I ah, I don't know nothing about it you know and other than just the local gossip and where that -

what we talked to – I think it was Toco Luzot (sp) that was the cop right then, and we, and we asked him, you know and he and he's the one that told us, and well they found someone dead over there. And then, ah, that was good enough for us you know because we knew eventually the talk gets around town, we would find out who it was and who did it and how they did it and you know this is a small town, everybody knows everything, you know I don't know care how tight lipped you try to be you know everybody finds out something, you know.

TP: What, what do you think about the theory, a theory that there could be a whole, just because you mentioned that, that this is a small town and people talk, the theory that there could be maybe a big group of people involved in the homicide and none of them would ever talk?

RR: No way, no. This is a small town and I don't care who you are or how tight lipped you try to be, somebody is gonna know something. I don't care what you, you, you think you're not seeing or you don't – you're not saying anything you know, somebody's, somebody's gonna know something.

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

RR: And it gets around. So I don't, I don't think, I don't know what their trying to say a big group of people are conspired, conspired together you know and ...

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

RR: You know and the whole town of Poplar we're all in on it you know and all the Indians and you know what I mean? That's what it was, because right after that I lost cousin, you know and, and they said, oh, no it was a white guy that killed her, you know that's over that's over the Kim Nees thing, you know. She was killed by some Indians they say so now they killed Celeste you know and so you know I mean.

WM: Was that, was that homicide solved?

RR: I don't know if it, if it ever was or not, I, I'm I'm really not sure.

WM: So you don't know if it was true, but ...

RR: Who killed Celeste, no I don't, I don't know. I didn't really, really find out I mean, back in those days I was too into my own self to even you know, I mean I was – felt bad the night she got killed and everything you know just the thing I was supposed to do, go to the wake and take food and ...

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

RR: You know and help out whatever I could you know and after it was over it was over, you know I mean. Ah, it just never ... you know it's – you don't hold on to something like that until it happens to you and then I lost my son so I know you know it's been, it's been three long years but finally we're getting down to the nitty gritty and and, and now these people are going to court so, so you know then you you dig in.

TP: So there was somebody charged?

RR: For my boy?

TP: For your son?

RR: Yeah.

TP: Oh,

RR: Yeah, yup, yeah. I thank god that they found, they found him guilty. It took an hour and a half and they found them guilty, with no body. I still haven't been able to – they, they still haven't ah, been able to find the body.

TP: Oh, that's terrible.

RR: Yeah.

TP: I'm very sorry to hear that.

RR: Yeah. Myself, I don't think that they I don't think they threw him in the river because we had the we had the divers we had ...

TP: Right

RR: ...the, we had everything going over in that river and they never found nothing, except for his sweater and his coat by the river and that was it. But I think they buried him some place and ah, and they're just not telling, you know and that's just the kind of people they are you know.

TP: You know it'd be nice to at least have that wouldn't it, you know be able to ...

RR: Yeah, it would.

TP: Mmm mm (affirmative)

WM: Okay.

TP: Well, thanks so much for taking the time.