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Interviewee:	John Moran	Attorney:	Harry R. Reinhart
Address:	111 Hutton Street New Paris, OH 45347		
Telephone:	937-437-6012	Reference:	Billy Scott
Interview date:	August 28, 2000	Report date:	September 25, 2000

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On August 28, 2000, investigator Koch interviewed John Moran by telephone. He was polite and cooperative.

Moran went to the police two to three days after Lesa's body was found. The circumstances were that Moran had a run-in with a truck driver. The truck driver got out of his truck and kicked Moran's car, denting it. This happened late Friday prior to the date of Lesa Buckley's death. Moran wanted to file in small claims court a suit against the truck driver. As the courthouse was closed on Friday, he waited until the following week to file.

Lesla's body was found on Sunday. He was bothered by what he heard versus what he knew about Lesa because he had talked with her on the date in question. Moran decided that since he had to be at the courthouse to file his small claim action, he would stop by to see the prosecutor to tell what he knew about Lesa.

Moran filed his small claims action and then went to the prosecutor's office. A lady there asked Moran what he wanted. Moran stated he needed to see a prosecutor because he has something to say. Moran was announced to prosecutor Duces (phonetic). This was Moran's first encounter with this prosecutor.

Moran makes no secret about being in trouble in the past. Moran told prosecutor Duces that under normal circumstances (due to his being in trouble in the past) Moran would not be the type to go tell a prosecutor anything. Moran told Duces that he had information regarding the murder, or drowning, whatever it was, in New Paris. Moran told Duces that they should look at Lisa and Ronnie Johnson. Duces

looked straight at Moran and stated, 'Mr. Moran, I don't need your fucking help. We have professionals working on this.' Moran was able to get part of his story out before Duces made this statement. Moran was in the prosecutor's office for less than five minutes before he was more or less run out by Duces. Moran further told Duces that he did not come in to get him upset, but that he wanted to get it off his conscience. Moran had heard that anyone with information should step forward, so he did. At the time, Moran lived in Indiana.

New Paris was a small town. Everyone is pretty close. No one is really age conscience. Back during the time in question, Moran was age 36. Missy Longmire and Lesa Buckley were 18.

Moran did not personally know Lisa and Ronnie Johnson. About four to six weeks prior to Lesa's death, Moran was present when Lisa Johnson ran over Lesa Buckley's foot. Lesa was outside in the parking lot when Lisa Johnson drove up in a car and ran over Lesa's foot. Moran was situated many feet away and could still hear the bones crunch in Lesa's foot. Moran helped talk Lesa into going to the hospital. He thinks that Missy was the one to have taken her; or maybe she went home and then went to the hospital. He said about the incident, "It was done on purpose." Moran thinks someone else was with Lisa Johnson when she ran over Lesa Buckley's foot, but he is unsure today who, if anyone, it was. He did know that the two girls had been involved in some "cat fights" in the past over some guy.

On the date in question, which was a Saturday, Moran and his friend, Steve Barker, were going to go race. The two normally raced every week on Saturdays, sometimes on Fridays and every now and then on Sundays. On Saturday, Moran and Barker saw Lesa and Missy at about 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Lampost parking lot. The two girls were riding around in Missy's car. When they saw Moran, they asked him what they were up to that night. The boys explained they were going to the races. The girls did not want to go "watch us play with our toys" meaning the car races, and that they were going to go drink beer. Neither Missy nor Lesa made mention about the party. Moran is positive he has the correct date. He assumes that the girls didn't invite him to the party because maybe they just didn't want Moran to attend. The boys and girls spoke for "just a couple minutes" as Moran was headed out of town. The girls wanted to party with Moran right then. Moran told the girls that he was going to go to the races, but he would be back around 11:00 p.m. and they could hook up then. What the girls meant by "party" was they wanted to do some cocaine. The girls were disappointed that they had to wait until later to get "high high." They would have to drink beer and smoke pot until their return.

Moran and Barker went to the races. They returned to the Lampost a few minutes after 11:00 p.m. Lesa's car was still parked in the same position and Moran parked near her car so the girls could see them when they arrived. About ten minutes

later, while Moran and Barker were sitting in the parking lot, they saw Missy and Lesa pull into the carry-out which is maybe fifty yards from where Moran was parked. The girls went into the carry-out and got a six-pack of beer. Lesa wanted to use the bathroom. The carry-out did not have a public bathroom and wouldn't let Lesa use it.

Barker was behind the wheel, Moran was a passenger. Missy wheeled close to them in her blue escort. She asked what was going on. Moran told her he was waiting for them to hop in and they will go for a ride. Missy and Barker began talking to each other. Lesa kept saying she "had to pee." Moran opened Barker's glove box and did not find any tissues. Missy didn't have any tissue either. Lesa said that she had some in her car. Lesa said she would go to her car, take care of business and come back. Lesa exited Missy's car and got into her own car which was light in color and perhaps a Chevette.

Lesla drove out of the parking lot, heading out Cedar Springs Road, which is referred to by everyone in town as "piss road" because that's where everyone goes when they are out driving around and need to pee. Lesa had no more got to where Christine Avenue runs into Cedar Springs, when a Nova pulled up to the two-way stop at the Lampost. Moran noticed the early 1970's model Nova right away because it is loud and you can't miss it. The Nova came to the stop sign and sat there like it was waiting on a traffic light. It pulled through the stop sign and continued straight, which would be behind Lesa Buckley. The driver of the Nova was Ronnie Johnson. Lisa Johnson was in the passenger side. [An unknown person was in the rear.] Moran's thoughts upon identifying the Johnsons in the Nova were he hoped there wasn't a fight should they happen upon Lesa Buckley.

They waited for Lesa to return for about thirty minutes. She never came back. Everyone was getting anxious. They were waiting on Lesa's return to go do the cocaine. They talked about another fifteen or so minutes. Moran was tired and wanted to go home. He lives five minutes (one mile over the state line on US 40) away. Moran told Missy that when Lesa returned, they should come over to Moran's trailer and they would party over there. After a total of about forty-five minutes had passed since Lesa left to "pee", Moran figured that Lesa went on home. He figured this because Lesa was "kind of peeved" that Missy didn't take her to go pee. Moran and Barker drove in the direction of where Lesa headed while Missy waited in the parking lot in case Lesa returned. They didn't see "any wet spots" in the road, nor any evidence such as tissue paper, that Lesa could have left behind. Moran told Barker that since he was hanging with Missy, he (Moran) would excuse himself and go on home. Moran went home.

The next day, Sunday, Moran came to town early in the day. The Nascar race had not started yet so he cruised into town. No one was around anywhere. Usually, there are people around to hang out and bullshit with. Moran was sitting in the parking lot when Billy Scott pulled up. Scott asked Moran what he was up to. Moran said he

was looking for someone to party with. Scott said that everyone was at the lake, American Aggregate, swimming. Moran told Scott he may come out to the party, but he will probably go watch the Nascar race. Scott proceeded to the carry out. Moran didn't really know Billy Scott, but knew who he was because of the Bulldog on his Chevy pickup. Scott took a wiper hose, running it out of the bottom of the dog. When Scott pushed a button, it looked like the dog was peeing which made Moran laugh.

Moran went home. There had been no mention of who was attending the party. Moran assumes there was a large number of people attending the party due to the fact no one was in town.

Moran woke up Monday and was getting ready to go to work when he learned that a New Paris girl was found drowned in the Aggregate lake. Moran went on to work. By the time he got off work, he learned that the girl who was drowned was Lesa Buckley. Moran couldn't believe it. He reflected upon the Nova he had seen on the night in question. He remembered that after it went through the stop sign, the car went through first and second gear, then it went quiet. Moran figured that what had happened was the Nova went around the corner and hit Lesa.

Moran has heard on the streets that Missy has both admitted and denied that she was at the carryout with Lesa that night. Moran said that Missy's father "Is pretty controlling. Back then, "If her Dad would have known she was talking to me or Steve, we'd a probably gotten our asses beat and she would have gotten hers beat." This would be because Moran is much older than Missy. Moran states he is not a pervert or anything like that. The attraction of the girls is for cocaine. Missy's father knew of Moran's cocaine dealing reputation. It was known around town that if you wanted coke you go see Moran.

In the past, when the girls got together with Moran, the cocaine was "a treat". They were not purchasing the cocaine. Moran ran around with the girls because they were silly and laughed at his jokes. Moran states he has run around with Lesa and Missy about six times total during that summer.

Moran kept everything under his hat after he talked to Ducas. One day he was at the health spa and ran into a friend. They talked about the night of the party. The friend asked Moran to tell his story to Guy Scott.

Moran is able to prove the date (July 10<sup>th</sup>) that he was at the courthouse because he has kept the paper where he filed the small claims action. Lesa's body was not back from the autopsy yet. He mentions this in case Ducas denies Moran came to see him.

In 1981, when Moran was busted for dealing in quaaludes, he got the "crap beat" out of him by Linlaw (phonetic) while cuffed and in an elevator. Moran did get one good kick "where it counts" on the cop who beat him. He plead guilty to the original charge and did his time.

In October, 1998, Moran was in the Preble County Jail when he was approached and questioned. He was jailed over a domestic matter and placed in solitary confinement. He had the money to bail out, but he was not granted a hearing before a judge. On the second day of his incarceration, the jailers were not properly giving Moran his medication. He had blown out three disks in his back at work and takes Vicodine, Soma, Valium, and every now and then, the doctor gives him some Demerol. He thinks the jailers were trying to get Moran upset or mad. All the sudden, Linlaw and another turnkey stepped inside the cell. The turnkey locked it. Linlaw said, 'Well, how are you doing Mr. Moran. It doesn't look like you're doing too good. Your not getting your drugs in here are you.' Linlaw went on to laugh and say that Moran wasn't going to receive his medication and that since the camera was off, now was Moran's chance to come after Linlaw. Moran said that he would wait until he had a better opportunity to get him. Moran has made no secret that he doesn't like Linlaw. Linlaw said, 'I'll tell you something. Do you want to know something that's good for you?' Moran asked what that might be. Linlaw said, 'You forget about the Buckley case.' Moran just looked at him and said, "Fuck you." Moran stood up and was ready to go after Linlaw. The turnkey had heard Moran yell fuck you and had turned and opened the cell door. Linlaw said to enjoy his stay because he's going to be there one more day.

Very few people in town know what Moran knows. Moran does not know where Linlaw got the information that Moran knows - other than obviously from Duces. Moran said that his ex-wife could have said something to Linlaw, but he doubts it.

Moran knows who Lesa's mother is but doesn't know her personally. She does not know what Moran knows. He felt dejected at the courthouse and felt he shouldn't say anything else about it. It ate at him for a long time that Billy Scott was accused because Moran knew that there was an on-going problem between Lesa and Lisa over some guy; and that Lisa was seen that night by Moran. The Johnson girl had just been released out of Indiana for abduction of a minor. Lisa Buckley was straight. Lisa Johnson went both ways (sexually).

During that time, the county had almost ten unsolved murders. One of them was the consolidated road killings at Johnson's fruit farm. Bodies were popping up in corn fields. The victims were all men coming out of a bar in Indianapolis. The alleged perpetrator supposedly killed himself and no more bodies were found. There was a murder three months ago that has not been solved yet. Moran figures the focus on Billy Scott was to solve a murder quickly or no one would be voted in the next election. Billy had a bad reputation. The Johnsons have a bad reputation too, but there are a lot

of them. The Johnsons are people to be feared. Moran lives near Lisa and Ronnie's uncle.

Moran does not know if Steve Barker would substantiate his story or not. Barker is in jail for a long time. The Melody boy, Phil, may have been out there too on the date and time in question. The parking lot had not been packed that night as the cops were coming by every fifteen minutes or so. When the story broke in the paper, the coroner placed the time of death as 12 to 14 hours (before she was found). If you back that up from the time she was found, at about 13 hours, was the time Moran was talking to her in the parking lot.

Moran questions where Lisa's car was found because he saw her leave in her car. He never saw the car again. He never learned where it was found.

Lisa did not do cocaine, at least given by Moran, on the night in question. Moran said that she did do coke the day before with a guy named Mike. Her chemical report from the autopsy should verify that. They (at trial) tried to paint Lisa Johnson to be an angel. She got just as high as the rest of the kids.

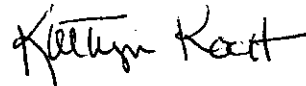
Right after Lisa turned up dead, Ronnie Johnson fled to Washington State or Oregon. Moran thinks he left because he was scared of getting caught for his part.

Moran never spoke with Steve Hobbs, thus Hobbs was unaware of this information prior to the trial of Billy Scott. Again, he gave his information to the district attorney and thought he did the right thing.

Moran has been in prison one time for a drug charge. He also has a couple assaults on his record.

This concludes the summary of information.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Koch