

Jerry York

Jerry York's statements early on are quite different than those he made towards the end of the investigation. On page 72 of the 1-74, Jerry is telling a story that is clearly meant to damage Billy's reputation. Notice Jerry even brings up Billy Owen's daughter, which implies there is a connection between Jerry and the people that came to attack Billy. His statement becomes quite negative at the end of the report, along with Tony Young, Jason Burkhart, and Gary Heath. Could this be a deal? It has been said that Jerry was in a lot of trouble until he began cooperating with the authorities against Billy. He was confronted by New Paris Police at the carry-out. A .357 was found and Jerry was on parole. We do believe that Jerry gained from his testimony and that he is a "deal maker" with Preble County.

See page 72 of the 1-74 for more details.

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

DATE July 8, 1990 TIME 18:35 M. PLACE SCENE
I, FERRY YORK, am 19 years old and I live at 50 E. 67th St
New York, Off.

I am giving this statement to Sgt. D. S. Solventum I.D. _____, who has identified himself as a New York Police Officer and he has duly warned me that I have the following rights: that I have the right to remain silent and not make any statement at all; that any statement I make may be used against me at my trial; that any statement I make may be used as evidence against me in court; that I have the right to have a lawyer present to advise me prior to and during any questioning; that if I am unable to employ a lawyer, I have the right to have a lawyer appointed to advise me prior to and during any questioning and that I have the right to terminate the interview at any time.

Prior to and during the making of the statement, I have and do hereby knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waive the above explained rights and I do make the following voluntary statement to the aforementioned person of my own free will and without any promises or offers of leniency or favors, and without compulsion or persuasion by any person or persons whomsoever:

Bill S. and me were swimming close to the shore when we seen something fluorescent sticking up out of the water. We swam over to see if it was a frisbee and found a body. Then we got out of the water and hollered for somebody to go get the police.

~~EOS J.P.
EOS J.P.
EOS J.P.
EOS J.P.~~

I have read this statement consisting of _____ page(s), each page of which bears my signature, and I do affirm that all facts and statements contained herein are true and correct.

[Signature]
Signature of person making voluntary statement

The above warnings were given by and this voluntary statement was taken by

[Signature]
Witness
68-62

(This must be one and the same person as named above)

TAPED STATEMENT OF JERRY YORK

- LS: Today's date is July the 27th, 1990, present is Larry Swihart and George Petitt from the Preble County Sheriff's Dept. and Jerry Roark-York-----
- LS: Jerry, what is your address?
- JY: 50 East Eaton Pike,----New Paris, Ohio.
- LS: Your phone number.
- JY: 437-1175
- LS: Jerry, were you--at Cedar Lake on--Sunday, July the 8th, 1990, when Lesa Buckley's body was found?
- JY: Yes, I was.
- LS: Explain to me----what time you got there at the lake, who was there, and--what transpired that day.
- JY: Well, I got there between-I don't know, about 10 and noon and--ah, let's see, Cindy Settles and Dave Scott, Kevin Gary, Tim Marshall, ahm, Billy Scott, Jena----Bruce Kessler, Elizabeth Helton, Robby Barker ah, let's see--Todd-Todd Steele, Tim Marshall, LeRoy Cravens and Melinda, his girl-friend-----
- LS: That's when you first got there?
- JY: Yes.
- LS: I assume after awhile some of them left?
- JY: Yes.
- LS: Let's go to--the time when--Les'a's body was found. Who--who was in the water---at that time?
- JY: Ah, me and Billy Scott.
- LS: Okey. Nobody--else out there swimming?
- JY: Well, (BACKGROUND TALKING) there-the girls was swimming, Cindy--ah, who was it, no Jena and LeRoy Craven's girlfriend-they were swimming, but they were going toward the beach, getting ready to get out of the water. And me and Billy was back there along the shore where Lesa's body was found.
- LS: Okey, who was on the beach?
- JY: Ahmm, Bruce Kessler, ah----Chelsie Royer, Elizabeth Helton, LeRoy Cravens, Melinda----Elizabeth Helton and Robby Barker, --and Donny Sutton.
- LS: Okey, so--you and Billy Scott, Jena and LeRoy were kind of out there swimming together and then you seperated.
- JY: Yea, and Le-and Donny Sutton and LeRoy's girlfriend.

TAPED STATEMENT OF JERRY YORK CONTINUES

LS: Okey.

JY: Yea, we was all out there--swimming.

LS: And---just out there just swimming around?

JY: Yea. And Billy got a cramp and me and him kind of stayed back and went toward the shore and that's when we swam up on the body.

LS: Billy got--where'd Billy get a cramp?

JY: In his leg. So we was out there in the middle so we swam close to the shore and started swimming up the shore and that's when we seen the-bathing suit.

LS: Okey, Billy got a cramp in his leg so you went--towards the shore-----

JY: yea.

LS: and you saw--what?

JY: We saw a pink bathing suit, we thought it was a frizbee floating in the water and when-as the closer we got to it, we seen the big hump of her back----and when we got up closer, he rolled her over and it was Lesa Buckley.

LS: Okey.

LS: Who saw this bathing suit first?

JY: ~~Ma~~

LS: What'd you say?

JY: I--well, when we first going- we was first swimming out there, I seen the hump of the back and I said something about, you know, there is something laying over there in the water, but, you know we was just all out there swimming. We didn't think no more about it and then on the way back when me and Billy got closer to the shore; we seen the bathing suit and I told Billy, ~~I said there's~~ a frizbee, let's go get it and the closer we got to it, Billy's like nope it's a dead body. And when we got up on it, it was.

LS: Okey, Billy rolled her over---

JY: yea.

LS: seen who it was----

JY: yea, seen who it was.

LS: What-what happened then?

JY: We jumped out of the water and--hollered for Donny and

TAPED STATEMENT OF JERRY YORK CONTINUES

JY: them to go get the police----Donny and Chelsie came running over and-they-they said that that was Lesa's bathing suit and they was trying to jump in the water and we told them no--and told Donny just run and get Dennis--and he could take care of it and that's what he did.

LS: Okey.

JY: That's when the sheriff showed up.

LS: When ah---from the time when you and Billy found---Lesas body-----

JY: yea.

LS: tilll-everybody or anybody got over there, the cops or whoever--did you and Billy talk about anything--say is you know is that Lesa orrr -----

JY: Yea, we-we was kind of messed up, you know, it--really kind of freaked us out--we didn't know what was happened. We didn't know if we was going to be blamed or not, you know, and ah, that's mainly the reason we stuck around because Billy had touched her.

LS: Billy say something about that? You know, I touched her and----

JY: Ah--no, well, I told him, I said, man, I'm-I'm going to get out of here. I was-I was ready to leave. I was (LAUGH) I was going to move on. And, he was like, man, no, I touched her Jerry, stay down here--there gonna there's people gonna tell her-tell the cops anyway-that we-we found her so---- I said,okey, and I stuck around ---I mean the cops were there in no time--it wasn't-- very quick----we didn't really talk about much--we was just like oh, fuck off, you know, oh, shit--(LAUGH) can't believe it.

LS: Understandable. Anything you want to add, George? Anything else you want to add?

JY: No-no that's---that's about it.

LS: Okey, we'll conclude this statement.

(TAPE SHUT OFF)

LS: Today's date is July the 27th, 1990, we're again talking with Jerry--ah--he brought up something after we shut the tape recorder off, so we're going to continue here for a minute.

LS: Jerry, the day that--Lesas body was found--and---you and Billy and Jena and who ever all was standing up around--while the police were there----

JY: yea.

LS: and you folks were talking---explain to me what that conversation was about.

JY: Well, they was-everybody was saying how she was suppose to go swimming with this other girl and that ah--they were-- I mean-that the girl was wanting Lesa-Lesa was wanting to go swimming and the girl---was going to go with her and then the next thing they knew-they seen the girl, but they didn't see Lesa in the water.

LS: Did anybody say that they seen Lesa walk off?

JY: Yea, they said that she was-she had to have walked off by herself.

LS: Okey, who---who was telling you this?

JY: Jus-it-that's what was being said as we was-when we was up there getting our statements taken.

LS: Who can you remember told you that?

JY: Uha---

LS: The ones that were up there?

JY: That-we was all up-----

LS: Did Billy Scott tell you that?

JY: No, it wasn't Billy, it was one of the girls, they were saying it

GP: Jena?

LS: Jena?

JY: It might have been Jena or Chelsie.

LS: You don't remember, but somebody-----

JY: (TALKING AT THE SAME TIME) one of the girls, when we was sitting there, yea, one of the girls was saying that she was going to go swimming with this other girl--and then they seen the other girl, but they didn't see her, because we was sitting out there that morning and everybody's like where's-where's Lesa- where's Lesa, anybody seen Lesa. All that mornin and then when we swam around the Aggs. there we found her. But they was saying that morning, that the last time they had seen her-she was suppose to have went swimming.

LS: Okey. Alrighty, we're going to conclude it for good this time.

END OF STATEMENT. THIS TAPE TRANSCRIBED BY JONE M. SIMPSON
ON JULY 30, 1990

Larry J. Green, Sheriff

COMPLAINANT

ADDRESS

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF OFFENSE, PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION, ETC.

June 7, 1991: Dep. Ford and I met with Jerry York, 305 Grant St., New Paris, 437-8293, Jerry told us on Tuesday, June 4, 1991, Guy Scott, the father of Billy Scott, stopped by his house and wanted to know if he had given another statement to the police and if the police wanted him to lie for them. Jerry told Guy he did give another statement and this time he told the police everything. Guy asked Jerry why he told about the lighter and cup. Guy also told Jerry about the search warrant to get hair from Billy.

NOTE: Nothing in the search warrant said anything about a lighter or cup.

I was also contacted by a CI who told me Guy Scott was going all over town (New Paris) on Tuesday talking about the Search Warrant.

Jerry said Guy became very upset when Jerry told Guy if he thought his sons were saints, because Billy and David both had sex with Billy Owen's daughter and Jerry wasn't lying anymore.

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:

- UNFOUNDED
- CLEARED BY ARREST
- EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED
- INACTIVE (NOT CLEARED)

SIGNED Inv. Larry A. Swihart 68-6 DATE 06-12-91
INVESTIGATING OFFICER

SIGNED *LSM* DATE