

DET. M. SMITH

Investigative Assignment #96-02-0262

September 6, 1996

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

TO: RALPH J. RAY, JR.  
Chief Assistant State Attorney

FROM: PHILIP J. MUNDY  
Investigator

SUBJ: Statement of Mary Corbett Hagan

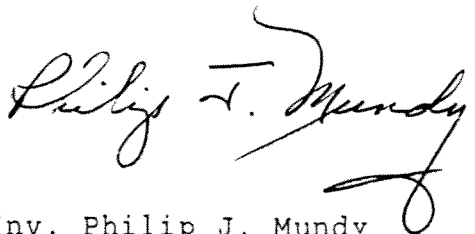
RE: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

ENCL: (1) Transcript of statement of Mary Corbett Hagan  
(2) Copy of Photo line up I.D. Statement of Mary Corbett Hagan

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On September 5, 1996 Mary Corbett Hagan, w/f, DOB: 4/20/21 was interviewed at her home in W. Palm Beach and a sworn statement was taken from her. Mrs. Hagan has positively identified Ottis Elwood Toole as the man she saw speaking to Adam Walsh at the video games area in Sears on Monday, July 27, 1981 around noon. Her statement also reflects she recognized Adam Walsh as a neighborhood child she had seen on prior occasions. Mrs. Hagan also indicates she observed Mrs. Walsh in the lamp department.

Efforts continue to display the photo line up to other witnesses and will be the subject of future reports.



Inv. Philip J. Mundy

cc: Det. Mark Smith, w/enclosures 1 & 2 ✓

E N C L O S U R E

O N E

Statement  
MARY CORBETT HAGAN

September 5, 1996  
Inv. Philip Mundy

THIS WILL BE A WITNESS STATEMENT IN REGARDS TO STATE ATTORNEY OFFICE INVESTIGATION #96-02-262. THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF MARY CORBETT, C-O-R-B-E-T-T, HAGAN, H-A-G-A-N, A WHITE FEMALE, DATE OF BIRTH, APRIL 20, 1921 AS GIVEN TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT. THIS STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN AT THE HOME OF MRS. HAGAN, #97, BUILDING D, ANDOVER, WEST PALM BEACH 33417. THIS STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1996 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 2:25 PM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PM: PHILIP MUNDY  
MH: MARY HAGAN

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PM: As an Investigator with the State Attorney's Office, I have the authority to take your statement under oath, so I need you to raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the statement that you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth so help you god?

MH: Yes I do.

PM: For the record would you please state your full name and date of birth?

MH: My name is Mary Corbett Hagan, and I was born April 20, 1921.

PM: Mrs. Hagan you had previously spoken to a Det. Mark Smith and informed him that you had some information regarding the investigation into the death of a young boy named Adam Walsh is that correct?

MH: Yes.

PM: And this morning some time I telephoned you and told you who I was and asked if I could come see you correct?

MH: Yes sir.

PM: Now when I arrived here the only other person that was here or staying here was your husband correct?

MH: Yes.

PM: And his name?

=====  
MH: Frank Mybelli.  
PM: Could you spell his last name?  
MH: M-Y-B-E-L-L-I.  
PM: When I came I asked you to kind of relate to me before we took any statement or anything basically what you knew about the case is that correct?  
MH: Yes.  
PM: And then after you did that there came a time where I explained to you that I was going to show you several photographs and I was going to ask you to look at them and to see if there is anyone in there that you could recognize correct?  
MH: Yes sir.  
PM: And I also told you that there might not be a photograph of someone ~~who~~<sup>you</sup> might recognize correct?  
MH: Yes you did.  
PM: And there came a time where I showed those photographs to you is that right?  
MH: Yes sir.  
PM: And just for the record once again I am going to show you the photographs and tell me which number photograph you identified?  
MH: The one number 5 is definitely the person I saw.  
PM: Now after you did that, I then asked you to put your initials on the back of the photograph correct?  
MH: Yes.  
PM: And on the back of this photograph which I am showing you now on the other side, those are your initials and today's date correct?  
MH: Yes, MH 9/5/96 at 2:07 PM.  
PM: And I wrote that 2:07 PM and put my initials there correct?  
MH: Yes.

=====  
PM: In addition to that after you made the choice out of those photographs, I asked you to sign a form correct?

MH: Yes sir.

PM: Once again let me show you the form and ask you if that is your signature on the form and today's date?

MH: Yes it is.

PM: Now I know it has been a long time but what I am going to ask you is in July, 1981 where were you living?

MH: I was living at 2514 Rodman Street, in Hollywood, Florida.

PM: And had you lived there a long time?

MH: Yes we been there a couple of year I think.

PM: And while you were living there did you have occasion to go shopping at the Hollywood Mall?

MH: Yes, Sears was having a lamp sale and I went it was around noon I suppose and I went to Sears, I parked my car and went in to the garden section of the store. And as I went in the aisle they had some computers that children were playing games on. And there was a man standing in the aisle talking to a little boy and there was another one standing over to the side kind a listening but they were blocking my entrance so -

PM: Who was the other person standing to the side? Was it a another boy or -

MH: It was an another boy, another small boy a little larger than the one the man was talking to and I couldn't get through so I am standing and I got a good chance to look at both parties, the little boy was dressed like he was casual, like he was going to the beach and he had on a little cap a red cap like a baseball -

PM: Ok let me slow you down a little bit. Which department were these children in?

=====  
MH: At this department is like from the back, was a cashier and there was hardware and everything and then it before you went into where I was going the lamps but it has been a long time they have changed it probably now and the computers were on the wall and then out on the side and there was just an aisle between that before you went toward where the lamps were where I was going, and they were standing kind of in a place where it was close so I looked and finally the guy moved and as I went back I took a look back at him and he turned around and I got a good ~~look~~<sup>view</sup> view of both sides.

PM: Did he look directly at you?

MH: Yes he did and he had kind of a brand on his face and he showed his teeth and there was a big gap in his front of his front teeth and he had sort of a blank ~~kind of~~<sup>looking</sup> look in his eyes but he had this big freckles across the bridge of his face. They were bigger than most people ever have and he was very tan and he had sort of black, he had very black hair but it wasn't very thick and up on top when I took a look he was sort of getting bald and the curled hair was curled up like on top and it was kind of long down on his neck and he had on it just seemed like he had on a shirt, maybe I don't remember how his arms looked so I think he had on long sleeves or some kind of, it wasn't important looking to me so I think he had some kind of white spots on his pants, it was like maybe like paint or white wash or some stuff like that on him. He had a very bad odor. That is the thing I remember the most.

PM: Do you remember if the pants, what kind of pants they were?

MH: They were he had on like jeans and maybe they were kind of faded out a little, I don't know. Just he wasn't <sup>VERY</sup> well kept. He didn't look like he should have been talking to this child.

=====  
PM: Did you happen to notice what kind of footwear he had on?

MH: It was either sandals, the pants kind of went down to his shoes but I didn't pay that much attention but he had on that kind of shoe.

PM: When you came into the store and as you began to go towards the place you were going, is that when you saw the children and the man standing there?

MH: At first I noticed the children playing the computer games and -

PM: Do you remember how many children?

MH: It looked I guess in the room there was probably five counting them all, but there was three or maybe more, they were around the computer and computers are new to me so I wasn't paying attention.

PM: When did you first notice this person this man?

MH: Well when I looked over and I see this man is right there and I can't get through you know and then I looked at the little boy. I had seen him before, I didn't know who he was.

PM: The little boy you mean? You seen the little boy?

MH: Yea I had seen him. I use to go out 28th if I go to Winn Dixie I went to 28th Street and they lived about the last house before you turn on to -

PM: How do you know they lived there?

MH: I would see them, I heard from people you had knew them say that that was the Walsh's and I see this woman, she had kind of blond hair at that time it was straight and she was taller than me but -

PM: Did you know they lived there before that day? Or did you find that out afterwards?



=====  
MH: Oh yea, I knew that was the name. No I knew that was the name of the people, you know when you live some place you get to know a lot of people.

PM: Do you remember -

MH: It was something about John Walsh. He was doing something that had some kind of attention you know in the neighborhood talking about, I guess he was in some kind of charity work or something and I didn't know him I just knew when I saw him but I didn't know him, never spoken to him.

PM: So going back to the store now, you see this group of children, and you see this man standing near them. How close would you say the man was standing to the group of children?

MH: Well it would be, I don't know how you would measure from here to the wall, it was close there and the one's playing the computer were not paying any attention to him. There was just one that had come over to listen to what they had to say and after I come up and I am waiting he goes back so he leaves and so he acted like I was not there, he didn't he didn't pay any attention, I didn't say anything so he moved over. But I am looking at him and wondering why he is talking to this child. The difference in the child I knew he wasn't the father.

PM: Because of the age?

MH: It wasn't that, it was just that he was so unkept.

PM: I see.

MH: He looked like a bum.

PM: Let me ask you now, you said he was talking to the child. Could you hear the man's voice?

MH: See when I walked up, yea he is talking. I could hear the sound he is talking and all and I don't know what he said but it was sort of a mumble sound you know but then too I wasn't trying to get too close to him.

=====  
PM: How would you describe his voice?

MH: That is hard to say. I would say it sounded like some kind of a country. Uneducated, <sup>OR SOMETHING YOU KNOW,</sup> it was sort of a, I don't know how to <sup>I DON'T</sup> really understand, much else.

PM: Not well spoken?

MH: No he was just kind of in little jabs, I don't know what you would say. You know in little, you know, say a little words you know like he wasn't carrying on a nice conversation. But he stopped as soon as he realized I was standing there. And then he moved very slowly.

PM: You mentioned something apparently you got pretty close to this man?

MH: Well to get around him it was close.

PM: And you mentioned something about an odor?

MH: Yes very much <sup>AND</sup>. He had between b.o., an onion, or maybe beer, <sup>I DON'T KNOW WHAT</sup> but it was very rich. ~~FRANCIA~~ <sup>FRANCIA AS WELL.</sup>

PM: Beside the odor, did you notice anything else that stood out on this person?

MH: Well he didn't look like somebody that took baths. Everything about him looked like well like somebody that sleeps out or something. He didn't look good that is all I can say. He didn't look like he belonged there with that child.

PM: Now when you were describing his teeth, you said something about his teeth?

MH: Whenever he noticed he kind of smiled and he had the two front teeth were separated, it was a big gap between them and he kind of held his mouth hanging open. Well there was nothing clean about him but anyway I noticed the big gap and the freckles across the bridge of his face. He had very large freckles.

=====  
PM: Let me get back, besides the gap in the teeth, did you notice anything else, coloration or?

MH: Well he was very tan.

PM: No I mean his teeth?

MH: Well I didn't look at them too long but I could tell that he didn't brush them often.

PM: Now these freckles you are talking about, were they actual freckles or could they have been something else?

MH: Now they were uniform. I mean it was like right across his face and high up on his cheeks. And it looked like freckles and there may be some more on his face but he was very tan.

PM: Do you recall how his hair was combed?

MH: It was sort of back, it was a little curly, you know wavy and black and then in the back when I looked back at him I could see it was down like to his collar, kind of long.

PM: Was it well combed?

MH: Pard me?

PM: Was it well combed, neat?

MH: It wasn't you know stick up, he didn't have the kind of hair you know it was sort of like, sort of curly maybe or something you know and it was neat because it stayed together but as far as combed I don't know.

PM: So obviously he wasn't wearing a hat?

MH: Oh no. No there was no hat, he didn't look like he wore hats.

PM: Now the boy you mentioned that you had seen this boy before this Adam Walsh is that correct?

MH: Yes. I'd seen him passing, I pay attention to children.

PM: But you had never spoken to him?

MH: Oh no. He was almost 7, 6 or 7 he was very young.

=====  
PM: Now you had seen him before that date right?

MH: I had seen him in the yard. I always pay attention because I love children.

PM: That is what I meant, before this day we are talking about at Sears, you had seen him before that?

MH: Right, I had seen him, he would be playing sometimes with other children. I knew he lived there.

PM: Was there anything about the man that caused you to pay particular attention to him?

MH: Well at first it was because he was in my way and then the fact that he was talking to this little boy and he didn't look like somebody that should have been talking because right away I spotted him as a some kind of bum, I am using that word because I don't have a choice. Very unkept and he wasn't a shopper. And the little kids were all playing so he had gotten his attention some way and talking to ~~them~~ <sup>him.</sup>

PM: Did you notice if any of the children were answering him? Were they talking back to him?

MH: No the other children had their heads in the computers. They were not interested. And the one that was standing over to the side listening he moved after he saw that I was looking taking notice.

PM: How about the Walsh boy, did you notice if he was talking to the man, if he was answering him?

MH: No he was only listening.

PM: Just listening?

MH: Yes. When he was mumbling there, talking to him, and he was just looking up at him and he is listening to him. Very interested. So he never did look at me even. But I saw him you know.

=====  
PM: When you said the man was talking, I don't want to misunderstand you, was the man speaking to the Walsh boy?

MH: Yes he was kind of drooped over like to get a little closer to him. He had his shoulders kind of humped over and he is not ~~times~~ <sup>TRYING</sup> for anybody. Seems that he is not trying for anybody else to hear and the little boy was listening but he could hear better than I was but he was hearing him and he never looked at me but once he kind of noticed and like I say he kept this stupid grin on his face and that is when I could see very good his teeth and I took a good look at him because it was just like if it was one of my grandchildren or anyone I wouldn't want them talking to someone who looked like that, disgusting.

PM: Where did you go after that. You walked past him and?

MH: I went to the lamps to look at the lamps. And when I came back everybody was I was there quite a while you know and the mother of the child was in the lamps.

PM: Now how did you know it was her?

MH: Because I had seen her. She had that day she had her hair just hanging down, kind of blond and she is looking at the lamps. *SHE WAS PAYING NO ATTENTION TO ME.*

PM: Do you remember what she was wearing?

MH: She had on I guess a dress because we are inside and there is a lot of counters and I am looking at sort of a big lamp and she is looking at all these things and walking around and I looked for a while and then I walked around and go back out the same way I came.

PM: Do you remember anything else that she was wearing?

MH: No I didn't pay much attention to her, just to see her face and I remember her hair, let it hanging down straight.

PM: Were you able to see her from head to toe or was she behind the counter?

=====  
MH: I just seen her through the counter. It was either a dress or a blouse and it was some kind of a blue, dark color, it was darkish like but I wasn't too interested in that so once I looked I went on back the way I came and I was going to Publix so but I went through the same part and there wasn't any of the children there and I looked I was going to look again at that character and so he was gone and so was the children all of them.

PM: When you went to Sears that day, do you recall approximately what time it was that you went through there and saw children? *TUE*

MH: Well I keep saying around noon. It might have been later because I was there by myself and I had been kind of checking cause I had some surgery so I wasn't really well. I wasn't working so I got up and I was going to get me something to eat.

PM: You didn't look at your watch or anything?

MH: No I didn't because I was going to go to Publix to get some food and then go back home but of course I been sleeping late so I didn't pay attention but I would consider it the middle of the day.

PM: Around noon is that correct?

MH: Yea.

PM: When you say the middle of the day, some people have a different opinion as to what the middle of the day is.

MH: But the fact it was noon, there wasn't that many people in the store.

PM: Now the material you saw on the jeans, how best can you describe it?

MH: Like on the sides it was just spots like you wiped your hands or something and it was white. That is the only thing I remember.

=====  
PM: Do you have any idea what that white material might be?

MH: No I couldn't tell. You know like when I paint or do something like that, he must work somewhere. I get it on my clothes it is there forever.

PM: And then there comes a time apparently when you find out that something happened that day in Sears right?

MH: Yes. My husband had gone to Europe and he had been I guess it had been a week and I had heard about them finding, I -

PM: Wait, let me back up a little. The day that you were in Sears, and you saw this man and these children playing the games, when is the first time you found out that there was something was wrong?

MH: I heard I think up in the evening maybe it was on the T.V. but I had heard that they were searching for Adam Walsh, the mother was looking for him. And everybody was searching for him. That he was missing. And I didn't think much of it because sometimes kids will go off with other children.

PM: Do you recall if on that -

MH: And then I didn't see anyone, I was reading and I didn't pay attention to what was going on and then one day the neighbor told me that they hadn't found that child. So I guess it was, I can't remember how long the time went, I heard then that they had found his head and then I really became upset because I remembered that I had seen him talking to that man and then when Frank came home I told him and he said well we will go up and talk to the police, tell them what you hopefully describe him and then I said they showed someone they had arrested that looked like him.

PM: We are getting a little ahead of ourselves here. If I understand you correctly, and correct me if I am wrong, the day that you were at Sears was it like that evening that you saw a news broadcast that there was a boy missing, Adam Walsh was missing?

=====

MH: Yes.

PM: Ok that is the first time?

MH: That is the first time I heard it.

PM: For the record that was Tuesday, July 27, 1981 or Wednesday. Then a period of time past when you became aware through the news media that the police had discovered the head of Adam Walsh correct?

MH: That is right.

PM: Is it that day or soon after that you go to the police station?

MH: No it was after. I didn't want to go by myself in fact I didn't know how to go about it and when my husband came home I told him and he said well let's go and we went but there was a lot of people and somehow I started trying to tell the police, he made a few notes but he didn't ask me -

PM: This was right at the police station?

MH: At the police station. There was one sitting at a desk where ever we went in.

PM: On the first floor?

MH: Yes.

PM: And was he wearing a uniform do you recall?

MH: It was like a shirt, maybe he had a shirt, he was a policeman. He didn't I don't think he ever wrote or took down my name.

PM: Did you tell me pretty much what you are telling me today?

MH: He didn't listen to all of it because he weren't talking to me because a lot of people had come in and telling stories and made me feel like <sup>HE THOUGHT</sup> I wanted attention, I was making up story, that



=====  
is the way I felt so I didn't tell him as much like I am telling you. I just told him that he was talking to this man and I was sure it was the same one because I seen on the t.v. it was the picture.

PM: So after you went to the police station and tried to tell your story, did a period of time go by before anything else happened?

MH: Nobody ever got in touch with me.

PM: Nobody from over there?

MH: No.

PM: Did something happen then that you know brought you back to this case. Did you see something, hear something?

MH: Yes I had seen, I wanted to tell but it wasn't easy to tell, it was much later that I had seen that picture and I had realized he had never been prosecuted that you know Frank told me let the police do their work. They know what they are doing.

PM: Now this picture you are talking about -

MH: And then I saw it on t.v. I think it was on in the paper, anyway when I saw it there was a story to do and I realized he had never been to trial.

PM: Now let me ask you this. This picture that you see, it is in the newspaper?

MH: I think I am thinking it was in the newspaper, maybe it was on t.v.

PM: Ok either the newspaper or t.v. you see a picture of somebody?

MH: They had showed a picture.

PM: Did you immediately recognize that photograph?

MH: Oh yes.

PM: No question?

MH: No it looks exactly the same as when I saw him.

=====

PM: And did you say to anybody that that is the person?

MH: Yea I called Frank and I said "look he was never prosecuted with all the information that they are suppose to had". They said they had information.

PM: So you told your husband Frank the same day as you saw this picture?

MH: Yes, right.

PM: Do you remember this person's name? Did they tell you the person's name?

MH: His name was Ottis, wait a minute, Ottis.

PM: That is ok. Now -

MH: I had remembered but right now I can't think of it.

PM: Now let me let you see this picture, you know there was a story about him, after that did anything happen afterwards about this case you know to you?

MH: Well I wrote a letter to John Walsh. Is that what you mean?

PM: When did you do that?

MH: I wrote it right after I heard this guy was still in jail, never had a trial and they didn't believe what he would say or just kind of they just wasn't sure.

PM: Do you remember what you said in the letter?

MH: Yes I told him that I was in the store and as I went through I saw this man talking to this little boy and I described him, he was wearing a red ball cap and he had on some kind of sandals, flip flops, maybe shorts, he was just dressed like any child.

PM: Who had the flip flops on?

MH: Well I said that now cause I don't remember, the little boy.

=====

PM: He had-

MH: He had a kind of sand shoes like going to the beach. So I described that guy, well I told him that I went to the store and he was talking to him and I never came forward because I had went to the police and I didn't get my story told and now I would tell you I saw it.

PM: Do you remember about when you wrote that letter?

MH: It has been less than a year.

PM: While we are on the subject of the little boy again, you said he had these shoes on that looked like they were beach shoes?

MH: Yea.

PM: And you mentioned earlier a hat. Do you remember anything else that he was wearing?

MH: Right now I can't think of - no he just had on play clothes, it was summertime, and since it was July there was no school.

PM: So after you wrote the letter, you didn't hear anything back I guess?

MH: No I didn't hear from Walsh because the police Sgt. Smith I guess was it, -

PM: Det. Smith from Hollywood Police?

MH: Hollywood police called and asked me about it. He said I sent it to the wrong John Walsh and they brought it to the police station and I said I was getting it from something that he works at and I didn't know so he told me that he would give it to him, that he would talk to him about it and he said don't worry you know that and I told him I had gotten afraid you know to mention it anymore because there was two of them I was hearing about.

=====  
PM: I think I know what you are going to tell me but we don't need to get into that. That is another story. Now let me ask a couple of questions. You mention to me that you saw a photograph of a man and apparently the police were looking at in connection with the Walsh disappearance and that you realized that was the man you saw in the Sears store correct?

MH: Right.

PM: Today when I showed you several photographs did you identify the man today because he is the man you saw at Sears that day?

MH: That was absolutely the man. He is a little older but the same features, same look. That is him.

PM: And ~~in~~<sup>THE</sup> fact you saw him on t.v. several years ago has no influence?

MH: He hasn't changed that much. That is him.

PM: No question in your mind?

MH: No.

PM: Is there anything else that you can think of that you think you should tell me regarding this case that I haven't asked you?

MH: No can't think of anything.

PM: If you do, you got my phone number.

MH: Yes because if I would have kept all this I wrote down 15 years ago and because I had details.

PM: You wrote it down?

MH: I wrote it down.

PM: Why did you write it down?

MH: So I could show Frank when he came home.

PM: When did you write it down?

=====

MH: It was like after I found out that the child was killed and that they didn't know who did it and they didn't seem to be -

PM: Now when you say you wrote it down you mean you made like notes of what you had seen, occurred?

MH: Yea write what I saw and the descriptions.

PM: And you showed it to your husband?

MH: Yea. With the time I kept it because I read it a few times.

PM: You don't have -

MH: I have grandchildren at that age.

PM: You don't have those notes anymore do you?

MH: No I don't because in the mean time we sold the house and moved here.

PM: This will conclude the statement at approximately 2:57 PM.

**STATEMENT TERMINATED**

E N C L O S U R E

T W O



MICHAEL J. SATZ  
STATE ATTORNEY  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
201 S.E. SIXTH STREET  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301-3360

PHONE (954) 831-6955

SEPT. 5, 1996

S.A.O. INV. # 96-02-262  
COURT CASE # —  
POLICE AGENCY Hollywood P.D.  
POLICE CASE # 81-56073

I, Mary Hagan, have viewed a photo line up consisting of 6 photos displayed to me by Inv. Philip J. Mundy. I have positively identified the subject in photo number 5. Before viewing the photos I was given no indication by anyone as to which photo to choose, or if the subject was even amongst the group of photos. I swear, or affirm, that the above statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Mary Hagan  
Signature

9-5-96- 2:08 PM.  
Date and Time

For the record the witness has identified a subject known as  
OTTIS ELWOODS TOOLE.