

*Det. M. Smith*

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF A TAPED INTERVIEW OF OTTIS ELWOOD TOOLE.

THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED AT THE DUVAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 20, 1983, BY DET. PAUL RUIZ, OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND DET. BUDDY TERRY, OF THE DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PR: Det. Paul Ruiz, Travis County, Texas District Attorney's Office.

OT: Ottis Elwood Toole

BT: Det. Buddy Terry, Duval County, Florida Sheriff's Office  
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AT THIS POINT WE WILL BE GOING ON TAPE AGAIN AND IT IS NOW 9:10, 10/20/83.

OT: The kid, when he was yelling and all and it was tearing my nerves up you know. I mean it does get you excited.

PR: You mean blocking it out?

OT: Yea.

PR: But should that have anything to do though Ottis with you not remembering what happened or you not remembering about the body, should that make any difference? Sure the kid would holler you know and he did certain things and we talked about certain things and all that but what would that have to do with it, be honest. You know what would that have to do with it?

PR: You are stumbling.

OT: Yea. I know.

PR: Why?

OT: Well I always do, at times.

PR: Why?

OT: You just keep coming back with different ones in your mind and you try to focus that one, and block out that one.

PR: Forget about all those?

OT: You can't forget. Because they always, always, on your mind.

PR: Sure they're always on your mind. Which one, which one, sticks out, I'll ask you this just personally, you out of all the murders that you have done, is there one that sticks out the most in your mind, that was the most dramatic one for you? Now think about it that is a lot to think about. But think about it. Which one do you think stands out, which one stands out more than all the rest of them all the rest of the murders that you have done including the one with -

OT: Well that one stood out in my mind before we get into it.

PR: Which one?

OT: The one I told him about. (unintell)

PR: That's fine. No problem there.

OT: (Unintelligible)... Stand out in my mind. Maybe that is because I ain't done one in a while. I kind of cooled my mind down to a certain extent. I could remember more of the details...unintelligible.

PR: Yep you sure did.

OT: Maybe I wouldn't have, I couldn't have all fucked up like I been ... unintelligible ... all the details like I did.

PR: That is very possible too. But again think about it. Does this one with the child stand out?

OT: It does to a certain extent, to a certain extent.

PR: Why does it not stand out?

OT: Because I imagine I try to drown out all these adults with the kids.

PR: Very possible.

OT: Drowning out all the details.

PR: Very possible.

OT: I got all of the parts of the body, all fucking jumbled up in my mind and it ain't making me think clear.

PR: Very possible too. See you are thinking. Let me ask you this. Why is it that you hesitate to try and find the rest of that body? You are hesitating.

OT: I wouldn't be hesitating if I couldn't exactly remember where I throwed it all out at.

PR: But you can.

OT: I wouldn't be hesitating if I could really remember.

PR: Well don't you think that maybe you may not want to remember? Is that possible? You did it didn't you?

OT: Yea.

PR: What do you think?

OT: Like I say, they can run together in your mind.

PR: Not the child Ottis. Not the child. That child don't run together unless you killed several children. Do you think you done that?

OT: Well maybe since I killed some 14 and 15 year olds maybe that's run together.

PR: You are getting caught up on them aren't you? Ottis think about what I just said.

OT: (unintell)

PR: You have to really, really, dig down real real hard for you to try and convince me that you don't know where the rest of that child is. Can't do it. And what you are doing now is a very very basic way of forgetting. See you will go so far and then you block the rest of it out. But there is no way that you will ever be able to be satisfied with yourself because that is the one area, I think that is why we all agree to one area where it bothers you the most. And it shows some feeling.

BT: We're going to find him in the morning. You and I are going on a plane ride tomorrow. We're going to find him tomorrow.

OT: Try to.

PR: He thinks where you might start is the same area where he threw the head.

OT: Yea I did tell him that. Could be possible I chopped his head off right there and throwed the rest of the parts right there.

BT: We're going to ride around a little bit. You can do it. I know you can do it.

OT: Maybe the reason it has bothered me so much about that kid too cause I been with him. I had sex with 14 and 15 year olds maybe that I trying to drown out that sex with this kid... The body and all.

BT: Get all of this out of your system and your going to feel a hell of a lot better, and you done real well and I'm proud of you, awfully proud of you.

PR: You done real well.

BT: No doubt in my mind when we go down there tomorrow whether you talk to them or not, don't you think so?

OT: And if I had buried the kid if they get some of them big old long iron rods, sometimes when you chop 'em, if I do remember burying him in the dirt you can get the kids body in that dirt.

PR: Um huh. Sure.

OT: Sometimes when you chop 'em face down in the dirt you can feel 'em. Cause dirts solid when your going down.

PR: That's right.

OT: And you can feel up to... you can feel the dirt giving...

BT: Your not going to go down and play games tomorrow?

OT: I'm going to try and do what I can.

BT: We're going to find him tomorrow.

OT: I'll try my best to.

PR: You know what? And don't take this serious. I will kiss your ass if you don't find that cause you know where it is. Your going to find it. Cause you know where it is. You know right now, right now you know where it is.

OT: I am pretty sure his body is back there where his head is.

PR: You know where it is. You already, let me, your eyes, your mind and everything right now I can tell you, you are concentrating. You know where it is. Just come on out and say it.

BT: Ottis look at me. Where is it? Tell me.

OT: I'm pretty sure ...

BT: No, no. Not pretty sure, nothing. Just look at me and tell me where it is.

OT: Did they dredge that pond?

BT: Now you are asking me a question. Just tell me.

OT: They didn't dredge that pond. I'm pretty sure I throwed it in that pond.

BT: Ottis, now just tell me. Where is it?

OT: I'm pretty sure ---

BT: No, ... your playing games.

PR: Try one more time.

BT: Now look at me. Tell me where it is. Get it out. Get it over with. Now I'm going to tell you some things when you tell me where he is.

OT: Cause I know good and well they found blood all over that dock.

BT: Hey, look at me.

OT: Cause you ... stain ... blood. I say he is in that pond.

BT: Is he in the pond? Is that where you put him? Did you cut him up or did you just thrown the body in.

OT: The whole body's right there.

PR: That's right. He told me already he didn't cut his arms and legs off. You know that. You know.

BT: Right where they found the head.

BT: Buy you a drink when you get back.

PR: Shit yeah. Buy him 3 or 4 drinks. You could tell Ottis what you have been trying to do. But like I told you got to dig deep...

OT: I wouldn't drag a kids body all over the country.

BT/PR: I know that. We already talked about that.

BT: Your not bad. You know what you told me you had a problem. We going to get you some help ...Unintelligible...

PR: ...I really believe that. And only because he's saying it. If it was anybody else I wouldn't believe them.

BT: Gonna get you some help.



PR: I want you to say one more thing and this is for my own curiosity. Buddy you can stay here because I'd like for you to stay and hear this cause I'm really curious about this. And after this you may or may not ever see me again, okay?

OT: I imagine I will.

PR: Could be. I may come back and interview you and I may not. You may not see me. You know, for a long, long time. But I do want to thank you for cooperating cause I think you done a heck of a job. I feel a lot better that at least I got to meet you and talk to you and talk to you on a more human level than just a piece of meat out there. Because my first impression of you was you were just another piece of meat that I am going to talk to. Well you make a lot of sense in many many ways ok, and I want you to understand that. And whether or not you ever see me again or not, okay, I would like for you to tell me in your own words because of all the of the things that you have done. Is there anything out there that if you had your chance to say to the general public to the people to girls, to kids, to housewives, to men, to gay men, to straight men.

OT: You can't trust nobody else.

PR: Okay.

OT: You can't trust nobody.

PR: Is that what you would tell the general public?

OT: Yea, you can't trust nobody. Even if you knew a person more than 20 years, boyfriend, shack job. Any people you really had trust into,, they can fuck you up just like people that don't even know you.

PR: Is there anything you would say to them out there so that they can protect themselves from people like yourself that prey on other people and we have to be truthful about that because that is exactly what you were doing. And I am not ashamed to say it and you haven't been ashamed to say it so we are talking on a man to man basis. Is there anything out there that you would tell these people, the people that are very vulnerable meaning that there are people you can take advantage of. Someone like yourself that has taken advantage of, is there anything out there that you would tell them to do things to prevent people from killing them, raping them, robbing them, what would you tell them in your own words? What kind of things would you tell them to watch out for?

OT: What would I tell them?

PR: No one else knows better than you. Because you are an expert at it.

OT: Well there are different people you think you can trust and people you can't trust people that you really know and can't really trust people that you do know. You have to know more

how to take up for yourself, don't jump in cars with people, don't get caught out in the middle of no where.

PR: Did you get it finished?

BT: Tell you what, you don't realize but you made a big step in getting the problem cleared up. You can make a bigger step...

OT: And these people tell you they love you shit they don't they just don't really love you, they really just use you. They use you for things that they want to get out of it. Cause everybody is used one way or another.

PR: That's right.

OT: Because if they get started ... they leave themselves wide open.

PR: And that's what the world is all about. I hate to say that but it happens.

BT: Look it here, I got a couple more people want to talk to you then you going to call it a night. You going ... unintelligible

Laughter.

BT: Unintelligible.

OT: I can't even get a trick out of the deal.

PR: You tried.

OT: I even told him to lock the bathroom door. ...

BT: Paul, when you going to be back down?

PR: I'm probably going to be back down here, and I'm going to close this tape...

OT: I'm going to use the bathroom again.

PR: Sure. Go ahead. You going to take him to the bathroom real quickly.

THIS CONVERSATION AND INTERVIEW WITH OTTIS TOOLE IS NOW COMING TO A CLOSE. IT IS NOW 9:50 PM OCTOBER 20, 1983.