
#17 Phone interview of Sarah PATTERSON

(Adam Walsh)

November 15, 1996

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT #17

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

FROM: PHILIP J. MUNDY
Investigator

SUBJ: Phone Interview of Sarah Patterson
November 6, 1996

RE: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

ENCL: Transcript of Phone Interview of Sarah Patterson

It came to our attention that Sarah PATTERSON contacted the television program America's Most Wanted identifying herself as the niece of Ottis TOOLE. She was contacted by Mr. Joseph MATTHEWS and he in turn provided us with her phone number.

On November 6, 1996 Ms. PATTERSON was interviewed via phone and the transcript of that conversation is attached hereto. Some of the highlights of the conversation are that TOOLE did admit to her that he murdered Adam WALSH (Pg. 3) but he would not reveal the whereabouts of the body to her (pg. 4).

Ms. PATTERSON claims that she knew that he made many trips to the south Florida area for the purpose of homosexual liaisons. (pg. 6-7). According to her TOOLE did use the vehicle that was later recovered by Hollywood Police but that he also had access to other vehicles (pg. 11-13).

She recalls that TOOLE would mention a "Larry" as a person he was going to see when he was making his trips to Miami. Ms.

PATTERSON was questioned about a Larry WALDO and does not know the name WALDO nor did she ever meet "Larry" (pg. 16-17). Based on our investigation of Larry WALDO he can not be the person that TOOLE is talking about.

Ms. PATTERSON is now living in South Dakota and her address and phone number are in the case file.

Philip J. Mundy
INV. PHILIP J. MUNDY

cc: Det. Mark SMITH, w/encl.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH SARA CHRISTINE PATTERSON IN REFERENCE TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATION CASE NUMBER #96-2 262, INV. PHIL MUNDY ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1996 AT ABOUT 1:05 PM.

The following notations will distinguish speakers:

PM: Philip Mundy
SP: Sara Patterson

SP: Hello.

PM: Ms. Patterson?

SP: Patterson.

PM: Right.

SP: OK.

PM: That is what I said right?

SP: It didn't sound like it.

PM: This is Phil Mundy. I spoke to Joe Mathews yesterday, do you remember him?

SP: Yes I do.

PM: And he had told me that you had called in to America's Most Wanted and he got the followup on it apparently and gave you a call?

SP: Yea he did.

PM: He related to me just a little bit of the conversation that he had with you, who I am is I am an investigator assigned to the State Attorney's Office in Fort Lauderdale, and we are assisting the Hollywood Police in this Adam Walsh investigation. Right about now I guess it is the best thing to say is we are trying to bring it to some sort of

closure for everybody involved. Joe had mentioned to me that you had last seen Ottis back in December of 1995?

SP: Yea I went up there to visit him.

PM: Is that the first time that the conversation came up about the Walsh boy with you?

SP: Yea he was in prison he was when he told me about it.

PM: And that was in December?

SP: Yea.

PM: Can you just relate to me as best as you can recall what he did tell you?

SP: He told me that some of the ones he is accused of he done but some of them the police just didn't do their work, they showed them different information and all like almost like a frame up. I told him I think my uncle done it but I could never tell you for sure if he done it or not cause I wasn't there.

PM: Yea I can understand that.

SP: But I received some of his mail and there was a letter in there wrote to him about that police really needs to get in contact with Lucas because Lucas knew more than what he was saying. And from myself I wish you all would let me have my hands on Lucas just for five minutes.

PM: No love lost there apparently.

SP: No he killed my sister why should there be any love lost?

PM: Is that Becky?

SP: Yea that is my sister. Her name is Freda

PM: Freda, and they called her Becky?

SP: Yea, well they never called her that till they hit the road.

PM: Oh I see.

SP: Yea.

PM: Ok, now this letter you are talking about, where did that come from, I mean who wrote it?

SP: I would have to dig through the box again, I had my future husband read some of the letters to me.

PM: Are these letters that Ottis had at Prison?

SP: Yea, it was mailed to him through the prison.

PM: And they turned them over to you I guess?

SP: Yea, well I called down there and I pulled a big bitch.

PM: Oh, ok.

SP: And they were saying on National T.V. that no one claimed his body. I live this far away why couldn't they me?

PM: Yea, yea, well.

SP: They lie out their teeth to me.

PM: Yea that plus things have a way of going wrong all the time. When you spoke to him in December was there any conversation about the Walsh child at all?

SP: I asked him did he do it and he told me, he laughed and said yea, and I said well where is he. No one would ever

know, I said well I don't know what I can say then, I love you, I hate what you had done. You know I hate for the other people to but I lost more than anyone lost.

PM: But he wouldn't tell you what he had done with the child's body?

SP: No. He wouldn't.

PM: Did he ever explain to you why he did it?

SP: No he didn't.

PM: Did you have any conversations with Ottis before December of 1995 where the subject came up?

SP: No. I just had enough of guts to go start visiting him.

PM: Oh I see.

SP: Because I am a felon, I am and you probably already know it, you probably already pulled up all my files.

PM: To tell you the truth I haven't.

SP: Oh, ok, well I am a felon convictor, I am.

PM: Were you living in Jacksonville in 1981?

SP: Yea.

PM: When Ottis was living there?

SP: Yea. I sure was. The address was on Day Avenue.

PM: Right.

SP: Yea they dug up the yard.

PM: Were you there when they did that?

SP: No. When my grandmother died, I flipped out. I did I totally flipped. And then when my mother died I flipped over that too.

PM: Do you have any information or any reasons why Ottis would have come down to Broward County or Dade County?

SP: They was talking about that they was having some worshipping thing, devil worshipping groups down in that area and ---

PM: Who? Ottis was saying that?

SP: Yea, Ottis and Lucas. And like Ottis never got into trouble until the State of Michigan let Lucas out of prison. I think they ought to put a lawsuit against them. You know that is my opinion.

PM: I know.

SP: But as far as my uncle if he did kill the little boy I am so sorry for that.

PM: Well he told a lot of people that he did and I frankly don't have any reason to doubt it. The only big mystery today, is what he did with the boy's body. We haven't been able to resolve that situation. And Ottis told different policemen different stories about what he did and so far none of them have proved, well we haven't found the body so obviously what he told us hasn't been quite accurate.

SP: Well if he looked you dead in the face and laughed about it, he was lying to you. If he laughed at you while he was talking to you he was lying.

PM: Well, see I wasn't there when he was questioned by these policemen, I'm just reading through the file and reading the statements that he made so I don't really have any

feel for what he was doing at the time he made these statements.

SP: Oh ok.

PM: So we are trying to put it all together basically from what other people have found out. We thought he went down to like Dade County, Miami and Bayfront Park because he had told people that he picked up gay people up down there.

SP: Yea my uncle was gay as a three dollar bill.

PM: Did he ever talk about going to Miami for that reason?

SP: Not all in one words, no. I know he was going up that area but I didn't really know for what. And I didn't think it was any of my business.

PM: There was another question I was going to ask you, did you know for a fact that he did make trips down to South Florida?

SP: Oh yea, he use to always make trips.

PM: Do you know how often he would come to South Florida?

SP: Sometimes he would go like once a month, sometimes twice a month or whenever he got a urge he wanted some fresh meat as I am talking about men and I know he got tired of the same old stuff in Jacksonville, I don't blame him I did too.

PM: Did he ever mention the City of Hollywood in particular?

SP: He mentioned all kinds of different names of towns.

He use to go to Hollywood, he use to go to Dade City, Fort Lauderdale he been to, Fort Pierce, Orlando, all different areas.

PM: Just all over the place?

SP: Yea.

PM: Did he ever mention any places that he might have visited in Hollywood?

SP: No he didn't.

PM: Cause t he other thing we were wondering about is if he was familiar enough with the City of Hollywood, you know it would show yes he had been here?

SP: All that kind of stuff I really never talked to him about it. Once my sister got killed, I hated him. I hated him for ever bringing Lucas to our home.

PM: Yea I remember how that came about. Back in 1981 he said he was driving this Cadillac, do you remember that car?

SP: Yes.

PM: And do you know whose car that really was?

SP: It was my grandmomma's.

PM: And that would be, what is her name again?

SP: Sarah Harley.

PM: Sarah Harley? It was her car?

SP: Yea.

PM: Just to be sure we are talking about the right car?

SP: It was a white Cadillac.

PM: White bottom?

SP: Yea.

PM: Did it have a white top?

SP: I think so and it had like white material and it had blue carpet at one time in it.

PM: In the inside it had blue carpet?

SP: Yea. At one time it did.

PM: That was my next question, what happened to the carpeting?

SP: The carpeting, ask the Jacksonville Police Department.

PM: They took it out?

SP: They took everything out. Jacksonville, I know you are a law enforcement agency, but excuse me for this, I hope Jacksonville floods into the damn ocean with all those cops in it. You know there are good cops and there are bad cops.

PM: I was just going to say that.

SP: If you fuck them they will let you go to jail for prostitution.

PM: Yea, well like you said there are good ones and bad ones. The Cadillac he was using, your grandma's Cadillac, how did he come about to get it?

SP: Grandma gave it to him.

PM: She just gave it to him?

SP: Yea, he'd tell her well I'm going to run some errands, I'm going to go down town. And she would give him the car keys.

PM: Do you remember back in 1981 anything about the trunk of the Cadillac on the inside, if it had carpeting or anything like that?

SP: Not right off. I would have to sit down and think and all and I really been trying to put all of this stuff out of my life.

PM: Yea I can understand. That is why I said we are trying to bring this thing to a close so everybody can get on with their lives and at least have some knowledge of just what occurred. Caused like you said, Ottis made a lot of statements to a lot of policemen and like you yourself said some of them you could believe and some of them you can't. We are just trying to figure out which ones we can. You know the family would like to know what happened, they would like to find out what happened to their child's body and you know, it is something they probably won't be able to put behind them unless they can get the answers to those questions.

SP: That is true. I would even try to call Mr. Walsh to talk to him personally but I guess this hurts him to much.

PM: Yea, he doesn't take too many calls about this because like you can imagine many, many, many people call and unfortunately a lot of them you know don't really have any information, they are just cranks. So he has people who screen his calls and call people back and what have you.

SP: Yea I know, but whenever you know part of the family that does know about it, he should have enough consideration to call.

PM: You know he may not even had gotten the call.

SP: You know I told him I was Ottis' niece. And I gave them everything they wanted to know on there.

PM: I don't know exactly what their procedures are but I do know that most of his calls get answered by other people including calls from us. But you know I can understand I mean the man is probably just gets so so many calls. But it hurts everytime he talks about it.

SP: Well how do you think I felt.

PM: I know.

SP: I lost more than anyone lost.

PM: In 1981 was Ottis living at the Day Street address?

SP: Yea.

PM: Do you remember him going away for awhile and then coming back in July of 1981, he had been up in Maryland and Delaware?

SP: I know he left, I know he was gone for awhile.

PM; Because he had Frieda and Frank with him and apparently Henry got arrested up there and then Ottis came back to Jacksonville and the children as I understand it, they were with him and the State I don't know if it was Virginia or Delaware or Maryland, but the State like took custody of the children and sent them back to Florida, do you remember that happening?

SP: Once my grandmother died, that is full of shit, my mother had them. And she lived in Aurbondale, Florida. And

once my mother killed herself, Aurbondale took my brother and sister.

PM: That would have been I think about the time he came back from that trip because as I recall that is what they did, the children were with Henry and Ottis and the State people up there took custody of the children and sent them back or brought them back to Aurbondale ok?

SP: They took them to my mother.

PM: Now do you recall where you were living when that happened?

SP: I was living on the beach.

PM: In Jacksonville?

SP: Yea.

PM: And when Ottis came back from that do you remember seeing him?

SP: He went to Betty Goodyear's house.

PM: And he stayed there?

SP: Yea, she made him a janitor, like a maintenance man and he started working there.

PM: Now was he still able to use the car or did he get a different car?

SP: He had a different car then.

PM: Which car did he have then?

SP: I think it was a Buick. I know they had a truck too that they would go around in.

PM: Well the truck is the one I think they kind of got caught in up in Maryland I think it was. It was a relative's truck I think?

SP: My uncle Howard's.

PM: Yea I think so.

SP: Howard Toole.

PM: I think there was a big roohow about taking the truck.

SP: Yea, Howard wasn't nothing but a jerk anyway.

PM: This Buick, what kind of Buick was that?

SP: It was a four door, it was a dark blue and it had white interior.

PM: Who was the owner of that car?

SP: I think that one was Vernon's or Howard's, I'm not for sure which one that one belonged to..

PM: But Ottis would use that?

SP: Yea Ottis would use any of the vehicles of any of the family's.

PM: But this one was either Vernon or Howard's?

SP: Yea, and they are both dead.

PM: Do you remember what year that Buick was?

SP: I think it was a 1974 or 1975, I think now, I just thinking real quick back in those days.

PM: Do you have a clear recollection of him coming back and going to stay at Betty Goodyear's and using this Buick?

SP: All I know is what he's told me and what Betty Goodyear has told me.

PM: Betty, I thing she is still around isn't she?

SP: Yea she is still around. Old witch.

PM: The Buick, do you know if Ottis ever brought the Buick to South Florida?

SP: I don't know for sure. I really can't say one way or the other.

PM: Let's see, how old would you have been back in 1981?

SP: 21 years old. God I am 36 right now.

PM: Yea we are all getting on. Time marches on. So in July of 1981 -

SP: I just turned 21 years old. I was 21 and I would have to look at some of my paperwork, but in August of 1981 I was sent to Lowell. I done 18 months.

PM: So in July of 1981 you can kind of relate to it because you turned 21 and you had to go LOWELL. Did you see Ottis often during the month of July?

SP: I seen him about 2 times.

PM: Do you remember what the occasions were or the days?

SP: He came down to the house on the beach, I was throwing a party and we got drunk and got wasted.

PM: You don't remember when that was though?

SP: I don't know what days or nothing.

PM: But you saw him you think about twice in July of 1981?

SP: Yea it was twice. I know he was there the fourth of July, I know that.

PM: July 4th you saw him?

SP: Yea. I don't remember the date because all holidays we would spend together. That we could.

PM: You know him probably better than anybody else does, do you have any idea why he would have taken that child?

SP: No. I knew my uncle like men but I never once thought he would mess with a little boy.

PM: You never knew him to do that did you?

SP: No. He helped raise me, he helped raise my sister and my brother. If someone would mess with us kids he would go ballistic on them. You know he would just flip out on them. Mostly when it came to Frieda and Frank.

PM: When you talked to Ottis since the Walsh thing, I guess you know that they found the child's head floating in a canal?

SP: I heard about it.

PM: Did he say anything about that?

SP: No. He told me he didn't really want to talk too much because the prison has ears. And that is true.

PM: Do you know if Ottis made it a habit to carry you know like big knives or machetes or anything around with him?

SP: No. Not to my knowing about it.

PM: Did you go see him before December of 1995 or was that like the only time?

SP: No, I visited him last year probably about six times.

PM: Did you just recently move to South Dakota?

SP: I sure did, I moved up here in March of this year.

PM: You are right up there on Nebraska boarder aren't you?

SP: I am, I am right on the boarder line.

PM: You can spit across the river and hit it?

SP: That is it. It would take me about five minutes to get there. Can I ask you a question?

PM: Sure if I can answer it.

SP: Don't give anybody my phone number or my address up here. If it is ok with the police department it is fine but any news people... or anybody like that because they are already talking about they want to put a book and I don't want no books wrote about him.

PM: No we won't give that information out. That is for sure. Did Henry ever tell you about this Walsh homicide?

SP: Oh me and Henry didn't get along. I wanted to punch him in the mouth every time I looked at him. I didn't like him because I known all the way from Blair Street that he was messing with my sister. And no one would believe me. Me and him did not get along at all. We never have and if I ever catch him out, his ass is gone.

PM: Doesn't look like there is much chance of that.

SP: I don't know. I hear that people is trying to say that he didn't do all these killings. But I know for a fact that he killed my sister.

PM: Well I don't think there is any question in anybody's mind about that.

SP: But you know people getting on National T.V. and saying that they are a dead person, why can't you know, I know it ain't your responsibility or anything else, but why can't someone make them go to a nut hospital for a while and then _____? You know what I am trying to say?

PM: I know what you are trying to say but I don't have an answer for you.

SP: That is like you know some little boy around here would come up and say that they are Mr. Walsh's little boy, and then all they did was turn around and spank him on the hand, wouldn't that really tick you off?

PM: Yea it sure would. Do you know if Ottis had a friend named Larry Waldo?

SP: Yea.

PM: Do you know Larry?

SP: I have heard of him.

PM: Can you tell me where you recall hearing that name?

SP: Whenever he use to go up to Miami he would always tell me I am going to see Larry. And whoever in the hell Larry was at that time I didn't know because I was always stoned.

PM: You just knew Larry not Waldo?

SP: I didn't you know know what he looked like, all I knew was the name.

PM: Do you remember how far back Ottis got to know this Larry fellow? Was it before '81 or after?

SP: It was, it was whenever I got married. And I got married my first time in 1976.

PM: Did you ever meet Larry?

SP: No. Not that I remember. I use to meet a lot of guys, my uncle use to bring a lot of different guys home.

PM: So you didn't know names? And they may have been false names anyway?

SP: That is it.

PM: But he would say he was going to Miami to see his friend Larry?

SP: Yea and you know I never thought about it because he had all kinds of friends he did.

PM: Besides the Cadillac that your grandmother use to let him use and this Buick, did he drive other cars to South Florida?

SP: I couldn't really be truthful with you about that. Because I don't know.

PM: Do you know about him working for that, what is it, Southeast Color Coat?

SP: Yea they wrote a book too and that was on 21st and Blair and then they moved the company, they did and Uncle Ottis and the whole family worked for them. They did.

PM: Henry worked for them a while too?

SP: Yea he did, and Uncle Ottis got him the job.

PM: Do you know if Ottis ever used any of the cars that belonged to the people that worked there?

SP: They might because he use to wash them. He use to bring them to the house. So he could have took one of them. I honestly I couldn't say about that.

PM: You mean keep them for a couple of days and clean them and so forth and then bring them back?

SP: Yea, we lived right around the corner, and like he use to go up town to the Trinity Mission with their trucks.

PM: What is the name of the Mission?

SP: Trinity Mission.

PM: Trinity ok.

SP: You know he use to go up there and use to go to Himlet Plaza, the bus station.

PM: He really got around.

SP: Oh yea.

PM: When he would go on these car trips, did he just sort of take it in his head that to take a trip and go?

SP: Just get up and go, that is it.

PM: That is it, didn't matter how far?

SP: No. He would wait like sometime on Friday night and be gone all weekend. But he would always be back for work at Monday morning at 5:00 in the morning, he would always be back at work.

PM: So most of his trips were on the weekend?

SP: Yea.

PM: What about if he went all the way to Texas or something, that couldn't be a weekend trip?

SP: No that couldn't. Like I said I got married my first time when I was 17 so you know I moved out of the house but I use to always go and visit my granny all the time.

PM: And that was Sarah Harley?

SP: Yea. Sarah Lorraine.

PM: Well,

SP: You know I been having letters saying that people want to write books on my uncle. If they do do that, and they put my name in there, do they have the right?

PM: It won't come from me.

SP: Uh, No no no, I am asking you

PM: If they can find a source like they are allowed to quote by law, and they can do that. And like peoples relatives, if they try to find out who my relatives were and they found it out and they put in the book that Phil Mundy had a brother named George and he was arrested for this, that and the other thing, if that is public information then there is not much you can do about that.

SP: But is that right?

PM: Well what is right and what they can do that is a couple of different things. Some things we don't like them but people are allowed to do them. You see in the paper everyday

I am sure. People say things about people that just aren't true but they get away with it.

SP: Oh I know. They wrote in one book that I was just like my mother, I am nothing like my mother.

PM: People can say things they want to but there is not much you can do about it except ignore it, that is all you can do is ignore it. If I come up with any more questions or anything, do you mind if I call you back? What I was wondering if you are looking through those letters and stuff, if there is anything I should know about do you think you can send them to me?

SP: I will send you a copy of them.

PM: That would be fine, I don't mean ... yea would you do that?

SP: Yea I will, and I want to ask you a question since we are on that subject, since this day I know this is your job too but since the State of Florida lied about my uncle did not have no living relatives and everything else, how can I go about making them put an apology on national t.v.?

PM: I'm really not sure how you would do that. You probably would have to get some lawyer to look into it.

SP: Oh these stupid lawyers

PM: Well that is what I mean, it just may not be worth the trouble, do you know what I am saying? It is like I said there are some things you probably just got to put behind you ... can you hold on one second? Some things you just have to ignore, people say bad things about people all the time, it

goes on right there in your home town.

SP: Oh I know but you know as far as me or my stepfather is here with me now, I don't want any kind of information give out about either one of us.

PM: Well that is no problem. We won't be doing that. We don't plan on talking much to the press anyway. Could you write down my address and maybe while you are going through those things, like I say if there is anything about the Walsh case if you could send me a copy believe me I would appreciate it and we will keep it confidential.

SP: Ok if I come down there I know your _____ I will come down there and give you a piece of my mind.

PM: You can come see my anyway. You have the name, first name is Phil, last name Mundy, M-U-N-D-Y. You can address to my name, it is Investigator, put Inv. Phil Mundy, State Attorney's Office, 201 Southeast 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301. And if you find anything you can call me and let me know you did and you are going to send me a copy and this way I will be looking for it. And I will call you back when I get it to let you know I did get it.

SP: Thank you very much.

PM: I appreciate your talking to me and like I said if there is something I forgot to ask you which I am sure there probably is, I hope you don't mind me calling you back?

SP: No I don't mind.

PM: Listen you take care of yourself and have a good life.

SP: The best time to call me is like after 5:00 my time because I do work.

PM: Ok I just took a chance today.

SP: If you hear from Mr. Walsh or that other man, tell the other one he is a jerk, he did not call me when he got those papers.

PM: Oh you mean Mr. Mathews?

SP: Yea. He is a jerk.

PM: If I see him I'll pass that along.

SP: He could have wrote a note that he got the paperwork because I sent it out and it cost me \$12.00 just to ship.

PM: Oh mine, just put a stamp on it. Or if you call me first I'll explain how you can send it and we will pay for it.

SP: Ok. Well you have a pleasant day.

PM: Thank you, you too, bye now.

SP: By.

CONVERSATION TERMINATED