

DET MARK SMITH  
H. P. D.

Investigative Assignment #96-02-262

September 11, 1996

Investigative Report #9

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

**FROM:** PHILIP J. MUNDY  
Investigator

**SUBJ:** Statement of Jennie Marie Warren

**RE:** Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh


**ENCL:** (1) Transcript of statement of Jennie Marie Warren

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On September 10, 1996, a sworn statement was taken from Jennie Marie Warren, W/F, DOB: 4/9/23 at her home in Hollywood. Mrs. Warren reports that she entered the Sears store in the Hollywood Mall and was walking behind Mrs. Walsh and her son Adam. She states that she observed Mrs. Walsh stop and leave Adam at the video games where she also observed two other small boys playing the game.

Mrs. Warren reports how she also saw two men standing nearby speaking to each other and she recognized one of the men as an employee of Sears. This person is believed to be a Dennis Lancaster and Det. Smith of Hollywood P.D., has conducted an investigation into Mr. Lancaster and has reported on same. It is unknown who the second person was.

Although Mrs. Warren commented on the photo in the number 5 position of the photo line up, in which Ottis Elwood **TOOLE** is in fact in the number 5 position it is not an identification of **TOOLE** as she indicates in her statement.

  
Inv. Philip J. Mundy

cc: Det. Mark Smith  
Hollywood P.D. with enclosures

**ENCLOSURE**

**ONE**

Statement  
JENNIE WARREN

September 10, 1996  
Inv. Philip Mundy

THIS IS GOING TO BE A WITNESS STATEMENT IN REGARD TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATION #96-02-262 AND HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT CASE NUMBER 81-56083. THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF JENNIE, J-E-N-N-I-E, MARIE, WARREN, W-A-R-R-E-N, WHITE FEMALE, DATE OF BIRTH APRIL 9, 1923 AS GIVEN TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY. THE STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN AT THE HOME OF MRS. WARREN AT 6313 ARTHUR STREET, IN THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 1:20 PM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PM: PHILIP MUNDY  
JW: JENNIE WARREN

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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 and do you solemnly swear or affirm that the statement that you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth so help you god?

JW: Yes.

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

JW: My name is Jennie Marie Warren and my birth is 4/9/23.

PM: Now Mrs. Warren you are aware our office is assisting the Hollywood police into the investigation into the death of a young boy named Adam Walsh correct?

JW: Right.

PM: Apparently you felt you had some information regarding that case and contacted the Hollywood police some time ago correct?

JW: Right.

PM: Basically what I am going to ask you to do is just tell me in your own words the information you feel you would like to convey to us regarding that investigation.

JW: Well this particular day I'm not sure of the time zone but I think maybe it could have been between early midmorning and midafternoon that I was in the mall and -

PM: Is that the Hollywood Mall?

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JW: Hollywood Mall and I had taken my three grandchildren to the mall, Cheryl was 14, Ruthie was 8 and Christina was 3, she was in a stroller and Cheryl was pushing her and we went in through the west entrance and walked right back to the toy department and Ruthie wanted to go in and look over the Barbie dolls which she is the one that was 8. She collected Barbie dolls at that time and so I remembered following a woman and her little boy which I learned later was Reve and Adam and she dropped him off and turned around and left and we dropped Ruthie off and I turned around and followed her not that I was following her but it was right behind her and she went into the lighting department and I went in to the lighting department to get to the office. I don't know remember exactly when or why I was in there, it might have been for a payment of some sort that we all had to take tickets and I knew I had about 19, the 19th one so I said I am not going to leave Ruthie because at the time there was two boys playing Nintendo and Adam was standing behind watching them, probably waiting on his turn and there was he looked like he was in his 30's, 35, 30 something like that and he was talking to one of the clerks there which I have known for years and I do not know his name but he was in the receiving department and worked there when you ordered from the catalog and then you got your merchandise he would pick it up for you, he was standing there talking to and watching the boys play and I do recall seeing that, so when I came when I was in there waiting I wasn't going to wait my turn because I had an uneasy feeling about leaving Ruthie there. I really think it was because of this gentleman that was standing there right beside of Adam talking. He gave me an uneasy feeling so I immediately said to Cheryl, "Cheryl let's go back and get Ruthie" because I don't like leaving her back there, let's go. And of course she didn't want to hurry and I said come on let's go and she didn't move fast enough and I couldn't wait till I got back there so I pushed her a little bit, kicked her in the rear end as if you want to say and we got back there real quick and at that time I never noticed whether anybody was there, I didn't notice if he was still there, if the gentleman was still there or anybody else. I didn't go all the way back but I did holler for Ruthie and Ruthie answered me and I said come on we are going to go. She came immediately, then we took off and left and went out into the mall. Now from there on I do remember hearing them announcing over the intercom that there was a boy missing, if we see him and I said to, I made a statement to Cheryl then I said "see there Cheryl that is why you don't leave your child alone, you keep your children with you at all times".

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So we left, I don't know we probably left, I don't know if we ate or not I am not sure.

PM: Let me ask you a couple of questions about what you told me. You say you went into the store and as you went in Reve and Adam Walsh were in front of you right?

JW: Yes they were in front me us.

PM: Then it was just pure coincidence?

JW: No I didn't know her from Adam.

PM: Do you recall how Mrs. Walsh looked that day?

JW: She had on shorts as far as I can recall. She had casually dressed and being a hair dresser I did notice her hair was damaged.

PM: How did her hair look?

JW: Well she had one time evidently bleached it and had gotten a permanent and it looked to me like she was trying to let it grow out but it was damaged.

PM: Can you describe whether it is straight or curly?

JW: It was partially straight near the roots and then some curls at the end like damaged hair. Sort of frizzy on the end like.

PM: And how about Adam, what do you remember about Adam?

JW: Adam was dressed in I thought if I can recall right he was dressed in darker clothes, dark clothes, he had I can't recall if he had a cap on or hat or anything I can't recall that. But I know he was engrossed in watching the Nintendo.

PM: Let me ask you about that. You were walking behind Mrs. Walsh and Adam and then you said something to the effect that she dropped Adam off or words to that effect. Can you describe that to me what happened there?

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JW: I can't recall her saying anything to Adam but I noticed she just dropped him off and he got behind the other boys watching them so she turned around and went on her own business.

PM: This was at these games the children were playing?

JW: It was Nintendo, something new out at that time.

PM: Do you recall how many boys were at the games?

JW: There was two boys, there was one boy who looked like he was about 12, another one a little taller there was one taller than the other, he looked like he was about 12, 13 something like that.

PM: Then when Mrs. Walsh left Adam there were you able to be there long enough to see what Adam did?

JW: He was just standing there waiting and watching his turn it seemed to me like. Because the boys were busy playing and he was just standing there watching them.

PM: You didn't see any other children there at that time?

JW: Nope. Just the two boys and Adam. Adam was standing behind.

PM: And then you say -

JW: In fact Ruthie went between the two boys and Adam to go over into the toys. See the toys were over on the west wall at that time.

PM: And that is where your granddaughter stayed?

JW: Yea she was over there on the backside of the building.

PM: Now from where Adam was and these other two boys were, can you try to describe for me where was this person that you became uneasy about?

JW: He was standing back right beside of Adam. He was standing right beside Adam.

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PM: Was he there before -

JW: Yes he was there before.

PM: Was he alone?

JW: He was alone.

PM: Just standing there?

JW: Yea.

PM: Did you recognize him?

JW: No.

PM: He was a stranger?

JW: He was just a stranger.

PM: And he wasn't talking to anyone?

JW: No he was talking to the clerk or the clerk was more or less talking to him.

PM: Ok so there were two men there?

JW: Yea, the clerk was there talking, he was not busy so he was watching the boys too.

PM: And did you recognize the clerk?

JW: Yes I have known the clerk I had known him to be there for several years because I had dealt with Sears for sometime and but I never knew his name, he is always polite and nice.

PM: Do you know where he worked?

JW: He worked in the delivery service part taking orders where the catalogs use to be. I don't think they have that anymore but they use to have a catalog where you could order.



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PM: Det. Smith from Hollywood police, you have spoken to him in the past right?

JW: Yes.

PM: And you explained to him about how you recognized one of the men being the clerk is that correct?

JW: No I did not recognize any of the men he had us look at.

PM: Now let me back up you are getting ahead of me. Det. Smith, when you spoke to him and told him basically what you are telling me today, you mentioned to him that one of the men that you saw that day you had recognized as an employee of Sears correct? One of the men that he had worked in the catalog orders or in the pickup department?

JW: Det. Smith did not show me this guy's picture.

PM: No no no mam, -

JW: Oh I recognized, I don't understand what you are talking about.

PM: Det. Smith I believe attempted to learn the identity of the clerk?

JW: Yes he did but he said he wasn't successful when I talked to him. And he did show me some pictures of somebody that might have resembled him and I didn't recognize any of them.

PM: Ok that is what I was going to lead up to. He did show you some photographs, you didn't recognize any?

JW: None that I recognized. No I would know him anywhere if I see him.

PM: You see the two men standing there and they were there before Adam arrived and then Mrs. Walsh left Adam at the video games and went into the lighting department correct?

JW: Right.

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PM: When you came back to retrieve your granddaughter did you look to see if the children were still at the video games?

JW: No I don't recall looking back, just to hear Ruthie and see her -

PM: You don't know if they were there or not?

JW: No can't recall.

PM: And you don't know if the two men were still there?

JW: Nope. Well I assume the clerk was still there because he was on duty he was working.

PM: Do you have any idea approximately what time this would have occurred?

JW: When I was there?

PM: Yea.

JW: No other than I can only say by the way the children were young enough to take their nap and all that I would probably be between midmorning and midafternoon.

PM: Now you recall Det. Smith showed you some photographs and what I would like to do is show you some photographs, a total of 6 actually, and I am just going to ask you to look at them and see if there is anyone in there that you recognize. There may or may not be anyone in there that you might recognize.

JW: The only one that I would that looks familiar to me would be number 5 here on this card. But I don't know where I have seen him. That is the only one I -

PM: Do you have any idea where you may have seen him?

JW: No I have no idea at this time. I don't know who he might be. Now like I told you at the time I could not tell I could not give you a face on this guy. I just know that he was dressed in Kacki clothes like army fatigues clothes.

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PM: Now you are talking about the man -

JW: The man I saw talking to the clerk.

PM: Can you say it is not this man, number 5?

JW: I can't put a face on this guy. All I can tell you is he had dirty blond hair, and it was down below his ears and it was back behind his ears, you know hanging down. Now he did have some kind of a hat or cap on because I only saw about 2 inches of it. So I know he did but I can't recall. I know he was dressed in the beige Kacki clothes you know that the service boys used and a shirt that matched and of course a tee shirt under that and then he had his hands in his pocket. He was just standing there watching.

PM: After you visited Sears that day, you mentioned you heard an announcement the boy was missing. Did there ever come a time later where you learned that the boy had been killed?

JW: Yes, I heard it on t.v. but I don't know how long after that. Probably within a week.

PM: Did there ever come a time after that that you ever saw any news media, accounts of the Walsh case either on t.v. or newspaper that had any photographs of people that the police were suspecting?

JW: There was a guy that was on t.v. that I saw and he sort of annoyed me I don't know he had long kinky hair, blondish/mixed colors that upset me but I don't recall who he was now, it has been so long.

PM: To the best of your knowledge the man you saw in Sears that day talking to the clerk, have you ever seen him or photograph of him anywhere since then?

JW: No other than my inward feelings you know when I saw a particular picture like this one number 5 here that gives me a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach when I saw him but I can't really say that that was his face.

PM: Right.

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JW: I could never if somebody had come up soon after Adam was found and asked me to identify a face I couldn't. It is only a feeling a gut feeling I have inside that I saw him and it made me uneasy. That is why I went back after Ruthie was because of him. Now I don't know if this has anything to do with the case but that is the reason I went back because see they had to announce -

PM: You were just nervous about granddaughter?

JW: Yes because this guy whoever he was I don't even know.

PM: This will conclude the statement at about 1:37 PM.

**STATEMENT TERMINATED**