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Investigative Assignment #96-02-262

Investigative Report #1

June 25, 1996

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

FROM: Inv. Philip J. Mundy

SUBJ: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh
Reference to Larry Leon WALDO

ENCL: 1) Police and Court records of arrest of Larry Leon
Waldo on June 10, 1982.

2) Macclenny State Hospital records on Larry Leon
Waldo.

3) Statement of Patricia Ann Waldo.

4) Statement of Clyde Kenneth Waldo.

The intent of this report is to record the investigative action taken and the results of the inquiry in regard to a Larry Leon Waldo, white male, date of birth, July 27, 1955.

On November 2, 1983 Dets. R. Dunbar and F. Hogan of the Hollywood Police Department obtained a statement from Larry Leon Waldo in which Waldo claimed that on July 27, 1981 which was his birthday he was in the company of Ottis Toole in Jacksonville, Florida. As Waldo is questioned further in the statement he agreed with the detectives that he is apparently mistaken about the date he was with Toole and concedes to them that he was not in Jacksonville until September, 1981.

Dets. Hickman and Hoffman submitted a report on November 8, 1983 detailing their investigation of Larry Leon Waldo and his claim that he was with Ottis Toole on July 27, 1981. The detectives report concluded that they believed Waldo met Toole in 1982 as opposed to 1981.

As will be shown in this report Larry Waldo was a troubled individual who was burdened with both psychiatric and alcohol problems. This would bring into question his ability to recount past details with any accuracy as well as an inclination to be easily persuaded by persons in authority. While this may not have been the case in this situation it was part of the reason for thoroughly reviewing the investigation of Larry Waldo's claims even at this late date. In reviewing Waldo's statement as well as Detectives Hickman and Hoffman's follow up report it was not shown conclusively where Larry Leon Waldo was on July 27, 1981. In as much as Adam Walsh was abducted and presumed murdered on July 27, 1981 the question of Waldo's whereabouts on that date warranted further study.

Initially the question of how and why Waldo came to the attention of the Hollywood detectives was addressed. Also, Waldo's statement was taken at 1608 N. 27th Avenue, Hollywood and it was not known why the interview was conducted at that location. Det. Mark Smith questioned the detectives originally involved with Waldo

but none recalled how they came upon him specifically or why the statement was taken at 1608 N. 27th Avenue. Det. Mark Smith, Hollywood Police Department, was able to contact the owner of 1608 N. 27th Avenue and remembered Waldo quite simply as someone to whom a room had been rented to in 1983. This fact would fit with the lifestyle of Larry Leon Waldo, a semi-transient type individual.

Ottis Toole confessed to the murder of Adam Walsh in October of 1983 and it is recalled by this investigator that there was wide spread news coverage of this event as well as the events that immediately followed his revelation. It would seem safe to conclude that Waldo called the authorities as a result of his seeing this news coverage. As will be seen later in this report this also would fit with the behavior of Larry Leon Waldo.

In November, 1983 Larry Waldo would have been 28 years old. He died on May 2, 1990 in the City of Hollywood of natural causes.

Waldo's last known address was 3220 SW 64th Terrace in Miramar. The owner of this property, Nancy Durando (phone 966-1099), was interviewed and it was learned that she had rented a room to Larry Waldo for almost one year prior to his death. In fact she related that Larry Waldo died at her home and she was present at his death. She described Waldo as some what of an alcoholic and believed if he was not retarded he was at least intellectually impaired. Ms. Durando was aware that most if not

all of his family was now living in or near Jasper, Alabama but she has had no contact with them since Waldo's death. She also advised that Larry Waldo's father was deceased but that Larry did have a living mother whose name was Gertrude. She also mentioned the name of a Mr. Chuck St. John of Berry Hill Investigations who apparently is a friend of Larry Waldo's. Ms. Durando indicated that prior to living with her Larry Waldo was living with a Mr. Denver Simcox of 81 SW 41st Street, Miramar, phone 966-0919 and prior to that she believes he had been living alone in a trailer but she did not know the location.

Ms. Durando indicated that Waldo was receiving some sort of social security benefits but she did not know the amount or the actual source. She further advised that she suspected that Mr. Waldo was receiving some sort of psychiatric care somewhere in Hollywood.

Ms. Durando indicated that to the best of her knowledge Mr. Waldo did not hold down any sort of permanent job but she often dropped him off at 1080 NE 213th Street and believes that he did odd jobs in that area. She stated she also believed he sometimes frequented a location known as Sally's Bar in the Ives Dairy Road area.

Ms. Durando advises that the family took all of his property and so there was nothing to research from that source.

Ms. Durando explained that she lives at this location along with her daughter and up until his death with Larry Waldo, and during that time she never had any problems with Larry Waldo. She was informed by me that Waldo had given a statement to the police regarding the homicide of Adam Walsh and when told that Ms. Durando responded that there was a time where she believes the three of them were watching the Unsolved Mystery program on television and the Adam Walsh case was either being portrayed or discussed and out of the blue Larry Waldo said to her that he had been arrested for the Adam Walsh murder. Ms. Durando and her daughter questioned Larry initially about that statement and reached the conclusion that he had not been arrested for the Adam Walsh murder and that this was probably just another wild statement that Waldo was making. She also advised that to the best of her recollection he provided no further details about the comment nor did he ever mention the name Ottis Toole. She also offered a statement that she would not believe that in any event because she doesn't feel that Larry Waldo would be capable of committing a violent crime.

Contact was made with a Mr. Charles St. John, phone 962-8460 who advised that he met Larry Waldo in 1984 or perhaps 1985 and basically befriended him. He was aware of some of the problems that Waldo had and from time to time and allowed him to perform some odd jobs. Beyond that he really had no information relevant to this investigation.

The social security office was contacted in hopes that they might be able to provide a mailing address for Waldo's benefit check in July, 1981 and July, 1982. Unfortunately it was learned that records dating back that far have been purged. It was also learned that when an individual changes his mailing address for his benefit check the old mailing address is immediately purged.

With the assistance of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Division a search was made via that office in the hopes of tracking Larry Waldo's use of Medicaid. They reported back that they were unable to locate any records for Larry Leon Waldo.

Various contacts at HRS were contacted and again no record was found for Larry Leon Waldo including a check of their Child Abuse Division, Adult Health Service Division and their Economic Services Unit. This was a statewide check. However it should be noted that the records dating back as far as 1981 were not necessarily complete or readily accessible.

For the record contact was made with Hollywood Medical Center and they advised there was no record of a Larry Leon Waldo in 1981 or 1982. Hollywood Memorial Regional Hospital did report that Waldo was a patient for three weeks in 1979 and also in 1988 and his medical records number was 0379220. The Broward General Medical Center would acknowledge that they did have a record of treating Larry Leon Waldo at their facility but not during the year of 1981 or 1982.

In Larry Leon Waldo's statement to police he indicated that he was somewhere near Jacksonville just off Interstate 10 when he became distressed and sought medical assistance. It was recalled by this investigator that Ottis Toole had a connection with The Church of God at 5755 Ramona Blvd. in Jacksonville in 1981. Contact was made with Pastor Gary Wiggins of what is now the Assembly of God church at that location. Pastor Wiggins advised that the name Larry Leon Waldo is not familiar to him and they have no records that might help him refresh his memory. He also commented that transients pass through the church each day and some of them are given some financial assistance but this is in the form of cash and there is no record kept. Pastor Wiggins indicated that Ottis Toole was an exception to that and was paid by check because he had worked there for several days. Pastor Wiggins advises that the church is located at the major Interstate 10 exit and a large number of transients stop there each day. Further the state hospital is only about 20 miles east of the church's location.

There were some records wherein Larry Leon Waldo listed an address of 141 West 10th Street, Jacksonville, Fla. for 1982. In addition in the statement that he gave to the Hollywood detectives he indicated that he was staying at a rooming house in Jacksonville. Between April 9 and 11 of 1996 this investigator and Detective Mark Smith made contact with Ann Ezell of Madges Guest

House at 1321 Laura Street and displayed the photograph of Larry Leon Waldo which no one there including Ms. Ezell recognized. In addition no records could be found going back to 1981 on Larry Leon Waldo. Detectives Hickman and Hoffman already commented regarding Betty Goodyear's records being absent as regards to Larry Leon Waldo but that she did know him. The 141 West 10th Street address was visited and found to be abandoned.

Larry Leon Waldo's criminal history record indicates that he was a single state offender (Florida) and showed two date of births, July 27, 1955 and July 27, 1956, FBI #125929AA4, and his correct social security number 265-25-6963 and address of 141 West 10th Street, Jacksonville. Waldo was first arrested on June 10, 1982 in St. Johns County for a DWI and no driver's license. On February 3, 1983 he was arrested by Green Grove Springs Police Department in Clay County for Disorderly Intoxication and on February 5, 1985 by Duval County Sheriff's Office for Disorderly Intoxication.

In a continuing effort to pinpoint Waldo's whereabouts in July of 1981 various police agencies were contacted both in Broward County and in northeast Florida for a records search on Larry Leon Waldo, not for arrest but for police service type calls but no record was found.

The exception to this records search and quite significantly was that the Hollywood Police Department had a record of what was then known as a field interrogation stop of Larry Leon Waldo in the City of Hollywood on August 8, 1981. Unfortunately the record only indicates that a field interrogation stop was made and there are no details regarding what transpired between the officer and Larry Waldo and in fact the officers name is not even recorded. However, it is still significant to know that Larry Leon Waldo is now placed in Broward County on August 8, 1981.

The police and court records of the June 10, 1982 arrest were eventually obtained. The reports do not indicate one way or another whether or not Larry Leon Waldo was with anyone at the time of his arrest on June 10, 1982 at the Anastasia Park in St. Johns County. At that time he did list the address of 141 West 10th Street in Jacksonville and the records indicated that he was operating a 1967 Ford, 4-door, blue, bearing a 1983 Florida tag VKM 864. A records search was requested on the Florida tag and it came back registered to a Samuel L. Banks and Lorraine Warren of 843 Alderman Road #252, Jacksonville, Fla. 32211 on a 1976 Chevrolet 2-door bearing a VIN# 1B08E6Y181046. Efforts were made to contact the registered owners but these efforts met with failure based on the scant information available and so it cannot be explained how the tag VKM 864 came to be on the vehicle that was being driven by

Larry Waldo when he was arrested. The police report and court records contain no further information regarding the vehicle or it's disposition. There is a possibility that the arresting officer wrote down the wrong tag number as one letter or one digit would invalidate any records search.

Larry Waldo was not known to normally drive a motor vehicle. And if he was driving one that day, which he obviously was, it very well could have been borrowed from one of his transient friends from the rooming house area in Jacksonville. This investigator does not recall a 67 Ford 4-door blue vehicle being mentioned anywhere in the Adam Walsh investigation and in particular in connection with Ottis Toole.

It should be mentioned at this time that later in this investigation of Larry Waldo contact was made with his family in Jasper, Alabama. During that contact it was learned that Gary Waldo a twin brother of Larry's at one time owned a similar vehicle, however, it was finally determined from speaking with Gary that that vehicle was a 2-door car and it was wrecked prior to 1982 and had to his knowledge never left the state of Alabama.

The DUI and no driver's license charges according to the court documents were nolle prossed on June 25, 1982 and there is a notation on the announcement of nolle prosse "To be picked up by HRS". Efforts were made by this investigator to try and determine

what happened to Larry Waldo upon his release from the St. Johns County Jail particularly in view of the notation on the court document. Apparently the State Attorney's Office became aware of Larry Waldo's mental problems and decided not to pursue prosecution in this case. In addition, apparently arrangements were made for Waldo to be placed into some sort of adult facility because there is also a document amongst the court records indicating that was the case. The records indicate that Mr. Waldo was to go to a facility at 6300 Arlington Expressway in Jacksonville and it has been determined that that facility has changed hands three times since 1981 and there are no records going back to 1981. In addition this investigator made numerous contacts with various HRS offices in Jacksonville and was unable to determine what happened to Waldo after he left jail on June 25th. It had been hoped that he could be tracked through at least till July, 1982 but such is not the case.

Larry Waldo had claimed he was enroute back to south Florida in 1980 when he went to a local hospital because his "nerves was going bad on him". Waldo related to the police that he was then admitted to the state hospital (Macclenny State Hospital), and that he remained there for several months. After his release he eventually meets Ottis Toole and from this recollection Waldo believes he was with Toole on or about July 27, 1981.

Detectives Hickman and Hoffman conducted an investigation into this which is covered in their report of November 8, 1983. They note that with assistance from the Jacksonville homicide unit they learned that Larry Waldo was a patient at Macclenny from November 16, 1981 through June 10, 1982. Apparently at that time they did not obtain the actual medical records from Macclenny. Based on the information they had and some other circumstances enumerated in their report they concluded that Larry Leon Waldo was not with Ottis Toole on July 27, 1981. It did appear that he may have been and probably was in Jacksonville in July of 1982. However the investigation did not really show with certainty where Waldo was on July 27, 1981.

With the assistance of State Attorney Investigator Joey Dobson of the 8th Judicial Circuit a court order was obtained and the medical records on Larry Waldo from what is now the Northeast Florida State Hospital were obtained. In reviewing the medical records it was noted that although he was admitted to Macclenny on November 16, 1981 he had presented himself at the Lake City Mental Center on November 8, 1981. His complaint at that time was "they have sent me here, because I have been bad with animals". Waldo was admitted as a schizophrenic. On May 11, 1982 Larry Waldo failed to return to his ward in the hospital. On June 10, 1982 Larry Waldo was dropped from the patient rolls. So in fact Waldo

was a patient from November 8, 1981 to May 10, 1982. The discharge date of June 10, 1982 is really incorrect and in fact that is the day he was arrested by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. The medical records contain a great deal of information concerning his treatment and diagnosis as well as family background and these medical records are now a part of this case file.

With the assistance of Det. Danny Robinson of the Walker County Sheriff's Office (phone 205-384-3471) the family of Larry Leon Waldo was located in Jasper, Alabama. Contact was initially made with Waldo's aunt and uncle Patricia Ann and Clyde Kenneth Waldo. Route 3 Box 51-E Dauvo, Alabama 35578, telephone 205-387-8913. Statements were eventually taken from Mr. and Mrs. Waldo and will be commented upon further. Mr. Waldo is a retired Deerfield Beach Police Officer.

Waldo's sister, Nadeen Millican (DOB:7/2/53) of Route 7, Box 299, Jasper, Alabama, phone 205-221-0740 was also contacted by telephone. In the conversation with Ms. Millican she commented that there was a time where she had run around with Larry Waldo and both of them were basically rolling stones as she phrased it. To get some insight into Waldo she advises that her brother had some psychiatric problems, he was a habitual liar, and he saw things on TV and would become part of it. She recalled one incident where there had been a news report of a robbery and her brother went to

the police station to turn himself in. The police of course realized that he was fantasizing and he was not arrested. Ms. Millican advised that she had no idea what her brother's sexual preference was. In addition to that she was not aware that he had the use of any motor vehicles and was surprised to learn that he had in fact been arrested for DUI. Ms. Millican referred me to her aunt and uncle for further details regarding Larry Waldo. It was also learned from the Waldo's that Larry's mother is still living under the name of Gertrude Odom and she previously had been married under the name of Gertrude VanZant and to the best of their knowledge she was now living in Crystal River, phone 904-563-5635. Mr. and Mrs. Waldo indicated that they felt that Gertrude may herself have some mental problems and they have had no contact with her in several years. It was also learned that there are four brothers, one of whom is a twin, Gary, and two sisters.

A statement was taken from Patricia Waldo who is Larry's aunt by marriage to Kenneth Waldo. The Waldo's have been living in the Jasper Alabama area since 1978. Kenneth and Patricia Waldo indicated that Larry would visit there often and he would hitchhike up from South Florida. In conversations with him he indicated that there were several places along the way where he knew where to stop to obtain food and shelter. So he apparently traveled the same route basically all the time. They couldn't recall with any

certainty if Larry had been there in December of 1980 and January of 1981 but very possible that he was.

Patricia Waldo's statement reflects that she did see Larry Waldo in the City of Hollywood in August of 1981 at Waldo's grandmothers Pearl Zadie Waldo's home. Pearl is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Waldo were there to gather up the furniture and belongings of Pearl Zadie Waldo to take her back to Alabama to live with them. Pearl Waldo was apparently in poor health and had just spent some time in the hospital. Patricia and Kenneth Waldo recall Larry Waldo assisting them in moving Waldo's grandmother. And while they do not recall the exact date they do know it was in August, 1981 and it will be recalled that the Hollywood Police Department had a field interrogation report on Larry on August 8, 1981.

The Waldo's indicated that they were left with the impression that Larry Waldo had been staying with his grandmother and sometimes with a woman named Jody but they did not know her name or address only that she operated a fruit stand somewhere on 441. The Waldo's commented that Larry Waldo was not very good on his recollection of dates. However, had he been away in July, 1981 they are certain that his grandmother would have mentioned it to them as that was her habit.

During the preparation of this report a phone call was received from the Waldo's indicating that they had continued to

think about where Larry Waldo was on July 27, 1981 and it finally came to them that they remembered telephoning Pearl Waldo on that day and that she had mentioned that she had made Larry Waldo a banana cake and so they are now certain that Larry Waldo on July 27, 1981 spent that birthday with his grandmother Pearl in the City of Hollywood.

A supplemental statement will be taken via telephone from Patricia and Kenneth Waldo at a later time and submitted under seperate cover.

Just for the record the Waldo's were not aware that Larry had been a patient at Macclenny Hospital nor did they know about the June, 1982 arrest for DUI.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo also mentioned that they seem to recall with fair certainty that Larry Waldo spent the Christmas of 1982 in Jasper. And so it would appear that Larry Waldo very likely had been in Alabama in December of 1980 and January of 1981 and he may have in fact had been enroute back to Alabama in November of 1981 when he became a voluntary patient at Macclenny State Hospital and thus missed spending the holidays in Alabama in December of 1981. They then recalled that he was there in 1982 which would fit into this pattern.

None of the Waldo family recall Larry ever mentioning the name of Ottis Toole or Adam Walsh. A photograph of Ottis Toole was shown to them and no one recognized Ottis Toole as anyone they have ever seen.

The Waldo's mentioned that Larry would often give out his address in Hollywood and they would not be surprised if he had given it to someone like Ottis Toole. If Larry Waldo hitchhiked back and forth from South Florida to Jasper, Alabama from 1978 up until the time of his death in 1990 it is anybody's guess as to whether or not he had ever run into Ottis Toole prior to 1982.

Kenneth and Patricia Waldo never knew Larry Waldo to be violent or to harm anyone and as far as they know he never had any problems with children.

They commented that if Larry had given a statement to the police regarding Ottis Toole and the Adam Walsh homicide they would not be at all surprised if he later told Nancy Durando that he had been arrested for that crime. In Larry's mind he may have construed the statement to be an arrest.

They commented that Larry Waldo's accuracy and his credibility should always be held in question.

A brief statement was also taken from Clyde Kenneth Waldo and he basically agrees with the information provided by his wife Patricia.

This report has been detailed so that any future reader inquiring of Larry Leon Waldo will have a record of what has been done in regards to his connection with this case. Based on the investigation of Larry Leon Waldo at this time it is believed that he was in fact in Hollywood on July 27, 1981 with his grandmother Pearl Waldo. It does not appear that he had the ability to be connected with the abduction and murder of Adam Walsh. It would seem that Larry Waldo did in fact know Ottis Toole but in all probability did not make his acquaintance until the summer of 1982.

A copy of this report, copies of statements of Patricia and Kenneth Waldo, the medical records and the court and police records from St. Johns County will be forwarded to Det. Mark Smith of the Hollywood Police Department for their files.



INV. PHILIP J. MUNDY

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