
#8 Statement of Nellie SCHRECK

(Adam Walsh)

Investigative Assignment #96-2-0262 September 11, 1996

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT #8

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

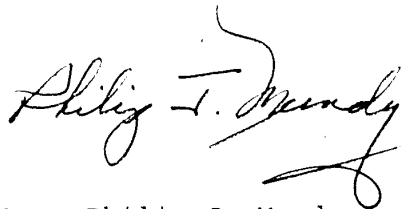
FROM: PHILIP J. MUNDY
 Investigator

SUBJ: Statement of Nellie Marie Schreck

RE: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

ENCL: (1) Transcript of statement of Nellie Marie Schreck
 (2) Copy of photo line up I.D. statement of Nellie Marie
 Schreck

On September 10, 1996 Nellie Marie Schreck, W/F, DOB: 10/6/19 was interviewed at her home and a sworn statement was taken from her. Mrs. Schreck has positively identified Ottis Elwood TOOLE as the man she encountered at the west entrance to Sears on the day Adam Walsh was kidnapped. It should be noted that Mrs. Schreck places the time of her encounter at about 2 P.M. but does allow that she could be in error as to the time.



Inv. Philip J. Mundy

cc: Det. Mark Smith, Hollywood Police Department with enclosures

ENCLOSURE

ONE

Statement
NELLIE SCHRECK

September 10, 1996
Inv. Philip Mundy

THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE A WITNESS STATEMENT IN REGARD TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATION #96-2-262 AND THE HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT CASE NUMBER #81-56083. THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF NELLIE, N-E-L-L-I-E, MARIE, SCHRECK, S-C-H-R-E-C-K, WHITE FEMALE, DATE OF BIRTH, OCTOBER 6, 1919. THE STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN BY STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY AT THE HOME OF MRS. SCHRECK, #1 BARRY, B-A-R-R-Y ROAD, IN HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, 33023 ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 12:25 PM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PM: PHILIP MUNDY
NS: NELLIE SCHRECK

PM: Mrs. Schreck for the record 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?

NS: I do.

PM: And I am going to ask you to speak up real loud, would you say that again?

NS: I do.

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

NS: My name is Nellie Marie Schreck and I was born October 6, 1919.

PM: Mrs. Schreck just to kind of set the stage for the reason for this statement, is it true that approximately sometime in February of 1996 that you had occasion to contact someone at the Hollywood Police Department is that true?

NS: Yes.

PM: And was the purpose of your calling them to offer them some information you believed you had regarding the investigation into the death of an Adam Walsh?

NS: Yes.

PM: Now the reason I came here to see you today was to follow up on that phone call. And a short time ago we had a brief conversation that was not on the tape recorder where you explained to me why you had gone to Sears at the Hollywood Mall and that you encountered an individual as you were entering the store is that correct?

NS: Yes that is right.

PM: Let's go back to that. And I am going to ask you again in your own words would you tell me what happened the day you went to Sears? Just you know repeat the story you told me earlier.

NS: Yes I parked at what I called the rear of Sears, that is the entrance closest to the layaway counter. I had a package to be picked up at the layaway so I parked at the rear of the store and entered that entrance. As I came up to the door and reached for the door a man grasped the door and opened it and when he did I looked directly at him because I wanted to thank him for opening the door. He was tall, very tall, slender, had what I call an egg shaped head with a protruding forehead, sparse hair, one eye that was slightly turned, protruding teeth, wearing a I believe a plaid or very dark shirt. He looked at me and nodded and I thought that is an ugly looking man. I just passed him and went into the store.

PM: Let me ask you a couple of questions about your description. When you said he was a tall man a very tall man, could you give me an approximate height?

NS: Well I have sons that are 6'2" so he was that.

PM: About 6'2"?

NS: Yes I would say about that.

PM: Did you draw any idea about how old the man was?

NS: Late 30's maybe early 40's.

PM: And I may have missed it but did you mention the color of his hair, do you remember the color of his hair?

NS: His hair was sandy color I believe. Not real light but medium hair.

PM: You mentioned something about his teeth, what was that?

NS: Protruding front teeth.

PM: How was it that you were able to see his teeth?

NS: There was a natural posture of his mouth was that you could see them.

PM: Did you notice anything unusual about his teeth?

NS: No, they overlapped slightly in the front.

PM: You mentioned the shirt, do you recall by any chance if it was a short sleeve, long sleeve, pullover or what type of shirt?

NS: No.

PM: You seem to think it was plaid?

NS: Yea I believe it was plaid.

PM: Did you notice anything regarding pants, shorts, trousers?

NS: Yea he was a ^{SEEDY} ~~CD~~ character all around.

PM: When you say ^{SEEDY} ~~CD~~ what can you ...

NS: Well his clothes hung on him and he just like baggy pants, dark baggy pants. He was just so slender that it seemed like his clothes just hung on him.

PM: Did the man say anything to you?

NS: No.

PM: Did he make any facial expressions to you?

NS: Yes, he gave me a sort of a flirting look, if you can call that from that ugly face.

PM: How close to the man were you? I understand he was opening the door for you when you passed him, how close would you say you and he were together?

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NS: Two feet as I came in the door.

PM: And in the moments that you encountered this man did you notice anything else about him that was unusual? For anything that stands out in particular?

NS: Yea he had a kind of way of holding his head to the side. Kind of tilted his head.

PM: You don't recall exactly what day this was do you?

NS: No I don't. Because the incident beyond that just hadn't registered. I hadn't heard about -

PM: I'll cover that. Now this is pretty much the same story that you related to me before we went on to the tape recorder correct?

NS: Yes.

PM: And you recall after you related that to me I told you I had some photographs I would like you to look at?

NS: Yes.

PM: I didn't tell you did I whether or not there was anybody in there that you might recognize or you might not, I mean, do you understand, I didn't give you any hints or clues?

NS: No you gave me no hints or clues you didn't say anything about that.

PM: And then I did give you a folder that has six photographs in it?

NS: Yes.

PM: And I am going to show you now the same folder with the same photographs and tell me did you pick somebody out of those photographs?

NS: Yes I picked a man out from the photographs.

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PM: And his number?

NS: His number is 5.

PM: Is that the man that you saw that day at the doorway at the Sears?

NS: Yes that is the man I saw.

PM: Any question in your mind?

NS: No, no question at all.

PM: And when you look at the photographs, did you have any trouble picking him out? You picked him out right away?

NS: Yes.

PM: And after you did that did I ask you to initial the back of the photograph?

NS: Yes you did.

PM: And are those in fact your initials on the back of that photograph with today's date?

NS: Yes.

PM: After you did that I gave to you a form which basically confirms your identification of photograph number 5 is that correct?

NS: Yes that is correct.

PM: And you filled it out and signed it?

NS: Yes.

PM: Now let me ask you a few more questions if I may, after that happened you just kind of went on about your business correct?

NS: Yes.

PM: Did there come a time where you became aware that a young boy named Adam Walsh was missing from the Sears at the Hollywood Mall?

NS: Yes.

PM: Do you recall how or approximately when you learned of that?

NS: At least two maybe three days later.

PM: Do you remember how you found out?

NS: I think first somebody told me about it and then yes that is how I found out about it somebody told me.

PM: Now at that time did you make any association between the disappearance of the boy and this person that you had briefly encountered?

NS: No except that when I believe it was -

PM: Now I am talking about when you first found out about the missing person not later.

NS: No I made no connection except that I believed that I was there when I heard that that is where he had disappeared from. I made that connection.

PM: I was going to try and get into that. Is there any way that you associated your visit to the Sears store in the Hollywood Mall to the same day that the Adam Walsh boy disappeared?

NS: Yes.

PM: How did you do that? If you remember?

NS: When I read the story and they named the day as when ever that was I realized then that that was the same day that I was there.

PM: And in all honesty at that point you still did not make any association between this man and the disappearance right?

NS: That is correct.

PM: Now apparently sometime passes and what is the next thing that happens in your life that brings the Adam Walsh case back to your attention after that?

NS: I read an article about they had connected somebody they had got the Hollywood Police had thought they had connected some other man and his son to the case. And that renewed thoughts, well they are getting away from the original scenario. They are picking up on something else.

PM: Something new?

NS: Something new yeah.

PM: And still you made no connection between this man and the Adam Walsh boy correct, or did you?

NS: No. No.

PM: And then did something happen after that regarding the Adam Walsh case that renewed your interest?

NS: Let's go back a little. By the time I had seen, give me a minute. I had seen his picture before this other scenario came in because that is why I couldn't figure out why they weren't continuing with that man and were going to somebody else. So I had seen the man that I - .

PM: That is sort of what I was leading up to. There apparently came a time where you saw a photograph in the newspaper or on t.v. or something of a man that you connected as the man you saw at Sears that day is that correct?

NS: Yes that is correct.

PM: And am I correct in saying that it was either in the newspaper or t.v.?

NS: Yes.

PM: And when you saw that picture what went through your mind, what were your thoughts when you saw that picture?

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NS: I said that is the man that I saw in Sears that day and I had discussed that with my family.

PM: Do you remember what year that was? I know that is hard. If you can't remember that is ok.

NS: No I don't remember.

PM: It has been a number of years correct?

NS: Yes it has been a number of years.

PM: And while I am on the subject do you remember at least the year or month that you went to Sears on that errand when you encountered this man?

NS: Not now.

PM: But you do know it was at the time of the Walsh disappearance?

NS: Yes.

PM: The next question is, you say you saw a photograph of this man a number of years ago in the newspaper or t.v., did you before today, did you ever see any other photographs of this man anywhere?

NS: No.

PM: So when I showed you this photograph today in all honesty, are you identifying that man in photograph number 5 as the man you saw in Sears on that day many years ago?

NS: Yes.

PM: Does the fact that you saw his photograph in a newspaper have any influence on your identification of him?

NS: No, does not.

PM: It is one and the same man?

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NS: It is one and the same man.

PM: And I think you started to tell me that when you saw his photograph in the news media that you told your family?

NS: Yes.

PM: Who did you tell?

NS: First I told my family that I thought I was telling them.

PM: No I mean specifically who did you tell? The name?

NS: My daughter.

PM: And her name?

NS: Lynn Schreck.

PM: Lynn same last name as yours?

NS: Yes.

PM: Where does Lynn live now?

NS: She lives with me.

PM: Did you tell anyone else?

NS: Yes I believe I told my other daughter Barbara.

PM: And she lives in Hollywood?

NS: Yes.

PM: Barbara has a different last name correct?

NS: Evans, yes.

PM: Barbara Evans. So you told your two daughters that the man that was in the paper you had seen before?

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NS: Yes. No first I told them I was there the day that and about this ugly man.

PM: When did you tell them that?

NS: As soon as I knew the Walsh boy was missing.

PM: The man you see at Sears as you are going into Sears, did you tell your daughters about that man right after that happened? You know the same day that that happened, did you tell them I encountered this ugly man tonight?

NS: No.

PM: After you saw the photograph in the paper or ...

NS: No after I heard about the Walsh boy.

PM: So it was shortly after the disappearance that you told your daughters about this man?

NS: Yes. I don't know why I made a connection today.

PM: Ok when you told your daughters -

NS: I guess because the incident because I was there that day refreshed my mind about the ugly man at the door.

PM: Ok when you told your daughters about that man did you tell them because you thought he had any connections with the Walsh case?

NS: No. No.

PM: You were just telling them?

NS: Yea just telling them.

PM: However, now when you see this picture in the paper of this man did you tell your daughters then that that was the same man?

NS: Yes.

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PM: And at that point did you make a connection between him and the Walsh boy?

NS: Absolutely.

PM: Did you ever read or hear or get some impression somehow that this man had been charged with that crime?

NS: No just that they were questioning him.

PM: Now apparently more years past after that, after his picture appeared?

NS: Yes.

PM: When something else occurred that caused you to call the Hollywood Police?

NS: Right.

PM: And that was recently?

NS: Yes.

PM: What happened that made you do that?

NS: I read that a detective from the Hollywood police was looking, once again into the Walsh case, new information or some reason to look into it further and I said to myself, why the heck don't I tell him about now.

PM: And that is what caused you to call Det. Smith?

NS: Yes because I thought they were still off on that other two men.

PM: Let me go back a little more now, when you saw this man's picture in the paper and he was being questioned about the Walsh child, you told your family that this is the man you saw in Sears that day correct?

NS: Right.

PM: Can you explain to me why at that time you didn't contact the police?

NS: No I don't because I can't tell you why because I just felt that they had the guy and they were going to get the right dope. I felt he was - I didn't think I had anything to offer. Seeing I didn't see that was important that they probably had solid more solid stuff that they could deal with then just my being there.

PM: Let's go back to the day you were at Sears, I think you said you were going to layaway?

NS: Right.

PM: Can you give me some idea of what time you think you were at Sears?

NS: I believe it was between, in the afternoon it would be between 2 and 4 or 2 and 5. That is when I go shopping.

PM: Now as far as the time goes do you know that to be the time because that is when you usually go or do you know it to be the time because you looked at your watch or some other reason of being able to fix the time?

NS: No but I can see the sun on that sidewalk and as I picture the scene I could see the and the sun was not further than that curb so I would take that to be about 2:00.

PM: Definitely wasn't early morning?

NS: No.

PM: It wasn't after dinner time?

NS: No.

PM: So somewhere in between that and you are guessing between 2 and 5?

NS: Yes.



MICHAEL J. SATZ
STATE ATTORNEY

SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301-3360

PHONE (954) 831-6955

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

I, NELLIE M. SCHRECK, 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.

Nellie M. Schreck
Signature

9/10/96 12:19 P.M.
Date and Time

For the record the witness has identified a subject known as

OTTIS ELWOOD TOOLE

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PM: But you are not certain?

NS: No I am not that certain.

PM: I know it has been a lot of years, I guess there is no record that you kept of the item you picked up, a receipt or anything like that?

NS: No it occurred to be that maybe Sears would have a record of it.

PM: Probably not. Do you remember what it was you picked up? Or how you paid for it?

NS: No, no.

PM: Were you alone when you went there that day?

NS: Yes.

PM: The man that you encountered could you tell if he was alone or not?

NS: No I could not tell if he was alone or not. But I can't say there was somebody with him either but there was somebody coming through with him, but being a doorway could have been anybody.

PM: As you approached Sears and was heading toward the door that you eventually went into, did you notice anybody coming out just before you got there?

NS: No.

PM: Besides that man?

NS: No. There was just he and I.

PM: And after you got into the store, during those first few steps into the store you didn't see anybody trailing behind this man did you?

NS: No.

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PM: You didn't see any children there that day right? In that vicinity?

NS: In the vicinity? No.

PM: I know we always forget something to ask. I have tried to cover everything. Is there anything you can think of about this investigation that you know that I haven't asked you about that you think you should tell me?

NS: No. Not at this time.

PM: You were up pretty close to this individual correct?

NS: Oh yes.

PM: Did you notice any kind of an odor?

NS: That I was going to mention that. That I thought he was kind of but that could have been an impression because he was dirty, CD looking guy. I am not sure if there was. Now that I think about it now.

PM: Ok this will conclude the statement at about 12:50 PM.

STATEMENT TERMINATED

ENCLOSURE

TWO