
**#12 Statement of Kathy SHAFFER
(Adam Walsh)**

Investigative Assignment #96-02-0262

September 30, 1996

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT #12

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

FROM: PHILIP J. MUNDY
Investigator

SUBJ: Statement of Kathryn Jean Shaffer BARRACK

RE: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

ENCL: 1) Transcript of statement of Kathryn Jean Shaffer
Barrack

2) Sketch of interior of Sears and exit route of Adam
Walsh

The statement of Kathryn Jean Shaffer BARRACK was taken from her on September 15, 1996 at her home in Lakeland, Florida. On July 27, 1981 Mrs. Barrack was at that time a seventeen year old employee of the Sears store at the Hollywood Mall assigned to the store security staff.

Mrs. Barrack's statement describes how on July 27, 1981 she was called to the toy department regarding a disturbance at the video games. Arriving at the location she encountered two black children and two white children. She asked the children if their parents were in the store and when they replied in the negative she told the children they would have to leave the store. She watched as the two black children walked out the exit at the south end of the store and she then watched as the other two children walked out the garden shop exit on the west side of the store. Enclosure 2) is a sketch made according to Mrs. Barrack's recollection.

Mrs. Barrack explained that at the time of the occurrence she was shown photographs but did not identify Adam Walsh as one of the children she ejected from the store. She now admits that one of the boys was indeed Adam Walsh.

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A photo line up which included a picture of Ottis TOOLE was displayed to Mrs. Barrack and she did not identify anyone as being seen by her in Sears on July 27, 1981

Philip J. Mundy
INV. PHILIP J. MUNDY

cc: Det. Mark Smith
Hollywood Police Department (with enclosures)

**ENCLOSURE
ONE**

Statement
KATHRYN JEAN BARRACK
(Formerly Kathryn Shaffer)

September 15, 1996
Inv. Philip Mundy

THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE A WITNESS STATEMENT IN REGARD TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATION NUMBER 96-02-262 AND HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT CASE NUMBER 81-56073. THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF KATHRYN, K-A-T-H-R-Y-N, JEAN, J-E-A-N, BARRACK, B-A-R-R-A-C-K, WHOSE MAIDEN NAME WAS KATHRYN SHAFFER. THIS STATEMENT IS BEING GIVEN TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY AT #204 MARCUM, M-A-R-C-U-M, TRACE, T-R-A-C-E, DRIVE IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA. THIS STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1996 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 2:03 PM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PM: PHILIP MUNDY
KB: KATHRYN BARRACK

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 the statement you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth so help you god?

KB: I do.

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

KB: Kathryn Jean Barrack, January 16, 1964.

PM: Mrs. Barrack, calling your attention back to July, 1981 were you working for the Sears store in the City of Hollywood?

KB: Yes I was.

PM: And were you working at the Hollywood Mall?

KB: Yes I was.

PM: On that date as you well know there was a young man Adam Walsh abducted from the City of Hollywood, you are aware of that?

KB: Yes sir.

PM: When you were working for Sears on July 27, 1981 in what capacity were you working?

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KB: I worked for the security.

PM: And basically your functions were to do what?

KB: Catch shop lifters and keep order at the store.

PM: You didn't have a uniform on did you?

KB: No we worked street clothes so that we are disguised.

PM: Do you recall what hours you worked that day?

KB: I don't recall exactly no.

PM: Do you remember if it was during the day time?

KB: Yes. It was day time. I believe it was before noon that I got there.

PM: Would part of your duties involve just walking around the store kinda looking out for people?

KB: Exactly.

PM: Now today I displayed to you what we call an array of photographs, there were six photographs of white males correct?

KB: Correct.

PM: On July 27, 1981 did you remember seeing anybody that was in the photographs I showed you in or around the Sears store on that day?

KB: Not on that day.

PM: Or any other day I mean of the photographs I showed you?

KB: No. I don't recall any of those photograph pictures I ever seen of those people personally no.

PM: On the day you were working on July 27, 1981 can you describe to me if there was some sort of problem with some children at the video games?

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KB: I was called to the toy department for a disturbance with the children were fighting over the electronic games there that are not an uncommon thing. Upon arrival there were four little boys, two white boys, two black boys fighting over the game.

PM: Pushing, shoving kind of thing?

KB: No, you know they wouldn't take turns obviously. At the time the black boys were the ones playing the game and continued telling the little white boys that they were going "ok, just a minute, just a minute" saying they were going to surrender the game but would not.

PM: And what did you do to resolve that?

KB: I asked the children playing the game, the two little black boys, if their parents were in the store. They both answered me with a no answer and I pointed to doors out the opposite end of the store and told them "you two out those two doors".

PM: Did the boys leave out those two doors?

KB: Yes.

PM: Did you see what the other two boys did?

KB: I then asked them, "are your parents in the store"? Assuming they were together, and the older of the two told me no. So I said "you two out those two doors" and pointed at different doors.

PM: And what did they do?

KB: They left out those doors.

PM: You have no idea who those boys were?

KB: No sir I didn't. None of them.

PM: Subsequent to that, did anybody come to you and ask you to identify any of those boys?

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KB: Later that evening, I'm going to say around after 2:00, I had gone home, actually I was working in the store during the day and there was a problem out in the auto shop so they wanted me to go home and change my clothes to work out there the rest of the day. And between that time and I had come back, sometime after 2:00 I had gone home to change by clothes, Reve Walsh showed me a picture, one before I had left because there was a discussion of a missing child and she showed me a picture of a child that in my opinion looked like to have some type of mental difficulty, mongoloid possibly, not down syndrome but an awful appearance. She showed me one before I left and then when I came back I realized the child was still missing and again she showed me another picture later that night.

PM: A different picture?

KB: Correct.

PM: Did you identify any of those pictures?

KB: At the time I did not, I couldn't say yes, the little boy was the one when she showed me the initial picture. Later that night when she showed me a different picture I did recognize the child but denied any knowledge of it. I don't know anything about it because truly I was confused, is this the same picture, are they really trying to throw me off, so I wasn't 110% sure so I didn't say "yes this is definitely the child". In retrospect looking back I think being a 17 year old child myself your mind is playing tricks on me saying "no I don't know anything about it".

PM: Did there come a time when you resolved in your mind the identity of one of the boys that walked out of the store.

KB: Years later.

PM: And how did that come about?

KB: Repeated occurrence with the knowledge of the case. Repeatedly being reminded of it.

PM: I am trying to phrase this the best as I can, sitting here today, do you feel certain in your mind that one of the boys that went out of the two white boys that went out was Adam Walsh?

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KB: I would love to tell you no, but in my heart I was quite certain it was.

PM: When you got the call about the disturbance at the video store you went there?

KB: Toy department.

PM: I'm sorry, toy department? As you approached did you happen to notice if there was any adult males standing around?

KB: No I did not.

PM: You didn't notice or you didn't see any?

KB: I didn't notice, I wasn't observing, I wasn't looking around.

PM: Focused on the children?

KB: Correct.

PM: So someone could have been standing around and you just didn't see him?

KB: Could have. Sure.

PM: You didn't follow the boys out of the store did you?

KB: I did not.

PM: So you had no idea after the boys left the store what happened?

KB: No, I just watched the four boys, I watched the two black, I stood in a position where I could see the two black boys leave those doors which were substantially further down the store than the ones that the white boys. So one of the white boys did exit the store through the garden department which was only a number of feet, then I followed the two other black boys.

PM: You mentioned to me that you asked the older of the white boys if his parents were in the store, he said no and then they left the store?

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KB: Together.

PM: The little boy never said a word to you?

KB: No. Never spoke.

PM: You don't remember what he was wearing?

KB: I do recall a hat. I don't recall what he wore. But I think they were both wearing hats.

PM: When was the first time you found out there was a missing child in the store or from the store?

KB: Approximately a half an hour after the incident.

PM: Did you relate the incident to the missing child at that time?

KB: I did not. Especially when she showed me the picture. I couldn't put the two together.

PM: And then you left the store?

KB: Then I went home to change my clothes.

PM: When you came back she had a different picture as I understand you?

KB: Later that night like 6:00ish.

PM: It was a different picture?

KB: Yes sir.

PM: And are you certain today that the 2nd picture she showed you was Adam? Adam Walsh?

KB: Yes sir.

PM: Was anyone with you when you went to the toy department?

KB: No I work alone. We don't work together.

PM: Can you think of anybody else that I might not know about that might have been in the area that may have seen someone?

Statement/KATHRYN BARRACK
Asn #96-2-262/September 15, 1996

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KB: My boss, but I don't even remember his name. He was the head of the security department which is right there in the toy department.

PM: Is there anything about this case that you can think of that I haven't asked you about that you feel I should know?

KB: No.

PM: This will conclude the statement at about 2:14 PM.

STATEMENT TERMINATED

**ENCLOSURE
TWO**



Sketch of Sears store interior, depicting exit route of victim, Adam Walsh. Sketch based on recollection of witness Kathy Shaffer Barrack. (Statement of 9-15-96).

S.A.O. Inv. Assn. #96-02-262
Hollywood P.D. Case # 81-56073
SAO Inv. Phil Mundy

