

~~#23~~ Report of Ernest D. Hamm, FDLE,  
#29 Fingerprint Examiner (Machete)  
(Adam Walsh)

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT #22**

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

**FROM:** PHILIP J. MUNDY  
Investigator

**SUBJ:** Fingerprint Evidence

**RE:** Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

**ENCL:** (1) Copy of F.D.L.E. report of August 9, 1997 by Ernest D. Hamm,  
Latent Print Examiner

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On November 2, 1983 Det's HICKMAN and HOFFMAN recovered a machete from a Mr. Spencer C. BENNETT, owner of Spencer Motors in Jacksonville. This machete had black electrical tape wrapped around the handle. Mr. BENNETT had this item in his office and told police that he had taken it from one of the vehicles that he had taken in for re-sale. The weapon did match the description of a machete described by Ottis TOOLE in one of his statements, however, this investigator is not aware that this weapon has ever been forensically connected to TOOLE..

The electrical tape did yield prints which were compared to Ottis TOOLE's and they did not match.

When reviewing this case it was noted that TOOLE had mentioned that his brother, whom he sometimes worked with, would wrap electrical tape around the handle of the machetes they used to reduce friction and thus blisters. TOOLE had two brothers, and after consulting with Mr. HAMM, who was the original latent examiner, it was decided to re-submit this evidence for further examination in an effort to raise additional prints through the use of new technology and to compare any latents to the known prints of TOOLE's brother Howell and Meredith. As reflected in the enclosed report success was not achieved in either effort.

*Philip J. Mundy*  
INV. PHILIP J. MUNDY

cc: Det. John Kerns, Hollywood P.D.

**ENCLOSURE  
ONE**



Florida Department of  
Law Enforcement

James T. "Tim" Moore  
Commissioner

Jacksonville Regional Operations Center

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Post Office Box 4999  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201  
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August 9, 1997


TO: Honorable Michael J. Satz  
State Attorney's Office  
201 Southeast Sixth Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

FDLE Lab No. 000831043357  
(Sub No. 09 and 10)  
Agency No. 9602262

ATTN: INV. PHIL MUNDY

SUBPOENAS PERTAINING TO THIS  
CASE SHOULD REFER TO THE FDLE  
LAB NUMBER.

RE: Death Investigation  
ADAM WALSH  
Broward County  
07/27/81

  
Ernest D. Hamm  
Crime Laboratory Analyst  
Latent Prints

REFERENCE:

This report has reference to the items delivered to the FDLE laboratory system via Investigator Phil Mundy on April 24, 1997 and via Ernest Hamm on June 19, 1997.

EXHIBITS:

Submission 09

15 Black electrical tape from previously submitted machete

Submission 010

Copy of record finger and palm prints of Meredith Vernon Toole

EXAMINATION:

Re-examination of Exhibit 15 did not reveal any additional latent prints of value for identification.

Comparison of previously reported latent finger and palm prints of Exhibit 15 to finger and palm prints of Meredith Vernon Toole did not result in any identifications. Record prints of Howell Toole could not be located for comparison to unidentified latent prints.

EDH/edh

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