

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOLLOWUP REPORT  
2001-014705/271

RECOVERY LOCATION:  
CONTAINER NUMBER: JN-9

CELL NUMBER:

TYPE: PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

STATUS: EVIDENCE / SEIZED

QTY: BRAND:

MODEL:

(00194336)

SERIAL #:

VALUE:\$0

REC: 03/10/04 \$0

DESCRIPTION: BUCCAL SWABS / HAIR STANDARDS

RECOVERED: 03/10/2004 22:45 SCENE MARKER:

COLLECTOR: NICHOLS, JEFF

RECOVERY LOCATION: RYAN FERGUSON

RECOVERY LOCATION:

CONTAINER NUMBER: JN-10

CELL NUMBER:

SCENE PROCESSING

PROCESSED: BY:

PHOTOS:

PRINTS:

ADMINISTRATION

OFFICER1:

#:

UNIT:

DATE: 03/16/2004

OFFICER2:

#:

UNIT:

ROUTE : STATE PROSECUTOR

CLEARANCE :

EXCEPTION:

DATE:

PERVISOR :

#:

NARRATIVE TYPED BY: ASBURY, ALMA

ON: 03/17/2004

ATTACHMENTS:

RELATED REPORT NUMBERS:

NARRATIVE

#353745

On 03/10/04 at 8:15 PM Sgt Monticelli contacted me in my office and provided me with a search warrant for a blue 4 door 1993 Mercedes Benz model 300E which had been secured in the Columbia Police Dept parking facility at 600 East Walnut. The search warrant authorized a search for a tire tool and or jack which could have been used as a weapon in this case and specifically any hairs, fibers, blood, tissue or any other evidence or trace evidence associated with the murder of Kent William HEITHOLT. Detective Buck advised that she had the vehicle towed to the police department, and prior to doing so sealed all of the doors of the vehicle including the trunk with security tape.

At 8:30 PM I arrived in the parking facility of the Columbia Police Dept where I observed a blue Mercedes Benz being stored with evidence tape securing the doors of the vehicle. Prior to entering the vehicle, I photographed the exterior including the seals. The seals were all in tact.

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At 8:40 PM I entered the vehicle breaking the security seals. Upon doing a visual search of the vehicle's interior, I looked into a pouch which was attached to the back of the passenger front seat. Inside of the pouch was an empty package of Marlboro cigarettes. There was also vehicle registration papers for that vehicle listing William FERGUSON as the registered owner. I collected the registration papers and the empty pack of Marlboro cigarettes since I had also recovered some cigarette butts at the scene of the crime. A follow up will be conducted to determine the brand of the cigarettes recovered at the scene.

Upon inspecting the trunk I discovered an extra set of floor mats, and a car jack with miscellaneous tire tools. One of the tire tools appeared to be similar in size to what Charles ERICKSON described using in this case. After having photographed the tire tool, I took the tool and presented it to ERICKSON who was being held just inside of the police department in a holding cell. I showed the tool to ERICKSON, and he stated it was not the tool that he used in this case. However, I did collect the tool and placed it into evidence.

Prior to searching for blood evidence, I collected potential trace evidence such as hairs, fibers and other debris from all four (4) passenger compartments of the vehicle. It is unknown at this point whether any of the trace items have any evidentiary value. Following the collection of the trace material, I searched the vehicle and trunk to include the extra set of floor mats for trace blood evidence. Using luminol, a presumptive test for blood, I sprayed the vehicle interior and trunk to include the extra floor mats. I did not observe any luminol reactions that would be considered consistent with a blood reaction.

As I was finishing with the search of the vehicle Detective Liebhart contacted me. He advised that Ryan FERGUSON was in the process of being booked, and was currently just inside of the police building. He stated FERGUSON agreed to provide hair standards, and buccal swabs for DNA comparison. He requested that I collect the hair standards and buccal swabs from FERGUSON.

Just prior to collecting the requested hair standards and buccal swabs from FERGUSON, I concluded my search of the Mercedes Benz. Eight (8) items of evidence were collected to include the photographs of the vehicle. Seven (7) items were listed on the inventory form which was attached to a copy of a search warrant and placed inside of the vehicle. The following day Detective Buck contacted the owner and made arrangements for the vehicle to be returned.

Prior to making contact with FERGUSON, I put on a clean pair of gloves which I routinely do when searching for DNA evidence. I contacted FERGUSON and asked him if he was willing to voluntarily provide a hair standard sample as well as a mouth swab sample for DNA. FERGUSON said he was, and requested that

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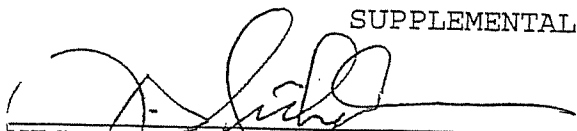
I collect the standards myself. After swabbing FERGUSON'S mouth, I collected several hair standards from various parts of his head. The time was 22:45 hours. I had also conducted the same process regarding ERICKSON earlier in the day. ERICKSON stated he was willing to voluntarily provide hair standards and a buccal swab for DNA purposes. It was 17:43 hours when I collected those items from ERICKSON. The samples from both were later placed into evidence.

On 03/12/04 I returned the original copy of the search warrant to the court.

On 03/15/04 I contacted Jim MANDLE, who is a sales manager at Legend Automotive. I spoke with him regarding the type of standard issue equipment that comes with a Mercedes Benz, specifically the car jack and tire tool equipment. I presented MANDLE with a photograph of the items which I had discovered in the trunk of the Mercedes Benz that I had searched on 03/10/04. MANDLE stated all the items he observed in the photograph were standard issue items.

JN:aja

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS FOR THIS OFFENSE

  
NICHOLS, JEFF  
REPORTING OFFICER

  
SUPERVISOR