

ROBERT BODIN INTERVIEW

Waller: This interview is taking place at the Lake County Law Enforcement Center, October 5, 1983, at 10:28 a.m. The person being interviewed is Robert Franklin Bodin, DOB 6/12/48, presently residing at 410 1st Avenue S.E., Dilworth, Minnesota. The interview is being conducted by Sgt. John Campbell and Lt. Gary Waller of the Duluth Police Department, regarding the death investigation of Sally Tharaldson and Virgil LaPanta. Now before turning the tape on, Bob, I explained to you that we would be taping the interview for the purposes of making the interview easier to do without taking notes, and you are aware that it is being taped. Is that correct?

Bodin: Yes, sir.

Waller: And you said that at this time you're living at 410 1st Avenue S.E., Dilworth. How long have you lived there?

Bodin: About six months.

Waller: Okay, and you reside there with?

Bodin: My wife and family.

Waller: And your wife's name is?

Bodin: Claudette.

Waller: And her name previous to marrying you was?

Bodin: Heil.

Waller: How do you spell that?

Bodin: H-E-I-L.

Waller: And you're a self-employed roofer?

Bodin: Yes, sir.

Waller: How long have you lived in the Fargo-Moorhead area?

Bodin: We've been up here a little over three years now.

Waller: And if you don't mind me asking, what brought you to this area?

Bodin: To be perfectly honest about it, a friend of mine moved up here. He's been up here for six years, and there's no jobs in Duluth. He brought me up here and I've been working up here ever since.

Waller: Okay, who's that?

Bodin: John Horton.

Waller: Is John originally from Duluth?

Bodin: Yes.

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Waller: And are you working with him now?

Bodin: No, I am not. He's the manager of National Muffler in Fargo.

Waller: But you were a Duluth resident in August of 1978. Is that correct?

Bodin: Yes, sir.

Waller: And at that time you were married to...

Bodin: Jerryl Lee Bodin.

Waller: And she also lives in this area now, doesn't she?

Bodin: She's lives over in Fargo, I'm not sure where.

Waller: When is the last time you talked to Jerryl?

Bodin: Yesterday afternoon.

Waller: Okay. Was that before or after we talked to you?

Bodin: That was after you talked to her because I was told that you were going to meet with me somewhere around noon.

Waller: Okay.

Bodin: And she took, I took the half day off from roofing, and I was just wondering if they, when you were going to meet with me, because right after I talked to her, then I called Stan.

Waller: Okay. You were told that we were going to meet with you at noon yesterday?

Bodin: Yes. The police officer from Dilworth says, he came up to my house and he, you know, it was at night, and he says, well, they'll be up here Tuesday, somewhere right around noon.

Waller: Well, we weren't aware that you were waiting for us that day.

Bodin: Oh.

Waller: Because until we got up here, we didn't know that they had located you, because they had been looking for you late last week.

Bodin: Well, this was in the middle of the week when they notified me that you'd be here around noon yesterday.

Waller: Well, let's get to the reason that we're here. And that is to go over your activities on the evening of the 29th of August and the early morning of August 30, 1978. Do you want to tell us, first of all, how did you come to know Sally and Jerry Tharaldson?

Bodin: When I was married to Jerry, her and I rented a house from him up on Piedmont Avenue. I forget the address because it's been quite a while since we lived there. And I was painting the house for Jerry.

Waller: That same house?

Bodin: The same house that we were renting. We lived in the basement apartment. It was a three-plex, I think it was, you know, three, three different apartments. And we lived in the basement. And we were talking that one time right after Jerry, well, we were split at the time, but we moved in there, she moved in, my wife did. And then I came back home and we got into a discussion about painting the place. So Jerry and I worked out a deal that I would paint it and everything, and that's how I, you know, first met him and everything.

Waller: You had never met Jerry Tharaldson prior to that?

Bodin: No.

Waller: Okay. You didn't know him when he operated the truck stop?

Bodin: Nope.

Waller: Did you know his wife prior to that?

Bodin: Nope. My other people in my family knew him.

Waller: Okay. Who are they?

Bodin: My mother and dad, I guess. I'm pretty sure they knew him before then because... See, I was gone for ten years. 'Cause I went in the service and then my wife and I, we lived in Michigan and then we moved back here.

Waller: When did you move back to the Duluth area?

Bodin: I think we moved back in '75 or '76.

Waller: So you come to know Jerry when your ex-wife moved into the house?

Bodin: That's correct.

Waller: Did you know Virgil LaPanta?

Bodin: No I didn't. I don't know none of the LaPantas.

Waller: Had you ever met him at all?

Bodin: I can't say for sure, because, you know, I might of bumped into in the bar or something in town.

Waller: What bars did you frequent?

Bodin: I used to be in the Amber Flow, the Midway and the one that closed down, it's right there on Superior Street by Burton Fence, right across the corner.

Waller: Eagle?

Bodin: Eagles. 'Cause I used to live right behind the Eagles.

Waller: Now, the day we're talking about, had Jerry Tharaldson been up to your home that afternoon?

Bodin: Ya, I'm pretty sure he has because we went out that night.

Waller: How did you come to go out that night?

Bodin: I don't know, I... In a way he asked me if we wanted, if I'd like to go out and have a few beers, and I said ya, and we went out.

Waller: Okay, when did he ask you that?

Bodin: It was near evening.

Waller: Okay, where were you at the time?

Bodin: I was at home.

Waller: Was he at your house at that time?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Was his wife also there?

Bodin: Ya, she was there that day, too, honest. You know, they... Usually when they come up to the house, they're usually together. That's the only time I've seen them were together.

Waller: And do you recall what the purpose for their visit was that day?

Bodin: No, I don't recall, no.

Waller: But you thought it was towards evening.

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Do you have any idea of what time it was?

Bodin: Well, I know we went out around 7 o'clock. I'm pretty sure about that.

Waller: You and Jerry did?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Did you leave from your house?

Bodin: Yes. I had my car. I drove down and picked him up at his house.

Waller: Okay.

Bodin: I had my, I think it was my '71 or '72 Chevy Nova.

Waller: What color is that?

Bodin: Brown. Rust brown.

Waller: And at the time that you picked him from his house, who else was home?

Bodin: I don't know. I didn't go into his house. All I did was pull up, honk the the horn, and he come out.

Waller: So you don't know if his wife was home at that time?

Bodin: No I don't.

Waller: Where did you go then?

Bodin: We... Let me see, let me, I want to get this right, I think our first stop was the Amber Flow.

Waller: Okay.

Bodin: And then we had, I think we had a couple beers there, then we had one at Curly's, and then we went over to Superior.

Waller: Had Jerry been drinking prior to you picking him up?

Bodin: I really don't know. Because from as far as I know, he's always acted like he's been drinking, you know. He's... When I... Everytime I'd seen him, I don't know if you can tell if a guy's been drinking or not, but he's got that attitude like he was always a little tipsy.

Waller: Okay. Can you explain that further to tell us what he does or how he acts that he's tipsy?

Bodin: He always, you know, he's... I don't know how to explain it. Let's see. Well, he slurs things when he's talking, you know, he's always like slurring his words and stuff like that.

Waller: Now you went first to the Amber Flow and then to Curly's. How long do you think you stayed at the Amber Flow?

Bodin: I'd say maybe a half hour or so.

Waller: And then you went to Curly's. How long do you think you stayed there?

Bodin: Not long because we only had one beer there.

Waller: Was there anybody else with you?

Bodin: Nope. It was just Jerry and I.

Waller: Did you socialize with anybody else at either of the bars?

Bodin: It's... You know, it's hard to tell because I know a lot of people in there, you know.

Waller: Okay. Had you been drinking prior to Jerry picking you up?

Bodin: No, I picked up Jerry.

Waller: Okay, before, okay, before...

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Had you been drinking?

Bodin: I was an alcoholic then.

Waller: Okay. And you had been drinking prior to going out?

Bodin: Yes.

Waller: Okay, what would you consider your position to be? Feeling good? Drunk?

Bodin: I was feeling good.

Waller: Do you have any idea of how much you had to drink that day?

Bodin: No I don't, you know.

Waller: Okay. Now after leaving Curly's, where did you go?

Bodin: Over to Superior.

Waller: And do you recall what bars you went to in Superior?

Bodin: Well, we went to Johnny's.

Waller: In the order that you went to them if you can.

Bodin: If I'm not mistaken, we stopped at the Hammond and then we went to Johnny's.

Waller: Do you remember at the Hammond if you saw anybody else?

Bodin: No, I don't know anybody in the Hammond. At Johnny's, I know everybody.

Waller: Okay. Did you go to Captain Cliffs at all?

Bodin: Ya. That's that one, it's down from Johnny's I think, ya.

Waller: On Third Street?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Do you know where the Truckin' Inn was located?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: You knew that that was operated by Bernice?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: You know Bernice?

Bodin: Yes.

Waller: Do you recall when you went to Captain Cliffs? Before or after you went to Johnny's?

Bodin: I think before.

Waller: Do you recall seeing anybody else that you and Jerry knew or that Jerry knew at Captain Cliffs?

Bodin: If I'm not mistaken, Jerry knew just about everybody in there.

Waller: Can you name any of those people?

Bodin: No I can't.

Waller: Do you recall whether any of his relatives happened to be bartending that night?

Bodin: No I can't. I don't know who was bartending.

Waller: Are you familiar with Donnette?

Bodin: That's Bernice's daughter, I think it is.

Waller: _____

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Do you recall that she had been bartending that night?

Bodin: No I don't. And the only ones of Jerry's relatives who I met or anything was his mom and dad. I think it was his mom and dad. Ya, the older couple.

Waller: When did you meet them?

Bodin: Well, they were participating with me in painting the house.

Waller: Okay. But not that night?

Bodin: No.

Waller: Now how long do you believe that you stayed at Captain Cliffs bar?

Bodin: I really don't know.

Waller: Was Jerry with you the entire time that you were at Captain Cliffs?

Bodin: I couldn't actually honestly say, no, I couldn't. I don't know if he was with, you know... He might have gone to the bathroom or something and, you know, I don't know.

Waller: Do you remember if he discussed with you any problems that he was having at home that night?

Bodin: No, he never did.

Waller: You didn't witness any arguments between he and his wife that day?

Bodin: No.

Waller: You're certain of that?

Bodin: I'm positive.

Waller: Do you recall if his wife called Captain Cliffs or Johnny's looking for him?

Bodin: Not that I know of, no.

Waller: And he didn't mention it to you then, do you recall?

Bodin: No.

Waller: So after going to Captain Cliffs, you believed that you went to Johnny's?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Do you recall what time it would have been that you arrived there?

Bodin: I'd say it was quite late.

Waller: Okay. Can you approximate the time that that would have been?

Bodin: I'd say around midnight, because I had one beer there and then I went home and I was home by 12:30.

Waller: You're certain of that?

Bodin: I'm positive, ya.

Waller: When you went to Johnny's from Captain Cliffs, did you go there together?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: In your car?

Bodin: Ya, because he introduced me to the, I forget what her name was there, that... I think my sister and that said that she runs, used to run with that heavyset woman, I forget what her name is.

Waller: Ev?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Blonde lady?

Bodin: Ya, on the heavy side. John, I mean Gary... Jerry introduced me to her. I've never met her before.

Waller: Okay. And you're certain that that was the night that you met her?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Did you also see Kit that night?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Can you explain that to us?

Bodin: Well, Kit has been a friend of my sister's for many years. And I guess she knew John, Jerry, too. But I think we had one beer together and like I said, I went home.

Waller: When you had the beer together, who was there?

Bodin: It was me, Kit, the other lady and Jerry. And if there was somebody else there, they could have been there, but I don't remember them.

Waller: So when you went home, did Jerry go with you?

Bodin: Nope. I left him at Johnny's, 'cause he said he was going with that other woman.

Waller: The other woman being who?

Bodin: The heavysset one.

Waller: What was there relationship? Do you know?

Bodin: All I know is they were friends.

Waller: Did Jerry tell you whether he was having any extramarital relationships with any other women?

Bodin: No.

Waller: Did you know if he was/

Bodin: No, I don't know, because, you know, if he wanted to, you know, it's his...

Waller: Okay.

Bodin: It's up to him.

Waller: And at that time you were separated from your wife?

Bodin: Ya, we were...

Waller: You were also seeing your present wife?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Okay. Did you see her that night?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Claudette?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Where did you see her?

Bodin: At her house.

Waller: Okay. What time was that?

Bodin: That would be, on our way over to Superior, we stopped by the house, I went in, I said hello, introduced Claudia to Jerry and then we left.

Waller: So that would have been after going to the bars in Duluth?

Bodin: That was after the bars in Duluth. It was on our way. She lived on Banks Avenue.

Waller: Did you stop there before you went to any of the Superior bars?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: You're certain of that?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Do you recall what time that would have been?

Bodin: It was in the evening.

Waller: Okay. You went to... You said that you picked Jerry up around 7:30?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: And you didn't go into the house?

Bodin: No I didn't. I've only been in his house three, I think it was maybe three times ever since I've known him.

Waller: And then you went to the bars down in the West End, so what time do you think it would have been that you stopped at Claudia's?

Bodin: I'd say between 8:00 and 8:30.

Waller: How long did you stay there?

Bodin: Not long. We were there a very short time. I'd say five minutes at the most.

Waller: Was anybody else there besides Claudia?

Bodin: Ya, the kids.

Waller: Her children?

Bodin: Yes.

Waller: And how old were her children at the time?

Bodin: I'd say about, Danny was 10 years old at the time.

Waller: How many other children does she have?

Bodin: She has three other ones besides Danny.

Waller: Okay. All younger?
Bodin: No, they're older.
Waller: Older than Danny?
Bodin: Right.
Waller: Were any of those home?
Bodin: No.
Waller: Did you have a drink at her house?
Bodin: No.
Waller: And that was the first time she had ever met Jerry Tharaldson?
Bodin: Ya.
Waller: Have you talked to Jerry since the bodies were found?
Bodin: No. I haven't talked to Jerry in... The last time I talked to him I think was when we moved out of the house.
Waller: And when was that?
Bodin: Oh, gawd, I think it was in '78.
Waller: Okay. And you haven't talked to him since?
Bodin: Nope.
Waller: In person or on the telephone?
Bodin: Nope.
Waller: Now you think that it was about 12:00 or 12:30 when you left Jerry at Johnny's?
Bodin: Ya.
Waller: And where was he at the time?
Bodin: Right in the, right in by the bar there, where they got... When you go in there, the bars on the, when you come in the front door, the bar's on the right-hand side and they got some booths, the pool table, and over there's the booths. And he was right there at the booths.
Waller: Did he get, did he act up or get thrown out of any bars that night?
Bodin: Not that I know of.
Waller: Not while you were with him?
Bodin: No.
Waller: Did you go over to Claudia's after you left the bar?
Bodin: Ya.
Waller: You did?
Bodin: That's where I, you know, used to live.
Waller: Okay. But you went to Claudia's after you left the bar?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: About 12:30?

Bodin: It was around that time, ya.

Waller: Okay. And when did you go home that night?

Bodin: I think it was late when I went home.

Waller: Now originally when you were interviewed by the other investigators, you had said that you were with Jerry until closing time.

Bodin: Well, at Johnny's, it was around 12:00 or 12:30 they sound last call.

Waller: During the summertime?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Because the bars are open until 2:00 then.

Bodin: In October, no they're not.

Waller: No, August.

Bodin: August?

Waller: August.

Bodin: Well, I'll be honest with you. All I know is I left him in Superior and I went.

Waller: And you went over to Claudia's...

Bodin: Claudia's and then I went home.

Waller: So, you had originally told your wife at the time...

Bodin: Jerry.

Waller: Jerry, that you had left Jerry at Johnny's and come directly home, right?

Bodin: That's what I told her.

Waller: Okay. All right, and that's what you also told the police. Because you were still married to...

Bodin: Jerry.

Waller: Jerry.

Bodin: Ya. But I was going with Claudia. I know it's a complicated story.

Waller: Ya, it's complicated because now what's happened is what you initially told the police is not consistent with what really happened. And I guess, I guess we could appreciate the reasons for it, because you were married at the time and you were seeing somebody else.

Bodin: Well, I want to get this thing cleared up, you know. You know, I don't...

Waller: All right. But what you're telling us now as far as your activities that night is that you left Jerry with Ev at Johnny's bar and then you went to Claudia's.

Bodin: Ya. Because they were having, I don't know, they said something about having some kind of a party someplace.

Waller: Do you recall where the party was going to be?

Bodin: No I don't.

Waller: Do you have any idea of what time you would have gotten home to Jerry's? It's very important.

Bodin: All I know is it was late.

Waller: Okay. Would it have been after 2 o'clock?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Would it have been as late as 4:00?

Bodin: No, I'd never... She'd castrate you if you come pounding on her door at 4 o'clock in the morning.

Waller: Who?

Bodin: Jerry.

Waller: So what is the latest it could have been?

Bodin: I'd say between 2:00 and 2:30.

Waller: Did you ever see Jerry Tharaldson after leaving him at Johnny's that night?

Bodin: Nope.

Waller: When is the next time you saw him?

Bodin: I seen him in the police station. They brought him in for this investigation.

Waller: And you hadn't talked to him prior to that?

Bodin: Nope.

Waller: When did you first become aware that his wife was missing?

Bodin: My family... I come from a family with a lot of jaws. They talk, an my mom's got her police scanner and everything going, my grandma, and he called me and he says, "Were you out with Jerry? - Have you seen him?" Ya. And he says, "Well, his wife is missing."

Waller: But the next time that you see Jerry, and you're certain of this, is at police headquarters...

Bodin: That's right.

Waller: When you're questioned regarding this?

Bodin: Yes.

Waller: Did the two of you talk about this prior to being interviewed by the police?

Bodin: No I haven't.

Waller: You never discussed this with Jerry prior to talking, being interviewed by the police?

Bodin: Nope.

Waller: Either before you were interviewed the first time or since then?

Bodin: Nope. I have not... I haven't... I haven't said a word to Jerry. I haven't seen him or anything.

Waller: Okay. Now when you got home that morning, early that morning, did Jerry tell you, Jerry, your ex-wife, tell you that she had received a call from Sally?

Bodin: Ya. I think she did.

Waller: Okay. What did she tell you about that call?

Bodin: I don't remember really, honest.

Waller: Do you recall if Jerry was dressed that night?

Bodin: Well, he had good clothes on.

Waller: Okay. Can you describe that better? When you say good clothes...

Bodin: Well, he had slacks and a nice shirt. Every time I seen him, he's always had nice looking clothes on.

Waller: Okay. Now did you see his car prior to his wife's disappearance?

Bodin: I don't know if it was at the house or not, because there was always cars there in the driveway.

Waller: Okay. But you know what car we're talking about?

Bodin: Ya. That sort of like a rust brown with that vinyl top on it. It was a nice looking car.

Waller: Did you notice any damage to that car?

Bodin: No.

Waller: When did you first become aware of the fact that Virgil LaPanta was also missing?

Bodin: I don't know. It came down from my ma, because she knows them. You know, she knows the LaPantas.

Waller: Did you ever hear of any involvement between Sally Tharaldson and any other men?

Bodin: Nope.

Waller: Never did?

Bodin: No.

Waller: Jerry never mentioned anything to you?

Bodin: Nope.

Waller: You're certain that he never mentioned that he and his wife had been arguing that night?

Bodin: I'm positive he didn't.

Waller: While you were at Johnny's bar, do you recall any of Jerry's relatives coming in there?

Bodin: Nope.

Waller: You don't recall seeing Bernice?

Bodin: Nope. The only ones that I recall seeing is Kit and that other woman.

Waller: Okay, in your original statement, you said that it was necessary to help Kit with something that night. Do you recall that?

Bodin: I think it was she had something with a flat tire or something on her car. It was something with her car.

Waller: And you helped her with it?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Do you remember where her car was parked?

Bodin: Out back of Johnny's. There's the back door is here, and I'm pretty sure it was right off of the back door on the... Going out the back door, it would be on the left-hand side.

Waller: Now the two women, Ev and Kit, which one worked at Johnny's at that time?

Bodin: Well, as far as I know it was that Ev, because I was told that she used to run it or something.

Waller: Did you ever know Kit to work there?

Bodin: I think my sister told me that she used to work there. I don't know if she still does or not, but she...

Waller: Okay.

Bodin: As far as I know, she used to.

Waller: But at that time was she working there?

Bodin: I didn't know. I don't know.

Waller: At the end of the evening, were you loaded?

Bodin: Ya, I was. I'm not afraid to admit it. I was pretty loaded.

Waller: Do you still, do you feel that you were cognizant or knew the things that were going on around you?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Now you understand, Bob, that this is a rather serious investigation and that...

Bodin: Yes, I under... You know. I'm trying to the best of my knowledge to answer these correct for ya. 'Cause I want to get it cleared up.

Waller: You wouldn't intentionally try to hold any information back?

Bodin: No I will not.

Waller: Then you admit that when the originally statement took place, you did lie, because you were married to your wife?

Bodin: Oh, yes.

Waller: And you weren't with Jerry Tharaldson the entire time that you first related? You didn't go directly from Johnny's bar to...

Bodin: To home. No, I did not.

Waller: Okay. John.

Campbell: Bob, are you... I know it's been five years...

Bodin: Ya.

Campbell: I know it's a long time, but what you're telling us now, is this the best that you can recall or are you absolutely sure of what you're telling...

Bodin: I sat here... When they came up and told me that you guys were going to be down here, when you officers were going to be down here, I sat down and I tried to think of everything that happened that night. And I'm going to tell to the best of my knowledge of everything that I can remember.

Campbell: The reason is because what you're telling us now doesn't fit into everything that you said back in 1978. Okay, what I'd like to, we'll go through it step by step. Do you remember getting a phone call from Jerry Tharaldson the night that you and he went out?

Bodin: I know that he was at the house and we talked about going out.

Campbell: Okay.

Bodin: It's possible that he did call me to make sure that we were going.

Campbell: Are you positive that you went out around 7:30?

Bodin: Ya.

Campbell: Okay. Because in the original statement you said you got a call from Jerry Tharaldson about midnight. He called, wanted you to go out, and you said, no, I didn't want to. He called back about 15 minutes later and you said okay, fine, and you went down to his house.

Bodin: At midnight. I can... You know what, my wife, who I'm married to now, she could come in here and tell you it was before midnight _____.

Campbell: Ya. But I'm just going, I'm going by what it says here.

Bodin: Okay.

Campbell: It states the call was received around midnight. He stated he didn't want to go down to the house for any drinks. Jerry called back 15 minutes later and asked him again, then you agreed to go down. Your wife didn't want to go (that was Jerryl at that time), didn't want to go, so that you went down to his house, down to Jerry's house. Do you remember pulling up in front and honking the horn and him coming out?

Bodin: I've always pulled on the side. Jerry, if I'm not mistaken, he lives on 1st Street, I think it is. He lives in that corner lot and I've always, you know, I can come down the hill and I can park right on the side street there, because he has that big yard.

Campbell: Before we go over any farther, Bob, we're going to turn this tape over.

Bodin: Okay.

Campbell: The time is 1058 hours and the date is 10/05/83.

Campbell: This is a continuation of the interview with Robert Bodin and the time is 1058 hours. The date is 10/05/83. Are you sure you didn't go into the house?

Bodin: I'm positive I didn't go in the house.

Campbell: Okay. Because now, see, back in 1978 you told the original officers that you stopped at the house, that you went in... You went into Jerry's house to find Jerry and his wife, Sally, and Sally was in quite a drunken condition, and that "Sally poured me a half a glass full of whiskey, I drank it," and it this time you and Jerry left to go to the Amber Flow.

Bodin: Well, I might have been trying to pull somebody's leg then, because I don't drink hard booze. I can't handle hard booze.

Campbell: Okay. Do you remember being down at the Amber Flow that night shooting a game of pool?

Bodin: I probably did shoot a game of pool.

Campbell: Okay. What you're saying here is that you left your house a little after midnight and went down to the Amber Flow, shot a game pool, had one or two drinks and left at one o'clock.

Bodin: It was before midnight. It was way before midnight.

Campbell: Okay. It says here that you left at one o'clock and you went to Superior to Captain Cliffs. You stated that you arrived at the tavern at approximately 1:15, and Jerry's niece, Donnette _____ was tending bar. Do you remember that?

Bodin: She could have been tending bar. I don't know the people that well.

Campbell: Okay. But you're sure it was before 1:15? Because the Amber Flow closed _____ Amber Flow closed. Okay. It says you stayed there until Captain Cliffs closed at 2 o'clock. And you went from there to Johnny's. Not true?

Bodin: Not true, because you can't get into a bar after, you know, when it closes.

Campbell: It states that you got to Johnny's at two, the bar was closed, but you went in through the back door but could not get a drink. You then went back out to the parking lot where you saw a girl that you knew as Kit, and she was having a problem getting her car started and needed help jumping her car with jumper cables.

Bodin: Well, I started, got her car going for her.

Campbell: Okay. But before two o'clock.

Bodin: Yes.

Campbell: Before 12:30 you're telling us.

Bodin: Ya, I'd say right around there.

Campbell: Okay. You left that time, it says you left and Jerry was talking with the female manager of the bar.

Bodin: That's right. I left him over in Superior.

Campbell: It states here that, of course, we already know that you didn't go directly home...

Bodin: No, I admitted that.

Campbell: You went home about 2:00, 2:30, you woke up your wife and you argued a little while.

Bodin: We always argue.

Campbell: Okay. You remember that.

Bodin: My wife and I used to always argue.

Campbell: You remember coming home, you said between 2:00 and 2:30.

Bodin: We always argue.

Campbell: Okay. Same day. Or you fell asleep at the kitchen table. And then went to the bed.

Bodin: I've been known to do that quite a few times.

Campbell: Let's see. Oh, no, it says here, you fell asleep. Okay, you went to bed and then you woke up at approximately 11:00 the next day. Do you remember getting up the next day?

Bodin: Ya, I do get up.

Campbell: No, I mean do you remember that?

Bodin: Ya, I got up. With one hell of a hangover.

Campbell: Do you remember Jerry Lee coming to your house that day?

Bodin: No I don't.

Campbell: No. You went to Jerry Lee's house that day to ask Jerry for some money that that he owed you, \$300 bonus he had promised you. Do you remember that?

Bodin: On the painting.

Campbell: Do you remember going there the next day?

Bodin: No I don't remember it.

Campbell: Okay. And at this time, what you told the first officers, is that Jerry told you that his wife had taken off with the checkbook and he would be unable to pay you because... until she came back.

Bodin: No. He... When he did pay me the money, he got it from... his folks were the ones that always paid me.

Campbell: Okay. But you don't remember going to his house the next day and asking for the 300 bucks?

Bodin: No I don't.

Campbell: And you don't remember him telling you that his wife's gone and she's got the checkbook so he can't pay \$300?

Bodin: No I don't. Because every, you know, I bid at that house, and I think it was for \$800 to paint it. And his mom and dad, they're the ones that always paid me.

Campbell: Had you ever been out with Jerry Lee before drinking at all?

Bodin: Nope.

Campbell: Never socialized with him?

Bodin: I never even knew him until my wife moved in there, into that house. I'm sorry now I even met him.

Campbell: Do you remember your wife telling you that she received a call from Sally Tharaldson who was drunk and crying?

Bodin: Well, she, you know, when I'm drinking, you know, my wife can tell me a lot of things, and she probably did tell me.

Campbell: Okay. Do you have any idea why you would have told the police back in '78 that you went into Jerry's house and Sally was there and she was drunk and she poured a glass of whiskey?

Bodin: No, because, you know, that's one thing I can't understand why I said that because I don't drink whiskey.

Campbell: Okay. Do you know of any reason why you would tell that you didn't go out until midnight that night? I mean it wouldn't had made any difference because you're home with your wife at that time anyways, so, you know. Could you be mistaken that it was 7:30 now? Or do you think it was 7:30?

Bodin: When I was drinking at the time, it could have been.

Campbell: Could it have been midnight?

Bodin: It probably could have been. You know, my wife could, my ex-wife could probably tell you better.

Campbell: But to the best of your recollection, you did not go in the house that night?

Bodin: Yes, sir.

Campbell: And you're adamant about that? Positive?

Bodin: Yes, because I don't like a full carpeted house. Everything in that house is carpeted. Even the walls.

Campbell: Okay. And you're also very adamant that you did not see Jerry Lee after 12:30 that night?

Bodin: Yes.

Campbell: There's no doubt in your mind?

Bodin: No doubt in my mind.

Campbell: You left him at 12:30...

Bodin: I left him at Johnny's.

Campbell: At Johnny's bar and you went over to Claudette's house?

Bodin: Claudia's. That's right.

Campbell: Is it Claudia or Claudette?

Bodin: Well, we call her Claudie, Claudia, Claudette. Her real name is Claudette.

Campbell: Okay. Because in the statements here, I think it's mentioned, it's Claudia somewhere.

Bodin: Ya. Well, Claudia for short.

Campbell: Okay. You remember playing a game of pool at the Amber Flow with Bimbo Sutherland?

Bodin: No.

Campbell: Do you know Bimbo?

Bodin: I've met him once or twice.

Campbell: Do you know Buckshot?

Bodin: Ya. He used to run around with my brother.

Campbell: Okay. Do you remember seeing him in there that night?

Bodin: No.

Campbell: Is it possible that you got to Johnny's bar prior to 12:30 or left prior to 12:30? Could it have been 11:00 or 11:30? I know it's tough, but it's kind of important that we pin down the times as best we can.

Bodin: I'd honestly say it was around 12:00, 12:30.

Campbell: Do you specifically remember Jerry Lee introducing you to the bar manager, Evy?

Bodin: Yes.

Campbell: What was his condition at that time?

Bodin: Like mine. He'd been drinking quite a bit.

Campbell: Was he drunk?

Bodin: I'd say ya.

Campbell: Was he loud?

Bodin: Well, he was like me, ya, I'd say loud.

Campbell: Was he being obnoxious to the people in the bar, demanding of the bartender and stuff?

Bodin: Not that I could recall, you know. Because I'm awful demanding when I'm drinking.

Campbell: You left the bar at approximately 12:30. Is that when you started Kit's car for her, at 12:30?

Bodin: When I left, 'cause I pulled my car up beside her and I got her started and then I left.

Campbell: Now what you're relating to us is... Okay, what I've just gone over, the part about the times and the starting of the car, this, there's no doubt in your mind that...

Bodin: I done that.

Campbell: This happened?

Bodin: Ya.

Campbell: You did not go in the house?

Bodin: No I did not go in their house.

Campbell: You figure it was earlier in the evening when you went out?

Bodin: Ya.

Campbell: He had mentioned to you about going out when he was up there that day?

Bodin: You know, what's the sense of going out if you're going to go out at midnight?

Campbell: I don't know.

Bodin: Really.

Campbell: Was Sally with him that day that he came up to the house?

Bodin: I think so. She... You know, whenever he came up to the house and that, when I was working on it, she'd come up, but she'd always be in the car, sit in the car.

Campbell: She didn't get out?

Bodin: No. She never, very seldom got out.

Campbell: When you were at Captain Cliffs, do you remember Jerry Lee leaving a few times and going over to the Truckin' Inn a couple of times, being gone for 10 or 15 minutes and then coming back?

Bodin: Ya, he could have done it.

Campbell: Okay, but you don't remember that at all?

Bodin: I don't remember, no.

Campbell: Okay, if you'd of told us that back in '78, would that have been true?

Bodin: I couldn't say for sure or not, because, you know, I don't know how to put it.

Campbell: You have no idea why you told these guys a story, stuff that wasn't true back in 1978, except for the fact that you didn't leave the bar at 12:15 because of the fact that you were still married?

Bodin: You know, I sat down here for the last couple of days now trying to break my mind up, to figure this out...

Campbell: Would have told them... Would you have told them that to try to alibi for Jerry at the time?

Bodin: No, I... I didn't know him that well.

Campbell: Okay. You more or less told that story to alibi for yourself?

Bodin: Ya, because I don't want nothing to do with him. With this whole thing. I want to get it done with. I'll even take a lie detector test.

Campbell: How about your sister Lola? How well did she know Jerry?

Bodin: I don't know. All I know is my sister and Kit, you know, they're like two peas in a pod. They're quite close. And she's been around that town. I know her and her husband before used to go where he had that restaurant. Jerry used to have a restaurant, truck stop or something?

Campbell: Right. Ya.

Bodin: They used to go down there and eat all the time.

Campbell: Lola did?

Bodin: Ya, Lola and her husband, because he was a truck driver.

Campbell: Okay. Who was Lola's husband?

Bodin: Allan Larson.

Campbell: Are they still married? To the best of your knowledge?

Bodin: I think they got a divorce and I think they're back married again.

Campbell: Okay.

Bodin: But all I know is... They own a bar now in Minnesota.

Waller: Now you told Sgt. Campbell that you had never been out with Jerry prior to this night?

Bodin: No I haven't.

Waller: Were you ever out with him after that?

Bodin: No I _____.

Waller: So this is the only time you were ever out with Jerry?

Bodin: That's right.

Waller: You're certain of that?

Bodin: I'm positive of that.

Waller: Okay. Now Jerry was covering for you, right? Jerry knew that you weren't going to go right home, that you were to go see Claudette?

Bodin: Well, my... When I was married to my wife, my wife even knew if I went out, I'd be over at her house too.

Waller: Okay, but did you tell Jerry, "I'm going to go see Claudette before I go home"?

Bodin: I could have, yes, but I don't... I'm not sure that I did tell him that I was going to go over there.

Waller: Now, was there an arrangement where you were also covering for Jerry that night? Was he going to go someplace else without Sally knowing?

Bodin: All I know is that they talked about someplace they were going to have a party. They invited me to it, to the party, but I didn't know where it was and I told him no, I was going home.

Waller: But did Jerry tell you, or did the two of you arrange between yourselves that you would have been together until you both went home? In other words, he was going to go to the party and he didn't want Sally to know about it.

Bodin: As far as I know, he never said anything like that to me.

Waller: Okay. So you didn't cover for him?

Bodin: No.

Waller: Okay. And you don't recall asking him to cover for you?

Bodin: No I don't recall that, no. Because my wife...

Waller: She knew you were messing around with Claudette?

Bodin: (Affirmative)

Waller: Did you ever witness any arguments between Jerry and Sally?

Bodin: No.

Waller: You're certain of that?

Bodin: No, I can't be certain of it either, because, you know, they're... They were funny people.

Waller: Okay. Why were they funny?

Bodin: Well, the way they acted, you know, like high time, you know, we got money and everything, we just don't care.

Waller: Okay.

Bodin: The upper, they're up, you know, they acted like they were the upper class.

Waller: Like they were better than you?

Bodin: Better than everybody else.

Waller: Any one of them act that way more than the other?

Bodin: Ya, Sally, she always acted, you know, when we did see her and that, like, you know, "Hah, I'm number one," you know.

Waller: Too good for you?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Is that the impression she also gave your ex-wife?

Bodin: I think so. But my ex-wife can take people differently.

Waller: Did you ever have any conversations with Sally yourself?

Bodin: I think that one time when we went down there, my ex-wife and I went down there, Jerry wasn't home, when we were renting from 'em. See, they gave us, I think it was 300 gallons of fuel oil, that was in their basement in an oil tank. And I had to haul it out in 5-gallon buckets. And we went down there one day and Jerry wasn't home, and we went into the front home and we sat there and we talked for a little bit, the three of us. But that's about the extent of our talking.

Waller: Can you recall what Sally talked about?

Bodin: No I don't, because, you know. My ex-wife is... I nickname her "jaws" because she can talk just like that, you know. Once she starts talking, it's hard to shut her up.

Waller: Well, that was one occasion when you were there. Was your wife with you at their house on another occasion at all?

Bodin: Well, when we were hauling that fuel oil out of there, she used to go with.

Waller: Okay. Were you ever there socially where you had drinks together?

Bodin: It's hard to tell, 'cause I know I had a cup of coffee there one time.

Waller: Do you ever remember drinking with Sally and Jerry there?

Bodin: No I don't. Not drinking with both of them, no.

Waller: How about with Jerry?

Bodin: Well, we went out, ya.

Waller: Okay, but I mean at the house?

Bodin: Ya, I think I did have a beer, or no... Ya, it was a beer with them, at the house, one time.

Waller: With the two of them?

Bodin: Ya, she was there, and I think they got a daughter, too, because they came, she came in.

Waller: Okay.

Bodin: And Jerry introduced me, but I don't even remember what her name is anymore.

Waller: Okay. How did they seem to get along together?

Bodin: To me, they'd be just like a normal married couple.

Waller: At the time you had a drink with them, were they getting along then?

Bodin: Ya. You know, they... They're kind of like when we had a drink together, like me and my wife, you know.

Waller: Explain that.

Bodin: Well, you know... Me and my wife, we get lipping at each other, you know. We...

Waller: Give each other zingers?

Bodin: Ya. We, you know... I don't know if they do _____, but me and my wife, we like to wrestle.

Waller: Your previous wife or your...

Bodin: Both of them. Even Jerry and I. We used to wrestle all the time.

Waller: In fun?

Bodin: Well, I couldn't hurt 'em.

Waller: Now, you said that you'd be willing to take a lie detector examination?

Bodin: Yes.

Waller: We might very well ask you to do that.

Bodin: I'd be more than glad to. Don't mind me because I smoke four packs a day.

Waller: I smoke to much, too.

Bodin: I'll be more than glad to.

Waller: Okay. John, is there anything else that you want at this time?

Campbell: Okay. The only... I guess the one thing that I want to go over, and as far as the polygraph test, the reason we would ask you to is because we got...

Bodin: Two different stories.

Campbell: One story in '78, and now you're telling us that you must have been bull-shitting somebody then and I, you know. For some of it I can't understand why...

Bodin: Well, the best way that I can say it is I will take a polygraph test.

Campbell: Okay. But the night that you and Jerry went out, you did not see Sally Tharalson that evening?

Bodin: No I did not.

Campbell: So you do not know if she was drunk or not?

Bodin: No I don't.

Campbell: Okay. See, in the first statement you said that she was very drunk that evening, and that is pertinent.

Bodin: To my... To the best of my knowledge, I did not see her.

Campbell: Okay.

Bodin: Do I get to come to Duluth to take the polygraph. Come down and see my folks. My whole family lives down there.

Campbell: We would probably have someone come here. One thing is that would you intentionally cover up for Jerry?

Bodin: No I will not. I won't cover up for anybody.

Campbell: Okay. So everything you're telling us is to the best of your recollection true and factual and actually happened?

Bodin: Yes sir. I mean if I actually do... If I think of anything else that might help you, I will call you.

Campbell: Okay. Is there anyone that you can think of that we should talk with reference the investigation of the death of two people?

Bodin: I'd say those two, Kit and that other lady.

Campbell: Okay.

Bodin: Because they were the last ones to see him, because I left him there with those.

Campbell: Okay. Do you know whether Jerry Lee used any drugs?

Bodin: No I do not.

Campbell: Do you know if he dealt in drugs?

Bodin: No. Because I don't even do that.

Campbell: Did you know Virgil LaPanta before this time?

Bodin: No. I might have bumped into him, like I told you earlier, but I did not know him by... I couldn't walk up and say, "Hi, Virgil," or anything because I didn't know what he looked like.

Campbell: Why did you guys decide to go in your car and not his when he had a brand new car? Did he say?

Bodin: No, because I like mine.

Campbell: Was it your idea to take your car or his?

Bodin: Ya, I think it was mine.

Campbell: Okay.

Bodin: 'Cause I like to do the driving. I don't trust anybody elses.

Campbell: Did you ever ride with Jerry?

Bodin: No, I don't think I've ever been in his car.

Campbell: How did you first become aware that the two bodies were found?

Bodin: I read it in the newspaper and my mother called me.

Campbell: Okay.

Bodin: My mother's just like anybody else. She's got to...

Campbell: Have you talked to your sister at all about it, Lola?

Bodin: No. I called my grandma that one time, because I try to call my grandma once a week. And she was there because she brought her husband, or Allan, into the doctor, and she always stops at grandma's. She answered the phone and she says, well, the detectives were at grandma's looking for me. And I hope... You know, you guys found me now. And can we lay off my grandma a little bit, you know. I love her and everything and she gets kind of shook up.

Waller: As long as you let us know if you move someplace else.

Bodin: Well, I ain't moving. I'm buying this house up here. But she gets a little shook up when the police come up there looking.

Campbell: When you found out that they were missing, okay, the next day or the day after that, or whatever it was that you heard that Sally and Virgil were missing, what was your opinion? Did you have any ideas of what happened? Where they were gone?

Bodin: No I didn't.

Campbell: How long after that was it that you moved out of Duluth?

Bodin: We didn't move up here until, what, '80.

Campbell: Okay. What was the concensus of the people that you talked to about the disappearance, what they think happened? What was the rumor?

Bodin: I don't know. It's hard to explain, you know. Everybody has their own ideas.

Campbell: What did you hear?

Bodin: People, like my relatives, say like, Jerry probably did it.

Campbell: Why would they think that?

Bodin: I don't know. You see my family knows more about Jerry than I did.

Campbell: Okay.

Bodin: Matter of fact, my folks were even upset when they found out that we rented from him. I don't know why, but...

Campbell: How well do they know him?

Bodin: Well, my brothers and that used to go out to his restaurant all the time. I was even told after we moved in there, after my ex-wife moved in there that, what the hell was it, that he's the one that burned down his truck stop or something. Washed the floor with gas or something. That's what I was told. That's what my folks told me. My brothers and that, they used to go down to his truck stop all the time, you know, so they knew him a lot better than I did.

Campbell: Add anything else to that?

Waller: Do you have an opinion yourself as to what happened?

Bodin: No I don't. I really don't. I wish the hell we could find out though, because I want to, you know, get this taken care of.

Waller: Jerry talk to you about any of his activities that he was involved in when you were out that night?

Bodin: To the best of my knowledge I can't, you know, I don't know.

Waller: At any other time did he tell you about any other activities that he was involved in?

Bodin: No. All I knew about him that he told me is that he couldn't work, 'cause he hurt something in his back or something and he couldn't work. That's all I know about it.

Waller: I don't have anything further.

Campbell: What was your general conversation that night when you guys were out? What did you talk about? Do you remember?

Bodin: A little bit of everything, you know.

Campbell: Politics, religion, state of the arts, what?

Bodin: I got two things I can't talk about, is politics and religion, because I don't know nothing about it.

Campbell: I mean, you don't know the guy. You've only met. He's come up to your house a couple of times.

Bodin: I can start a conversation, you know, I'm a sports buff. I like sports. And I like goofing around, I like running around, too. We can talk just about anything.

Campbell: The thing is, you know, here's a guy, you're saying that both he and his wife act like they got money and better than everybody else.

Bodin: Well, I didn't mind going out with him. It didn't cost me no money. He paid for everything.

Campbell: But, you know, the only time you've ever seen him was, you know, when you did some work for him basically.

Bodin: Ya, and when it came time to collect the rent.

Campbell: And all of a sudden he asks you if you want to go out drinking. Didn't you think that was a little odd?

Bodin: Well, at the time I was an alcoholic.

Campbell: So you'd have went out with anybody that was willing to go out drinking?

Bodin: You bet ya. Anybody who's got money, I'd had gone out.

Campbell: Does it seem like it's a little strange to you now that he asked you to go out?

Bodin: In a way, ya. You know, me and my new wife, we've even talked about this and tried to figure out, because, you know, it's a hassle for us, too.

Campbell: Do you get the feeling that maybe he invited you to go out so he'd have somebody to use for an alibi?

Bodin: That's what we thought, ya. So he could use me for an alibi after, you know. We sat down and we talked about that, and she looked at me and she says, "Do you think that he's using you for an alibi?"

Campbell: What do you think? Do you think is?

Bodin: I think he is now. But the only think I can say is I left him at Johnny's around 12:00 or 12:30 at Johnny's and I left.

Campbell: So you think that maybe he was using you as an alibi by saying that you guys were together till 2:00 or a little after?

Bodin: Ya. Because I know I left him at Johnny's.

Campbell: Is it possible that he told you to tell the police the first time that you were with him all night and that's why you told them that story the first time?

Bodin: It's possible.

Campbell: But you don't remember?

Bodin: I don't remember, honestly.

Campbell: But you can't think of any reason why you would have told him that, you know, some of the stuff that you told them originally?

Bodin: No. No I don't.

Campbell: Bob, we may want to talk to you again, and we may want to do the polygraph test, and you're agreeable to both?

Bodin: Yes. You've got my address and my phone number.

Campbell: You're not planning on going on any long extended vacations to Mexico or to the South Pacific of anything are you?

Bodin: Are you paying?

Campbell: Are you kidding. I have enough trouble getting as far as Dilworth.

Waller: Let me follow up on something that you just said.

Bodin: Sure.

Waller: You said that it's possible that Jerry told you to say that you were with him all night?

Bodin: It's possible, yes, because, you know, when I was in my drinking stage, you could tell me something...

Waller: You'd do it.

Bodin: I'd do it.

Waller: Okay. When you say it's possible that he told you that, when would he have told you, that night when you were together, or before you went in and were interviewed by the police?

Bodin: It would have had to been that night, because I didn't talk to him that before. You know, the next thing I know, the police are knocking on my door, such, and such, and such, would you come up there. And then we went up there and they explained everything to me, like you did here,

and... I used to know the detective's name who interviewed me, too, but I can't remember it now.

Waller: John Hall?

Bodin: Ya, I think so, because I used to have his name written down on a card, 'cause he told me if I could think of anything else, to give him a call.

Waller: Now, at that time, you were drinking every day?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Are you drinking now?

Bodin: Ya, but not as bad as I was.

Waller: Do you drink every day?

Bodin: No.

Waller: Have you gone through treatment since?

Bodin: I went through treatment in '78.

Waller: Where was that?

Bodin: Miller Dwan in Duluth.

Waller: And how long were you dry after that?

Bodin: Seven and a half months until my son died. And I'm going to be entering an outpatient treatment over here in St. John's next month.

Waller: Is that right?

Bodin: Ya.

Waller: Already made arrangements?

Bodin: Ya.

Campbell: We have nothing further in this interview. We will conclude the interview at 11:27 hours on 10/05/83.