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TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF SHIRLEY PLESEA
INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE KEVIN KRAUBETZ
CASE # 08-074777
JULY 22nd 2008

KK—DETECTIVE KEVIN KRAUBETZ
SH—DETECTIVE SUSAN HEMPFIELD
SP—MRS. SHIRLEY PLESEA

SP: I, umm, I print it out.

SH: Have a seat, have a seat.

KK: I'll tell you. Have a seat Ma'am.

SP: And I print out her answers, and I dug through them today.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative.)

SP: And I commented on, because I was thinking it was the 8th that we saw Caylee.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative.)

SP: It was Father's Day.

SH: It was Father's Day?

SP: Father's Day.

SH: What makes you so sure it was Father's Day?

SP: Because it's on there. It's on my letter.

SH: It's on your letter?

SP: And you don't...

SH: Okay

SP: And you cannot goof up....

SH: Yeah (affirmative.)

SP: ...those letters, because I don't do anything fancy with a computer. I can't even get this news that you're supposed to be able to get.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: You know, they say, WWW dot com...

SH: Right

SP: ...WESH, or whatever, nothing comes up for me.

SH: Okay

SP: So, I'm not a good one at that. But I have that letter at home if you want it.

KK: Okay

SP: But Cindy said you might, you know, want to see it or something. Whatever you want to see. I don't know what to say because I don't know anything else.

SH: Well that's fine.

KK: Okay, that's no problem.

SH: My name, my name's Susan.

SP: Nice to meet you.

SH: Okay? And this is Kevin..

KK: Hi there.

SP: (inaudible)

SH: And we're both with, detectives with the Sheriff's Office. And your name is?

SP: Shirley

SH: Shirley. And your last name?

SP: They're not...

SH: I...

SP:...going to come here and bother...

SH: No.

KK: No, no.

SH: That's why we're here quietly, in a quiet room.

SP: Okay

SP: Plesea

SH: Plesea, okay, how do.....

KK: How do you spell that?

SP: P-L-E-S-E-A.

SH: Okay, I didn't know how to pronounce it, and I didn't want to be discourteous.

SP: Oh, that's alright.

SH: Okay

SP: We've got everything.

SH: Uh

SP: I'm, only been married for sixty two years.

KK: (chuckles)

SH: Wow, okay.

KK: Man.

SH: Um, that's kind of what we wanted to do is try and figure out the last time that Caylee was here. And you're positive it was Father's Day?

SP: On the 15th, Father's Day, yeah (affirmative).

SH: Okay

SP: Because in the letter I said to her, to MaryLou, I said, "Cindy brought a nice card. I told her not to buy any presents for Dad because it costs so much for the gas". And I says, "Caylee ran right up to Grandpa so he could hold her." And she wasn't afraid of him. And she hadn't seen him for awhile.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: And he held her on his lap. That's all...

SH: Okay

SP: ..I know...

SH: And you were...

SP: And I couldn't...

SH: ..for that?

SP: remember

SH: Okay

SP: I thought it was the 8th myself.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: But it wasn't.

SH: Okay, and you were here that day? Were you here when they were here?

SP: I wasn't here when they were , but I had , um, chilli and they come over to my house afterwards and we all had chilli. I even mentioned that in the letter.

SH: Okay, so Cayla, Caylee and the grandmother all came to your house.

SP: Yeah (affirmative)

SH: Okay, and that was Father's Day?

SP: Father's Day.

SH: Okay

SP: I would have swore, which I did I guess, not to anybody in person, but ah, that it was the 8th, but it was father's Day.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

KK: Okay

SP: And that was the 15th. She should be on the book.

SH: As signing in here?

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SH: Okay

KK: Now Caylee's Mom, did she ever come visit her Grandfather?

SP: Oh yeah (affirmative) But I don't know when was the last time. But see I had a, another grandson that come down to visit me from Ohio. I hadn't seen him for a lot of years.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: But, he'd come down so he could see Grandpa and me. And it just so happened that day that George and Cindy and Lee and Casey and Caylee were all here. And those kids hadn't seen each other for years.

KK: Do you remember when that might have been? Was it this year?

SP: I can look it up on my, oh, it was this year, somewhere, I don't know, somewhere April or May. But Casey used to come pretty often with Cindy and Caylee. Lately she hadn't come as much. Not that there was an estrangement between her and Grandpa or anything ,but she just, I just don't know.

KK: Oh, kids get tied up in doing different things.

SP: She's a girl right now that...

SH: (unintelligible)

SP: I don't know.

SH: Right.

SP: I love her still, but I'm sort of apprehensive.

KK: Understandable. Do you remember the last time that you think you seen her here? I mean we, she wasn't here on Father's Day was she?

SP: No, no, Casey wasn't. No, I'm sure the books would say, because they all sign their names in. But I can...

KK: (unintelligible)

SP: ..I can go through and see when my grandson was here and I know that would be one of the...

KK: I mean to your recollection of Father's Day, I mean if, if she would have come in later and just didn't sign the book,she wasn't here at all? Is that what you're saying?

SP: Oh, Casey wasn't here, yeah (affirmative), no. So it must have been the next day then that she disappeared. That would make a whole week in our favour.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative) yes.

KK: Is there anything you noticed with, uhm, Caylee that day? Did you notice any weird bruises, or.....

SP: Oh my God, no.

KK: Did she have an injury or anything?

SH: Did, did you see Caylee at, you saw Caylee at your house?

SP: Yeah (affirmative)

SH: And she was playing and normal?

SP: Oh yeah (affirmative) she was playing with the cat. She ate chilli and...

KK: (chuckles)

SP: I didn't think she'd like chilli, so we ended up making her a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, but she'd eaten popcorn over here. I even mentioned that in my letter, they served popcorn that day.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: And she was eating popcorn. So she didn't have a big appetite evidently. But as far as when I ever seen her, the only time she'd ever have bruises is if she fell you know...

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: ..normal..

SP: She had never had any smacking bruises, pinching bruises, anything like that, never. And as far as I know, outside of this incident now, poor judgement, whatever it was, she was a, as perfect as a little mother could be.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: Honest to God, but like I say, you don't know whether it's judgement, what snapped. They said there's no evidence of drugs or anything. I'm sure the police department, or the Sheriff's department, or whoever's in charge, take any kind of tests, you know, but...

KK: Is there anything you can think of that maybe your daughter said to you, Cindy, uhm, that she was having problems with her daughter..or..?

SP: Well the only problem I know that she's been having lately is while Casey was gone she kept in touch with Cindy every day. Almost every day. And Cindy kept saying, "Let me talk to Caylee". And she always had an excuse of some kind. That's what Cindy told me and I believe it. And see, I'm eighty-one, and I'm a little bit right now. Uhm, what were we talking about?

KK: Just if Cindy..

SP: Oh, if..

KK: ..if you ever..

SP: ..they had a problem?

KK: yeah (affirmative) If you ever recall Cindy saying anything like that, that Caylee had, or Casey uhm, was having any issues, or that she was worried about her, or...

SP: Uhm, she's been worried about her, but she never discussed it with me. And she gets upset every time I asked her, you know, too personal.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: So I was worried about Cindy because she was worried so much about them. Well she took a week's vacation. She didn't go anywhere. She was supposed to go down and see her mother-in-law and spend a couple of days down there and go to the beach and stuff. She ended up staying home because everyday Casey would say her and Caylee were coming the next day. And then there was a week or two went by, a week or went by, and she took another week off and she was hoping then. She never went anywhere that week. That's when she was working all that time in her yard. Cindy.

KK; Okay

SH: Do you know what..

SP: I don't know.

SH: Do you know when that was? Was it, that was after Father's Day, that she took this vacation?

SP: Yeah (affirmative)

SH: ..or was it recently?

SP: It was between the time that she's supposed to be with Casey, and Casey's supposed to be with friends, or whatever it was she was going to be doing. And how could she fool all of us that she was working here and there. So she probably had a lot of little, little jobs.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: And she's a very talented photographer. She could have made a good living like that.

KK: Do you remember the last time that you spoke with Casey?

SP: Um, not the date or anything..

KK: I mean was it.....

SH: Okay

KK: ..a little while ago?

SP: Yeah (affirmative)

SH: Has it been since...

SP: It was before Father's Day, I know that.

KK: Okay

SP: Before any of this went on. Uh.

SH: How was Casey, or how were Cindy and Caylee interacting that day? Everything was fine between those two?

SP: Oh my God, yeah.

SH : Okay

SP: I mean that..

SH: She minds...

SP: ..child is...

SH: She minds her Grandma and has no problems?

SP: Oh yeah (affirmative) and like any little child, if you got all the adults around she might not be quite as good. But she would hang onto, if Grandpa was with her, the other Grandpa, her, Casey's dad was with them or anything , she'd run for him, or he'd take her for a walk so we could visit, you know, and stuff like that. But she was not a bratty child, never. I never, never, never seen her to be a bratty child.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: And I don't know. She just got along good. Um, almost unbelievable what a good disposition that kid had. Now if she's ever upset or something, I never seen it.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: I imagine there's times in her little life when she was upset. But I don't think it was ever because somebody was mistreating her or anything.

SH: Okay

KK: Shirley, what time do you normally get here? Because I always see that you're usually number one.

SP: I beg your pardon?

KK: What time do you normally come here each day?

SP: Well up until (sound of telephone ringing in background) lately I used to come right at eight o'clock to make sure he was up and shaved.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: But I've had so much back trouble and that I've started cutting it down. I was here three times a day usually. But my first, uh, a lot, like as you can see, I'm usually the first one...

KK; Yeah (affirmative) usually I always see..

SP: ..to sign

KK: ..you're the first one, so...

SP: I had even sometimes had to put the date on the paper.

KK: (laughs)

SP: But, uh, to turn it over or something. But just the last couple of weeks I've been starting to cut down on my time because I am just hurting. And now this is not helping any.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

KK: Exactly. Is...

SP: I can't eat or anything.

KK: Is there anything you can think of..

SP: Yeah (affirmative)

KK: ..that we haven't..

SP: I can tell you something.

KK: Okay

SP: Uh, I don't know what date it was, but when Cindy wasn't hearing from Casey I'd go home from here and you know how the answering machine gets (sic) solicitors on right? I put this, I played it and it was a, a jibber-jabber of a little kid with a whole lot of noise in the background. And they let it play and run until the thing stopped.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: I don't know who's doing that. I don't think Casey would do that with her daughter. Somebody's horsing around is what I figured. Well I don't know how much later but it was, then the, within a few

days I got another one. Well I answered the phone and it just went on with a little, same identical thing. So it had to be a recording to get it to sound like that. A little child jibber-jabbering, and which Caylee speaks plain if she's going to speak.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: You know, she's almost 3. She's not just two. She'll be three in...

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: um, a little bit. But that was two times. So I told Cindy the other day, I said " If Casey says she heard I hope she could identify Casey, or Caylee" because maybe it was some weird thing like they did to me. Somebody playing something on a, I haven't ever had it, you know, since she's reported missing or anything.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: But it was during the time, two times.

SH: Now this jibber-jabber, it was not Caylee's voice?

SP: See I wasn't, in a way I wasn't expecting it. But if I said it's Caylee's voice I'm not telling the truth because I don't know. But it sounded like a little kid.

SH: But it didn't jump out at you of, oh, this is Caylee. Why is she not talking plain English? It didn't jump out at you like that?

SP: I'll tell you the first time it was just a shock.

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: And the second time, as soon as they knew a person answered, they played just a little bit and stopped it. They didn't let it go all the way, you know, like that. And nobody answered when I said "hello".

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: But they just started playing that. Now other people in the , you know, they might have been doing that to a lot of different people just to bug them or something, but...

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: ..that, I had to say that, when you don't have a definite or something, but that, I had no reason to mark that down.

SH: Right

KK: Right, you just figured it was....

SP: And I always, uh, after I get about four things on there I erase it. Well I imagine somebody could always dig up because I never change the tape. But I, it, it, I couldn't identify it as her, but I know I had two different ones. And like I say, the first one was recording on my recording machine and it went until they left all this noise and stuff go on until the tape stopped. Until the time ran out or something.

KK: Okay

SP: Oh, I don't know. I, I wish there was something I could do to help. I really do, I just...

KK: Now everything you're, you're helping out as best you can right now. Is there anything your husband might know that, that you don't, or are you always with him anytime Cindy was here?

SP: He can't even remember his aides name.

KK: Okay.

SP: If I ask him, "who gave you a bath last night?" He doesn't know. I ask him, I says " Who gave you a bath?" Well I know most of the afternoon certain girls, and if he, or aides, if he would, you know, could, and I'll say "Was it Lizette?" "No, she wasn't on". "Was it this one?" "No." And I'll ask who the nurse was that day. He can't remember their names but he knows their faces and that. So, he can remember World War II, and anything up to before his stroke.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: But he can't ...

SH: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: He can't tell you what he had for supper last night.

SH: So he wouldn't be able to tell us if he's seen Cayla, he wouldn't be able to say, see, tell us if he's seen Caylee since Father's Day?

SP: Oh, I know he hasn't seen her since Father's Day. Now whether he can tell you anything about Father's Day, I don't know.

SH: Okay

SP: But I really don't feel we should bother him.

KK: Okay

SP: I mean..

SH: Okay

SP: ..if I figured that he...

SH: Okay

SP: ..can actually have a clue, yes, but like I said...

KK: But there's no time that he would have been alone with her where...

SP: Oh never.

KK: ...you know, she may have...

SP: No

KK: ..said something, or he'd notice anything? You were always present with him?

SP: You're talking about Casey or Caylee?

KK: Caylee.

SP: The baby?

KK: The baby.

SP: Yeah (affirmative) no. She'd never be alone over there, and I'm, and even when he was holding her Cindy was close by because she didn't know whether he could hang onto her or not.

KK: Right

SP: Uh, one picture they have with him holding her he was real frail. And that was after January when he had a bad setback here.

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: But he's, he's looking good again now and...

SH: Hmm..

SP: I don't know whether there should be more recent pictures on some of those phone cameras or something that she has. I don't know...

KK: Uh-hum (affirmative)

SP: ...whether she got to take a picture that day or not. If her batteries were any good I'm sure she did, in the camera even.

KK: Okay

SP: So

SH: Okay, well I appreciate you talking to us. And you realize today is July 22nd? So this, we're talking about Father's Day, a little over a month ago. And you still think that that's the last time that you, you were around Caylee?

SP: Yeah (affirmative), that was the 15th, and this is the 22nd. So, it's five weeks now, but, uh...

SH: Right

SP: But at least it isn't 6 weeks.

SH: Right, right.

KK: And you're one hundred percent positive that that's the last time that you saw her?

SP: Yeah (affirmative) That's the last time I saw her...

KK: And you never saw...

SP: and I'm sure...

KK: ..your granddaughter, which was Casey?

SP: I haven't seen Casey for quite awhile before that.

SH: Okay

KK: Okay

SH: Okay

KK: Okay

SH: I appreciate you talking to us all.

SP: Okay.

SH: Okay? (sound of cellular phone ringing in background)Would you like some help getting back to the...

SP: No, I don't need help. I've been here (unintelligible).

KK: And Shirley, just real quick. Everything that we talked about today is the truth?

SP: To the best of my knowledge.

KK: Okay, that's all we needed.

SH: Okay.

KK: Thank you very much.

SH: Thank you Ma'am, I appre.....

End of Recorded Statement.

This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.

Detective Kevin Kraubetz, OCSO Deputy Sheriff.

