

*I/V Transcript of Sup#40 Det S. Surak #5742,

On 10/12/09 I interviewed Lou Caci over the phone, the following is a transcript of that interview:

Respondent: Hello.

Interviewer: Hello Mr. Caci.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Hi this is Detective Surak with the Sheriff's Office in Arizona. I spoke with you in the hospital.

Respondent: Yes, how are you?

Interviewer: I am doing good. How are you?

Respondent: Good.

Interviewer: Well I didn't get a chance to get back with you that evening. They sent me out to the scene and I didn't have a chance to actually find out what had happened to your friend James until a lot later and by then I think I was interviewer still on town or not so I just wanted to get back in touch with you and let you know or ask if you had already found out the information about James.

Respondent: Yeah I already found out (Inaudible)

Interviewer: Yeah I just wanted to get back in touch with you. I didn't find out till much, much later so oh I am sorry I didn't get a chance to get back in touch with you about that.

Respondent: I really appreciate you calling me. I am back in (Inaudible) and (Inaudible) truly we go by the health care systems (Inaudible) health care so it's about 52 (Inaudible).

Interviewer: I have got questions for you if you didn't mind talking to me.

Respondent: Could you hang on I just put on my headset.

Interviewer: Sure.

Respondent: (Inaudible) thank you. Okay go ahead.

Interviewer: And again you don't have to talk to me if you don't want to, do you understand?

Respondent: Yes I do, I do.

Interviewer: Like I said I had a few other questions because there is a lot more stuff that we found out since I talked to you last Thursday. How did you learn about James Ray?

Respondent: I have known James since 1993. I met James many years ago at a seminar and we just (Inaudible) became friends. I have known him for that long actually as an individual.

Interviewer: That's cool. How many of his events or seminars have you attended?

Respondent: I have attended almost all of them.

Interviewer: Oh yeah really. So you have been in a sauna or sweat lodge before?

Respondent: Well I was back in 2003 and I don't ever remember (Inaudible) the sweat lodge in (Inaudible) called Spiritual Warrior or he doesn't hold these sweat lodges in every seminar.

Interviewer: Okay I understood that from a lot of people that interviewed right after I interviewed --

Respondent: What James has done and what he is pretty good at is taking all the teachings from all the various cultures and made them into one simple teaching and the fact that anybody has the same information, everybody has a same practice. So I mean he just shared with us you know the Native American how they do their praying and teaching. I haven't gone on the internet people go on to the internet and just kind of take that sweat lodges, how they are run and so on and what his (Inaudible)

Interviewer: I know you said that you have learned this before with him right in 2003?

Respondent: Right.

Interviewer: Was this one any different or?

Respondent: This one I think was a lot harder.

Interviewer: Did you hear anyone maybe talk or make assurances that personnel that conducted or building the sweat lodge were specifically trained or experts?

Respondent: Building the sweat lodge, no I haven't heard any comments. I mean about (Inaudible) I mean he is a Native American and so they run it on a consistent basis and it has nothing to do with that I mean it's even the ones up here in Canada (Inaudible) very similar so there is no much difference (Inaudible) how hard you make it in there.

Interviewer: Did you feel prior to going inside the sweat lodge that it was safe?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay why was that?

Respondent: Because we had trust in James and you know in the past he had never done anything to hurt us but I guess this time he crossed the line.

Interviewer: What do you mean by that?

Respondent: I don't know, just it was a little too hot in there, I think he should have run a lecture regular Native American (Inaudible) I don't know.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were positioned in the sweat lodge?

Respondent: I was on the north side. I was on the other end so when (Inaudible) back and get where I would say I don't think you get a whole lot of air (Inaudible) in there.

Interviewer: Do you know who was on your left or on your right or behind you or in front of you?

Respondent: Yeah, my wife was on the right seat and on my left was, her name was Linda she is a heavy fat woman and she (Inaudible) and I happened to (Inaudible) in the last round I was back in there.

Interviewer: I think somebody told me that you went back in after you were burned?

Respondent: Yeah I went back in and there was something I needed to (Inaudible) I wasn't doing it to be Mr. Macho setting that I just had to (Inaudible) finish on my own and I noticed that Linda was in there and then she was trying to (Inaudible) she is a heavier (Inaudible) and then she passed out.

Interviewer: I mean did you try to help her out or do anything to --

Respondent: No, you know detective, I (Inaudible) to myself because I should have, I should have voiced my opinion (Inaudible) and that's something I am mad about with her.

Interviewer: Did you move to different areas of the tent while you were inside?

Respondent: No, I was inside. What happened like I was sitting along the back. Then a person in the front is his name is Mike he was in front of me and his wife Anita was in front and Anita switched (Inaudible) so I switched to them so I ended up switching to them and what happened was (Inaudible) I became I guess (Inaudible) and unconscious and my hand (Inaudible)

Interviewer: So that's what caused you fall in, so that you weren't quite sure where you were or?

Respondent: I wasn't sure where I was and then I came out I mean they sprayed water on me and I screamed (Inaudible) I kind of knew but what happened that when I knew I burned my hand because I was in pain.

Interviewer: How long did you stay inside?

Respondent: I don't have a (Inaudible).

Interviewer: Do you know how many rounds had gone by or did you have any idea?

Respondent: Around round 5 or 4 --

Interviewer: What did you eat in the days prior to the sweat lodge?

Respondent: Surely vegetarian diet, we were told to eat a whole lot before going to the sweat lodge.

Interviewer: And did you participate in the Vision Quest?

Respondent: Yes I did.

Interviewer: Okay so you were out there for the was it 2003, it was or --

Respondent: (Inaudible) it was two nights so we got there late night one night we got to scoot out there and stayed one night and one full day and then evening (Inaudible) 6:30 in the morning.

Interviewer: And did you eat while you were out there or drink?

Respondent: No. We weren't allowed to eat or drink.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: (Inaudible)

Interviewer: Had you been on a Vision Quest before?

Respondent: I was back in 2003.

Interviewer: Okay so you knew what to expect then?

Respondent: Yeah. I was told what to expect.

Interviewer: Did you know what to expect from the sweat lodge?

Respondent: Well I knew (Inaudible) but I knew what to expect (Inaudible) I mean (Inaudible) I am not sure (Inaudible)

Interviewer: Well you had been in one before so you kind of expected this one to pretty much I would imagine go the same, didn't you?

Respondent: Well hang on one second.

Interviewer: Okay, take your time.

Respondent: (Inaudible)

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent: So I am sure (Inaudible) so we were talking about (Inaudible) I knew what (Inaudible) and I knew (Inaudible) part of the tradition is to help release any talk, any (Inaudible) that could be attached to you. And so I knew it was going to be warm in there but I didn't expect it to (Inaudible)

Interviewer: Okay. What was discussed for safety procedures if there was any problem inside the sweat lodge?

Respondent: None. I don't remember anything (Inaudible) get out.

Interviewer: Did anyone tell you what to expect inside the sweat lodge and how to respond to any reaction you might have?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Did you guys speak to anyone during the ceremony?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Did anyone leave the lodge other than through the door?

Respondent: That's the only (Inaudible) through the front door.

Interviewer: Okay so you didn't anybody leave through any other way than through the door?

Respondent: No, they only leave through the door.

Interviewer: Did you hear anyone say that they were having problems?

Respondent: No because (Inaudible) so I didn't hear anything else.

Interviewer: Did you fill out any medical forms or were you asked about any health issues?

Respondent: No I wasn't. I really would like to know (Inaudible) the hospital (Inaudible) level was a lot more so I really wanted to know if that was whether it was carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide or what was it.

Interviewer: Well so far, we have ruled out the carbon monoxide poisoning so far but we are still waiting on results from several tests on other stuff. But as far as the carbon monoxide goes, we have already ruled that out. Right now, we are still waiting on lab results and stuff like that. We haven't even got a full medical examiners' report for the autopsies that were performed. Well, if any symptoms did you have while you were in the sweat lodge or afterwards?

Respondent: Well (Inaudible) the areas and I was shocked after especially when I saw people puking and people laying on the ground and like it's supposed to be a positive experience, you know it's not supposed to be a fucking battleground but that's what it looked like.

Interviewer: Yeah. Do you remember anyone saying something about a flashlight?

Respondent: No, why?

Interviewer: I am just wondering. I think we had some other people saying something about seeing a flashlight or something.

Respondent: I didn't see any flashlight.

Interviewer: Okay. Was there anyone inside when you left?

Respondent: Yeah, probably majority of people inside (Inaudible) and then certainly when I came out that after the next one people were coming out puking and coughing and there was one girl from Miami who was crying and she was delirious.

Interviewer: And as people were coming out, did you see anybody render aid to them?

Respondent: What do you mean render aid?

Interviewer: Like check vitals or make sure that they were okay or anything like that other than washing down with the water and --

Respondent: No, I don't think (Inaudible) washing down with water (Inaudible) vitals (Inaudible) that.

Interviewer: When you left, did you notice anyone in distress?

Respondent: No, I did not. When I went back in there, two people were distressed.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: You know one in the middle (Inaudible) right now which she should have been out of there long time ago and then Angela and I mean that lady Lynn and I don't know who else was in there.

Interviewer: Did you tell anybody about Linda?

Respondent: I (Inaudible) lady and I don't know how I did it I mean I had another gentleman Randy help me from behind and I grabbed (Inaudible) and I was lifting her just using all my strength that I had and I was moving her. She weighed close to as much as me.

Interviewer: And you probably saved her life.

Respondent: I don't know.

Interviewer: Is that Randy Potter that you helped? I am sorry you probably don't know any last names.

Respondent: I don't know any last names, Randy helps me help this lady Linda. I said Randy (Inaudible) legs. I got her by the arms and I got (Inaudible) with my quad I kept pushing I think a couple of times I had to put her to the ground but I took her out of there.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear anyone saying that they were having a heart attack and thought they were going to die?

Respondent: I did not hear that.

Interviewer: Did you hear anyone say something like it is a good day to die?

Respondent: I heard some things but I can't honestly say I heard that.

Interviewer: What did you hear?

Respondent: What I heard is stay, stay, you more than that, you are more than this.

Interviewer: Who was saying like?

Respondent: James.

Interviewer: How did James Ray react or respond to the people who were in distress?

Respondent: I think he was so out of it and he didn't really respond.

Interviewer: Do you feel he should have responded any differently?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: How do you feel he should have responded?

Respondent: Well (Inaudible) get out and if you want to come back, come back in but don't (Inaudible) they were very experienced what a sweat lodge is and he did brag about how sweat lodges are a lot harder than the normal.

Interviewer: He did?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: How did you feel about leaving the sweat lodge during the ceremony?

Respondent: After like I left everybody down (Inaudible) that was the (Inaudible) I am much more (Inaudible) angel looking after me.

Interviewer: Is there a reason you didn't leave sooner?

Respondent: Not really. I just wanted to finish it all off.

Interviewer: Was anyone discouraged from helping anyone in distress, and if so, how?

Respondent: I don't know that. I really don't know that.

Interviewer: When did you first realize something was wrong that there was a problem?

Respondent: It's when I coaxed and I burned my hand.

Interviewer: What do you think happened?

Respondent: I went unconscious.

Interviewer: You went unconscious.

Respondent: Yeah and my hand hit the pole and thank God it was only my hand that hit the pole and I woke up.

Interviewer: In general, with the whole ordeal, what do you think happened?

Respondent: In general with the whole ordeal?

Interviewer: Yeah with the whole sweat lodge incident, what do you think happened?

Respondent: Well #1 I don't think it was done properly and #2 he should have looked after ourselves.

Interviewer: Has anyone talked to you about what to say if questioned by Law Enforcement?

Respondent: I don't recall, no.

Interviewer: Do you have any questions for me?

Respondent: Well, what happened with this whole thing?

Interviewer: Well we've still got a whole lot of investigations to do, I mean I don't know if you have been watching the news or not, but we are still looking into a lot of different avenues and a lot of different things and we've got to wait for lab results and test results and all that kind of stuff. It's pretty much going to be a long haul before we make any kind of real decision on anything at this point in time.

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: So it's probably going to be a while. I gave you a card with a report number on it, didn't I?

Respondent: No, you didn't. You gave me a card but I don't have a number on it.

Interviewer: Let me give you the report number.

Respondent: I am in my car. Can you email it to me?

Interviewer: Sure. I have your e-mail address I believe, let me check to make sure. I've got [REDACTED]. Is that [REDACTED].

Respondent: Correct.

Interviewer: Okay. I can email that to you and it's probably going to take I mean a while before this thing is done. I can't even tell you the date when it will be done. It's probably going to be a while before it's done. But when it is done, you can call and ask if it's finished. You can call the Sheriff's Office and the number is on my card (928) 771-3260, and you can ask for records and ask if the report is done and they will be able to tell you whether it is or it isn't.

Respondent: Nice.

Interviewer: And if it is done, you can request a copy and it will cost you, I am not sure how much they charge but they charge for a copy of the report.

Respondent: There is one statement I want to make. Angel valley in my opinion is not responsible for any of what took place.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: They were fabulous, they were wonderful and Michael and I can't remember her name, Amayra.

Interviewer: I believe that's right.

Respondent: Amayra (Inaudible) they were fabulous with this. They really helped us out.

Interviewer: Yeah. Alrighty, well I really appreciate your time. If you have any questions or anything that you want to add, feel free to call me. My number should be on the card that I gave you. My e-mail address is also on there so feel free to call.

Respondent: Email me that report you have the e-mail address there.

Interviewer: Well, thank you very much.

Respondent: You have a good evening.

Interviewer: You too.

Respondent: Bye, bye.

Interviewer: Bye.

NFI

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Detective S. Surak #5742

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