

# **EXHIBIT 1**

*(continued)*

1 and that's one of the reasons I'm following up.

2 MR. THOMAS: The rules don't  
3 contemplate you going back through the transcript  
4 after seven hours and then coming back in here  
5 and pounding him.

6 MS. DAVIS: Well, I'm not trying  
7 to pound him. I'm ---

8 MR. THOMAS: What we need to do  
9 is move to new topics. What we don't need to do  
10 is go to the transcript and use extra time. You  
11 know, we want to get this thing done today.

12 MS. DAVIS: I that understand  
13 that Mr. Thomas, and I'm trying to do that.

14 Q (By Ms. Davis) But in follow-up to  
15 that, I'm trying to understand your testimony.

16 MR. THOMAS: You've made three or  
17 four references to previous transcripts.

18 Q (By Ms. Davis) And let me just finish  
19 this line of questioning; and that is to say  
20 that in going down and meeting with the West  
21 Memphis 3 investigators to see what kind of  
22 people would want to get killers of out of  
23 prison, you wanted to take that opportunity to  
24 inform the West Memphis 3 investigators that the

1 right guys were in prison and there was no need  
2 for further investigation; correct?

3 A At the time, yes. Little to know that  
4 I was under their investigation.

5 MS. DAVIS: And I'll object to  
6 everything but, "at the time, yes," as being  
7 nonresponsive.

8 Q (By Ms. Davis) Did you tell John  
9 Mark Byers about the DNA evidence when Ron Lax  
10 told you about your DNA evidence?

11 A I'm not sure.

12 Q Do you have any recollection of  
13 calling Mr. Byers and informing him of that DNA  
14 evidence some time in May or June of 2007?

15 A I don't recollect that.

16 Q Is it possible that you did?

17 A It could be. I'm not sure.

18 Q If Mr. Byers said that you called him  
19 and told him about the DNA evidence before he  
20 had heard about the Hobbs DNA evidence from any  
21 other source, would you agree that that's  
22 probably likely what you did?

23 MR. THOMAS: Objection; lack of  
24 foundation, also calls for speculation.

1 now let me ask it this way to make it clear.

2 A I don't have any negatives.

3 Q You do -- I meant grammatical  
4 negatives. You do not take responsibility,  
5 personal responsibility, for any of the  
6 emotional or other problems that your daughter,  
7 Amanda Hobbs, has. Is that correct, sir?

8 A In this stack of papers, no.

9 Q I'm not talking about that stack of  
10 papers. I'm talking about your daughter, sir.

11 A I have been a good daddy to my  
12 daughter.

13 Q And I take that to mean that when we  
14 talk about emotional or other problems that your  
15 daughter has had, you do not feel you are  
16 responsible for any of those. Is that correct?

17 A Correct. I've been a strong -- I have  
18 been a father figure to my daughter.

19 (Whereupon, Exhibit No. 32  
20 was marked to the testimony  
21 of the witness.)

22 Q (By Ms. Davis) Let me show you what's  
23 been marked as Deposition Exhibit No. 32, which  
24 is a declaration from David Jacoby. Mr. Jacoby

1 is a friend of your's; correct?

2 A He is.

3 Q And he is also a major alibi witness  
4 for you with regard to your whereabouts on the  
5 night of May 5th of 1993; correct?

6 A He's one alibi.

7 Q Let me direct your attention to  
8 Paragraph 6. Excuse me for just a second.

9 (Brief pause.)

10 Q (Reading.)

11 "On May 5th of 1993, I worked at  
12 the Memphis Ice Cream Company. I  
13 got home from work at  
14 approximately 4:30 p.m. on that  
15 day. Sometime between 5:00 p.m.  
16 and 5:30 p.m. on May 5th of  
17 1993 -- it could have been as a  
18 late as 6:00 p.m, but I believe it  
19 was between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. --  
20 Terry Hobbs came over to my  
21 house."

22 You don't disagree with that paragraph,  
23 do you?

24 A Well, I'm not sure about the time

1 frame.

2 Q It's possible you got there between  
3 5:00 and 5:30?

4 A It's possible I went over to his  
5 house.

6 Q Between 5:00 and 5:30?

7 A I ain't gonna to say that.

8 Q Well, it's either not possible or it's  
9 possible.

10 A Well, I went over to his house.  
11 That's possible.

12 Q Is it possible you got there between  
13 5:00 and 5:30?

14 A I'm not sure.

15 Q So, it is possible?

16 A I'm not sure.

17 Q If you're not sure, then it's  
18 possible.

19 A Call it what you will.

20 Q Let me direct your attention to  
21 Paragraph 7:

22 "I believe I saw Terry's stepson,  
23 Stevie Branch, ride by on his  
24 bicycle in the street in front of

1 Q Was it in the '90s?

2 A I'm not sure.

3 Q Could have been the '80s?

4 A It could have been.

5 Q Was it before or after the murders?

6 A After.

7 Q Do you recall how long it was after?

8 A I don't.

9 Q What were the circumstances that  
10 caused you to file for bankruptcy?

11 A I don't recall.

12 Q Have you received any charitable  
13 donations from people that were sympathetic to  
14 the family situation that you were in following  
15 the murder of Stevie?

16 A Have I received?

17 Q Yes.

18 A Our families -- all three families  
19 did.

20 Q How much did your family receive?

21 A I couldn't tell you.

22 Q More than 10,000?

23 A I couldn't tell you.

24 Q More than 20,000?

1 Q (By Ms. Davis) How -- what would be  
2 the best way for me to determine how much your  
3 family received as a result of charitable  
4 donations arising from people's sympathy over  
5 the murder of Stevie?

6 A Ask Father Tinsley. He was in charge  
7 of the funds.

8 Q Have you received any funds from  
9 people sympathetic to your situation following  
10 the death of Stevie, other than the funds you  
11 received through this Father Tinsley?

12 A Not that I recall.

13 Q Is it possible you did?

14 A Here we go.

15 Q It's possible you did and possible you  
16 didn't?

17 A I didn't. I don't recall.

18 Q Well, are you sure you didn't or do  
19 you not recall whether you did or not?

20 A I don't believe we have.

21 Q If we take the charitable gifts that  
22 you received from people sympathetic to your  
23 situation following the murder of Stevie and we  
24 add the amounts that you received from the sale



1 while she was living with you?

2 A I don't know.

3 Q Do you have any recollection of  
4 calling the police and reporting that Amanda had  
5 run away in 2004?

6 A No, not right off.

7 Q Doesn't ring a bell?

8 A No.

9 Q Did Pam Hobbs get a restraining order  
10 against you in 2005?

11 A I'm not sure.

12 Q That doesn't ring a bell either?

13 A I'm not sure. No, it don't ring a  
14 bell.

15 Q Did you have a breakdown in 1993 or  
16 1994?

17 A No.

18 Q If your journal says you had a  
19 breakdown in 1993 or '94, would that be the  
20 case?

21 A I don't believe my journal says that.

22 Q If your journal did say that, would  
23 you argue with it?

24 MR. THOMAS: Objection; calls for

1 speculation.

2 Q (By Ms. Davis) Can we rely on your  
3 journal?

4 A It's just something I was trying to  
5 write a story about.

6 Q I -- you've said that before. Clarify  
7 that for me. Are you trying to write a fiction  
8 story or are you trying to accurately record the  
9 events that occurred on May 5th?

10 A I'm just trying to write a story.

11 Q What does "a story" mean?

12 A To me, this is a story. Just a story.

13 Q A true story?

14 A I don't know if it's true. I don't --  
15 I would like to think I'm doing my best with it.  
16 Have you ever tried writing something about  
17 something like this?

18 Q Mr. Hobbs, do you even know what's  
19 true regarding the events of May 5<sup>th</sup> or May  
20 6th of 1993?

21 A Sure do.

22 Q That just may not be included in your  
23 journals. Is that correct?

24 A Well, that might be your theory.

1 Q And it might not be included in your  
2 Dimension Films interview, the truth; correct?

3 A Well, you can call it what you want.

4 Q And it might not, the truth, be  
5 included in your interview with the West Memphis  
6 Police Department; correct?

7 A Call it what you want.

8 Q Are all those statements true, sir?

9 A I wouldn't put stock in none of your  
10 statements.

11 Q Your -- your accounts to those  
12 different entities may or may not be true.

13 That's correct, isn't it, sir?

14 A I'm not sure.

15 MS. DAVIS: Let's take a break  
16 and let me see where we're at.

17 VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the end of  
18 Tape 2 of the videotape deposition of Mr. Terry  
19 Hobbs. The time is approximately 11:16 a.m.

20 (Brief recess.)

21 VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the  
22 beginning of Tape 3 of the videotape deposition  
23 of Mr. Terry Hobbs. The time is approximately  
24 11:29 a.m.

1 noticed -- I mean, do you think you would have  
2 noticed something going on if there was activity  
3 in that -- in the woods?

4 A You would think so.

5 Q And, I mean, I'm curious, and I think  
6 there is a lot of curiosity about whether that's  
7 where the murders actually happened. Do you  
8 have a belief as to whether the murders of the  
9 three boys actually happened in Robin Hood Hills  
10 Woods?

11 A Well, the police say that's where it  
12 happened.

13 Q Okay. And so, you're just satisfied  
14 that that's where it happened?

15 A I had to be satisfied with something.

16 Q Okay. And let's go back to the day  
17 that the West Memphis 3 were arraigned for  
18 murdering Stevie and his two friends. Do you  
19 remember that day when -- when they were first  
20 brought into the courtroom and charged,  
21 arraigned with murdering the three boys?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Now, Stevie's biological father had to  
24 be physically restrained from attacking Damien

1 Echols. Is that right?

2 A Correct.

3 Q And then your wife at the time, Pam  
4 Hobbs, Stevie's mother, had to be removed from  
5 the courtroom because she kept hollering,  
6 "punks, punks, punks" at the three?

7 A Correct.

8 Q And you went out with Pam Hobbs when  
9 she had to leave the courtroom. Is that  
10 correct?

11 A Correct.

12 Q And you were interviewed by the police  
13 at the time; correct -- or not by the police,  
14 but by the press when you left?

15 A Correct.

16 Q And Pam made statements about the  
17 three -- the West Memphis 3 being -- how she  
18 would like to beat their heads against the wall,  
19 something to that affect?

20 A All right.

21 Q And you made a statement that it was  
22 difficult for you to restrain yourself, that you  
23 were looking for a rail to jump over or some way  
24 to get at the three yourself.

1 A Probably so.

2 Q It was hard to restrain yourself.

3 A Probably.

4 Q And, I mean, you at that point had  
5 formed a belief that these three had killed  
6 Stevie and his two friends; correct?

7 A We didn't know until that day.

8 Q But on that day, you learned about  
9 Mr. Misskelley's confession? How did -- how did  
10 you form the belief on that day that these three  
11 did the killings?

12 A We were called -- the police called us  
13 and told us to be at the court on this day, that  
14 we would find -- we would see the three boys  
15 that were charged with killing our kids.

16 Q But what made you so convinced -- I  
17 mean, Stevie's biological father is having to be  
18 physically restrained. Pam is hollering,  
19 "punks, punks, punks," and you're looking for a  
20 way to get at him yourself. What made you so  
21 convinced at that point in time of their guilt?

22 A At this time, you don't know what to  
23 think. You know, we -- we got the phone call  
24 from the police, and we showed up, and this is

1 A Would you repeat the question?

2 Q (By Mr. Wellenberger) One of the  
3 purposes that you're trying to do here in this  
4 lawsuit is to chill the rights of other people.  
5 You want to -- just to chill the rights of other  
6 people to advocate for the release of the West  
7 Memphis 3.

8 MR. THOMAS: Same objection.

9 Q (By Mr. Wellenberger) Is that -- is  
10 that one purpose of this lawsuit?

11 A One of them.

12 Q Now, Stevie had some friends. Dawn  
13 Moore was his girlfriend?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q He had gone and bought her a  
16 five-dollar gift or something. Is that right?

17 A A little ring.

18 Q Yeah. And then Erin Hutchinson was --  
19 I don't know whether he was a friend or an  
20 acquaintance, but I think he knew Stevie, didn't  
21 he?

22 A They all went to school together.

23 Q In the same Cub Scout group together?

24 A I believe.

1 have a day?

2 A I had 110 a week.

3 Q A hundred and ten a week?

4 A Roughly.

5 Q Do you still see any of those old  
6 customers?

7 A I have. I've run across some of them.

8 Q There was one or two that it was  
9 really hard for you to go -- and I may be wrong  
10 about this, but I was thinking it was really  
11 hard for you to go to their stores after Stevie  
12 because they were so sorry about what happened  
13 to Stevie, and there -- that it made you relive  
14 things. Does that -- does that ring a bell?

15 A Sure.

16 Q Who were those folks?

17 A I had a lot of customers that was like  
18 that. All of my customers really thought a lot  
19 of me because of what I done; and when this  
20 happened to us, it's just like I belonged to  
21 them. They took it that personal. And they had  
22 taken a liking to me, and I would go in their  
23 stores. They would cry, you know, and they  
24 would get emotional about it and -- and which



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A I'm sure it did.

5

Q Okay. And at the time you're doing the Dimension Films, is trying to do justice for Stevie even a part of that at this point?

6

7

8

A Probably to some degree.

9

10

Q Now, tell me about that. I mean, just -- what is this doing justice for Stevie about?

11

12

A Because we felt like this HBO made some bad documentaries. You know, they led us one way and done another, and we wanted to somewhere along the line try to correct that, and I -- when this come along, we probably caught ourself doing that.

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Q And by "correcting it," you mean ---

19

A Get out some of the truth as we knew it.

20

21

Q And the truth will be like that Jessie Misskelley gave four confessions, not one?

22

23

A Okay.

24

Q I mean, is that part of the truth?

1 A If that -- that means a  
2 (unintelligible).

3 Q Well, I mean, I'm -- I'm not -- I'm  
4 not telling you answers. I'm asking you  
5 questions.

6 A I'm not disputing his confessions. He  
7 did that, not me.

8 Q And you believe his confessions;  
9 correct?

10 A I have no reason not to.

11 Q Now, what -- I mean, you're wanting  
12 this film to come in and say the West Memphis 3  
13 killed Stevie and his two friends, and they  
14 deserve the punishment they got. I mean, that's  
15 the -- that's your -- that's part of why you're  
16 doing the Dimension Films contract; correct?

17 A I'm not sure about that.

18 Q Okay. What -- what are you unsure  
19 about then?

20 A I mean, if that was our mission -- I  
21 ain't going to say that that was our mission.

22 Q Was that one of your missions?

23 A It could have been. I'm not sure.

24 Q Well, I mean, I thought you thought

1 representing the Dixie Chicks, was she?

2 A She's known as a lead singer of the  
3 Dixie Chicks. That was in the papers.

4 Q Okay. So, she can be a lead singer of  
5 the Dixie Chicks but still have a life separate  
6 and apart from the Dixie Chicks, can't she?

7 A I don't know. That's up to them.

8 MR. WELLENBERGER: I'm going to  
9 take a break and see if there's -- I think we're  
10 about done.

11 VIDEOGRAPHER: We're going off  
12 the record. The time is approximately 12:07 p.m.

13 (Lunch recess.)

14 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now back on  
15 the record. The time is approximately 1:00 p.m.

16 (Whereupon, Exhibit No. 33  
17 was marked to the testimony  
18 of the witness.)

19 Q (By Mr. Wellenberger) Mr. Hobbs, I  
20 had you look at Exhibit 33 during the lunch  
21 break, and is this a copy of an article that was  
22 in the Memphis Commercial Appeal following the  
23 arraignment of the West Memphis 3?

24 MR. THOMAS: We can stipulate to

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF TENNESSEE:

COUNTY OF SHELBY:

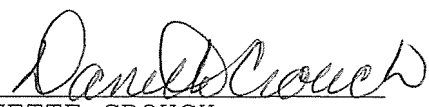
I, DANETTE CROUCH, Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand the above-captioned proceedings.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing pages contain a full, true and correct transcript of my said Stenotype notes then and there taken.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not an attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that in order for this document to be authentic and genuine, it must bear my original signature and my embossed notarial seal and that any reproduction in whole or in part of this document is not allowed or condoned and that such reproductions should be deemed a forgery.

THEREFORE, witness my hand and my official seal in the State of Tennessee on August 12, 2009.

  
DANETTE CROUCH  
Court Reporter and  
Notary Public at Large

My Commission Expires:  
May 24, 2011



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
9th DIVISION

TERRY HOBBS

PLAINTIFF

VS.

CASE NO. CV-08-13038

FILE25/11/25/08 16:35:42  
Pat O'Brien Pulaski Circuit Clerk  
CR7 By JW

NATALIE PASDAR, Individually;  
NATALIE PASDAR, EMILY ROBINSON  
MARTHA SEIDEL d/b/a DIXIE CHICKS

DEFENDANTS

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, Terry Hobbs, by and through his attorney, J. Cody Hiland, and for his cause of action against the Defendants, states as follows:

I.

JURISDICTION

1. Plaintiff is a private citizen and resident of Memphis, Tennessee.
2. Defendant, Emily Robinson is a citizen and resident of San Antonio located in Bexar County Texas.
3. Defendant, Natalie Pasdar is a citizen and resident of Austin located in Travis County Texas.
4. Defendant, Martha Seidel is a citizen and resident of Austin located in Travis County Texas.
5. Each of the above referenced Defendants, d/b/a Dixie Chicks, have systematically and continuously done business in Arkansas by promoting and selling music in Arkansas at retail, over the internet and by performance in Arkansas.
6. The Court has jurisdiction over the parties and over the subject matter of this Complaint, and venue is proper in this Court.

DEPOSITION EXHIBIT
<u>2</u>
<u>T. Hobbs</u>

II.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

7. That the Plaintiff was the stepfather of Steve Branch, now deceased.
  8. That on or about May 5, 1993, the bodies of Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore were discovered in Robin Hood Hills located in Crittenden County Arkansas.
  9. That Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore were severely beaten about their heads and faces and brutally murdered.
  10. That Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley and Jason Baldwin were charged and convicted of the murders of Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore.
  11. That the convictions of Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley and Jason Baldwin have not been reversed on direct appeal.
  12. That Damien Echols has been unsuccessful in seeking a retrial based on what he has characterized as "new" DNA evidence believed to be sufficient to cast doubt on his conviction.
  13. That the case involving Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley and Jason Baldwin (hereinafter referred to as the "West Memphis Three") has attracted national attention focused on the sufficiency of the evidence used in achieving the convictions.
  14. That on or about November 26, 2007, Defendant, Natalie Pasdar recklessly published or caused to be published malicious, libelous, slanderous, and false statements concerning Plaintiff over the world-wide internet via an open letter on the Defendant Dixie Chick's website.
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15. That Defendant's letter, when taken as a whole, accused Plaintiff of committing the murder of Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

16. That the aforementioned libelous, slanderous, and false statements by the Defendant were republished by numerous media outlets and prominently viewed websites including, but not limited to, *Fox News*, *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis Tennessee, *People*, *Huffington Post*, *Free Republic* and *ABC News*.

17. That on or about December 19, 2007, Defendant, Natalie Pasdar was a featured speaker at a "Free the West Memphis Three" rally on the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock Arkansas in which she reiterated her position that the recent DNA and forensic results had "given this case wings" and made other statements that amounted to a false and reckless claim that Plaintiff committed the murders of Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore.

18. That the Defendant's Little Rock Arkansas appearance and statements attracted significant media attention and were widely printed, disseminated and broadcast to an expansive audience.

19. That Defendant's repeated libelous publications concerning the involvement of the Plaintiff in the murders of Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore were not based on fact and, in fact, were false and reckless at the time of publication.

### III.

#### CAUSES OF ACTION

##### A.

**DEFAMATION/LIBEL**

20. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs one through nineteen as if fully set out herein.

21. The acts of the Defendants as set forth hereinabove are libelous and libelous *per se* and defamed Plaintiff, causing him to suffer personal injuries, injury to his reputation and professional and business damages for which he is entitled to recover compensatory and punitive damages as determined by a jury.

**B.**

**INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS/OUTRAGEOUS**

**CONDUCT**

22. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs one through twenty-one as if fully set out herein.

23. Plaintiff alleges that the aforementioned wrongs constitute intentional, reckless and/or negligent infliction of emotional distress and are actions that are so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to be beyond the pale of decency and to be regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in civilized society, thereby resulting in severe emotional, mental, and physical injuries entitling Plaintiff to recover compensatory and punitive damages to be determined by the jury.

**C.**

**FALSE LIGHT INVASION OF PRIVACY**

24. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs one through twenty-three as if fully set out herein.

25. The acts of the Defendants placed the Plaintiff in a false light and were a false light invasion of Plaintiff's privacy as recognized in Arkansas.



26. Defendants gave publicity to matters concerning the Plaintiff which were false and/or which placed the Plaintiff before the public in a false light, which were and are highly offensive to any reasonable person, and the Defendants had knowledge or should have known that the publicized matters were false or each and all acted recklessly and with reckless disregard as to the falsity of the matter they were publicizing and the false light in which the Plaintiff would be and was placed.

27. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful acts of the Defendants herein, acting in a manner specifically designed to harm and damage the Plaintiff and his person, did, by invading his privacy and casting him in a false light commit the tort of false light invasion of privacy causing the Plaintiff to suffer mental and emotional distress and other special damages which he is entitled to recover.

#### IV.

#### DAMAGES

28. Plaintiffs re-allege paragraphs one through twenty-seven as if fully set out herein.

29. As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful acts set forth hereinabove by the Defendants, the Plaintiff, Terry Hobbs, a respected, private citizen, was injured in his person and business and in his personal and business reputation.

30. As the direct and proximate result of the false, malicious and libelous information published by the Defendants about him, Plaintiff has suffered embarrassment, humiliation, and severe psychological, emotional, mental trauma, loss of income and other compensatory damages in an amount to be determined by a jury.

31. Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages.

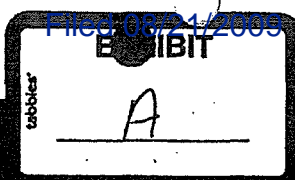
WHEREFORE, Plaintiff sues the Defendants for compensatory and punitive damages and demands a jury to try this case when the issues are joined and for all other just and proper relief to which he may be entitled.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008.

**TERRY HOBBS**

BY: 

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November 26, 2007

Letter from Natalie Maines: WM3 Call to Action

I'm writing this letter today because I believe that three men have spent the past 13 years in prison for crimes they didn't commit.

On May 5th, 1993 in West Memphis, Arkansas three 8 eight-year-old boys, Steve Branch, Christopher Byers, and Michael Moore were murdered.

Three teenage boys, Damien Echols, Jesse Misskelley, and Jason Baldwin were convicted of the murders in 1994. Jason Baldwin and Jesse Misskelley received life sentences without parole, and Damien Echols sits on death row.

I encourage everyone to see the HBO documentaries, Paradise Lost and Paradise Lost 2 for the whole history of the case.

I only discovered the films about 6 months ago, and when I finished Paradise Lost 2 I immediately got online to make sure that these three wrongly convicted boys had been set free since the films were released. My heart sank when I learned that the boys were now men and were still in prison. I couldn't believe it.

I searched for answers as to what had been done and what was being done to correct this injustice. I donated to the defense fund and received a letter from Damien Echols wife, Lorri. She is a lovely woman who has dedicated her time and heart to her husband. I was glad to hear that after so many years of fighting for justice it looked like things were finally happening. Below, I have written what the DNA and forensics evidence shows. I hope after reading it and looking at the WM3.org website, you will know that the wrong guys are sitting in jail right now, and feel compelled to help.

Inspired and determined to see the justice system work, many people have worked on this case pro bono for the past 13 years. However, there are still costs that go along with the struggle to freeing these three men.

There has been a wonderful resurgence of interest by the media for this case, but nobody mentions the need for funds. Donations to the defense fund are desperately needed. DNA and forensics tests are expensive. They are also what will finally set these men free. Due to so many people's passion and generosity, what would normally be a case that costs millions is costing a fraction of that. I know around the holidays we all get inundated with deserving causes and charities that are in need of donations, but this can't wait!

With all of the new evidence things are finally moving, and fast!

Any money that you can donate is desperately needed to pay for the experts and the federal court hearing that is just weeks away. There is also a letter campaign that has been started by a new and energized group of people in Arkansas. [Click here](#) to download the sample letter. Signing and sending this letter makes it very difficult for this case to be ignored. Please mail the letters to the following address:

Arkansas Take Action  
Capi Peck, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 17788  
Little Rock, AR 72222-7788

After so many years it literally all comes down to this hearing.

The evidence is so strong that at the very least the judge will grant a new trial, but hopefully he will overturn the verdict and these guys will finally be sent home to their lives and families. I know that this is a hard thing to just take my word on, so please look at the case and the evidence for yourself. I am confident that you will see the DNA evidence is irrefutable and that these three men did not get the kind of trial that is promised to us - as Americans.

The system hasn't only failed Damien, Jesse, and Jason, but it has failed the three little boys that were murdered. Their killer(s) is still out there, and justice has yet to be served. Please know that your generosity will make a difference.

Please know that your generosity will make a difference.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Maines Pasdar

The following is just some of the DNA and forensic evidence that will be presented in the federal court hearing.

In late October, legal papers were filed in federal court in Arkansas showing that Damien Echols was wrongfully convicted. The 200-page court filing includes DNA evidence that fail to link any of the three boys

to the crime scene. This is very important because the prosecution claimed that Echols had sodomized the victims.

-DNA tests also show that a hair belonging to Terry Hobbs, the step-father of one of the victims, was found in the ligature of one of the victims.

-DNA tests also match a hair at the crime scene to a friend of Hobbs that was with him that day.

-DNA test results show foreign DNA-from someone other than Echols, Misskelly, or Baldwin-on the penises of two of the victims.

-Scientific analysis from some of the nation's leading forensics experts, stating that wounds on the victims' bodies were caused by animals at the crime scene-not by knives used by the perpetrators, as the prosecution claimed. These wounds were the centerpiece of the prosecution's case, and evidence was presented that a knife recovered from a lake near one defendant's home caused the wounds.

-Sworn affidavits outlining new evidence uncovered by Pam Hobbs (the ex-wife of Terry Hobbs) who found a knife in Terry Hobbs' drawer that her son (one of the victims) had carried with him at all times. After her son was killed, the knife was not among his personal effects that police gave to the Hobbs family, and Pam Hobbs always assumed that her son's murderer had taken it during the crime.

-New information implicating Terry Hobbs-including his own statements made to police in recent interviews where he acknowledged that several of his relatives suspect him in the crime. The filing also includes a chronology of Hobbs' activities on the night of the crimes, when he washed his clothes and sheets at odd hours for no reason other than to hide evidence from the crimes.

- A sworn affidavit that refutes hearsay evidence from Echols' trial. The mother of one of two girls who testified that they overheard Echols admit to the crime at a softball game now says that Echols' statement was not serious and that neither she nor her daughter believes he committed the crime.

Dimension Films  
375 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10013

Dated as of July 18, 2006

Pam and Terry Hobbs  
3750 Macon Road  
Memphis, TN 38122

Re: Life Story Rights / Pam Hobbs and Terry Hobbs

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter will confirm the terms of the agreement (the "Agreement") reached as of the effective date set forth above, by and among, on the one hand, Dimension Films, a division of The Weinstein Company, LLC (and/or a development or production entity to be designated by Dimension Films) ("Company"), and on the other hand, Pam Hobbs and Terry Hobbs (collectively, "Owner"), with respect to the purchase by Company of all rights in and to the life stories of Owner and Steven Branch, the deceased son of Pam Hobbs and Terry Hobbs ("Branch") and any other family members (individually and/or collectively, Owner and Branch may hereinafter be referred to as "Artist"), in connection with a motion picture project currently referred to as "Devil's Knot" (the "Picture"). The parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Purchase Price: The purchase price for the "Rights" (as defined below) shall be Fifteen Thousand United States Dollars (\$15,000 USD), payable promptly following Company's receipt of this fully executed Agreement and all documents which may be required by any government agency or otherwise to enable Company to effect payment to Owner as set forth hereunder.

2. Rights:

A. For the purposes of this letter agreement, the "Rights" shall mean the irrevocable, unconditional right, throughout the universe, in perpetuity in any and all media now or hereafter known (including, without limitation, all motion picture, television, television series, prequel, sequel, remake, and other subsequent productions, merchandising, music, music publishing, soundtrack, screenplay publishing, multi-media/interactive, DVD, on-line, digital media and digital transmission, novelization, live stage, and all allied and ancillary rights or otherwise):

(i) to use, fictionalize, dramatize, adapt, transpose, change, simulate and portray Artist's name, likeness (whether photographic or otherwise), voice, personality, personal experiences, incidents, situations and events of Artist's life (which portrayal may be in whole or in part);

(ii) to use, fictionalize, dramatize, adapt, transpose, change, simulate and portray the name, likeness (photographic or otherwise), voice, personality, personal experiences, incidents, situations and events of each of the individual Artist's lives which occurred on or before the effective date of this letter agreement (which portrayal may be in whole or in part);

(iii) to use, fictionalize, dramatize, adapt and exploit any and all other rights of whatsoever nature owned or controlled by Owners relating to Artist, including, without limitation, photography, memoranda, letters, diaries and other personal effects.

B. Owner agrees Owner shall not transfer, exploit or authorize any other party to exploit any of Owner's life story rights in any media now or hereafter (including, without limitation any motion picture, television, television series, or other audio-visual production, and print publication rights) earlier than five (5) years after the first general commercial release in the United States of the Picture (the "Hold-back Period"). Upon the expiration of the Hold-Back Period, with respect to any print publication rights not otherwise exploited by Company during the Hold-Back Period ("Print Publication Rights"), Company shall have its customary exclusive right of first negotiation/last refusal with regard to any disposition of the Print Publication Rights by Owner. It is expressly agreed that the Print Publication Rights under this subparagraph 2.B. relate only to material written and/or created by or for or authorized by Owner and not to any

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screenplay, characters, teleplay, music, lyrics, sequels or other material written and/or created by or for or authorized by Company, even though the same may contain similar characters or other elements. Owner's exploitation of the Print Publication Rights in accordance with the terms herein shall limit or shall not be exercised in any manner which may infringe upon Company's Rights, as set forth more fully in Subparagraph 2.A. above.

3. Representations/Warranties/Indemnification: Owner hereby represents, warrants and undertakes that: (i) Owner is the sole owner or controller of all Rights granted herein; (ii) Owner has all rights, power and authority necessary to enter into this agreement and fully perform its obligations hereunder (including, without limitation, the full power and authority to grant the Rights); (iii) there is no claim or litigation pending with respect to the Rights; (iv) in conveying the Rights to Company, Owner will present Artist's life story in a true, complete and factual manner; (v) other than those individuals who are a party to this letter agreement, there are no other family members or other individuals who own or control any of the Rights. Owner shall defend, indemnify and otherwise hold the Company Parties (hereinafter defined) free and harmless from and against any and all liabilities, claims, demands, damages and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs) arising out of or resulting from any breach or alleged breach by Owner of its representations, warranties or covenants hereunder or any other agreement made herein.

4. Credit: Provided that Owner is not in breach of its obligations hereunder, Company shall accord Owner a technical consultant credit on screen in the end credits of the Picture. All other aspects of such credit shall be at Company's sole discretion.

5. Release/Waiver: Owner hereby waives, releases and discharges Company, Company's employees, agents, representatives, licensees, successors and assigns, (collectively, the "Company Parties") from any and all claims, demands or causes of action that Owner may now have or may hereafter have for libel, defamation, infliction of emotional distress, invasion of privacy (pursuant to Sections 50-51 of the New York State Civil Rights Law or any similar statute in any other jurisdiction), or right of publicity, infringement of copyright or violation of any other right arising out of or relating to the Company Parties' utilization of the Rights or based upon any failure or omission to make use thereof.

6. Consulting Services: Owner shall meet with Company and provide Company with reasonable assistance/consultation in connection with the Picture and Rights whenever reasonably requested for no additional consideration. Such services shall include, without limitation, identifying and obtaining for Company at Company's request, with respect to any actual individual, whether living or dead, or any "real-life" incident or place, the source of all factual material which concerns any actual individual, whether living or dead, or any "real life" incident or place, and such other information as may be reasonably required by Company. Owner shall not authorize others to circulate, publish or otherwise disseminate any news stories or articles, books or other publicity of any kind relating directly or indirectly to the subject matter of this agreement or a motion picture or other production based upon the Rights prior to the earlier of the initial release date of the Picture or the expiration of the Term.

7. Use of Owner Documents: Owner acknowledges that it is the author of an approximately one hundred eighty (180) page memoranda or letter and other documents and memoranda (collectively, the "Owner Documents") concerning the life stories and personal experiences of Artist. Owner hereby grants Company the right to use all or any part of the Owner Documents in connection with the Picture. Owner represents and warrants that it is the exclusive owner of all rights of every kind and nature in and to the Owner Documents, and the grant of use to Company hereunder shall not be in violation of any law or statute or violate the rights of any third parties.

8. Miscellaneous: At Company's request, Owner shall execute any and all additional documents and instruments consistent herewith, reasonably deemed by Company to be necessary or desirable to effectuate the purposes of this Agreement (including, without limitation, releases from other family members). Owner hereby waives any right to seek or obtain equitable or injunctive relief in connection with this agreement. All sums payable to Owner hereunder shall be payable to Owner collectively, whose receipt thereof shall constitute a valid discharge of Company's payment obligations hereunder. This Agreement shall be governed by New York law and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal and State Courts of New York County. Nothing contained herein shall require the commission of any act or the payment of

any compensation which is contrary to any law, rule or regulation. If there shall exist any conflict between this Agreement and any such law, rule or regulation, the latter shall prevail, and the provision(s) hereof affected shall be curtailed, limited or eliminated only to the extent necessary to remove such conflict and, as so modified, this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, and when executed by each of the parties signatory hereto, said counterparts shall constitute a valid, binding agreement. An executed counterpart returned by facsimile shall be deemed an original. All of the principal deal terms which close this Agreement are those terms stated herein.

If the foregoing represents our understanding, please so signify by signing in the place provided below.

Sincerely,

Dimension Films, a division of  
The Weinstein Company, LLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted and Agreed To:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Hobbs  
SS#:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Hobbs  
SS#:





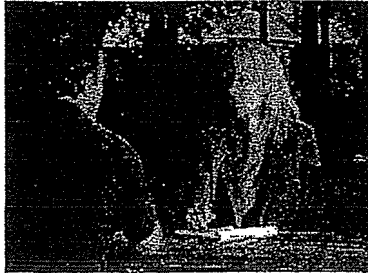
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Reported by Janice Broach  
**Step-father of a West Memphis Three victim writing book**

Updated: Aug 8, 2008 11:23 PM CDT

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The man now suspected in the West Memphis Three murders 15 years ago is writing a tell-all book.

Jason Baldwin, Jessie Misskelley and Damien Echols are in prison for the killing of three boys 15 years ago. But in recent months, Echols' defense team said DNA evidence has claimed that one of the victim's stepfather, Terry Hobbs, is the real killer.

Action News 5 has learned a hearing is scheduled for later this month to make sure attorneys are ready to go forward with a hearing on new DNA results.

Damien Echols' attorneys hopes it leads to a new trial.

Terry Hobbs said he just may go to that hearing. He also said he has got a book deal.

"I am not a child killer. I was a step parent back then and we were a family on our feet doing well and when this happened. It just blows your world away and to see it go on for 15 years and to see what has gone on for the past year and a half has been devastating and highly wrong," Hobbs said.

Hobbs is the stepfather of Stevie Branch, one of the boys murdered by the so called West Memphis Three. He has been named as a suspect in the murders of the three cub scouts by Damien Echols' defense team. Echols is on death row. Echols' attorneys said new DNA testing identified a hair found at the crime scene that ties Hobbs to the crimes.

"I haven't done a thing wrong and everybody knows that," Hobbs said.

A hearing on the new evidence is scheduled for next month. Hobbs said he may go to that hearing.

"To look at the people that done me like that, 'cause I imagine they are all going to be sitting there. I would like to just walk in and look at them," Hobbs said.

Hobbs also said he has kept a journal that began that day in May the bodies of the three boys were discovered .

"Part of it is in the hands of a publisher or a book writer...not a publisher, a writer. I think we are going to write a pretty good story about this," Hobbs said.

Hobbs also said it is about 300-400 pages and said someone in Hollywood wants the first rights to the book.

Hobbs said Echols' defense team wanted to look at his journal and he would not let them.

Hobbs said Echols' defense team thought he confessed to the murders in his journal and that is why they wanted to read it.

He said that is not true and he has never let them look at it.

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[Click here to e-mail Janice Broach.](#)



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commercialappeal.com  
Memphis, Online

Read more at commercialappeal.com

## Familiar face in murder case resurfaces with adjusted attitude

By Marc Perrusquia

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

From the tumor on his brain that he nicknamed "Harvey" to his violent outbursts and his odd, backwoods humor, not much is ordinary about John Mark Byers.

For 14 years those eccentricities made him a suspect in the court of public opinion built up around the 1993 West Memphis child murders.

A long-haired mammoth of a man with curious ties to cops and drug dealers, Byers was the adoptive parent of one of three 8-year-old boys found nude and hog-tied in a drainage ditch.

Defense lawyers and filmmakers pointed accusing fingers at Byers, something he says sent him into a downward spiral of booze, drugs and a prison stint. For years, he hated and largely avoided the media.

But now, as new defense evidence has emerged that alleges three men were wrongly convicted and hints at the guilt of an uncharged party, Byers has a new persona.

With a shaved head and suit and tie, Byers is giving media interviews, saying he believes the three defendants he once hated are innocent. He also claims to hold damning evidence about the man he says actually did it.

"I'm not that crazy hillbilly they made me out to be," Byers told The Commercial Appeal on Monday in a Downtown public relations office where he vowed to unveil his new evidence soon.

"I'm not backing up. And this Southern boy does not run."

Calling himself "a 6-foot-6, 245-pound red herring," Byers, 50, said suspicions about him caused him years of pain and stress.

But he says he's resting easy since defense lawyers filed legal papers last month in federal court in Little Rock. Citing new DNA evidence, those papers assert that convicted murderers Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley are innocent. Among findings by a defense team of forensic pathologists and DNA

specialists are two hairs found at the crime scene that defense lawyers say link one of the victim's parents to the crime scene.

That man, stepfather Terry Hobbs, has emphatically denied any role in the killings.

"They (defense lawyers) have nothing better to do than to try to get some killers out of prison. And they have to point the finger at somebody," Hobbs said again Monday in a phone interview.

Yet Byers, who grew close to Hobbs in the years after the murders, says he's assembled evidence against his old friend.

Byers said he secretly recorded hours of phone conversations with Hobbs in recent months. He wouldn't say what's on all those tapes, but suggested it was damning.

"In my opinion, he's a monster. He's been standing in my shadow. And I'm going to expose him. ...

"If it takes my last breath on this Earth, I'm going to see that man in prison."

One of those surreptitious digital recordings landed on the Internet this month when Byers inadvertently e-mailed it to the wrong person.

A copy of the 23-minute conversation taped in October was posted recently on [wm3hoax.downonthefarm.org](http://wm3hoax.downonthefarm.org), one of several mom-and-pop Web sites that have cropped up around the case. On the tape, Byers and Hobbs talk about the new twist in the investigation. At one point, Hobbs likens himself to the Biblical figure Job in discussing his tribulations, yet insists he had nothing to do with the murders.

"When the circus left town they left a clown behind," Hobbs said Monday of Byers and his allegations. "For whatever reason he's doing this, and I think I know, he's on the wrong page."

Asked what he thought was motivating Byers, Hobbs summed it up in a word: "Money."

Byers confirmed in the interview at the offices of Carter Malone Group public relations firm that he's writing a book and that Hollywood movie producers have bought his "life rights." He declined to say how much he stands to make.

Carter Malone account supervisor Kalisa Hyman said the firm has been hired by Clear Pictures, a Hollywood production company that plans to make a movie based on the West Memphis murders. The firm has bought the life stories of several people tied to the case, Hyman said. The company has also bought Hobbs' life rights, she said.

Nonetheless, Byers said his coming forward has nothing to do with money and everything to do with the memory of his son, Christopher Byers.

"I was compelled to find out the truth for my son and his two friends," he said. "If it was your son wouldn't you go to the end of world to find out the truth?"

The case has puzzled and horrified since the bodies of Christopher and his two friends, Stevie Branch and Michael Moore, were pulled from a rainy weather creek in a woods along Interstate 40 in West Memphis. A month later, police arrested Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley -- all teenagers -- and charged them with capital murder. Echols now is on death row, and Baldwin and Misskelley are serving life sentences.

Prosecutors contended at trial that the murders were satanic slayings, presenting evidence that the teens were involved in occult practices.

Yet suspicion fell on Byers after he gave a New York film crew a knife that later was found to have human blood on it. Byers said Monday the folding knife had on its hinge a spot of dried blood so small DNA testing at the time could only determine a blood type. It was the blood type of both Byers and Christopher. The two weren't biologically related; a stepson, Christopher was adopted by Byers.

When that film crew produced a movie, "Paradise Lost," and a sequel, both of which aired on HBO, Byers said he was introduced to a national audience as a crazed, backwoods nut.

He was seen in one film shooting pumpkins in a woods and likening the explosions to the wounded heads of Echols and his co-defendants and in the sequel lighting three graves in effigy on fire. Looking back, Byers said he blames himself for his odd behavior, blaming it on grief and stress he was under. After the murders, he served 15 months in prison for burglary and said he's been in rehab several times.

"I missed the day in school when they said, 'Here's how you're supposed to act if your son is murdered.' I must have been hunting or fishing or playing hooky."

-- Marc Perrusquia: 529-2545



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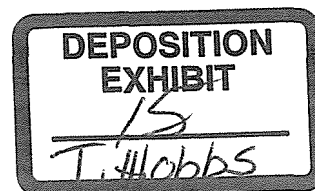
**Pam and Terry Hobbs Interview (1 of 2)**



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**Pam and Terry Hobbs Interview (1 of 2)**

[Beginning of recorded material]

Interviewer: [Unintelligible] recording?

Interviewer: Yeah. I just got to do this. [Unintelligible] right this way. [Where's] the mic? I'll leave [unintelligible].

Interviewer: I was thinking this might be a good thing. Maybe even if you don't mind just starting over, just --

Interviewer: Starting over this --

Interviewer: Yeah. Just because I want --

Interviewer: [Crosstalk] afternoon [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: -- because one of the things -- because again, one of the things I want to make sure that we do, what we are intending to do is the-the whole thing you and I talked about as far as showing-showing -- making Stevie a person. I want to see him at school. I want to see him come home. I want to see him with his mom. You know, I want this person to be a person. And so --

Interviewer: And what's great about this --

Interviewer: -- specific details of-of that are really-really good. I love the Elvis story. I think there's a good chance that's going in the movie.

Interviewer: And what's great about this is --

Interviewer: And-and the conversation about Mike buying the Elvis lamp.

Interviewer: This has -- this has all -- this has the three kids in it. This is just [crosstalk].

Interviewer: And this is all three of them. This might be a useful way for partly to frame all that.

Interviewer: I love that. I love that. Okay. So, pick him up the 2:45.

Pam Hobbs: Yeah, at school.

Terry Hobbs: At school.

Pam Hobbs: And then we walk home. And of course on the way home, Stevie told me -- probably a million times; I didn't count them -- "They love me." I'd say around 3:00 or 5:00 is when Michael arrived, because school got out around 3:00 or so, and we lived so close. Michael came over, and Stevie would get into the [car fort] [unintelligible] by the time Michael got there, and Michael asked if Stevie could come over to his house. And I told him, "No, not today. I'm getting ready for work. I'm cooking supper and all that." And Stevie and Mike were both begging, "Please, please! I'll be back!" And I said, "Boy, if you're not back home by 4:30, you're grounded two weeks [unintelligible]."



And so, Stevie and Michael left just as happy as they could be. I thought Michael had a watch on, because he told me as they rolled off, he said, "My mom's not home yet, but she'll be home in five minutes, I promise." Well, I wouldn't think five minutes had passed by the time Christopher was knocking on the door. And he asked about Stevie a lot, and I told him, "Well, you just missed him. They just left to go to Michael's house." And he said, "Well, can I come in and see Amanda for a little bit?" And I said, "Yeah, that'd be fine." So, they sat in the den and watched the Muppet Babies, and when the Muppet Babies went off he left. So . . .

Interviewer: How much older -- or Amanda was a little younger, right?

Pam Hobbs: She was 4.

Interviewer: Four. So, he had a little crush on-on Amanda?

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: Four years older.

Pam Hobbs: Melissa had told me that after they were murdered, that, um, Christopher came home one day and said, "[I'm going to have a] girlfriend." And she said, "Uh, who?" And he said, "Yeah, but she's younger than me." And she said, "Well, how old is she?" And he told her, "She's 4, and she's [who is she?] Stevie's sister [Amanda]."

[Laughter]

Interviewer: Dat-dating a woman half his age already.

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: It's-it's like in Hollywood or something.

Pam Hobbs: And Stevie was, uh -- [always hitching up a date] with Michael Moore's sister, Dawn.

Terry Hobbs: And she was older.

Interviewer: I think I remember-remember hearing that, because Stevie was -- he was ambitious in the older women.

Pam Hobbs: Yep.

Interviewer: And, uh -- and Chris had the younger -- that's [crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] hung out with Mike, or Chris come over and I got him [not wanting to] kiss Amanda.

Pam Hobbs: And he was just [over-abused] in that day. And, uh, he'd come in, and I asked Terry if he could tell Amanda, "Bye." And Terry said, "Well, tell her bye," and Christopher shyly put his hands in his pocket and told her, "Bye," which Stevie was out on the car fort laughing, because he knew Christopher wanted her to come out there so he could give her a kiss bye. And Terry [got him], "Tell her bye now."

Terry Hobbs: I said, "You tell her in here, boy."

[Laughter]

Interviewer: Who was -- who was Stevie better friends with, Christopher or Michael?

Pam Hobbs: Michael.

Interviewer: Yeah. They were -- were they like best friends, the two of them?

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: They were -- they did everything together. But they hung out with Chris quite a bit?

Pam Hobbs: Uh, Chris and Stevie were in the same [group]. So, I would say probably, uh, about a month before the murder was when Chris really started hanging around them both.

Interviewer: Okay. What would you think of -- I mean, uh, of Mike and-and Chris, particularly -- just-just in your encounters with them, with the boys?

Pam Hobbs: [As the boys]?

Interviewer: Yeah, just [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: [Unintelligible]. Uh, Michael was over one day, and he had a little play badge, and he told me he as an undercover drug agent. And I said, "Boy, you going to get them" --

Interviewer: A little -- a little sheriff's badge [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: I said, "Boy, you going to go get them bad boys, ain't you?" He said, "Yeah."

Interviewer: Yeah. What about Chris?

Pam Hobbs: Michael spent more time -- Chris, uh, he was just a little shy little boy then. Started coming over right before they died.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: He didn't spend as much time there as Michael did.

Interviewer: He was more quiet and --

Pam Hobbs: Yeah, quiet.

Interviewer: Had you guys -- had you all known the Moores before that, or did you kind of just get to know them when their kids started hanging out?

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: Uh, really? So, you hadn't even met them, [unintelligible] parents?

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible] Todd --

Pam Hobbs: We knew the Moores.

Terry Hobbs: -- Todd was [crosstalk].

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: Right, right, right, right.

Terry Hobbs: We met Mark Byers [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Right.

Interviewer: So, all you -- the only way you -- you didn't know them directly at all, but their boy, because of being in the neighborhood, would just come over -- he had just started kind of coming over as sort of hanging out with your son, and with -- and with Mike?

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you knew they were in the troop, or you knew they knew each other from school.

Interviewer: And so, let's talk -- let's talk about what-what-what you remember from the night, from the time you went to tell Pam that he was still missing.

Interviewer: Or do you want to start from where we stopped her, and just kind of take it on through?

Interviewer: Yeah, sure. That's fine. You said around 3:05, or what was it, that they took off, right?

Interviewer: Well, they were left here.

Interviewer: Steve -- uh, Chris left.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah, but they were --

Pam Hobbs: Chris left --

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible] --

Pam Hobbs: -- almost around 4:00.

Terry Hobbs: -- [about] 4:00, because after the show ended.

Pam Hobbs: The Muppet Babies come on at 3:30, and [they're off] at 4:00.

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: And you had -- then they weren't back by 4:30?

Pam Hobbs: Yeah. Terry had come home, uh, a little bit after 4:00, and the first thing he asked was, "Where's Frog Leg?" That was Stevie's nickname. And I said, "He went [unintelligible] -- or rode bikes with, uh, Mike boy. He'll be --

Interviewer: I guess that's -- is that because of the way he looked, or [crosstalk]?

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: Frog-Frog Leg? Tell, tell.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah. We was living up in Indiana. My dad had a re -- a chain of restaurants -- we had 32 restaurants. Okay, one -- had [some up in] Indiana. The one I refer to has a big lake to have a swim, and have a good time. Right in the middle of this lake was a -- something like this out there floating around, where you could climb up on it and dive off. Uh, 80-foot -- there's signs posted out there, 80-foot beach [unintelligible]. We all get out there to that, and climb up on there. Pam's still on her way, swimming out there to it.

Interviewer: Right.

Terry Hobbs: And me and Stevie's already up there on top of it. And he bails off in there, not knowing how to swim.

Interviewer: Oh man.

Terry Hobbs: And boy, immediately I go in to get him. But when I go down to get him, he just looking like a frog.

Interviewer: [Laughs]

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] kicking his legs and arms, trying to go up. He wasn't going down.

Interviewer: That's [unintelligible]. I used to teach [unintelligible] by throwing them in the water, because they'll-they'll do it naturally.

Terry Hobbs: I put my hand on his butt, just, you know, brought him up.

Interviewer: Brought him up, yeah. I love that. They call him "Frog Leg" ever since then.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: That's fantastic.

Interviewer: So, so you came home. She was getting ready for work, right, I guess?

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you came home, and you guys were like worried?

Terry Hobbs: I asked her, "Where's Stevie at?" Because Amanda was there, and she said, "He's off riding his bicycle. He'll be home at 4:30." I walk out the



driveway and look, you know, closer it gets to 4:30, to see if I can see him coming down the road, because I had to take her to work by 5:00.

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: And then -- and then [crosstalk]?

Pam Hobbs: We left about 4:45, so we could go by the Moores to see if Stevie was there, and tell him he was grounded. But, you know, they wasn't there. And I went [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: So, is that [while] you were -- as-as soon as it was 4:30, you were upset --

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: -- you were mad that he wasn't there?

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] wasn't home.

Terry Hobbs: [Not] mad.

Interviewer: Well, I mean [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: Not really thinking that anybody [unintelligible].

Interviewer: That's valid. Just thinking he just missed his --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: So at that point, you're going on to work, and you just feel like, "Okay, he-he stayed out too long. I told him."

Interviewer: So, from 4:45 -- what time did you have to start work?

Pam Hobbs: At 5:00.

Interviewer: At 5:00, okay.

Interviewer: So, you took her on to work after you guys checked with the Moores. There had been -- nobody had heard anything from him, and the Moores weren't worried either, right? They just knew that these boys were staying out [crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: Todd was out of town. He's a truck driver.

Interviewer: Hm.

Terry Hobbs: And Dana's not home.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer: And she's thinking [crosstalk] --

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible]. I took her to work. I go back to my house. You know, me and Amanda ride through the neighborhood to see if we could see

her. Then Dana comes over to our house and says, "You seen Michael?" I say, "No, he was supposed to be at your house." She went back to her house, and kind of patrolled the neighborhood, and that's where I met Mark Byers, when I went to her house. He came across the street and asking if we'd seen Christopher. And we said, "No" --

Interviewer: Is it -- is it 4:00 -- about 4:00 -- about 5:00 [crosstalk], so 5:30, 5:15?

Terry Hobbs: Something in there.

Interviewer: Okay. And that's the first time you've laid eyes on him actually, right?

Terry Hobbs: In my life.

Interviewer: Yeah. He's like, "I'm Mark Byers" --

Terry Hobbs: Big old boy.

Interviewer: -- Chris' dad. I live up the street. Have you seen --

Terry Hobbs: He lived right across the street from the Moores.

Interviewer: Right .

Terry Hobbs: Mm-hmm. [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: And so, you guys had actually just driven by the Moores just to see if they were there, and you took her on to work. You went back to the Moores -- or Dana Moore came over.

Terry Hobbs: Well, I went back to the neighborhood, looking around [crosstalk].

Interviewer: Yeah. By yourself?

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, this would've been at 5:15 or so.

Terry Hobbs: Right?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: And we end up back at our house. Then Dana shows up at our house --

Interviewer: Okay.

Terry Hobbs: -- and asks about Mike.

Interviewer: And then while you guys are kind of walking and looking around, you run into Mark Byers? Had you guys started [crosstalk]?

Terry Hobbs: Well, we hadn't heard from them. They leave our house to go to her house.

Interviewer: Yeah. And then Mark Byers walked over.

Terry Hobbs: That's when Mark came walking across, asking about Chris.

Interviewer: So, what happened then?

Terry Hobbs: We figured out they might be together.

Interviewer: He -- so, Mark Byers came to your house?

Interviewer: No, he came across the street to --

Interviewer: Came to Dana's house, [because they were out] at 6:00.

Pam Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: That was between 5:00 and 6:00.

Interviewer: All right, I missed something. So, how did you end up at Dana's house?

Interviewer: They went over there after driving around.

Interviewer: Uh, you drove around, then went back to Dana's house, and then Mark came over and it was about 6:00?

Terry Hobbs: Somewhere in there.

Interviewer: Somewhere in there, [unintelligible]. Okay. And then -- and then Dana said -- Didn't Dana -- didn't Dana testify that she saw him around 6:00?

Pam Hobbs: I think [someone did].

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk]. That's right.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] that's right. [Crosstalk] -- yeah.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] go into a wooded area.

Interviewer: So, why do you think, um -- why do you think at that point that Stevie didn't come home? Like -- I mean, if they were out, [unintelligible] obviously [unintelligible] the neighborhood around 5:30.

Terry Hobbs: I called the police to make a report about 5:30.

Pam Hobbs: I thought you made the report at [9:00] [unintelligible]?

Terry Hobbs: No. We were -- there's paperwork over there saying that I called them between 5:00 and 5:30, I believe, and -- to report kids missing -- our kid's missing.

Interviewer: After Chris had -- after Mark Byers had walked over, do you think, or before?

Terry Hobbs: I think before.

Interviewer: But it was right in that timeframe. You know, basically once Dana Moore came over, said, "Have you seen" -- you know, "I'm concerned," and you guys went back to the Moores' house, and you were kind of together thinking, "Okay, both of our kids are gone. They're both late. We're a little worried now." Then Mark Byers walks over, says, "I'm Mark Byers. I'm Chris' dad. Have you seen him?" Then the three of you guys figure these -- the kids may be all together. So, somewhere in that time you were getting concerned enough that you called the police and said, "Hey, we've been looking for our boys. We can't find them. Can you guys start [unintelligible]?"

Terry Hobbs: And the answer the police told me -- "Don't worry about it. They're over at someone's house playing. They'll be home."

Interviewer: Because it was so soon after they --

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: So, you were starting to just get that slight sense of, "I'm a little worried."

Interviewer: Because [unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] [or not].

Interviewer: No?

Terry Hobbs: He did want to help, kind of, like [crosstalk].

Interviewer: And had-had Stevie ever done that before, just not come home on-on time?

Terry Hobbs: It was unusual enough that you felt like --

Interviewer: Right.

Terry Hobbs: -- something needs to be done.

Interviewer: And what happened from that point [unintelligible]?

Terry Hobbs: We was told, "Don't worry about it. They'll be home." Well, as parents, you know, we -- the Byers, Mark and Melissa, go out and ride around [unintelligible]. And me and Amanda go ride around [unintelligible]. And Dana stays at her house, in case they come home --



Interviewer: Right.

Terry Hobbs: -- to her house. Well, we never did run across nobody. I mean nothing, no boys. That's what we was looking for. I take Amanda over to a friend of ours that lived over by us, and pick her husband up, and leave Amanda there, and tell him, I said, "I can't find Steve." He knew Stevie [unintelligible]. So, me and him spent the rest of the evening -- he-he stayed with me.

Interviewer: Who's he?

Terry Hobbs: David [Unintelligible]. He was just a friend who had a daughter [crosstalk].

Interviewer: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: And his daughter, you said, was a friend of [the family]?

Terry Hobbs: Right. But me and him worked together [over in Memphis]. Uh, we rolled around, and I got him with me. And we went everywhere we could think of to look. You know? And didn't know where to look.

Interviewer: [Did you go] near or into the woods at that point [unintelligible]?

Terry Hobbs: No, not then.

Interviewer: Was that a place that they played in a lot, or did you not [unintelligible]?

Terry Hobbs: It was a place where kids had played and did things, like there's a [unintelligible] --

Interviewer: [Unintelligible] kids would get up in there somehow and just run around and play?

Terry Hobbs: [But they-they] didn't know where he was at. [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: [Crosstalk] definitely didn't know it as a place where he'd go play.

Terry Hobbs: That's right, yeah.

Pam Hobbs: The first time [crosstalk] --

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Pam Hobbs: -- Stevie, you're not in here.

Interviewer: That's -- so, you had just heard about it, and you go there and -- you didn't know kids go in there personally, they would go in.

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: You just heard that maybe kids -- Did you -- had you also heard anything about it being like a place not to be after dark, like maybe transients being there, anything else about it?

Terry Hobbs: Not at that time.

Interviewer: Okay.

Terry Hobbs: But we did later.

Interviewer: Yeah. So, at the time [unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible] we would go up and ask, "Have you seen three boys?" And every -- a lot of the kids were saying, "Yeah, we seen three boys go into Robin Hood Hills." I didn't know where Robin Hood Hills was, as far as they called it. But yeah, the more the people we asked, you know, some of them kept saying, "Yeah, they [went there]."

Interviewer: You were -- so, you ran into a couple of people who said they actually -- they saw them go in there?

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: So, at what point did you -- so, so you're still riding around at this point, haven't seen them -- separately -- it's you riding around with your friend --

Terry Hobbs: David.

Interviewer: -- in your car. And, uh, assume the Byers -- you're not in touch with them, but you assume they're out looking, because [crosstalk] --

Terry Hobbs: Well, we had seen them.

Interviewer: -- around. Are they walking or driving?

Terry Hobbs: Driving.

Interviewer: And then, uh -- and Dana Moore's still at home?

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: And then what happened?

Interviewer: And were any of the people that told you that they saw -- they saw them go into the woods, were they people you knew?

Terry Hobbs: No.

Interviewer: Yeah. You just -- you were just asking people [unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: Right. Door-to-door, [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Uh, really? So, it was -- you were getting that --

Terry Hobbs: Starting to --

Interviewer: Starting to get --

Terry Hobbs: Starting to want to know something.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: And you were getting away from your little group of the few people you knew right around there. You're just starting to ask strangers, but you just [unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: The police -- the police had at one point told us, "Go door-to-door and ask." So, a lot of us was doing that. You know, people we didn't even know, there was starting to get -- be a gathering.

Interviewer: So, people were starting to get the word that some-some of our neighbors we don't even know, three of the boys are gone. And some people are starting to come out, and then they're asking their neighbors, and it's becoming a --

Pam Hobbs: That actually --

Terry Hobbs: Neighbors [crosstalk].

Pam Hobbs: -- didn't happen until the next day.

Interviewer: Okay.

Pam Hobbs: People going door-to-door and stuff. Um, a police officer came to [Catfish Island] where I worked, and took a report, went out to the wooded area [with us] -- and I think [Gina Baker] was there. And

those were the last two police officers I seen all night. They might be it.

Interviewer: Okay.

Terry Hobbs: And we-we was going down to the police station. [Crosstalk].

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk], and all that. And they told us, "We have every available man on the force out there looking." Well, Terry was riding around with David, and my daddy came down to help join the search too. But at one point I found myself -- and I was speeding through Broadway in West Memphis, and there wasn't a cop to stop me. I didn't see a cop nowhere.

Interviewer: And this was all, though, much later that [night]?

Interviewer: This is after [crosstalk].

Pam Hobbs: Yeah, later on.

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] after 9:00.

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: So, leading up to 9:00 then still, just to get that sense of your first experience of it, you were still driving around? People actually [unintelligible], but you were going door-to-door --

Terry Hobbs: Before dark. And right at dark before Pam came, I picked her up from work. There was a -- there was, uh, boys on four-wheelers, three-wheelers, riding. And everybody kept pointing to Robin Hood, and there was people actually going out in Robin Hood looking to see if they was out there.

Interviewer: Okay. So, it had started -- some local -- some people in the -- in the neighborhood had started thinking they could be there, and [crosstalk].

Interviewer: What time were you -- what time were you -- were you supposed to work until? Until 9:00?

Terry Hobbs: Until 9:00.

Pam Hobbs: Until 9:00.

Interviewer: Yeah, okay. And then -- and that's why you went there at 9:00, because you knew it was time for her to get off.

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: And when you picked her up, nobody had talked to you yet, right?

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: You were at work. So, basically you had gone to work knowing that Stevie was late in coming home.

Pam Hobbs: Yes.

Interviewer: And then he came and picked you up, and that's where it's like -- you said, "Did Stevie ever come home?" or whatever, and you said you had the pieces of candy --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] went to the car and --

Interviewer: -- you said you-you had two pieces of candy in your hand for them, for-for your kids.

Pam Hobbs: -- [crosstalk] for Amanda --

Interviewer: And so, you went -- you headed out to the car expecting to see both of them.

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Because they usually come all to pick you up together.

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: And then what exactly did you say, if you remember?

Terry Hobbs: She asked me where Steve was. I said, "We haven't found him yet."

Interviewer: And that's when you said, "He's dead"?



Terry Hobbs: She said it [first thing].

Interviewer: Is that -- that was the first thing? You just -- your first response was --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: -- "He's dead"?

Pam Hobbs: When I called my sister at work to tell her Stevie was missing, that's the first thing I said to her too. I said, "He's dead." I said, "I'll never see him alive again." And she's, "Oh God, Pam, don't say that. He's going to be okay. We're going to find him," but [crosstalk] Stevie [unintelligible]. I knew --

Interviewer: Did you start [to get] frantic [unintelligible] inside?

Pam Hobbs: And when I didn't see him -- when I didn't see him in the car, I [unintelligible], because Stevie wasn't that type of child.

Interviewer: You just knew?

Pam Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: And so from that point, for you, the night was-was just sort of this in-  
inside, frantic fear, [unintelligible] --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: -- stress, driving fast, trying to --

Terry Hobbs: Praying to God that you're wrong.

Pam Hobbs: "God, please don't let this be so," but kind of knowing in my heart that [that's] really what happened.

Interviewer: And meanwhile, you had [set off to] keep looking [or whatever]?

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] around dark.

Interviewer: And just trying to be calm, trying to keep her calm as you're feeling scared yourself inside?

Terry Hobbs: Yeah. [Unintelligible] the closer to dark it got, I mean, they were -- they -- he's scared of dark.

Interviewer: You knew that was bad.

Interviewer: At that point, at least you're thinking -- are you thinking maybe he's had an accident, something like that? Or are you thinking maybe, even that early, that someone had done something to him?

Terry Hobbs: Whatever we-we-we hear -- we heard so many things. You know, we heard that they was over there at the laundromat, so we ran over there to the laundromat to see if they were in there. We heard somebody put them in a van. You remember that? We heard somebody put them in an ice cream van.

Interviewer: That's all that night.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: So, different people are saying -- they literally are saying, "I saw three kids, uh, getting in that ice cream van."

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: Somebody else says, "I saw three boys over at the laundromat."

Interviewer: Somebody says -- what-what-what -- somebody said they were put in an ice cream van?

Terry Hobbs: A van.

Interviewer: Was it -- okay. Well, it could've been any van, not necessarily an ice cream van.

Terry Hobbs: And that lawyer that they brought from California -- what was his name?

Pam Hobbs: Chris [Unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: He lived here in West Memphis, and somehow he ended up in California. They brought him back to West Memphis to question him, because, uh -- because he drove an ice cream van.

Interviewer: So that night, all you heard was a white van, white or yellow?  
[Unintelligible] found out it was an ice cream van.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah. And I worked for an ice cream company at the time.

Interviewer: [Unintelligible], yeah.

Terry Hobbs: So, I had some of my customers tell me, "You did it!"

Interviewer: Yeah. Who was it -- do you remember who it was that said that they saw them get in the van?

Terry Hobbs: Just neighborhood people.

Interviewer: Just neighborhood people? And was it -- did they say "van," or did they say "ice cream van?"

Terry Hobbs: Van.

Interviewer: Just van?

Terry Hobbs: A white van.

Interviewer: A white van.

Interviewer: And then somebody else said -- I think how -- I mean, did they sound certain when they were telling you this stuff, or would they be like, "I think maybe I saw some boys over at the laundromat"? I mean --

Terry Hobbs: We did -- we went over to the laundromat and checked.

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: The official statements are pretty solid that people saw them go into the woods. That's the last time they were seen.

Terry Hobbs: There was somebody watching a show that was on about 6:00  
[crosstalk] --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] the news.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah. And they-they said, "Yeah, we live here in the woods over -- and see them going in there."

Interviewer: All right.

Interviewer: Was that -- do you happen to know if those folks that said that -- and they're watching the news, so that's how they knew the time?

Interviewer: Roughly it would've been -- was it 5:30 evening news, between 5:30 and 6:00? Or was it the 6:00?

Pam Hobbs: [Unintelligible] 6:00.

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: Was that over by the pipe, that place? Or was that over at a different part? Do you remember the people that you're talking -- that you talked to, where they said -- and they said they saw them going in. Like going on into the woods, three-three boys.

Terry Hobbs: Wouldn't it be by the apartments?

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: By the Mayfair Apartments?

Terry Hobbs: By Mayfair.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: It's over on the end where the pipe is.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewer: That's where they found the bicycles too.

Interviewer: That's right. Okay. So, anyway, um, so --

Interviewer: The rest of the night.

Interviewer: -- you keep on -- you keep looking-looking then. What do you remember about that period of just the search? You searched all night.

Interviewer: Yeah. Like it was like, and what-what was happening. I've heard that there were tons of people.

Interviewer: I-I -- yeah, it's one of those things I haven't heard very much. There's not much to-to find in terms of documentation about --

Interviewer: Right.

Interviewer: -- what actually went on that night.

Terry Hobbs: Because there was no police.

Interviewer: And-and were you -- how angry were you about that?

Terry Hobbs: Very! We had made --

Interviewer: I mean --

Terry Hobbs: -- two or three trips down to the police station that night.

Interviewer: Where were the cops? Where were they? Still don't know?

Terry Hobbs: They told us to go home, don't worry about it; they'll be home [to sleep].

Interviewer: Okay.

Pam Hobbs: I told them one time, I said, "He's 8 years old. He sleeps with a nightlight in his room. He did not run away from home." So.

Interviewer: And they just -- they just were not --

Interviewer: They didn't give you any reason why they thought these boys might -- they might have run away, like maybe they thought one of the kids had done that, or anything, or? Because you're saying -- Stevie's-Stevie's not a runaway. You said, you know, "We know he's" --

Terry Hobbs: We didn't know if the other two had done it at the time, but we found out some things about them after the fact.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Like what?

Terry Hobbs: Well, didn't someone tell us that they broke into school?

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Who broke into school?

Terry Hobbs: Michael Moore.



Pam Hobbs: Michael Moore.

Terry Hobbs: And Chris.

Interviewer: I've never heard that.

Terry Hobbs: And we-we heard it. We don't know if it's true.

Interviewer: Right.

Interviewer: And we'd heard some things about, you know, Chris [may have] some problems. So, so I wonder -- did you get any sense that the police acted like they knew something about some of these other boys that made them more inclined to believe that they might have run off or something like that, or they --

Terry Hobbs: The police made you believe like they didn't care.

Interviewer: That's when [crosstalk]?

Interviewer: [Crosstalk] show up.

Terry Hobbs: Mark Byers had called Search and Rescue in Crittenden County.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: Crittenden County told Mark that, "We can't come to West Memphis until the police invite us." And they wouldn't [do].

Interviewer: And as far as you knew -- like you said, you're-you're like -- maybe going looking -- well, first you're driving around town, just like going crazy, "Where could they be in town?" holding all this nervous energy, I guess. And at that point, you had been in the woods, right, yourself? Or you --

Pam Hobbs: I was -- we went [crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: We went to the woods [crosstalk].

Interviewer: So, you'd been -- you got a little bit into the woods. You call out. Nobody sees anything. Then you go back. You-you're driving around. And meanwhile you're seeing no police, no police in the woods. Neighborhood people are in the woods, kids on four-wheelers are in the woods.

Terry Hobbs: Closer [on into] to the darkness, people start going home. It was just us.

Interviewer: Yeah. Because I've read some things, and, you know, [unintelligible] people talking about that night, kind of the chaos in the woods, that some people were riding around on-on ATVs and stuff. And then a lot of them did leave, but a handful of people --

Terry Hobbs: [They came] back.

Interviewer: A couple of boys said they went back a little later for a splash or whatever, and they were --

Terry Hobbs: Yeah. We was together at one point during that night when we heard some splashing.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] about 9:00.

Terry Hobbs: And [crosstalk] like animals. It was more like -- they've never [done it before].

Interviewer: You'd never been in there, so you wouldn't had anything to relate to in the wilderness. It was all new to you. You're like going in these woods, [crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: We didn't know where we were going.

Interviewer: And all you had was little flashlights.

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: That's what you had.

Terry Hobbs: We were all sticking together and just kind of looking around.

Interviewer: You said the first time you went in there, you're like, "Oh God, Stevie, you're not -- you're not" --

Pam Hobbs: Just by the way it was grown up and everything, I was thinking, "Lord have mercy, son, you're not out here." And I started, uh, yelling out his name, saying, "Stevie, son! You're not in trouble! Come home!" We didn't find him.

Interviewer: And-and your feeling was, "This is not the kind of place Stevie would go play anyway," or you-you're hoping not?

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: 'Because it's just so overgrown and-and --

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Yeah.

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: What's left of it, yeah. It felt like it was pretty swift. Did you get down to the water too, and [crosstalk]?

Terry Hobbs: [Well], we crossed the pipe.

Interviewer: And you saw it, and the water's moving [unintelligible]?

Terry Hobbs: It was deep.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: And [unintelligible] no [unintelligible] that time.

Interviewer: So all that night, you guys -- by then you're sort of together, you've done your driving around. And most -- off and on you're together or you're with [your friends].

Pam Hobbs: He's with David, and I'm with my dad.

Interviewer: Your -- because you dad had come down pretty quick. You called him after you got off work.

Pam Hobbs: As soon as Terry got there, yeah. And, uh, from [Blywood] it takes about an hour and 15 minutes, and daddy was there in probably 30.

Interviewer: And that's when he kind of hurt his back or leg or something, because he was out messing around --

Pam Hobbs: He did that when he went to the woods by himself with nobody out there with [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: Was that your dad?

Pam Hobbs: -- went through there, and he had a flashlight. And he had told us the he tried two sets of, uh, bicycle trails, and it looked like that two boys was on one bike, and down there close to the pipe was [unintelligible] lost his balance.

Interviewer: Yeah. So, he had gotten to that pipe, and that's where he -- where you guys had heard somebody say they had gone in. And sure enough, that's where he said he saw some tracks --

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: -- on that mini-gutter. So, he was one of the first ones -- he was the first one to really start looking around in the woods. And then these kids -- or had others been in the woods?

Terry Hobbs: They-they [unintelligible] the woods before dark.

Interviewer: Okay.

Terry Hobbs: [And riding] --

Interviewer: But there was nobody in there, you're saying, when he went at that time?

Pam Hobbs: No, not when daddy --

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Pam Hobbs: -- went in there. And I thought daddy was in there a little bit too long, and so I was going to go in and find him. And there was a full moon out that night, so I could see as I walked in there without a flashlight. And there was a certain point that I got to that a fear had come over me like I ain't never felt. It's like the hair is standing up on my arms. And I

turned around to walk back to the truck. I wanted to run. And my daddy was getting ready to go back in, because he thought [unintelligible].

Interviewer: So, he had [crosstalk] most everybody had gone home, like you said, the people who had been in the woods. And then your dad said, "I'm going to go look again," and he went by himself. You know, can you switch with me? Because I -- my back's killing me. I think this seat might be better [crosstalk].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewer: [Crosstalk]. I got to change my angle for my lower back. We're both having back trouble today. My neck is kinked up, and his [crosstalk].

Interviewer: We're-we're a mess. Uh, what do you think -- when you think about it now, do you think -- what do you think that fear was? Do you think -- do you have an -- do you have an idea of what it was, or do you know now?

Pam Hobbs: Um, thinking back to when it happened and all that, I think maybe [who] might have done it [wasn't completely] out of the woods --

Interviewer: And then you --

Pam Hobbs: -- and was watching me.

Interviewer: And it was -- God was watching? That's why I-I -- that's why I asked, is it just keeping you safe?

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah. So, I-I just [unintelligible] about getting up through the night to that point. So then, at this point, your dad comes back, right? Or did he go on -- did you go on home, and did he keep [crosstalk]?

Terry Hobbs: He stayed.

Interviewer: So, he stayed. And you're still --

Terry Hobbs: At one point, me, David, and her dad -- my father-in-law -- hooked up, and we came into the woods from the service road side. And walking straight back to the pipe, there's a trail -- there was a trail that cut off to the left, and David and her dad kept walking back that way, and I took off down that trail.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: And it seemed like the further I went down that trail, the scarier -- the more scared I got.

Interviewer: Yeah.



Terry Hobbs: And I ain't scared of nobody.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: And my hair starts standing --

Interviewer: You had the same experience.

Terry Hobbs: I did.

Interviewer: Wow. Well, that night -- yeah, and people have -- you know, people talk about a sixth sense you have, like [if] [unintelligible] in perception [unintelligible] --

Terry Hobbs: Just a few feet from where I stopped was that ditch that they were found in.

Interviewer: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: Well, if you -- if you were -- you were on the service road, the-the-the path you're talking about isn't -- it's -- it doesn't run right along that ditch, because the -- uh, I know what you're talking -- I know what you're talking about.

Terry Hobbs: I think there was a blue beacon [truck wash] --

Interviewer: Yeah, I know the geography of it pretty well.

Terry Hobbs: -- where you could walk straight past the blue beacon all the way back to the pipe.

Interviewer: I know where you're talking about. I know what path you're talking about.

Terry Hobbs: But then there's a path, as I was saying, that cut off to the left --

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: -- toward the ditch where they really found [crosstalk].

Interviewer: It's kind of what we were talking about yesterday, when he said that there was a way through there that's now [off the road].

Interviewer: You're not -- you're not talking about -- you-you're not talking about -- you didn't walk through that [blue] beacon area to get to the path, right? You're talking about -- uh, you -- okay. So, you --

Terry Hobbs: [Where-where] [unintelligible] came back to the pipe --

Interviewer: Okay. And then there's a path that's from [unintelligible] --

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] --

Interviewer: I know where it is, yeah.

Terry Hobbs: -- to go left.

Interviewer: Basically from the pipe, there's a path that goes in [unintelligible] what you were going down, right? Did you cross the [pipe]?

[Crosstalk]

Terry Hobbs: She [unintelligible] the pipe.

Interviewer: And your path ultimately merges with that pipe, with that same path that comes from the pipe bridge and goes right to the ditch. Because [unintelligible] --

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] in the service road, it cut off to the [east].

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Terry Hobbs: And went straight to that ditch.

Interviewer: And you had the same fear.

Terry Hobbs: I got so scared I couldn't walk.

Interviewer: That's that area that's [gone].

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Terry Hobbs: But that's where the-the --

Interviewer: Right, where the -- where the bodies were, yeah.

Interviewer: So, so the night goes on. No luck. Some of you guys are still kind of going back and looking [crosstalk].

Interviewer: What time was that that you got -- had that scare?

Terry Hobbs: Uh, I'd say around -- after midnight, around 2:00. Between midnight and 2:00.

Interviewer: And what time was it for you, Pam? Do you remember roughly? Earlier?

Pam Hobbs: Probably about 10:30 or so.

Interviewer: Yeah. And that was about -- uh, it was when your dad had gone in by himself, and she went looking for him [unintelligible] and was approaching the pipe, and under the full moon.

Pam Hobbs: I didn't get in that far.

Interviewer: Not even that far.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: Right at the edge and then some.

Pam Hobbs: There's just a certain point of as you go in, and you could go up like a hill, and then you go the other way to go to the pipe. As I come up on - - where the hill was, that's when [that fear] [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: Now, did your dad come back then, or did he stay out and send you on home? Your-your-your dad, did he stay out there at that point searching?

Pam Hobbs: He was with his truck --

Interviewer: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: -- and he was thinking to come and get me.

Interviewer: Okay.

Pam Hobbs: And I was [on the road] back to the truck.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: When I was walking, I seen daddy coming back [crosstalk].

Interviewer: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: So, things had gotten a lot quieter by this time, like when you're looking.

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: They ended their search.

Interviewer: About what time?

Terry Hobbs: Well, it was around 2:00 or 3:00.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewer: When you were aware of like Mark? Did you run into him searching off and on maybe like during the night?

Terry Hobbs: Well, during the night, we would cross paths somewhat.

Interviewer: Like either in the woods or [unintelligible] groves?

Terry Hobbs: Yeah, driving around.

Interviewer: And then at a certain point after midnight, Mark and Melissa had gone home. You know that. You had seen them leave, or --

Terry Hobbs: Right. Well, they told us they was going to go home.

Interviewer: And-and it was just you, Jacob --

Terry Hobbs: And David.

Interviewer: -- David, Jacob, [crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: And her family.

Interviewer: Did -- and you never saw any police officers out that night after midnight searching? [Never one]?

Terry Hobbs: That's probably [crosstalk].

Interviewer: That's insane. That's just crazy.

Terry Hobbs: And I probably made two or three trips down there. [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: So, the whole time as you were going around searching, you're going back to the police --

Interviewer: Going back to the police.

Interviewer: -- police station, and you're telling them, "We've been everywhere. We've looked everywhere, and nobody's seen anything. But people saw these boys go into" -- did -- were you telling them then that people had seen the boys go in the woods, "and we can't find them?" That's --

Interviewer: Did you get -- did you get testy at times? I mean, were you getting loud and getting, you know --

Terry Hobbs: They made us leave one time.

Interviewer: They made you leave? I'm sorry. That's the kind of thing that just ma --  
upsets me. It just makes me mad. It just makes me really mad.

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk]. We went down there [unintelligible], you know, and we  
[unintelligible].

Interviewer: I know. And your [crosstalk] --

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: And everybody in the neighborhood's doing it, and if they won't come  
--

Interviewer: He's-he's not coming home.

Interviewer: Is it [unintelligible]? Did you get a sense the cops were all off  
somewhere else just on patrol, wouldn't be bothered?

Terry Hobbs: I didn't see them, so I don't know what [crosstalk].

Interviewer: And she said she drove through town and didn't see any police.

Interviewer: You don't remember who it was that sent you away, do you?

Terry Hobbs: He was a black officer. Uh, I don't remember his name.



Interviewer: He-he was working the desk? Was it -- what was it -- what -- was it one guy who was like continually the guy shoving you away?

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] the same one. We kept going down there.

Interviewer: Usually-usually there's like -- in a big police station, there's like a desk sergeant or somebody just kind of out in front who talks to people.

Terry Hobbs: Well, somebody was trying -- didn't somebody come up there to tell us to go home?

Pam Hobbs: No, I think, uh, that black officer come out there and told you all that Dave was at the police station, and he wanted to come to our house, and you all said, "No, we'll go to the police station."

Interviewer: Told you he was -- he was there?

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible] heard [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Uh, uh, uh. Right, right, right.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: So, he had showed up at a certain point.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah, because [unintelligible] thought he might [unintelligible].

Interviewer: So, they -- then somebody called him, and then when he heard they were missing you came [down] with him. Had you seen -- had he been seeing little Stevie much lately -- at that time? Because he didn't -- I had heard that he was kind of not really in touch with you guys much -

Pam Hobbs: [He wasn't].

Interviewer: -- until all this happened.

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: Then he started coming to the trial and getting all [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: But not [unintelligible]. Sort of like [unintelligible]. And, uh, I told her if she knew how to get a hold of Steve -- which I didn't know how to get a hold of him -- I said, "Let him know that Stevie's missing, and keep his eye out for him." And then I guess within the hour, Steve was in West Memphis too, to get on the search and see if he could [unintelligible].

Interviewer: During that first night, do you guys remember if you talked to any of the policemen that ended up being the ones that were involved in finding them, like Brian Ridge, Mike Allen, Gitchell?

Interviewer: They were probably all asleep [unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: Not until the next day.

Interviewer: So, they weren't on shift, and they were just [unintelligible] --

Terry Hobbs: Not [unintelligible].

Interviewer: -- detectives [unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: Wasn't it around 6:00 -- 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning Channel 13 showed up?

Pam Hobbs: No, it was during school when it started, because, uh, all of us gathered and go to the school to see maybe if they would show up at school.

Interviewer: So, then it kind of ended after the night -- after the search petered out that night, you guys even gave up. Like, I mean, you searched pretty much all night.

Terry Hobbs: We searched all night.

Interviewer: And then you came back -- you never slept?

Terry Hobbs: No.

Pam Hobbs: Nuh-uh.

Interviewer: And you didn't sleep? You'd been in and out. So, you guys then got together again with what, the Moores and the Byers, is it at that point?

Terry Hobbs: The next morning, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: The Byers came back out. Todd -- when Todd [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: He got in about 6:00 that morning.

Interviewer: Okay. Freaking out, I'm sure. Did he -- did he come home because he was missing, or was he [crosstalk]?

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] he had got home early.

Terry Hobbs: I think they called him and told him.

Interviewer: Would you know -- you guys weren't around when he found out. You just knew that he found out, and he had to come home. So at that point, it's-it's like the start of school time or whatever, and you guys gathered -- and did other people from the neighborhood gather with you, or was it --

Terry Hobbs: [Right]. And the media was there.

Interviewer: And the media? So, somebody had called --

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: Do you know how they got the word, got involved [in it]?

Terry Hobbs: I mean, somebody called -- uh, [was it Barbara that] called the media?

Pam Hobbs: Mark did [then].

Interviewer: He did -- someone he knew, or he just started -- like after he had called for Search and Rescue and nobody showed up, then he's -- did he tell you that he was doing it just to try to get attention, to get somebody to [unintelligible]?

Terry Hobbs: I didn't know he had done it until we ran across the media out there. [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: Why would he -- why did he call the media? Did he ever tell you why?

Terry Hobbs: Because we couldn't get no [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Because no one would act; no one was acting. So, he called. [Crosstalk] TV station or [something].

Interviewer: [Crosstalk] probably a smart move.

Terry Hobbs: I'm not saying for sure, but it seemed like I heard that he did that.

Interviewer: Okay. So, he never necessarily told you. You're not -- you don't remember. But about that morning, you guys gathered up at your -- in front of your houses, or did you --

Terry Hobbs: At the school.

Interviewer: So, you all kind of converge at the school. Had you planned it, or you just kind of all turned up there?

Terry Hobbs: Well, we knew that if we hadn't found them by the -- uh, that night, that maybe they'd show up at the school.

Interviewer: But [unintelligible] independently came up with that? Mike showed up, and [unintelligible] the Moores had showed up. Because that's where you all had gone -- the kids all went.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk], and all of them said, "Well, [crosstalk] school, and see if [unintelligible] come to school."

Interviewer: And so, you all get there, and there's the media who also heard that these kids have been missing all night. And then what happened at that point?

Terry Hobbs: They didn't show up.

Interviewer: Your -- did you have -- after both of you had that experience of fear going into the woods --

Terry Hobbs: It was like an evil presence.

Interviewer: -- did that stick with you in feeling like you needed to go back, like that was the place?

Terry Hobbs: To me, it felt like I didn't want to go back.

Interviewer: You just didn't want anything to do with it.

Terry Hobbs: There's a fear out there like you've never run across. And I didn't want -- I told her dad and David about it. They didn't know what to think about it, and we didn't go back.

Interviewer: Was it sort of a fear of -- do you think now, looking back, it's partly maybe a fear of what you might find, or just a fear of the whole -- the terror of what can happen?

Terry Hobbs: You know, I [crosstalk] a preacher [unintelligible] people [they called] [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Terry Hobbs: And you see people praying, casting evil spirits out. I've seen that done.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: It's-it's like that presence of evil.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewer: And that's what you felt?

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you -- and you didn't share that with [unintelligible] --

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: You felt it, and-and --

Interviewer: Did your dad feel it?

Terry Hobbs: Well, I don't know if [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Did your dad -- you know, did that happen -- I mean, the same experience?

Pam Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible] when only I cut down the path. I just seen a path there, and I just started walking it.



Interviewer: So, you guys are all at the school at this point. The kids don't show up. Can you sort of remember like the ne -- the next day, and-and into that night?

Terry Hobbs: Search and Rescue started after the media got involved.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: Search and Rescue and police officers --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: Everybody started showing up.

Interviewer: At the school or at your houses? I mean, where [crosstalk] --

Terry Hobbs: Just in the neighborhood.

Interviewer: So, [unintelligible] -- so, [unintelligible] is like knocking on all the doors --

Interviewer: [I got to hand it] to Mark, [man]. That was the thing to do, you know? "[I] just couldn't get a reaction [out of -- and I'll do it]," you know?

Terry Hobbs: Maybe it will.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: That got some --

Interviewer: That got some -- got some response quick.

Terry Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: And [Abby] --

Interviewer: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: And so, then that morning while they were all out searching, what were you two doing?

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: Just-just looking around for evidence?

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk], looking, [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Asking everybody about it.

Terry Hobbs: Then we -- you know, there was one point -- didn't we say, "You know, the [unintelligible] Robin Hood from Memphis."

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Terry Hobbs: [Or] they had them head detectors on.

Interviewer: So that was Search and Rescue from-from Memphis.

Terry Hobbs: Memphis came over.

Interviewer: And Crittenden County also.

Terry Hobbs: And boats.

Pam Hobbs: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: And that's what Crittenden County was doing? So, you think it was Memphis PD and their helicopters? And that went on all day, sort of just searching.

Terry Hobbs: Up until [crosstalk]. Didn't they find them around 2:00?

Pam Hobbs: [Unintelligible] what time they found them. I don't know exactly when.

Interviewer: So, you --

Pam Hobbs: But they called the search off I guess about 2:00.

Interviewer: So, you --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: So, you had encountered these detectives that morning? They had started showing up in the neighborhood, and [you] talked to Gary Gitchell, and maybe Ryan Ridge, Mike Allen -- some of these guys?

Terry Hobbs: No.

Interviewer: Just Gitchell?

Terry Hobbs: [Not then].

Interviewer: Just Gitchell?

Terry Hobbs: Not even Gitchell.

Interviewer: So, you're just telling me -- you said you heard that they kind of started showing up --

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: -- the police.

Terry Hobbs: They're [unintelligible]. We didn't know none of them.

Interviewer: So, it wasn't until they found-found them and contacted you that you started hearing directly from people like Gary Gitchell?

Terry Hobbs: [Whenever] we heard that they had found some bodies, we took off [unintelligible] --

Interviewer: Where were you when you heard that? Do you remember?

Terry Hobbs: Where was we at?

Pam Hobbs: We was sitting at the restaurant eating, and, um, it was the talk of the town, and [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: Which restaurant?

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: And, um, the police officer said, "Well, I think they just found three boys. Was that your son they found?" And I said, "Uh?" And he said, "Yeah, I think they just found three boys. But I don't know; I'm not sure." So, me and Terry went out, and we go to the school. And somebody from the school -- and I don't even know who it is -- that runs all the [unintelligible] they found three boys. [Crosstalk] --

Interviewer: They-they're not saying if they're alive or dead? They just said [crosstalk]?

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: Now, are they saying where they found them? Has anybody said where at that point?

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: No. Uh --

Terry Hobbs: Over where --

Pam Hobbs: Mayfair Apartments.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: Yeah. That's where all the traffic and the crime scene things and all that [unintelligible]. When we left the school and went there, and Terry gets out of the car and I get out, and we're talking off running because we had to park quite a ways back. And we just [unintelligible].

Interviewer: [Unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: I hit the ground, started screaming.

Interviewer: Because he already knew. So then you saw him -- I'm sorry, [unintelligible] --

Pam Hobbs: Saw [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Okay.

Pam Hobbs: You know, [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Had he been just -- he happened to have been hanging out down there when it happened [unintelligible] when they found them?

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: And you didn't say anything. You just knew.

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: So, you fell -- you fell to the ground [unintelligible]?

Pam Hobbs: I was kicking and screaming, "God, no! God, no!"

Interviewer: And you went past her and tried -- is this where -- is it true that I've read that you went up there, and big Steve said, "You're not allowed in there past the police tape," and you said something like, "The hell I'm not," and you went on in? Is that -- tell me what hap -- what you did.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah. I went from there to [unintelligible].

Interviewer: You knew [him]? Or you just saw [unintelligible]?

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk] that crime scene tape and said, "You're not allowed back there."

Interviewer: And-and what did you say?

Terry Hobbs: [Unintelligible] I just almost [unintelligible]. I was sitting down on the ground. [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: Okay.

Terry Hobbs: Then he told me, "What do you mean I can't go back there?"

Interviewer: He said, "It's a homicide."

Interviewer: And that was -- that was the moment that you knew for sure.

Terry Hobbs: And you guys know that [unintelligible] at that point, [unintelligible]. I-I didn't tell her.

Interviewer: But you -- but Gary Gitchell [crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: Gary told me that.

Interviewer: So, you're over there [unintelligible].

[Crosstalk]



Interviewer: They -- you guys got her back in the car.

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Interviewer: Did you leave to take her home?

Terry Hobbs: Well, when we got her back in the car, I [unintelligible] the crime scene tape, [unintelligible] see Gary. I mean, it's where I met Gary.

Interviewer: And was Steve the one who -- did he say that thing I was talking about before? You got to the tape, he tried to tell you, "You're not supposed to go in." You just kind of barreled past him?

Terry Hobbs: [I did].

Interviewer: Pam, what was the rest of your day? [Unintelligible]?

Pam Hobbs: [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: And what was -- what was the rest of your day after that? I mean, how did it --

Pam Hobbs: Um, pretty much [unintelligible].

Interviewer: Were you home the rest of the day?

Terry Hobbs: We did go back home.

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Interviewer: And then probably folks started coming by, and --

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: People started coming by, bringing food, you know, [unintelligible].  
And families started coming in. It's just the worst day than  
[unintelligible] in my life.

Interviewer: Your dad was already there, right? So, you guys are both  
[unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: Once I got home, though, uh, I went to Stevie's room, and I punched  
the door and [unintelligible]. You know, I was angry. I just wanted to  
last out at anything. That's what I did. [Unintelligible] punch [at  
doors].

Interviewer: Punched the door. That was the-the same day?

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Did you ever on any-any part of yourself -- you know, you're -- you  
know, you're angry at yourself or you're feeling bad -- which is

obviously now you know is you didn't do anything wrong -- that you were going through, did you ever at all feel like, "Stevie, why did you go do this?" Or [unintelligible] did you sort of only feel that toward yourself, like none of the three boys did you feel any sense of, you know, "You should have minded" -- or, "Why did you guys go do that?" you know, [unintelligible]?

Pam Hobbs: I didn't hear a word you said.

Interviewer: I'm sorry. I just got to talk louder. I had wondered -- yeah, was sitting over there. I just wondered if you had felt any frustration even toward the boys in your mind or, you know, it was just all toward your parental, yourself, that unfair thing and feeling like you should have never let them go?

Pam Hobbs: No. I never felt anything, you know, "It's their fault," and all that.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Pam Hobbs: They were just being little boys.

Interviewer: What are -- what are some of the other moments from like that first week afterwards that you remember? I mean, do you remember specific things that were -- you know, go into Stevie's room, or [unintelligible], or phone calls -- either one [of you]. I mean, is it -- is it the kind of -- are-are there specific things that you remember that being moments of that week that were -- that stick out in your mind?

Terry Hobbs: Things were just starting to happen real fast.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: Things -- people were coming in our home. Jason Baldwin's mother came to our house --

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Terry Hobbs: -- we didn't know her. But we -- but when we ran across her in the trials, why, that's when we placed them together.

Interviewer: And why did -- and you don't know why she came to your house?

Terry Hobbs: No.

Interviewer: That's very peculiar, [very].

Terry Hobbs: She just came among all the people who came to say, "I'm sorry about your child being" --

Interviewer: Did you remember talking to her when she came?

Terry Hobbs: Mm-hmm. [Unintelligible].

Interviewer: She just came to say --

Terry Hobbs: "I'm sorry," yeah. And didn't identify herself, and had come from them trailer [courts] or whatever [unintelligible] our house.

Interviewer: That's -- their ho -- that's quite a ways away.

Interviewer: Did anyone else associated with the others come that you recall? You don't know? So, [unintelligible] people. Your house is kind of -- is open. I mean, family -- everybody's coming to help, they're bringing food. Your-your -- you guys can't work, I guess. You're just sitting there, paralyzed [unintelligible], trying to help each other. Um, and when a lot's happening real fast, do you also mean were like the police talking to you a lot? Was it that kind of thing? Or was it just funeral preparation? What?

Terry Hobbs: Wasn't no funeral, because they kept them down at Little Rock --

Interviewer: Right.

Terry Hobbs: -- for a while. But, uh, it was the City Council, the mayor, people from the town coming by. We didn't know nobody other than family. We didn't know what to think, or who to talk to, or nothing.

Interviewer: Did the police talk to you about your son in that first week or two? I mean, did you see -- do you remember who you spoke to in the police?

Terry Hobbs: When was it that we started going down there for -- when they would call us down there -- that first week?

Pam Hobbs: Was it -- yeah, it was in the first week.

Interviewer: That's when they wanted to know where you were, and what -- you know, they're doing their investigation.

Pam Hobbs: I [crosstalk] one that came to the house and was questioning us, and he was saying that there will be a time that if they [have-have] blood and hair and all that kind of stuff, [unintelligible]. And then, you know, I was going through, "This one's done it, that one done it," you know [crosstalk] anybody who --

Interviewer: "Have you looked at so-and-so? I think he might have done it," or [whatever].

Interviewer: You were just -- you were just losing it at that point.

Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: They were just trying to say, "Calm down. We're do -- we're doing the best we can." I mean, "We're looking into it." Did you all express any of your anger that they had not been involved that night, [unintelligible]? Did you feel an anger at them that --

Terry Hobbs: Gary Gitchell made the statement to the police officers, "Not one of you guys deserve to wear that uniform."

Interviewer: He said that to them? You were there when he said that?

Terry Hobbs: No, he told me.

Interviewer: Uh, because he knew that they had blown it.

Terry Hobbs: And he also made the statement [unintelligible] to the police department, "You should've called me."

Interviewer: So, nobody had let him know, and he didn't know until he says -- until the next morning when the -- everybody was being called it, it became -- I guess he came to work or whatever, and they said, "Look, there's these kids that have been missing all night." And that's when they got on it.

Terry Hobbs: [Crosstalk].

Interviewer: This is a -- this is a part of the story I didn't know. I didn't -- I didn't know how hard you had tried to get the police to get out there and look. And that sounds like that was your whole night. Your whole night was mostly [crosstalk].

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] the police department about what [unintelligible]. On the first day in court, they made me leave the courtroom because I think [unintelligible] saying that cops just had a legal way to be corrupt. You know, I was just saying things aloud.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: And, "They're getting people's drugs, and going over here and smoking it," you know, just doing that. And, uh, Steve took off -- Stevie's dad took off running towards Damien, trying to get to him. And when he did that, all the cops started grabbing Steve. And I jumped up and screamed, "Yeah, [why don't] you like [get] daddy [unintelligible] help us search for our child!" And the judge told me if I couldn't contain myself, get out of the courtroom. So, I got up and got out of the courtroom.

Interviewer: Did you feel any sense of -- because you talked about getting drugs from people, this and that, you know -- did you feel any sense of -- did police seem maybe not, you know, not confident or corrupt or anything before this happened to you? What was your impression of the police before this? Obviously this made you angry.

Terry Hobbs: We never had no run-ins with them.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. And you hadn't heard anything about that, about --

Pam Hobbs: [Crosstalk] -- yeah, we did.

Terry Hobbs: [Remember], prior to this happening --

Pam Hobbs: When that come out, I think shortly afterwards [crosstalk].

Terry Hobbs: -- they was under investigation for corruption.

Interviewer: Yeah.



**Pam and Terry Hobbs Interview (1 of 2)**  
Page 75

[End of recorded material]

Pam Hobbs: When people tell me I'm strong and I'm courageous and stuff like that, I say, "No, I'm not made of stone, now. I have my bad days, too." But I'm glad that maybe I can be an inspiration to someone if they can just look at me and say, "My problem's not as bad as I thought it was," then, you know --

Male Voice: Well, I think pretty much anybody can look at you and think that.

Male Voice: Well, you know it's funny because my wife [unintelligible] --

Pam Hobbs: It's worthwhile.

Male Voice: Yeah. Is-it-it's-it is. I mean, you've probably been a big source of inspiration to a lot of people, you know? And yeah, my-my, uh-my wife-my wife puts me in-puts my whole world in perspective all the time, 'cause, you know, we'll go to dinner some night or, you know, and I'll be complaining, "This agent didn't call me back," or "this movie deal fell through," whatever it was, and then she's like, "Yeah, you know, uh, Jeremy, he's six years old, well, he died today, and-and I gotta go to the funeral on Saturday," and, you know, and-and that's when you just realize, you know, that-that's-the parents who survive, and-and even-and it's funny because I think that-I-I was having this conversation with-with, uh, Joyce about it, you know, and how, you know, cancer you-cancer's a-a-is-is --

[Abrupt end of recorded material]

**Pam and Terry Hobbs Intention (2 of 2)**



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**Pam and Terry Hobbs Intention (2 of 2)**

[Beginning of recorded material]

Male Voice: We had heard that after the state police were looking into him.

Terry Hobbs: Yeah, no, I know about all that stuff.

Male Voice: Um, okay.

Terry Hobbs: I mean, it's a-it's a-it's a-it's a, you know, that police department was a messed up department in a lot of ways, but. . .

Male Voice: So that week, so you're getting some, uh, [Brownridge] comes out, you guys are going in --

Terry Hobbs: [Stan Birch].

Male Voice: Oh, Stan Birch, okay.

Pam Hobbs: [Not a day go by].

Male Voice: And you guys are going in, um, occasionally to talk to them and they're just saying, "This is what we're gonna need," and they're asking you about your diet. Are they showing you pictures of anybody? Did they do anything like that?

Terry Hobbs: No, they's wantin' us to give them pictures of --

Male Voice: Of the boys.

Terry Hobbs: -- the boys.

Male Voice: But they weren't, like, saying, "Here's-do you recognize any of these people?" --

Terry Hobbs: No.

Male Voice: -- or do any of that stuff yet?

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible] identified them by pictures.

Male Voice: At what point, um, at-how far after the discovery of the bodies was it that you started hearing that it was maybe somehow connected to the occult or to Satanism or to that sort-or any of that kind of stuff. Was it soon after or was it a long ways, a long time after?

Terry Hobbs: The media --

Pam Hobbs: [Actually] [I said it that day] --

Terry Hobbs: -- [there the media] --

Male Voice: You said it that day?

Pam Hobbs: That day --

Male Voice: You felt it immediately.

Pam Hobbs: I had heard someone say that, "We've been trying to tell the police that they've been doing Satanic rituals back there for years and they won't [pay any attention to it]," so right then I started --

Male Voice: So you heard it that-that night --

Pam Hobbs: -- [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- from one of these people coming out and talking, like, from the Mayfair apartments --

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Male Voice: -- or from the neighborhood or whatever that --

Pam Hobbs: [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- that's been going on. And what was the church that you were a part of then or were you involved in --

Pam Hobbs: [Mount Jersey].

Male Voice: -- that it was-it-that-you were just weren't really-that wasn't a big thing in your life --

Terry Hobbs: Nope.

Male Voice: -- at that time.

Terry Hobbs: So during the trials, you know, during the [Damien Eccles] counselors, they're testimony, you know, and probably a little bit before that, during the trials is when it-they started bringing in all this Satanism and the media prior to the trial --

Male Voice: Right.

Terry Hobbs: -- started bringing in all this Satanism stuff --

Male Voice: So did you hear that as a-a rumor brewing in the town? That's part of what we're wondering, like, did that --

Terry Hobbs: We [thought] the same thing, --

Male Voice: -- start to be things you heard --

Terry Hobbs: -- there was a movie one time about something like that and we had thought it, didn't we?

Male Voice: You remember what movie it was that made you think about it? Like, was it The Believers or some-you'd seen something about Satanic groups doing what, like --

Terry Hobbs: The town. We'd seen, uh, there was a movie out one time [for our town.]

Pam Hobbs: [Psycho Witch Hunt] or something like that, I think.

Male Voice: But you-had you, um-what was it about that --

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible] thought that was mythical, we didn't know.

Male Voice: Thought that the town-the-the-thought what, specifically?

Terry Hobbs: That there was a-a church over there, [Todd Moore] is pastor, we thought they -- Pam came up with this -- kept thinkin' his church th- they killed 'em at the church --

Male Voice: Right.

Terry Hobbs: -- took 'em out there and dumped 'em, [unintelligible] --

Male Voice: Why-why Todd-why Todd Moore's church?

Terry Hobbs: Well, I dunno. Ask her.

Pam Hobbs: Uh, because of being Catholic, Episcopal, or whatever, um, I think in the Catholic faith that they do believe in ritualistic --

Male Voice: Oh --

Pam Hobbs: -- killing --



Male Voice: -- right, right, right.

Pam Hobbs: -- [that talked] [unintelligible].

Male Voice: You just need to add a more ritualistic --

Pam Hobbs: That kind-well-my no --

Male Voice: -- kind of service --

Pam Hobbs: -- might [unintelligible] my fears, no [pain].

Male Voice: Yeah, yeah, I know, I'm-I'm-I'm just wondering where-where your head was at the time.

Male Voice: But basically, you know, it sounds like people had already-in-in-the pa-I mean it's part of the-you know, it's part of the world, here, you know, we're in the Bible Belt, people talked about the possibility of people being devil worshippers, whatever, you had kind of, more after this happened, started hearing some people talking about and even wondering yourself if there could be some kind of group within the town, like --

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Male Voice: -- maybe there was some kind of --

Terry Hobbs: We thought that.

Male Voice: -- cult worshippers in the town, like you see in movies sometimes,  
where you sacrifice children who do these --

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible] [think about it] --

Male Voice: -- terrible things because it's such a terrible crime you can't imagine  
why else would you kill three little boys? It seems so monstrous and  
different. And you heard it growing in the town, then, as to what rum-  
and the media also, like you'd be seeing it on, what TV would talk  
about. "People think it could be a, you know, ritual killing," or  
something like that. Okay. So that built up as the trials were  
approaching. Were you hearing in-within all that, were you ever  
hearing anything about, "And we think we know that-who it could be.  
It could be this Damien Eccles and his friends, like these teenagers," or  
were you hearing more just a general thing about cults and devil  
worshipping and stuff? Do you remember?

Terry Hobbs: Gary [Dietsal] told us that it was Damien Eccles. We didn't know it  
before he told us.

Male Voice: When was this?

Terry Hobbs: But I --

Male Voice: At the arrest or before that?

Terry Hobbs: At the arrest. When he called us and told --

Male Voice: Yeah, so you really hadn't heard any of those names until they called you and said, "Are you sitting down?" That whole thing you told us about, and then they said, "We think we have it; it's three teenage boys, here's their names." You-how do you know them? And you said, "I've never heard of 'em." You know, okay.

Male Voice: Did you feel a lot of relief when you heard there-there was an arrest?

Terry Hobbs: Probably confusion. I don't know about relief.

Male Voice: And you did-you didn't make you feel any better?

Terry Hobbs: But we still didn't know who it was --

Male Voice: Right.

Male Voice: And anger, but you don't have a face to put it with.

Terry Hobbs: You just want to kill him.

Male Voice: And that's why you said, "I-I want to see him," right? I mean, you're like, "Those names don't mean anything to me and I feel all this anger so," --

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible] there's a thing they called revenge --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: -- you don't kill my kid or I'll kill yours, or you.

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: You know? That comes in your brain.

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: There's all kinds of things --

Male Voice: Oh, I mean, if I-if-if I were in your shoes --

Male Voice: It would be the hardest thing not to do.

Male Voice: -- that wa-that's all I'd think about. That's all I would think about. I-I just know, you know, and that's not-doesn't make it good --

Male Voice: And that eats you --

Male Voice: -- [unintelligible] you do.

Male Voice: -- up from the inside. It's like if you come to this forgiveness thing, we've talked about that too, that the hardest thing-the first thing you only imagine is that all you wanna do is-you get obsessed with destroying the people that took, you know, that did that to your child, 'cause you can't imagine anything else. But --

Terry Hobbs: And at the same time, you know, look at the innocence. Everybody on our side was innocent --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: -- and you [drug] right into something like that --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: -- not know which way to go.

Male Voice: Nobody --

Terry Hobbs: [What to do?]

Male Voice: -- nobody could ever deserve to --

Terry Hobbs: Who to trust?

Male Voice: Yeah, you're just living your life and this happens. So, okay, well that's-that took us through the [nine] in the first week, so basically the weeks then turned into more weeks, meanwhile you're going through that six-six, seven months of just --

Pam Hobbs: [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- you're losing it, you guys are trying to hang in there --

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- but-if-if you-if you don't mind me asking is it-is it-was it mostly alcohol? Was it mostly drugs? Was it both?

Pam Hobbs: Uh, really neither one, it just --

Male Voice: Oh you-you wasn't-you wasn't --

Pam Hobbs: -- it [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- you wasn't so much about substance, you weren't --

Pam Hobbs: Nuh uh, not a-I was-I was --

Male Voice: -- doing a lot of, uh, drinking too much.

Pam Hobbs: -- doing no drugs and alcohol.

Male Voice: But that wasn't a-that wasn't --

Pam Hobbs: Nuh uh, [unintelligible] --

Terry Hobbs: We [has] the prescription drugs.

Male Voice: Yeah. Was that mostly what the drugs were? Just taking too many of those, or were you, I mean. . .?

Pam Hobbs: I-just think at-that at the state of the mind I wanted to --

Male Voice: It was just-it was just where --

Pam Hobbs: -- [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- head was.

Pam Hobbs: I don't think other drugs and alcohol played a major, real big role in my --

Male Voice: And what-and-and what were --

Pam Hobbs: -- in my actions.

Male Voice: You just self-medicated.

Male Voice: -- you doing, mostly, with your time, during those six months? I mean, were you sleeping a lot? Were you, you know --

Pam Hobbs: At times --

Male Voice: -- you-you weren't eating --

Pam Hobbs: -- I would sleep but --

Male Voice: -- if you [say if I were you].

Pam Hobbs: -- [unintelligible] start eating.

Male Voice: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: Um, then I started writing, uh, writing on my book and things like that, um, but sleeping a lot and things like that, and just [unintelligible] much out front, away from everybody --

Male Voice: Yeah. Did you --

Pam Hobbs: -- [unintelligible] how much they [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- did you go back to work at all or did you just --

Male Voice: [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: Not 'til after the trials were over with.

Male Voice: So, then you were up-part of the time you'd be up with your family and stuff like that, or were you mostly staying --

Pam Hobbs: [unintelligible] part of the time, yeah.

Male Voice: -- [unintelligible]. So you basically moved out, then. And the town-so, at that point, the town was full of rumors, full of craziness, but you just had to get away from it and go be with your family --

Male Voice: And where --



Male Voice: -- and try to protect [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- where were you working at the time?

Terry Hobbs: [Minter] Ice Cream company.

Male Voice: Okay, and ba-you-you had to keep working, right? I mean, somebody had --

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Male Voice: -- to keep paying the bills.

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible] kept driving back and forth to work.

Male Voice: Right. And you were driv-wha-uh, were you driving a truck-tru-an ice cream truck at the time, or were you. . .?

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Male Voice: Okay.

Terry Hobbs: Not a van, but a truck.

Male Voice: Right.

Male Voice: Like delivering --

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- to-to, uh, to stores --

Male Voice: Stores.

Male Voice: -- and stuff?

Male Voice: Yeah.

Male Voice: Okay. And how did-how did people at work, I mean, how did people talk to you or act around you? I mean. . .

Terry Hobbs: They was -- they killed me kindness. I've never been overwhelmed with generosity --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: -- I quit my job. I went to my boss and said, "Look. I-you know, I had a 110 customers I count on every week, and I've been doing this for years, and when they found out it was us, [but] the people of my customers just, they would-everyone one of them would come up and I'd go in the stores and sell them ice cream and come up and grab me and hug me," --

Male Voice: Oh.

Terry Hobbs: -- "and cry, make me cry, and that went on until it just was killing me."

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: I went and told my-John, my boss, I said, "I gotta quit."

Male Voice: You just didn't want --

Terry Hobbs: [Didn't want it]. Said I can't take it. They're too nice to me.

Male Voice: Right.

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible] showered me with love --

Male Voice: [unintelligible].

Terry Hobbs: -- and I can't [help it].

Male Voice: And everyone else's grief and feelings over this, you know, even though you don't-they don't think they're doing that in many ways, 'cause they feel stuff --

Terry Hobbs: I --

Male Voice: -- they're using-you become their place where all their grief has to go to, and you're like, "I can't carry everybody's."

Terry Hobbs: Right. And there just trying to be --

Male Voice: Does it --

Terry Hobbs: -- nice.

Male Voice: This is jumping out of the story, but, you know, it's like I-I-I've cried on more than one occasion thinking about your son, and I'm one of thousands.

Male Voice: Yeah.

Male Voice: Does that comfort you now? Do-do-does it mean something to you that so many people care about Stevie and that-that he's such a part of people's memory? Does that --

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Male Voice: -- mat-is that meaningful to you?

Terry Hobbs: We went up here to [Bryant's] breakfast house here the other day, get some breakfast. We walked in, me and Pam walked in, and that lady, uh, behind the cash register, tell 'em what she told you.

Pam Hobbs: She remembered who I was and, um, I was telling her about meeting John Walsh, she was telling me about a story that John Walsh had in the paper and I was telling her about me meeting John Walsh and John Walsh telling me I was a lady with a lot of courage, not to give up, and, uh, she told me that I really was.

Male Voice: Is he your columnist who writes for the local --

Terry Hobbs: America's Most Wanted.

Male Voice: Oh, John Walsh, you mean --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Male Voice: -- [unintelligible], I'm sorry. I didn't think about him for a minute.

Male Voice: No, 'cause of Wal-'cause --

Male Voice: I know you guys --

Male Voice: -- this-this-this show --

Male Voice: -- may even benefit.

Terry Hobbs: Right.

Male Voice: -- they did a bit on this-on this story --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Male Voice: -- before they-before they, uh --

Terry Hobbs: When we heard this --

Male Voice: -- arrested the boys.

Terry Hobbs: -- [unintelligible] and it's just, we still hear people talk about it.

Male Voice: See, now that-I think that, you know, it's funny, because I think that yeah, you know, the documentaries and the whole West Memphis Three thing, it's a-it's obviously a big part of what gets people's interest, but I just-I think there's something about, you know, seeing those-seeing the photographs of, you know, of-of your-of your boy and-and Chris and Michael --

Male Voice: [unintelligible] terrible.

Male Voice: -- you know, that you just see those pictures of, you know, fresh face, you know, happy kid and --

Terry Hobbs: He only has five haircuts.

Male Voice: [unintelligible] but actually this one --

Terry Hobbs: Yeah.

Male Voice: -- is so precious. This one I just kept on looking at. Oh, precious picture. I want to see more pictures of him if you [have some].

Terry Hobbs: [Yeah] [unintelligible] --

Male Voice: [unintelligible].

Male Voice: We might love to --

Pam Hobbs: I've got a --

Male Voice: -- see more.

Pam Hobbs: -- picture [box].

Male Voice: We might need [unintelligible].

Pam Hobbs: I don't have 'em with-with me now.

Male Voice: Okay, all right. That's probably good, because I would probably lose it if I were lo-flipping through --

Male Voice: [unintelligible] earlier --

Male Voice: -- those pictures.

Male Voice: -- I just at the store you talked about, I-I been kinda holdin' back --

Terry Hobbs: [unintelligible].

Male Voice: -- the whole time, you know?

Male Voice: I'm going to use your restroom real quick, if you don't mind?

Terry Hobbs: We-we have a lot of pictures from when we had that house over there on [McCollin] Street --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: -- with the big pool and all that.

Male Voice: Yeah.

Terry Hobbs: Got a lot of pictures from that place.

Male Voice: Yeah, it's hard. This is hard for me. I mean, you know, it's just-it's hard to-to even-even imagine that, um, you know, this is very -- you should post this, you know, because, I mean, that, I don't know, I read this and I just think, "That's-that's what-that's what God can do." You know? What only God can do, 'cause if-if-if God can take you through this to-to a point where you can write something like that, you-boy, you are strong.

Terry Hobbs: He wouldn't put more on you than you --

Male Voice: Than you --

Terry Hobbs: -- than you can bear.

Male Voice: -- than you can bear. Well, you-you two got pushed all the way to the limit --



Pam Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Male Voice: -- I'll tell you that.

Terry Hobbs: Mm-hmm.

Male Voice: Oh, God.

Terry Hobbs: It's been, uh, something else. You hope no one else goes through, you know?

Pam Hobbs: I treasure that eight years I had with him. I was blessed. He was an Honor student and just the best little boy a mother could ever ask for.

Pam Hobbs: And I'd say now he might not have gotten me my [unintelligible] Promised Land on this earth, but he's in Heaven --

Male Voice: Yeah.

Pam Hobbs: -- living in my Promised Land, so.

Male Voice: That's your Promise Land.

Pam Hobbs: Yep.

Male Voice: You know my, uh, um. . .



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Hobbs Vol II

## Retrial sought in '94 slayings

BY CATHY FRYE

Posted on Saturday, May 31, 2008

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/National/227270/>

Jason Baldwin's 1994 capital-murder trial lacked numerous witnesses who could have played a pivotal role in his defense — from the art teacher who could have given him an alibi to the juvenile-detention supervisor who says the sheriff ordered her out of town to avoid testifying, according to documents filed Friday in Craighead County Circuit Court.

Baldwin's current defense team filed a 1,500-page writ of habeas corpus and exhibits, petitioning the court to either vacate his conviction or grant him a new trial in light of DNA evidence obtained in the past year.

On Thursday, his attorneys filed a different writ with the Arkansas Supreme Court that claims prosecutors withheld crucial evidence from Baldwin's trial attorneys. They also filed an Amended Petition for Relief under Rule 37 that claims a multitude of errors, including improper deliberations by the jury and prosecutorial misconduct.

Friday's filing says trial attorneys bungled Baldwin's defense by failing to call key witnesses and by not hiring a private investigator. It also requests a new trial per the state's DNA law, which allows anyone convicted of a crime to ask for a re-examination of evidence if new tests or science have become available.

Baldwin, who, at age 16, was the youngest of the three teenage defendants, was convicted and sentenced to life 15 years ago for the murders of three 8-year-old boys: Steve Branch, Michael Moore and Chris Byers. Baldwin and Damien Echols were tried together. Echols, then 18, received a death sentence. Jessie Misskelley, then 17, was tried separately, having given police a confession that would later be deemed inadmissible in the other boys' joint trial.

The trials and convictions gained national attention at the time because of the lurid allegations of satanic and sexual rituals involved in the murders. 'I WANT TO GET IT OVER WITH'

Over the years, the three defendants have attracted an international following of people and celebrities who believe that the investigation and resulting trials were flawed. The intense scrutiny has long irritated prosecutors and state officials, who contend justice was served.

In a court hearing this spring, Craighead County Circuit Judge David Burnett ordered all involved in the case to quit talking to news media before appeals hearings scheduled for the fall.

"I'm tired of reading about this case in the newspapers and seeing it on television," he said as he took the bench on April 15. "I'll find you in contempt of court if I see any news account that attributes [information] to an attorney."

The judge expressed frustration with the repeated questioning of the men's convictions. "This has been going on 15 years. I want to get it over with."

The case gained new momentum in the past year as the results of new DNA testing emerged.

Those results were noted in Friday's filing, the most significant being the lack of DNA found at the crime scene or on the victims' bodies. Defense attorneys contend that if one adheres to the state's theory that the children were killed in a bloody, satanic, sexual ritual, DNA from the defendants would have to have been left behind.

The filing refers to the findings of six scientists, all of whom agree that the boys' injuries were caused by animal predation after death — not a knife, as prosecutors argued at trial.

Also at issue are two hairs that appear to link Terry Hobbs, the stepfather of one of the boys, to the crime scene. In June 2007, after DNA results began appearing in the news media, the West Memphis Police Department asked Hobbs to go in for another interview. He denied any involvement in the murders — to detectives and, later, to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

In Friday's filing, the defense points again at Hobbs, citing an interview with a woman he dated for six months in 2002-03. The woman said Hobbs told her that he was the first to find the boys' bodies but didn't tell the police or his wife about his discovery.

"That's so crazy," Hobbs said Friday when asked about her claims. "Some people will say anything to get their 15 seconds of fame, and that, to me, sounds like one of those people."

The woman, he said, wasn't a girlfriend. She was interested in him, but he didn't reciprocate.

"And no," he added. "I didn't find the boys' bodies." **WHAT THE JURY DIDN'T HEAR**

In Friday's filing, defense attorneys repeatedly refer to witnesses who they say either were intimidated into silence or were never called by the defense, despite having shared information with Baldwin's attorneys before trial.

In one affidavit, a potential witness said former Craighead County Sheriff Larry Emison threatened her.

Joyce Cureton oversaw the Juvenile Detention Center in Jonesboro, where Baldwin was held before and during his trial. Before trial, defense attorneys contacted her, hoping her testimony would help discredit one of the prosecution's star witnesses — a juvenile inmate, Michael Carson, who claimed that Baldwin told him that he dismembered the boys and sucked blood from their genitals. Cureton also could have authenticated

records showing that Carson and Baldwin appeared to have been alone together on only one occasion. Defense attorneys also wanted her to attest to Baldwin's gentle nature and good behavior at the facility.

In her affidavit, Cureton said: "The then-sheriff, Larry Emison, instructed me to get out of Craighead County immediately. He told me I better not be in court."

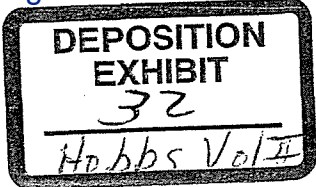
Cureton says she obeyed, leaving for Newport with her husband.

"I regretted leaving town to avoid testifying at Jason's sentencing," she added. "I would not have left if the sheriff had not instructed me to do so."

Emison did not return a call for comment Friday. Additional affidavits from numerous detention center staff members and former inmates support Cureton's assertion that Carson lied about Baldwin bragging about the killings.

All say that Baldwin refused to talk about the case and repeatedly denied any involvement. Former employees, relying on old records and logbooks, say Baldwin and Carson once played cards together, but nothing was said about the murders. Former inmates who were in that game also deny that Baldwin offered a confession. None of these people were called to testify in 1994.

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
WESTERN DIVISION

**TERRY HOBBS,**  
**Plaintiff,**

v.

**NATALIE PASDAR, et al.,**  
**Defendants.**

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CV NO.: 4-09-CV-0008BSM

**DECLARATION OF DAVID JACOBY**

I, David Jacoby, declare as follows:

1. "My name is David Jacoby. I am over the age of 21 and competent to give this declaration.
2. All of the information set forth herein is within my personal knowledge and is true and correct.
3. I am a friend of Terry Hobbs and Pam Hobbs. On May 5, 1993, I lived in the same neighborhood as Terry and Pam Hobbs and their children Stevie Branch and Amanda Hobbs. Stevie Branch was one of the three little boys murdered in the Robin Hood Hills area of West Memphis, Arkansas on or about May 5, 1993.
4. The murders, the investigation into the murders, the victims, the families of the victims, the trials of the three teenagers ultimately convicted of the murders ("the West Memphis Three"), their appeals, and the question of whether the West Memphis Three actually committed the murders have received a lot of national and local press attention since 1993. I personally have received a great deal of requests for interviews from the press, as well as from investigators and writers, regarding the questions of who committed the murders and whether Terry Hobbs was involved in the murders of the three little boys. I have generally refused to talk to the press about the murders, the events relating to the murders and Terry Hobbs.
5. Terry Hobbs and I worked together at the Memphis Ice Cream Company in Memphis, Tennessee in May of 1993.
6. On May 5, 1993, I worked at the Memphis Ice Cream Company. I got home from work at approximately 4:30 PM on that day. Sometime between 5 PM and 5:30 PM on May 5, 1993 (it could have been as late as 6 PM, but I believe it was between 5 and 5:30 PM), Terry Hobbs came over to my house.

7. I believe I saw Terry's step-son, Stevie Branch, ride by on his bicycle in the street in front of my house. I also believe I saw two other little boys with Stevie. One of the other boys who went by the front of my house was on a bicycle and the other boy was on a skateboard.
8. Terry and Amanda came inside my house. Amanda played with toys, and Terry and I sat down and played guitars for up to one hour. At some point while Terry and I were playing guitars, I asked, "Where's Stevie?" because Stevie usually came over to my house with Terry and Amanda (and also Pam Hobbs when she came over). Terry responded that Stevie was riding his bike.
9. Between approximately 6 PM and 6:30 PM on May 5, 1993, Terry got up from playing guitars and told me that he was going to his house to see if Stevie was at home. Terry told me that Stevie was supposed to be home and he thought for sure Stevie would be home "before dark" or "by dark," or something to that effect. Terry then left my house. I am 90% sure that Terry left Amanda at my house for me and my wife to watch and that Terry left my house alone.
10. Terry was gone from my house for awhile. Terry returned to my house later and asked if Stevie had come by. When I said no, I volunteered to go out with Terry to ride with him to look for Stevie.
11. Terry and I drove around the neighborhood for approximately 10-15 minutes looking for Stevie. We drove near some apartments. We did not stop at any houses or talk to anyone at this point.
12. Terry then dropped me off at my house and said he was going to check a few other places for Stevie. I believe Terry again left alone, with Amanda staying at my house.
13. After awhile, Terry drove back to my house. I again went with Terry to ride around and look for Stevie. We drove two more times nearly the same route we had driven before. I remember that we again went by the apartment complex and saw some kids playing. Terry told the kids that he was looking for a little blond headed boy. A little black girl told Terry that he had seen that there were some boys riding their bikes near the woods near the apartments, which were the Robin Hood Hills Woods.
14. Terry again took me home and dropped me off because it was getting dark and I was going to change clothes and get flashlights to search further. I do not know where Terry went, but I expected him to come back to get me. I believe he took Amanda with him. I changed clothes, but Terry never showed back up.
15. Pam Hobbs did come over to my house later looking for Stevie and I drove her around to look for him. Pam and I ended up meeting up with other people looking for Stevie and the two other boys, including Terry. Specifically, in addition to Terry and Pam, I also recall searching at different times with Jackie Hicks, Sr. (Pam's father). I also recall seeing Dana Moore and Mark Byers out

looking for their boys. I searched for Stevie and the other boys until nearly 3 AM on May 6, 1993, and then I went home.

16. I was not in Robin Hood Hills Woods searching for Stevie or other missing children alone or with Terry Hobbs on May 5, 1993 at or near 6 PM or 6:30 PM. Additionally, I recall that I was not looking for Stevie or the other boys near the woods until it was already dark, much later than 6 PM or 6:30 PM.
17. I searched near the woods by the apartments and stood near or on the pipe bridge into the woods. However, I did not cross the pipe bridge into the woods. I also drove around to the Blue Beacon side of the woods and looked in the weeds around the woods. I made it far enough into the woods to see the pipe bridge from that side.
18. I did not see Terry Hobbs call the police on May 5, 1993 or May 6, 1993. Also, Terry did not tell me he had called the police and did not ask me to call the police on those dates. I did not know that anyone had called the police until I saw Pam on the night of May 5, 1993.
19. On May 5, 1993 and May 6, 1993, I did not drive by or go inside the police station alone or with Terry Hobbs or anyone else. I did not see Terry Hobbs go to the police station on those dates.
20. Terry Hobbs has never told me that he saw a "black bum" or any other individual near Robin Hood Hills Woods on the morning of May 6, 1993.

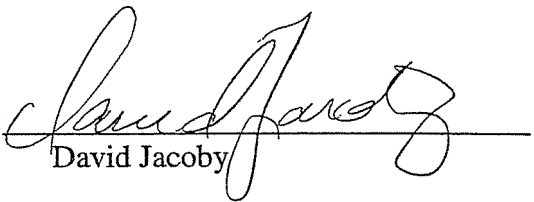
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed in Shelby County, <sup>TENNESSEE</sup> ~~Arkansas~~.

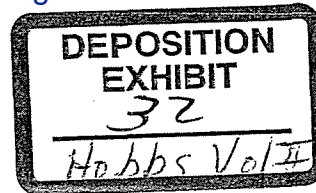
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

7/24/09

By: \_\_\_\_\_

David Jacoby





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Dated: 7/24/09

By: David Jacoby

David Jacoby

## Outburst in court by victim's dad reflects community's shock, rage

William Thomas  
Saturday, June 5, 1993

"I'll chase you all the way to hell," screamed the father of one of three schoolboys slain in West Memphis as he tried desperately to attack his son's accused killer Friday.

Police wrestled the distraught parent into submission, but it was just the first in a series of explosive outbursts touched off by the arrest of three teenagers in the slayings last month of 8-year-olds Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore.

As the three closely guarded suspects were led from the gray-brick municipal court building at midafternoon, a crowd of 200 angry people gathered amid shouts of "shoot him" and "burn in hell."

One of the suspects climbed into the back of a police car and curled into a ball as he was driven away to jail.

Although some West Memphians said they were relieved that there had been a break in the month-old case, the stormy reaction of the families and friends of the victims dominated a day of shock and rage.

"They're nothing but punks! punks! punks!" shouted Pam Hobbs, the mother of Steve Branch, as she stomped out of the courtroom where the families of the three young victims came face-to-face with their children's accused killers.

"I want them," she said. "I want to beat their heads up against the wall and kick them - the same stuff they did to my son."

Her husband, Terry, stood by, nodding. "I think we'd all like to get at them," he said. "These were our babies. They were just kids. I was looking for a way to climb over a bench myself. It's very hard to sit there." Steve lived with the Hobbses.

For Steve Branch Sr., who lives in Osceola, Ark., sitting there proved impossible. Rising from the back of the courtroom, he tried to fight his way through a line of police guards to get at one of the suspects, Michael Wayne 'Damien' Echols.

At the time, Echols was being arraigned in a courtroom jammed with spectators, police and reporters.

Branch, a husky man with a look of cold anger in his eyes, was subdued and led from the courtroom. A short time later, he was released. He spoke briefly with the media and then left the scene with his wife and baby. His wife stumbled and almost collapsed before they reached their car.

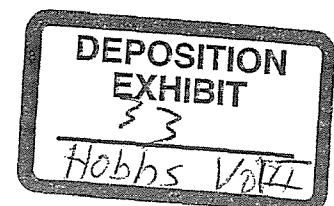
It wasn't the only hasty departure.

Pam Hobbs, who has moved to Blytheville since the slayings, stormed out of the courtroom after the judge ordered anyone who couldn't handle the pressure to leave.

"I'm out here because I screamed, 'punk,' and I might go on screaming it," she said, voice high, eyes wet. "These arrests have given me a little peace, but not much. I'll be mad at the West Memphis Police Department till the day I die."

She faced a crowd of reporters and cameras, saying:

"I'm mad. I was out there doing their (the Police Department's) job until they pulled my son out of the ditch. They told me to go home, go to bed, they'll take care of it. Well, my son's dead."



Hobbs was the most outspoken of the three boys' parents, who said little to one another and sat in different areas in the courtroom. However, all stared hard at the three suspects as they were brought into the courtroom one-by-one.

Friends were equally angry. Linda Darby, who worked with Hobbs at Catfish Island restaurant, studied the suspects and shook her head. "If they're guilty," she said, "they ought to be hung."

For the families of the three suspects, it was equally difficult.

"It's like getting hit with a sledgehammer," said Jessie Misskelley, a mechanic whose son was arrested and held all day Thursday. "They asked me to sign for a polygraph, and I did," said Misskelley, who claimed police had held his son 12 hours without notifying him.

Some West Memphians were quick to praise the Police Department for breaking the case. "I think this is a credit to our police force," said Guy Lowe, a retiree who lives near Weaver Elementary School where the boys were in the second grade. "It was a terrible thing, and when it happens in your own neighborhood, it makes you think. The preacher says the end of the world is at hand; he may be right."

Denise Foster, who works in a fast-food restaurant in Memphis, cried when she heard the news. "This is kids killing kids. I couldn't help feeling sorry for the parents on both sides. I have a 1-year-old. Mothers understand."

Joyce Riley, who works in a West Memphis farm store, said she's afraid it will be a long time before the community settles down. "There's a lot of anger here," she said. "As for those boys - when they're capable of killing, they're not children anymore. Nowadays, a 16-, 17- and 18-year-old boy knows what's going on in the world. They're not innocent like they were in the '50s and '60s. This is the end of innocence."