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PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT #52
(2) letters from Dan Stidham

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DANIEL T. STIDHAM
S. KING BENSON

Amy Ward
Legal Secretary



LAW OFFICES
STIDHAM LAW FIRM, P.A.

203 NORTH SECOND ST., P.O. BOX 856
PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS 72451

TELEPHONE (870) 236-7600
FAX (870) 236-7601
email: slf@cswnet.com

March 5, 1998

Dr. Michael M. Baden, M.D.
Executive Director
Forensic Science Unit
New York State Police
#10 Sage Hill Lane
Albany, NY 12204

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Re: West Memphis Triple Homicide

Dear Dr. Baden:

First of all, let me thank you, again, for agreeing to look at this case and for meeting with me in San Francisco during your convention. Pursuant to our discussion in San Francisco, please find enclosed the Coroner and autopsy reports on each of the three (3) victims in this case and the testimony of Dr. Frank Peretti at the trial of Echols and Baldwin.

After, our discussion in my hotel room with Dr. David and Mr. Turvey, I met with Dr. Neil Haskins. After examining the autopsy photographs, he, like Dr. David, felt like some of the wounds could have been inflicted by animals or crawfish post mortem. After our discussion, Dr. Haskins asked me to inquire of you the following:

1. Could you tell from the condition of the bodies how long they had been in the water.
2. Will mosquitos leave a physiological response which is detectable at time of autopsy, and if so, could you detect any from the photos which were sent to you previously; and
3. What is your opinion regarding the post mortem theory regarding animals or beetles feeding on the bodies.

Dr. Haskins has requested information from the National Weather Service regarding air temperatures and water temperatures which I am providing him. If you need this information, I can send it to you as well.

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