

Exhibit 190

232

THIS IS THE INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL (B: [REDACTED]), taken at the Whalley RCMP Sub-Station on King George Highway, on 99.08.10 @ 11:36 hours, by Det. CHERNOFF, in the presence of Det. LEPINE of the Vancouver City Police - Homicide Section

Det. CHERNOFF: Okay the time is 11:36 Hours on the 10th day of August 1999 and we're in the Whalley RCMP Sub-Station on King George Highway and with me in the room is, uh, Detective LEPINE, L-E-P-I-N-E, and I'm Detective CHERNOFF, C-H-E-R-N-O-F-F, of the Vancouver City Police - Homicide Section. And also present in the room is Ross CALDWELL and CALDWELL is spelled C-A-L-D-W-E-L-L. And Ross, what's your date of birth?

CALDWELL: [REDACTED]

CHERNOFF: Okay. Um Ross, we were in Port Coquitlam on the 5th day of August um in the afternoon at which time we were speaking to you about uh some of the things that you had to relate. Um the first time I had met you was uh in Port Coquitlam, I believe it was on the 19th day of July when you were in custody out there briefly ...

CALDWELL: That's correct.

CHERNOFF: ... and uh the reason that uh I came to see is that you had, through the Coquitlam RCMP, contacted the Vancouver City Police uh because you wanted to relate some information with respect to the missing prostitutes from Vancouver.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: And uh we had a discussion at that time and since that time uh we've gotten

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**2**

together uh several, on several other occasions where we have uh discussed information that you've had uh about one particular incident, but also some general information uh that you related about an individual that you thought, uh based on information that you'd received, uh was, or possibly was involved uh with these missing women.

CALDWELL: Right, correct.

CHERNOFF: Okay. When we spoke to you on the 5th of August uh at that time it was apparent to both myself and my partner that um um you weren't either feeling that well uh or you were, the condition that you were in was such that uh uh you weren't really all that with it. I'm just wondering if you could perhaps explain uh the circumstances behind you not feeling so good that day.

CALDWELL: Well I wasn't feeling that good. I had had very little sleep and uh I uh, yes I, I wasn't uh ... uh it was, it was a bad timing for, for us to have a conversation at that particular time. I uh, I'm up to it today.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Uh do you think the way that you felt had any, uh was it any reflection on, on the discussion that we were having or the interview at that time?

CALDWELL: Well I, I, I might have missed certain points and, and you know not been clear and uh uh that's important that I, I get it correct you know and uh ...

CHERNOFF: Okay, so what I think we're gonna do today is just go over some of that information again ...

CALDWELL: Right.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

3

CHERNOFF: ... and um uh we'll start from the beginning again ...

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: ... and uh we'll just work our way through.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Um firstly um the person that uh provided this information to you um can you please tell me who that person is and what her name is?

CALDWELL: Well uh her name is Lynn. Now uh I uh, I know her quite well, I uh, I don't know her last name. I, I, I did know it, or I did know it, of it, but I uh, I don't know it, I can't say it off uh, off hand, but uh, uh ...

CHERNOFF: How long have you known Lynn?

CALDWELL: Uh for say five years approximately.

CHERNOFF: And where did you meet Lynn?

CALDWELL: I, I met her at uh my friend's uh in [REDACTED]

CHERNOFF: Okay. And who was that friend?

CALDWELL: Uh Ron uh MENARD.

CHERNOFF: Ron MENARD. And how long have you know Ron?

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

4

CALDWELL: Uh the same length of time, uh a good five years, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Okay. And uh this information that she provided to you uh who does this concern?

CALDWELL: Uh a fellow by the name of Willy, uh Bob, Robert he goes by ... I call him Willy, uh PICKTON is his last name, uh and he uh, he resides in uh Coquitlam ...

CHERNOFF: In Coquitlam.

CALDWELL: ... on uh Dominion Street.

CHERNOFF: Is that Coquitlam or Port Coquitlam?

CALDWELL: Uh Port, Port Coquitlam uh I believe it is. I think it's ... yeah Port Coquitlam.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Do you know the address of that residence in Port Coquitlam?

CALDWELL: No I don't know the number of my head in that ...uh it's on Dominion. Uh it's uh, it's right behind the Costco shopping centre and uh there's a McDonald's and a Costco.

CHERNOFF: What's the main highway there?

CALDWELL: Uh Lougheed Highway.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Is that the same uh residence that you uh had driven us by um ...

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**5**

CALDWELL: Yeah, I ...

CHERNOFF: ... and, and showed us where ...

CALDWELL: Yes.

CHERNOFF: ... the location of that property was?

CALDWELL: Yeah I, I showed you fellows uh exactly where it was and uh right beside the golf course there.

CHERNOFF: That would be the Carnoustie Golf Course.

CALDWELL: Carnoustie Golf Course, yes exactly. It's quite a stretch of land he's got there and uh ...

CHERNOFF: And how big would that property be in, in your estimation?

CALDWELL: Uh quite a few acres. I uh, there's uh ... it's, it's being sold right now for uh, I think they're putting in 180 town homes so it's a, it's a pretty you know ... the size of the lot is quite, quite large.

CHERNOFF: So we're talking several acres then?

CALDWELL: Yes, oh yes, yeah five acres something like that.

CHERNOFF: And how did you uh come to know this Willy PICKTON?

CALDWELL: I had uh ... uh Lynn uh was living, uh residing with uh Willy and uh she uh

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**6**

called up uh Ron and uh they had some problems out at the, well the pig farm there and uh he, she asked us if we could come by and help her out with them, and uh help Willy out. And so I'm a friend of Ron's, Ron called me up and I went picked Ron up and uh we went over there and I met ... that's how I met uh Willy through Lynn. And uh we uh, we helped him out and uh he kind of befriended us uh um and uh he uh gave, he helped ... uh he gave us a pig, (inaudible) of a pig and that's sort of how we you know got to know each other from there.

CHERNOFF: Do you remember uh roughly the time of year that that uh had occurred, that meeting?

CALDWELL: Yeah I was uh ... it was after uh the new year, uh it was uh in um February I believe.

CHERNOFF: February of 1999?

CALDWELL: Yes that's correct.

CHERNOFF: Okay. You uh said that um he had a pig farm. Uh ...

CALDWELL: Well yeah he uh, he uh, he ... everybody calls him the pig farmer, you know uh, uh he's got a, a ... uh he, he uh kills pigs and sells them and uh, and uh so everybody knows him as a pig farmer and uh you know he's, he's been around there for a long time.

CHERNOFF: Now this uh initial introduction um when you went out and helped him, what did you help him with?

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

7

CALDWELL: He had trouble with the fellow that was living with him, uh the fellow had uh stolen uh property from him and uh, and taken a credit card. Uh Will- Willy had helped the fellow out quite ... by giving him a place to, to stay and uh, yeah and giving him money uh uh to live on and this fellow uh you know like had kind of ... It bothered uh, it bothered Willy because, because of the fact that the guy had stolen from him and he didn't know how to get a hold of him or how to handle it and he asked us if he we could so uh we uh took care of it for him.

CHERNOFF: So uh you spoke to this individual that was involved?

CALDWELL: Yes we did, yeah.

CHERNOFF: And, and what was the result of that?

CALDWELL: Um well we got the credit card back and uh he had uh, he had sold it to somebody else and uh we had ... you know so we, we retrieved the credit card and uh, and told the guy uh to uh leave town and uh, and not come back around.

CHERNOFF: Have you seen that individual since?

CALDWELL: No.

CHERNOFF: Do you recall his name?

CALDWELL: Excuse me, uh I, I don't recall his name off hand. I, I can find out, but don't recall.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

8

CHERNOFF: And do you know how long he was living with Willy on uh the property there?

CALDWELL: Uh yeah, he was living there for approximately like about three weeks, something like that, and uh um yeah I had uh ... I, I ... yeah about three weeks, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Now that property is quite large and you've described it in the past to me. Maybe you could just uh go over what uh the property actually entails in terms of where Willy's residence is and any other residences on that uh specific piece of land.

CALDWELL: Okay. Right at the very front of the, when you first come in there's a, a gate that has to be opened. Uh there's a home and that's right at the very beginning and his brother lives in the home at the, at the, right at the front of the gate. You go down a long driveway, maybe about, uh it's probably uh a, close to a quarter of a mile to get into where ... it's quite a ways off the street you know. Uh and then it, on the way out there there's a lot of uh vehicles and uh there's some different buildings, uh sheds, uh areas where they works on the trucks, uh they have a lot of machinery, heavy duty machinery. Uh there's a ... then you get to a, a barn uh where he does the, his, his pigs and kills the different animals uh and it's got different stalls in there. It's quite uh dilapidated, it's, it's, it's falling apart. But anyway uh and then beside that, maybe about uh fifteen feet away, there's a trailer that he lives in. It's uh about fourteen feet wide by maybe forty, fifty feet or uh in that area. Uh it's uh got uh three ... it's about three rooms to it and uh ... two bedrooms and uh, and an office, kitchen area and uh ... and then uh that's about all that's on the property, and a bunch of sheds.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

9

CHERNOFF: What other type of work does he do on that property?

CALDWELL: He uh has a demolition company and he does different ... uh he, he does uh demolition and, and he uh provides top soil and, and he's got a hopper and, and trucks and backhoes and, and uh so he uh delivers top soil and uh, and like I say he's got a demolition company ...

CHERNOFF: Now you said that you met him at that time, sometime in February. Um when did you see him after that uh particular meeting?

CALDWELL: Well he had, he had told me to come by and uh, and, and he would cut up a pig for me. And uh so I ... he, he uh ... cause see Lynn called me and told me uh to come over and, and get it cause it was, it was ready and it had to be cut up and I had, and I had come to over and cut it up with them and wrap it. Uh so about a week later I, I uh showed up and we uh, we cut up the pig and wrapped it and uh, and I took it home with me uh and I uh ... uh and then after that I uh, I'd stopped off another couple of times with Ron um uh I ... Ron, Ron had some moose meat, we cut that up and uh we, and we used a meat grinder that he had there to uh make it into, uh to put pork in the moose meat and uh, and packaged it. And then uh it wasn't long after that I moved in there, you know it was quite a short time after that that I had actually moved in, in uh Willy's house. Something came up and, and I didn't have a home.

CHERNOFF: Now you've described uh Lynn as having contacted you a number of times and um was she a resident on that property?

CALDWELL: Yes, she lived there and, and uh ... with Willy. She had lived there for quite some time. Now I don't know the exact time, but I meant it, it, it was a year

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

10

or so uh that she had ... she had known Willy for maybe a couple of years, but then she uh, she moved in with him and she had been there for ... maybe not a year, but it was off and on uh and uh ... cause she would take off and then he ... and then come back and, and uh she always knew that she had some place to come back to.

CHERNOFF: Right. And there relationship, uh how would you describe that?

CALDWELL: Um he uh ... well not really a, a ... it was more of a friendship to them. Uh he might, would have liked more out of it, but I mean because of the type of fellow he was and that uh she never felt too uh close to him. In a friendship way she did. And she's kind of a user uh and, and uh so she liked the money that he had and, and it provided her with a place to stay and uh you know so it was handy for her. And he liked it because he liked to have a girl around I guess and, and she provided some services for him that uh he never had.

CHERNOFF: I see. Do you think they were ever in uh a normal relationship uh ...

CALDWELL: No. No, I don't believe they were ever at all.

CHERNOFF: And what type of a girl is Lynn?

CALDWELL: Um she's a devious uh um, uh let's see a user, um you know into alcohol, drugs, uh she uh doesn't work. She uses meth.

CHERNOFF: And you believed ... Uh now is, is this ... are you telling me this from experience knowing her as, as ...

CALDWELL: Yeah.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

11

CHERNOFF: ... as a person?

CALDWELL: Yes. Yeah, I uh ... cause you know all the time I've known that's all I've ever known her as and uh she's not a, not a nice person actually to be around.

CHERNOFF: Uh huh. Um has she ever been in trouble with the police?

CALDWELL: Not uh ... um only in, in a like a couple of assaults, um uh domestic disputes, uh they uh, they ... when they hear her name I think they cringe uh just uh because she's such a, she's haywire and hard to handle.

CHERNOFF: And how old is Lynn?

CALDWELL: I, I believe Lynn is approximately [REDACTED] years old. She looks, she looks older.

CHERNOFF: And can you just describe her physically for me?

CALDWELL: Approximately um 5'7", 5'8", um a big boned girl, uh kind of rough looking, brownish hair, uh unkempt, uh she's uh not that lady like.

CHERNOFF: Does she drive a vehicle?

CALDWELL: She ... I don't think she ever owned one. She had a driver's licence and uh she had a [REDACTED] ID [REDACTED] uh, uh until ... well she should be gettin' it back shortly.

CHERNOFF: So ...

CALDWELL: But she owes money on it so somebody will have to pay that money.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

12

CHERNOFF: Do you when that last uh [REDACTED] was ...

CALDWELL: Uh ...

CHERNOFF: ... when she was arrested?

CALDWELL: Um yeah it was uh uh, it was um, I, I believe it was in March sometime. It was before I moved in. Um she couldn't drive when I moved in and that was in April. It was about ... yeah cause she was talking about uh just before that an Willy wouldn't let her drive the vehicle anymore because of the fact that she had no driver's licence.

CHERNOFF: I see. And what type of a person is Willy, from what you've known of him uh in your (inaudible) meetings with him.

CALDWELL: Yeah. Well he's a loner and uh he keeps to himself. Very, very few friends, uh not real personable, uh you know like hard to talk to because he has a, uh he doesn't have much of a conversation to him, you know he's very um let's see ... uh he ... well I don't think he's been ... he's not very worldly. He has more or less been on the farm, he lives like a farmer, you know and he uh doesn't get out much.

CHERNOFF: Now what does he look like?

CALDWELL: He is about uh 6 feet tall, uh I'd say he weighs maybe uh 190 pounds. Uh he uh, he's got a you know like a build, slight build, he's not very big. He has a, a balding head, long stringy hair, thin face, uh thin nose, rough, rough looking.

244

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

13

CHERNOFF: And what colour is his hair?

CALDWELL: A blondish, you know a dirty blonde type of hair. And yeah not much of it.

CHERNOFF: So after that first meeting uh and then you went back to the property several times, um did you have any other meetings with them where they ever came over to see you or you went to see them prior to living on that property?

CALDWELL: Okay, I uh never came to my place, but I worked in The Dell, um ...

CHERNOFF: The Dell. What's The Dell?

CALDWELL: The Dell Hotel. Oasis, Oasis Hotel uh ...

CHERNOFF: In Surrey here?

CALDWELL: Uh Surrey, yes. And I uh bounce there and I was working there one night when they uh, they came in uh near, close, close to closing and uh they were uh, they were just discussing their evening and that uh they were in Vancouver, they had a uh encounter with the police. Uh they said that they, they were pulled over, uh uh they were uh ... that they, they were let go and that they ... and, and uh ... but that they were, they were uh ... uh he uh, they were just sort of uh in the neighbourhood and that driving around. I uh ... that was sort of the end of their night. After that uh they came back in, in the, to the hot- ... why they came to the hotel I'm not sure. I, I think Lynn wanted to see me to uh, cause she wanted to pick up some drugs cause uh and (inaudible) to me and uh so Willy dropped her off there and uh, and she waited until I ... it was near closing time, she waited 'til I got off work and I drove her home and uh in the process uh I uh, we, we found somebody that

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

14

had some drugs and, and uh we got them and took them back to her place and uh she did some. I uh, I stayed around for a while. Willy was uh, was there. He uh ... I don't believe he got up, but um I left in the morning, went back home, uh it was kind of late, didn't get home 'til late. Uh a little bit of a problem at home when I got back cause of the, this late hour.

CHERNOFF: Problem with who?

CALDWELL: With the girl I was living with, that she wondered you know why I was so late. I, I explained to her where I was and told her that uh, you know that uh you know I wasn't with her alone, I was, I was uh with uh, with her at uh her boyfriend's house I said and uh ... which we were ... and uh, and uh it was kind of hard. It, that, that didn't go over too good.

CHERNOFF: I see. Um do you remember uh what time of year that was, that day he came to The Dell, the evening that you were working?

CALDWELL: It was, that was in March.

CHERNOFF: It was in March.

CALDWELL: Yeah, before, before I lived in uh, with him.

CHERNOFF: Okay. How much before do you think?

CALDWELL: Um it was uh, it was about a month before I actually moved in.

CHERNOFF: Okay. And what, what type of a vehicle were you driving at that time?

246

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

15

CALDWELL: Oh I had a, a new uh GMC 4 x 4.

CHERNOFF: A new one.

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: What year was it?

CALDWELL: A '98 ... a '99.

CHERNOFF: Now when they came back to The Dell um and they described having been pulled over by the police did they say where they'd either (inaudible) say what they were doing or the area of town that they were in when they got stopped?

CALDWELL: Um they were in the east end of Vancouver. Um they didn't uh ... I uh ... they said there was a lot of police in the area and that and uh um I think uh they uh ... What they had done was I guess they were driving around the same area, the same spot and, and uh when the police noticed them going by more than once or twice that's when they got pulled over and they were asked what they were up to and uh I guess uh with the girl in the car with them uh they ... I think they, it was probably thought that uh Lynn was a, a working girl.

CHERNOFF: A prostitute?

CALDWELL: Yes. And uh so they just, you know they checked them and she said that she was with Willy and uh, and they uh, they let them go at that time, but uh they uh ... that's ...

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

16

CHERNOFF: Do you know what they were doing in that specific area where they said there was lots of police and uh ... do you know what they were there for?

CALDWELL: No, not specifically, no. No, I ... aft...was I mean I, I can surmise what they were up to, but they never told me at the time and uh you know they never got specific.

CHERNOFF: Okay. And how were you able to surmise that?

CALDWELL: Well now I mean I can you know cause of what I've heard and seen you know I, I know what, why they were down there.

CHERNOFF: And what, what do you think that was for?

CALDWELL: Well they were down there uh to uh, to pick up prostitutes.

CHERNOFF: I see. Uh do you recall the time that they came back to The Dell? You said it was close to closing.

CALDWELL: Yeah it was around say 1:00 o'clock.

CHERNOFF: And how long did Willy stay there?

CALDWELL: He doesn't drink. He uh ... she had a drink, um he stayed for maybe twenty minutes and uh, and then uh when he realized that I would be able to drive her home uh he said goodbye and uh, and, and, and left, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Now did you uh see what type of a vehicle uh that they were driving at that time and whether or not Lynn was driving or was Willy driving, or do you

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

17

know?

CALDWELL: I uh ... Well i- i- if, if uh ... Willy would be driving his vehicle if, you know if the two of them were in the vehicle, but um I don't believe, I don't believe Lynn had her licence at that time either, uh but I'm not sure of that cause I know she lost it about a month before I moved in so it was very close to that time. I uh ... and it was uh ... he had a Chevy uh S-10, black, red, red inside and blacked out back windows, uh extra cab. And uh let's see uh he uh, he uh, he, he usually, you know he would drive the vehicle. He never let her drive after she lost her licence.

CHERNOFF: Did you see Willy uh throughout the course of, of any involvement or living on the property or your relationship with him at all, did you see him drive other vehicles other than this ...

CALDWELL: No, none at all. He never had another vehicle. Oh he had, yeah well he had a, some big trucks you know and that, but uh ... uh and he had a one ton truck, a work, work truck, right, and that, but uh he wouldn't want to be driving around Vancouver. The lights didn't work on it properly, you know he'd get pulled over. The S-10 was uh ... everything worked on it and uh it was you know, it was a, a good road worthy vehicle.

CHERNOFF: So uh that was the vehicle that he drove when he went about town doing whatever?

CALDWELL: Yes. Yeah, yeah he ... you know the only other vehicles were his work vehicles and that you know and he'd only use them during the day time and uh just around PoCo. He didn't drive them to Vancouver.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

18

CHERNOFF: So that evening, or that morning rather you took Lynn back to the trailer on uh Willy's, on Willy's property.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: And was he up at the time or was he in bed?

CALDWELL: He was in bed when we got there.

CHERNOFF: Did he get up?

CALDWELL: He acknowledged that we were there, or um ... and then uh, and then he went back to bed.

CHERNOFF: And you stayed for how long?

CALDWELL: Um we didn't get back there 'til ... I got off work at around 3:30, uh probably didn't get there 'til 5:00, left around 7:00.

CHERNOFF: Uh what did you and Lynn do at Willy's? Just general conversation or ...?

CALDWELL: Oh yeah we just sat around and talked and you know ... I, I get along with her and that you know on a one to one basis and uh, and she uh, and she didn't really want me to leave, but it was you know, it was time and uh, and I, I left.

CHERNOFF: Why do you think she didn't want you to leave?

CALDWELL: Oh uh she like my, my uh ... she liked me around you know and uh you know Willy is-, Willy isn't much of a conversationalist or anything and kind of

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

19

boring and like Lynn likes to, likes you know like uh action, talking.

CHERNOFF: I see. Now can you describe the time around ... uh or the area around uh the time that you ended up moving in uh with Willy on his property? Maybe just some of the circumstances that occurred just prior to that and, and perhaps just fill us in as to what transpired and how you came to live with, with Willy then.

CALDWELL: Okay, well ... uh okay what happened was uh when Lynn had been phoning my home I was at, I was working. Uh she uh, she's always trying to, trying to make a problem uh, uh with my girl uh because my girl had uh, had, had, had previously, years before, uh had tried to cause a problem over at her place and uh so I don't think Lynn forgot that. And uh so she was trying to break us up type of thing and, and uh, and create friction. So uh even though my girl knew that um and, and, and I told her about it uh Lynn could get through by uh, by, by saying things. And uh she had called her up earlier and said uh ... I had borrowed Willy's vehicle and um I had uh, I had lost my truck uh and uh I didn't have a vehicle for work. Willy let me use his and uh so I borrowed it to go to work and uh Lynn was phoning, took it upon herself to uh, to check up on it and uh she told uh my girl that I, I didn't show up at work and uh, and uh my girl called and found out I was at work so that didn't work and then she uh also called up and, and then ... she had called all night long, anyway, and said uh, uh asked her to come party with her and this and that. And uh I got home from work about 3:30 and my girl was up and I talked to her about it and uh then uh ... and Lynn uh was still phoning, at this point she was drunk uh and she wanted the truck back and I told her, I said she could have the truck because Willy had let me use the truck and I was gonna bring the truck back in the morning like I said and I wasn't gonna give it to her when she was drinking, so I uh, I just said no, but she kept phoning.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**20**

Anyway uh she eventually, she came over to the house with Ron and uh they had a couple of drinks and uh I, I wanted to go bed so I uh ... it was getting late at this point ... I uh ... uh they left and then uh she phoned again in the morning and uh we were talking and my, uh my girl was listening uh on the other extension phone and Lynn was saying uh to uh, to me that uh, that uh Ron uh and uh Lisa, that's my girl, uh were talking about they thought that we were having an affair and I said uh, I says you know Lynn, I says hey if they're gonna be talking like that maybe we should have one and I was kidding, I was kind of laughing and I knew my girl was listening on the other phone, on the extension cause the red light was on. Anyway she didn't take it as a joke and she came ... she ran downstairs and anyway she, she started throwing things around and uh the police uh, the police showed. So anyway what happened was she uh, she went ... anyhow I'll make it a little shorter here ... Uh she showed up there ... this has happened before. She's got, my girl's got problems and, and uh, uh they've been there before and, and uh they've asked to take her away and that because of the, uh she's uh, uh depressed and, and uh she's got some medical problems. And anyway uh I've always told them that it's okay, that she'll calm and I'll take care of her. But anyway this time uh she, after she talked with the police, the police lady and everything, she went up to the washroom put a mark on herself, on her chest, and then asked the girl to come in and look at it and they handcuffed me and they took me to jail and charged me with assault. So I, I needed a place to stay to get out, uh an address, uh and I called Ron, I called Willy and uh Willy uh said sure, no problem and Ron came down and picked me up and I moved over to Willy's place.

CHERNOFF:

I see. Um now when you say you needed an address what did you need the address for?

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

21

CALDWELL: Well for the ... to get out of jail.

CHERNOFF: I see. So that was part of the conditions of your release is that you had to provide an address?

CALDWELL: Yeah, yes.

CHERNOFF: Did Willy provide you with an actual ...

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: ... physical address?

CALDWELL: That's right, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Do you remember what that address was?

CALDWELL: It was three numbers, um yeah, and I don't know the exact numbers, yeah.

CHERNOFF: And that was his residence on ...

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: ... on Dominion there that you described?

CALDWELL: Yeah, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Do you remember what time of year that was?

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

22

CALDWELL: That was in April.

CHERNOFF: That was in April. So that's about a month after uh they had visited you at The Dell?

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: And you said that Willy had provided you with his vehicle, he let you use it to get to work.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: What vehicle was that?

CALDWELL: That was the S-10, the black and red S-10. And uh he would let me use and then uh, and then after I moved in with him he uh, excuse me, he let me use it to go to work in.

CHERNOFF: I see.

CALDWELL: Yeah

CHERNOFF: So you moved in sometime around when in April?

CALDWELL: Near the end, near the end of April I believe.

CHERNOFF: And how long did you stay there?

CALDWELL: For a couple of weeks.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**23**

CHERNOFF: And where did you reside?

CALDWELL: In the trailer, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Okay, let's just uh talk about the trailer uh a little bit. Can you just uh briefly describe uh the interior of that trailer, how it's set up and uh what the living arrangements were just prior to you moving?

CALDWELL: Right. Um walk in uh, walk in, the, the, the first door. There's two doors on the patio. Okay, the first door you walk in, uh on your left there's a washroom, um immediate to the left of that is the bedroom, that's where Willy slept. Two beds were in there. Uh there's a, um you first, when you walk in beside the bathroom there's the office, there's two uh desk in the office, walk down a little corridor uh and then uh there's a kitchen and washer and dryer. And then just past that is the end bedroom.

CHERNOFF: I see. Was there a living room or did the office occupy that living room?

CALDWELL: Yes, that would probably be where the living room would be, yeah, but it was turned into an office.

CHERNOFF: Okay, just uh for my own uh information here, was it like a single wide trailer.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: Is that what it's considered?

CALDWELL: Yeah, yeah 14 feet wide, yeah. I mean that's not a, not a bad size trailer, but

255

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

24

it wasn't set up very well.

CHERNOFF: Uh huh. And what was the condition of that trailer?

CALDWELL: It was uh dirty and dusty and not kept up well and uh yeah.

CHERNOFF: And how about his vehicle when you borrow and when you saw the vehicle on the property what type of condition was that kept in?

CALDWELL: He, he was a kind of sloppy, dirty type of person and that's just exactly how he lived. And uh, you know and his vehicles were dirty and dusty and, and there's garbage all over and there's garbage all around the place and that's the type of lifestyle that he led.

CHERNOFF: I see.

CALDWELL: He didn't keep himself up and he didn't keep anything else up.

CHERNOFF: So when you first moved in to the trailer uh what did you see?

CALDWELL: Uh there was a couch and a, and, and in uh the bedroom, the far bedroom there was a couch, I slept on the couch, and uh um after awhile we uh, we, we, we fixed that uh room up, we cleaned it all up and uh, and then eventually we uh took the bed out of Willy's room, one of the extra beds, and moved that into uh the end bedroom.

CHERNOFF: So prior to your residing there on the trailer um where did Lynn sleep?

CALDWELL: Lynn slept with, in Willy's room, in the, in, in the spare room, in the spare

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

25

bed uh in Willy's room. That's where she used to sleep.

CHERNOFF: So they occupied two different beds?

CALDWELL: Yes.

CHERNOFF: They didn't sleep together?

CALDWELL: No, and she always made it clear that, you know that they didn't have any type of a relationship that way.

CHERNOFF: I see. So when you moved into the trailer and you slept at the opposite end of the trailer on the couch ...

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: Uh did Lynn still maintain her sleeping arrangement in Willy's bedroom or did she move?

CALDWELL: No. Uh then after I moved in Lynn liked the company and she would stay up with me and then uh we moved a, we had a T.V. in there and, and we used to watch uh, watch T.V. and fall asleep on the couch.

CHERNOFF: So how long after you had actually been in the trailer did you move, physically move the bed from Willy's bedroom and bring it into the other bedroom where you stayed?

CALDWELL: About three or four days afterwards, yeah. Like (inaudible) cause it took us that long to clean that area up, it was really dirty eh. And so we, we cleaned

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

26

it all up and straightened everything up and then uh there was room to put the other bed, the other bed in there.

CHERNOFF: When you say dirty what, what do you mean by that? What was in there?

CALDWELL: Well it was, well just everything. There was ... you know there was everything from tools to an old bear skin rug, you know like yeah there, there was a, you know a saddle and, and, and different ... he had all sort of stuff eh. It was like a storage type room, right, and uh so we had to pick everything up and then, and scrub the floor.

CHERNOFF: Now when you physically moved the, the bed from Willy's bedroom uh did you make any observations of, of anything that ...

CALDWELL: Well, okay well as we were moving it, it's a fold up type of bed, and, and uh underneath the mattress uh there was uh handcuffs that fell out, uh and uh they fell onto the ground. I knew they ... actually I knew they were there before that because Lynn had told me that uh, you know that he kept uh handcuffs underneath the bed and, and uh she uh, she used to mention to me she was quite concerned about her own safety there because of the fact that he was kind of strange and uh uh, and there is other reasons.

CHERNOFF: Okay. When uh did she start to confide in you? How long had you been there when she started to tell you uh of one particular situation or uh event that occurred on that property? How long were you there before she was speaking freely with you about that?

CALDWELL: Um it didn't take ... it wasn't ... it didn't take long before she started talking to me uh, but uh it was probably maybe uh ... uh I'm not sure, uh ...

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

27

CHERNOFF: Within, within a days though?

CALDWELL: Yeah a few days and then she was talking to me about situations and, and things and you know just you know uh she was kind of glad that I was there and that uh before she used to drink and stay up late and stuff like that and she didn't really like the arrangement there. She would you know ... so.

CHERNOFF: Okay. And where were you when she started to talk about uh one particular incident?

CALDWELL: Um we were driving uh one day, uh when we were driving she was mentioning about uh a time that went by where she was with Willy and uh, and she uh, she uh had uh ... and, and she was telling me the concern that she had you know.

CHERNOFF: Okay, could you try and be as, as uh explicit and uh elaborate on that and tell me everything that you can recall, um even if it to you is not of any major significance?

CALDWELL: Okay now you're ... now about what she was talking ...

CHERNOFF: Yes.

CALDWELL: ... to me about.

CHERNOFF: I'd like you to tell me ...

CALDWELL: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

28

CHERNOFF: ... exactly what she spoke about?

CALDWELL: She, she uh ... Okay she, she told me that uh Willy uh, Willy liked her around, okay, and uh because of the fact is uh Willy was having problems ... Willy was picking up girls in Vancouver and ...

CHERNOFF: What type of girls?

CALDWELL: Prostitutes in Vancouver. Now um at this, at this particular time he was having troubles getting the prostitutes to come with him because of the fact that they were kind of getting hip to going without uh, uh with people uh they know or, or uh, or, or whatever, or with him because of the type of person that he is and, and I guess he had been turned down quite a few times. Now he asked Lynn to uh come along with him and uh to try to uh, to tell ... to make it easier uh to entice the prostitutes in the, the vehicle, to get them in the vehicle and to come along without a problem.

CHERNOFF: Do you ... Did she ever tell you how long he had been sort of using this method of attempting to pick up uh prostitutes?

CALDWELL: No, she didn't elaborate on that at all, uh but she uh ... uh but only to the fact is that uh he was having problems at this point and, and uh, and now that she was there uh she was able to uh, to do that service for him.

CHERNOFF: And what, what was in it for her?

CALDWELL: He used to take care of her and, and uh buy her things, uh give her money drugs, booze and uh, um a place to stay of course. I uh ... and uh she uh ... I, I don't think she knew the, the complete gra- gravity of the situation, but

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

29

I mean uh she uh, she went along with it and uh, and she enticed uh girls into the vehicle by saying that she was a prostitute and uh, and then they had uh booze, uh crack, uh anything that the girl would maybe like to ... and uh to bring them back to the, the farm, Willy's place, and uh, and that. And she told me in particular about a time where this, where she did that you know and, and that uh they brought a girl back by getting her high and telling her that uh he wanted a, a dual, uh she was a prostitute and, and uh she uh, uh they needed another to complete the, the ring.

CHERNOFF: Now this ... what's she's telling you right now this is while you're driving around, is that true?

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: Okay. What vehicle were you driving around in? Do you recall?

CALDWELL: Uh we had a ve- ... we had his truck, uh his one ton truck uh that day uh and we were driving uh to pick up her uh cheque in uh Surrey and uh she was ... we were together for the, for the day and we had time on our hands, the radio didn't work so we were talking quite a bit.

CHERNOFF: Okay, now in your mind did it sound to you like this was a one shot deal or that uh they had been going together to pick up girls on numerous occasions?

CALDWELL: Although she only told me about the one time she ... it, it did sound to me, appear to me that, that this happened more than once, but um she only recalled the one time to me. Uh you know she made it sound like it was something that happened more than once.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**30**

CHERNOFF: Okay. The tape here is about to run out.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: The time is 12:22 and I'm just gonna turn it off now and flip the tape over.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: Okay, the time now is 12:23 and I've just flipped the tape over and, uh, Ross maybe you could just, uh, continue, uh, and provide some of the details of the conversation that, uh, she was relating to you. Alright?

CALDWELL: Okay, um...

CHERNOFF: I think we're at the point where, um, they went, they were together and she was posing as a prostitute herself.

CALDWELL: Right. Okay, so now they got the girl back to the vehicle, uh, they, uh, they let on that they, um, they were going to go back to his place. Um, the girl didn't really want to go along, um, until, until Lynn, he let on that she was a prostitute also going in and, uh, you know with this dual type thing. Okay? And, um, it was no problem. She said that you know she, she, uh, she made the girl feel, uh, you know, like, uh, I guess it was alright because the two of them were there. And, uh, then, uh, then Lynn said that she gave her a hoot of some, some rock.

CHERNOFF: Some rock cocaine?

CALDWELL: Cocaine. And the girl got whacked out pretty good at that point, she said,

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

31

and, uh, and they were, they drove back to the farm. Um, they, uh, when they got back to the farm they did some more and, uh, she said that, uh, uh, that Willie, uh, took the girl into the back into Willie's room and that Lynn stayed into the, in, in the, in the office area which is beside Willie's room and, uh, and did, uh, I guess she was partying by herself. But the girl was in the back room with Willie and, uh, Lynn said that she heard, uh, some I don't know if it was screaming she said or or complaining and that it was hurting or whatever and and then, uh, she was calling out for her and that 'hey girl,' you know 'come here I need you' or 'help me' or and, uh, Lynn just said, uh, you know, 'just just be quiet' and, uh, I don't believe that Lynn went in the room and, uh, at that time at all. Um, this wa-, um, she said that, uh, after that it was kind of unclear what happened for how long but, uh, the girl, uh, was led out of the room. Then Lynn said that, uh, she was handcuffed. I don't know if she was gagged or anything like that, um, it wouldn't matter out there; no one can hear ya.

CHERNOFF: What do you mean by that: no one can hear you?

CALDWELL: You're too far away from the road or anywhere. Out there you, you could scream as loud as you want and no one, no one can hear anything out there. Um...

CHERNOFF: And you say that because you actually lived there.

CALDWELL: I lived there, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Yeah.

CALDWELL: You know, and you know, you know it was, yeah, it, you're a long ways

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

32

from anything. And the only, and the places that were around there was, the on-, the closest place was his brother's house and, uh, and you couldn't hear anything from there, so.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: And, uh, but, uh, uh, but anyway it, she was brought outside, Lynn said, and then led into the barn where, well, that's where, because Lynn went out afterwards and said that she seen the girl hanging in the barn and she, at this point, this is where she said she was, it was really kind of got to her because she was, she said she got sick eh? And, uh, apparently what was happening was he was cutting strips of, uh, skin from her legs and Lynn said that, uh, she says 'I never knew that, uh, uh, the fat in the legs were yellow', uh, and, uh, and she, uh, threw up at that point and left, uh, and left the barn and, uh, she, uh, she said that, uh, she, uh, uh, I don't believe she went back in, um, um, the conversation with me was kind of broken up then. I didn't really like even hear any, any of this. I, uh...

CHERNOFF: Sorry? You never what?

CALDWELL: I never really liked even hearing the conversation, you know because the fact is that it was kind of gruesome and, uh, and, and wrong right? And I just but, uh, she said that she left and didn't come back for four or five days.

CHERNOFF: Okay, um, so ma-, if we could just perhaps go over this again. Um, the girl's brought back into the trailer. There's some rock cocaine that's smoked, is that, is that correct?

CALDWELL: Right.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

33

CHERNOFF: And then Willie goes into the bedroom with the girl and Lynn stays out in the, in the office area.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: And then there's, um, you know you said either screams or some type of..

CALDWELL: Yeah. Yeah, there was, yeah, the girl was complaining.

CHERNOFF: Okay, did, did Lynn at any time tell you what she was complaining about or what...?

CALDWELL: I think she said that it was hurting, it was hurting her and that, and she called for help. Lynn said, told her to be quiet.

CHERNOFF: Why would she tell her to be quiet?

CALDWELL: Because there was not mu-, there was nothing for her to, that she could do, or, you know, yeah, she didn't want any, she didn't, you know, Lynn's kind of a rough tough you know, (Inaudible) you know, and, uh, to her it would be just a, you know, something she didn't even care.

CHERNOFF: Did Lynn ever describe to you what was going on inside of the bedroom?

CALDWELL: I, uh, no, I, I, I don't want, I, I can't say, I can't remem-, recall completely so I don't want to (inaudible).

CHERNOFF: Okay, that's fine.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

34

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: Um, when the girl was taken out of the bedroom.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: Um, did Lynn assist in taking her out of the bedroom or, uh, do you know?

CALDWELL: No, no, um, she didn't assist and, uh, like I said she told me she was hand cuffed and so she did see her leave. And, that, and, uh, she went to, and they took her, he took her to the barn.

CHERNOFF: Did Lynn go out to the barn at that time?

CALDWELL: Uh, she waited and then, and then went out to the barn afterwards.

CHERNOFF: Okay.

CALDWELL: And at that time she wa-, she seen the girl hanging in the middle of the barn. There's a, there's a chain, block and chain tackle in the, in the centre of the barn where the, where the pigs are, are, uh, are, uh, hung up and killed and, uh, right below it, right below that is a, a drain where the blood flows down into a big hole in like a big pool down below. It smells quite badly in there. Um, and, uh, and that's where the girl was hanging from.

CHERNOFF: I see, and, uh, was she, did Lynn ever say if she was nude at the time or if she was alive or dead at that time?

CALDWELL: No, she never, uh, she never told me she was nude and that, uh, her, her, her

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**35**

whole thing was the fact is that she had never seen someone cut open and, uh, and that made her, uh, sick.

CHERNOFF: Did she describe the manner in which this, this woman was hanging?

CALDWELL: Um, no she never told me how, how, no she never told me how she was hanging in, in the, um, no, no she never did explain that to me. She would, that was the big thing with her and that it was the fact is that, uh, that she was, that that she was there and, and, uh, and being cut open.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm. Um, did she ever say to you or describe how the, the girl could've ended up, in other words could one person have done that by himself?

CALDWELL: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I don't see a problem with that, you know.

CHERNOFF: Okay. And you, you, you say that because you have been in a farm.

CALDWELL: Yeah. Yes, you know. I mean this is a guy that, that, uh, that handles, uh, uh, pigs, uh, some quite large pigs all the time. And that, you know, and, uh, and other animals. He doesn't just kill pigs. He, he's killed, um, you know, I've seen ostriches. He's got, you know, (inaudible)...different animals. And, uh, so he, he knows how to like handle, handle and animal or a person.

CHERNOFF: Did Lynn, um, describe to you, uh, what she did after she left the barn, immediately after she left the barn?

CALDWELL: Um, well after she left she threw up and then, and then, and then she said she, uh, packed up and left. Never called him, never came back for four or five

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

36

days.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Did she ever say to you why she didn't phone the police?

CALDWELL: Um, no, she never, ever, uh, never talked about calling the police about this or nothing. No, that was, that was never mentioned. You know? I mean a-, after, I mean she, she at, she thought, uh, she told me afterwards and that, that, uh, that was sort of, uh, the reason why he kept her around. And, uh, and I can only think that that, uh, she was ready to do that again for him, and that. Because that's why she was there and that's why he kept her there and that, and that's why she, and she told me that you know, like, uh, he liked her around because, uh, she could get girls for him. You know, that's, were her words.

CHERNOFF: I just have to try and fathom why someone after viewing an incident like that, they would leave the residence and why they would, why they would come back. Did she ever say to you why she came back?

CALDWELL: For the money and that, which, you know, I mean that's the place where she could go and get money and that, and he, she knew that he would give her money because of the fact of what, uh, she was capable of doing for him. She used to tell me, she used to tell me that, uh, he was getting edgy and, uh, and she could tell because he hadn't killed anyone lately. You know. And then, uh, you know and just killing the pigs wasn't enough.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: And that, um, these are her words right? Um, um, she, she, she made quite light of it, you know? And, uh, I, uh, you know, I listened but I mean, uh, it,

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

37

uh, made me sick listening to it.

CHERNOFF: Did she ever give you any indication as to when this incident had occurred?

CALDWELL: Well, I tried to figure that out myself because, and it, although I didn't ask questions and that, but I don't know. But it, I mean it wasn't that long ago and that, it was something that was very recent and that, and so I was there after April, um, so I mean it, it had to be, uh, um, it, it couldn't have been that long ago.

CHERNOFF: Okay, um, do you think it was in 1999?

CALDWELL: Yes, yes.

CHERNOFF: But you have no idea as to what possible time frame we're, we're looking at?

CALDWELL: No, and I didn't, and I didn't push it or, or try to find out although I could have but I didn't.

CHERNOFF: Did it seem to you, though, that it was, uh, uh, closer to that time that you were living there or this had happened months prior?

CALDWELL: Uh, yeah, well it was, it wasn't something that happened a long time ago. It was, it was in her, in her, in her mind and on the, and, uh, but, and, and when she'd talk to me she told me that, uh, um, that he, uh, he was getting edgy like I said and, and, uh, he needed to kill something again. You know, like, you know like it was something, sort of something that, uh, that if he didn't do it he was, it would throw, throw him off personally and, uh, unbalanced.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

38

CHERNOFF: When she came back, uh, do you think she felt threatened at all by him having seen what she had seen? Did, did she feel that perhaps this could happen to her or how was, how was she able to trust that her safety, um, was not a concern?

CALDWELL: This is, yeah, this is a reason why she liked it when I was there because she would stay close to me and that because she felt she could sleep, she could sleep easy and, uh, and she did. And, uh, when I was there and, and she didn't feel as threatened. She, she didn't feel comfortable around him because, uh, obviously she had seen too much and, uh, although she always thought that, uh, she was alright because, um, she was, she made it able for him to do this and, uh, and, uh, but she told me that, uh, if anything happened to her that, uh, you know that, you know that people knew that she was out there and, and they would, you know, she didn't think that he would do anything to her because of that fact. Because people knew that she was staying there.

CHERNOFF: And how did he treat her, uh, during or after, or did she describe to you, um, whether or not this particular incident made him any different towards her?

CALDWELL: Um, well I'm sure, I'm sure that she, he liked that. The fact that, uh, she would be able to bring the girls to him and that. Because apparently, um, he was having a problem and that, and, uh, she made it quite easy for him to, uh, to get the girls to his place, you know. So I mean he was having some type of difficulty beforehand and, uh, and that was, uh, gone with Lynn being there.

CHERNOFF: I see. Um, was there anything else that she told you that you think is important? Uh, just specifically about that incident.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

39

CALDWELL: I, I pretty much covered it. I, I, uh, I can't, I can't, you know, I can't think of anything, you know, like extra. I mean...

CHERNOFF: Well, the time that you were there, say over the course of the next ten days or however long it was that you were there did this topic again come up or was this the only time that you ever discussed this?

CALDWELL: She well, like I, like she discussed, um, you know, her, him needing her and stuff like that other times and that, you know, like, uh, oh 'he can't get rid of me and I run the place and I tell everybody what to do' because, you know, Willie, um, you know, I, I, you know, Willie confides in me and he, you know and apparently he did confide in her on a lot of things. And, uh, and so she kind of thought she was running the roost there and she liked that power. And, uh, so, uh, over people and stuff in that, and, uh, so she, uh, but the fact, but that particular incident didn't come up, but, uh, you know, like she never kept bringing that up.

CHERNOFF: I see.

CALDWELL: She brought up, uh, feeling uncomfortable and stuff like that of you know, quite a few times.

CHERNOFF: Did she bring up any other strange things or other incidents or anything that she saw on the property that made her kind of, uh, suspicious about his activities, anything like that?

CALDWELL: Um, no the only, the only thing that she'd bring up was you know, he would come in and, uh, and be grumpy or something and she would just say, hey you know, he hasn't killed anything lately and, uh, you know and, and it was,

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

40

you know, she made it quite, you know, like light, you know, like and, uh, I, uh, you know, uh, yeah, I, I, I don't know the fellow so I never knew what he was like at all, right? I mean, you know, to her you know like she, she, she knew what he was, you know, all about and and, uh, and it was kind of strange listening to her talk like that.

CHERNOFF: Um, were there any other observations or did she see any other items of interest or, or anything that she, she thought (inaudible) was strange. I know, uh, previously we talked and you had mentioned something about some identification.

CALDWELL: Okay, right. Okay, um...

CHERNOFF: How did that come up and maybe you could just elaborate on that.

CALDWELL: Um, her i.d. and that, um, and this was strange for her for, because you know he said that he could get her i.d. and, um, and then also a credit card and that came up. A (inaudible) about a credit card that he had, um, I can only assume was from somebody that he had, he had got, uh, you know and taken [sic] i.d. and, and credit card. Um, and als-, and told her that he could get her one and she could run it. Um, and it never came up while I was there. (Inaudible) but she brought that subject up that, uh, that he, he would do that for her, and that. And also with the jewellery uh, he, uh, apparently he, he could get, he got jewellery and that, and from his victims, um, now, uh, um, this is why I sou-, I, I feel like there's more than one because the fact is is that, uh, she said that, uh, uh, he had gotten jewellery from these different, from different victims and that, you know, different people that you know that he had I guess, killed. Um, uh, now the jewellery was stolen from him, um, by this girl and I don't know her name although the girl still kind of hung

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

41

around there.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: And that, but Willie didn't do much about it and, uh, he doesn't handle things like that very well. Uh, the girl was, was still around. I said 'hey listen, I want you to, you know, get a hold of her you know and get your jewellery back and stuff but I mean that was no one ever talked to me over it so I mean it wasn't up to me. Yeah, but, uh, yeah, Lynn, uh, always used to say that you know like he al-, he was gonna get her stuff you know and, and I guess he must've been promising her stuff.

CHERNOFF: Right. What did you see, uh, during your stay there that, uh, you know caused you any type of concern or, or thought was strange in any manner?

CALDWELL: Well, I on-, okay, uh, well what came up one time was I, uh, I came in and, and, uh, and I, and I guess I'm try-, like I said to you before I, uh, I'm not trying to let it go to my head or anything like that but it just, I've never, I, you know like I, I cook in Nelson and, and I know my food and stuff and, uh, he had made up a hashbrown type thing and, and, uh, he had taken meat out, um, and he had fried it up, put it in some with some potatoes and stuff and, uh, he was, he had a big plate of it. Now I walked in and, and I, I said 'gee what are you cooking up there?' and, and he said 'oh, do you want some?' And I said 'oh, sure okay' and anyway he put some on a plate for me. I started eating it. The meat was not, it wasn't pig, you know, it wasn't beef. I, I, I don't know, I, I, uh, I kind of gagged on it a little bit and that. It, it, uh, had a strange texture to it. I can't explain it and that, I, uh, I'm not trying to think it was a human flesh or anything but, um, it definitely wasn't normal and that. And, uh, I, I, I kind of I sho-, I slid it into the garbage. But, uh, like,

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

42

you know there was something wrong, there was something about it, it wasn't normal, you know, it was, it wasn't anything I'd ever seen before, so. You know I, I, uh, that was just, uh, something that you know, came up, you know. I, uh, I can't think of anything else. And I, well, I, I had a, Lynn had showed me one time, uh, she kind of went out of her way, uh, she went into the back room and, uh, in this back, in his room there's a, um, oh it's a sliding door you know where he keeps all of his clothing and a closet type thing. Um, she, uh, she reached up into the back and she came out and she had some night vision glasses, binoculars. And, uh, she was showing them to me, um, and uh, alright, I was looking at them and then Willie came in and, uh, he, uh, he seen them and I, and I, uh, I mentioned, you know, I says, oh, I said, you know, 'Lynn was showing me these' and he goes and he says yeah, he says 'take a look outside' you know and, uh, so I, uh, I stood out on the, the deck and I looked around. It was dark and, uh, I could see everything. They were pretty expensive ones and that, they were very good.

CHERNOFF: Did he say where he got them from?

CALDWELL: He never mentioned where he got them from, no and, uh, and then, uh, and then, uh, he, uh, well she brought out the rifle but it was a semi-automatic high power, um, I, I don't know what calibre it was, I, I never looked and that. Um, it had a fairly big clip on it.

CHERNOFF: Was Willie around when, uh, you saw that?

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: Yeah?

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

43

CALDWELL: Yeah. Yeah, yeah he was around.

CHERNOFF: What did he use that weapon for? Is it a hunting rifle or did he.

CALDWELL: I, you know, I never, no, no I know a hunting rifle and that but, uh, it was more of an assault type rifle.

CHERNOFF: I see and where was that?

CALDWELL: Uh, okay that was in his room also. Now, here's something too, and as I, I, uh, as I'll mention. Um, they had a, Lynn told me a couple times when, uh, she said that, uh there was a room, not a room, see like a false wall where, where he had, um, different weapons and things, uh, she never got particular in what it was. But she mentioned it like two or three times and I search, okay, that was maybe, oh she's setting me up for something you know like or she wants me to look or, or whatever right. But, uh, she she did say it on more than one occasion. And, and, and the fellow did have a lot of stuff. So you know I mean for it not to be real it's you know, I think that, I think I think that he, it was something that he has you know, I don't know if he did. And, uh, she said it was, um, they were, um, guns and, uh, and other stuff. He, and she didn't elaborate though but I mean, it, it, it was something else.

LEPINE: You mentioned, you talked about this dinner that, uh, that Willie had cooked up, uh, did you know, do you know where, you mentioned the meat, do you know where he had gotten that meat?

CALDWELL: No, I don't know where he came up with it and, um, um, and and, uh, because it was already cooked when I got into the house. And, and, uh, but like I say, I, I, uh, I had never seen anything, anything like that before.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**44**

LEPINE: You were mentioning, uh, when you spoke to me before about freezers and things like that.

CALDWELL: Hmm hmm.

LEPINE: What can you tell us about freezers?

CALDWELL: Well, you know, if, um, he had a, like a walk-in freezer in, in, in, uh, the barn, uh, also he had a large like you know, very large, um, deep freeze out there. Um, I opened it up once. It was full of all sorts of you know packages and, and, uh, like, um, they were wrapped, it was wrapped in black plastic, uh, um, let's see, uh, it was quite odd, quite oddly, uh, I don't know what was in any of these right? I mean I'm just, I'm just talking right? I, it just seemed strange and it didn't look like it was you know like meat from the market, you know?

CHERNOFF: How were these packages wrapped?

CALDWELL: Sloppily. You know? Like not, not well.

CHERNOFF: But you know normally when you see someone's freezer, uh, you know, packages of meat are rather small. Were these small packages or were they large?

CALDWELL: Okay. A lot of these packages were large, yeah. And, uh, different shapes, and that, but you know like I say it could be pig or whatever. But he never kept pig around much. He never really ate the stuff and that. He, uh, um...

CHERNOFF: Okay, just, um, earlier you described that, um, when I was talking to you

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

45

previously that, uh, Willie showed you something else that he had obtained from his office.

CALDWELL: Oh, uh...

CHERNOFF: Maybe you could just describe that and, and the circumstances that he showed you the, uh, the item.

CALDWELL: Yeah, you know, this was another kind of a strange thing that kind of, you know, all led up to, uh, you know thoughts of, of, uh, of him but, uh, and kind of the strange bird that he is. Um, and that, he, uh, he pulled out a wig that he had and it was a ladies wig and so and he, uh, we got to talking about it. He doesn't talk a lot and that. But this sort of interested him and that, and the fact that I was listening, you know, kind of he liked it. And, uh, so I sat and, uh, listened to him while he was talking to me about it and he told me that he, uh, quite often, uh, dressed up like a, a, like a girl and that and, uh, he said that he'd go downtown like this. And I never asked him why but, um, but he used to wear a wig, uh, he put the wig on for me and that and, uh, looked pretty strange and, uh, but he had a couple women's, I, I believe one was, I believe one was blonde. I, you know, I, the other one was maybe a darker color or something or whatever but you know, I, you know, he, uh, the, uh, it's kind of unusual for a person to have these things and he had dresses and, uh...

CHERNOFF: Did he put these dresses on for you?

CALDWELL: No.

CHERNOFF: No?

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

46

CALDWELL: He didn't do that. No, they were in his, they were in his closet.

CHERNOFF: Did Lynn ever comment or say that she had seen him in complete women's attire?

CALDWELL: No, no she never did. She never said that, and, uh, um, but, uh, he, he just, uh, thought it was a joke.

CHERNOFF: Did he show you the dresses.

CALDWELL: He never showed me dresses. He just said that he had some dresses and, uh, and said he dressed up like a woman and that and he was, he, he didn't elaborate any more than that right but I mean it was sort of like. You know and I was just you know I was going along with it you know just sort of going 'oh, yeah, is that right?' so, you know, it was just some more strange stuff that he was into, you know.

CHERNOFF: Now typically, uh, when you were on the property there, um, what sort of activities went on with Willie?

CALDWELL: Um, well you know like, although he never profited or anything by it he used to have these cock fights there. Um, they, uh, there wasn't many white people there. Uh, Puerto Ricans or something like that, you know. Um, they'd all come out and make a day out of it. They'd bring their beers and stuff like that and, uh, they, uh, they were fighting cock, cock fights and that, and they'd bet on all of them. He's got, it's right in his barn, in the back of his barn there's a little pit in the back where they, uh, they hold these little things and that, and I don't know, maybe twice a month or whatever and, uh, they do them more in the summer, you know, although it's done in the wintertime too.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

47

CHERNOFF: I see. Um, now you had gone into the barn I take it while you were staying on the property.

CALDWELL: Hmm hmm. Yes.

CHERNOFF: And, uh, did you ever observe Willie slaughtering or, or cutting up animals or pigs?

CALDWELL: Yeah, yeah. Uh...

CHERNOFF: Was that a regular, uh, event? While you were there did that happen frequently?

CALDWELL: Almost every, almost every night.

CHERNOFF: Almost every night?

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: What time would that happen?

CALDWELL: Well, he, he used to work hard and that during the day, um, but you know it was, it was after dinner that, that he would go out and, uh, start, uh, working on his pigs and stuff like that and, uh, he'd be out there 'til 12 or, you know and, uh, he'd come in tired, watch a little T.V. Sometimes he'd come and talk to us, and that. We'd be, uh, we'd be in the other room and then, uh, we never, uh, we never went out and participated in his, uh, little thing that he did out there. Yeah, that was his, uh, he wouldn't mind if we did go out but I mean, you know, there's not much for us to do and I wasn't in to killing

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

48

pigs.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: But, uh, it was, it was a frequent thing that he did.

CHERNOFF: And, uh, so this was usually somewhat late at night?

CALDWELL: Yes around 8 to 12:30. You know, coming in at 1, you know and, uh, and then he'd sleep 'til 7 o'clock and then he'd get up and go out again. And, uh, you know, like I say he, he put a lot of hours in.

CHERNOFF: Did you, uh, have a chance to operate that meat grinder that he'd described, uh, when Ron and you were mixing up meat? Was this an automated meat grinder or was this a manual type or do you have any recollection of that?

CALDWELL: Um, you know I was right here when it, when it was being ground and I can't remember exactly if it was, although I, I do recall that, uh, it, it wasn't much, it wasn't very clean or anything like that.

CHERNOFF: Was it noisy?

CALDWELL: No. There wasn't a lot of noise to it. I don't think it was automated and that, no, you know, I'm not sure but I don't think so. And, and, uh, but I was right there when, when they were doing it and, uh, so I'm not sure. I'm not really sure.

CHERNOFF: Okay, I'm just thinking that maybe we'll take a, a short break here. It's 12:57 and I'm gonna turn the tape off now. (TAPE OFF)

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

49

TAPE ON:

CHERNOFF: Okay the time is now 13:09 hours and we're just continuing the discussion. Um, maybe where we should go, uh, from here is, um, you described the, the interior of the barn and, uh, you've talked about this meat grinder, um, can you just tell me, uh, how big is this? You weren't sure if it was automated or not but is this a large meat grinder or is it something that's fairly compact?

CALDWELL: Um, heck we were putting in quite large pieces of, uh, meat into it and, uh, you know but I should know if it was automated or not because I was there watching it, uh, okay but anyway we, uh, we, we were mixing moose and pork together and, uh, it was, we were putting in quite big pieces, you know pieces in at a, at a time. So it was a fair size, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Now what happens to all the byproducts of, uh, of, uh, slaughtering an animal, uh, on, uh, Willie's farm there? What, what does he do with everything?

CALDWELL: Okay, it's, it's, um, well, um, it's always, okay, what I've seen him do is he threw it into a big bucket. Uh, he had a large bucket full of, uh, with different by-, you know, extra pieces, left over pieces, uh, you know, and bones and stuff like that. Um, now, uh, apparently, uh, apparently, now that is, uh, taken away and, uh, to a processing plant.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Um, how is how is the barn routinely cleaned or, or what process, uh, was used to, to, you, you talked about the drain and a big vat and...

CALDWELL: Right.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**50**

CHERNOFF: ...and everything else. Now, had, had you seen him clean up the area of the barn...

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: ...after slaughtering an animal.

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: So what's the process there?

CALDWELL: Yeah, well, uh, he would, like I said the, the, the centre of it goes down into a, a large hole.

CHERNOFF: Yeah.

CALDWELL: Uh, he, uh, he has a hose there, um, a pressure hose and, uh, he would just wash everything down and, uh, uh, it, it all, everything leads to the centre. It all goes down into a, into a big kind of, I don't know how big it is. It's, it's below the building. Uh, it has to be, uh, pumped out and, uh, um, because it over, uh, over flows and that, you know? I mean, he, he's constantly using that every night, every day. Uh...

CHERNOFF: So where's this stuff pumped to?

CALDWELL: Yeah, okay, it's pumped up into the back of the yard and that and then it goes down and it goes into the, he's got so much acreage back there it just sort of goes into the ground and that and, uh, and I think after a while he just sort of puts soil on top of it after a while and, and covers it up. (hiccups) Excuse me.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**51**

I, uh, you know, I, like I said it smells, stinks. It's quite, you know, it's pretty smelly.

CHERNOFF: Now, um, previous conversations that we've had, you've mentioned a conversation that you had, uh, in the presence of Ron and Willie, uh, when he made some comment to you, um, do you remember without me, uh, getting into specifics, do you remember the extent of that conversation and, and what was said?

CALDWELL: Oh, okay, now, Willie, Willie's mentioned a, a few times and, and he makes it out like a joke but, uh, you know, it's not like a joke but, you know like you know if there was anybody that, uh, we wanted taken care of or whatever, uh, made, uh, to disappear, uh, without a trace he figured because he's got a way of, uh, disposing of people and no one knows and no one can you know find out where they are anything like that because they're gone. And, uh, he says, just bring them by, he says, and no one will see them again. And, uh, and he, uh, he mentioned that to us and then I've heard it again, uh, after that from another person.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Um, now how long has it been since, uh, Lynn has not been living on that property?

CALDWELL: I, uh, okay, she, uh, probably a mo-, a goo-, a good month, no more than a month. About a month and a half.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: At least, yeah.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

52

CHERNOFF: And do you know what happened, uh that...

CALDWELL: At least two months.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Close to two months?

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: Do you know what circumstances led up to her not living there any longer?

CALDWELL: Yeah, he couldn't put up with her any longer. She's, uh, she was hard to put up with. Uh, she was driving him nuts. He couldn't sleep. She used to play music loud and everything. Uh, you know, he did put up with her and that, you know and he put up with stuff that I don't know how anyone could've and that I couldn't come around there anymore because of that. I, uh, I told him I said 'hey lookit, I can't come by anymore because as long as Lynn's here' and, uh, and he said 'I understand.' Um, but anyway, uh, she was, uh, and she's always able to extort him for money and, and stuff like that and like you know tell him she had to have money for this and that and whatever. So anyway he eventually that, uh, well Ron was working for him and that, and this sort of, he wanted this because he knew that Ron could control her okay? Ron's her boyfriend or her old boyfriend.

CHERNOFF: This is Ron (inaudible)?

CALDWELL: Yeah, her old boyfriend. And he, not many people can control her but but he could to an extent and he, uh, got him to, uh, tell her to pack up and leave and get out of there. So she did but the thing is, um, she started extorting him for money.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

53

CHERNOFF: Okay, and extorting him on the basis of what?

CALDWELL: She was gonna go to the police and, uh, and, uh, tell them what she knew, uh, that, you know that he was a killer and that. This, those are her words, a killer, she used. And that she, uh, she said on the phone that she told Ron on the phone, Ron told me and, uh, um, those are the type of words she would probably use to, I, uh, she, she's kept this up for quite some time.

CHERNOFF: Now when you were living on the property back then, um, did you see him give her quantities of cash?

CALDWELL: Yeah. Yeah.

CHERNOFF: And, uh...

CALDWELL: He would buy her stuff.

CHERNOFF: How much money do you think, uh, he was providing her during, during the time that she was living there or did she ever say to you that he's giving specific amounts?

CALDWELL: (inaudible) amount of money. (Inaudible)...dollars, yeah, yeah, you know, like gimme, it was a constant thing every day, every day, every day, every day. And, you know, the fellow does have some money.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: But the thing is that it was, it wasn't just the money that it was the problem. It was the fact is that her, and that she was the problem. Worse than the

285

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

54

money.

CHERNOFF: I see.

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: Now, um, since she's been on her own, then these extortions that, uh, you're talking about here, um, are, they occurred on a regular basis or..?

CALDWELL: Yes, oh yes.

CHERNOFF: Or, do you know that for, the information through, through Ron is that where this came from?

CALDWELL: Yeah, yeah, you know and, um...

CHERNOFF: And how much money's in, involved in these?

CALDWELL: Okay, like well at least \$500.00 at a time and, and what would happen is she'd get \$500.00 and it would be gone and she'd be asking for more. But, uh, it hasn't stopped and, uh, it's been going on steady.

CHERNOFF: I see. And Ron, um, you said that he's working on, uh, Willie's farm or his property.

CALDWELL: Yeah, he does mechanical work there.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Do you think he's involved in any degree with these extortions?

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

55

CALDWELL: Uh, well not extorting him.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: But I mean he's helped, um, he's helped him pay her so that he doesn't have to see her.

CHERNOFF: Just like so, just so we get this straight: Ron has helped Willie pay Lynn so that Willie doesn't have to have any direct contact with Lynn?

CALDWELL: Contact with her, yeah, to try to keep her away as far as possible.

CHERNOFF: I see.

CALDWELL: And, uh, but, uh, it only worked up to a point, yeah, because...

CHERNOFF: Now, uh, is, is that extortion still going on?

CALDWELL: Right. Yes, yeah.

CHERNOFF: And how are you aware of that?

CALDWELL: Well, just recently he paid her some money and that, apparently she knows somebody up in Vanderhoof or something like that and, uh, and he gave her money to go up there and, uh, she was up in Vanderhoof and that. I was talking with, uh, Ron's, uh, roommate and, uh, and I was and then at that particular night that I was over there talking to him, um, she phoned the house and said that, uh, she told the fellow on the phone that she was still there and that but I checked the phone number and she was in Vancouver.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**56**

CHERNOFF: I see.

CALDWELL: And then the next day she called Willie for money and she's in Vancouver.

CHERNOFF: And how do you know that? Who did you hear that from?

CALDWELL: Ron told me.

CHERNOFF: And how much money are we talking about now? Was it the same amount or is this increased or decreased? Do we know?

CALDWELL: Well, it wouldn't decrease but I mean, um, uh, I don't know, they never specified the amount this time but it was always at least \$500.00 that she wanted. And, and, uh, uh, he was getting pretty, uh, fed up with paying this extortion.

CHERNOFF: I see. Now, recently you were at Ron's residence.

CALDWELL: Right.

CHERNOFF: Can you tell me what occurred in terms of a conversation you had with him. This is Ron MENARD.

CALDWELL: Right, um, yeah Ron and I were talking. Uh, Ron was, uh, telling me that, uh, Willie was getting, uh, kind of pissed off, uh, about the fact that, you know that she, she was extorting him for this money and, uh, being just a thorn in his side.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

57

CALDWELL: Literally. Um, he, uh, mentioned to Ron that, uh, he would like to dispose of her and that. And, uh, uh, he offered Ron, uh, a sum of money to, uh, to help out and Ron refused.

CHERNOFF: Okay. How much money was that?

CALDWELL: Um, \$2000.00.

CHERNOFF: \$2000.00. And so Willie would be using Ron to do what?

CALDWELL: To get her there.

CHERNOFF: To get her there. And why would he trust that Ron would be able to do that?

CALDWELL: Well, Ron would be able to get her there and, and, uh, uh, 'cause, 'cause she's a bit of a handful I think he's a bit leery of her, right? And, uh, but if Ron doesn't, uh, come by and do this well, and he won't, Ron refuses you know to have anything to do with this and that. But, uh, I think I'm pretty, I'm positive that Willie, yeah, would do something on his own.

CHERNOFF: Okay, I'm just gonna change the tape here. It's about to expire. It's 1321 hours.

(TAPE 2)

CHERNOFF: Okay, and the time's 1322 hours. We're just continuing now. So, um, what we were discussing here was the fact that, uh, Willie has offered Ron the sum of \$2000.00...

CALDWELL: Right.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**58**

CHERNOFF: ...so that Ron could bring Lynn back to Willie's residence and that he would take care of her?

CALDWELL: Yeah.

CHERNOFF: Do you know what, uh, was meant by 'take care of her'? Did Ron describe to you what, uh, was meant by that?

CALDWELL: Well, yeah, I mean, you know like dispose of her you know. And, uh, yeah, get rid of the problem.

CHERNOFF: I see. Okay, and what was, uh, Ron's response to Willie about that?

CALDWELL: Oh, yeah, it was a definite no, of course.

CHERNOFF: Now, do you have any idea as to the amount of money so far that has, that has been extorted from Willie?

CALDWELL: Oh, okay, um, when, uh, it was thousands of dollars that she had got off of Willie when I lived there.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: And that, um, I mean since then, since then, uh, she's gotten a, a large, large (inaudible)..I mean like it was and Ron was saying something like \$500.00 at a time but like it would, uh, that would only, that wouldn't last her long and, and she'd be calling up asking for more and more and more and it was just like the thing in Vanderhoof, uh, I mean she went up there with I'm not sure how much but enough money to, to, uh, keep her up there for a while

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL**59**

and that's why he said he would go along with that and now she was only up there for a short time. She came back down again.

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm.

CALDWELL: And that, and, and this is what I knew. I already, I asked, I said 'wow, I mean that's not gonna keep her up in Vanderhoof and, and she'll run out of money and she'll be, be right back' and that exactly happened.

CHERNOFF: So what does she, what would she spend that amount of money on?

CALDWELL: Oh, liquor you know, drugs, you know, yeah, you know, yeah.

CHERNOFF: Um, you said earlier that Willie didn't drink.

CALDWELL: No.

CHERNOFF: Does he do drugs?

CALDWELL: No.

CHERNOFF: Now was there anything else that Ron told you that you think is significant?

CALDWELL: Uh...

CHERNOFF: You mentioned earlier about, uh, the property, uh, that is being levelled right now.

CALDWELL: Yeah, yeah the, the, it's being sold, uh, for 18 mil. Uh...

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

60

CHERNOFF: \$18,000,000.00?

CALDWELL: Right. And, uh, for a townhouse, uh, development and, uh, and they're building up some property, uh, seven feet all the way around. I, um, I asked him how long it would be before they would, uh, level the trailer, take the trailer and everything and barns out and he mentioned something like, uh, four months you know. Five tops type of thing

CHERNOFF: Hmm hmm. Um, had Ron been in discussion with Willie about, uh, anything that you think is of relevance?

CALDWELL: Um, I guess Ron ha-, has heard certain things, you know. But I ment-.....

CHERNOFF: You mentioned something earlier about, uh, containers.

CALDWELL: Oh, well, I mean I asked, I asked Ron like you know I said 'hey Ron,' I said, 'how' you know 'how does he, uh, dispose of these, of these bodies and stuff?' I said, you know? And he said that, uh, it was simple. All he does is put them in forty-five gallon drums and gets it shipped to, uh, some depot that, uh, that uses it for fertilizer.

CHERNOFF: Now, is this Ron, uh, making this assumption or is he saying something that Willie has told him?

CALDWELL: Um, well he wouldn't be assuming that, you know, I mean, you know, he, uh, he, Willie's told him that, you know, and, uh, he, he wasn't, you know, he said it right, right from the hip I mean it wasn't anything that he's guessing or anything. That was how, that's how Willie you know thought he has a fool proof way of disposing of the bodies.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

61

CHERNOFF: Now, does Ron have any knowledge of this incident that you described in which this woman was hanging from the barn?

CALDWELL: Right, you know, Ron mentioned to me about you know Lynn and being way over her head and, uh, and then he started to tell me about this incident that Lynn had told him and that, and it was the same one that I've, uh, mentioned to you.

CHERNOFF: Now, the details that he provided, were they much the same?

CALDWELL: They were identical.

CHERNOFF: They were identical.

CALDWELL: Yeah. Yeah, and I was going 'yeah, uh huh, right' you know? And I didn't let on that I knew already. I just let him talk.

CHERNOFF: Now did, did Ron think that that was an isolated incident or did he mention one way or another to you?

CALDWELL: Well, yeah, I mean he, uh, he didn't say that there was more or anything like that but he just mentioned that some of this is what she knows you know, like, I mean he was just giving me an incident and that. Now, I don't know you know like he never said another one so I mean that's just as much as I know.

CHERNOFF: As far as you know Ron never heard, uh, this specifically from anyone other than Lynn.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

62

CALDWELL: No. From Lynn, yeah. Yeah, this was Lynn talking to him.

CHERNOFF: And what's Ron's relationship with Willie now?

CALDWELL: Uh, he works for him.

CHERNOFF: I see. Are they friends?

CALDWELL: Uh, well Willie likes, uh, Ron around because Ron can take care of people and tell them to leave stuff like that and Willie has a hard time doing that, you know. And that's what he, that's how he, why he liked me around and, uh, but I couldn't stay out there because Lynn was there and that. I mean I told him that I, look I gotta go.

CHERNOFF: I see. Ron is there anything else that you'd like to ask?

LEPINE: Just, uh, one thing, when, when Lynn is, is confiding and telling you all of this...

CALDWELL: Right.

LEPINE: ...uh, when she's telling you this, uh, what's your reaction to this? Are you wanting to hear this or are you asking her or is she telling you?

CALDWELL: No, no I never ask her anything and, uh, she just confided in me as a friend type of thing and, uh, I, I you know, uh, I just sat and listened and that. And, uh, I, uh, I never asked her questions and that. She just provided me with information and that. And I, uh, I believe it's true.

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

63

LEPINE: Do you think that, uh, Lynn could've been making all this up?

CALDWELL: No. No. No, not at all. Not at all.

LEPINE: When you first, uh, when you first, uh, spoke to the police...

CALDWELL: Right.

LEPINE: ...that was as a result of the fact that you, uh, had said or indicated people when you were in jail that you wanted to talk to police.

CALDWELL: Right. It wasn't for any reason like I, to get me out of jail or anything like that or.

LEPINE: What was your reasoning for wanting to talk to the police?

CALDWELL: I've got four daughters of my own. That could be one of mine. And, uh, uh, it's somebody else's daughter, suddenly, you know, like it's you know like this is, you know it's just, uh, way out of line. It's gotta be stopped.

LEPINE: Why did you not tell the police right after you heard this?

CALDWELL: Well, this is a big decision even to step out like this because the fact is is I've got a family and, uh, you know, children and grandchildren and I mean, uh, their lives could be in jeopardy, uh, with my talking, uh, I mean, uh, we're dealing with a killer, uh, and, uh, I don't know who else could be involved and that. So for me to step out like this is, uh, I'm putting myself and my family, I mean, on a limb. Myself is one thing right but to put you know my other loved ones and that in harm's way is, uh, is you know but I had to, uh,

INTERVIEW OF Ross CALDWELL

64

I had to weigh out the difference and, and, uh, and, uh, if I didn't stand out and say something, uh, you, uh, people might not have, uh, might not be on to this. It, it'll be gone shortly. It'll be all, it'll be under. It'll be all scooped up and you'll have no information.

CHERNOFF: Okay. Very good. The time is 1331 hours. And that's the end of the interview. Thank you.

CALDWELL: You betcha.

(Detective Chernoff and Detective Lepine)

ac