

STATEMENT SUMMARY

Name: Calvin Lester

Significance to Beach's Clemency Application:

Prior to giving his tape recorded interview to the State, Lester gave at least three different accounts regarding the murder of Kim Nees. On November 2, 2002, Calvin Lester gave a statement to Rich Hepburn from Centurion Ministries, in which Lester provided an "eye witness" account of the murder. Lester claimed that when he was 10 years old he saw Kim Nees being murdered. Lester claimed that Sissy Atkinson, Maude Greyhawk, Joanne Jackson, Jordis Ferguson and Roberta Jackson were involved in the murder. He claimed to have seen Caleb Gourneau, and "perhaps Shannon O'Brien and Ed Van Dover" at the scene.

On February 10, 2005, Lester confessed to FBI polygraph examiner Stacey Smiedala that his previous statements about witnessing the murder were false and that he had not witnessed anything regarding Nees's murder. Lester provided FBI Agent Smiedala with a handwritten statement in which he stated he did not know who killed Nees.

On April 4, 2005, Lester met with Hepburn and admitted to Hepburn that he had told FBI Agent Smiedala that he had made up his eye witness account of Nees's murder, but he assured Hepburn that he did witness the murder.

Summary of March 22, 2007 Tape Recorded Statement:

Lester stated that his seeing Nees being murdered never happened. (6, 7.) After admitting to not see anything, Lester stated that he did not want to say anything else. Agent Ward McKay granted Lester's request and ended the interview. (7.)

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INTERVIEW

State V. Beach

Calvin Lester

March 22, 2007

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CASE NO: State V. Beach
DATE: March 22, 2007
TIME: 9:50 a.m.
AGENT: Ward McKay
LOCATION: Transitional Living Unit, Poplar, MT
PRESENT: Agent Ward McKay (WM), Calvin Lester (CL), Tammy Plubell (TP), Mike Wellenstein (MW), Ritchey McDonald (RM)
INTERVIEWEE: Calvin Lester

WM: Today's date is March 22, 2007. The time is approximately 0950 hours. This is Agent Ward J. McKay of the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation. The purpose of this recording is to document a conversation with Calvin Lester. The location of this interview is at the Transitional Living Unit in Poplar, MT, in a conference room. Also present are Assistant Attorney Generals for the State of Montana, Tammy Plubell and Mike Wellenstein and also Roosevelt County Deputy Sheriff Richie McDonald. Calvin, would you state your complete name please?

CL: Um, Calvin...Calvin F. Lester, Sr.

WM: And your date of birth, please?

CL: 1-29-69.

WM: And your social security?

CL: 517...

WM: 517?

CL: Yeah.

WM: Okay.

CL: [REDACTED]

WM: [REDACTED]

CL: Yeah.

WM: Geez...that's interesting. Well, Calvin, are you here on your own free will?