

1 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
2 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
3 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
4 obtained by the Grand Jury.

5 Failure to comply with this
6 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
7 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
8 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
9 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
10 the Clark County Jail.

11 Do you understand that?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you very much
14 for coming in.

15 MR. HEHN: Raise your right hand, sir.

16 THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear
17 that the testimony that you are about to give upon
18 the investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
19 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
20 the truth, so help you God?

21 DETECTIVE DIBBLE: I do.

22 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

23 You are here today to give
24 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
25 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of

1 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
2 credit cards without cardholder's consent,
3 unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction
4 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
5 the proposed indictment.

6 Is that your understanding?

7 DETECTIVE DIBBLE: It is.

8 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

9
10 DONALD R. DIBBLE,

11 having been first duly sworn by the
12 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
13 to the truth, the whole truth and
14 nothing but the truth, testified as
15 follows:
16

17 EXAMINATION

18
19 BY MR. HEHN:

20 Q. Would you state your name, please?

21 A. Donald R. Dibble.

22 Q. What's your occupation?

23 A. I'm a detective with the Metropolitan
24 Police Department.

25 Q. Were you assigned to the investigation

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1 of -- into the deaths of Denise Lizzi and Lauri
2 Jacobson?

3 A. I was.

4 Q. And, sir, did you appear on the -- at
5 the crime scene on February 20th, 1992?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. Could you describe to the ladies and
8 gentlemen of the Grand Jury basically how the --
9 just very, very briefly how the crime scene
10 appeared?

11 A. The crime scene was a small studio,
12 merely a studio apartment on the third floor of a
13 moderate to low rent apartment building on Cambridge
14 Street in the 3800 block which is just south of
15 Twain.

16 It had an exterior door that
17 was -- that led to a walkway that faced Cambridge
18 Street itself. The apartment consisted of one room
19 which served as living and entertaining quarters, a
20 small kitchen off to one side. And in the back
21 there was a bathroom and a wall which separated a
22 closet like area. It served as a clothes closet but
23 was larger than most clothes closets.

24 Q. And would you be able to describe to
25 the ladies and gentlemen of the Grand Jury the

1 positions of the bodies at the time that you saw
2 them?

3 A. These bodies were in a -- were in the
4 closet area. Both of them were in the closet. The
5 closet is approximately six by eight feet with the
6 long access running from north to south behind a
7 wall which separates it from the living room.

8 The two girls were lying face
9 down on the floor of the carpet. Denise Lizzi was
10 lying next to the wall which separates it from the
11 living room, and Lauri Jacobson was lying face down
12 immediately to her east against the back wall of the
13 apartment.

14 Q. Let me show you what has been marked as
15 Grand Jury Exhibit Number 9 and ask you, sir, if
16 that fairly and accurately depicts the scene as it
17 was when you came upon it?

18 A. That's exactly as it appeared.

19 Q. So you state that the person on the
20 left was whom, sir, in the photograph?

21 A. The person on the left, the one wearing
22 the blue sweat pants, was eventually identified as
23 Lauri Jacobson.

24 Q. The person on the right, sir?

25 A. Is Denise Lizzi.

1 Q. During the period of time that you were
2 doing this investigation, of course you also
3 attended the autopsy; is that correct?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. And during the autopsy, sir, did you
6 notice any basic decomposition as to the victims?

7 A. Both of the women had suffered some
8 decomposition. It appeared, for whatever reasons,
9 that Lauri Jacobson had possibly decomposed a little
10 further.

11 Q. And would you explain, just elaborate a
12 little by what you mean by further decomposition?

13 A. Skin was beginning to slip. There was
14 signs of what they call putrefaction about her body
15 and her face.

16 Q. By putrefaction, you're talking about a
17 skin discoloration?

18 A. Skin discoloration and the skin
19 actually starts to break down.

20 Q. Now, there came a time on March 2nd of
21 1992 that you had a telephonic contact with a person
22 by the name -- who identified himself as Michael
23 Rippo?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Would you briefly explain to the ladies

1 and gentlemen of the Grand Jury what that
2 conversation entailed?

3 A. I had received a call -- I had received
4 a number of calls from people that were trying to
5 get Rippo to call me. He eventually called the
6 office shortly after 5:00 p.m. that day.

7 Actually, the person who made
8 the call to me was Deidre D'Amore who is a witness
9 we become familiar with during the early stages of
10 the investigation. She told me that Rippo was on
11 the telephone. At that time she didn't say whether
12 it was done by him being on an extension or by a
13 three way call transaction or what. He then came on
14 the phone. I asked him to come to the police
15 station and talk to me and he refused.

16 Q. Okay. Now, let me stop you right there
17 before we go into the actual conversation.

18 Did there come a time later that
19 you had another conversation with -- a face-to-face
20 conversation with Michael Rippo?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. And based upon his voice, his
23 expressions and his acknowledgement as to the
24 previous conversation, did you form an opinion as to
25 whether the person you were talking to on the

1 telephone the first time was in fact the same person.
2 that you were speaking to face to face?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 And in addition, although it
5 does not appear on any transcript, he has
6 acknowledged to me that it was him who made that
7 telephone call.

8 Q. As to -- we're going to back up again.
9 As to that particular telephone call, did he give
10 you any details as to what had occurred as to the
11 murder -- I should say murders?

12 A. As to the murders, specifically he told
13 me that he was aware through people who he refused
14 to identify that Diana Hunt had committed the
15 murders along with a second male who he also refused
16 to identify.

17 Q. And did he indicate to you how this
18 murder was set up?

19 A. He told me that the murder had been
20 planned as a result of both murder and murders had
21 resulted -- had occurred during the course of a
22 robbery which had been planned several days before
23 the murders and robbery actually happened.

24 The purpose of the robbery was
25 to take from Denise Lizzi approximately 12 ounces of

methamphetamine or speed.

Q. And did he tell you how this had been set up to be done as far as going into the actual robbery itself?

A. He didn't go into a great bit of detail in that telephone call. He told me that he was aware the robbery was going to happen, like I said, several days before it occurred. That he had refused to go along because he considered Lauri a friend and didn't want to be involved in any robbery in her apartment.

He said that he was aware and there again he refused to explain to me exactly how he was aware or through who he was aware, that Hunt had entered the apartment with another male and had struck Lauri Jacobson on the back of the head with a beer bottle and at that time both girls had been attacked. He told me --

Q. Let me stop you right there.

Did he indicate to you how it was that Lauri came to be struck?

A. He told me that Diana Hunt had arranged for someone to call, call the apartment, and he didn't identify who was going to call the apartment, but she had arranged for a telephone call to be made

1 to the apartment that would divert Lauri Jacobson's
2 attention so she would turn her back and at that
3 time the attack occurred.

4 Q. What else did he tell you?

5 A. He told me that he had gotten a call
6 from Diana Hunt wanting him to help clean up the
7 bodies. He refused. And that was basically it as
8 far as the murder itself was concerned.

9 Q. Did he tell you anything about the
10 credit cards, sir?

11 A. He told me he was aware that Diana Hunt
12 had used the credit cards a number of places around
13 Las Vegas, credit cards taken from Denise Lizzi
14 after the murders had occurred.

15 And he told me that he, himself,
16 had used a Visa card belonging to Denny Mason who he
17 knew as Denise Lizzi's boyfriend to purchase
18 sunglasses at the Meadows Mall.

19 Q. Did he say anything about Lizzi's car?

20 A. He told me that he had never driven
21 Lizzi's car; however, he had been inside the car and
22 that the only thing he knew about it is that Diana
23 Hunt had arranged for people to clean the car up
24 before she dumped it in a parking lot.

25 Q. And did there come a time that you were

- 1 called to the scene where the vehicle was found?
- 2 A. There eventually was, yes.
- 3 Q. When you went to where the vehicle was
- 4 found, sir, did the vehicle appear to have been
- 5 cleaned?
- 6 A. Yes. It was clean, very clean.
- 7 Q. Now, there came a time when you had a
- 8 face-to-face interview with Mr. Rippo; is that
- 9 correct?
- 10 A. There was an interview conducted later
- 11 that month. I believe it was on the 17th of March.
- 12 Q. That would have been a couple of days
- 13 after -- there was another investigator in this
- 14 case?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. That was who, sir?
- 17 A. Detective Steven Scholl.
- 18 Q. Detective Scholl had interviewed
- 19 Michael Rippo a couple days before the 17th; is that
- 20 correct?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You were not present at that one?
- 23 A. I was not present at that one.
- 24 Q. During the interview with Michael Rippo
- 25 on the 17th what, if anything, did he tell you

1 concerning the murder or murders?

2 A. First of all, the interview was
3 conducted at the police station in an interview
4 room. Present, Michael Rippo was there, myself, and
5 Detective Scholl. There were three people involved
6 in the interview.

7 For the most part, I believe
8 most of the questions were asked by Detective
9 Scholl. I was physically present when the questions
10 were asked and the answers were given.

11 Q. Let me take you back to the crime scene
12 itself.

13 Were you present while the crime
14 scene was being processed?

15 A. I was in and out of the crime scene as
16 it was being processed. I was assigned to do other
17 things at that time.

18 Q. Certainly.

19 During the period of time that
20 you were in and out of the crime scene, were you
21 able to observe anything that was of great
22 evidentiary nature?

23 A. There were things, yes, that we
24 recognized as evidence or potential evidence.

25 Q. Such as?

1 A. We found, among other things, there was
2 broken bottle, brown glass that was absolutely
3 consistent with a beer bottle on the floor of the
4 living room area and on the floor of the kitchen
5 which for almost all practical purposes are one
6 room. It was thrown about an area approximately six
7 by eight feet, maybe larger.

8 The telephone was off the hook
9 and lying in the -- the phone itself was lying on
10 the floor in the living room and the receiver was
11 off the hook.

12 It appeared that someone had
13 removed the burners from the stove as if looking for
14 something which to my experience is -- the stove is
15 often used as a place to conceal narcotics.

16 And the bathroom contained a
17 spoon which had a residue, burn type residue in it,
18 which appeared to be used for the preparation and
19 use of some kind of narcotic.

20 There was a syringe in the --
21 lying on the top of the refuge in the trash can in
22 the kitchen. And later we found in that trash can
23 an iron which had had the electrical cord cut off.

24 There was a hair dryer lying on
25 the floor in the living room at a point near the

1 closet entryway which also had had the electrical
2 cord cut off.

3 Q. Now, when you originally were observing
4 the bodies within the closet, were there any
5 bindings on either of the bodies?

6 A. Denise Lizzi had a binding on the
7 wrists of both hands. It wasn't a particularly
8 tight binding and if it had been in that condition
9 when she was alive it would have allowed some
10 movement of her arms, but her wrists were tied
11 together.

12 Q. And was she bound anywhere else?

13 A. She had a gag in her mouth and a cloth
14 binding around her head to hold the gag in place.

15 Q. Now, you say that there were electrical
16 cords that had been cut off appliances?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you find those electrical cords
19 anywhere in that residence?

20 A. To my knowledge they've never been
21 found.

22 Q. Now, you were also at the autopsy in
23 addition to seeing the bodies in the closet. Was
24 there anything that you observed during either the
25 autopsy or during the observation of the bodies in

1 the closed which would indicate to you that the
2 electrical cords had been used for any type of
3 binding?

4 A. Yes. Denise Lizzi, I believe it was
5 Denise Lizzi, had what's known as a ligature
6 strangulation mark around her neck. It's a mark
7 that's left in the skin that when you look at it you
8 can see that it's because some kind of cord device
9 was pulled tightly around the neck.

10 Q. And how about Lauri Jacobson, any marks
11 on her that you recall?

12 A. I don't recall seeing any particular
13 ligature marks on her.

14 Q. How about restraint marks?

15 A. On Lauri Jacobson?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. I don't recall seeing restraint marks
18 on Lauri Jacobson. There were some marks on the
19 ankles of Denise Lizzi that appeared to have been
20 left by some type of restraint similar to the ones
21 on her wrists.

22 Q. When you're talking about -- just a
23 little earlier about the advance stages of
24 decomposition. Let me show you what's marked as
25 Exhibit Number 13 and what has been marked as

1 Exhibit Number 14.

2 Does that accurately depict how
3 those victims appeared on the date that the bodies
4 were recovered and taken to the coroner's office?

5 A. Yes. These photos were taken at the
6 morgue. I was present when it was done.

7 Q. Those show the different stages of
8 decomposition as to the two persons?

9 A. Shows the stage of decomposition that
10 each of them was in at the time.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 Now, when Michael Ripppo was
13 talking to -- I'm going back to the telephone
14 conversation, you made a -- you memorialized this
15 conversation in your report, did you not?

16 A. I made a report of it, yes.

17 Q. Now, did Ripppo tell you anything about
18 the time of death of these people as to who had died
19 first possibly and where they had died, anything of
20 this nature?

21 A. He told me that he was certain that
22 Lauri Jacobson had died first. I'm sorry, I believe
23 he told me that Denise, I misspoke, that it was
24 Denise Lizzi that had died first.

25 Q. Did he tell you where she had died?

1 A. In the closet itself.

2 MR. HEHN: That's all I have. Thank
3 you.

4 THE FOREPERSON: Any questions?

5 (No response.)

6 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
7 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
8 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
9 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
10 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
11 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
12 obtained by the Grand Jury.

13 Failure to comply with this
14 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
15 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
16 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
17 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
18 the Clark County Jail.

19 Do you understand that?

20 THE WITNESS: I do.

21 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

22 Sir, would you raise your right
23 hand?

24 You do solemnly swear that the
25 testimony that you are about to give upon the

1 investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
2 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
3 the truth, so help you God?

4 MR. CHRISTOS: Yes, I do.

5 THE FOREPERSON: Have a seat.

6 You are here today to give
7 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
8 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
9 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
10 credit cards without cardholder's consent and
11 unauthorized signing of credit card transaction
12 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
13 the proposed Indictment.

14 Is that your understanding?

15 MR. CHRISTOS: Yes, it is.

16 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

17
18 THOMAS CHRISTOS,

19 having been first duly sworn by the
20 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
21 to the truth, the whole truth and
22 nothing but the truth, testified as
23 follows:
24
25

EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEHN:

Q. Would you state your name, please, and spell your last name for the record?

A. Thomas Michael Christos,
C-h-r-i-s-t-o-s.

Q. Mr. Christos, you're familiar with Michael Rippo?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. And I want to direct your attention to on or about the 20th day of February, 1992, sir.

Did you receive a telephone call from Mr. Rippo looking for Diana Hunt?

A. I did.

Q. Did he leave a message of some sort with you?

A. Yes.

Q. What was that message?

A. The message was tell Diana the cat's out of the bag.

Q. Had you seen Diana on that date, sir?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Approximately what time?

A. I'd say it was early afternoon, 1:00

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1 o'clock, approximately.

2 Q. Was she driving a vehicle?

3 A. Yes, she was.

4 Q. What kind of vehicle was it, do you
5 recall?

6 A. Late model Datsun 300ZX, maroon in
7 color.

8 Q. Was anyone with her?

9 A. No.

10 Q. When was the next time you saw Michael
11 Rippo or did you, sir?

12 A. Not -- not for probably a week after.
13 Well, as a matter of fact, I didn't see him again
14 until he was in custody. He called my house on
15 several occasions to try to --

16 Q. That's okay.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. Now, going from the 20th and working
19 backwards just a little bit, when was the -- had you
20 seen that particular Datsun, the maroon Datsun,
21 before the 20th?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. About how long before the 20th?

24 A. It was on the day of the 19th was the
25 first time I saw it, and it was early evening,

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1 approximately 5:30.

2 Q. And who was in the Datsun at that time?

3 A. Diana Hunt.

4 Q. And had you seen it before then, sir?

5 A. No, I hadn't.

6 Q. Did you see Michael Rippo with the
7 Datsun?

8 A. No, I never did.

9 MR. HEHN: I have nothing further.

10 THE FOREPERSON: Anybody have any
11 further questions?

12 (No response.)

13 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
14 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
15 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
16 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
17 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
18 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
19 obtained by the Grand Jury.

20 Failure to comply with this
21 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
22 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
23 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
24 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
25 the Clark County Jail.

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Do you understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

MR. HEHN: Raise your right hand.

THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear that the testimony that you are about to give upon the investigation now pending before this Grand Jury shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

MS. D'AMORE: I do.

THE FOREPERSON: Thank you. Have a seat,

You are here today to give testimony in the investigation pertaining to the offenses of two counts of murder, one count of robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of credit cards without cardholder's consent, unauthorized signing of credit card transaction document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in the proposed indictment.

Is that your understanding?

MS. D'AMORE: Yes, it is.

THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

DEIDRE D'AMORE,

having been first duly sworn by the
Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
to the truth, the whole truth and
nothing but the truth, testified as
follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEHN:

Q. Would you state your name, please?

A. Deidre D'Amore.

Q. And where do you live?

A. 6404 Addely Drive.

Q. On February 18th what was your address?

A. The same.

Q. Did you have anyone living there with
you at that time?

A. Mike Rippo and Diana Hunt.

Q. How long had Mike Rippo and Diana Hunt
lived there?

A. I believe from the 7th until right
about then.

Q. So they had been there about two weeks?

A. Two weeks, right between two and three

1 weeks.

2 Q. How long had you known Michael Rippo?

3 A. Almost three years.

4 Q. And how about Diana Hunt?

5 A. I had just met her.

6 Q. You met her because of Michael Rippo?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. What type of vehicle do you own?

9 A. An '86 Isuzu pickup.

10 Q. What color is it?

11 A. Tan.

12 Q. And did you ever allow Michael Rippo to
13 borrow your pickup?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. There came a time that there were some
16 sunglasses found in your pickup?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What kind of sunglasses were they?

19 A. Oakleys. I never seen them, but the
20 police told me they were found there.

21 Q. You never seen them?

22 A. No. Not that I recollect, no.

23 Q. Did you own any Oakley sunglasses?

24 A. No, I do not.

25 Q. When was the last time that Michael

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1 Rippo borrowed your vehicle?

2 A. I think that was the last time when
3 the -- when the vehicle got impounded, I believe. I
4 don't know. Yeah, I'm pretty sure it was.

5 Q. Now, you've been friends with Michael
6 for a long time. Have you ever discussed the
7 murders of Denise Lizzi and Lauri Jacobson with him?

8 A. Numerous times.

9 Q. When was the first time you discussed
10 this with him?

11 A. When I saw it on the television or no,
12 when I had gotten a telephone call, somebody told me
13 they were dead. I ran upstairs and woke him up and
14 told him they were dead.

15 Q. Do you recall when this was?

16 A. The first time it came on TV, I don't
17 recall the exact date or no, the first time we ever
18 discussed it was when I got the phone call and I ran
19 upstairs. I don't know the exact date.

20 Q. But would it have been the same day it
21 was on television?

22 A. I believe so, yes.

23 Q. Prior to the day it came on television
24 you never discussed it with him?

25 A. I didn't know of it prior to that time,

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1 no.

2 Q. So he never told you anything about
3 it --

4 A. Never.

5 Q. -- until the day that it was on
6 television?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And after the day it was on television
9 what did he tell you?

10 A. He just seemed genuinely surprised I
11 woke him up. That particular day he seemed
12 completely surprised. He came downstairs. We
13 watched it on TV. He told me nothing except that he
14 had seen Lauri a few days previous to that.

15 Q. Did he tell you under what conditions
16 he had seen Lauri a few days previous?

17 A. He didn't tell me any particular
18 conditions. He said he was with her a few days
19 before that.

20 Q. He and Diana were staying there. Was
21 Diana there on the date that you woke him up?

22 A. No, she wasn't there. She wasn't there
23 the day before or a couple of days later. The next
24 time I saw her was three days after their bodies
25 were found.

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1 Q. When did you see her there?

2 A. I came home with the kids. Freddie,
3 the guy from the radio station, I don't know his
4 last name, he was there. She was totally
5 hysterical. She was crying. That was the first
6 time I seen her since then.

7 Q. So let's back up a couple of days
8 before --

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. -- you saw this on television, okay?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. And this would be the last time that
13 you saw Diana at your house?

14 A. Okay. Before they were murdered?

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. Or before they were discovered?

17 Q. Before they were discovered, the last
18 time you saw Diana at your house, Diane and Mike
19 were both there?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Michael was going to go somewhere; is
22 that correct?

23 A. Before they were murdered?

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. I don't really recall right before

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1 then.

2 Q. Did there come a time that you told
3 Michael when he left the house he had to take Diana
4 with him?

5 A. Yeah. I had told him that I wanted
6 Diana out, yes. That was after the murders -- or
7 I'm trying to think.

8 Q. Sure.

9 A. That was after the murders, but the
10 whole time -- I kept saying to Michael the whole
11 time, "I don't mind if you stay here, but she's got
12 to go." There was something -- I wanted her out.

13 Q. That was the entire time?

14 A. Yes.

15 The night she was there with
16 Freddie crying, all that nonsense, I called him that
17 night and I said, "I want her out of here." It
18 looked like she was drinking and for whatever
19 reason --

20 Q. That's okay.

21 A. Right.

22 Q. You said you've known Michael Rippe for
23 three years. Where did you meet him?

24 A. I met him a couple of weeks after he
25 got out of prison. I'm saying approximately three

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1 years. He was dating a friend of mine named Christy
2 who I -- worked with him at the El Rancho. That's
3 how I met him was through her.

4 Q. A couple of days after this had
5 occurred, Michael and Diana had both left your house
6 and you went down and picked up Michael at a bar to
7 take him to work. Do you recall that event?

8 A. No. This was more than a couple of
9 days after that when I was on my way to work.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. He called me and said, "Deidre, you've
12 got to come pick me up. Come pick me up." I said,
13 "I'm late. I don't have time." He said, "Just
14 please, you got to do this."

15 When I picked him up -- I'll go
16 into the thing. When I picked him up he was
17 standing outside a bar at Sahara and Rainbow.
18 That's where I was supposed to pick him up. He had
19 a bunch of luggage and stuff.

20 I said, "Hop in." I was in a
21 mad dash to go to work. I said, "Hop in." I said,
22 "What's all the luggage?" And at the same time I'm
23 driving off.

24 Q. Don't go too fast. You're going to
25 burn this lady's fingers up.

1 A. I'm driving to work, on the way to
2 work, or I don't know if I mentioned, "What was it?"
3 or whatever, "What's all the luggage?" He opened it
4 up, started looking through it. He might have been
5 doing that at the time.

6 He was like, "Look, Deidre,
7 there's something you got to know." He said, "Diana
8 killed them." I was so shocked at the time because
9 my thoughts were elsewhere of who had killed them.

10 I said, "What?" He said,
11 "Look." You know, I couldn't tell if it was theirs.
12 I would assume it was. There was purses. There was
13 address books and all this, all kinds of stuff.

14 I said, "What?" He said, "I
15 just got it out of the car," which I just picked him
16 up. He showed me this stuff. And by this time I
17 was late to work. I said, "Let's stop and go to the
18 police." He said, "No, no." He was going to go to
19 the police that night or whatever when he got off
20 but he didn't.

21 Q. He didn't go to the police?

22 A. I don't know if we talked to Dibble
23 that night on a three way call or not, but no, he
24 didn't go to the police. He wanted to give it to
25 Denise Lizzi's boyfriend because he said, you know,

1 the police, forget them. Let's let him handle it
2 because he's a well-known whatever type of guy that
3 would take care of it.

4 Q. Now, you said that you arranged a three
5 way telephone call conversation with Detective
6 Dibble?

7 A. I don't know if it was that night. A
8 couple of times we talked on them.

9 Q. Where was Michael Rippo while these
10 three way conversations were taking place?

11 A. I have no idea.

12 Q. In other words, he would go
13 someplace --

14 A. Once he was gone, yeah. A couple of
15 times he would be somewhere and I would say hey,
16 this is what the police told me, dah, dah, dah.
17 They wanted your handprint or whatever. He was like
18 call them right now. Every single thing, you know,
19 he wanted to talk to them about it. It seems kind
20 of strange to me, he never ran. Every time they had
21 a question he was there.

22 Q. But each time he would call you from
23 someplace and have you set up the three way
24 conversation?

25 A. Yeah. He didn't initially call for me

1 to do that, but when I would suggest something he
2 did make the three way.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. One of the times Dibble was waiting for
5 him, he was hoping he would call and we would make
6 the three way again.

7 Q. Did you ever set up a three way
8 conversation between him and a lady by the name of
9 Alice Starr?

10 A. Not that I remember, never. I've never
11 even spoken to Alice other than today. Once before
12 that she stopped by to talk to Michael, but I don't
13 even really know Alice.

14 Q. There came a time that he and Diana
15 were in your presence, Diana Hunt and Michael Rippe
16 were in your presence, and he made a statement in
17 her presence as to the murders. Do you remember
18 that event?

19 A. What particular statement? They made
20 lots of statements --

21 Q. Did they?

22 A. -- pertaining to the murders.

23 Q. Do you recall a statement that Diana
24 Hunt made as to their being partners?

25 A. Yeah. I remember her saying that you

1 know, they weren't speaking of the murders though.
2 They were just -- you know, I didn't know exactly
3 what they were talking about. They said, "We were
4 partners," You know, but he was just talking
5 like -- I don't know what they were discussing. I
6 just heard them say that.

7 Q. Did you ever see him strike Diana Hunt?

8 A. I've never seen him strike any
9 individual in my entire knowing him.

10 Q. Did you ever see him with a stun gun?

11 A. I never actually saw the stun gun, no.
12 I knew there was a stun gun, but I never actually
13 saw it. I don't think I ever saw it.

14 Q. Did he ever have any of his friends
15 come over to your house?

16 A. Well, once he had -- I can't think of
17 the kid's name right now. Not very often, no. I
18 didn't want it. A few times, yeah, I guess they
19 did.

20 Q. You started to say --

21 A. When they first came I made it clear I
22 wanted no kind of nonsense going on. I didn't want
23 any people coming over there. Yes, Alice came over
24 once. I can't think of what his good friend's name
25 is. He came over.

1 Q. By Alice, you mean Alice Starr?

2 A. I believe so. His friend Alice. I
3 don't know her last name. I don't know her.

4 Q. Could you describe Alice just a little
5 bit?

6 A. Pregnant.

7 Q. Dark hair?

8 A. Dark hair. Just here, yeah. And other
9 than that, no.

10 Freddie was there that night
11 with Diana which he got kicked out immediately as
12 soon as I came home. I don't really recollect any
13 of his friends ever being there.

14 MR. HEHN: Thank you. I have nothing
15 further.

16 A JUROR: How do you spell your last
17 name?

18 THE WITNESS: D ' A-m-o-r-e.

19 MR. HEHN: Just a second.

20 BY A JUROR:

16 21 Q. You said that Freddie was there when
22 you had come home?

23 A. I came home after the murders. Diana
24 had been gone for about -- the day they were
25 murdered, two days after that when they were

1 discovered, and then she came a day after. I came
2 home and I had my niece and my daughter. We were
3 all having chicken. I had it in my hands.

4 The shade was off the window,
5 number one. That struck me odd. I walked in and
6 here's Freddie, I don't know what his last name is,
7 Freddie Rosa. He works at 92. He's a black guy.

8 Number one, I walked up. I see
9 the shade's off the window. It makes me a little
10 curious. Here's Diana and Freddie sitting on my
11 couch. She's hysterical crying with some dress --
12 she looked like a hooker. Just crying. I could
13 smell booze.

14 I said, "You're out." I told
15 Diana to get Mikey on the phone now. I said I'm not
16 living like this. This does not go on. You're out
17 of here. We beeped Mikey. I said, "I want her out
18 of here."

19 Q. Let me show you what's marked as
20 Exhibit Number 15, a photograph.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Do you recognize what it's a photograph
23 of?

24 A. My car.

25 Q. That's the pickup you described

1 earlier?

2 A. Yes, it is.

3 Q. Let me show you what's marked as 16.

4 Does that appear to be a photograph of the inside of
5 your pickup?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Different car?

8 A. Different car.

9 Q. What makes you think it's different?

10 A. Number one, I don't have that thing on
11 mine. That's not my speedometer. Not my lights.
12 Not any of it.

13 Q. Not any of it?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q. Have you seen Mr. Rippe recently?

18 A. I made a jail visit. I don't know,
19 it's been a while ago.

20 Q. Have you only been once?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Have you talked to him over the phone?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. He has to call collect?

25 A. A couple of times he has. A lot of

1 times he called and couldn't get ahold of me because
2 I switched jobs.

3 Q. When he calls you accept the charges
4 when it is collect?

5 A. Yes. Michael Rippo's never done
6 anything to hurt me in any which way for the years I
7 have known him. Just as an example, one time --

8 MR. HEHN: That's okay. You weren't
9 asked.

10 THE WITNESS: It was, --

11 MS. LOWRY: You need to have a
12 question.

13 THE WITNESS: I thought my opinions
14 would be --

15 A JUROR: Thank you.

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q. Did you know Lauri Jacobson?

18 A. No, I did not know. I knew of her, but
19 I hadn't known her. I met her maybe once, one quick
20 second. I met her through her old roommate. I knew
21 of her, but I didn't know her.

22 Q. Did you know Denise Lizzi?

23 A. I met her a couple of times too. I
24 didn't know them very well.

25 Q. You knew Michael knew both of them?

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1 A. I knew he knew Lauri very well. I knew
2 Michael knew Denise, but they didn't know each other
3 very well either.

4 Q. The day of the 18th Diana didn't come
5 back to the house?

6 A. The day of the 18th, the day they were
7 discovered?

8 Q. The day that they -- that they were
9 murdered.

10 A. Okay, right.

11 Q. She did not come back to the house in
12 the Pinto?

13 A. She didn't come back to the -- okay.
14 Now, I was also at work these days, but the times
15 that I was there she was not there. On the day they
16 were murdered she was not there.

17 On the days after, the day after
18 or the day they were discovered, she had called the
19 house and I had answered. This was awhile after and
20 I said, "Did you hear what happened?" I had no
21 earthly idea that they could possibly be involved.

22 I said, "Did you hear what
23 happened?" She was like okay or whatever, but no
24 she had not been there. And the next time I seen
25 her was on the couch, hysterical, with Freddie which

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was the day after, the next day.

Q. Did you have any way of knowing whether she came back and had taken her belongings out of your house?

A. She hadn't.

Q. They were all still there?

A. They were all still there.

Q. And Michael came back to the house?

A. Michael was always there the whole time. The whole time they were there, the day they were murdered and days after. I can't say what happened when I went to work and even a couple of those days I took early outs, but every time I came home he was there.

Q. When you went --

A. I was working swing.

Q. When you picked him up at the bar on Rainbow, where was his car, did he say? Did you ask him?

A. It was right across the street from my house. See, this is what he wanted me to do was just to give him a ride back to his car. I didn't have enough time. It was 2:35 at that time. I had to be at work at 3:00. I was going out of my way to pick him up. That's why he had my car. I said, "Go

1 home. Leaves the keys under the mat. That's fine,
2 pick up your car." He wanted me to take him by, but
3 I didn't have time.

4 Q. You know where his car was?

5 A. His car was by my house because he left
6 with Diana.

7 BY A JUROR:

8 Q. In the three years that you knew Mike
9 Rippe, what type of occupation -- what was he doing
10 for a living?

11 A. He was working at Las Vegas Paving at
12 one point. I'm trying to think in the very
13 beginning. I always thought he was in construction.
14 I didn't know too much when he was with Christy.

15 Q. Was he dealing in drugs?

16 A. He was occasionally, yeah, but I don't
17 know exactly, you know, what he was doing way back
18 when.

19 Q. Was he paying for his room and board?

20 A. When he was staying with me, he was
21 only staying with me a couple of week deal. No, he
22 wasn't. He wasn't paying anything.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 A. It was just like he was staying there
25 for a couple of weeks to arrange whatever he was

1 arranging to go out. It was not a long term
2 situation at all.

3 Q. I see. Thank you.

4 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

5 (No response.)

6 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
7 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
8 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
9 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
10 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
11 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
12 obtained by the Grand Jury.

13 Failure to comply with this
14 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
15 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
16 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
17 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
18 the Clark County Jail.

19 Do you understand this?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes.

21 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

22 MR. REHN: Raise your hand and be
23 sworn, sir.

24 THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear
25 that the testimony that you are about to give upon

1 the investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
2 shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
3 the truth, so help you God?

4 DETECTIVE SCHOLL: I do.

5 THE FOREPERSON: Thanks.

6 You're here today to give
7 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
8 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
9 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
10 credit cards without cardholder's consent,
11 unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction
12 document involving Michael Damon Rippo set forth in
13 the proposed Indictment.

14 Is that your understanding?

15 DETECTIVE SCHOLL: That's correct.

16 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

17
18 STEVE SCHOLL,

19 having been first duly sworn by the
20 foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
21 to the truth, the whole truth and
22 nothing but the truth, testified as
23 follows:
24
25

EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEHN:

Q. Would you state your name, sir, and spell your last name?

A. Steve Scholl, S-c-h-o-l-l.

Q. And Mr. Scholl, what is your occupation, sir?

A. Employed by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department as a Homicide Investigator.

Q. And, sir, were you a member of the investigating team as to the death of Denise Lizzi and Lauri Jacobson?

A. That's correct.

Q. Sir, I want to hand you what's been marked as Exhibit Number 5 and ask you if you recognize that?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Where do you recognize that from, sir?

A. This photo line-up display folder was created by myself at which time the suspect, being Michael Rippe, was included in six photos including the suspect for presentation and identification purposes by any witnesses.

Q. Which photograph was the photograph of

1 Michael Rippo?

2 A. 1 and 1A.

3 Q. Now, you were present during a taped
4 interview of Michael Rippo on March 15th, 1992?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. As to the interview on March 15th,
7 1992, would you give the ladies and gentlemen of the
8 Grand Jury just a brief synopsis of what his
9 statements consisted of?

10 A. The statement on 3/15/92, Michael Rippo
11 basically indicated to myself that he, in fact, knew
12 exactly how the murders had occurred yet, in fact,
13 did not take part in the murders personally,

14 That, in fact, Diana Hunt, who
15 was a close associate of his when the murders took
16 place, had told him in great detail how the murders
17 had occurred and, in fact, that he had allegedly
18 taken property from Miss Hunt that allegedly
19 belonged to both of the victims.

20 Q. And based upon that information, sir,
21 did you recover any property?

22 A. Yes. In fact, some property was
23 recovered.

24 Q. And was it based upon the information
25 he gave you or was it because of another source?

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1 A. The property that was recovered, that
2 we believed that did, in fact, belong to the
3 victims, was recovered in an incident that occurred
4 on Nelson Street involving Diana Hunt and Michael
5 Beaudion.

6 Q. So was that -- was it recovered before
7 he gave this statement or after he gave this
8 statement?

9 A. I believe it was recovered after the
10 statement, I'm pretty sure.

11 Q. But it was recovered independent of
12 this statement?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And in this statement he indicated to
15 you that someone else had done the murders?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Did he tell you who did the murders?

18 A. He indicated that Diana Hunt had done
19 the murders with an unknown male associate.

20 Q. And did he indicate to you anything
21 that he had done as to any involvement?

22 A. He indicated that he and Diana Hunt had
23 discussed prior to the murders the robbery of Denise
24 Lizzi and, in fact, specifically prior to the
25 murders taking place at the Cambridge Street

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1 address, that he specifically had conspired with
2 Diana Hunt and gone into specific details about how
3 the robbery would take place. And had allegedly
4 indicated that he did not want to be present at the
5 apartment due to the fact that Lauri Jacobson, who
6 is an alleged close associate of his, may be
7 present.

8 Q. And did he tell you anything about a
9 telephone call that he made?

10 A. I believe in this statement he
11 alludes -- in the first statement he alluded to the
12 fact that he had some type of alibi information that
13 may make it quite obvious that he, in fact, did not
14 become directly involved in the murders. But I
15 believe in the first statement he did not directly
16 allude to what that information was.

17 Q. But you took two statements from him?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. There was a statement taken on the
20 17th?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. March 17th?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. In the March 17th statement what, if
25 anything, just very briefly what did he say?

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1 A. On the March 17th statement, this
2 statement followed a polygraph examination, and
3 during this statement he indicated that he had
4 spoken to a female that was an associate of his
5 named Alice Starr. And that, in fact, he had spoken
6 to Alice Starr from a remote location, not in fact
7 allegedly the victim's residence, asking Alice Starr
8 to call Lauri Jacobson's phone number indicating to
9 her that she should keep the female at that location
10 by the first name of Lauri on the phone while this
11 robbery was to take place.

12 Q. That was his basic admission to you?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I have copies of two statements. These
15 appear to be accurate copies at least as to the
16 transcription of those particular statements?

17 A. Yes, they appear to be.

18 MR. HENN: I'd ask that they be marked
19 as exhibits.

20 I would indicate, for the
21 record, that I have made a copy of each of these
22 statements of Michael Rippo for each member of the
23 Grand Jury so that they might utilize and consider
24 them in their deliberations.

25 I don't have anything further.

1 THE FOREPERSON: Anybody have any
2 questions?

3 BY A JUROR:

4 Q. Mr. Scholl, did Mike Rippo ever
5 indicate to you or give you a description of who
6 this third party may have been, the unknown party?

7 A. Not directly.

8 I could go into other
9 information that we received indicating his belief,
10 but during both of the statements that were received
11 from Michael Rippo, he only indicated that she had
12 some assistance from some male and that, in fact, he
13 had no direct knowledge as to who exactly this male
14 was.

15 There was an incident that came
16 up aside from both of these statements wherein
17 Michael Rippo allegedly made a statement as to who
18 this other subject may have been but, in fact, our
19 investigation lent that no credibility.

20 Q. Is it possible that Diana Hunt could
21 tie up a person the way each of these victims were
22 tied up?

23 MR. HEHN: That would be calling for
24 speculation.
25

1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q. Then in your experience there's no way
3 of being able to determine any kind of a collusion
4 on this?

5 A. I don't think that the ligatures would
6 indicate any abnormal strength as far as ligatures
7 themselves are concerned. Perhaps the wounds, Dr.
8 Green might be able to lend some light as to the
9 wounds themselves, what type of strength it may have
10 taken to deliver that type.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 BY A JUROR:

13 Q. In the course of the investigation did
14 Michael indicate to you what it was that they were
15 planning to take from Denise?

16 A. Drugs. He indicated that he felt that
17 she had in her possession an amount of drugs, that
18 it went all the way from an ounce and a half to 12
19 ounces, which by most sources was a totally
20 outrageous amount, the 12 ounces figure.

21 But by general consensus, most
22 people involved in the investigation, in fact,
23 related that Denise Lizzi was actively involved in
24 narcotics transactions and normally had narcotics.

25 Q. That's ice or what?

1 A. Methamphetamine

2 THE FOREPERSON: Any other questions?

3 (No response.)

4 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
5 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
6 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
7 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
8 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
9 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
10 obtained by the Grand Jury.

11 Failure to comply with this
12 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
13 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
14 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
15 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
16 the Clark County Jail.

17 Do you understand?

18 THE WITNESS: I understand that.

19 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

20 MR. HEHN: Raise your right hand, sir,
21 and be sworn.

22 THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear
23 that the testimony that you are about to give in the
24 investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
25 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but

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1 the truth, so help you God?

2 DR. GREEN: I do.

3 THE FOREPERSON: Thanks. Have a seat.

4 You are here today to give
5 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
6 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
7 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
8 credit cards without cardholder's consent,
9 unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction,
10 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
11 the proposed Indictment.

12 Is that your understanding?

13 DR. GREEN: I don't know. Are you
14 interested in Denise Lizzi or Laura Jacobson?

15 THE FOREPERSON: Yes, we are.

16 DR. GREEN: Okay. I'm in the right
17 place.

18
19 GILES SHELDON GREEN,

20 having been first duly sworn by the
21 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
22 to the truth, the whole truth and
23 nothing but the truth, testified as
24 follows:
25

EXAMINATION

BY MS. LOWRY:

Q. Dr. Green, can you please state your name and spell it for the record?

A. Giles Sheldon Green, G-r-e-e-n.

Q. And Dr. Green, what is your occupation?

A. I'm a physician. My specialty is forensic pathology.

Q. And how are you employed?

A. I'm employed as chief medical examiner in the Clark County Medical Examiner Department here in Las Vegas.

Q. Have you ever qualified as an expert witness in the Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada?

A. Yes, many times.

Q. And what is your area of expertise?

A. Forensic pathology.

Q. As medical examiner do your duties include performing autopsies?

A. Yes, they do.

Q. Did you perform an autopsy on February 21st of 1992?

A. Two of them, yes.

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1 Q. On that date did you perform an autopsy
2 on an individual identified to you as Denise Lizzi?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Showing you what's been marked as
5 State's Exhibit Number 13. Do you recognize this
6 photograph?

7 A. Yes, sir, I do.

8 Q. I'm sorry, Doctor. I was distracted.
9 You do recognize that photograph?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What does State's Exhibit Number 13
12 show?

13 A. This is a photograph of the body
14 identified as Denise Lizzi taken in the Clark County
15 Morgue. It includes a placard that we make up to
16 identify each body for photographic purposes with
17 the name if its known, date of examination, and
18 Clark County Coroner Medical Examiner case number
19 which in this case is 558 for 92 or 558, yeah.

20 Q. And does that photograph truly and
21 accurately depict Denise Lizzi on the date that you
22 performed your autopsy?

23 A. It portrays her exactly as I saw her.

24 Q. Now, during the course of your autopsy,
25 we'll start with the external observations, what

1 external observations did you make on Denise Lizzi?

2 A. Okay. Because we got two cases working
3 here, I'm going to use the recorded autopsy report
4 rather freely so I don't get confused on one or the
5 other and mislead everyone.

6 Basically, and shown here
7 somewhat in Exhibit 13 were abrasions, some bruises
8 on the face. There were some abrasions and scrapes
9 and scratches on the neck. You can see a couple of
10 them over here on the left side, fingertip size.

11 In addition, there was an -- an
12 interesting mark that totally encircled the neck.
13 As a matter of fact, the matter that encircled the
14 neck at least twice. It was very uniform pattern,
15 five-sixteenths of an inch wide.

16 Based on experience and seeing
17 it before, it was a mark very typical of a two wire
18 lamp cord, usually rubber plastic or rubber
19 insulated with a little groove separated the two
20 wires.

21 Q. Dr. Green, I'll show you State's
22 Exhibits 17 and 18, if I may, photographs. Do those
23 photographs depict what you just described?

24 A. Yes. 17 does it very well. And in the
25 photograph there is a ruler, a little overexposed,

1 but you can get the general idea of the size of the
2 things.

3 18 shows the back of her neck as
4 the mark encircles. It does not define the pattern
5 of the lamp cord nearly as well as the other one
6 which is 17, but these are one and the same
7 individual.

8 You can see in 18 that it does
9 go clear around the neck.

10 Q. Would you continue with your external
11 observations?

12 A. All right. These pictures were taken
13 after some of the various things on the body had
14 been removed. She had a gag in her mouth tied in
15 place. I forget with what. Maybe we've got that.

16 Okay. The gag was a black sock
17 and the ligature which held it around in the mouth,
18 and went around the head was made from what looked
19 like part of a -- might have been a black brassiere.

20 Exhibit 17 shows an area
21 extending from the right side of the mouth going
22 back underneath the right ear which is very pale.
23 That's the area where the ligature which held the
24 gag was. It's quite obvious, at least to me. I
25 think you see it without any difficulty here.

1 There were what appeared to have
2 been some kind of restraints on each of the wrists,
3 although the two were not connected to each other, a
4 piece of cloth tied on one and a piece of cloth tied
5 on the other and no connection between the two.

6 On the right it looked ripped
7 out of a pair of blue sweat pants, and on the left
8 maybe a black knit material, maybe a scarf.

9 Q. If I may interrupt and show you State's
10 Exhibit Number 20. Does that photograph depict what
11 you're regarding the restraint on one of the wrists?

12 A. Yes, it does. This is the left hand
13 here and that's got the black knit material around
14 the wrist.

15 Q. Would you continue, please?

16 A. I understand all of those things were
17 removed, impounded into evidence, Dan Connell from
18 the Crime Lab handled all that end of it.

19 Otherwise, we see early
20 decomposition change, not real bad, but changes
21 which would suggest that this girl probably has been
22 dead for upwards of a couple of days. Beginning to
23 see a little bit of skin slippage. And, in fact, in
24 Exhibit Number 13 a little white patch on the right
25 breast which is an area where surface areas of skin

1 slipped off. We had several such areas around the
2 body.

3 Other than the things that I
4 have mentioned, I don't think there was a whole lot
5 externally to talk about.

6 Q. I'll draw your attention to Stade's
7 Exhibit Number 19, another photograph of Denise
8 Lizzi, Doctor. Those marks, what is that a
9 photograph of?

10 A. 19 looks like her lower legs with a
11 white sock still on. I forgot this. I'm sorry.

12 There are some reddish marks
13 encircling the lower leg just above the ankles.
14 They're parallel. They look to be about -- little
15 over an inch wide in total. Whatever had made those
16 marks was not there any longer at least when the
17 body came in to us.

18 The marks are suggestive of, and
19 I think we can go strong enough to say something
20 consistent with something being tied around the
21 ankles at some time.

22 Q. Was there any more to the external
23 observation, Doctor?

24 A. I don't think so. Let me take a quick
25 look, but I don't believe we have anything else of

1 any great significance.

2 We talked about the gag. Oh,
3 there's a bruise of the inside of the lip as though
4 the lip had been struck with something, lower lip
5 particularly. Upper lip too.

6 Q. And, Doctor, you're referring to your
7 report in this case which is a report that you made
8 at or near the time that you did the autopsy?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I think we talked about this before,
12 but in case anybody forgot, I dictate these things
13 as I go and as I'm looking at them so everything
14 goes down on magnetic tape.

15 We've got the wrist restraints
16 if that, in fact, is what they were. I do have
17 mention of the marks on the lower legs. I think
18 that covers it for the external.

19 Q. Okay. Doctor, then could you discuss
20 what observations you made during the internal exam?

21 A. Internally, definite verification that
22 decomposition was just beginning. There wasn't much
23 change in the various organs. There was a little
24 odor. Not real bad.

25 Most of the vital organs were

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1 perfectly all right until we get to the neck. And
2 examining these structures of the neck and then
3 there's a lot of damage in the soft tissues of the
4 neck, particularly the little fine strep muscles
5 that run up and down in pairs in front of the voice
6 box. Great deal of hemorrhage, both on the surfaces
7 and down into the substance of the muscle itself.

8 The thyroid gland, one side to
9 the other, left side had hemorrhage under its
10 capsule. That would be right about here where I'm
11 pointing, had hemorrhage in the vocal cords.

12 Injection but not true
13 hemorrhage in the rest of the larynx. The findings
14 here which we have both in totally the external and
15 internal indicate, first of all, there is an attempt
16 of manual strangulation actually using my hands.
17 Otherwise, we're not going to get this tremendous
18 amount of hemorrhage all through the neck
19 structures.

20 Secondly, on the basis of
21 external, we know a ligature was applied and pulled
22 fairly tight. We have abrasions on the surface of
23 the neck which are consistent with the efforts of
24 manual strangulation.

25 It's uncommon, at least in my

1 experience, to see the indications of both manual
2 strangulation and ligature strangulation, but in
3 this case we have both. And I'm sorry, I'm not
4 going to be able to say it was the manual
5 strangulation, the ligature doesn't matter. It
6 probably does matter.

7 We have line of contusion along
8 the margins of the ligature marks which is very
9 clear in Exhibit 17. I think probably still some
10 circulation in effect when this thing was applied.
11 She was not dead yet.

12 Q. So, Doctor, you would say that the
13 cause and manner of death was what?

14 A. Asphyxia due to strangulation and the
15 gag. Incidentally, the gag, whether it was placed
16 before or after death, I couldn't tell you really,
17 but the gag was enough to have killed her outright.
18 It landed in front of the tongue, pushed the tongue
19 back, up and back, which will effectively block the
20 airway.

21 Q. Doctor, I'd like to show you State's
22 Exhibit Number 23. Can you tell the Grand Jury what
23 that document is?

24 A. Okay. This is a machine copy of the
25 toxicology report which was prepared in this

1 particular case on Denise Lizzi. We recovered --

2 Q. Let me ask you this, Doctor. Are those
3 reports generated as a regular course of your
4 business?

5 A. They are, yes. The report is --
6 actually comes from Associated Pathologists
7 Laboratories. They do our toxicologic work on a
8 contract basis.

9 Q. How does that report come to be
10 generated?

11 A. First of all, we obtain whatever
12 samples we want from the body to be tested or
13 screened. In this case here, we sent over both
14 blood and urine with a request that it be screened
15 for alcohol and drugs, both. A lot of routine drugs
16 which are on a prescription basis as well as street
17 drugs.

18 Q. Okay. And you received that report
19 back?

20 A. We received this report back in due
21 course. It was -- let's see. We did the autopsy on
22 the 21st of February. It was received -- they have
23 it shown as received in their laboratory on the
24 21st. They don't have a date for the time the work
25 is completed. We got it back in our lab, but we

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1 have this date stamp which in this case
2 unfortunately is unreadable. Probably four or five
3 days later.

4 Q. What does -- what are the results of
5 the lab tests of the samples that you sent to APL?

6 A. Okay. First of all, no alcohol
7 present. Second, methamphetamine present in the
8 blood. Also amphetamine in a lesser amount. The
9 methamphetamine level is very high, 5,288 nanograms
10 per milliliter or five and a quarter microgram per
11 milliliter.

12 The amphetamine is 519 nanograms
13 per milliliter which represents a contaminant of the
14 original amphetamine. May also be a breakdown
15 product. But this is a very high level.

16 Analysis of the urine confirms
17 it's there in the urine also, both drugs.

18 Q. Doctor, I'd now like to direct your
19 attention to another autopsy that you performed on
20 February 21st of 1992.

21 On that date did you perform an
22 autopsy on an individual identified to you as Lauri
23 Jacobsen?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. I'm going to show you a photograph,

1 state's Exhibit Number 14. What does that
2 photograph show?

3 A. Well, this is a picture of Lauri
4 Jacobson as taken on the morning of the 21st of
5 February, 1992 in the Clark County Morgue.

6 Q. And does that photograph truly and
7 accurately depict Lauri Jacobson as you saw her on
8 that date?

9 A. Yes, it does.

10 Q. Okay. What external observations did
11 you make about Lauri Jacobson?

12 A. First of all, she was obviously
13 decomposing much more so than Miss Lizzi. And the
14 photograph makes that very clear.

15 We have a lot of discoloration
16 of the gaseous distention of the tissue so some of
17 the facial tissues are distorted. The eyelids, for
18 example, are puffy. Not because they are bruised
19 but because of the gas formation.

20 Also, over the neck and the
21 upper chest, you see kind of a violet discoloration
22 with the reticulated markings lines intersecting
23 here and there. These represent changes in the
24 blood vessels underneath the skin as the bacteria or
25 driving the blood from the blood vessels by gas

1 formation.

2 Now, in terms of external exam
3 with the decomposition changes that we had, there
4 was not as much to see. We had some scratches on
5 the neck, one about four inches long from midline to
6 the right, superficial. Not a major injury.

7 Another one about one and
8 three-fourth inches long and medial end toward the
9 midline, little penetrating wound, not very big. No
10 more than about three-eighths of an inch long.
11 Again not a major injury.

12 And below the right ear we have
13 two little -- no, one. One little cutting wound or
14 stabbing wound or kind of a V shaped configuration,
15 quarter of an inch, maybe five sixteenths of an inch
16 long with very little penetration. And just behind
17 that another small superficial scratch so there
18 really isn't much to see on the neck on Miss
19 Jacobson.

20 Didn't see anything on the face
21 that looked like any recent injuries, and I don't
22 recall that we had any indication of ligatures or
23 restraints.

24 Q. Okay. I'm going to show you two more
25 photographs, State's Exhibits 21 and 22.

1 A. Oh, yeah. The arms, right.

2 Q. Can you describe what those photographs
3 are, Doctor?

4 A. All right. These are the forearms and
5 the right hand of Miss Jacobson. I had forgotten
6 this, I'm sorry. There are some rather faint marks
7 on the wrist. They appear to encircle the wrist.
8 As a matter of fact, they show up better in the
9 photographs than they did in the rather intense
10 lights we have in the morgue. So they really are
11 more obvious than they were to the naked eye at that
12 time.

13 Obviously, Dan Connell spotted
14 them and photographed them. And there is a scratch
15 on the right forearm right here, looks about an inch
16 and a half long. So these marks on the wrists which
17 you'll see could be related to some kind of
18 restraint tied around. I think it's a logical
19 conclusion, perhaps. We can't absolutely prove it,
20 but it's a reasonable guess.

21 Q. Any other external observations,
22 Doctor?

23 A. Nothing else externally other than
24 changes elsewhere in the body indicating
25 decomposition.

1 Q. If you could now comment on your
2 internal observations on Lauri Jacobson?

3 A. Internally, there was considerably more
4 deterioration in the tissues and organs than we had
5 in the other case in Miss Lizzi.

6 The significant findings
7 basically are confined to the neck again. Here we
8 have a similar pattern of injury to the neck with
9 hemorrhage in these muscles and clear evidence of
10 manual strangulation which is indicated very
11 clearly. Not just a great mass of pressure applied
12 from something, but actually pressure at a given
13 point.

14 In this case we have a fracture
15 of the larynx right down the midline. She's young.
16 It was a logical place for it to break, but it has
17 to be squeezed awful hard to accomplish that.

18 Again the hemorrhage throughout
19 all of those small muscles. Some hemorrhage in the
20 thyroid gland. That really is it other than as I
21 mentioned the decomposition changes which were
22 definitely farther advanced than in the case of Miss
23 Lizzi.

24 Q. And, Doctor, as a result of your
25 examination on Lauri Jacobson, what did you

1 determine to be the cause and manner of death?

2 A. Cause of death was asphyxia due to
3 manual strangulation. This certainly must be
4 classified as homicidal.

5 Q. Additionally, I'm going to show you
6 State's Exhibit Number 24. What is State's Exhibit
7 Number 24?

8 A. Okay. Exhibit Number 24 is a copy of
9 the report of the analysis of the material that was
10 sent to the Associated Pathologist Laboratories for
11 study in terms of alcohol and drugs.

12 Alcohol, we could not ask for
13 because we didn't have anything in the body to make
14 an alcohol determination on. The decomposition
15 process advanced to the point where there was no
16 blood available. Bacteria formed gas drives the
17 blood out into the tissue. You simply don't have
18 any blood to work with.

19 No urine in the bladder. We did
20 the next best thing we could do and sent solid
21 tissue, a portion of the liver and a portion of the
22 kidney, over to the lab and these can be extracted
23 and studied for the presence of drugs.

24 We can't tell you about alcohol,
25 but I can tell you that they did not identify any

1 drugs, legal or otherwise, in the liver or the
2 kidney. So no evidence of drugs in her body at the
3 time of death.

4 Q. That's for Lauri Jacobson?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. That is, in fact, the lab report of
7 Lauri Jacobson that you keep as a part of your
8 regular business?

9 A. Yes.

10 MS. LOWRY: Grand Jury's indulgence for
11 one moment, please.

12 BY MS. LOWRY:

13 Q. Dr. Green, as to Lauri Jacobson, were
14 there any injuries to the back of the head?

15 A. Back of the head, let me see.

16 No evidence of any, no.

17 MS. LOWRY: I have no further
18 questions.

19 BY THE FOREPERSON:

20 Q. Dr. Green, in your opinion why would
21 one decompose faster than the other? Could it be
22 the way they were laying or the air?

23 A. Well, there are two possibilities.
24 First of all, you can have two bodies almost side by
25 side in a similar situation and one deteriorates

1 faster than the other and we don't know why.

2 Secondly, it's entirely possible
3 that one could be killed prior to the other so we
4 might have a span of half an hour. We don't know
5 that to be the case. I can't prove it. It's not
6 impossible based on what we see at the autopsy
7 table.

8 Lauri Jacobson was a little
9 heavier than Miss Lizzi. She would tend to
10 decompose a little more rapid because she would lose
11 her core temperature slower than the skinnier girl.
12 Miss Lizzi was quite slender, five six and a half,
13 only a hundred eighteen pounds.

14 And Lauri Jacobson was five-nine
15 and a hundred forty-eight. That's hardly enough
16 difference to blame all of this difference and
17 decomposition on the body. I would hesitate to do
18 that.

19 I think the difference in the
20 times between one girl being killed or may be a
21 strong possibility. If there's evidence that that's
22 not the case, then I wouldn't argue with it, but I
23 would be hard put to explain except I seen this kind
24 of thing happen before and I still don't know why.
25

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1 BY MR. HEHN:

2 Q. Also, Doctor, it would make a
3 difference too not only if one was larger and
4 heavier, but if one had more clothing on than the
5 other?

6 A. Yes. This would make some difference
7 although if they have a skirt on or not really
8 shouldn't make that much difference.

9 Q. How about sweat pants versus nothing?

10 A. The person with the sweat pants would
11 lose the core temperature more slower. Perhaps
12 that's a contributing factor. Perhaps more than one
13 contributing factor.

14 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

15 Any questions?

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q. Are you familiar with what they call a
18 stun gun, sir?

19 A. A what?

20 Q. Stun gun.

21 A. Slightly.

22 Q. Would it leave any external marks?

23 A. It does, yeah.

24 Q. Did you find any evidence --

25 A. It leaves a little pair of brown dots.

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1 Q. Did you find any evidence of this on
2 the body?

3 A. No.

4 BY A JUROR:

5 Q. Were the girls near the same age?

6 A. I think so. I think Lauri Jacobson was
7 about 29 or she is 27. Denise Lizzi a bit younger,
8 I think, 25.

9 Q. That wouldn't make any difference?

10 A. No, that wouldn't matter either.

11 BY A JUROR:

12 Q. Doctor, when you received the victims
13 were they tied up?

14 A. They were received exactly as they were
15 found. Our practice is that we don't take anything
16 off the body unless it happens to be something just
17 lying across that you have to move, but something
18 that's tied on there, something like that, no. That
19 does not come off until it gets to the morgue and we
20 have our Crime Lab people with camera and good
21 lights and plenty of place to work.

22 Q. With your experience in the field,
23 would it indicate that one person could tie up a
24 person with the type of knots that these individuals
25 were tied up with, would it take more than one

1 person to do something like that?

2 A. I think we're getting into some
3 speculation here. Certainly it's not impossible for
4 one person to do this. Whether or not there was
5 more than one person I don't think I can help you
6 out there.

7 BY A JUROR:

8 Q. Was there signs of ankles being tied
9 also in Lauri's case? You mentioned the wrists, but
10 was there signs of the ankles being tied?

11 A. In the case of Lauri Jacobson, no. I
12 don't think we had anything around her ankles. We
13 had them around Denise Lizzi's ankles. We had the
14 marks at least didn't we, yeah, right. That is in
15 Exhibit Number 19. We had the marks on her ankles
16 but not on Lauri Jacobson.

17 BY A JUROR:

18 Q. Dr. Green, once that sock was put in
19 Denise Lizzi's mouth, she would have died fairly
20 quickly, wouldn't she have suffocated rapidly?

21 A. Yes. It's hard to figure out why that
22 is in there when the strangulation is certainly
23 adequate to have killed her. Is this something
24 added later on by somebody, I don't know.

25 Q. Thank you.

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1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q. In the decomposition of Lauri Jacobson,
3 could perhaps that have erased or done away with the
4 marks on her ankles?

5 A. It could. It certainly puts us at a
6 disadvantage. Things change color. There is
7 swelling due to gas formation. Yes, there is
8 evidence that can be obliterated very readily.

9 Q. Also, in sending the solid tissue
10 because she had decomposed to this point, is it
11 possible that they would not be able to find any
12 drugs in her tissue?

13 A. No. My best estimate is that she had
14 probably been dead for two, two and a half, maybe
15 three days. Something like that. This should not
16 really impair their ability to find things.

17 There are some compounds which
18 disappear at a fairly steady predictable rate after
19 death, but I don't know of anything that can
20 disappear in three days.

21 Cocaine will disappear almost
22 completely in the course of a couple of weeks. What
23 else? Cyanide, for some strange reason, disappears
24 if the material is not in the proper preservative,
25 but things like amphetamine, heroin, other drugs, we

1 should be able to find them.

2 Q. It had been, unless both died at the
3 same time, can you explain why one, Denise would
4 have urine in her system and Lauri would not?

5 A. Well, she may -- the one who didn't
6 have any may have passed her urine shortly before
7 death. Some will have relaxation of the sphincter
8 and void the urine at the time of death. Sometimes
9 they don't. Totally unpredictable. Not constant.
10 You see persons with full bladders. We see them
11 with empty bladders. They certainly don't all void
12 at death.

13 Q. Okay.

14 BY A JUROR:

15 Q. The stun gun marks that you said would
16 be left, I mean would they be there forever or for a
17 short period of time?

18 A. In the dead body they should stay.
19 They're not going to just fade away.

20 Q. But on a live person?

21 A. On a live person they obviously got to
22 heal.

23 Q. Would clothing protect the skin? If a
24 stun gun went through my shirt, would it still burn?

25 A. I think it would, yes.

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1 Q. It would?

2 A. Because the thing has little points on
3 it, the prongs. And whether you're talking about a
4 little hand held gadget that's half the size of a
5 pack of cigarettes that will knock you flat or a
6 tazer gun which you can fire from here across the
7 room, it does the same thing except you have the two
8 wires going over there from the electrical
9 circuitry.

10 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?
11 Do you have any more further questions?

12 BY MR. HEHN:

13 Q. Doctor, I want to give you a couple
14 more exhibits. This is Exhibit Number 27. That
15 shows the back of Lauri Jacobson on the date of the
16 autopsy?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And Exhibit 28 would be a full length
19 body photo, is that correct, of Lauri Jacobson?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And do you recall during the time when
22 she was brought in, was she wearing any type of
23 clothing around her feet or ankles?

24 A. Around her feet or ankles, let me see
25 if I can find out.

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1 Q. I won't cheat you. Let me give you a
2 photograph here.

3 A. Let's see. Let's get these girls
4 straight. Lauri Jacobson was the one with white
5 T-shirt and blue sweat pants and white socks.

6 Q. White socks?

7 A. Yes.

8 BY A JUROR:

9 Q. Doctor, was her body as decomposed as
10 her face?

11 A. No. Generally the face and the upper
12 chest and shoulder area turns dark a little ahead of
13 the rest of it. So this is perfectly normal kind of
14 progression of things.

15 BY MR. HEHN:

16 Q. Showing you Exhibit Number 29. That
17 would be the pants and socks that you said she came
18 in with?

19 A. Correct.

20 MR. HEHN: Thank you. I have nothing
21 further.

22 THE FOREPERSON: Anybody else have any
23 further questions?

24 (No response.)

25 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these

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1 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
2 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
3 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
4 Jury, B, any event occurring or statement made in
5 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
6 obtained by the Grand Jury.

7 Failure to comply with this
8 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
9 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
10 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
11 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
12 the Clark County Jail.

13 Do you understand?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

15 MS. LOWRY: Just one more question.

16 BY MS. LOWRY:

17 Q. I don't quite frankly remember if I
18 asked on photograph Exhibit Number 14, the
19 photograph of Lauri Jacobson, did I ask you, Doctor,
20 if that truly and accurately depicts Lauri Jacobson
21 on the date of the autopsy on February 21st, 1992?

22 A. You did and I said yes.

23 MR. HEHN: Ladies and gentlemen, we'll
24 leave the exhibits with you. That will conclude our
25 presentation.

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1 Okay. The exhibits that I had
2 marked as to statements of Michael Rippe, I made a
3 copy as I indicated on the record earlier, one for
4 each member of the Grand Jury. The other exhibits
5 of course will be here.

6 That's going to conclude our
7 presentation. Are there any questions as to the
8 law?

9 THE FOREPERSON: I don't think we have
10 any. Thank you.

11
12 (All persons other than members
13 of the Grand Jury left the room at
14 3:50 p.m. and returned at 4:10 p.m.)
15
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25

THE FOREPERSON: Miss District

Attorney, by a vote of 12 or more Grand Jurors a true bill has been returned against the defendant, Michael Damon Rippo, charging the crimes of two counts of murder, one count of robbery, one count of possession of stolen vehicle, one count of possession of credit cards without cardholder's consent, and one count of unauthorized signing of credit card transaction document in Grand Jury Case Number 91GJ138X.

We instruct you to prepare an Indictment in conformance with the proposed Indictment previously submitted to us.

(End of proceedings.)


---o0o---

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF CLARK) ss

I, Brenda A. Lee, C.S.R. 198, do hereby
certify that I took down in shorthand (Stenotype)
all of the proceedings had in the before-entitled
matter at the time and place indicated and
thereafter said shorthand notes were transcribed at
and under my direction and supervision and that the
foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and
accurate record of the proceedings had.

Dated at Las Vegas, Nevada, June 26th, 1992.


BRENDA A. LEE, C.S.R. 198

REX BELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Nevada Bar #001799
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
(702) 455-4711

FILED

JUN 5 11 15 AM '92

Laetia L. Lamm
CLERK

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,
Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO
ID#0619119

Defendant.

CASE NO.

C 106784

DEPT. NO. IV

I N D I C T M E N T

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss:
COUNTY OF CLARK)

The Defendant above named, MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO, accused by the Clark County Grand Jury of the crimes of MURDER (Felony - NRS 200.010, 200.030), ROBBERY (Felony - NRS 200.380), POSSESSION STOLEN VEHICLE (Felony - NRS 205.273), POSSESSION OF CREDIT CARDS WITHOUT CARDHOLDER'S CONSENT (Felony - NRS 205.690), and UNAUTHORIZED SIGNING OF CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION DOCUMENT (Felony - NRS 205.750), committed at and within the County of Clark, State of Nevada, on or between February 18, 1992, and February 20, 1992, as follows:

COUNT I - MURDER

Defendant MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO did, on or between February

(R)

1 18, 1992, and February 20, 1992, then and there, without
2 authority of law, and with malice aforethought, wilfully and
3 feloniously kill LAURI M. JACOBSON, a human being, by
4 strangulation.

5 COUNT II - MURDER

6 Defendant MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO did, on or between February
7 18, 1992, and February 20, 1992, then and there, without
8 authority of law, and with malice aforethought, wilfully and
9 feloniously kill DENISE M. LIZZI, a human being, by
10 strangulation and/or suffocation.

11 COUNT III - ROBBERY

12 Defendant MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO did, on or between February
13 18, 1992, and February 20, 1992, then and there wilfully,
14 unlawfully, and feloniously take personal property, to-wit: a
15 1988 Nissan, bearing Nevada License No. 139CUS, and/or Credit
16 Cards in her possession, from the person of DENISE M. LIZZI, or
17 in her presence, by means of force or violence, or fear of
18 injury to, and without the consent and against the will of the
19 said DENISE M. LIZZI.

20 COUNT IV - POSSESSION OF STOLEN VEHICLE

21 Defendant MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO did, on or between February
22 18, 1992, and February 20, 1992, then and there wilfully,
23 unlawfully, and feloniously possess a stolen motor vehicle
24 wrongfully taken from DENNY MASON, to-wit: a 1988 Nissan,
25 bearing Nevada License No. 139CUS, which Defendant knew, or had
26 reason to believe, had been stolen.

27 /////

28 /////

COUNT V - POSSESSION OF CREDIT CARD WITHOUT CARDHOLDER'S
CONSENT

Defendant MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO did, on or about February 19, 1992, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously have in his possession, without the consent of the cardholder, a Credit Card, to-wit: Citibank Gold Visa Credit Card No. 4271382060293848, issued in the name of DENNY MASON, with intent to circulate, use, sell, or transfer said card, with intent to defraud the said DENNY MASON, and/or the issuer of said Credit Card.

COUNT VI - UNAUTHORIZED SIGNING OF CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION
DOCUMENT

Defendant MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO did, on or about February 19, 1992, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to defraud, sign a sales slip, which evidenced a credit card transaction at SUNGLASS COMPANY, Meadows Mall, 4300 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, by presenting Citibank Gold Visa Credit Card No. 4271382060293848, issued in the name of DENNY MASON, to ANGIE SPOSITO, and signing the name D. MASON to said sales slip, to the purchase of \$304.95 in merchandise,

/////

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/////

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/////

/////

/////

Defendant not being the cardholder, and not being authorized by the cardholder to use said card or to sign the cardholder's name.

DATED this 4th day of June, 1992.

REX BELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Nevada Bar #001799

By: Teresa M. Lowry
TERESA M. LOWRY, Deputy
District Attorney

ENDORSEMENT: A True Bill

[Signature]
Grand Jury Foreperson

Names of witnesses testifying before the Grand Jury:

Diana Hunt, Witness/Co-Defendant
Wayne Hooper
Alice May Starr
Wendy Liston
Thomas Sims
Michael Beaudoin
Angie Sposito
Denny Mason
Don Dibble, LVMPD
Thomas Christos
Deidre D'amore
Steven Scholl, LVMPD
Dr. Giles Green, Clark County Medical Examiner

91GJ138X/92F2077A/ts
LVMPD 9202200523
Burg; Murder; Robb;
PSV; PCCWOCF; USCCTD - F

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JUN 30 2 54 PM '92

Loretta L. ...
CLERK

1 REX BELL
2 DISTRICT ATTORNEY
3 Nevada Bar #001799
4 200 S. Third Street
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
6 (702) 455-4711
7 Attorney for Plaintiff
8 THE STATE OF NEVADA

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

9 THE STATE OF NEVADA)
10)
11 Plaintiff,)
12)
13 vs.)
14)
15 MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO,)
16)
17 Defendant.)

CASE NO. C106784
DEPT. NO. IV
DOCKET NO. C

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK DEATH PENALTY

DATE OF HEARING: 7/1/92
TIME OF HEARING: 9:00 A.M.

18 COMES NOW, the State of Nevada, by REX BELL, District
19 Attorney, through TERESA LOWRY, Deputy District Attorney, pursuant
20 to NRS 175.552 and NRS 200.033 and declares its intention to seek
21 the death penalty at a penalty hearing. Furthermore, the State of
22 Nevada discloses that it will present evidence of the following
23 aggravating circumstances:

24 1. The murders were committed by a person under sentence of
25 imprisonment. Defendant was on parole for a Nevada Conviction for
26 the crime of Sexual Assault in 1982. [See NRS 200.033(1)]. The
27 evidence of this aggravating circumstance will consist of
28 documentary proof and/or testimony concerning prior convictions.

CE03

1 2. The murders were committed by a person who was previously
2 convicted of a felony involving the use or threat of violence to
3 another person. Defendant was convicted of Sexual Assault, a
4 felony, in the State of Nevada, in 1982. [See NRS 200.033(2)].
5 The evidence of this aggravating circumstance will consist of
6 documentary proof and/or testimony concerning prior convictions.

7 3. The murders were committed while the person was engaged in
8 the commission of or an attempt to commit robbery. [See NRS
9 200.033(4)]. The evidence of this aggravating circumstance will
10 consist of testimony and physical evidence arising out of the
11 aggravated nature of the offense itself.

12 4. The murders involved torture, or the mutilation of the
13 victim. [See NRS 200.033(8)]. The evidence of this aggravating
14 circumstance will consist of testimony and physical evidence
15 arising out of the aggravated nature of the offense itself.

16 DATED this 30th day of June, 1992.

17 Respectfully submitted,

18 REX BELL
19 DISTRICT ATTORNEY
20 Nevada Bar #001799
21 Nevada Bar #003901

22 BY: *Teresa Lowry*
23 TERESA LOWRY
24 Deputy District Attorney
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MMW

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RECEIPT OF COPY of the above and foregoing is hereby
acknowledged this 30 day of June, 1992.

STEVEN WOLFSON, ESQ.
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

BY: [Signature]
415 S. Sixth Street #101
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

RECEIPT OF COPY of the above and foregoing is hereby
acknowledged this 30th day of June, 1992.

PHILIP DUNLEAVY, ESQ.
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

BY: [Signature]
1000 S. 3rd Street #E
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

DISTRICT COURT

ORIGINAL

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

--000--

FILED

FEB 28 2 29 PM '93

Laetta Luman
CLERK

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO,

Defendant.

Case No. C106784

Dept. No. IV

Docket: C

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

OF

PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE THE HONORABLE GERARD J. BONGIOVANNI, DISTRICT JUDGE

Monday, July 6, 1992

9:00 o'clock a.m.

APPEARANCES:

For the State:

William Hehn, Esq.
Deputy District Attorney

For the Defendant:

Steven Wolfson, Esq.
Philip H. Dunleavy, Esq.
Attorneys at Law

Reported by: DONNA J. ANTONACCI, CSR #337
Official Court Reporter



1 LAS VEGAS, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA; MONDAY, JULY 6, 1992

2 --oOo--

3
4 THE COURT: State of Nevada versus Michael
5 Damon Rippo.

6 MR. WOLFSON: Good morning, Judge. Steve
7 Wolfson appearing with Phil Dunleavy, and Mr. Rippo is in
8 custody.

9 Judge, I have been retained to
10 represent Mr. Rippo and I will be representing him.

11 MR. DUNLEAVY: Your Honor, I was appointed in
12 the Justice Court, this is a 250 case, as co-counsel for this
13 matter. At this time I would ask to be confirmed as counsel.

14 THE COURT: Okay. You will be confirmed as
15 associate counsel.

16 MR. DUNLEAVY: Your Honor, at this time this
17 was set for the arraignment. I would like to call the Court's
18 attention to NRS 172.225 which the relevant part says if the
19 defendant has not received a copy of the Grand Jury
20 transcript, then he is entitled to a ten-day continuance after
21 the day he has received the Grand Jury transcript. No
22 transcripts have been received by us.

23 THE COURT: Have they been prepared yet?

24 MR. HEHN: We have not received a copy yet,
25 your Honor.

1 MR. WOLFSON: Based on that fact, Judge, we
2 would ask for a ten-day continuance of his arraignment. That
3 would be a continuance of ten days from the receipt of the
4 transcript. I don't know who the Grand Jury reporter is. I
5 would ask the District Attorney's office to notify her or him
6 to provide us with a copy of that transcript.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Hehn, would you do that,
8 please, and we'll set this matter down for a status check in
9 two weeks.

10 THE CLERK: July 20th, 9:00 a.m.

11 THE COURT: And if the transcript is prepared
12 and you receive it prior to that, maybe we could have the
13 arraignment at that time.

14 MR. WOLFSON: Yes, sir, thank you.

15 MR. DUNLEAVY: Your Honor, just before court
16 started there was an individual whom I don't know, I don't
17 know who he was, he stood up in the back of the courtroom and
18 started threatening our client. We would like to make the
19 court aware. Apparently he's some kind of relative of one of
20 the victims. He was ejected from the courtroom and nobody
21 identified who he was. If that should happen again can we
22 make an effort to identify him so we can have him excluded?

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 MR. HEHN: I would like it to go on the
25 record we intend to seek notice of death penalty of Rule 250.

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THE COURT: Okay. The record will so
reflect. See you in two weeks.

(Proceedings concluded.)

--oOo--

ATTEST: Full, true, and accurate transcript of
proceedings.



DONNA J. ANTONACCI
CSR No. 337

of the Grand Jury, C, information obtained by the Grand Jury.

Failure to comply with this admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In addition, you may be held in contempt of court punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in the Clark County Jail.

Do you understand that?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

I think at this time let's take about a 15 minute break.

(After a short break the following proceedings were had:)

MR. HEINE: We're back on the record.

There are a couple of things that I feel based on the last testimony that I need to instruct you on.

First of all, that the person who is accused of this, it's merely an accusation. They are presumed innocent until legal and competent evidence comes in which would overcome that to the

1 basis that you need for an indictment which is
 2 probable cause.

3 One of the things that I want
 4 you to totally disregard, there was a statement in
 5 there concerning prison. You are to consider the
 6 fact that as to the accused in this matter his --
 7 you are to consider him to have never had any prior
 8 criminal record, any prior criminal dealings other
 9 than as to what was testified, the actual criminal
 10 acts that were testified to here today, as far as
 11 any of your deliberations are concerned.

12 Another thing, she made a
 13 statement that she felt that Lauri was talking
 14 Denise into coming in. That was merely a
 15 presumption on her part that -- there would be no
 16 evidence presented to you. So you should totally
 17 disregard that.

18 The other thing, there was a
 19 statement that she felt that Rippe was crazy. You
 20 can take his actions and make your own
 21 determination, but now, what would you say feelings
 22 as to his mental state or anything of that nature,
 23 of course, she is not a professional so they should
 24 be totally disregarded and what anybody thought in
 25 her opinion should be.

1 So any statements that she made
2 as to what someone else thought would have no
3 bearing, okay.

4 Any questions?

5 THE FOREPERSON: I don't think so.

6 MR. HEIN: We'll bring in our next
7 witness.

8 Step right up, sir, and raise
9 your right hand and be sworn.

10 THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear
11 that the testimony that you are about to give upon
12 the investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
13 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
14 the truth, so help you God?

15 MR. HOOTER: I do.

16 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you. Have a
17 seat.

18 You are here today to give
19 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
20 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
21 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
22 credit cards without a cardholder's consent and
23 unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction
24 document involving Michael Damon Bippo set forth in
25 the proposed indictment.

is that your understanding?

MR. HOOPER: Yes.

THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

WAYNE S. HOOPER,

Having been first duly sworn by the
Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
to the truth, the whole truth and
nothing but the truth, testified as
follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. HAHN:

Q. Sir, you understand that you're before
the Clark County Grand Jury?

A. Yes.

Q. And would you speak nice and loud so
everyone can hear you? We have an air conditioner
going.

State your name and spell your
last name.

A. Wayne Steven Hooper, H-o-o-p-e-r.

Q. Mr. Hooper, I want to direct your
attention to February 18th, 1992. Sir, where were

1 you employed?

2 A. Katie Ann Apartments.

3 Q. Where is that located, sir?

4 A. 3890 Cambridge.

5 Q. And what city, sir?

6 A. Las Vegas.

7 Q. So that would be in Clark County,
8 Nevada; is that correct?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. And in the course of that employment,
11 sir, were you ever familiar with a person by the
12 name of Laura Jacobson?

13 A. I saw her several times.

14 Q. And how did you know that person to be
15 Laura Jacobson, sir?

16 A. I was in the office when she registered
17 in.

18 Q. What were your duties there again?

19 A. I'm the manager.

20 Q. She registered in there for she would
21 be residing there; is that correct?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. So is this an apartment complex, or
24 could you describe it just a little bit to the
25 ladies and gentlemen?

Las Vegas, Nevada REPORTING SERVICES (702) 382-7530

1 A. It's a weekly apartment complex.

2 Q. And approximately how many units do you
3 have, sir?

4 A. 106.

5 Q. And do you know which apartment unit
6 Laura Jacobson was in?

7 A. Yes, sir. She was in 317.

8 Q. Did you have an opportunity on or about
9 the 20th of February, 1992, sir, to go to that
10 particular apartment?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. What caused you to go to that
13 apartment, sir?

14 A. She was five days late with her rent.
15 And she had come in two days prior and said she knew
16 she was late with the rent and she would be right
17 back to pay it. She never came back in. And her
18 car didn't leave. Her keys were still in the car so
19 we went to see what, if anything, was wrong.

20 Q. By "we," who are you talking about,
21 sir?

22 A. Our security guard Mac Holloway.

23 Q. And yourself?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. When you got there, sir, did you knock

1 on the door?

2 A. Three times.

3 Q. And after knocking on the door I take

4 it there was no response; is that correct?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Did you try the door, sir?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. Was it locked?

9 A. The dead bolt was locked. The bottom

10 lock wasn't.

11 Q. By that bolt, could you tell me what

12 you mean there?

13 A. It's just -- it's not the -- I don't

14 know, it's not the door latch. It's not the one

15 that closes automatically when you close the door.

16 Q. You got the regular door handle that

17 opens and closes the door?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. Also a secondary lock above that, is

20 that what it is?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. As to what you described as a dead

23 bolt, sir, is that a key operated dead bolt?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is it key operated from one side or

1 both sides?

2 A. One side.

3 Q. So key operated from only the outside?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. Did you utilize a key in order to enter

6 the apartment?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. After you entered the apartment, sir,

9 what, if anything, did you see?

10 A. The apartment was a total shambles.

11 Q. By shambles what do you mean?

12 A. Everything, all her clothes and her

13 furniture, her belongings were strewn everywhere.

14 The phone was in the middle of the floor. Beer

15 bottles everywhere.

16 Q. You saw this immediately upon opening

17 the door; is that correct?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. I take it then you stepped inside the

20 apartment?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. Once you stepped in the apartment what,

23 if anything, did you see, sir?

24 A. I proceeded to the back of the

25 apartment toward the bathroom and the closet area to

1 see if possibly somebody was hiding in there. When
2 I got close to the bathroom door I noticed two sets
3 of feet sticking out of the closet.

4 Q. Go ahead.

5 A. And I immediately called the security
6 guard over, and I didn't know if they were passed
7 out from drinking, or what it was. He checked
8 them. I waited in the living room and he just said,
9 "oh, no, they're dead."

10 Q. Now, did you look and see anything
11 other than just these two feet? Did you look into
12 the closet?

13 A. I did after he said they were dead. I
14 looked in there.

15 Q. Let me show you what's marked as Grand
16 Jury Exhibit Number which is a photograph. Do you
17 recognize that photograph, sir?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Does that appear to be similar to what
20 you saw on the date that you're describing to the
21 Grand Jury today?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Does that appear to be how the bodies
24 were actually lying?

25 A. Exactly, sir.

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Q. And I notice that one of them is clothed different than the other. Could you just, utilizing that photograph and your recollection, to the best of your ability, could you describe to the ladies and gentlemen of the Grand Jury the difference in the clothing in the two people meaning the amount of clothing being worn?

A. Lauri on the right has -- looks like a T-shirt on and just pants. And the other person had a T-shirt and looked like jogging slacks or something on.

Q. So one of them has pants and the other one does not; is that correct?

A. Right.

Q. Thank you.

Q. As to the five days behind in rent, had you given them any notice that they had to move or, excuse me, given her any notice that she had to move or anything of that nature?

A. No. That's what we were going to do then.

MR. BENNETT: Thank you. I have nothing further.

THE COURT: Thank you. Does anybody else have any further questions?

1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q. Who's the one that does not have the
3 clothes on, please, in the photograph?

4 A. That's Lauri Jacobson.

5 BY MR. HEHN:

6 Q. Do you recognize her?

7 A. When I leaned over and looked I
8 recognized the side of the face.

9 Q. Did you ever see the other person's
10 face?

11 A. No, I didn't.

12 Q. Okay.

13 BY A JUROR:

14 Q. The other person in the photograph is
15 fully dressed?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Thank you.

18 THE FOREPERSON: Can you pass the
19 photograph around?

20 MR. HEHN: I will.

21 THE FOREPERSON: Any other questions?

22 (No response.)

23 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
24 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
25 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before

1 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
2 Jury, B, any event occurring or statement made in
3 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
4 obtained by the Grand Jury.

5 Failure to comply with this
6 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
7 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
8 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
9 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
10 the Clark County Jail.

11 Do you understand that?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

14 I need you to raise your right
15 hand, please.

16 You do solemnly swear that the
17 testimony that you are about to give upon the
18 investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
19 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
20 the truth, so help you God?

21 MS. STARR: Yes.

22 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

23 You are here today to give
24 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
25 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of

1 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
2 credit cards without cardholder's consent and
3 unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction
4 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
5 the proposed Indictment.

6 Is that your understanding?

7 MS. STARR: Yes.

8 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

9
10 ALICE STARR.

11 Having been first duly sworn by the
12 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
13 to the truth, the whole truth and
14 nothing but the truth, testified as
15 follows:

16
17 EXAMINATION

18
19 BY MS. LOWRY:

20 Q. Can you state your name and spell it
21 for the record, please?

22 A. Alice Mae Starr.

23 Q. Will you spell your last name, please?

24 A. S-t-a-r-r.

25 Q. And I will ask you to do me a favor and

1 speak up so everyone can hear you?

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Is it Mrs. Starr?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Mrs. Starr, where do you live?

6 A. At Desert Shores.

7 Q. And are you employed?

8 A. No, I'm not.

9 Q. So you're a housewife?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you know someone by the name of

12 Michael Rippo?

13 A. Yes, I do.

14 Q. I'm going to show you State's Exhibit

15 Number 5. Do you recognize anyone? Look at all of

16 the pictures and tell me if there is anyone that you

17 recognize there.

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. Who do you recognize?

20 A. Michael Rippo.

21 Q. And what number is his photo?

22 A. Number 1.

23 Q. How long have you known Michael Rippo?

24 A. Approximately a year and a half.

25 Q. And how do you know him?

1 A. Just we're friends.

2 Q. Explain your friendship for me a little
3 bit.

4 A. Well, we're pretty close. We were
5 getting to be pretty close friends. I'd see him a
6 couple three times a week.

7 Q. Okay. You said you were getting to be
8 pretty close friends. Did something happen that
9 stopped you from --

10 A. Well, no. I still talk to him.

11 Q. Do you know -- did you know Lauri
12 Jacobson?

13 A. No. I did not.

14 Q. Did you know Denise Lizz?

15 A. No. I didn't.

16 Q. Now, did there come a time in February
17 of this year, 1992, that you had a conversation, a
18 rather unusual conversation with Michael Rippo?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. Tell me about that conversation.

21 A. Well, he called me on the phone, asked
22 me to hurry and write down a phone number.

23 Q. Let me ask you this: What time of day
24 did he call you?

25 A. Early afternoon. I'd say approximately

Las Vegas, Nevada REPORTING SERVICES (702) 382-7530

1 1:00 o'clock.

2 Q. Do you recall the date?

3 A. No, I do not.

4 Q. But you do recall that it was in

5 February?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. So he called you in the early

8 afternoon and what did he say?

9 A. He ask d me to write down a phone

10 number and quickly. He was -- sounded really rushed

11 on the phone. I wrote it down. And he asked me to

12 call it. I asked him, "Why?" And he said, "Just

13 hurry and do it."

14 I said, "Who am I supposed to

15 talk to?" He said, "As for Lauri." And I said,

16 "Okay. What am I supposed to say?" He said, "Just

17 talk to her." I'm like, "Wait a minute." And he's

18 like, "Could you hurry and do it?" And I'm like,

19 "Okay." We hung up the phone. It was a very short

20 conversation.

21 Q. So other than what you said he didn't

22 give you any other instructions?

23 A. No, he didn't.

24 Q. After he hung up the phone what did you

25 do?

1 A. I thought about it for a minute. I
2 wasn't going to do it. I picked up the phone, and I
3 have the feature on there to get the last number
4 that called.

5 Q. Does that feature have a name?

6 A. One of the custom calling. It's in the
7 Centel packages.

8 Q. What does the feature enable you to do?

9 A. To be able to recall the last number
10 that called you.

11 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

12 A. So I went ahead and did that, and they
13 gave me the number that he was at. And it wasn't
14 the same number he had given me to call.

15 Q. Did you write down the number?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. That he had asked you to call?

18 A. I had written them both down.

19 Q. You wrote down the number that the
20 phone company indicated that he called you from?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Did you see that telephone number?

23 A. I did until about -- well, the time
24 from probably about two weeks after this had all
25 taken place. But I'd gone through, I found the

1 number on my desk and said there was no reference, I
2 didn't need it for anything so I threw it away not
3 knowing it was anything important at all.

4 Q. Were the phone numbers -- so do you
5 recall either one of the phone numbers?

6 A. I mentioned -- I mentioned something in
7 my statement before that I thought there were
8 actually three numbers on this piece of paper. I
9 had picked the paper off of my desk that already had
10 one on there and written the one he had given me and
11 when I called back to find out what the number he
12 was at I wrote that number down also.

13 Q. Why did you do that? Why did you hit
14 the feature?

15 A. Because I thought it was really odd the
16 request.

17 Q. Were the phone numbers the same?

18 A. No, they were not the same.

19 Q. So the number that he was calling from
20 was different?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. From the number he had given you to
23 call?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. After he did that what did you do?

1 A. I thought about it for a second again.
2 I said okay. I went ahead and picked up the phone
3 and called the number he had given me and asked for
4 Lauri.

5 Q. What happened?

6 A. I believe Lauri answered the phone
7 because I'm pretty sure from what I recall she said
8 that it was her on the phone.

9 Q. And so what did you do?

10 A. I thought -- I was trying to think real
11 quick. I tried to make small talk. I asked her if
12 she knew a guy named Dan, John, or something. She
13 was like, "Maybe." I said, "He told me I could get
14 in touch with him through you." She asked me, "Is
15 it Big John or Big Dan?" I said, "No, he wasn't
16 very big." And the conversation was very short.

17 Next thing I hear, somebody in
18 the background yelling Lauri. They yelled Lauri
19 three times and she dropped the phone, or I don't
20 know what happened. She was gone from the phone.

21 I stayed on the phone for maybe
22 20, 30 seconds after that. She never came back. I
23 heard some scuffling about, but I couldn't hear
24 anything distinctive, no more names or anything like
25 that. And I hung up the phone and that was it.

1 Q. Did you ever have any conversations
2 with Michael Rippo after this time about that phone
3 call?

4 A. It was probably two weeks to three
5 weeks later when we finally -- he finally told me
6 what the phone call, why the phone call was made or
7 that the phone call was made for a reason.

8 Q. What did he tell you?

9 A. He just -- he come out and said
10 something about -- I don't remember real clearly
11 because I was really shocked. It shocked me. That
12 I had called to distract them so Diana could rob
13 them.

14 Q. How many times have you visited Michael
15 Rippo in jail?

16 A. Quite a few times.

17 Q. Approximate number?

18 A. Seven, eight maybe.

19 Q. Seven, eight times?

20 A. Yeah.

21 MS. LOWRY: I have no further
22 questions.

23 THE FOREPERSON: Does anybody have any
24 questions?
25

1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q. I have the kind of phone that you're
3 talking about. When a call comes in from a complex
4 like similar to Katie Arms, I don't know about that
5 one in particular, but sometimes the numbers will be
6 different.

7 Did you try pushing your radial
8 button to see if you called the same number?

9 A. No, I sure didn't.

10 Q. In other words, I had a friend that was
11 staying in one of the weekly places. I called that
12 number and when they would call me the number would
13 come up different from the number I would call them
14 at and get an apartment number so I just was trying
15 to figure out if he was at that number.

16 A. I didn't try that.

17 Q. Okay, thank you.

18 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

19 BY A JUROR:

20 Q. How did you get to know Mike?

21 A. I just -- I met him through a mutual
22 friend. She was a good friend of mine at that time,
23 and he was just a friend of hers. And between my
24 whole family, with my kids and all, we all would
25 hang out together. We would watch a movie or

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whatever.

Q. Is this through some kind of a group that you're --

A. No.

Q. How did you stay in contact with him I mean?

A. He was just a friend of mine. I mean it's like having like my next door neighbor as a friend. Whenever there would be something to do or we wanted something to do we would talk to him.

Q. Were you at a nightclub when you first met him?

A. No.

Q. Where did you first meet him?

A. At my girl friend's house.

Q. At your girl friend's house?

A. Uh-huh.

THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

(No response.)

THE FOREPERSON: By law, these proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before us including A, evidence presented to the Grand Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information

1 obtained by the Grand Jury.

2 Failure to comply with this
3 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
4 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
5 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
6 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
7 the Clark County Jail.

8 Do you understand this?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

10 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

11 I need you to raise your right
12 hand, please.

13 You do solemnly swear that the
14 testimony that you are about to give upon the
15 investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
16 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
17 the truth, so help you God?

18 MS. LISTON: Yes.

19 THE FOREPERSON: Go ahead and have a
20 seat.

21 You are here today to give
22 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
23 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
24 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
25 credit cards without cardholder's consent,

1 unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction
2 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
3 the proposed Indictment.

4 Is that your understanding?

5 MS. LISTON: Yes.

6
7 WENDY LISTON,

8 having been first duly sworn by the
9 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
10 to the truth, the whole truth and
11 nothing but the truth, testified as
12 follows:

13
14 EXAMINATION

15
16 BY MR. HEHN:

17 Q. Would you state your name and spell
18 your last name for the court reporter?

19 A. Wendy Liston, L-i-s-t-o-n.

20 Q. I'm going to sit over here so you can
21 kind of speak at me and everyone else can hear you.
22 With the air conditioner it is just a little noisy,
23 okay?

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Wendy, you were familiar with Lauri

1 Jacobson, is that correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you consider her to be a good
4 friend?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And back in February you were familiar
7 with where she lived?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you know the address that she lived
10 at?

11 A. No. I do know it was Katie Arms
12 Apartment on Cambridge.

13 MR. HEHN: Can everyone hear her okay?

14 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

15 BY MR. HEHN:

16 Q. You know she lived at Katie Arms?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And she was a good enough friend you
19 kind of took off as her caretaker when she ran into
20 hard times?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. I want to direct your attention to --
23 we're going to probably start about February 15th.
24 I'm not going to hold you to that date, but about
25 February 15th, somewhere right along that line, you

1 were going by to see Laura Jacobson on a fairly
2 regular basis?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What was the purpose? Explain to the
5 folks why you were going by there.

6 A. She lost her job and she didn't have
7 too much money. She couldn't pay her rent. She was
8 hungry, and basically I would go by on my lunch hour
9 and take her food and make sure she was okay.

10 Q. You did this --

11 A. -- every day.

12 Q. You did it --

13 A. -- Monday through Friday except for the
14 weekend.

15 Q. That's because it's fairly close to
16 where you work?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And one day you went by and you saw a
19 person there by the name of Michael?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Would you recognize the person again if
22 you saw a photo of him?

23 A. Yes. Yes.

24 Q. Let me show you a series of photographs
25 that have been marked as Grand Jury Exhibit Number

1 5. Each photograph has a number on it and a number
2 with a letter. And would you look through -- they
3 are on each side so I'm not trying to fool you.

4 Would you look at each of those
5 photographs and tell me if you recognize a
6 photograph of Michael Rippo?

7 You're shaking your head?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Which one?

10 A. Number 1.

11 Q. And as to the person depicted in
12 photograph number 1, shortly before the 18th of
13 February of this year, did you see Michael Rippo
14 near Laura Jacobson's apartment?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Would you explain to the ladies and
17 gentlemen approximately when it was and what the
18 circumstances were?

19 A. I believe it was on the Sunday before
20 Lauri's death, he was at her house with me and
21 Lauri. And I basically went over -- Lauri had asked
22 me to come over.

23 I went over to her house. She
24 explained to me that she had to pay her rent quickly
25 or move out. At that point I asked her to basically

1 come stay with me. She refused and stated that my
2 boyfriend would make her feel uncomfortable in my
3 home. I don't know why, but that's what she said.

4 Q. What, if anything, was Michael Rippo
5 doing there, do you know?

6 A. Michael was there when I got there. He
7 was already there.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Lauri had at that point got in the
10 refrigerator, took out a bottle, and told Michael
11 that it was 250 cc's of morphine. She wanted to get
12 rid of it so she could pay the rent. Michael said
13 he would leave and come back with some money and
14 take that off her hands.

15 I went outside for 10 or 15
16 minutes and smoked a cigarette and went back in and
17 Michael left.

18 Q. So this was on a Sunday?

19 A. I believe so.

20 Q. Right around there?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Shortly before the 18th anyway?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And did you go by her apartment the
25 next day?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. Would you explain to the ladies and
3 gentlemen what occurred when you went by her
4 apartment the next day?

5 A. I took Lauri to the Discount Tires
6 around the corner to fix the tire on her car, and we
7 dropped her car off. I took her back home. We ate
8 a little lunch and I went back to work.

9 Q. Did you see Michael Rippe or anybody
10 around there that day?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Then the next day?

13 A. The next day I went over there. I
14 believe I knocked on the door and nobody answered.

15 Q. Now, when you knocked on the door did
16 you say anything?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. What did you say?

19 A. Do I have to tell you that?

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. I -- basically I banged on the door for
22 a while. I banged on the window. Nobody answered
23 the door. I said, "You better be getting a good
24 piece of ass because you're not answering the door
25 for me." And then I walked away.

1 Q. So there was a reason that you thought
2 that was?

3 A. Yes. Because Denise's car was there
4 and Lauri's car was there. You know, I figured they
5 got to be there. I figured they weren't answering
6 the door because they were probably doing the wild
7 thing.

8 Q. Both cars were there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. No one answered the door?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did she normally keep her door locked?

13 A. No.

14 Q. How do you know that?

15 A. I lived with Lauri for two years and
16 basically she never locked the door, ever. And if
17 she did lock the door the window was open. She
18 always had a way to get in her home. She always
19 left the door or the window open.

20 Q. But there were exceptions to this rule?

21 A. There was a stick in the window.

22 Q. There were exceptions. There were
23 times when she actually did lock it but maybe when
24 she was inside?

25 A. Possibly.

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1 Q. So you knocked at the door, knocked at
2 the window, mentioned her name a few times, and then
3 you left?

4 A. Then I went downstairs. I wrote a note
5 to Denise. She had borrowed a pair of my boots. I
6 wanted to retrieve them. I wrote a note that said
7 Denise, I came by. You didn't answer the door. I
8 want to retrieve my boots. Love me, Wendy. Left my
9 phone number and put it on the car on the windshield
10 and left.

11 Q. And did you come back by the next day?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. When you came by the next day describe
14 to the ladies and gentlemen what was happening.

15 A. I drove into the complex. I saw like I
16 think it was Channel 8 news van and a bunch of suits
17 walking around. I assumed there was probably a drug
18 bust going down. I looked for Lauri's car. I
19 didn't see her car. I looked around and went back
20 to work.

21 Q. Did you see Denise's car?

22 A. No.

23 Q. By walking around --

24 A. I didn't walk around. I drove through
25 the parking lot.

1 Q. I'm sorry. About the people in suits,
2 they looked like cops?

3 A. They were dressed like you. I assumed
4 that they were cops. There was a news team. I
5 assumed, yeah, they were detectives, but I didn't
6 think -- it didn't click that it had anything to do
7 with Denise or Lauri.

8 Q. Were they anywhere close?

9 A. No, they were not. I looked upstairs.
10 They were in the corridor where the elevator was and
11 by the news van. They were basically packing up so
12 I assumed they were just finishing.

13 Q. This was at noon again?

14 A. Yes. Right around noon, yes. Noon or
15 12:30. In there somewhere.

16 Q. Are you familiar with Diana Hunt?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Had you ever met Diana Hunt?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You said that you recognized Denise
21 Lizzi's car?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you describe that car just a little
24 bit?

25 A. 300Z, maroon in color.

1 Q. I'm sorry?

2 A. A 300Z, maroon in color.

3 Q. Showing you what's been marked as
4 Exhibit Number 3 with the exception of the paint --

5 A. -- the fender.

6 Q. Does that appear to be the same --

7 A. -- that resembles Denise's car, yes.

8 MR. HEHN: Thank you. I have nothing
9 further.

10 THE FOREPERSON: Any questions?

11 BY A JUROR:

12 Q. How far from Lauri's place did you
13 work?

14 A. I worked on Tropicana between Swenson
15 and Paradise.

16 Q. How long did you say you lived with
17 Lauri?

18 A. Two years, different apartments.

19 Q. Was in this town?

20 A. Yes, in Las Vegas.

21 Q. How come you went outside to smoke a
22 cigarette?

23 A. Lauri doesn't smoke and I don't smoke
24 in front of her in her home.

25 Q. Was Lauri into drugs when you were

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1 living with her?

2 A. Lauri did crystal.

3 Q. Did she run it or did she mostly snort
4 it?

5 A. What do you mean?

6 Q. Use it intravenously.

7 A. I do know she did -- I can't say I saw
8 her do it, but I do know of her doing it, yes.

9 Q. So okay. Thanks.

10 THE FOREPERSON: Any other questions?

11 BY A JUROR:

12 Q. When you arrived there the first time
13 that you saw Debbie's 300 and you saw Lauri's car --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- were they close to one another?

16 A. No. Lauri's car was on this side of
17 the parking lot and Denise's car was over here near
18 the elevator.

19 Q. When you went the second time you know
20 that Denise's car was gone, but you said Lauri's car
21 was gone also?

22 A. Yes. Neither one of the cars were
23 there the day that I saw the news crew there.

24 Q. You're sure of that?

25 A. Yeah.

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1 Q. The window that you said had a stick in
2 it, were you sure it was closed and had the --

3 A. Yeah. I tried to get in the window.
4 It was a stick. I couldn't open the window.

5 Q. You tried that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay, thank you.

8 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

9 BY A JUROR:

10 Q. What kind of car did Lauri have?

11 A. A 280Z, '78 or '79. It was an older
12 model.

13 BY MR. HEHN:

14 Q. Older black one?

15 A. Yeah, beat up.

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q. One other question.

18 You lived with her for a long
19 time. She was in the habit of leaving the doors
20 open and was she also in the habit of leaving the
21 keys in the car?

22 A. No.

23 Q. She would always take the keys in?

24 A. Yes.
25

1 BY MR. HEHN:

2 Q. Showing you what's been marked as Grand
3 Jury Exhibit Number 10. Do you recognize that?

4 A. Yes. That's Lauri's car.

5 BY A JUROR:

6 Q. Was Diana or was Denise living with
7 Lauri?

8 A. Not that I'm aware of.

9 Q. Pardon me?

10 A. Not that I'm aware of.

11 THE FOREPERSON: Does anybody else have
12 any further questions?

13 MR. HEHN: Give me one second.

14 THE FOREPERSON: Sure.

15 BY MR. HEHN:

16 Q. During the course of the police
17 investigation were you asked to identify any items
18 which belonged to Lauri or Denise?

19 A. No.

20 MR. HEHN: I have nothing further.

21 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
22 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
23 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
24 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
25 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in

1 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
2 obtained by the Grand Jury.

3 Failure to comply with this
4 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
5 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
6 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
7 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
8 the Clark County Jail.

9 Do you understand that?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you very much.

12 I need you to raise your right
13 hand.

14 You do solemnly swear that the
15 testimony that you are about to give upon the
16 investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
17 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
18 the truth, so help you God?

19 MR. SIMMS: I do.

20 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you. Have a
21 seat.

22 You are here today to give
23 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
24 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
25 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of

1 credit cards without cardholder's consent and
2 unauthorized signing of credit card transaction
3 document involving Michael Damon Rippo set forth in
4 the proposed indictment.

5 Is that your understanding?

6 MR. SIMMS: Yes.

7 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

8
9 THOMAS SIMMS,

10 having been first duly sworn by the
11 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
12 to the truth, the whole truth and
13 nothing but the truth, testified as
14 follows:

15
16 EXAMINATION

17
18 BY MS. LOWRY:

19 Q. Mr. Simms, would you state your name
20 and spell it for the record?

21 A. Thomas Simms. T-h-o-m-a-s S-i-m-m-s.

22 Q. Mr. Simms, do you have any prior felony
23 convictions?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 Q. Can you tell us what they are, when

1 they were, the year would be fine, and the state
2 where they were?

3 A. They're all in the state of Nevada. In
4 1976 I got a conviction for robbery and sales with
5 controlled substance. In 1984, transporting a
6 controlled substance and possession with intent.
7 And then in 1985 I got another conviction for
8 possession of controlled substance.

9 Q. Do you know an individual by the name
10 of Michael Rippe?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Showing you State's Exhibit Number 5.
13 Do you recognize anyone in State's Exhibit Number 5?

14 A. Yes, sir, I do.

15 Q. Who do you recognize?

16 A. Mike Rippe.

17 Q. And which number is his photograph?

18 A. 1 and 1A.

19 Q. How long have you known Michael Rippe?

20 A. Since 1985.

21 Q. Okay. Do you own a business?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. What's the name of your business?

24 A. Tommy's Maintenance.

25 Q. What kind of business is it?

1 A. I do -- I maintain six shopping centers
2 here in town. I do all of the maintenance for them.

3 Q. And where is your business located?

4 A. 1830 Vanessa.

5 Q. I'd like to direct your attention to
6 February 18th of 1992. Did you have occasion to see
7 Michael Rippo on this date?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. And how is it that you remember or are
10 you able to recall this date?

11 A. Because I keep a daily and after all of
12 this started I went back through my daily to see,
13 you know, what the exact date was.

14 Q. And by a daily, you mean like a diary
15 or an appointment book on what you've done day to
16 day?

17 A. Yes, exactly.

18 Q. Where did you see Mike Rippo on
19 February 18th?

20 A. At my shop.

21 Q. At about what time?

22 A. I would say it was probably around 1:00
23 or 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

24 Q. And how did this meeting occur?

25 A. He just all of a sudden came walking

1 into the shop. I was sitting at my desk.

2 Q. Did he say anything to you?

3 A. Not immediately because I was on the
4 phone and people were moving around. I don't
5 remember exactly what happened when he first came to
6 the shop.

7 Q. Did he indicate to you why he was
8 there?

9 A. Yeah. Afterwards he told me he had a
10 car outside he wanted me to look at.

11 Q. Did you go out and look at the car?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. I'm going to show you State's Exhibit

14 3. Do you recognize this?

15 What did the car look like that
16 Mr. Rippo took you outside to see?

17 A. It looked like -- but the front quarter
18 panel, the front fender wasn't primed like that.

19 Q. Okay. So is this photograph similar to
20 the vehicle that he took you to see out in front of
21 your business on that date?

22 A. Yes, it is.

23 Q. With the exception of the gray primer
24 paint on the front?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Why did he show you this car?

2 A. He wanted to know if I knew anyone that
3 wanted to buy the car.

4 Q. And what else did he say to you at this
5 time?

6 A. Well, I asked him then where the car
7 came from and he told me that someone had died for
8 the car.

9 Q. What else did he say to you?

10 A. I didn't really want to know too much
11 after that. I just basically told him I wanted him
12 to get the car away from my shop.

13 Q. Did he want you to do anything?

14 A. He wanted me to loan him some money.

15 Q. Did he say how much?

16 A. He said he needed about \$2,000.

17 Q. Did he say why he needed the money?

18 A. He said he wanted to leave town.

19 Q. So after this conversation what
20 happened? What did you and Michael Rippo do?

21 A. He was at the shop for a good while,
22 and then I started getting busy. And he asked me if
23 he could park the car in my shop and I told him no.

24 Then I told him I had to leave
25 because I had, you know, there was things in the

center that I had to take care of. So he went with me. I went over to one of the jobs that I was doing at the time. He helped one of my guys install an AC vent. He ran around and did some of the errands with me around in the shopping center, and then I guess I returned to the shop maybe 4:00 or 4:30.

Q. Did anyone else come to the shop?

A. Several people came in and out of the shop.

Q. Around what time did Michael Rippo eventually leave?

A. I would say he left approximately around 4:30 or 5:00 o'clock and said he had to meet somebody at the Marker Down.

Q. Did anybody ever join him there at your shop?

A. Not during the time he was there. When he returned.

Q. Did he return that night?

A. Yes.

Q. What time did he return?

A. It was about 6:00 o'clock because I was getting ready to go home and he returned to the shop.

Q. Was there anyone with him?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Who was with him?

3 A. Diana Hunt.

4 Q. Do you know Diana Hunt?

5 A. I do now. I had met her maybe a week

6 prior to that --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- with Mike.

9 Q. And were they in a vehicle at this

10 time?

11 A. I didn't see a vehicle at that time.

12 Q. So when he came back later that night

13 with Diana Hunt was the Z still at your business?

14 A. Yes, it was.

15 Q. The Z was still at your business?

16 A. Yes, it was. He didn't take the Z when

17 he left. He left on foot.

18 Q. He left on foot and returned with Diana

19 Hunt?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Then what happened?

22 A. Then I told him I wanted the vehicle

23 out from in front of my shop, and he said that he

24 would be back later to get the vehicle. And I

25 believe him and Diana left in a Pinto, but I can't

1 be positive.

2 Q. And then what did you do?

3 A. I went home.

4 Q. And when you left your shop the Z was
5 at your shop?

6 A. Right. I left instructions with one of
7 my employees to call me the minute that Rippe showed
8 back up to pick up the Z.

9 Q. Then when did you next return to your
10 shop?

11 A. The next morning.

12 Q. Was the Z still there?

13 A. It was gone.

14 MS. LOWRY: I have no further
15 questions.

16 THE FOREPERSON: Any questions?

17 (No response.)

18 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
19 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
20 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
21 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
22 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
23 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
24 obtained by the Grand Jury.

25 Failure to comply with this

1 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
2 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
3 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
4 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
5 the Clark County Jail.

6 Do you understand this?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

8 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

9
10 (Jury Marlene Cannon left
11 the Grand Jury proceedings at this
12 time.)

13
14 MR. HEHN: Stand here and raise your
15 right hand and be sworn, and then you can have a
16 seat.

17 THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear
18 that the testimony that you are about to give upon
19 the investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
20 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
21 the truth, so help you God?

22 MR. BEAUDOIN: Yes.

23 THE FOREPERSON: Have a seat.

24 You are here today to give
25 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the

1 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
2 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
3 credit cards without cardholder's consent and
4 unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction
5 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
6 the proposed indictment.

7 Is that your understanding?

8 MR. BEAUDOIN: Yes.

9 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

10
11 MICHAEL BEAUDOIN,

12 having been first duly sworn by the
13 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
14 to the truth, the whole truth and
15 nothing but the truth, testified as
16 follows:

17
18 EXAMINATION

19
20 BY MR. REHN:

21 Q. Would you state your name, please, and
22 spell your last name for the reporter, sir?

23 A. Michael Angelo Beaudoin,
24 B-e-a-u-d-o-i-n.

25 Q. Mr. Beaudoin, have you ever been

1 convicted of a felony, sir?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I'd like to know what the felony was
4 and when, sir.

5 A. Possession.

6 Q. I'm sorry?

7 A. Possession.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Eight months ago.

10 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with Michael
11 Rippo, sir?

12 A. Just since this happened.

13 Q. You never met Michael Rippo before --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- this investigation started?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Are you familiar with Diana Hunt?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And what type of a relationship did you
20 have with Diana Hunt? What I'm talking about, good
21 friends, played jacks together, played canasta,
22 whatever, just tell the ladies and gentlemen.

23 A. I had maybe seen her like five times.

24 Q. And under what type of circumstance did
25 you see her? Was she a friend of a friend?

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1 A. That's how it started out.

2 Q. When was the -- and I'm not asking for
3 an exact date. When was the first time that you saw
4 her, Diana Hunt?

5 A. Right around Christmas.

6 Q. And between Christmas and February,
7 middle of February, you'd seen her five times?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. Now, you were familiar with
10 Lauri Jacobson?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And how long have you been familiar
13 with Lauri Jacobson?

14 A. A year.

15 Q. And were you familiar with Denise
16 Lizzi?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. How long have you known Denise Lizzi?

19 A. Ten years.

20 Q. So you were much more familiar with
21 Denise and with Laura Jacobson than you were with
22 Diana Hunt, right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. During the course of this investigation
25 you were asked to identify some property that had

1 come into the possession of the police; is that
2 correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Let me show you a photograph, and I'm
5 not sure that this is correct, so if it's not
6 correct you tell me because I'm not doing this to
7 fool you, all right.

8 This is marked as Grand Jury
9 Exhibit Number 7, a bunch of items that are out on
10 the counter of the photograph.

11 Do you recognize any of those
12 items, sir?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Pardon?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Were those some of the items that you
17 identified at the Police Department?

18 A. What happened was I got a phone call
19 from Rippe and he stated that he had some of the
20 girls belongings.

21 Q. By the girls, you're talking about --

22 A. -- Denise and Lauri's.

23 Q. Okay. That's because you were friends
24 of theirs, right? I mean you were a friend of
25 Denise and Lauri's?

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1 A. Right.

2 Q. Okay, go ahead. You can tell them in
3 your own words. I won't put words in your mouth.
4 Go ahead.

5 A. He called me four days after I was out
6 of jail and just stated that he had some belongings
7 of the girls so I met up with him and they were.

8 Q. What was it that he had?

9 A. Up at The Lakes, they got the big gates
10 and it takes a certain garage door opener. That's
11 what convinced me because Denise had two separate
12 garage doors to get in up there. One was for the
13 gate and one was for the garage.

14 Q. So Denise lived at The Lakes?

15 A. Her ex-boyfriend lived there.

16 Q. And do you know his name?

17 A. Denny Mason.

18 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

19 A. I was convinced that they -- that that
20 was their stuff.

21 Q. What else was there besides the two
22 garage door openers or garage door type openers?

23 A. Lauri's phone book and Denise's wallet.

24 Q. How did you recognize the phone book as
25 Lauri's? I mean had you seen it before? Was there

1 something written in it that you recognized,
2 anything of that nature?

3 A. I believe it was written in the cover.

4 Q. But you recognized it and you knew it
5 was here; is that correct?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And what else was it? I'm sorry. You
8 said --

9 A. -- Denise's wallet.

10 Q. And how do you recognize that as
11 Denise's wallet, sir?

12 A. We been together three years and
13 that's, you know, she's had the same one.

14 Q. So you just -- you knew it was -- you
15 recognized it. I'm not trying to trip you up. I'm
16 really not, okay.

17 And you said -- you stated this
18 all occurred after you had gotten out of jail?

19 A. Right.

20 Q. You'd be out of jail for, I don't care
21 what, but for a period of time?

22 A. 20 days.

23 Q. This was about -- what was this date?

24 A. I got out the 24th.

25 Q. Of?

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1 A. Of February.

2 Q. So the murders had occurred while you
3 were in jail?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. You were -- actually you were kind of
6 not about it, weren't you?

7 A. Very.

8 Q. So you were trying to find out who did
9 it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now, outside, before coming in to
12 testify before the Grand Jury, you told a person
13 that there was a -- there was some things that you
14 had left out of your statement when you gave your
15 statement to the police; is that true?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What would those be that would be of
18 import or that would be good for the people to know?

19 A. When I went to jail on February 2nd, me
20 and Diane had departed from my apartment. She went
21 her way, I went my way. I got pulled over and I
22 went to jail.

23 Q. Diane meaning Diane who?

24 A. Hunt.

25 Q. Okay.

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1 A. Okay. Two, three days later, I find
2 out she got my car out of impound. Now, I don't
3 know. She came and seen me twice in jail. She had
4 made a couple of small threats like she was going to
5 do Denise's tires where she was staying.

6 Q. That would be Denise Liazzi?

7 Did she tell you what --

8 A. What was that?

9 Q. Did she tell you why she was going to
10 do Denise's tires?

11 A. No. I didn't think nothing of it.

12 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

13 A. She had seen me twice the 20 days I was
14 in there and one of the times she said she was going
15 to do Denise.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And I never actually thought nothing
18 about it.

19 Q. How close was that to the time that you
20 were getting out?

21 A. That was right around the 10th. That
22 was before the 10th.

23 Q. Before the 10th of February?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. Okay. And what was your relationship?

1 You've already said that you've only seen Diane like
2 five times, okay, right?

3 A. Right. Right.

4 Q. Because if I misstate it I want you to
5 really clear it up because I'm trying to get it
6 straight in my own head too.

7 And Denise had an ex-boyfriend
8 at The Lakes, right?

9 A. But she also had a room there at her
10 ex-boyfriend's.

11 Q. Sure.

12 Was Denise living with you at
13 that time?

14 A. I went to jail on the 2nd. The 1st we
15 had gotten in a fight.

16 Q. You and Denise?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. You had been boyfriend/girl friend up
19 until the 1st?

20 A. Yeah. Three years prior. She took her
21 shit and she left.

22 Q. Okay. So you had been living together
23 for three years?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. She moved out on the 1st?

1 A. Right.

2 Q. This is Denise?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. That's all. I think that just helps me
5 and everyone else to understand, to help us know
6 what's going on.

7 All right. So she left on the
8 1st and you and Diane Hunt, Diana Hunt, were going
9 someplace on the 2nd. Is that when you said you
10 went to jail?

11 A. Yeah. I went to jail on the 2nd.
12 Diane showed up at my apartment. I was on my way
13 out and then we separated from there.

14 Q. Okay. Did Diana tell you why she
15 showed up at your apartment?

16 A. No, not really.

17 Q. So on the 2nd you went to jail and, of
18 course, you hear it on the news and then shortly
19 after that Michael Rippo brings you some of Denise's
20 stuff?

21 A. Exactly.

22 Q. Would you describe to the ladies and
23 gentlemen of the Grand Jury where it was that you
24 met Michael Rippo in order for him to give you this
25 stuff?

1 A. I met him at the Showboat.

2 Q. Whose idea was it to meet at the
3 Showboat?

4 A. He was already at the Showboat so I
5 just went to him.

6 Q. And he had telephoned you or something
7 of that nature?

8 A. Yeah. When Diane got my car out of
9 impound there was another girl and her name was
10 Brenda. Brenda had called me and said that Rippo --
11 that she really thought that Rippo had something
12 that belonged to the girls.

13 Q. That is what caused you to get in
14 contact with Rippo?

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Well, just kind of, for the record
17 here, I'm going to show you what has been marked as
18 Grand Jury Exhibit Number 5. It's a series of
19 photographs, and I'd ask you if any of those
20 photographs in that series are a photograph of
21 Michael Rippo?

22 A. Number 1.

23 Q. How long had you known Michael Rippo?

24 A. Didn't know him. I had seen him twice.
25 Once when he gave me their things and later on that

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night.

Q. Okay. He gave you things. You saw him later on that night?

A. Yeah. When he gave me the things, it was like 7:00 o'clock on a Friday night. And about 12:00 o'clock I was trying to get back with him.

Q. Get back with Rippo because you were still trying to find out what happened to the gal that you lived with for three years?

You're shaking your head yes?

A. Yes.

Q. I'm doing that for the record.

A. Okay. At 12:00 o'clock that night I did get them both back together, Diane and Mikey, okay. This was in north town.

Q. By Mikey we're talking about Michael Rippo?

A. Right.

I had two friends with me.

Okay. And when Diane and Mikey seen each other they instantly started fistfighting. Me and my friends just stepped back and listened to what they were saying and what was going on, and they were blaming it back and forth.

Q. Blaming it, blaming what?

A. The murder.

Diane was saying, and I can't remember the name, that Mikey and so and so did the murders. And Mikey would beat on her some more and he would say bullshit, her and so and so did it. And there was so much confusion I didn't catch the names.

Q. In other words, he was saying that she and someone else did it, and she was saying that he and someone else did it?

A. Right.

Q. They were fistfighting over this?

A. Right. He was using a Taser on her. The more it went on the more we learned.

Q. Excuse me. A Taser, you're talking about one of those shock things?

A. Yeah.

Q. Go ahead. The more it went on the more you learned?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Go ahead.

A. We finally did stop it, and I had a hold of Rippo and one of my friends called the cops. It took so long for the cops to get there that he got away. So when the cops got there Rippo was

1 gone, but Diane was still there.

2 MR. HEHN: Thank you. I don't have
3 anything further.

4 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

5 Any questions? Anybody have any
6 further questions?

7 BY A JUROR:

8 Q. What was the purpose of him bringing
9 their possessions to you?

10 A. I have no idea. I had never met him
11 until I went and got their possessions.

12 Q. Wouldn't this implicate him to take
13 their stuff to somebody else? I don't understand
14 the purpose there.

15 MR. HEHN: It's impossible to go into
16 someone else's mind.

17 A JUROR: I thought maybe he told him.

18 MR. HEHN: Maybe I can clarify one or
19 two things.

20 BY MR. HEHN:

21 Q. In the circle of people that you kind
22 of jointly knew, in other words, you knew a person
23 who knew you and knew maybe Michael Rippo?

24 A. Right.

25 Q. It was pretty common knowledge that

1 Denise Lizzi was somebody that you had cared for and
2 had been with for a long time; is that correct?

3 A. Right.

4 MR. HEHN: That's all I have.

5 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

6 BY A JUROR:

7 Q. Did you ask Mike where he got the
8 possessions?

9 A. He said Diane. That was another reason
10 I got Diane and Rippe together later on that night
11 because Rippe had told me that Diane's car was full
12 of their possessions. And when I got to north town
13 later that night where Diane was, we checked her car
14 without her knowing it, and there wasn't one, not
15 one other thing that belonged to the girls.

16 Q. Did they both come to north town in
17 separate cars?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. She drove hers and he drove his?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. Were you scoring at all from Diane?

22 MR. HEHN: That doesn't need to be
23 answered. I'm sorry.

24 A JUROR: I think it does.

25 MR. HEHN: Well, I'm sorry.

1 THE FOREPERSON: Is there any other
2 questions?

3 A JUROR: Yes.

4 BY A JUROR:

5 Q. Do you have any idea how he got in
6 touch with you, how he knew how to contact you?

7 A. When I went to jail earlier in the
8 month Diane was with a friend of mine named Brenda.
9 Okay. They had got my car out of impound, and
10 Brenda had been telling me for a couple of days that
11 Rippo wanted to talk to me. She honestly felt that
12 Rippo had something to do with it. I didn't think
13 so at the time and she talked me into just seeing
14 what he had to say.

15 Q. Oh, she put the two of you together?

16 A. Right.

17 BY A JUROR:

18 Q. So did you find your car after you got
19 out of jail?

20 A. Yeah. Some friends of mine took it
21 from her.

22 BY A JUROR:

23 Q. You said that you were, you and Denise
24 were boyfriend/girl friend?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. And yet she had -- Denny was also her
2 boyfriend?

3 A. That was more like her security place.
4 It didn't -- you know, I knew about it. It didn't
5 bother me.

6 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

7 (No response.)

8 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
9 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
10 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
11 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
12 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
13 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
14 obtained by the Grand Jury.

15 Failure to comply with this
16 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
17 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
18 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
19 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
20 the Clark County Jail.

21 Do you understand this?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

23 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

24 Let's be back at 1:30.

25 (Lunch break.)

Las Vegas, Nevada REPORTING SERVICES (702) 382-7530

1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, JUNE 4, 1992, 1:35 P.M.

2
3
4 (Juror Terry Burger left the
5 Grand Jury proceedings at this time.)
6

7
8 THE FOREPERSON: I need you to raise
9 your right hand.

10 You do solemnly swear that the
11 testimony that you are about to give in the
12 investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
13 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
14 the truth, so help you God?

15 MS. SPOSITO: I do.

16 THE FOREPERSON: Have a seat.

17 You are here today to give
18 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
19 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
20 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
21 credit cards without cardholder's consent and
22 unauthorized signing of credit card transaction
23 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
24 the proposed indictment.

25 Is that your understanding?

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1 MS. SPOSITO: Yes.

2 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

3
4 ANGIE SPOSITO,

5 having been first duly sworn by the
6 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
7 to the truth, the whole truth and
8 nothing but the truth, testified as
9 follows:
10

11 EXAMINATION

12
13 BY MS. LOWRY:

14 Q. Angie, can you state your name, first
15 and last, and spell them for the record, please?

16 A. Angie Sposito. A-n-g-i-e.

17 A JUROR: Speak up louder.

18 THE WITNESS: S-p-o-s-i-t-o.

19 BY MS. LOWRY:

20 Q. Angie, I'd like to direct your
21 attention to February 19th of 1992. Were you
22 employed on that date?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And where were you working?

25 A. I was working at the Meadows Mall at

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1 the Sunglass Company.

2 A JUROR: She's going to have to speak
3 up.

4 BY MS. LOWRY:

5 Q. You were working at the Meadows Mall at
6 the Sunglass Company. I need you to answer out loud
7 because if you nod she can't take it down.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What were your duties there?

10 A. I was managing at the time sales and
11 interviewing. I was completely in run of the store.

12 Q. Maybe if I stand over here you can hear
13 her.

14 So on February 19th of 1992 what
15 shift or what hours did you work that day?

16 A. I worked a day shift. It could have
17 been 9:00 to 5:00 or 11:00 to 7:00.

18 Q. Was there anybody else in the store
19 with you on that date?

20 A. Not at the time of the transaction.

21 Q. I'm going to show you State's Exhibit
22 Number 8. Can you identify this?

23 A. This is a sales ticket that I wrote out
24 for two Oakley sunglasses.

25 Q. How is it that you recognize this sales

1 ticket?

2 A. He put my name on there. I remember
3 the transaction and it's my handwriting.

4 Q. Okay. What about the other paperwork
5 here? There are three pages in all in this exhibit.
6 What are the other pages?

7 A. That is the receipt I rang up for -- on
8 the register. And the third one is a copy of the
9 credit card slip that I wrote out for two glasses.
10 I initialed it and ran it through the credit card
11 machine.

12 Q. You indicated that you were -- you
13 recall this particular transaction?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What is it that you remember?

16 A. A man came in, asked for some Oakleys.
17 They were expensive Oakleys. They were a hundred
18 thirty dollars. First he asked for a hundred sixty
19 dollar pair and then decided on the others. I was
20 starting to ring it up and a lady came in.

21 Q. Let me stop you. A man came in. What
22 did he look like?

23 A. He was about five-eight, five-nine. He
24 had a cap on at the time, mustache.

25 Q. What color hair?

1 A. Dirty blond hair. It was in a cap. It
2 was dirty.

3 Q. How old do you think he was?

4 A. 28, 30.

5 Q. And he was a white man?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And was there anyone with him?

8 A. Not when he first came in the store.
9 He was alone.

10 Q. And then did later someone join him?

11 A. Yes, a woman.

12 Q. What did she look like?

13 A. She was about the same height, bleached
14 hair, some dark streaks through it also. She at the
15 time wasn't wearing any make-up and she had
16 sunglasses on that she kept taking on and off. Then
17 she started trying on the second pair of sunglasses
18 that he was interested in. She was white also and
19 very thin.

20 Q. So did this couple eventually make a
21 purchase?

22 A. Yes. I was in the process of ringing
23 him up and she decided she wanted a pair and within
24 a minute or so he said you better pick them out
25 quickly. And she couldn't decide on what pair. I

1 threw a pair out there.

2 Q. What exactly did they buy?

3 A. Two Oakleys.

4 Q. Those are sunglasses?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What was the total of their purchase?

7 A. \$265, I think.

8 Q. And who actually paid for the
9 sunglasses?

10 A. He did.

11 Q. And how did he pay for those?

12 A. With a Mastercard.

13 Q. And looking at State's Exhibit 8, do
14 you recall the name on that Mastercard?

15 A. I vaguely recall the name. There was
16 about -- I was by myself that day and there was a
17 lot --

18 Q. If you would look at your receipts can
19 you recognize your handwriting?

20 A. Yeah, definitely.

21 Q. What was the name on the credit card
22 used in that transaction?

23 A. Denny R. Mason.

24 Q. Denny R. Mason?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What was the credit card number?
 2 A. 4271382060293848.
 3 Q. And who signed for this transaction?
 4 A. The male did.
 5 Q. The male did?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. What name did he sign?
 8 A. He signed the name on the credit card.
 9 Q. And what did he sign?
 10 A. Denny R. Mason. Just like a D. It was
 11 very scribbled in.

12 MS. LOWRY: Okay. I have no further
 13 questions.

14 THE FOREPERSON: Does anybody have any
 15 other questions?

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q. As a practice do you normally call in
 18 credit card numbers to make sure that they're good?

19 A. No. They go through a computerized
 20 system. If there's any problem it will come up
 21 immediately and then we make a phone call. Unless
 22 there's a type of code that would come up then the
 23 credit card should be good.

24 Q. You checked this one and it was good?

25 A. It was totally fine.

1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q. Did you check the signature against the
3 other signature on the back?

4 A. Yes. We usually -- we always do that,
5 but if, you know, sometimes they're a little bit
6 scribbled. There's no reason to ask for a separate
7 ID to the customer.

8 Q. Did it look similar?

9 A. It was similar. It was scribbled and I
10 don't exactly remember, but like I said I was by
11 myself when they came in. He acted like he was in a
12 hurry.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 A. Sure.

15 THE FOREPERSON: Anybody else have any
16 further questions?

17 (No response.)

18 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
19 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
20 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before
21 us including A, evidence presented to the Grand
22 Jury, B, any event occurring or a statement made in
23 the presence of the Grand Jury, C, information
24 obtained by the Grand Jury.

25 Failure to comply with this

1 admonition is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a
2 year in the Clark County Jail and a \$2,000 fine. In
3 addition, you may be held in contempt of court
4 punishable by an additional \$500 fine and 25 days in
5 the Clark County Jail.

6 Do you understand that?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

8 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

9 MR. HEHN: Raise your right hand, sir.

10 THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear
11 that the testimony that you are about to give upon
12 the investigation now pending before this Grand Jury
13 shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
14 the truth, so help you God?

15 MR. MASON: I do.

16 THE FOREPERSON: Thanks. Have a seat.

17 You are here today to give
18 testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
19 offenses of two counts of murder, one count of
20 robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of
21 credit cards without cardholder's consent and
22 unauthorized signing of credit card transaction
23 document involving Michael Damon Rippe set forth in
24 the proposed indictment.

25 Is that your understanding?

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1 MR. MASON: Yes.

2 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.

3
4 DENNY R. MASON,

5 having been first duly sworn by the
6 Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify
7 to the truth, the whole truth and
8 nothing but the truth, testified as
9 follows:

10
11 EXAMINATION

12
13 BY MS. LOWRY:

14 Q. Mr. Mason, would you state your name
15 and spell it for the record?

16 A. Denny Mason. D-e-n-n-y M-a-s-o-n.

17 Q. Mr. Mason, did you know an individual
18 by the name of Denise Lizzi?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And how is it that you knew Denise
21 Lizzi?

22 A. Known her for the last six years.
23 Boyfriend/girl friend.

24 Q. When was the last time that you saw
25 Denise Lizzi?

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1 A. The Saturday before she was announced
2 dead.

3 Q. Let me backtrack a little bit.

4 You said that you were
5 boyfriend/girl friend. Did you live together at any
6 period of time?

7 A. Off and on.

8 Q. Off and on you lived together.

9 Around this time period, around
10 February 18th or the Saturday before that, the last
11 time you saw her, were you living together then?

12 A. She stayed at the house every now and
13 then.

14 Q. Did Denise have a car?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What kind of car did she have?

17 A. It was a Nissan 300Z, I believe.

18 Q. And who was that car registered to?

19 A. My company, Security Enterprises.

20 Q. I'm going to show you State's Exhibit

21 Number 11. This is one of your personal papers?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. And it's -- what is it?

24 A. It's a registration.

25 Q. For what?

1 THE FOREPERSON: Could we have him
2 speak up?

3 BY MS. LOWRY:

4 Q. It's a registration?

5 A. Yes, ma'am. It's a notice for -- to
6 pay the registration that was sent to my company.

7 Q. What vehicle is the registration for?

8 A. Denise's car.

9 Q. What was the license number on that
10 car?

11 A. 139CUG8. Excuse me. 139CUG.

12 Q. And that car was in fact registered to
13 your company?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. And you gave that car to Denise to
16 drive?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you recall what color that car was?

19 A. Red.

20 Q. To the best of your knowledge, you knew
21 Denise very well, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did she ever lend her car out to other
24 people, let other people drive her car?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Do you know Michael Rippe?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you ever give Michael Rippe
4 permission to be in Denise's Nissan or to have any
5 of your credit cards?

6 A. No.

7 Q. I'm also going to show you State's
8 Exhibit Number 3, this photograph. Do you recognize
9 this photograph?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What is it?

12 A. Denise's car.

13 Q. Is there anything different about it
14 that you remember?

15 A. Well, the unpainted part I never seen.

16 Q. Okay. Did you also in your
17 relationship with Denise give her or let her use
18 your credit cards?

19 A. From time to time.

20 Q. Okay. That Saturday before February
21 18th, was Denise in possession of one of your credit
22 cards?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What was the circumstances surrounding
25 that?

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1 A. I had given her a credit card to go
2 shopping for my house.

3 Q. And I'm going to show you State's
4 Exhibit Number 12. Do you recognize this?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is that one of your personal papers?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what is it?

9 A. It's a credit card statement.

10 Q. And what kind of card is it?

11 A. A Visa, Citibank Visa.

12 Q. What's the card number?

13 A. 4271382060293848.

14 Q. Now, that's a bill that you received on
15 that card?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. Are there some charges on that bill
18 that are unusual?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What charges would those be?

21 A. Centel Guide, Gold Coast, Gold Coast,
22 Sunglass Company, Gold Coast Hotel, Centel Guide,
23 Gold Coast, Texaco, Citico 7.

24 Q. I'm going to show you State's Exhibit
25 8. The third page of this exhibit is obviously a

1 credit card transaction document.

2 What is the name of the card
3 holder on this document?

4 A. Denny Mason.

5 Q. And is it signed?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is that your signature?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Would, to the best of your knowledge,
10 if Denise Lizzi had one of your credit cards, would
11 she give the credit card to someone else to use?

12 A. No.

13 Q. As to the signature on the credit slip,
14 sir, did you give Michael Rippo permission to affix
15 your signature to the credit card slip?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you give Michael Rippo permission
18 to possess your credit card?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Have you seen your credit card since
21 the date that you testified as to giving it to
22 Denise?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Since this incident occurred, the
25 vehicle that you described came back into your

1 possession?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you recognize it as the same
4 vehicle that you had given to Denise to use; is that
5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And since then you've disposed of the
8 vehicle?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. HEHN: Thank you. I have nothing
11 further.

12 THE FOREPERSON: Does anybody else have
13 any further questions?

14 BY A JUROR:

15 Q. The charges on the statement, the
16 credit card statement, were they all authorized
17 charges that you read off?

18 A. The charges that I gave you were not
19 authorized charges.

20 Q. None of those were authorized?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. In other words, did Denise -- was
23 Denise's signature on the account with you or not?

24 A. No, sir.

25 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

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1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q. How was she able to use your credit
3 card?

4 A. People can sign my name to it with my
5 permission.

6 Q. Did she have written permission to do
7 this or you were called, authorized over the phone?

8 A. No. All the time I have my employees
9 use my credit cards and just sign my name.

10 Q. And companies allow this to happen?

11 A. Yes.

12 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

13 MR. HEHN: I have one.

14 BY MR. HEHN:

15 Q. As to the people who are authorized to
16 use your card, that's on an individual basis and
17 strictly with the business; is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Michael Rippe was never employed by
20 you, to your knowledge, sir; is that correct?

21 A. No.

22 MR. HEHN: Thank you.

23 THE FOREPERSON: By law, these
24 proceedings are secret and you are prohibited from
25 disclosing to anyone anything that transpired before

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

MICHAEL RIPPO,
Appellant,
-vs-
E.K. McDANIEL, et al.,
Respondent.

No. 53626

FILED

OCT 19 2009

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ORIGINAL

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA JUN 29 2 23 PM '92

BEFORE THE GRAND JURY IMPANELED BY THE FORESAID

DISTRICT COURT

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL DAMON RIPPO,

Defendant.

Case No. 91CJ138X

Murder; Robbery;
Possession Stolen
Vehicle; Possession
of Credit Cards
Without Cardholder's
Consent;
Unauthorized Signing
of Credit Card
Transaction Document

Taken at Las Vegas, Nevada

Thursday, June 4, 1992

8:55 A.M.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Reported by: Brenda Anne Lee, C.S.R. No. 198

Las Vegas, Nevada REPORTING SERVICES (702) 382-7530

GRAND JURORS PRESENT ON THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992:

PATRICIA ANN RANDELL, Foreperson

NATHANIEL E. MALERSTEIN, Deputy Foreman

MELANIE KATHRYN BECK, Secretary

CHRISTINE SAPPAICONE

LOUISE BAJARI

TERRY EDWARD BURGER

MARLEEN ANN CANNON

RITA COOKE

SABAS de los SANTOS

NANCY JEAN GOFF

MARY SPRUELL HUTCHISON

MARY JANE E. LE CONTE

TANA ELIZABETH REED

CASIMIR L. RUTKOWSKI

RENEE SCHWARTZ

THOMAS MERREL SELL

BARBARA S. SHAFER

Also present at the request of the Grand Jury:

TERESA M. LOWRY and WILLIAM HEHN,
Deputy District Attorneys

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5
1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, JUNE 4, 1992, 8:55 A.M.

2
3
4 BRENDA ANNE LEE,

5 having been first duly sworn to.
6 faithfully and accurately transcribe
7 the following proceedings to the best
8 of her ability.
9

10
11 MR. HEHN: Good morning, ladies and
12 gentlemen. My name is Bill Hehn. I'm with the
13 District Attorney's office. The District Attorney's
14 office has prepared an Indictment. The witnesses
15 will be presented to you today by Miss Teresa Lowry,
16 Deputy District Attorney, and myself.

17 The Indictment alleges against a
18 Michael Damon Rippo, R-i-p-p-o, for the crimes of
19 murder, robbery, possession of stolen vehicle,
20 possession of credit cards without cardholder's
21 consent and unauthorized signing of credit card
22 transaction document.

23 That the Indictment further lays
24 out that this occurred within Clark County, State of
25 Nevada, on or between February 18th, 1992 and

Las Vegas, Nevada REPORTING SERVICES (702) 382-7530

1 February 20th, 1992.

2 As to count one which is murder,
3 the elements are laid out in the Indictment that we
4 have proposed for you. Each member of the Grand
5 Jury has received a copy of the proposed Indictment.

6 Basically, on count one,
7 defendant, Michael Damon Rippo did, on or between
8 February 18th, 1992 and February 20th, 1992, then
9 and there, without the authority of law and with
10 malice aforethought, willfully and feloniously kill
11 Lauri M. Jacobsen, a human being, by strangulation.

12 Count two, the elements again
13 are laid out in the Indictment or the proposed
14 Indictment of which you have a copy.

15 Murder, that the defendant,
16 Michael Damon Ripp did, on or between February 18th,
17 1992 and February 20th, 1992, then and there,
18 without authority of law, with malice aforethought,
19 willfully and feloniously kill Denise M. Lizzi, a
20 human being, by strangulation and/or suffocation.

21 Count three, the elements again
22 are laid out in the proposed Indictment. Defendant,
23 Michael Damon Rippo did, on or between February
24 18th, 1992 and February 20th, 1992, then and there,
25 willfully, unlawfully and feloniously take personal

1 property, to wit: a 1988 Nissan, bearing Nevada
2 license Number 139C as in Charles, U as in Union, S
3 as in Sam, and/or credit cards in her possession,
4 from the person of Denise M. Lizzi, or in her
5 presence, by means of force or violence, or fear of
6 injury to, and without the consent and against the
7 will of said Denise M. Lizzi.

8 Count four, possession of stolen
9 vehicle. The elements are laid out that defendant,
10 Michael Damon Rippo did, on or between February 18,
11 1992, and February 20, 1992, then and there
12 willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously possess a
13 stolen motor vehicle wrongfully taken from Denny
14 Mason, to-wit, a 1988 Nissan, bearing Nevada License
15 Number 139 Charles, Union, Sam, which the defendant
16 knew, or had reason to believe, had been stolen.

17 Count number five, the elements
18 again are laid out in the body of the indictment.
19 The defendant, Michael Damon Rippo did, on or about
20 February 19th, 1992, willfully, unlawfully and
21 feloniously have in his possession, without the
22 consent of the cardholder, a credit card, to-wit,
23 Citibank Gold Visa card. The card number is
24 4271382060293848. This card was issued in the name
25 of Denny Mason, with intent to circulate, use, sell

or transfer the card, and with the intent to defraud Denny Mason, and/or the issuer of said credit card.

Count number six is the unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction document. The elements are laid out in the proposed Indictment that the defendant, Michael Damon Ripppo, on or about February 19th, 1992, willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, with intent to defraud, sign a sales slip, which evidenced a credit card transaction at the Sunglass Company, which is located at Meadows Mall, 4300 Meadows Lane, in Clark County, Nevada, by presenting the Citibank Gold Visa Card which was issued in the name of Denny Mason as previously read to you. He did this by signing the name D. Mason to said sales slip, to purchase the merchandise.

Those are the elements as they are laid out in the Indictment. Are there any questions as to the elements?

THE FOREPERSON: No.

MR. HEHN: There's another matter of law that I need to make you aware of. We will have this marked once I'm finished reading and discussing it with you. This is testimony of an accomplice, 175.291.

1 It states that the conviction
2 shall not be had on the testimony of an accomplice
3 unless -- it says he, but it's a he/she -- is
4 corroborated by other evidence which in itself, and
5 without the aid of the testimony of the accomplice,
6 tends to connect the defendant with the commission
7 of the offense; and the corroboration shall not be
8 sufficient if it merely shows the commission of the
9 offense or the circumstances thereof.

10 What this means, we need other
11 than someone saying that this crime occurred and the
12 crime did occur, we need additional evidence which
13 would connect, because I will tell you now, ladies
14 and gentlemen, that our first witness will have been
15 an accomplice. So let me read it to you one more
16 time.

17 A conviction shall not be had on
18 the testimony of an accomplice unless he is
19 corroborated by other evidence which in itself, and
20 without the aid of the testimony of the accomplice,
21 tends to connect the defendant with the commission
22 of the offense.

23 Okay. The next part, and the
24 corroboration shall not be sufficient if it merely
25 shows the commission of the offense or the

circumstances thereof.

In other words, we need something other than the actual crime scene. We need other connecting factors.

Any questions?

I will leave this with you. We'll have it marked so that you may utilize it in your deliberations. I believe that that's the only law that we need to discuss with you.

Are there any questions?

THE FOREPERSON: I don't think so.

MR. HEHN: Okay.

Raise your right hand and be sworn.

THE FOREPERSON: You do solemnly swear that the testimony that you are about to give upon the investigation now pending before this Grand Jury shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

MS. HUNT: I do.

THE FOREPERSON: Go ahead and have a seat.

I've got to inform the witness why she's here.

You are here today to give

testimony in the investigation pertaining to the offenses of two counts of murder, one count of robbery, possession of stolen vehicle, possession of credit cards without cardholder's consent, and unauthorized signing of a credit card transaction document involving Michael Damon Rippo set forth in the proposed Indictment.

Is that your understanding why you're here?

MS. HUNT: Yes.

THE FOREPERSON: Okay. We need to invite the officer to sit in too.

DIANA LEE HUNT,

having been first duly sworn by the Foreperson of the Grand Jury to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEHN:

Q. Would you state your name?

A. Diana Lee Hunt.

1 Q. Speak up nice and loud so everyone can
2 hear you.

3 You're in custody; is that
4 correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And there is a deputy sheriff here with
7 you, Metro police officer or deputy sheriff?

8 A. Metro Police corrections officer.

9 MR. HEHN: And your name is?

10 OFFICER MARSDEN: Officer Marsden.

11 MR. HEHN: M-a-r-s-d-e-n?

12 OFFICER MARSDEN: Yes, sir.

13 MR. HEHN: Madam Foreman, may we invite
14 Officer Marsden to be present since the witness is
15 in custody?

16 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

17 We also need her to spell her
18 last name.

19 THE WITNESS: H-u-n-t.

20 BY MR. HEHN:

21 Q. Do you understand that you're before
22 the Clark County Grand Jury for the investigation
23 that was previously described to you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I'm going to sit down. You don't mind,

do you?

A. No.

Q. Miss Hunt, as to this investigation, you were originally one of the persons who was arrested for the murders of a lady by the name of Lizzi, correct? And what was the other lady's name?

A. Jacobson.

Q. Lauri Jacobson and Denise Lizzi?

A. Yes.

Q. And there was a memorandum of understanding made between your attorneys and the District Attorney's office, right?

A. Yes.

Q. In that you would be allowed to plead guilty to a certain crime and not be charged with other crimes arising out of that incident, is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you explain to the ladies and gentlemen of the Grand Jury what your understanding of that agreement is?

A. That I can't be prosecuted for murder, either murder, either or both murders, or any of the other charges except robbery, that anything that I say pertaining to any other illegal activities

1 during the course of this can't be used against me,
2 federal or state. That -- there was some other
3 things too.

4 Q. You can't remember anything else?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You had an opportunity to sign a copy
7 of the memorandum of understanding so let me show
8 you what's been marked as Grand Jury Exhibit Number
9 4.

10 This is Number 4. Would you
11 take a look at that, read it and see if that is the
12 agreement that you signed?

13 A. Yeah, okay.

14 Q. Read the entire thing and check the
15 signatures on the back, would you, please?

16 A. Yes. This is it.

17 MR. HEHN: Okay. This will be admitted
18 as an exhibit, Exhibit Number 4.

19 Exhibit Number 4 states that it
20 is a memorandum of understanding, and I'll leave a
21 copy for you. Basically it outlines exactly what
22 the negotiations are as to Diana Lee Hunt.

23 That she will not be charged
24 with any other crimes arising out of this except for
25 the robbery which carries a maximum or minimum

1 sentence of one year and a maximum sentence of 15
2 years in the Nevada State Prison.

3 Further, that if she testifies
4 falsely under oath or knowingly misrepresents any
5 material facts under oath, the agreement will be
6 void.

7 Additionally, that if she makes
8 any false statements that she could be subject to
9 the filing of the criminal charges of perjury.

10 I'll leave this so that during
11 your deliberations you can read the entire contents.

12 BY MR. HEHN:

13 Q. Diana, have you ever been convicted of
14 a felony?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what was that felony?

17 A. Theft and burglary.

18 Q. Where was that?

19 A. In Utah.

20 Q. Pardon?

21 A. Utah.

22 Q. And when? Just the year will be fine.

23 A. '89, I believe, or '88.

24 Q. Now, on March 1st, 1992, you had an
25 interview at the Detective Bureau with Detective

1 Dibble?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you recall that interview?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And in that interview do you recall
6 what it was that you told Detective Dibble
7 concerning the investigation as to the deaths of
8 Lauri Jacobson and Denise Lizzi?

9 A. I remember basically.

10 Q. Go ahead. What was it basically that
11 you told Detective Dibble?

12 A. That I thought that Michael Rippe had
13 something to do with it.

14 Q. And what else?

15 A. And that I had driven the car that was
16 shown to me, a picture.

17 Q. By a car, let me show you what is
18 marked as Exhibit Number 3. Is this the vehicle
19 that you're talking about?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you know whose car that was?

22 A. Do I now?

23 Q. Did you then?

24 A. I think. I thought I did.

25 Q. Whose car did you think it was?

1 A. Denise Lizzi's.

2 Q. And during the time that you were
3 having this conversation with Detective Dibble, you
4 denied any involvement in this murder; is that
5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And other than saying you thought that
8 maybe Michael Rippo did it, what else did you tell
9 him?

10 A. That I wanted to talk to Kyle Edwards.

11 Q. I'm sorry?

12 A. That I wanted to speak to Kyle Edwards.

13 Q. Who is Kyle Edwards?

14 A. I guess he's a lieutenant in Homicide.

15 Q. What brought his name to your
16 attention?

17 A. I called him the day after these
18 murders happened. I tried to get ahold of him to
19 talk to him. That's the name that was given to me
20 from a friend of mine and told me I should get ahold
21 of him.

22 Q. Okay. Now, when you were talking to
23 Detective Dibble, Detective Dibble had some specific
24 questions regarding the car, Exhibit Number -- is
25 that 4?

1 A. 3.

2 Q. 3?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And what was it that he asked
5 you about that car?

6 A. Where did I drive it.

7 Q. And what did you tell him?

8 A. Across the street from where I went to,
9 where I found it or saw it.

10 Q. Okay. And where did you see it?

11 A. At Tom Simms' shop.

12 Q. Tom Simms, S-i-m-m-s?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Shop?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And by across the street, where was
17 that?

18 A. I told him I drove it to the parking
19 lot of I think it's Play It Again Sam's restaurant.

20 Q. Okay. All right. And what was the
21 purpose of your driving it there? What did you tell
22 him?

23 A. I didn't know. That's what I told him.

24 Q. You just didn't -- you told him you
25 didn't know why you drove it? You have to answer

1 out loud.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Now, you also discussed with him a
4 certain credit card?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And during the first interview -- now,
7 what did you tell Detective Dibble concerning that
8 first -- that particular credit card?

9 A. I thought it was Michael Rippo's credit
10 card. The one that they used for the sunglasses?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. Mike Rippo had a Gold Visa that he
13 always had in his wallet. That's what I saw him use
14 and I thought it was his at that time.

15 Q. What was purchased at the sunglass
16 shop?

17 A. Two pairs of sunglasses.

18 Q. Pardon?

19 A. Two pairs of sunglasses.

20 Q. And who were they purchased for?

21 A. Mike and myself.

22 Q. And who signed the credit card slip?

23 A. Michael.

24 Q. Now, during the conversation with
25 Detective Dibble, what else did you tell him to the

1 best of your recollection regarding the
2 investigation that he was conducting?

3 A. I told him that Michael had -- I think
4 I told him that day that he had told me that he had
5 done the murders.

6 Q. You say think?

7 A. Yeah. I can't recall exactly what I
8 said. I was beat up that night and I don't
9 remember.

10 Q. I'm sorry?

11 A. That night when I went to -- down to
12 the station.

13 Q. Let me move over to the front here so
14 that everyone can hear you. You're talking to me
15 and you're a little soft spoken. Is that all right?

16 THE FOREPERSON: That's fine.

17 BY MR. HEHN:

18 Q. Speak real loud. The air conditioner
19 is on and it's a little noisy in here.

20 You had been beat up that day?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. By whom?

23 A. Michael.

24 Q. And where?

25 A. At a house on Nelson Street in North

1 Las Vegas.

2 Q. Who else was present when that had
3 occurred?

4 A. Michael Beaudoin, Dan Bearden, I think
5 is his last name, Brenda Brummett, Scott her uncle
6 or cousin, I'm not sure. There was a lot of people
7 that I didn't know and then Michael Rippo showed up
8 there.

9 Q. Where were you the first time the
10 police contacted you regarding this investigation?

11 A. That's where I was.

12 Q. And was that the same date?

13 A. Yes, March 1st.

14 Q. And what time did they contact you, do
15 you remember?

16 A. It was late at night. It was like
17 3:00, 2:00 in the morning, late.

18 Q. Okay. Now, after the investigation had
19 been concluded, you ended up being arrested; is that
20 correct?

21 A. No.

22 Q. When were you arrested?

23 A. April 21st.

24 Q. And where were you arrested?

25 A. In Yerrington.

1 Q. What were you doing in Yerrington?

2 A. That's where they told me to go.

3 Q. Who told you to go?

4 A. The police.

5 Q. The police had told you to go to

6 Yerrington?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Which police, whom?

9 A. My cousin who's a Metro officer and

10 also the -- Dibble, the one that interviewed me.

11 They didn't tell me to go to Yerrington. He told me

12 he thought I should leave town because they couldn't

13 protect me.

14 Q. They couldn't protect you so they told

15 you to go someplace. Did you stay in contact with

16 someone from Metro so that they knew where you were?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, once you were arrested in

19 Yerrington, you were brought back, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then we entered into the agreement

22 which we've previously described; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Now, we did that because of some parts

25 of what you told Detective Dibble during your first

1 interview weren't true?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Would you tell the ladies and gentlemen

4 of the Grand Jury, let's start on February 18th, is

5 that the date?

6 A. I think so, yeah.

7 Q. Okay. You say right around February

8 18th?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Let's start February 18th. Where were

11 you staying on February 18th?

12 A. At Deidre D'Amore's house.

13 Q. That's D ' A-m-o-r-e?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Who else was living there?

16 A. Myself, Mike Ripppo, her, and her

17 daughter Erica.

18 Q. And how long had you and Michael been

19 living there?

20 A. Approximately two weeks.

21 Q. And how long had you known Michael?

22 A. Since the middle of January.

23 Q. Where did you meet Michael?

24 A. In the parking lot of my old apartments

25 with a friend that I already knew.

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1 Q. So you'd known Michael for over a
2 month?

3 A. (Witness moves head up and down.)

4 Q. You have to answer out loud.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Now, you'd been living with -- at
7 Deidre's house for two weeks?

8 A. (Witness moves head up and down.)

9 Q. You have to answer out loud.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Let's go to the 18th then. What
12 occurred on the morning of the 18th? Just tell the
13 ladies and gentlemen nice and loud in your own
14 words.

15 A. I had been sick all night and I was --

16 Q. Do you have any belief as to what
17 caused you to be sick?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was that?

20 A. Bad drugs.

21 Q. What kind of drugs?

22 A. Methamphetamine, I think. I'm not sure
23 because I didn't give them to myself.

24 Q. But you had taken some, what you
25 believed to be methamphetamine?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you had been sick?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So you had been sick all night. Then
5 we're going to sometime in the morning.

6 A. Mike came in and woke me up.

7 Q. About what time?

8 A. 9:00.

9 Q. All right. And after he woke you up
10 what did he tell you, if anything?

11 A. He said, "Come on, we're leaving."

12 Q. Okay. And where, if anywhere, did you
13 go?

14 A. We went -- at first I didn't know where
15 we were going. He said -- I don't know if he knew
16 where we were going or not. We ended up at those
17 apartments.

18 Q. What apartments, do you recall?

19 A. On Cambridge.

20 Q. And as to the Cambridge apartments, did
21 you go to a particular apartment?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you know whose it was?

24 A. Yeah. It was Lauri's.

25 Q. That would be Lauri Jacobson's?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. When you got there was Lauri Jacobson
3 there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Explain to the ladies and gentlemen in
6 your own words basically what occurred.

7 Okay. You go to the apartment.
8 Lauri is there. I take it you go inside; is that
9 correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Both of you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Explain to them what happened.

14 A. We went inside.

15 Q. You have to be nice and loud.

16 A. We went inside the apartment, and I sat
17 down behind -- on the couch. And Mike and Lauri
18 were talking and just laughing, you know. Everybody
19 was just talking. We were all -- and Mike and Lauri
20 went in the kitchen.

21 Q. Let me stop you there. At this period
22 of time, during this period of time were there any
23 drugs being used by anyone?

24 A. That's why they went in the kitchen
25 for.

1 Q. Had you seen any drugs?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What had you seen?

4 A. A brown vial, a little one.

5 Q. And what -- who had possession of that
6 little brown vial?

7 A. Lauri or Mike. I'm not sure who
8 brought it. It was Lauri's according to Mike.

9 Q. Mike told you it was Lauri's?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Did Mike tell you what was in it?

12 A. Morphine he said.

13 Q. Go ahead now. You said they went into
14 the kitchen.

15 A. And they were both -- I watched them
16 both do it.

17 Q. By do it, describe to the ladies and
18 gentlemen what they did with the morphine.

19 A. They did it with a needle.

20 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

21 A. And Mike had some speed too.

22 Q. All right. And by speed, what do you
23 mean by speed?

24 A. Methamphetamine. He just had a little
25 bit, and I think it was -- that is the same stuff.

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1 that he had given me that made me sick.

2 Q. All right. Go ahead.

3 A. And they were just talking and walking
4 around the kitchen, walking back into the living
5 room, and they asked me if I wanted some. I said no
6 because I was still sick. I was still throwing up.
7 And the windows were open, the curtains, and Lauri
8 saw Denise pull up.

9 Q. By Denise --

10 A. Denise Lizzi.

11 Q. All right.

12 A. And she said, "There's Denise." She
13 goes, "I'll be right back."

14 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

15 A. She went out of the apartment and she
16 was gone. She was out. She went down, I guess, to
17 talk to Denise. Denise I knew didn't like Mike at
18 all, and I think that Lauri went down to talk Denise
19 into coming in, to tell her it was okay, that they
20 were having fun. That everybody -- I don't know for
21 sure. They were gone for a long time.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And while they were outside the
24 curtains were closed.

25 Q. Who closed the curtains?

1 A. They did before -- I don't remember
2 which one. One of them. One of them did. The
3 window was still open.

4 Q. One of them meaning?

5 A. Mike or Lauri.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And then the window was still open.
8 Mike shut the window and he got on the phone.

9 Q. Okay. What did you hear him say on the
10 phone, if anything?

11 A. I wasn't paying attention.

12 Q. He got on the phone. Then after he
13 hung up the phone what happened?

14 A. He came over to me and asked me for a
15 stun gun that was in my purse.

16 Q. By a stun gun, describe what a stun gun
17 is.

18 A. It was a little black square box
19 looking thing with two prongs that makes a real loud
20 noise and it hurts.

21 Q. By hurts, what do you mean? You mean
22 it shocks?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Have you ever been shocked with it?

25 A. Many, many times.

1 Q. He asked for a stun gun. Did he tell
2 you why?

3 A. I asked him why.

4 Q. Did he tell you why?

5 A. He said, "Just give it to me."

6 Q. So you gave him a stun gun. Then what?

7 A. Then we were just sitting there. He
8 was running around acting weird. And they came back
9 in, Denise and Lauri. And Denise looked really
10 uncomfortable that he was there. She looked at him
11 and said hello, but she -- she was very
12 uncomfortable. I think she took off her jacket and
13 threw it on the table and went directly to the
14 bathroom.

15 Q. When Denise came in was she wearing
16 more clothing than her jacket?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you recall what she was wearing?

19 A. She had pink pants on and gray boots
20 and a sweat shirt, a white sweat shirt, I think.

21 Q. Go ahead.

22 A. And a Levi jacket too.

23 Q. So she took the Levi jacket off and
24 threw it somewhere. Do you recall where?

25 A. On the table.

1 Q. And then she went into the bathroom?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were you able to see what, if anything,
4 she was doing in the bathroom?

5 A. No. I knew what she was doing.

6 Q. Not what you knew, only what you saw.

7 A. I didn't see what she was doing. Lauri
8 went into the bathroom and was inside the bathroom
9 doorway talking to her and they were laughing and
10 talking. And Mike came to me and said -- he brought
11 me a beer from the refrigerator.

12 Q. What kind of beer, do you recall?

13 A. I remember it was nonalcohol.

14 Q. You would --

15 A. I would have drank one. It was
16 nonalcoholic beer.

17 Q. Could you describe the bottle? Was it
18 tall, short, skinny?

19 A. It was a long neck dark brown bottle.

20 Q. Okay. He brought you a beer and then
21 what happened?

22 A. He said, "When the phone rings, when
23 Lauri answers the phone, I want you to hit her with
24 this bottle and knock her out."

25 Q. Okay. And did there come a time that

1 the phone rang?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And when the phone rang what did you
4 do?

5 A. I did what he said.

6 Q. Describe to the ladies and gentlemen
7 what actions you took.

8 A. I stood up and I hit her with the
9 bottle.

10 Q. Where was she when you hit her with the
11 bottle?

12 A. She had taken the phone off the table
13 and had set it on the ground and was like crouched
14 over, squatted down when she answered it in front of
15 me.

16 Q. Okay. And where did you hit her with
17 the bottle?

18 A. On the head.

19 Q. Where on the head?

20 A. On the back of the head.

21 Q. You're indicating with your hand the
22 back of the head?

23 A. (Witness moves head up and down.)

24 Q. What, if anything, happened to the
25 bottle when that occurred?

- 1 A. It broke.
- 2 Q. And after you hit her what did you do?
- 3 A. She fell down.
- 4 Q. Pardon?
- 5 A. She fell down.
- 6 Q. She fell down. What did you do?
- 7 A. I didn't do anything for a minute. The
- 8 phone -- she dropped the phone. She had been
- 9 talking to someone and then I heard Mike. Mike was
- 10 in the bathroom with Denise, and I heard the stun
- 11 gun zapping, that noise that it makes. And he
- 12 wasn't quitting. He was still zapping her.
- 13 Denise was crying. I could hear
- 14 her struggling or fighting, both of them. I yelled
- 15 that, quit, you know, that's enough. And he didn't
- 16 stop. I could still hear him so I yelled.
- 17 Q. Let me stop you there. Did Mike ever
- 18 tell you why he wanted you to hit Lauri Jacobson
- 19 with that bottle?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. What did he tell you?
- 22 A. He said he wanted to rob Denise.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. I yelled, "Lauri," because I knew I
- 25 couldn't stop him. I knew it had gone too far.

1 Q. So you started yelling Lauri. Why were
2 you yelling Lauri?

3 A. Trying to wake her up. She was half
4 out of it.

5 Q. She was starting to move around. Is
6 that what you're saying?

7 A. She was dazed, definitely dazed.

8 Q. You started calling to Lauri. You're
9 shaking your head. You have to answer.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Then what happened?

12 A. I ran over to the bathroom door.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And he had already wrestled, drug her
15 or whatever -- they were fighting each other -- into
16 the closet across the hall.

17 Q. By "her," you're talking about?

18 A. Denise.

19 Q. So he and Denise were in the --

20 A. -- closet --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- by then.

23 Q. Could you describe the closet just a
24 little bit to the ladies and gentlemen of the Grand
25 Jury?

1 A. It was a big closet. Like a big
2 walk-in closet.

3 Q. Did it have any doors?

4 A. No, it did not, but I don't know if it
5 was supposed to or what. It didn't have any door on
6 it.

7 Q. So it wasn't a -- you would first
8 picture a closet just a little thing with a door?

9 A. No. It was like a big room almost.

10 Q. So he and Denise are in the room?

11 A. He had got her down on the ground and
12 he was like sitting on her kind of, on her side, and
13 he was stunning her still with that stun gun.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And I was screaming. I told him to
16 knock it off, that that was enough, and he didn't.
17 So I pushed him and he kind of fell sideways off of
18 her enough to where she almost got up, and he
19 stunned her again. And she laid -- she quit trying
20 to get away.

21 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

22 A. Then he told me not to tell him what to
23 do and he was -- I went back out in the living room
24 and Lauri was waking up.

25 Q. You have to speak up. I know it's

1 tough.

2 A. Lauri was waking up. And I helped her
3 sit up. And she asked me why I hit her and I said
4 that Michael wanted to rob Denise, and he didn't
5 want to hurt her, and he didn't want to hurt either
6 one of them. He wanted to rob her. And she said
7 that was really uncool and she couldn't believe he
8 was doing this. And Mike heard us talking and he
9 came out of the closet.

10 Q. So all this time he had been in the
11 closet with Denise? You're shaking your head yes.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. He came out of the closet. And when he
15 came out of the closet he had like a steak knife in
16 his hand, and there were some electrical appliances
17 right as you come out of the closet. And I know one
18 was an iron I remember, and I don't remember what
19 the other thing was.

20 But he cut both of the cords off
21 of them and came over to Lauri and he told her to
22 lay back down on her stomach and that -- we both
23 said, "What are you going to do?" And "Why, you
24 know, you don't need to tie her up."

25 We told him, "You don't need to

1 tie her up." Lauri said, "I'm not going to do
2 anything, Mike." And he said, "Just lay down." And
3 she laid down on her stomach, and he tied her hands
4 behind her back and he tied her feet.

5 Q. What did he tie them with?

6 A. The electrical cords.

7 Q. Okay. Go ahead.

8 A. And he went back in the closet and he
9 came out with something. I don't remember, I think
10 it was a bandana, but I'm not sure. He gagged her
11 with it. We were both going -- I was sitting right
12 by her. She wasn't doing anything.

13 And when I went -- he put that
14 in her mouth, and he went back into the closet and
15 told her -- oh, he said it was for insurance.
16 That's why he was doing it. I don't know what he
17 thought we were going to do.

18 He went back into the closet and
19 I got up and went over to the closet door, and he
20 had Denise's hands tied behind her back. And she
21 was sitting up with her feet in front of her and her
22 feet were tied.

23 Q. Do you recall, were you able to see how
24 her hands and feet were tied?

25 A. Her hands were behind her back.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And her feet were tied in front of her.

3 Her knees were up and she was sitting there and she

4 was crying.

5 Q. Did you see what she was tied with?

6 A. I didn't see what her hands were tied

7 with. Her feet -- I don't recall. It was a belt or

8 something. I can't remember exactly. I don't know.

9 It was some kind of clothing or --

10 Q. But anyway, it wasn't with a cord?

11 A. No.

12 Q. All right. Go ahead.

13 A. He kept asking her stuff like, "Who's

14 your connect?" And, "Where's your drugs?" And who

15 lives in some house he wanted to know about and just

16 all kinds of weird things, off the wall questions.

17 She was crying. She was saying,

18 "I don't know what you want, Mike. Why are you

19 doing this?" I told him that obviously she didn't

20 have any drugs on her and let's just go and let her

21 go. This is enough.

22 And he pushed her down and she

23 kind of fell on her side because her hands and she

24 fell down. And he stuffed something in her mouth.

25 I don't know what. He grabbed something off the

1 ground and stuffed it in her mouth.

2 Q. By ground, you mean the floor of the
3 closet?

4 A. The floor of the closet.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And then stood up and he said, "I told
7 you not to tell me what to do." Not in those words
8 but he -- and he shoved me.

9 Q. He was talking to you at that time?

10 A. (Witness moves head up and down.)

11 Q. Go ahead.

12 A. He just hit me once in the chest and I
13 fell backward in the hall right there. And he came
14 and he had that stun gun in his hand. And I was
15 crying really bad. I was making a lot of noise, I
16 guess he thought, and he pushed me down backward.
17 And he told me not to tell him what to do. He knew
18 what he was doing and if I just left him alone
19 everything would be fine.

20 And he was just going on and on,
21 and while he was telling me that, we could hear
22 somebody coming down the hallway or whatever you
23 want to call it, the balcony.

24 Q. On the outside of the apartment?

25 A. Yeah. Somebody was coming and they

1 stopped at the door. He put his hand over my mouth
2 and it was somebody there for Lauri.

3 Q. How do you know that?

4 A. Because she was knocking on the door
5 and she was yelling, "Lauri, Lauri."

6 Q. It was a she?

7 A. Yes.

8 And he told us when he heard
9 them come, he said, "Don't anybody say anything."
10 And nobody could say anything anyway. He had that
11 stun gun in his hand, and he looked really scared.

12 And she knocked on the door for
13 a long time and finally she left. And then he
14 changed. All of a sudden he was like everything is
15 cool, you guys, and I'm sorry, and don't worry, I'm
16 just nervous. And he let me up.

17 He said, "Just do what I say and
18 everything will be all right and we'll get out of
19 here." And he let me up and he told me to start
20 cleaning up everything.

21 Q. What did he mean by cleaning up?

22 A. I thought he meant cleaning up the beer
23 that went everywhere. That's what I started doing.
24 I started wiping up the beer that had spilled on
25 everything and picking up the glass.

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Q. Okay.

A. And I told Lauri not to worry, that he said everything was going to be all right. And she wasn't really worried I don't think at that time.

Q. Go ahead.

A. And then he told me to put the iron and stuff like that in a bag. There was some garbage bags on the table. He told me to throw them to him. He was in the closet.

Q. Throw the garbage bags to him?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay.

A. He took one and handed it to me, and he said "Put everything in here." He said, "Put everything I touch in here." I thought why, it was obvious that we were going to get in trouble for doing that anyway I thought. And so I put all of the broken glass, and there was another trash bag in the kitchen. I put a lot of stuff in that.

Q. Okay.

A. And while I was doing that he came out of the closet and he went to Lauri. And he bent down over her and he started tightening up the cords on her.

Q. Okay. Let me stop you there. Take a

1 little breather for a second. Want a sip of water?
2 There's some water there.

3 A. No.

4 Q. Would you describe to the ladies and
5 gentlemen how the cords were tied? Was there any
6 special rhyme or reason to them or were they just --

7 A. Hands behind her and her feet were
8 tied. And when he came out he had something else in
9 his hand. I don't know if it was a belt or what it
10 was, something. I don't really know what it was.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And he put -- he hooked -- he was
13 tightening them up, and he hooked the thing that he
14 had in his hands from her hands to her feet so that
15 they were connected.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And he tied -- he was pulling on them
18 and she was making noises like ow. I go, "Mike,
19 you're hurting her." And he didn't care. He looked
20 right at me at that point, and he had that stun gun
21 sitting there, and he started stunning her right on
22 her back. And she was -- she was twisting.

23 And I went over there and I
24 grabbed his hand. And he pulled his arm forward and
25 I fell over her and fell down and I hit my head and

1 just kind of dazed me a little bit. And when I sat
2 back up and he was carrying Lauri and dragging her
3 toward the closet.

4 Q. Carrying her how?

5 A. Like he had ahold of that cord with
6 both hands and he was carrying her like a suitcase.

7 Q. Have you ever seen him do something
8 like that with anyone before?

9 A. He showed -- one day at our house on
10 Gowan or his house, he was showing me and my
11 roommate.

12 Q. Who was your roommate?

13 A. We had two roommates.

14 Q. Who were they?

15 A. Chris and Ricky.

16 Q. Chris who?

17 A. Chris Lloyd and Ricky Price.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Ricky Price is a martial arts expert.
20 And he was showing us how to restrain people or how
21 to tie someone up so that they -- you could just
22 pick them up and carry them.

23 Q. And that was basically what was being
24 done here, is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. All right. After he's carrying her
2 towards where?

3 A. Toward the closet.

4 Q. All right. Did you have an opportunity
5 to look into the closet again?

6 A. Yes.

7 I got across the floor and
8 before I even got -- when he was carrying her she
9 was gagging and choking. And at that point when I
10 went across the floor I didn't stand up. I just
11 kind of -- I don't know.

12 Anyway, I got sick and I was
13 throwing up and when I went -- I don't know how
14 long -- I didn't get sick for very long.

15 Q. Let me stop you, and I want to go back
16 to this carrying her like a suitcase and she was
17 choking. At the same time she was choking?

18 A. Yeah, she was.

19 I mean he put the thing around
20 her feet and her hands, and I don't know if he put
21 it under her neck, but she was definitely choking.
22 She was gagging.

23 Q. And you don't recall what the thing
24 was?

25 A. It was either an electrical cord or a

1 belt. It was a long skinny black thing. I couldn't
2 see exactly what it was.

3 Q. All right. Go ahead.

4 A. I went -- when I threw up in the bag I
5 was putting that stuff in and I went and I looked
6 into the closet and Mike, he had his knee in the
7 small of Denise's back and -- and he was -- he had
8 something around her neck and he was pulling really
9 hard and she was making this noise.

10 Q. Could you describe the noise?

11 A. I never heard anything like it in my
12 life. It was like a grunting or something.

13 Q. Like a grunting?

14 A. Like an animal noise. I can't even
15 describe. I've never heard anything like that and I
16 don't know if I fainted or if I passed out or if
17 I -- I don't know what happened for a minute.

18 He was shaking me. Then he was
19 going, "Get up. Get up." And he goes -- he goes,
20 "Get up. We got to go." And I said, "My God, I
21 just saw you choke her. You killed Denise." And he
22 said, "No, I didn't kill her." He said, "I just cut
23 off her hair." And Lauri was in there next to her
24 and she wasn't moving either.

25 Q. They were both lying in the closet?

1 A. (Witness moves head up and down.)

2 Q. Could you describe how they were lying
3 in the closet to the ladies and gentlemen?

4 A. Lauri was on the left face down. Her
5 face was turned away and Denise was on the right and
6 she was face down too.

7 Q. Were they close to each other?

8 A. Yeah. There was only room enough in
9 there for -- they were close.

10 Q. And did you observe anything about
11 either one of their clothing at that time?

12 A. Not then. Not right then.

13 Q. Okay. He tells you, "We have to get
14 out of here." What did you then do?

15 A. I was screaming at him. I thought I
16 said, "You choked her." And then he said he just
17 cut off their wind, knocked them out, we have to
18 hurry because they were going to wake up.

19 He said, "Just grab the bag that
20 you --" that we put the stuff in. And then -- and
21 then he goes -- he had to take, for some reason, and
22 I didn't know, he said he had to take Denise's
23 pants. And I said, "Why?" And he said, "I bled."
24 He got blood on them.

25 I guess she cut him or hurt him

1 or something, somehow. I don't know, but I didn't
2 know what was going on. By then I didn't -- I don't
3 know if I was -- anyway, he took her boots off. He
4 put them in the bag that I had, and he turned her
5 over so he could undo her pants and he pulled her
6 pants off and put them in the bag.

7 Q. She had been tied by the legs?

8 A. Yeah. He untied her before he did
9 that.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And Lauri wasn't tied up any more.
12 When I sat up she wasn't tied up.

13 Q. She was just lying there with her face
14 away?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You're saying yes?

17 A. Yes. Denise's hands were still tied, I
18 think, and he went around with a bag and he started
19 throwing things in it.

20 Q. What kind of things?

21 A. Weird things. Just like books and
22 everything, like the iron or everything that he had
23 touched, or that was laying there right in that
24 area, he put in the bag. He put Denise's shoes and
25 her pants, and I can't remember everything.

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1 He was just running around
2 grabbing weird things like papers and things. I
3 didn't understand why. I didn't know what he was
4 doing. And then he went around and he wiped off
5 everything. Everything in that house he wiped off.

6 And he told me to hold the bag
7 and he grabbed -- there was a gym bag sitting there.
8 He dumped out, there was some clothes in it. She
9 had been packing. She was moving.

10 Q. Do you recall what color the gym bag
11 was?

12 A. It was black.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. He dumped out the clothes and he put
15 their purses in there and then he goes, "Come on,
16 let's go." And he turned off the stereo and the
17 lights. The stereo had been on. And we left. We
18 walked out the door.

19 Q. Did anybody lock the door when you
20 left?

21 A. Yes. He locked the door with a key on
22 a pink key ring. I remember he couldn't lock it.
23 He was having a hard time locking the door.

24 Q. How did you get over to their house?

25 A. A Pinto.

1 Q. Whose car was that?

2 A. Mike's.

3 Q. So you're outside the door. The door's
4 locked. What happened next?

5 A. We walked down to the Pinto. He had
6 that bag. There was two bags, I think. I'm not
7 sure if there was two or three, but the black one I
8 remember. And he walked me down to the Pinto and I
9 go, "What do I do?" And he said -- he said, "Just
10 be cool and go home."

11 And I said, "I don't know what
12 to do." I don't know -- I don't know what I was
13 really -- I don't think I was thinking right at all.
14 I was in shock or I don't know.' And he said -- he
15 said, "Just be cool and everything will be all
16 right.. Nobody got hurt and nobody has to." And he
17 said, "Just go home and wait for me to call." And I
18 got in the car.

19 Q. Which car?

20 A. The Pinto.

21 And I drove away. And he was
22 walking back to the apartment, toward the apartment
23 building, when I left, and I never been to that part
24 of town. And it took me a while to get home to
25 Deidre's. I just drove around for a while, I guess,

1 because I don't remember where I went. I remember
2 going to Deidre's.

3 Q. When was the next time you saw Mike
4 Rippo?

5 A. He called me that night at Deidre's a
6 few hours -- I don't know. It was getting dark, and
7 I just been sitting there by the phone. And he told
8 me to come to a shop.

9 Q. Okay. A shop?

10 A. Tom Simms' shop.

11 Q. Tom Simms' shop?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did you already know where Tom Simms'
14 shop was?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did he tell you how to get there?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you go to Tom Simms' shop?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When you got there what, if anything,
21 did you see?

22 A. I saw this car.

23 Q. The car that's marked as Exhibit 3; is
24 that correct?

25 A. Yes. There were some other cars out

1 there too.

2 Q. What kind of shop does Tom Simms have?

3 A. It's a maintenance shop.

4 Q. Like automobile maintenance?

5 A. No. I think, according to those
6 reports that I read, it was -- he does some kind of
7 maintenance on stores or warehouses or something
8 like that. I'm not sure.

9 Q. Was Tom Simms there?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And did they have any conversations in
12 your presence meaning they, Mike and Tom?

13 A. I went into the shop and they
14 introduced me to him. And there was another guy
15 there, Ron, that works there too. And they
16 didn't -- we just drank a coke. He had a coke
17 machine there, and we didn't say anything about
18 anything. And I know they weren't discussing
19 anything like that had happened.

20 Q. Okay. So there came a time that you
21 left Tom's place?

22 A. I went outside the door of the shop
23 with Mike and Tom and everybody left, I think, or
24 they stayed in. I don't remember. And Mike told me
25 that -- I don't think he knew. I knew that that was

1 Denise's car because I had seen it before.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. But I don't think he knew that I knew
4 that that was Denise's car. He told me some story
5 about how he stole the car from some people that
6 were out of town. He had a few days in order to get
7 it licensed or titled. He didn't mention anything
8 that happened at the apartment, and he wanted me to
9 go and get the car licensed and titled because I had
10 dealt with stolen cars before and he knew that.

11 And he told me to take the car
12 to my people that I had always taken cars to and I
13 did. I got in the car and I took it to my friends.

14 Q. Okay. You took the car to your
15 friends, but you didn't get the car titled?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Was that because your friend wouldn't?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Why didn't you?

20 A. Because before he came through with the
21 paperwork and stuff, I had already figured or saw
22 the news and knew what had happened for sure. I
23 knew in my heart I think but -- and I saw the news.
24 And I went and I took the car and I called Kyle. I
25 kept trying to get ahold of Kyle Edwards. And in

1 the meantime, I took the car and parked it at, where
2 they found it, and I left it there.

3 Q. What did you have done to the car
4 before you took it there and parked it?

5 A. I -- well, I had the car the next day
6 when I went to my friend's house that used to get me
7 titles and VIN plates, and it was his girlfriend's
8 birthday.

9 And I took -- I was in my car at
10 that time and my car which is a Dodge Colt. And it
11 was her birthday. And she was all dressed up. So I
12 told her I would go get that other car and they
13 knew, they had already seen the car. So we went in
14 my car to go get this car, the Datsun, and I drove
15 it back over there. I had the car for a couple of
16 days.

17 Q. The gray paint that's on that car, do
18 you know how it got on that car?

19 A. Yes. I put that on the car.

20 Q. Why?

21 A. Because -- to change the appearance of
22 the car.

23 Q. There came a time that you and Mike
24 went shopping, is that correct, you and Mike Rippe?

25 A. Went shopping?

1 Q. Shopping, bought some --

2 A. He -- he -- the day after the murders

3 he was at Deidre's and he had a credit card, a Gold

4 Visa, that wasn't his. And he had come with it and

5 he said he had bought a compressor and a whole bunch

6 of tools and stuff.

7 Q. Did he tell you where he bought those

8 tools?

9 A. He said Sears Merchandise or some kind

10 of -- Service Merchandise. That's it, Service

11 Merchandise.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And --

14 Q. And you and he went someplace and used

15 that credit card?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Never did?

18 A. No. I wanted to get away from him, and

19 I stole the credit card out of his wallet when he

20 was upstairs and I left with it. And when I went

21 back over to my friend's that took -- the guy that I

22 took the car to and I had the credit card with me, I

23 didn't know who it was, whose that was, whose credit

24 card at that time. I never heard of Denny Mason.

25 That's the name on the card.

1 Q. Denny Mason?

2 A. Yes, Denny Mason.

3 And he found out that I had the
4 card and he called over there and told me he wanted
5 the card back, that he was very mad that I had it.
6 I told him to meet me at the mall that night, I'd
7 give it back to him if he gave me some money so that
8 I could leave and I took Teresa with me.

9 Q. Teresa? who?

10 A. I don't know her last name.

11 Q. That's a friend of yours?

12 A. T.C.'s girl friend, the guy I took the
13 car to. It was her birthday.

14 I went and got the car. She was
15 all dressed. My car was dirty. I went and got the
16 stolen car. We went to the mall. We didn't find
17 Mike there so I didn't give him back the card and I
18 figured I'd use it. I did. I used it at the mall
19 that night with Teresa.

20 Q. What did you buy at the mall?

21 A. I bought her a birthday present.

22 Q. Which was?

23 A. Perfume.

24 Q. And where else did you use the card?

25 A. She didn't want to go back to T.C.'s

1 house because he was beating her and wouldn't let
2 her leave and all this. And so I said okay, we
3 won't go back. We went out somewhere she wanted to
4 go and because I couldn't go home either.

5 And she got drunk. And I called
6 T.C. and I said, "She's drunk." And you know, "I'm
7 driving a stolen car and I just want to bring her
8 home." And he said, "Don't bring her home." So I
9 didn't know what to do. I went to a motel on the
10 Gold Coast and I rented a room there with the stolen
11 credit card and --

12 Q. You had said earlier something about
13 you'd seen Michael Rippe sign a credit card slip.
14 Where was that?

15 A. At the sunglass store in the Meadows.

16 Q. And where in relation in time are we?

17 A. Oh, that was the next day.

18 Q. The very next day. That would have
19 been when?

20 A. The 19th.

21 Q. About what time the next day?

22 A. I think it was in the afternoon. I'm
23 not sure.

24 Q. Okay. It would have been the day after
25 the murders, to the best of your recollection?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And all of the dates that you're
3 talking about are -- you're not exactly sure anyway?

4 A. The 19th is Teresa's birthday. I
5 believe the 20th, the next day, it was the same day
6 was the sunglasses. I'm pretty sure. It was either
7 the 19th or the 20th. It was right in that time
8 frame.

9 Q. So if I have the time frame fairly
10 right, we have the murder on day one, okay, and then
11 on day two is the day that the sunglasses were
12 bought?

13 You're shaking your head yes, is
14 that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That that's correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And do you remember how many days it
19 was before you heard about the murders on the news?

20 A. It was the day -- I think it was the
21 20th. I believe it was the 20th. I was at my --
22 some friends of mine waiting for the title to come
23 through on this car or the fake title or whatever,
24 and I saw it on the news. And I didn't -- my
25 friends didn't know that it was the same car. They

1 didn't say anything to me, but I knew and I called
2 T.C.'s house and -- and I don't think T.C. was home.
3 I don't remember.

4 I had gotten in a fight with him
5 the night before when I finally took Teresa home.
6 He threw me down the stairs.

7 Q. T.C. had done that?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. There was a time when you and Mike
10 Rippe were at I believe it was T.C.'s house when
11 Mike Rippe accused you of having done the murder; is
12 that correct?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Where were you when this occurred?

15 A. At that house on Nelson Street.

16 Q. Whose house was that?

17 A. Brenda Brummett's uncle's house. I
18 don't know his name.

19 Q. Brenda -- but anyway, Brenda Brummett's
20 uncle?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Who else were there?

23 A. Michael Beaudoin.

24 Before that I got ahold of Tom
25 Simms because Mike was telling me he was going to

1 kill Tom. I guess Tom wouldn't give him money or
2 something. And I only met Tom the one time. He
3 said he was going to kill Tom, his wife and his
4 unborn baby, and I really liked Tom even though I
5 didn't really know him. So I went down there and I
6 told Tom what Mike had said.

7 Q. Now, who is Tom Simms again?

8 A. He was a friend of Mike's. I guess he
9 was in prison with Mike a long time ago.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Or he knew him from -- I don't know.
12 Tom -- I went down there and I told him what had
13 been said.

14 Q. Well, okay. Rather than going into
15 that, I was asking you about one of the times that
16 Michael Rippe had accused you in front of -- or said
17 in front of some other people that you had killed --

18 A. That's the house on Nelson Street. I
19 finally got down there, and that's when he pulled up
20 outside. And he came out of the truck he was
21 driving, and he started yelling that I had killed
22 them. There was people all around getting ready to
23 grab him.

24 MR. BEHN: Rather than that, I don't
25 think I have anything else. Just a second.

1 BY MR. HEHN:

2 Q. Let me show you what has been marked as
3 Grand Jury Exhibit Number 5 which is -- consists of
4 a photographic line-up of six different individuals
5 frontal and side. And I would ask you, looking at
6 these, if you see Michael Rippo's picture within
7 those?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Which one?

10 A. Number 1 and 1A.

11 Q. And you've looked at all six pictures?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You're stating it is number 1 and 1A?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Would you recognize any of the items
16 that were taken from the apartment --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- if you were able to see them?

19 I will hand you what has been
20 marked first as Exhibit Number 6 and from a
21 different angle Exhibit Number 7 which would be
22 photographs depicting basically the same items.

23 Do you recognize any of those
24 items?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What do you recognize?

2 A. This is my bag.

3 Q. Your bag, you're talking about a brown
4 vinyl type bag there?

5 A. Yes. This is my organizer.

6 Q. An organizer you're talking about?

7 A. The big black like a telephone thing.
8 That's my sister.

9 Q. You see a picture of your sister there?

10 A. Yes. There's some things I don't
11 recognize here that aren't mine, like this.

12 Q. Is this your --

13 A. A purse or something.

14 Q. A purse or something with stripes on
15 it. It looks like a purse?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. There are two electrical gadgets that
18 look like garage door openers on the right-hand
19 side.

20 A. Those aren't mine. This Norelco thing,
21 it's not mine.

22 Q. There's a Norelco thing and you're
23 saying that isn't yours either?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. I'm going to hand you a three-page

1 document that has been marked as Grand Jury Exhibit
2 Number 8 which are Xerox, that's probably a brand
3 name, but anyway it's a Xerox type copy with three
4 different items. I'd ask you to look at the item on
5 the third page and ask you if you recognize that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Where do you recognize that from?

8 A. It says right there Sunglass Company.

9 That's the day we went to the Meadows and we bought
10 those sunglasses, me and Mike, two pairs of
11 Oakley's. It says Denny Mason.

12 Q. You recognize the name Denny Mason as
13 coming off the credit card that you previously
14 described?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You recognize the Sunglass Company as
17 the place that you and Michael had gone to the
18 sunglass place, is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And who did you say signed this?

21 A. Mike did.

22 Q. He did that in your presence, you saw
23 him do it?

24 A. I didn't see what he signed, but he was
25 standing at the counter doing it.

1 Q. And you didn't sign?

2 A. No.

3 MR. HEHN: I don't have any more

4 questions.

5 THE FOREPERSON: Does anybody have any

6 questions?

7 BY A JUROR:

8 Q. Did you know Lauri Jacobson before?

9 A. I had met her on two occasions at Fuddy

10 Duddy's where she worked. I was friends with the DJ

11 and Mike had gone there to see her.

12 Q. How long previous to the 18th?

13 A. About two weeks, three weeks.

14 Q. Did you know Denise Lizzi?

15 A. I met her on one occasion.

16 Q. How long before?

17 A. A month.

18 Q. And you met Mike in January?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Beginning or the end?

21 A. About the middle of January.

22 Q. You used drugs before?

23 A. Before this?

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. On occasion, yes. I started using

1 drugs heavily when I met Mike, more.

2 Q. Mostly crystal?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So was Mike one of your connects?

5 A. No. I was his connect.

6 Q. You were his connect?

7 A. (Witness moves head up and down.)

8 Q. What time on the 19th or when finally
9 did you see Mike on the 19th?

10 A. He came back. I saw him on the 18th,
11 that night, the 19th.

12 Q. What time on the 18th did he come back
13 to see you?

14 A. He didn't come back. That's when he
15 called and told me to come down and meet him at the
16 shop.

17 Q. You went down to the shop on the 19th?

18 A. On the 18th.

19 Q. So did you see him on the 19th?

20 A. Yes. That's -- I don't remember what
21 time he came back. I saw him in the afternoon of
22 the 19th, right before we went to the mall. That's
23 the earliest I remember seeing him on the 19th.

24 Q. When did you finally get ahold of this
25 Kyle?

1 A. I called him on the day -- the 20th
2 when it came out on the news that the girls were
3 dead, that they were found dead.

4 Q. Did you meet with him finally
5 personally?

6 A. No. He never had time to meet with me
7 or he never --- I called him or I called him many,
8 many times. I called him when Mike was kicking in
9 the front door of the house and he was on the phone,
10 and he still didn't meet with me. And I never did
11 meet with him.

12 Q. When did that take place, when Mike
13 was --

14 A. The 21st, I think.

15 Q. Why did he beat you up that day on the
16 21st?

17 A. That was on the 1st. He had been
18 driving, ended up in my car that day, and I told him
19 I had a whole crate of his prison -- of papers
20 concerning him and a whole bunch of things. I was
21 leaving. I was trying to get away.

22 And I went -- he got in my car
23 and he would not get out of my car and we was
24 driving around. In the course of driving around I
25 was telling him that I thought he should come with

me and talk to the police, and that he couldn't kill everyone that he didn't like, and that he needed help. And he proceeded to tell me all kinds of things that he had done to the girls.

MR. HEHN: That's okay. No more.

THE WITNESS: Never mind.

MR. HEHN: No.

BY A JUROR:

Q. I'm a little confused about the difference between Tom and T.C. Are they the same person?

A. No.

Q. They're not?

A. There's Tom Simms and Tom Christos.

Q. I got you. Okay. Thank you.

BY A JUROR:

Q. How old are you, Diana?

A. 23.

Q. After you met Mike Rippo in January, did you see him on a daily basis after that?

A. Not right away. But after I met him, probably a week and a half after I met him, then they asked me to move in with -- in their house with them and share the rent.

Q. Would you say he had a great deal of

1 influence on you, making you do things you didn't
2 want to do or --

3 A. Yes. That's like when I ended up, when
4 I moved in with him he did.

5 Q. Can you explain why that happened?

6 A. Because he had a stun gun for one
7 thing, and he introduced me to, or whatever, taught
8 me how to use drugs intravenously. I guess that's
9 why.

10 Q. What was he using that stun gun for? I
11 mean he carried it with him all the time?

12 A. Most of the time he had it with him
13 and --

14 Q. Did he explain why?

15 A. He thought it was funny to stun me.
16 And like if I was sleeping or he would come up
17 behind me or -- he was just very strange, violent.
18 But I didn't think he was -- I don't know. I didn't
19 take him seriously all the time.

20 Q. So then the last time, the time that he
21 beat you, that you explained you wanted to get away,
22 was this a culmination of a lot of things or was it
23 just that particular incident?

24 A. That was the final -- that was enough
25 to realize that the guy was crazy and he really was

1 crazy, whether I wanted to believe it or not, and I
2 had to get away from him.

3 Q. Then after all of this had happened on
4 the 18th, was there a reason why you didn't call 911
5 or call somebody?

6 A. Because I've had bad experiences with
7 law enforcement people in the past. I was involved
8 in a lot of illegal activities. That's why I just
9 wanted to talk to Kyle Edwards. I was told that he
10 was head of Homicide, or he was the main person and
11 that I could trust him, and that nobody would get
12 hurt.

13 And I called him and called him
14 and he just never -- I guess he thought I was just a
15 strung out drug addict. I don't know what he
16 thought. But he told us, Deidre -- I told Deidre
17 that I wanted to get ahold of someone. And he said
18 he had men watching the house and that we should try
19 and get Mike Rippo out of the house without alerting
20 him too that we wanted him out. They said they knew
21 about him.

22 MR. HEHN: That's okay. No more.

23 A JUROR: Thank you.

24 BY A JUROR:

25 Q. Let's go through the sequence again on

1 the 18th. 18th, in the morning, around noon, you
2 were at the apartment where these two females were
3 murdered; is that correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You left in the Pinto?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Where did you go with the Pinto, back
8 to the house on Nelson?

9 A. No. Back to Deidre D'Amore's house.
10 It was on Smoke Ranch and Torrey Pines.

11 Q. Then from there you went to Teresa's
12 birthday party on the 18th?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Or was Teresa's birthday party the
15 following day?

16 A. It was the 19th.

17 Q. The 19th you went to Teresa's birthday
18 party. The 19th you stole the credit card from
19 Michael. You went to the birthday party. You
20 bought the perfume and you took her to the Gold
21 Coast --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- to sleep it off?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. When did you take her back to

1 T.C., on the 20th or that same night?

2 A. I took her back the next day, the next
3 night after I had her. I don't know if it was the
4 19th or the 20th that was her birthday, but she did
5 stay the night. We did stay the night that night,
6 and I went and got her some clothes at -- the next
7 day. He said he still didn't want her home. I took
8 her back that evening.

9 Q. When did you again see the Pinto with
10 the lawn bag and all this other mess in it?

11 A. With the bags in it?

12 Q. The things that you placed in the
13 Pinto.

14 A. I placed that in my car.

15 Q. Oh, you transferred them over to yours?

16 A. I never had them in the Pinto. I had
17 them at Deidra's house. I packed up my things and
18 put them into my car.

19 Q. Everything you had taken out of the
20 apartment?

21 A. No. Just my things.

22 Q. What happened to the things that you
23 took out of the apartment?

24 A. Mike had them with him. When I left in
25 the Pinto, when I talked -- he walked away with them

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in his arms.

Q. You didn't take them?

A. No. He had them when I left. I left them there.

Q. So you have no idea what happened to them after you left?

A. No, none.

Q. And then the sunglasses were bought on the 20th; is that correct?

A. On the 19th.

Q. So that was before you stole the card?

A. Yes. I took the card that evening before I went to T.C.'s.

Q. You went shopping and then you went to the birthday party?

A. There was no birthday party.

Q. Well, to celebrate with Teresa. Okay, that's it.

BY A JUROR:

Q. The night of the 18th, you left in Mike's car, the Pinto?

A. The -- the night of the 18th?

Q. Yeah. When you were at Lauri and Denise's apartment, you left in a Pinto?

A. Yes.

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1 Q. And Mike walked away?

2 A. He walked back to the apartment.

3 Q. What did he say he was going to do?

4 A. He said he was going to call me at
5 Deidre's.

6 Q. How did he say he was going to get
7 home?

8 A. He didn't say.

9 Q. He just said -- he just told you --
10 what did he tell you?

11 A. He said, "Just go home and I'll call
12 you." He said, "Just be cool. Nobody got hurt.
13 Nobody will get hurt. I know what I'm doing."

14 Q. And you both went there in the Pinto?

15 A. Yes.

16 THE FOREPERSON: Do you have any
17 further questions?

18 MR. HEHN: No.

19 BY A JUROR:

20 Q. When you saw the Nissan at Tom Simms'
21 shop, didn't you suspect then that something was
22 amiss with Denise --

23 A. I thought --

24 Q. -- for him to have her car?

25 A. I thought that that was her car. He

1 didn't know that I had seen her car before. That's
2 why I painted it. I thought she'd be looking for
3 it, most definitely. I think I knew in my heart.

4 Q. That they wouldn't be looking for the
5 car?

6 A. Yeah, but I just couldn't deal with
7 that. I really thought he just took it. I don't
8 know, I wanted to believe him.

9 Q. And this man that you took the car to
10 to get the fake VIN and title on it, did you explain
11 to him where that car had come from or not?

12 A. I told him that -- that the people that
13 had it wouldn't be heading it because Mike had told
14 me he took it from some people that were out of town
15 and that I -- he said I had three days before they
16 came back and would miss it so nobody would even
17 know it was gone, and I didn't believe that. I
18 thought that Denise or somebody would be out looking
19 for that car, but Tom didn't ask me any questions.

20 Q. How many -- when you had taken Tom cars
21 before, how many days did it generally take to get
22 fake title?

23 A. About a week, four or five days.

24 Q. Thank you.

25 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q. Does the same person who gives you the
3 title do the painting or do you go somewhere else?

4 A. I never had to deal with that at all.
5 The cars were taken somewhere else.

6 BY A JUROR:

7 Q. Was there anything in the car
8 identifying who was the owner of the car, like the
9 registration or anything in the glove box? Did you
10 look around in the car?

11 A. No. There was no paperwork in that
12 car, none.

13 Q. So it was totally empty when you had
14 it?

15 A. There was nothing in there at all.

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q. You had a complete set of keys to it?

18 A. No.

19 Q. How was it driven? Was it hot wired?

20 A. No. There was a key. There was the
21 one ignition key.

22 Q. I realize that the car has only one
23 now.

24 BY A JUROR:

25 Q. In this case was the car ever

1 determined who it actually belonged to?

2 A. Not then.

3 Q. Later on?

4 A. I determined for sure when I saw it on
5 the news that they were looking for it and they
6 described the car and the license plates. I never
7 took the license plate off and I knew that it was
8 the car then.

9 Q. That it was legally registered to
10 Lauri?

11 A. To Denise.

12 MR. HEHN: I don't know if you would
13 know that so if you don't know that you would have
14 to say.

15 THE WITNESS: I know now. I didn't
16 know it for sure then.

17 THE FOREPERSON: Any further questions?

18 (No response.)

19 THE FOREPERSON: Let me read you this
20 statement. I want you to listen to it.

21 By law, these proceedings are
22 secret and you are prohibited from disclosing to
23 anyone anything that transpired before us including
24 A, evidence presented to the Grand Jury, B, any
25 event occurring or a statement made in the presence