

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS  
STATE OF MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs,	)	Cause No, 821-2021
	)	
RODNEY LINCOLN,	)	Division No, 16
	)	
Defendant,	)	

Deposition of Witness  
DETECTIVE RONALD DODSON  
on Behalf of the Defendant,

June 21, 1983

**FILED**  
JUL -7 1983  
(S)

FREEMAN R. BOSLEY, JR.  
CLERK, CIRCUIT COURT

Reported by Georganne L. Baker  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
and Registered Professional Reporter  
of

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 4 Plaintiff, )  
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 5 vs. ) Cause No. 821-2021  
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 6 RODNEY LINCOLN, ) Division No. 16  
 )  
 7 Defendant, )

8 DEPOSITION OF WITNESS produced, sworn and examined  
 9 on the 21st day of June, 1983, between the hours of eight  
 10 o'clock in the forenoon and six o'clock in the afternoon  
 11 of that day, at the offices of the Circuit Attorney of  
 12 the City of St. Louis, 1320 Market Street, in the City  
 13 of St. Louis, State of Missouri, before Georganne L. Baker,  
 14 a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within  
 15 and for the State of Missouri, in a certain cause now  
 16 pending in the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis,  
 17 State of Missouri, wherein State of Missouri is Plaintiff  
 18 and Rodney Lincoln is Defendant; taken on behalf of the  
 19 Defendant.

20 A P P E A R A N C E S

21 For the Plaintiff . . . . . Joseph L. Bauer, Jr.  
 22 Assistant Circuit Attorney  
 23 1320 Market Street  
 Room 332  
 St. Louis, Missouri 63101

PENGAD CO., BAYONNE, N.J. 07002 FORM 740

1 For the Defendant . . . . . Robert A. Hampe  
2 Lisa Parsons  
3 Attorneys at Law  
4 7 N. Seventh Street  
5 St. Louis, Missouri 63101

6 S t i p u l a t i o n:

7 Before the taking of the within deposition, the  
8 parties, by their counsel, stipulate that same is being  
9 taken pursuant to notice; counsel further stipulate that  
10 same may be taken by stenotypy and thereafter typed, and  
11 regularly filed in the case, subject to objections as to  
12 competency, relevancy, and materiality.

13 DETECTIVE RONALD DODSON,

14 of lawful age, being produced, sworn and examined on  
15 behalf of the Defendant, deposeth and saith:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. HAMPE:

18 Q Sir, would you state your name and occupation,  
19 please, for the record?

20 A Detective Ronald Dodson, police officer assigned  
21 to the Homicide Division, St. Louis Police Department.

22 Q How long have you been employed by the police  
23 department?

24 A Going on eighteen years.

25 Q How long have you been so assigned?

A For six.

MR. BAUER: I didn't hear you. Six?

THE WITNESS: Six years.

Q (By Mr. Hampe) Sir, you've had occasion somewhere

1 along the line, if not today, to review the police report  
2 in this case, right?

3 A Yes, this morning, I reviewed it briefly.

4 Q Having had a part in this investigation, can  
5 you tell me whether there are any other reports or sup-  
6 plemental reports relative to this case about any facts  
7 and circumstances related to the case or anyone else  
8 interviewed relative to the case, or any other investigation  
9 done at all?

10 A That is a big question, sir. To my knowledge,  
11 there is no other reports, additional supplemental reports  
12 prepared by the police department, or any other interviews  
13 that's not included in the report prepared by the police  
14 department.

15 Other reports made by Juvenile people, hospital  
16 staff or anything else, I have no knowledge of.

17 Q I'm talking strictly about police reports.

18 A Yes. To my knowledge, that's the only one.

19 Q As far as your knowledge, there is no other  
20 report, supplemental report which would bear a date after  
21 June the 3rd of 1982?

22 A To my knowledge, no.

23 Q Relative to statements made by the witness to  
24 you, by [REDACTED] Davis, you were present, were you not, on  
25 April 27th, 1983, in the Emergency Room at St. Louis Cardinal

1 Glennon Hospital for Children?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And the statement as reflected in the police  
4 report is the statement made to you?

5 A Let me --

6 Q Or to others in your presence by [REDACTED] Tate,  
7 [REDACTED] Davis?

8 A Can I review this briefly? I looked at it  
9 earlier, but I think if you are referring to the statement  
10 made by [REDACTED] to her sister Melinda during my presence  
11 as reflected in the police report, I believe it's correct,  
12 which is dated, your copy of the report looks like it's  
13 dated where it starts on Page 23.

14 Q Starts with (reading) Later . . .

15 A I think it starts with (reading) Later on,  
16 4-27-82, Detective Dodson responded to Cardinal Glennon  
17 along with Melinda Parris, and so on and so forth.

18 Q Since that report is more or less in chronologi-  
19 cal order, would you turn to the statements made to you or  
20 to others in your presence, including Wayne Munkel, on  
21 April 28th, 1982?

22 A Okay. You are referring to Page 25, maybe,  
23 on 4-28?

24 Q Page, part of Page 25, and then Page 26.

25 A Yes.

1 Q Were a series of photographs shown to the child,  
2 and she made statements about Bill had been there Sunday  
3 night, came back Monday, stabbed them, and talks about  
4 Bill's house and a Yellow Cab, and cats and kittens, not  
5 a knife from their house?

6 A I was not present when that was done. I remained  
7 out, to my knowledge.

8 Q You were not present at the making of that  
9 statement?

10 A Yes, to my knowledge. To the best I can remember,  
11 I waited outside of the actual room where the children were,  
12 and let the interview be done by Mr. Munkel because of the  
13 presence of police and the tender age of the witnesses,  
14 and I believe that we supplied them with photographs and  
15 he relayed that information to myself and my partner, later.

16 Q Is the same true for the statement made by  
17 [REDACTED] Tate, the younger of the two victims?

18 A On that same day, yes.

19 Q On the same day?

20 A Yes. I stayed out. Mr. Munkel and other  
21 hospital personnel were in the room did that, to my knowledge,  
22 that is.

23 Q Is it true then that the only statement that  
24 you heard the child make was the one in the Emergency Room  
25 on April 27th, 1982?

1 A Yes, that seems to be,

2 MR. BAUER: You say, child. You are talking  
3 about Melissa?

4 Q (By Mr. Hampe) I'm talking about Melissa.

5 A That appears to be correct, yes.

6 Q Was any statement by [REDACTED] made in your presence  
7 at any time through the investigation?

8 A Not to my knowledge.

9 Q Do you have any knowledge, personal or otherwise,  
10 about Daniel Clenney getting stabbed in the Nut House Tavern  
11 and then returning the courtesy to whomever stabbed him?

12 A No, I don't.

13 Q I didn't know whether you were an investigator  
14 on that or not.

15 A I could have been, but I don't remember it if  
16 I was. Is that down there in North St. Louis somewhere,  
17 the Nut House?

18 Q 21st and Destrehan, I think. Did you have  
19 occasion through the investigation in this case to have  
20 any part of, to take any part in the creation of the com-  
21 posite drawing?

22 A No.

23 Q Did you have an occasion to meet anyone in the  
24 case that had anything to do with the case named Dennis,  
25 or Dennis Smith who may or may not have been a model for the

1 composite drawing?

2 A I don't know. Well, no, I didn't have any oc-  
3 casion to have anything to do with any drawing in this case,  
4 and I don't even think I know who Dennis Smith is.

5 Q Pursuant to your duties in investigating this  
6 case, did you conduct any investigation relative to a Bill  
7 or Billy Hayes, H-a-y-e-s?

8 A I believe I remember his name coming up as a  
9 person known to our department who lives in that area where  
10 the crime was committed.

11 Q Did you conduct any interview with him or attempt  
12 to locate him?

13 A I didn't interview him, to my knowledge, and  
14 if I did I'll stand corrected. But his name did come up  
15 and mentioned, as along with several other people named  
16 William or Bill.

17 Q Did you conduct any investigation that you can  
18 recall relative to Bill Hayes?

19 A Just I can remember asking a couple of people  
20 where he might be living at the time.

21 Q Anything else that comes to mind relative to  
22 him?

23 A No. His photograph was shown, was put in a  
24 group of photos along with several other people to be shown  
25 to the little girls.



1 Q Did you investigate or attempt to locate in  
2 this case, a man named Richard Blake, B-l-a-k-e?

3 A I don't remember doing that, no.

4 Q Did you investigate --

5 A Counselor, can I add that there were several  
6 names of several people that we all looked into their  
7 whereabouts or locations, and further that I worked on  
8 this case about three days, and then I went on vacation.

9 So, the conclusion of this investigation, I wasn't  
10 even working on, I wasn't even aware of, you know, anything  
11 surrounding any subsequent arrest or suspects along those  
12 lines, if it might help you.

13 Q I wasn't trying to imply that you had exclusive  
14 handling of the case or that it was your case.

15 A It was a major investigation. I did a little  
16 small minute part of it.

17 Q Did you do anything in your part of the in-  
18 vestigation as far as investigating or attempting to locate  
19 a Bill Hayden, H-a-y-d-e-n, to the best of your knowledge?

20 A Not to my knowledge, no.

21 Q Did you have any knowledge, personal or other-  
22 wise, about a shooting involving Johnny Davis or where  
23 Johnny Davis was the victim and JoAnn Tate was a witness?

24 A Yes. I remember one of the family members  
25 indicating that it was a bar, Colonial Bar shooting.

1 I didn't investigate that shooting. I made the remark in  
2 my part of the police report for future investigative  
3 reference.

4 Q Do you have any information or knowledge as  
5 to who the perpetrator of that shooting was, who the  
6 Defendant was that JoAnn Tate was alleged to be testifying,  
7 or about to testify?

8 A I have since forgotten.

9 Q Through the course of your investigation,  
10 did you talk with anyone named Betty Johnson whose state-  
11 ment more or less in her description appears in the police  
12 report?

13 A Betty Johnson?

14 Q Yes.

15 A Is that indicated in here that I did?

16 Q It's indicated in there that somebody did.  
17 I'm trying to find out if you did.

18 A I can look in here, I can maybe tell you who  
19 did.

20 Q She was one of the neighbors on the scene,  
21 I think.

22 A I did some of the initial canvas, but I don't  
23 remember that was one of them. But usually -- her name  
24 is mentioned there. I did not interview her. She apparently,  
25 according to this report, it looks like they might have been

1 interviewed by Detective Nichols. It says, (reading)  
2 Statement taken by Detective Nichols. That would indicate  
3 to me that she was.

4 Q Did you have occasion to attempt to locate  
5 or talk to a Billy Parris, P-a-double r-i-s?

6 A Yes, I did. I attempted to locate him through  
7 several of his relatives, and took me across to Granite  
8 City and several places in East St. Louis, I believe.  
9 I don't remember ever talking to Bill Parris, though.

10 Q Are you the police officer who verified or  
11 attempted to verify the alibi presented for Tom Schultz  
12 that he was in Texas?

13 A I think that information was told to me. I  
14 don't know if I verified it. I don't think I verified it.  
15 And again, you are talking about an incident that was a  
16 year ago.

17 Q I understand.

18 A Tom Schultz, initially his name came up initially  
19 at the scene as being a boyfriend of the victim, and it was  
20 told, the information that he was in Texas then, I think  
21 I indicated in part of my report that he had supposedly  
22 recently come back to St. Louis.

23 Q Someone from your office attempted to verify  
24 the alibi? I was curious as to whether you did or not.

25 A I don't remember. Other than I can add the

1 Schultz alibi, his photograph was also shown, and at the  
2 time was supposedly eliminated.

3 Q His name isn't Bill, either?

4 A No. There was a lot of folks' pictures that  
5 were shown whose name weren't Bill, wasn't Bill.

6 Q We've since had occasion to check into his  
7 alibi and found he didn't have one, but since he wasn't  
8 identified, I guess it doesn't matter.

9 MR. HAMPE: I have nothing further for this  
10 man.

11 MR. BAUER: I don't have anything. I'll ex-  
12 plain to you, she's been taking down everything you said.  
13 After she types it up, you have a right to read it over,  
14 determine whether it's accurate as to what you said; or  
15 since this is her occupation, we can assume that it will  
16 be accurate and you don't need to read it over.

17 It's up to you.

18 THE WITNESS: When the transcript is typed,  
19 if it's, you know, if it's in agreement with you, that's  
20 okay with me.

21 MR. BAUER: Okay. We'll waive signature.

22 (WITNESS EXCUSED)

S t i p u l a t i o n :

It is stipulated and agreed by all parties hereto, through their respective counsel, and by the witness in his own behalf, that submission of this deposition to the witness for examination and reading, and that the signing of the deposition by the witness, all as provided in Rule 57.03, Missouri Rules of Civil Procedure, are hereby expressly waived, and that the deposition may be filed with the court and be used as fully as though signed; provided, however, that without limitation as to the scope and effect of the waiver herein made, at any time before use of the deposition at trial, the witness may, by appearing before the officer having taken said deposition, as authorized under Rule 57.03 to take depositions in this state, make any changes in same he desires, in the manner, and with the effect as set out in Rule 57.03 (f); and that prompt notice be given to all parties of any changes so made.

