

**THIS IS THE RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH CELINE ARMSTRONG (NEE CADRAIN)** taken by Peter F. Tarrant on Wednesday, August 23, 1998 at 4:30 p.m.

**PFT:** Celine I understand that you recall the 1969 January 31st was a very cold day, is that correct?

**CA:** It was an extremely cold day.

**PFT:** According to the statement that you gave police in 1993, you remember someone knocking on the door that morning, how did you hear that?

**CA:** I was upstairs in bed sleeping. Or half...you know...I was PMS'ing so I had the hot water bottle and I was dozing off and on and the doorbell rang.

**PFT:** But the bedroom was over the front room?

**CA:** Ah....when you go up the stairs, the bedroom was to the left. The front door is here, the stairs were there. I was to the left.

**PFT:** So you had pretty much an unrestricted...

**CA:** Yeah, you could hear everything, because the sound travelled up all the time from the front door.

**PFT:** Sure. Could you hear the conversation between Albert and this fellow Hoppy?

**CA:** Yes.

**PFT:** I understand that you heard Hoppy ask Albert for a pair of pants?

**CA:** Yes. Several times.

**PFT:** Did you ever hear him say why he needed those pants?

**CA:** No. Umm...how do you word that? Like he just, he said do you have a pair of pants, or hey man, do you have a pair of pants for me? And my brother said he man, what did you do? More like what did you do kind of thing. And so on....and then my brother just started to laugh. And Albert was the person, he was thinking about going to B.C. so he had to keep him on track and he asked for a pair of pants several times.

**PFT:** Could MILGAARD have said something to Albert with respect to why he needed those pants without you hearing him?

**CA:** He could have. I asked Albert that later. Um...I said why did you call him Hoppy? And to me that's the answer to the pair of pants, he said he called him Hoppy because he would not have sex with anybody except a virgin. He liked to have blood. He liked to see blood. And he said...and he really didn't want to talk to me about it, because you know I was his oldest sister and we didn't talk. But anyway he said...and I just thought that he had had a virgin and he got blood on his pants. So he never...

**PFT:** And you subsequently saw David MILGAARD wearing a pair of dark pants and you believe those were your father's, is that correct?

**CA:** They were my dad's yes. They were too short.

**PFT:** Now did you notice the shirt that MILGAARD was wearing at that time? Any recollection of that?

**CA:** Today I can't remember.

**PFT:** It doesn't stand out in your mind?

**CA:** No.

**PFT:** You don't recall seeing any blood on the shirt?

**CA:** No.

**PFT:** Could he have changed the shirt as well as the pants?

**CA:** It's quite possible. Cause they were trying on clothes downstairs and nothing was fitting right. Cause everybody had short legs and he had long legs.

**PFT:** Now you said that when you came downstairs, that these people were pretty loud and you thought they were high on drugs?

**CA:** Yeah.

**PFT:** Did you make breakfast for them as well as yourself?

**CA:** Not for myself...I don't think I ate. I'd remember that. But I mean they were talking about going to B.C. and at that point, I thought no matter how sick I was, I better get up. Because they were talking about leaving. It seems to me Albert called me and asked me if I would make breakfast.

**PFT:** I see.

**CA:** I think so...but I'm not sure. But I know that I would have made breakfast anyway, if they were going to leave because it was so darn cold, it was pure crazy.

**PFT:** Now I understand that your youngest brother Ken was home at that time. Do you remember what he was doing?

**CA:** He was watching Mr. Dressup.

**PFT:** On TV?

**CA:** Yes.

**PFT:** Now, when MILGAARD changed his pants, do you have any personal knowledge as to what he did with them afterwards?

**CA:** I have no...you know, all I know is that they found a pair of pants underneath the stairs in the spring when Mom did spring cleaning. Whether those were his pants or not, I don't know.

**PFT:** Were you at home when Albert left with MILGAARD and his friends?

**CA:** Umm...yes.

**PFT:** Did you know specifically at that time where they were going to?

**CA:** They were supposed to be going to B.C.

**PFT:** Going to B.C.?

**CA:** And I would say, the Vancouver area because he knew, apparently, there was apparently a lot of work there and so he was wanting to go there.

**PFT:** O.K. now when Albert came back, some months later or a month later, I understand that he told you that he'd been working on a farm?

**CA:** Yes. By Regina I think, or down south in southern Saskatchewan.

**PFT:** Did he tell you why he was working down there on that farm?

**CA:** Umm...all he said is he had left you know, there wasn't any work and he ended up in Regina or whatever and they found...he found this job and he was working for them. I don't know....and he left because he figured out he was only making \$.50 cents a day or something.

**PFT:** Now I understand again from reading your statement that the next day or when you came home from school that you were called upstairs to the bedroom to speak with Albert and Dennis, is that correct?

**CA:** I'd have to remember....or today I can't remember for sure. Whatever day it was that they went to see the police, they called me up. It wasn't long after he was home. So whatever day he initially went to the police, it was that day, that was the specific day that he called me up.

**PFT:** O.K., can you recall what you were told at that time?

**CA:** Yes. They called me upstairs to their bedroom and said you better sit down. And....why? And he said well don't have to, but you better because we have to talk to you. So I said o.k. So he told us that he figured, they figured they knew who had killed Gail MILLER. And that we're not asking you for your opinion, you're not talking us out of this, we have to do what is right. And we want you to know because we need to know how to approach Mom and Dad. And so, they kind of blew my mind away. I said are you very sure and he said yes, alot of things didn't make sense when they left. We hadn't heard about Gail MILLER being killed until he came back home from wherever he was in B.C. and that. That was the way he explained it to me anyway. And....

**PFT:** Did you recall at that time, when they were discussing that with you, did you recall the incident with Hoppy asking for a pair of pants?

**CA:** Yes. See the pair of pants didn't really make...didn't...I mean, I guess I don't know. I may be naive but I never thought too much about why he needed a pair of pants. I just thought he had torn them or something and that you know, later, once he went to trial and that then I realized that that was pretty significant. But I mean it was really urgent that he needed this pair of pants because my brother was all excited, he'd been thinking about (I'm off topic now) but he had really excited. He'd been thinking I'm going to B.C. because I have no work here and it's really cold, and if I can get a ride I'm going to go and he was trying to decide if he could find the money for a bus or whatever. When he appeared at the door and said he was going to B.C., he said well can I

get a ride. So he was thinking about packing and that sort of thing, and he said man I need a pair of pants. But I need a pair of pants. It was like about five times. That is what comes to mind all the time is why did he need this pair of pants. Like he wasn't leaving the house without these pants and he needed them changed enough, that it didn't matter if they were up to here. And it's about fifty below out there. And you can't see your hand this much in front of your face.

**PFT:** What I'm getting at actually Celine is, on that day when you had the conversation with Albert and Dennis, did you remember about the pants at that time? Did that kind of come back to you?

**CA:** No I don't think it did. I think I was more concerned about them. Like I said...you know, we went through all the reasons why they thought he had done it. And wondered if it was logical. I mean you don't know, and then I said are you sure you didn't do it, to Albert. And they were mad and I said well come on....you come out of the blue, they haven't got a clue, you come out of the blue, you got to the cops and you tell him, I know who did this. And your young, you haven't been living an exemplary life. I mean I just think its logical, well I'd sure as heck question you. So you better be darn sure that you know, that its the truth as you see it and that you are strong enough to put up with what is going to follow. You know...so because too I was thinking about.....but no, so I don't know, those pants never really came up to me. I was just really, really worried about Mom and Dad. And they weren't very old. And I knew they brave to tell the truth and I knew that there was somebody's daughter that had died and they were wondering why. I knew that we had been raised to act on what they needed to do.

**PFT:** Did you think that Albert was telling the truth at that time?

**CA:** Yes, I think so.

**PFT:** Did he seem rational, he knew what he was talking about, he wasn't under the influence of any drugs or anything?

**CA:** No. Because when he came back and he started talking to me about where he was and what he was doing when he was working, I never did check into, maybe he wasn't. But he was a person that always liked to do things the way the old people did, I can be tough like that. That type of thing. So he wasn't the brightest person in the world, I never questioned, because he would have thrived on suffering alot and you know doing alot of hard work and freezing and whatever. When he came home and explained and said I could have worked for \$.50 per day, but not for macaroni three times a day. And he wasn't getting fed a whole meal. And after he said that, almost in the same breath, he started asking is it true that somebody got killed the day I left? And I said well yes, and I couldn't believe he hadn't heard it you know. I didn't feel good about it because I have all the time an instinct you know something's coming, and I didn't know what

was coming but I didn't know what it was. I have to admit that years later, or you know, as the trial went on you wondered if it wasn't him. You know, because, how do you know. But I just don't think so. I just think that he was not a person who if had done it, he would have just said I did it.

**PFT:** You're talking about Albert?

**CA:** Yes. If he had killed her or had anything to do with it, he just couldn't have lived this long without telling the truth.

**PFT:** Telling someone?

**CA:** No, he would have just, down the road he would have just known that he had to. Cause he couldn't live with himself. So over the years, that what's I've come down to. I guess I'm always open to the possibility that maybe we're wrong, you know.

**PFT:** Do you think FISHER can get a fair trial in Saskatchewan? Or in Saskatoon?

**CA:** He can't get a fair trial in Canada.

**PFT:** Because of all this?

**CA:** He can't. My daughter...I don't talk about it a whole lot to my kids, but I never lie to them. But this has been really hard. In my mind, I still think he did it. You know, there is something not right. There is something missing. I mean the scenario could be something as simple as him and FISHER together. You know. That makes sense, but I don't know. But I mean there is something not working here. But I think that MILGAARD, the way he was acting. I mean why did he want to get away so fast. You know.

**PFT:** Was there a real urgency that he had to leave?

**CA:** Oh yes, absolutely, absolutely. Because I think by 11:30 they were gone. They were gone, like when I got up Mom had gone to a doctor's appointment and she didn't know that I was home. I was taking steno course and it was so cold and I was really sick, and I thought this is crazy, it's just not worth it. So I walked back home and got to bed. And then all this was going on, and I thought well Albert is out in left field again. So I could hear all this conversation, but then all of a sudden it was like I'm going to leave right away. And I said you're going to leave without talking to Mom or Dad? I mean you're just leaving right now, give your head a shake. I mean this is not proper, and it's so cold.

**PFT:** One last question. Did you feel that the other two, WILSON and JOHN, did they look like they were on drugs as well?

**CA:** I would say MILGAARD didn't look half as bad as the other two. The other two were pretty bad. But I mean, now I know. I knew that they weren't right. They weren't drunk but they weren't right, but I didn't know a whole lot about drugs. I knew my brothers did it, and I knew people, kids that I went to school did it, but now it is part of society.

**PFT:** Did they appear to be comfortable with MILGAARD or did they seem to be afraid of MILGAARD at that time? Or did you form any impression?

**CA:** They weren't comfortable with MILGAARD. They kind of stuck together in their own, like they would be in the living room and he'd been in the kitchen keeping Albert on the move. He was definitely the leader. Whatever he said they did. If he barked, they jumped. Like when I was making the breakfast he said they didn't have time, and I said you don't have time to eat? Are you going to stop and eat somewhere along the way?

**PFT:** Thank you for your time in speaking with me.

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CELINE ARMSTRONG**