
THIS IS DETECTIVE MILLER 8195. TODAY'S DATE IS 2-26-90.
THE TIME IS 0905. THIS IS IN REGARDS TO REPORT NUMBER
90 01 31 0233. THE INTERVIEW IS TAKING PLACE AT L731
EAST 13TH. THE INDIVIDUAL BEING INTEVIEWED IS MR. SONNY
ROBERTS.

Q Sir, could you state your name please?
A SONNY ROBERTS.

Q And what is your date of birth, sir?
A [REDACTED]

Q And what level of school have you achieved?
A Two years of college.

Q OK, you don't have any problems understanding what I'm
saying or anything?
A No.

Q In regards to your business, what type of work do you
do?
A Well, phone repair, maintenance, landscaping, remodeling.

Q One of the people that you work for, one of the organiza-
tions that you work for was Mr. Rashad Califa?
A Yes.

Q Is that right? Could you tell me from when you first,
how you became in contact with him to begin with?
A Well, I rented an ad through the Tucson Shopper and he
took my name and number out of the Shopper. And after
a few jobs I..after the first job everytime he needed
something done he'd call me.

Q And this was about how long ago?
A About 14, 15 months ago.

Q What was your..what..does he own other property that you
did work on also?
A Yes, he..his son owns the..two duplexes on 18th and
Tucson. And he has two apartments on 36th Street. He
has a house on 34th. And then he has the six apartments
and the mosque on 6th and Euclid. Then he has his
residence on East 2nd Place. Then he has these three
here on 1700..1727, 29 and 31 East 13th Street.

Q And you've done work on all or you..
A Yes.

Q ..done some repair. Drawing your attention to particularly
the mosque, while your..while you were working around that
area, when is the last time that you did work on the mosque,
do you recall?

A The last time I worked on the mosque was about last week. I replaced the doors on the rear entry, the one there wasn't very sturdy so I replaced the door, I reinforced the lock.

Q OK, prior to that, particularly prior to the date of the murder of..

A I worked for him the night before.

Q OK, what did you do then?

A Well the day before I was here painting the apartment. I..the next evening I stopped by to tell him that the people were moving out of here, 1729 so it was about..

Q That was Tuesday?

A The night before the murder, yes, it was about six o'clock. (inaud) when I talked to him.

Q And you talked to him at the mosque?

A At the mosque, yes.

Q In his office or where?

A No, just on the rear steps by the back entry there to enter the kitchen area.

Q Do you recall the conversation as it pertained to.. just the repair work or was there any other..

A No, it was just..basically that night it was just that I went back to tell him that these people were moving out. I didn't think that he realized that they were moving out. Because..and I think they were paying on this for about three or four days and at the time that..prior to that they had, you know they weren't moving out, it was just the last day or so they started moving out so I didn't think he was aware thta they were moving out so I stopped by to tell him.

Q OK, were you there long or approximately how long were you there?

A I was there probably half hour, 20 to 25 minutes.

Q Did you notice anybody else in the..

A No, just the normal people in and out you know.

Q The people who were..

A Yeah.

Q ...doing the service on..

A Yeah, the people that are usually there at the mosque. And he was having prayer meetings at 4:30 you know, 5:30, 6:00 so it was just the normal people that were there.

Q OK, are you a member of the congregation over there?

A No.

Q Did you notice anything unusual?

A Just the last few days I noticed that he was..he was (inaud) it changed..it you know it seemed to me like he was worried about something, you know. (phone rings) Let me get this.

Q OK, I'll stop the interview, the time is approximately 0910....OK, we'll continue the interview, the time is still 0910. Could you pick up from, from what you were talking about, him being depressed.

A Yeah, he..he didn't seem to be depressed, he just.. everything was kind of different with him. You know I tried to talk him into clearing the brush from around the mosque and he said it was, you know, the little things now, he said, that at the time didn't mean anything but he said well, it would keep intruders out. And I tried talking him into cleaning it up so, you know, that if they did try to break in they could possibly see it but..he just didn't seem to, you know.. he just seemed to think that somebody was gonna break in or something. And then I noticed that..before there weren't any signs on the windows, he started putting signs on the back door that you know, that was a private area, he didn't want anyone coming through the..you know, to go to the front door of the mosque. And I noticed there was locks being put on a lot of the doors.

Q On the interior doors or the..

A On the interior door, the one between the kitchen and the mosque itself, there was you know an additional couple of locks on that which before they weren't there.

Q Do you know what condition those locks were in?

A They..they weren't very sturdy. They..I mean they wouldn't have held out anyone. They were more or less just to deter someone from trying to open the door and go through and then you know, it wouldn't go any (inaud) put your shoulder against it, it would pop right out.

Q Let me ask you: did you ever go over there..did you usually enter through the eastside door there?

A Yes.

Q The back door?

A Yeah. Usually everyone did except the members of the mosque when they were going in to the prayer meetings or something.

- Q And the times that you went over there, were you generally expected or did you ever go unexpected?
- A I..I would go unexpected, yeah, at times you know, I would go ask him something or tell him about some piece of property that I'd stopped by and checked on.
- Q Would he verify that it was you before he opened the door?
- A Oh yes, there was a, there was a window there, he'd just look right out and see who it was.
- Q Did he generally do that?
- A Yes.
- Q Do you know anything about the trailer that's in back of the..
- A Just that it belonged to a, a lady that used to be his secretary, work with him or something at one time a few years back.
- Q Did you ever know anybody by the name of WALTER?
- A Yes.
- Q Could you tell me a little bit about WALTER?
- A Matter of fact he worked for me on a job one time. He.. he didn't seem to be, you know, the normal type Muslim. And when he was working with me he was talking about drugs and you know, drinking and wanted to get off and have a few beers. He just didn't seem th enormal type Muslim, you know. Other than that I couldn't tell you too much about him.
- Q About how long ago was it that he worked for you?
- A Oh it was..at least four or five months ago. It was last summer..
- Q Did he work a great deal or..
- A No, just..just one day, two days actually. He helped me install a cooler.
- Q Do you recall his last name?
- A No, I don't. I just knew him as WALTER.
- Q Did you pay him in cash or did you write him a check?
- A I paid him in cash.
- Q OK. Could you describe him to me as best you could?
- A Well, he's a black man about 5..5-7, 5-8, probably 185 pounds. No noticeable scars or anything.
- Q Any facial hair, mustache, beard?
- A Well he had a mustache, he had kind of a beard but just a short-cropped beard. Or maybe just you know, hadn't shaved in a few days.

Q Did he, when he worked for you, how did he come to work for you?

A Well, RASHAD told me that he came from back east someplace and he didn't have a place to stay and he was staying in a trailer and RASHAD said that he was, you know, an electrician and he was needing some work. Occasionally when I need you know, some-one or something, RASHAD recommends somebody that you know, they were in need of money and some work so if I could I'd work them a day or so so they'd have a little spending cash.

Q Did he seem to be knowledgeable in electronics?

A Yeah, he was very knowledge on electrical. As a matter of fact he worked for an electronics place.. it's over by the University. With some guy who was repairing stereos and VCR's and stuff like that. But he was working on a commission basis and he just couldn't make any money.

Q You don't recall the name of the place, do you?

A No, I don't.

Q Is this what..this is just what he told you?

A Yes, just you know in conversation with him during the day.

Q And what type of work did he do for you, wiring or something?

A Yeah, he wired up an electric swamp cooler for me, (inaud)

Q And this was again, just one day did you say?

A Yeah, just one day.

Q And he was..RASHAD had referred him to you because he was in need of..

A Yes.

Q ..some work and he was a member..

A Yes, right.

Q ..at the mosque there. And..anything else you can recall about his description?

A No.

Q Did he have any type of an accent that you recall?

A No, it's more like a southern..southern-eastern accent you know, kind of a combination of the south and New York together.

Q And you say he didn't appear to be like the rest maybe because of his, the talk about..

A Yeah, (inaud) you know, he talked about people and drugs and (inaud) He just didn't strike me as normal Mus..Muslim-type person. Most of them are always real gentle and quiet you know, they're not talking about partying and drinking.

Q Did he..did you get a feeling or do you have any idea where he came from or if he's still in town or..

A I don't know if he's still in town. I..I just kind of got the idea that he was a drifter from, you know, from talking to him, just that he hadn't settled down in one spot for too long.

Q What was his age, I forgot to ask you that?

A It was probably around 30, 32 I would say.

Q Do you know how long he lived in the trailer back there?

A Well, to the best of my knowledge probably about three weeks, maybe a month.

Q And could you give me a time frame that..

A Oh geez..

Q Was it..

A It was, it..from July or August, you know, it was later on in..in the summer, (inaud) it could've been later than that, you know, at the time it just wasn't...

Q When he did the work for you what time of the year, do you recall the month that that was?

A That was (inaud) August. I can find out the date for (inaud) I can go back to my records.

Q OK, that..

A It might take me a day or so..

Q Sure.

A ..cause you know I'm getting everything for (inaud)

Q That'll be good.

A I'm trying to get unpacked.

Q OK, yeah, I would appreciate that.

A Yeah.

Q So he was living in the trailer then?

A Yes.

Q And that was during..

A Uh-huh.

Q ..the three or four week stint that he did there.
Do you know what came to happen to him as far as..
A No, I don't, he just..you know..he called me a
couple of times after that and left a message for
me on the machine that he wanted to work. And you
know I just never heard from him again, I didn't
see him again so I just figured that you know,
like I say I kind of thought like he was a drifter,
that he was on his way again.

Q Do you know if he had any transportation?
A No, he had no transportation.

Q OK. Do you know if he hung out with anybody or
any friends particularly?
A No.

Q What about an individual by the name of BEN?
A BEN?

Q BEN? Does that name ring a bell?
A No.

Q BEN or BENJAMIN?
A BENJAMIN...? No.

Q Somebody who might've worked at the Tucson Shopper,
do you know anybody over there particularly that
you dealt with..
A No.

Q ..at the Tucson Shopper?
A No.

Q He didn't, he didn't say when he was talking about
working near the U of A, any particular street,
location of any..
A No, it's just..I was thinking Electronic City but
you know, that's not..it was some..some individual,
it wasn't too far from there because he could walk
to it.

Q From the mosque?
A From the mosque, yeah.

Q And was it a regular business?
A Yeah it was a regular business guy..seems to me
like he told me the name of it and I honestly..
I'm doing a blank right now.

Q OK.
A But it was in that area because you know he'd walk
to it, walk to work. It was an electronic place
you know, that does repair on stereos and..oh, VCR's
and stuff of that nature.

Q What type of relationship did you have with CALIFA, was it strictly business, was there ever any confiding in one another?

A No, just..it was, it was more like, you know, friends I mean it was business but it was just, you know, he was always talking to me about his son (inaud) playing baseball and stuff, he was real proud of him. You know, at nighttime when I'd be over there they'd be cooking dinner and everything, they'd always you know invite me to eat with them and stuff like that. It was, it was you know, a friendly relationship, business type.

Q Anything else you can recall that..offhand that might help us in this..

A No.

Q Anything that CALIFA might've said..?

A Well just you know like when I was asking about renting this place he would just, you know, he just said, whatever you decide, you know, he just wasn't real positive about anything.

Q This is during the last..

A Yeah..

Q ..couple of days or..

A ..last couple of days, yeah.

Q So he seemed like maybe his mind was not in the right place or..

A Yeah, yeah.

Q He never mentioned anything specifically..

A No.

Q ..to you?

A Nothing. Just one thing is that he asked me to get some paint for him, someone had put a sign out on the front wall and he said, the..it was the sign of the devil, he wanted to get it covered up, he said it was a five-star, a five-point star. That was the sign of the devil.

Q Did you see it?

A No, all I could see..they'd already tried to cover it but you could still see it through the paint. And I got some more paint for him but..

Q This was on what part of the mosque? Facing..

A At the eastside.

- Q Eastside?
A Yeah. And right underneath it says, "Happiness is the (inaud) OF God."
- Q Right.
A Underneath that (inaud)
- Q A five-pointed star?
A Uhmm. He said it was the sign of the devil:
- Q Do you know..was that right before this happened?
A Yes, that was..probably..probably four days before, it was on a Thursday or Friday of the week before.
- Q You don't recall what color the paint was or anything?
A No, it was a dark color.
- Q Anything else about WALTER that maybe in conversation he might've said as to where he might be from or going or anything?
A No. Nothing that I can recall at this time.
- Q OK, I..unless you have anything else..
A No I can't think of anything else at this time.
- Q OK. THAT CONCLUDES THE INTERVIEW. Could you state your name one more time for the record?
A SONNY ROBERTS.
- Q AND THE DATE'S..THE TIME IS 0924, THAT CONCLUDES THE INTERVIEW.

INTERVIEWED BY

DET. MILLER 8195

TRANSCRIBED BY

Berta Valenzuela
BERTA VALENZUELA 6762
27 FEBRUARY 1990/1015