

NAME OF CLIENT
NAME OF SHOW
INTERVIEW WITH APRIL CARROLL, 2 OF 3
TAPE 204-051
AUGUST 3, 2007
TRANSCRIBED BY: WORD OF MOUTH (AD)

Q : Pick it up on the question of remorse.

[07:01:24]

APRIL : Yeah, I never felt any remorse from Malvo or Mohammad. I sat in the courtroom for six weeks straight, every day. About as far from Malvo as - just at a [UNINTELLIGIBLE]. He never once showed any regret. And he signed that he wished he - he hadn't been involved. His lawyers tried to make that image of him. Um, he was dressed as a schoolboy, you know, to play down the age and have the sympathy vote from the jury, I believe.

[07:01:58]

But he never once showed any facial expressions or signs of feeling bad about any of this. I mean, to this day, I haven't seen that. Even with him testifying in Montgomery County and being able to confront Mohammad and being able to say the things he did there. I think he got some relief personally from doing that, but I didn't feel that he really genuinely came out and was doing that for the families or for the victims.

Q : I wonder if they have any sense of the damage they've done.

[07:02:37]

APRIL : I don't believe they did in this case. I mean, that - the drawings that Malvo continued to do while he was in jail in Fairfax clearly showed that there was no sense of awareness as to the - the damage to the victims and their families. You know, when we went through the victim witness - I mean, the, uh, victim impact portion of the sentencing for the death penalty phase.

[07:03:02]

And those families got an opportunity, the daughter of Pasco Sholo and the daughter of Linda Franklin, the mother of Sonny Bucanon, they got a chance to go on the stand and tell the jury what this had done to them and their families. I remember Mr. Heran, the prosecutor for Fairfax County, turning to me that morning and saying you're really wrapped up with these people. Are you gonna be able to sit up front here, because you can't show any emotion to the jury when you sit here at the prosecutor's table.

[07:03:34]

I said I know that, sir. I'm gonna try really hard. And I never experienced the physical reaction that I had during that day ever in my career. But I sat there and fought tears, fought the physical reaction so hard that I was shaking. You know, I was gripping - I had white knuckles. And I - I didn't wanna cry, but even Mr. Heran and Mr. Maro, the prosecutors, had to wipe that tear because you just - if you're human, you cannot fight those feelings. And I didn't see any of that from Malvo, not one thing.

Q : What did they do to this area? What was the human damage?

[07:04:31]

APRIL : Well these two made a mark that will never - that will never go away. Um, you know, I - I talk about this case in lecture form all over the country. And when I relate back and I give the presentation in this area and ask how many of you lived here when this occurred, the reaction from those people, it's different. I mean, it's just a mark that will always be there in their hearts and souls, I think, as nine eleven. I mean, I hate to equate it to something that was that catastrophic. But

when you live in that kind of fear day to day for weeks, um, you know, it - it doesn't go away.

[07:05:07]

And they won't forget it. And I think, um, you know, I felt when the prosecutions - the decision was made that these two would be prosecuted in Virginia, um, Virginia has the death penalty. Um, I - opinion on the death penalty was not important. The point was they deserved to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. And if the state of Virginia said that's the death penalty qualifier, then that's what they deserve to get. And needed to be prosecuted to that level, and I felt very strongly about that. And having sat in the Malvo trial and worked for so long to prepare this case and put it on, I was devastated.

[07:05:44]

And I felt the - and I was devastated 'cause I felt the families were disappointed when the sentencing was life as opposed to death. Um, that that's what the jury had decided. And it was the most devastating point in my career. And it sounds dramatic, but I went home - I cried the whole way home. I had a three and a half hour drive in front of me. The emotional let-down of it being over now, it was the day before Christmas. Um,

put heart and soul into this. I saw the faces of the families who looked disappointed with that sentencing. And I felt like we'd failed. And they all came up afterwards and said you put on the very best case possible. The case was put on flawlessly. You know, all those things, but it didn't matter.

[07:06:25]

And it took me a long time to accept that that's our justice system, and it was fair. It was all done right. And that's what the jury decided. But that was so hard because of the impact. I felt like this had never been, um, felt in American history before, something like this to this extent. It was the largest manhunt ever. Again, the randomness of it. The - the violence. Um, so yes, it was - it was disappointing.

Q : Give me a scale of the manhunt.

[07:07:04]

APRIL : This law enforcement effort was the biggest in the United States. We had - just to give you ATS perspective on what we contributed, we contributed more than our largest field division as far as man power to this investigation. So agents from all over the country brought in, put up in hotels indefinitely. Um, this is your assignment. And this is where

you'll be housed and so forth. Um, we had sixty - over sixty law enforcement entities participate in this investigation. And I went through and counted them by hand from across the country.

[07:07:37]

Every single state, local, and federal law enforcement, um, office that participated. Um, it was incredible. People coming and going all hours of the night. You know, a hundred thousand leads? That's never been heard of, um, in one investigation. We had nineteen hundred calls come in, in forty seconds, on one day, uh, of the investigation. So the scale is - it's off the charts. There is no scale. Just the lead system that was used.

[07:08:09]

Um, the lead tracking system was so overwhelmed. You know, you had to go back to the human element to just process paper leads because the computers and the phones couldn't work with each other that fast.

Q : Anybody ever put a figure on how much this cost?

[07:08:24]

APRIL : I'm sure somebody did. I had to go through that for ATF. To run a budget as to what it cost for our

participation in the manhunt. But also then in the prosecution taskforce. Because we rented space and gave everybody --.

Q : ATF immediately plays a big role. Tell me about that.

[07:09:10]

APRIL : The first day of the shootings, ATF, um, Hindsville office reached out to Montgomery County. And they'd had, I believe, three shootings that morning. Uh, ATF supervisor called Montgomery County detectives and said we're here. We'll help you, we'll go to the scenes, we'll do witness interviews. You must have your detective squad spread pretty thin by now. We're happy to do, um, crime scene processing, blind searches, whatever you need. And immediately responded to offer that assistance. They took us up on it.

Q : What's the forensics work that ATF is doing right at the start?

[07:10:50]

APRIL : The forensics work in this case was I think unprecedented. Uh, the combination of moving things from the ATF lab for ballistics and fingerprinting. And the things that we would do with the various items of evidence right over to the

FBI lab for DNA, and the other things that they had the expertise in was totally unprecedented. I mean, it was literally picked up from a helicopter pad, taken straight to the ATF office for the ballistics first. And then onto FBI within hours.

[07:11:21]

And cases aren't normally processed like that. The ballistics contribution, again, unprecedented. The firearms examiners would often go to the scenes. The lead examiner, Walt Dandridge, would go straight to the lab to wait for the items to arrive. He would then compare them to previous items. And they're able to basically take the fragments, um, open them up, unbend them, if you will, and look at markings that are very unique and specific to a firearm. And each case could be compared to the other, and a match made. Which again was the only link.

[07:11:59]

And it was such a solid link that at least we could go forward knowing that we were dealing with one or -- you know, one's particular crime spree. Um, and that was phenomenal. That was - there was a lotta pride that I certainly had with ATF's participation that way, with Walt Dandridge and the other

firearms examiners at our lab. I remember, um, the day that Mohammad and Malvo were arrested. And [UNINTELLIGIBLE] firearm was seized from their vehicle.

[07:12:28]

It was taken straight to the ATF lab, where test fires were run. Which is a process where the firearm is shot into water and cleaned, if you will. Rounds are recovered, which then can be looked at in comparison to the spend k-spend rounds and spend casings and so forth to determine if it was indeed the firearm. And I remember going off shift that day before the final determination was made. And watching on CNN as, uh, the special agent in charge Mike Bushard was announcing to the public, uh, to everyone involved, that this Bushmaster was responsible for the murder of - and he went through name by name, Sonny Bucanon, [UNINTELLIGIBLE], every single name.

[07:13:10]

And I mean, I had tears streaming down my face. I was so relieved. I was so proud. I was every emotion in the book. And my kids were home at the time from school. And they're looking at me, not quite sure how to react to mom's tears. And mom, isn't this good? This is a good thing. And I said this is a very good thing. They said then why are you crying? I said

because it's just really emotional after all this. And they said yeah, but does this mean we have recess again? And I said, it means you have recess again. And they were jumping up and down, screaming. That kept things in perspective.

[END OF TAPE 204-051]