

Sept. 17th, 1968

Re:Information, Evelyn Hartley

On this date I went to La Farge, Wis. and spoke to a Mr. O. B. Kennedy in regards to some information we had received that he knew where Evelyn Hartley's grave was. Mr. O. B. Kennedy was staying at the Camel farm north of La Farge on Hwy-82.

I asked Mr. Kennedy about this information and he stated that a man by the name of Bennie Camel, who is now dead told him that he knew who killed Evelyn Hartley, shortly after she disappeared. Bennie Camel told him that Clyde Peterson and a Rush boy took her to the Rush farm where they had killed her and buried her in the barn. Bennie told Mr. Kennedy that if Peterson and Rush found out that he told they would kill him. I asked Mr. Kennedy if he had asked Bennie how he knew this and Mr. Kennedy could not recall if he had asked him or how Bennie knew about it. Mr. Kennedy stated that Bennie Camel had at one time been picked up for molesting a child in La Crosse.

I asked Mr. Kennedy if he would take me and show me where he thought the body was. Mr. Kennedy drove his car to La Farge and left it there and got in with me and instructed me to drive to the Rush farm which is approx. 3 blocks so. of Hwy-82 right in the town of La Farge. This he stated was the Rush farm and showed me a place where a small barn had burned. Mr. Kennedy stated that the barn had burned on the evening Evelyn had disappeared or shortly after.

Mr. Kennedy stated that on one occasion after Evelyn had disappeared he met Mabel Gaulthair in a restaurant in town and that Mabel made the statement to him that if the Police knew what they knew that those two boys would not be around here now.

Mr. Kennedy is old and has lapses of memory, but he is still agile and is licensed to drive a car. He is hard of hearing and this may account for some of the statements made that he is senile. He knows that he has lapses of memory and told me about them, and also told me that at times he remembers things very well.

I spoke to Mabel Gaulthair, in regards to the exact location of Evelyn's grave and she stated that she did not know. She seemed to want to talk to someone about her son who had recently committed suicide. She made the statement that she didn't think that her son had anything to do with Evelyn's disappearance and she thought that it was possibly an accident as far as the death of her son was concerned. I did not ask Mrs. Gaulthair any questions as whether she thought that her son had anything to do with Evelyn's disappearance, she made this statement when I questioned her as to the location of the grave. I asked Mrs. Gaulthair if any barns had burned in the area at about that time and she said that there had been two barns that burned, one was on the Rush farm and one was about 1/2 a block south of the barn that burned on the Rush farm. Mrs. Gaulthair got into her auto and showed me both sites where the barns had burned.

I spoke to Leon Marshall and his wife who now own the Rush property. Mr. Marshall is also the town Constable. Mrs. Marshall stated that she had heard that on a previous investigation that Mabel Gaulthair had lied about the tennis shoes. I asked Mr. Marshall to try and check with the Fire Dept and get the dates of the two barn fires and to also try and get the first name of Rush boy who Mr. Kennedy stated was involved. Mr. Kennedy also stated that the Rush boy had recently been released from Mendota State Hospital and that he had seen him around fair time. Mr. Marshall stated that he would get this information and bring it to our office.

I spoke to Albert Rogers of La Farge, and asked him how he came by his information regarding Evelyn Hartley. He stated that he and Mr. Kennedy had talked about it at a Co-op Meeting.

Mr. Rogers seemed to be a responsible citizen and of very sound mind.

Investigation continues

Deputy Theo. Lisota

December 28, 1967 - 12:30 P.M.

RE: INFO. EVELYN HARTLEY

Albert Rogers who lives two blocks north of the Free Methodist Church in La Farge, Wisconsin, came into the office and stated that he has some information concerning the Evelyn Hartley case.

Rogers states that recently he was informed of some details in the Hartley case and that he has mentioned same to Lonnie Mueller, the Constable in La Farge who also runs a television repair shop. Mr. Rogers had hoped that Lonnie Mueller would relay his information to the La Crosse County authorities, however, this was not done so he came in with the information personally.

Albert Rogers claims that Mr. O. B. "Bird" Kennedy knows the location of the Evelyn Hartley grave. O. B. Kennedy lives with a daughter approximately 30 miles from La Farge possibly in Juneau County.

Mr. Rogers further states that Kennedy owns a house in La Farge and this house is rented to an Otto Hamilton who can advise the exact location that O. B. Kennedy can be contacted. Mr. Rogers further states that Mabel Gaulthier can verify Mr. Kennedy's claim, however, she should not be contacted at this time as her son committed suicide on Christmas Day and his funeral is scheduled for today.

Mr. Rogers states that a resident of La Farge named Tyway (spelling ?) Peterson is a prime suspect in the disappearance of Evelyn Hartley. Mr. Rogers further states that he is partially disabled and has been unemployed for a number of years and is available in the event that the Sheriff or whoever conducts this investigation needs any further assistance.

Opitz

A check via radio was made with Vernon County Sheriff's Department as to the reliability of Albert Rogers, they inform that, in their opinion, Rogers is a reliable person.

Book Way West Terra
Billie
Willie Banks Bus
But
Elge