

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Date May 26, 1966

REPORT NO. _____

Time _____ M.

In the matter of Evelyn Hartley Case
To George C. Long, Chief of Police

Sir:

A letter was received by the Police Department from Mr. Jorgen Albert Larsen, age 51, DCB 4-13-14, Route #2, Box 214, Gillett, Wisconsin in the letter he stated that he had information on the Hartley Case.

A long distance phone call was placed to Gillett, Wis. and he told Lt. Schmuck that he didn't want to give anything over the phone but he would be more than willing to discuss the information in person. Arrangements were made to contact Mr. Larsen and the following information was obtained:

We went to Oconto, Wisconsin and contacted the sheriff of Oconto County, Rupert Haave, and he stated that he has known Mr. Larsen for many years and has a high regard for him. The sheriff escorted us to the farm of Mr. Larsen.

Mr. Larsen lives on a farm about 3 miles east of Gillett, Wisconsin with his wife, he has been married for nine years. He stated that the reason he didn't say anything before was that he did not want to get any innocent person involved. He discussed the information with his attorney and the attorney advised him to get in touch with the DA La Crosse County and it would be handled confidentially. He also said that he has thought so much about this information that it is starting to bother him more each day.

The person he suspects is James Kuehl, age about 33, Gillett, Wisconsin, Kuehl and his brother operate a furniture store & undertaking parlor in Gillett. James & his brother have taken the business over from their father. The family according to the sheriff and Larsen are pretty well fixed financially. Jims father spent some time in a mental hospital and has been in and out of the hospital several times, Jims aunt on his fathers side committed suicide by shooting. We were also told that Jim has always seemed to get involved with girls younger than himself.

Mr. Larsen said that the weekend of the Hartley disappearance Jim came home from college for a visit, he attended La Crosse State, and when he heard that Jim would be in town he thought that it would be good to talk to him and get first hand information on the disappearance of the La Crosse babysitter. Mr. Larsen was in a beer joint in Gillett when Jim, Bob Wudke, and Mel Lauersdorf came in the place and each ordered a beer, Larsen walked up to Jim and when he asked him about Evelyn Hartley, Jim turned white and started to shake and acted real nervous, he turned around and with out touching the beer he had ordered hurried out of the place. Two times after this incident when Larsen mentioned the Hartly case Jim reacted the same way. Up until two years ago everytime Kuehl would see

400 La Crosse, WI 54601
RECORDS DIVISION
LA CROSSE POLICE DEPT.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Date May 26, 1966

REPORT NO. _____

Time _____ M.

In the matter of Evelyn Hartley Case

To _____

Page II

Sir:

Mr. Larsen he would avoid him. Mr. Larsen stated that he went into the Kuehl Furniture store many times and if Jim was in the store he would leave as soon as he spotted Larsen. After the first contact in the Beer Joint Jim quit school and went into the armed forces.

In June of 1962 Jim took two girls ages about 20 out to the lake outside of Gillett, one of the girls name was Winkler and the other Beverly Fischer, they went out there for the purpose of going swimming. The Winkler girl went in swimming and Beverly and Jim stayed in the car and were supposedly necking. When the Winkler finished swimming she came back to the car and Jim was in the car alone, she asked him where Bev was and he was suppose to have told her that she went in swimming. The Winkler girl after talking to Jim for awhile about the Fischer girl not being seen in the water Jim finally told her that she had drowned but that she shouldn't say anything. The two of them went home and then later or early in the morning the Winkler girl couldn't sleep thinking about the incident awakened her father and told him about Bev drowning. He called the sheriff and they dragged the lake and found the body. The death was ruled accidental but according to Larsen and the present sheriff many of the citizens thought that Jim was responsible for the death but no one pushed it. Sheriff Haave will get all of the reports that he can find on this incident and send them to us. Haave said that he was not happy with the way the drowning was handled but at that time he was the undersheriff and didn't have too much to say about the deal.

Mr. Larsen also said that shortly after the Fischer girls death, Mr. Fischer built a new silo, reroofed his barn, painted and fixed up his house and was driving a new car. The Fischer up until that time didn't have the kind of money that he was spending.

In addition to sending the reports on the death of Bev Fischer the sheriff will also find out where the Winkler girls is working now and any other information that can be obtained about Kuehl. According to Haave the Winkler girl either works in Green-bay or Milwaukee. The Winkler girls father is Edwin and he lives in Gillett.

Det. Lt Schmuck - Krause