

Cath:

Just saw this quote on Helen's site:

Yes, Many local police already knew in June 1977...that the chances of catching the Occk...were slim -Birmingham Police Chief Jerry Tobin-thought the answer was...even if we never solve the crime "We can make the killer paranoid-that everyone's watching him...and prevent him from killing another child"-(and maybe that did work-as it seems the last child to be killed by the Occk in Oakland County was Tim King-Chief Tobin-in and interview with Jane Briggs-Bunting of the Free Press-In June 1977-said "The first question people ask me is, will the killer be caught and the second is, will he take another child?...Tobin said-who knows-who in the hell knows?"..."I'd like to see this bastard in jail"...But if we never solve these murders...preventing another abduction...would be our goal"....

Pretty weird quote, when you look at it. Is it in our pile of press clippings?

Great post. This quote goes against the grain of every cop quote I have ever seen. What happened to "We will never rest until we bring this vicious murderer to justice" and "We will do everything we can, but we may need the public's help to solve this case" ? (This was mid-summer. There was shit about the killings only being in the winter in the press at the time. Why wasn't the chief asking the public to remain vigilant? Why wasn't he urging people who might have guilty knowledge to come forward? Instead, we get "who in the hell knows" and "I'd like to see this bastard in jail.")

The poster notes that the comments reflect Tobin's belief that the chances of catching the killer were slim. One other way the Tobin quote above makes sense is that he knew the case would never be solved but was pretty certain another abduction would not take place.

June 1977 is before B.'s suicide, right? I used to think any cover up must have begun after he killed himself, but maybe not. Think it's possible that the old man was able to say "We'll put him in a mental hospital in Europe" or something and keep it quiet that way?

That scenario would jibe with the statement to Nini by that cop--it wasn't "It was some rich kid from Bloomfield Hills, but *he's dead now*," it was something like, "It was some rich kid from Bloomfield Hills, but *we couldn't touch him*."

How many police reports naming C.B. were made over the years? How many incidents were hushed up before a report was made but the cops got wind of it? How many times was his name turned in by tipsters after the murders began? We might never know. The (pre-Columbine) Columbine-style file-ditching scenario is no doubt what happened at some point--but when?

Maybe this is why all those tips were "lost" and the voice messages were erased. (When was this loss of tips made known--before or after B.'s suicide?)

Maybe this is why no one followed up with Mrs. Coitman.

When it comes to conspiracy theories, the age-old question is always "ineptitude/laziness or cover-up?"

If there was a cover-up, it's hard to fathom how many people must have known about the murders--B. and family, G. and family, probably John H. and family, the cops who investigated the B. suicide, the heads of the task force, the B'ham chief, B.'s lawyer, Wasser, some of the people who had encountered B. and/or reported him over the years, the people those people told over drinks--and the information didn't come out. As amazing as it is that the truth may come out now, it might be even more amazing that it didn't come out then.

I'll have to do some thinking about when the cover-up began. Shortly after Tim was killed? Or after B. offed himself? What do you think?

I'm going to look over the article and pick this quote apart.

The "this bastard" quote is interesting (if it's accurate). Does the word "this" possibly connote knowledge of a specific person? If he didn't know the identity of the suspect, would he be more likely to say "the bastard"? Maybe, but maybe not. (Compare it to "this killer"/"the killer.") (Also, why the assumption that it's just one person? It seems that was almost a given at the time.)

And "I'd like to see this bastard in jail"? That's a weird construction for a cop, unless you count "I'd like another doughnut." He's already moving the goalposts, announcing that the "goal" is not bringing the murderer to justice but "preventing another abduction." Why? Is he implicitly admitting that they don't have jack shit and are totally clueless, or is the real reason that there's a cover-up in place--that they know damn well they'll never bring the killer in (because B.'s dad won't let them) but are rationalizing it all by saying that at least the abductions will stop?

Ineptitude or cover-up?

From: Catherine Broad [mailto:cathnbroad@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009
Subject: Re: Weird Quote

Yes, that one pulled me up short, too. I had never seen that before. We have two June 1977 articles—a short article in the News on 6/15 about the postal workers dropping off flyers and a big thing in the Free Press on a Sunday (6/26) in the Features-Editorial section. The quote from Tobin is not in there, but this article does reference some statements by the mailman who found Kristine and says they were made "last week"—so maybe the Helen post article was that week before.

I read and reread that post and was trying to formulate a post in response, but never did it. I think I will today.

It's interesting that the quote is from Tobin. First of all, you know Busch had to have been in trouble with B'ham PD before and it got swept under the rug (pre-OCCK). Second, Helen has always tried to figure out why and under what circumstances Tobin left the B'ham PD. I think Tobias or somebody close to the cop shop may have intimidated to her that there was some financial messing around or something like that, but of course no one Helen has spoken to would talk about it. And Tobias croaked a few years ago.

You know the Buschs tossed that fucker in some loony bin after all of this went down. I wonder how that could be tracked down. I'm sure it was Europe, too. He had spent his practically his entire childhood in Switzerland for god's sake.

Here's one for you—March 22, 1978, The Daily Tribune: "[Krease] also says some persons believe the killer may be in a mental hospital committed there by wealthy family members. 'Perhaps someone knows about it, but feels that because he is being treated there's no reason to come forward.'"

And another—Eccentric, June 15, 1978: Discusses theories on why killer hasn't struck again: "The killer is in a mental institution: The theory is that the killer's family had him committed and never notified authorities because they believed this would prevent him from killing again."

And again—Detroit News, December 11, 1978 (two weeks or so after Busch offed himself or was killed by someone): Discussing how task force will be reactivated if necessary and how killer could have stopped killing: "'If I had to pin it down, I would guess that he's in an institution or that he's dead,' Robertson said, 'but I wouldn't bet 10 cents on it and I can't support it. Anything's a possibility.' What disturbs the 23-year State Police member most is the suspicion that his investigators never came close to the killer and the conviction that someone could help identify the man. 'Either someone has absolute direct knowledge or at least suspicions that a friend or relative is the killer, and has not come forward with it,' Robertson said: "'If the right person would call us, hopefully he'd be caught before the day is out.'" [Right, motherfucker.]

Related is the December 1977 article in People—"Others believe the man may be in a mental institution. As one police detective points out, Timmy King's body was dumped on Gill Road just a few miles from Northville State Hospital. The killer had to travel down a badly torn-up section of Eight Mile Road to reach the Gill dump site—a route someone unfamiliar with the area would tend to avoid because of the construction. The detective speculates that the killer knew the area well and might even be an outpatient at the hospital." At the end of article: "The score is Killer—4, Police—0. If it ends here, in all likelihood the

Oakland County child killer will never be caught. 'Probably not,' even Lt. Robertson admits.

And check this bad boy out—Detroit News, March 16 1980: "The task force still operates, but with only one Michigan State Police detective assigned full time to check out new tips coming in at the rate of 10 per week. State Police Lt. Joe Koenig, who took over Jan. 1 as task force coordinator, is optimistic the killer can still be found. 'If the case is broken, it will be through some relatively new investigative technique like hypnosis,' he said. While emphasizing that the task force did 'one helluva job,' Koenig is seriously considering another review of 'high-priority tips' by a special group of retired police officers. 'We're not being critical of the work already done,' said Koenig. 'But maybe, just maybe, they overlooked something because of all the pressure.' Koenig says he hasn't ruled out the possibility that more than one person was involved in the killings. Michigan State Police Capt. Robert Robertson, who headed the task force until a recent promotion, plays down the value of reexamining tips. 'We went over those tips so many times,' said Robertson. 'I don't think it will do any good. But they can do what they want.' . . . Why hasn't the killer struck again? Authorities admit that of the dozens of theories, one is as good as another. But Koenig has a new theory—a long shot, he admits, on what happened to the killer. 'What if the killer is from a very wealthy family,' he said. 'Suppose the parents discover their son is the killer and send him off to Europe for psychiatric treatment. The family name is spared, their son is receiving treatment, and they are sure no one else will be killed. They can live with that.' . . . Capt. Robertson said he feels the killer was somehow 'taken from us,' either through death [Busch] or imprisonment [Green]."

Definitely that cover up started before he offed himself for reasons you point out. Had to have. On top of Busch wielding all kinds of power and clout, there was that fucking polygraph that Busch had "passed." Everyone treated that like absolution by God.

There were two tip lossages, I believe. One was relatively early on (I'm almost 100% sure this was pre-suicide) and a tip line tape was accidentally erased at Bham P.D. I can find that mention in the newspapers. Then, down the road there was some loss when the task force computer got "overloaded" and something like 277 tips were deleted to make room for more shit. The cops tried to say that it was no big deal because of course they had these tips on paper, too, but you know they were wiping their asses with those tip sheets by that point.

As you say, it's hard to know when the ditching of CB's files with Bham and other PDs started happening. As we know, some incidents never even made it to the reporting stage and some victims were bought off. The ditching could have been occurring from the get-go, and I can certainly see Bham ditching what little they probably had after Busch offed himself.

The cover up and mental institution things have to be true—Busch didn't kill himself until November 20, 1978—that's 19 months after Tim was murdered. They had to have him stashed somewhere. He lives for 19 months and THEN decides to off himself? Lends more weight to the somebody offed him scenario. The animal probably didn't have the guts to kill himself.

It is pretty damn hard to read those quotes from the pigs and not believe they didn't know about Busch (and probably Green). I am totally biased, of course, but none of that shit makes any sense otherwise.

They are interviewing and polygraphing that fuck Hastings tomorrow. Should I post any of this stuff right now or wait?

Also, the time may be rapidly approaching where we need to get our story out. A friend from [redacted] was visiting last night and she said "you guys should contact Ann Rule or another true crime writer, cut some deal and make her sign a nondisclosure agreement until the cops announce their results." She said it would be much harder for us to get a book published and she said "do it before some sleazy cop writes the story."