

He worked for Fred Salter Corp. in Birmingham. Fred Salter owned the Detroit Piston also had a piston plant in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. They sold pistons to the auto companies.

DS What did your dad do?

He was a sales....

EPO What does that mean?

He went to the auto makers on problems with orders and things like that...specifications, etc.

EPO Did he make a good living?

Ya, he made good money.

EPO What did you think of your dad?

I owe my dad quite a bit. He raised us 5 kids you know. He always...decide for ourselves what we wanted to do. He didn't say you're going to do this when you grow up. He made me go to Brother Rice High School. He kept a tight house as far as rules. He was like that. You could ask him anything. He'd talk to me about it.

EPO Do you communicate with him more frequently than you do your mother and sister.

Ya.

DS When was the last time you talked to your dad?

My Dad? Probably about a month ago.

DS Just a regular call?

Ya.

DS Because I know you talked to your sister. Your sister told me she talked to you more in the last couple of weeks, than she

had talked to you in a long time.

Ya. I haven't seen her in a while.

EPO What do you think is wrong?

My mom is..she's had her problems like she was divorced from my dad...she spends a lot of time thinking about that, but I say it's her own fault. She was going to divorce my dad and my dad said "I'm counter-divorcing you" or something like that. But she made life miserable for us in certain ways..always arguing. My dad wanted things on schedule and a certain way to do things. Of course, I don't know about their relationship, that's between her and him. I can't tell you more than that.

DS How old were you when they filed for divorce? You were living at home, but it was after your trip.

I think when I got back was when I first became aware of how things had fallen into place at that time.

DS How'd you feel when your dad moved out?

I felt pretty bad, you know. I realize there was nothing we could do anymore, but I think he wanted a new life and he waited until my brother turned 18 and wasn't legally responsible for him anymore. Then he decided to move. Things had to work out that. I didn't enjoy living with my mother a whole lot.

EPO Why?

I was there because I needed a place to stay. She's not hard to get along with, you know, or anything, but it's just like

I'm not getting on with my life while I'm staying with her. Everything stops. She had to get the house ready to sell. I contacted a real estate company for her and kind of helped her along.

DS Did you help her with the house next door too?

No. I don't think there was much to do there. I forget who sold that. I don't know if they sold it right through the bank or it was a real estate company. I forget. Our house was ...because I went to school with the daughter, called her up to come over, did an appraisal of assessment.

DS Did you have to do any repairs on the house?

No.

DS Plumbing, electric, painting?

No. I painted the basement over in the other house. It took a couple of days..brick walls..My dad wanted me to paint it.

DS Like white wash?

Ya. Cement coloring.

DS Like the basement paint?

Ya.

DS Cinder block with that white stuff?

Ya.

DS Do you want to stretch your legs or something?

Out there?

DS Anywhere. Just take a little break. Let's take a little break.

I can get a drink of water.

(Short break)

Someone's in love with you but they don't believe you or believe in you. That's kind of strange, isn't it?

DS Helen is kind of a strange person.

She seems to take the..I'm the kind of person who gives somebody the benefit of a doubt, and she's kind of the opposite of that. I don't know her that well.

DS Why is she doing this?

I suspect she's been doing this kind of thing for a long time. She's really got a big league kind of deal. She come over to my house one day. She said "Do you want to go for coffee in the morning?" I said "Alright, come on over." I got off about quarter to nine and she's outside in her car with the engine running, waiting for 9:00 and I found out she hadn't slept all night because she's been on this kick. I didn't like that.

DS Which kick? This case?

Ya.

DS But if she's in love with you..

Last week driving me over to the house. We pulled up at the house and she pulls up and jumps out of the car. She's got this magazine and she comes up to me and says "Look." It's got this report in it on serial killers. I said "I don't want to read that shit." She was so excited about it. She's like that. She has the impression that I'm interested in that. Don't ask me what I think of her. I think she's a real wacko.

DS I didn't ask you what you thought of her, I asked you what's

her motivation for this?

I think it would put her in the spot light, to tell the truth.

This would put anybody in the spot light.

EPO ...the spot light.

But, she's got a loud personality. She talks all the time and she doesn't listen to anything you say. I am steering away from her. She told me she was writing a book. I went along with her because she bought me coffee and cigarettes. She took me to the laundromat to do my laundry. I don't have a car, you know. This has gone too far. She told me she came up here one day with...Mr. King came up here one day...I don't know.

DS With a cop?

Ya.

EPO Don asked you a while ago if you knew the police were involved.

Ya. This was before that.

EPO Before what?

Before...the first time I felt the police were involved is when my folks were over there. I found out...I walked into the book store and the guy in the book store told me that some detectives were in there looking at my books.

EPO That's true...

That was right around the time when she told me...that was after she told me that Mr. King had come up here with a detective, or something.

DS Prior to your books or any of that stuff, she indicated to me that she had told you...did you know that she had been talking to a local cop for sometime about different criminal things in town?

I knew...she told me that she was working with the homeless project here and that she walked in (I was at there and was working with something about was in some trouble. I thought it was...I don't know.

DS You didn't know about any detective that she was using regularly?

No.

EPO As you know, we met with your mom, your sister. Does your mom have a big imagination? Does she fantasize or anything like that?

She speculates a lot.

EPO Can you tell us your impression of what she speculates about? She's got her own political views, and she's a big speculator. But she's not fantasizing about. She's not real about it and it makes some sense. She draws conclusions that are way out.

DS Like what?

For example, she's quick to condemn, things like this is my brother-in-law or something like that. There's a certain way things should be done with her. If she sees things aren't right she'll make comments on them.

DS Like what?

Just that she didn't think that...I just remember a period

when that was going on. It was probably when they first got married.

EPO That would be _____ husband?

husband. She's quick to point out what's wrong with somebody, instead of what's right with them. We were sitting in the Holiday Inn (Mother's Day) 4 years ago and there were some black people sitting over at this table and some other people, and my mother will sit there and she will sometimes talk to that everybody in the room can hear her. It's kind of annoying knowing everybody else...when she mentions something about the blacks here and the blacks there, and pretty soon these black people are all looking over at me. See, that's her opinion and that's the way she is. Kind of arrogance about her. That's her.

DS Did you ever tell Helen there could be a social motivation for these Oakland County cases.

Ya. We talked about that. It could be socio-economic.

DS In what way?

Maybe the guy had been deprived or something like, and he's getting back. He's showing them whose in control, or something like that. A motive other than murder or sex.

DS Getting back to your question, would that statement not relate to a guy who had an office in the Ren-Cen and lived in Bloomfield Village, then all of a sudden was working on-line at Pontiac Motors?

Ya. But don't have any hard feelings about that. Money was

what was important. I was making money. I didn't accept that. I wouldn't have stayed there. But I did.

DS I'm not saying you weren't making money. What I am saying is, from a socio-economic position, you said it earlier. You went from one end of the spectrum to the other.

This was in January of 78 when I went to work there.

DS Before that you weren't working, you weren't making any money. Ya.

DS Then you were. Then it stopped. When you were unemployed, and weren't working, that's when these cases happened, and you weren't making any money and didn't have anything going. Then, you got that job and they stopped.

When did they stop?

EPO March of 77.

I was at work in November 1977.

EPO I think I got the date right.

There was a little time there but all I can conjure up is a coincidence.

DS You didn't do it?

I didn't do it!

DS You didn't have anything to do with it?

No. Had nothing to do with it.

DS Let me ask you this, would you take a polygraph and say that.

Ya, if necessary.

DS I guess "necessary" is kind of a relative term, if we ask you to. We can't force you to take one. We can't force you to

sit here. You know that.

EPO You can get up and walk anytime you want.

I would like to clear myself. Because I know I didn't do it.

I don't know what to do.

DS Are you nervous here today?

Ya. I'm a little bit nervous.

EPO Sometimes you are, and sometimes you aren't. When we start talking about this stuff you get very nervous.

Ya, because I don't know anything about it. You're asking me questions I don't know anything about and there's this little bell that goes off that says, I better answer this question, or I better tell you everything I know. I'm trying to do the best I can here. I don't like to dwell on these things. I don't want to sit here and incriminate myself, because you might suspect something here or there. This I'm not sharp on the law with. I am kind of nervous today, in a way.

DS If you weren't nervous, I would be very suspicious. Of course, you should be nervous. The police don't come to you every day and ask you about murder.

EPO This isn't like you bad check case. How'd that work out?

I got fined. I paid the money back.

EPO The question was will you voluntarily take a polygraph test in regards to the Oakland County killings?

I should probably ask a lawyer about that. I don't know anything about these things. I want to clear myself if there's anyway I can do it.

EPO That's the way it was done. Many of the suspects took polygraphs. You might have read that in the book too. Chester Romankowski, State Police Polygraph...I think you've made a tentative decision. We may come back to it again, and may have ...but the other question I wanted to ask you is did you ever study these cases with the possibility of getting the reward? Would it surprise you if your sister told them what you did?

I think she said that, didn't she?

EPO When we asked about the map, she came back in after we talked to your mom, we asked about the map and we asked how he could draw such a detailed map. She made the speculation that maybe studied this to get the reward.

Helen and I...

EPO Not Helen, your sister,
The map I drew?

EPO We showed her the map you drew (your sister).

No, I drew that for Helen because she was interested to know where these things happened, and she's writing a book about and she wanted to know how far this was from that, was this close to the police station.

EPO I was pretty sure that your sister told us that. We were speculating how you could draw a map like that.

DS Is this the map that you drew?

Ya. Most of this information is taken from the book.

DS She had the book there when you were drawing it?

Yep.

DS Let me ask you about this. What does this indicate? This

Oh ya, he was in my book.

DS But what was he doing up there.

He lives up there somewhere.

DS How'd you know that?

From the book. There were 2 police officers from Birmingham got in their car and went up Woodward and made a left on Big Beaver, pulled up in the circle driveway at house. That's where I got that from.

DS What's this Valley Woods on this indicate?

There's a school there, isn't there? It was in the book. That was used as a police station.

EPO That school's kind of remote. How did you know it was there? I went to Brother Rice, which is right..not too far from there. I use to take a bus home that went and picked up some kids over there at Berkshire School. I don't think that's there anymore. The bus would pick up some people there at Brother Rice and go over to Berkshire and pick some kids there and then go over around the village. That's how I remember. Valley Woods is around there somewhere too. That was in the book also.

DS What is this..Vineyards?

That's a restaurant.

DS Didn't you use to work there?

No. I'm familiar with it. When I worked at the Maple House there, there were some people that went to work over there, or something like that.

DS Does it take you a long time to draw, because this is pretty precise.

I studied architecture in school and I don't write, I just print. I don't do any handwriting. I print all the time. Everything, of course, is north/south. It's really easy. There's nothing hard about that at all. Everything is north/south/east/west.

DS But it takes some training to draw the lines, I'm sure. What's with the 2 lines here next to Jill's name?

Oh ya, she's reading from the book and I said, "Well, where was she found?" She said "In sight of the Troy police station," and I said "OK, was he going northbound or southbound?" I drew that and I had to explain to her if he was going north he put her on this side, if he was going south, he put her on that side.

DS And this is the water tower at Poppleton Park?

Ya.

DS Sheila and Barnum indicate?

Inside the Birmingham city limits there.

DS Barnum being what, the school?

She told me it was by Barnum School. I know there's a water tower on 14 mile somewhere over here somewhere. There's that water tower right where we live and there's one over here by

Oakland Hills. That's all I could tell you about those.

EPO Why do we have the freeway in here at telegraph?

I use to take that freeway to go to OCC. I put it in there because that's where it went really.

EPO It almost looks like you were looking at a map to do this.

I have a photographic memory. I spent a long time in those parts, all my life almost.

EPO Did you write that?

Chris? Ya, I wrote all that.

EPO Did you purposely misspell her name?

No. That's misspelled, aye? I can't remember from the book.

EPO It was spelled with a "K" in the book.

I can't remember.

DS Do you remember if you said that was a blanket in the backpack

Jill Robinson wore?

No.

DS No, you don't remember if you said that?

No. I might have mentioned it.

DS Do you remember if she said what color it was?

No.

DS Do you remember what color it was from the book?

I don't remember anything about a backpack in the book. Helen brought it up.

EPO You didn't ever talk about the underwear that one of the girls wore?

No.

EPO Is there any conversation about type of blue jeans or pants that were worn?

No. I don't remember. Do you mean from the book?

EPO No. Helen.

No. Nothing about clothes really.

DS Did you tell Helen you cooked chicken for Timmy King?

No.

She said it?

DS Yes.

She's nuts.

DS In fact, she said that you said that when _____ was there at the Round Table Restaurant.

No, I didn't say that.

DS What did you say?

I don't remember anything about that.

DS _____ says you did too.

I didn't say that.

DS They both say they heard you say that.

EPO Did you say you put chicken bones in Timmy's pockets, to show his mother that you could fix...

No, no, I remember...I was trying to remember back about that..it was something about chicken bones or maybe I might have been wrong. I mentioned there was something about chicken bones, you know.

EPO Maybe this is the conversation we're talking about.

OK.

DS It was at the Round Table Restaurant.

EPO Or was it the Harvest Table at the Round Table? Where is that restaurant?

JH It's in town here. Downtown. I remember when I first met Helen she was talking about it and I said "Ya, didn't they find like chicken bones or something like that?" What I was referring to was the chicken they found in his stomach or something. Then I couldn't remember what had happened about..there was a public type of thing where, I forgot what happened, but I thought that the killer had made a public statement or something to want to know what he liked to eat, or something like that, but that wasn't the case, it was the mother made an appeal to the media, mentioned what he liked to eat or something like that. That's what really happened. But, I didn't tell or Helen that I fed chicken to him or anything like that. I did not say anything like that. I think somebody's really misinterpreted or kind of hears what they want to hear of something like that. Anyway, those two girls are out to make life miserable for me. That's really all I've got to say.

EPO So, there was some kind of conversation that we brought back to your memory?

JH Ya.

EPO We're just trying to find out, how Helen got these ideas. Some of them, if we talk about a little bit, we can remember where they came from. Another idea that she had that

seemed to come back to you was about Kristine Mihelich's pants. Give that some thought. Not her underpants, her regular jean-type pants.

I don't remember anything about that. I remember...you don't remember anything about Jeans, as a matter of fact.

EPO I don't know if they were exactly jeans, they were called pants. They were like this color with little white stripes going on them.

She mentioned something about a girl's pants having some kind of sewn in patch or something like that. Helen did.

EPO We're getting...

She brought it up. It wasn't important to me. She said some girl had on her pants, like patches, she asked me what was like the fad, or what was in at that time? I remember saying I had no idea. I can't remember back what was going on, you know. I could remember back to bell-bottoms, you know, but that was about it. I remember her bringing up something like a patch or something that the girls had worn on their jeans. I can't remember anything else about it.

DS How about the color?

EPO Not of the pants, but of the shapes.

I don't know. All I remember is Helen asking me what did the girls put on their jeans. I had no idea. That's all we talked about.

EPO Did it look like before Helen started talking to you about this you did a lot of research? Because I know the book didn't

come into the plan until 2 or 3 weeks ago, at least on your part. Did she bring the book when she first started talking to you about this stuff?

No.

EPO Did she seem to be knowledgeable before she had the book?

Ya. She did a little bit. She said she was getting newspaper clippings or something about it and she knew people in the news media. She use to have a newspaper and she knows police here, and she was starting to gather information about it so she could write a book. A couple of weeks ago she comes out with a computer printout.

DS What about that computer printout?

First of all, she didn't want me to read it. I asked her if I could see it. No, no. I wasn't going to sit there and verify any information because she could tell me anything about that computer. How do I know what's on there, you know.

DS We have an idea what was on it.

She was trying to trick me. I said, are you trying to trick me or you writing a book..

DS That is a good question, because one of things as investigators, is someone trying to play a game with us. In our case here, we talk to two people..you and Helen. We have to wonder that in the back of our minds all the time. Is somebody trying to trick us or trying to play a game with us, trying to occupy their time in some way. We don't know. I'm getting to the point now where a couple of weeks

ago...she's saying there trying to incriminate myself by submission, by not answering her questions. Does that make me guilty? So that's why I don't want to talk to her anymore.

DS You can incriminate yourself, but you didn't do it.

But according to her questions, she assumes that I'm guilty until proven innocent. I don't know how to handle that mentality, except I don't need it. I don't want her around me. That's not the way things work, because she has pointed little idea, and if is on this too, I know what her motive is. She's trying to make life real miserable for me. You know, at my overnight book store, took those over there and they got \$300 for them, and the guy at the book store called the house and asked Sylvia if it was ok if he just bring the books over and give money for them.. She said ya. She's out to nail me.

DS Why?

Because I didn't marry her.

DS But you wanted to?

But I couldn't. She doesn't understand that. She doesn't know what it's like. She's on welfare. She doesn't understand that I can't support her family, and I can't..

DS Is that why you won't marry her?

Well, that's why I didn't marry her when she got pregnant. Those things are important to women.

DS So, she wanted to get married when she got pregnant?

Ya.

DS And you couldn't because you couldn't support.

Ya, I couldn't take her family out of ADC. She had 4 kids.

DS She's angry with you because of that, do you think?

Ya, I know she is. That's been the thing with her all along. She holds that against me. See her boys are over 18. Things could be worked out now, but she has to compromise a little with herself. She hasn't done that.

DS In what way?

She has to see me in my situation.

DS What kind of situation do you mean, writing a book and not working?

Ya. Things could be worked out, but she's got to compromise also. Just for an example, I go to her house and I walk in and she's responsible for what goes on inside that house. Her boys run her ragged. There's no set time to eat or anything like that. There's no rules. I wonder how my daughter is growing up in this environment because I've seen the boys get violent over there and put their fist through the walls. I don't know what they're doing at night, but I know is a lot of trouble. They don't go to school and they don't to work. It's a problem. She gets food stamps to cover those that are 18. I know my daughter is going without. I threw out of my apartment last time she came over about a month ago, because this is the way it is in my house. She walked in and started looking around. She started looking around and going through my things. When Helen was there,

they sneak around all my stuff. When I walked in the room and I looked at her and I said what are you doing? She says...on my hair brush and she says why can't you use your brush, I'm not even going to stay. Then I said "get the hell out." "Stop snooping around here." "Stop stealing my all my shit." Referring to my books. I had a battery in a car when I came up here, and the battery disappeared. I had a vacuum cleaner over there that I had for 10 years and that all of a sudden got all torn apart. I had a microwave oven that I let her use over there and somebody stole that. These little type things that happen. It wasn't until the books where I actually had some distinct proof that she condones these things. I can't compromise with that situation. I forget what your question was.

DS What her motivation was. Let me see if I got this that we said so far. motivation is that you wouldn't marry her.

I believe...

DS Helen's motivation is what in a nutshell?

Helen needs money. Helen would like to have her own talk show..like Geraldo, where you talk about all kinds of weird..

DS The Helen Dagner show?

That's what it is. I could walk into the room. See, I'm staying over at this house right now with some guys, and they're Christian guys and she knows them and will walk in there and all of sudden say "Well, what are you doing now?"

Well what happened to this." It's like she has a microphone in her hand. She actually doesn't know she's interrupting something going on there already. She doesn't have that kind of courtesy. All of a sudden she has everybody's attention and she's asking them this and that, and she's hyped up about what was in the newspaper, like one guy got fired over at the Cross Roads the other day..

EPO What's the Cross Roads?

That's a place for people to go for shelter and stuff like that. This ...was one of the places in the city where they fired.

EPO Do they have little things in the gas station soliciting funds for the Cross Roads?

I don't know.

EPO We stopped at a gas station and I'm pretty sure it said Cross Roads, or something.

DS What was Helen's motivation?

Well, she live on that new media hype.

DS What's , motivation?

For what?

DS Talking to Helen about this case.

First of all, she's writing a book and actually I went out to have coffee and cigarettes with her. I wanted to get away from I wanted to talk to somebody else. She started asking me questions about it. I said fine, you know. This is what I know, and she told me she was going to write a book