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DR NUMBER: 693-607
VIOLATION: PC 187

INTERVIEW

DATE/TIME AND LOCATION HELD AT: May 19, 1975, 1700 hours, Long Beach
Police Department, Room 346

INTERVIEWEE: Randy Steven Kraft

CONDUCTED BY: Detective Bob BELL and Detective Mike WOODWARD, Long Beach
Police Department

TRANSCRIBED BY: K. WAGNER, Orange County Sheriff's Department,
Investigation Division, Homicide Detail

* * * -- Denotes inaudible portions of tape.

Uh-uh = No

Uh-huh = Yes

WOODWARD: Testing, one, two, three, four, five. Testing.

(TAPE IS TURNED OFF)

BELL: Things like this that we're going to have to check out . . .

(TAPE IS TURNED OFF)

WOODWARD: Today is May nineteen, nineteen seventy-five. It's
approximately seventeen hundred hours. We're in room three
forty-six of the Public Safety Building. Present in this room
is Detective Bob BELL, Mike WOODWARD and your name sir is Randy
Steven KRAFT?

KRAFT: That's right.

WOODWARD: And it's KRAFT with a "K", K-R-A-F-T.

KRAFT: That's correct.

WOODWARD: Your present address, seventeen, twenty-seven and a half, East
Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach.

KRAFT: Right.

WOODWARD: And phone number, four, three, two, zero, zero, eight, five.

KRAFT: Right.

WOODWARD: And what is your correct date of birth?

KRAFT: March nineteenth, nineteen forty-five.

WOODWARD: Now, Mr. KRAFT, on or about March the twenty-ninth, the Saturday prior to Easter Day, do you recall picking up or seeing a subject in the area of the Granada parking lot?

KRAFT: As I say, I'm not certain about the time. It's somewhere in the past.

BELL: When you say somewhere in the past, but, would this be general time-wise, uh, you know, somewhere in the past can mean five years, or . . .

KRAFT: I'd say somewhere within the past two, two or three months.

BELL: Okay. Fine.

WOODWARD: Okay, when you picked this subject up, uh, uh, did you later take him for a ride somewhere's or did you accompany him or he accompany you. . .

KRAFT: Uh, first of all I didn't pick the person up. As I told. . .

WOODWARD: Okay.

KRAFT: . . .you before I'd been to the bar, to Ripples, drinking that night. Just, you know, talking to some friends, and I went out and got in my car, which was at the Granada end of the parking lot.

BELL: Now that's directly across the street from the Ripples, is that correct?

KRAFT: Right. Not a cat- catty-corner. . .

BELL: Yeah.

KRAFT: . . .across the street. And I started to drive home and uh, as I got towards the other end, I noticed on the other side of the uh, parking lot, there was uh, a person that I knew.

BELL: Do you know this person's name?

KRAFT: No, I don't. Just somebody that I've, you know, seen.

BELL: You don't, you don't even know his first name?

KRAFT: I know him by sight, I don't know him by. . .I don't. . .uh, there are numbers of people like that.

BELL: Okay.

KRAFT: When, you know, in the gay world, lots of people you know by sight (BACKGROUND NOISE) perhaps you don't know by name, or occupation, or whatever. I chatted with this fellow for a while and uh, as I said before, there was a guy and a girl, and they were having an argument. Right in the middle of the first aisle in the parking lot.

BELL: Was this uh, on the Granada end or was this down at the other end by the pool?

KRAFT: It's down at the other end by the, by the Olympic pool.

BELL: That would be uh, west of, where you originally got into your car?

KRAFT: Right. And they were having disagreement, some sort of personal disagreement. I don't know what it was, but they were very vocal about it, a lot of arm waving and stuff like that and I (SIGH) sat in my car and was, you know, watching, sort of watching the show, take place. And finally the girl had

evidently had it, and I believe she got in a car and left with some, with some people. And the guy comes over and was talking to me and uh, right there at my car. I believe I was sitting on the hood, I don't know. And uh, I had some beer in the car and I asked him if he wanted to have some beer. And he said, yes, so we had a, a beer. Only one or two. I, could be Budweiser, could have been Busch, you know. Uh, like I said I don't drink Coors. Doubt that it was that. Okay, and, so then this other guy, either he came over to the car, I guess he'd, uh, got out of, like a Datsun truck. Either he came over or the other guy went over and got him, said to him, come on over, you know, partake with us. I don't remember which * * *. So the guy that I first met that was arguing with the girl, got in the backseat and this other guy got in the front seat, cause only two can sit in bucket seats. And uh, you know, proceeded to have another beer, it was, it was just the new guy's first beer and uh, probably on our second beer. But then since they were, there were three of us in the car and I don't like to draw attention to myself out in the parking lot, like I said I like to drink and drive. And we went driving around, a little bit, we went uh, just around the Heights, I think, Belmont Heights. Not for very long, you know, wandering around.

BELL: About twenty minutes?

KRAFT: Maybe twenty minutes.

WOODWARD: Did you ever leave that area? The Belmont Heights area, did you head toward Huntington Beach or Seal Beach or anywhere

down in that area?

KRAFT: Not that I remember.

WOODWARD: * * *

KRAFT: I don't recall ever going * * in that direction.

WOODWARD: Did anyone suggest anyplace to drive to, or did you just drive wherever you felt an urge to go?

KRAFT: I think I just drove wherever I, you know, turn here, there, whatever,. . .popped into my head to go.

WOODWARD: Okay.

KRAFT: I don't recall any directions. And so then we went back to the parking lot, I think, one guy, maybe the one guy, mentioned something about a party or something, you know, lots of girls and * *, the usual thing. Maybe, I don't know. That just popped into my head. But anyway, if, if that were the reason, then that's why we went back to the parking lot. Perhaps we just got tired of running around and went back. We got back a pulled in, and pulled up and parked, just about where we left from. And uh, like I said there was some other people, they drove up or they were already there or I don't, I don't remember the situation. But the guy in the backseat wanted to get out. He said, you know, that he, he was, he was tired of riding around, you know, drinking beer and he wanted to uh, he was tired of it. So he got out and the other guy, you know, he asked his buddy if he wanted to leave, you know, the other guy, said, no, he didn't, you know, and. . .he'd just stay. So the other guy and I went, took off, and went driving around some

more and this time, really got into one, one of my driving fits. Drove on down, on the uh. . .San Diego Freeway down south. I, I don't know, we might have stopped for gas, we might not have. Uh. . .we did stop, uh, one time, just on an off-ramp, I don't remember which one, so, this guy wanted to drive the car and I said he could. So we did, and, so then we went, kept on going down south, and we were having some more beers. Got off somewhere around the El. . .El Toro off-ramp. I don't know if it was that one or the one before, or the one after. . .that general area. And this guy that was driving the car, he went off on a, like a side road there. I don't know where it was, it was dark. And ended up and high-centered the car. Couldn't go anywhere. So we got out and tried to. . .tried to get it unstuck. Trying to dig it out, number one, it was on an embankment. . .embankment.

BELL: How did you try and dig it out?

KRAFT: Well, I'd looked all around to see if I could find anything I could use for a tool, you know. Tried jacking it up, but uh, getting the jack out of my car and stuff, but, we just, the dirt was really soft, and it wouldn't hold it. So then I found like, a, a stick, a long stick was the only thing I could find and we tried to, 'cause the dirt was loose, and so I just thought maybe I could, you know, shovel it out from underneath. It was right up in the oil pan, the whole thing was just sitting there in the dirt, there was no way I was going to go anywhere. And I tried to dig out from under the tires and put

stuff underneath them. I don't know what I found to put, you know, for traction, I had something, maybe, a, a larger board or a plank. . . or some. . . or something. But he was helping me do that and we, you know, tried that and it didn't work. Tried, you know, jacking it and then trying getting the wheels up on some traction, trying to get the dirt out from under the front of it. It didn't work, so I, like I said, I had to go to work the next morning so uh, I wanted to get some help. And I asked the dude if he, told him, asked him. . .

WOODWARD: Excuse me.

KRAFT: Yeah?

WOODWARD: You had to go to work the next morning you said?

KRAFT: Yeah.

WOODWARD: Well, the next morning's Easter Sunday and you have to be to work on Easter Sunday.

KRAFT: Yeah.

WOODWARD: You did?

KRAFT: Yeah.

WOODWARD: Where? At, at the uh, aircraft place?

KRAFT: It's open seven days a week. Fifty-two weeks a year.

WOODWARD: Okay. Go ahead, excuse me.

KRAFT: Sure. So, I went to get, see if I could get some help, like a tow truck or anything to get the car unstuck and uh, oh, I remembered something, well, it doesn't fit in right here, anyway, uh, like how I finally the car unstuck, I never told you. Uh. . . anyway, I went to get some help. I walked. It

was about, I don't know, a mile, two miles, I don't know how, how far up I'd actually walked. To this Bob's Big Boy and there was some gas stations and stuff around there, but I don't believe they were open. They must not have been, because I couldn't get any help and well, I didn't have any money anyway so I couldn't have paid for a tow truck, but, you know, possibly I could have got somebody with a chain, or something to yank it off. So uh, I couldn't find any help so I called my roommate JEFF, to come and, you know, see if he could help.

BELL: What's JEFF's last name?

KRAFT: GRAVES.

BELL: JEFF GRACE?

KRAFT: GRAVES.

BELL: GRAVES.

KRAFT: I took it down. So I called him, got him out of a sound sleep and uh, he said yeah, he'd come down and, you know, you know, pick me up or help me out. (COUGHS) I didn't tell him there was anybody with me. JEFF's not just a roommate, he's my uh. .

BELL: Yeah.

KRAFT: . . .He's my other half. Uh, so and then I sat down and had some coffee at uh, this restaurant there, where I called from. That's where I called from. And uh, and at times, it was probably about, when I left uh, to go get some help.

WOODWARD: Did you turn the other one in?

KRAFT: It was probably about, say three thirty or four o'clock, something like that.

BELL: When you'd left to go get help?

KRAFT: When I, when I left, yeah. And then, I don't know, when I went back, it, you know, it was getting light. Now the thing was, I had some coffee and uh, I was, you know, thinking well, wow, you know, having to drag JEFF all the way down there and he's just got a, got a Volkswagen, he's probably not going to be able to help me anyway. So I was looking around at the people, you know, see if i could uh, you know, if any of them could help me out. And that's how I got the car unstuck, was that, this guy and his wife, had a, a pickup and they drove me back. I went back. And I said, like the guy was gone. They were with me. They got, you know, helped me get it unstuck. Tried to push forward, I thought it might roll down, but we couldn't do that so, uh, once again, I started looking for stuff, that this man could tow it with and there was this. . .building, uh, kind of across the street, it was so dark when I got there, I didn't know what was around, I couldn't see, it was getting light now, I could see this building there, so I went over there and I found a, a rope. So we, uh, yanked the car off, off the thing with the rope and, pulled it back, with his truck. So then I got the car unstuck and then I went uh, this other the guy wasn't there. I, I walked around, you know, looking for him. I didn't, you know, didn't see him anywhere, 'cause, we were. . .we were pretty drunk. And uh, so, you know, it crossed my mind that he might have passed out, or, you know, I didn't, I didn't see him anywhere. So uh, I went back,

I had the car going, so I drove back to the restaurant, 'cause JEFF was going to show up to, to help me out. So I went back and had, got some breakfast or just some more coffee, I don't remember which. I waited for him to show up. He showed up. I told him I already had the car unstuck and that that some people had helped me, helped me get it off the, off the dirt and uh, so he sat down and I think he just had some coffee or something * * and uh. . .and then you know, drove back.

WOODWARD: Do you recall where you had coffee * *.

KRAFT: It was at the same place where I called from. . .

WOODWARD: Bob's Big Boy?

KRAFT: It's a Bob's or something like that.

WOODWARD: So, when your roommate, he was there shortly after you call him?

KRAFT; No, yeah, I'd say about forty-five to an hour after that. See I got him out of a sound sleep, and he had to get up and put his clothes on and. . .and it takes a while to, to drive down there.

BELL: Are you sure it was on the El Toro Road off-ramp of the San Diego Freeway?

KRAFT: Yeah, that's where the restaurant was.

BELL: And you were approximately a mile from there?

KRAFT: I'd say so, yeah.

BELL: Which direction?

KRAFT: Uh, south.

BELL: Due south or San Diego Freeway south?

KRAFT: Oh, San Diego Freeway south.

BELL: Okay. Off the freeway though?

KRAFT: Yeah.

BELL: Excuse me. Would you be able, think you'd be able to recognize this area again, if you saw it?

KRAFT: Yeah, I think so. It's, 'cause it's like I said, it was dark when I first got there and as it lightened up, you know, you could see more of what it looked like, and as it turned out, just right next to where I was stuck in the think, was another on-ramp to the freeway. I don't know what the name of that one is 'cause it was down the one past the El Toro Road.

BELL: When you walked back to the restaurant, did you get up on the freeway or did you walk. . .

KRAFT: No, no, no, no. I walked down the road, that we come on to get stuck in that mess. It started out to be paved and then it turns into dirt * *, so I walked back up that, back, you know, to civilization, I mean, that was the last place I, uh, I remembered seeing, you know.

WOODWARD: Was there any lights or anything down there or was it kind of out of the way?

KRAFT: No, it was pretty black. Like I said, it was lightened up in the morning. There were some street lights, I think, there were lights on the hills and that kind of uh, but there was a, the building that they were under construction, right across the street.

BELL: Remember this guy's name at all?

KRAFT: No, I don't.

BELL: Was he white?

KRAFT: Yeah.

BELL: About how old do you think he was?

KRAFT: I'd say about twenty-three, twenty-four. . .

BELL: About how big?

KRAFT: I'd say he was smaller than me, but I, I couldn't be sure about that.

BELL: How tall are you.

KRAFT: I'm five, ten and a half. I think he was five-nine or five-ten.

BELL: How about weight wise? Was he skinny, fat, medium build or...?

KRAFT: Average.

BELL: How about hair?

KRAFT: Uh, hadn't thought about that. I think it was longish. Longer than mine. I'd say. . .

BELL: Your's is just a little bit down over your collar, so his would have been a little bit longer than that.

KRAFT: I think so, yeah.

BELL: What color, do you know? Dark; light, red, black?

KRAFT: At night its hard to tell. I'd, you know, brown is all that sticks out * *.

BELL: Do you. . .was there anything distinguishing about him? Like a scar or broken nose, missing tooth, uh, amputated finger or...

KRAFT: No.

BELL: Do you know what he was wearing?

KRAFT: No, not offhand.

WOODWARD: I asked you earlier, did you recall whether or not he was wearing glasses.

KRAFT: I can't, it doesn't stick, you know, maybe maybe not. . .

BELL: Okay, so you think you left the Ripples, somewhere around midnight, give or take some time there, right?

KRAFT: Give or take an hour. It's from eleven to one, somewhere.

BELL: Okay.

KRAFT: When it gets crowded I don't like it. It's too crowded.

BELL: Okay. Uh, then you left there, you went across the street, got in your car, drove down towards the other end of the lot to go home.

KRAFT: Right.

BELL: You saw somebody you knew and you stopped, you chatted with him for a few minutes. Then you saw this fellow and a girl in an argument. So you watched that for a little bit, like you say, watched the show.

KRAFT: Taking in the show.

BELL: Right. She left. You struck up a conversation with this guy.

KRAFT: No. He walked over. . .

BELL: Or he walked. . .

KRAFT: . . .I was just sitting on my car.

BELL: He walked over to you and you guys got conversant.

KRAFT: Yeah.

BELL: Uh, you asked him if he wanted a beer? Did you drink the beer inside the car or outside the car?

KRAFT: Inside of it.

BELL: Inside. And then uh, this other guy came over, or anyway he got over to your car.

KRAFT: Yeah. . .

BELL: This other guy.

KRAFT: . . .he, either he came over or the other guy went and got him, I'm not sure.

BELL: You then, uh, decided that you didn't like three of you sitting around there in the parking lot so then you went up and drove around the Heights area, Belmont Heights area, for maybe twenty minutes to half an hour, and drank a couple of beers. . .you drove back down to the lot, the other fellow got out.

KRAFT: He was in the backseat. He got out.

BELL: He got out of the car, and then you and uh, this other fellow drove off. You drove south.

KRAFT: Yeah.

BELL: Did you remember going down through Belmont Shore, to get on the freeway or how do you. . .

KRAFT: That's one thing I can't. . .I can't remember that period of time at all. I can't remember. . .

BELL: But you did get on the San Diego Freeway?

KRAFT: Yeah. But I can't remember getting to it.

BELL: Okay.

KRAFT: I remember being on it. . .

BELL: Where uh, what point in time, did this, uh, fellow, ask you to let him drive your car?

KRAFT: While we were down on the other side of Harbor Boulevard, probably right around * * right around there. So how, you know, how ever long that would take.

BELL: Okay, then it was right around San Diego Freeway and Harbor Boulevard.

KRAFT: Probably more down by the airport. You know, farther than, than Harbor.

BELL: Like down in Irvine?

KRAFT: Yeah.

BELL: In that area? And then you stopped and you let him drive for a ways.

KRAFT: Uh-huh.

BELL: And he pulled off the freeway down around, uh, Laguna uh. . .

KRAFT: Off the. . .

BELL: . . .near Leisure Wor. . .Leisure World or El Toro off-ramp?

KRAFT: I believe he pulled off on El Toro.

BELL: You drove for another, approximately, another mile, with him still driving?

KRAFT: Yeah.

BELL: Did you ask him where he was going?

KRAFT: No, we were just, you know, carousing and drinking, having fun. I didn't, you know, I told him I'd let him have his turn at the wheel. I'm, you know, sometimes I'm too generous, you know, but when you trust the dude, you know.

BELL: Okay, then uh, you drove on a blacktop or asphalt road for a while and then it turned into dirt and you eventually got

stuck.

KRAFT: Yeah. We were turning around to go back, you know, 'cause I *
* *, I probably said something like, you know, enough is
enough, you know, let's get back to the road, you know. We
were trying to get back and that's when we got stuck.

BELL: Okay, and then from there, you uh, after you got stuck, you
worked, uh, for forty-five minutes, or so on the, trying to get
the car free with this other fellow helping you. Uh, you told
him to uh, watch the car while you went to get some help.

KRAFT: Uh-huh.

BELL: You walked to the El Toro off-ramp of the San Diego Freeway,
noticed that there were some stations but they were closed. Is
that correct?

KRAFT: As I recall. There, there's one across, like a serve yourself
* *, you know. But, I think that one was open, but they
didn't have any, uh, any tow trucks.

BELL: You then went into, what you believed, was a Bob's Big Boy
restaurant, or, or an all-night coffee shop of some type in
that general area, called your roommate, advised him where you
were and the problem you were having. You had a cup of coffee,
you then made contact with a man and his wife, who had a pickup
truck. They. . .is this right?

KRAFT: Yeah, that's right.

BELL: Okay. Uh, you then drove, they drove you back to where your
car was then you eventually got the car loose from the uh, its
stuck position.

KRAFT: Right.

BELL: When you got back there the fellow that had been with you was gone. And have you ever. . .did you ever see him again?

KRAFT: No.

BELL: Did you. . .

KRAFT: . . .like I said I looked for him.

BELL: Did you leave anything in the car, did he leave anything in the car?

KRAFT: No.

BELL: You don't recall what his name was? During your two rides with him, one around the Heights area and the one down the coast, did he ever take any pills or narcotics or anything like that, that you know of?

KRAFT: Not that I know of, no.

BELL: Was there any talk about dope. . .while you guys were riding around?

KRAFT: There may have been, I just, ordinary chit-chat, you know, its a popular subject to talk about.

BELL: But nothing that you recall specifically?

KRAFT: Specifically, nothing.

BELL: When you left him by the car, what kind of condition was he in?

KRAFT: About the same as me.

BELL: Well, what was that?

KRAFT: Well, we were, kind of drunk, but, we maintained. . .

BELL: Able to maintain?

KRAFT: Yeah, both having all our faculties.

BELL: Did he say he'd wait for you?

KRAFT: Uh-huh.

BELL: Did you kill him?

KRAFT: No.

BELL: Did you in anyway, uh, help dispose of his body?

KRAFT: No.

BELL: Do you know how he died?

KRAFT: No.

BELL: Do you have any idea? Anything that you two did together that night, uh, that may have resulted in his death?

KRAFT: I don't think so.

BELL: Do you remember anybody uh, specifically that you talked to or saw you leave the Ripples bar? That would know, approximately what time you left.

KRAFT: I. . .yeah, I think, yeah.

BELL: Who?

KRAFT: JIMMY DOOLEY. He's the barber at the men's room, and then there was. . .

WOODWARD: Is there any reason why he should specifically remember this?

KRAFT: I remember chatting with him, I was chatting with him and JOHN.

BELL: JOHN who?

KRAFT: I don't know his last name, just JOHN.

BELL: Do you know where JOHN works?

KRAFT: I believe he works at a beauty shop in Seal Beach.

WOODWARD: Did you go to work the next day?

KRAFT: Yeah.

BELL: Where do you work? What is the name of it again?

KRAFT: AZTEC AIRCRAFT.

BELL: Spell it, please.

KRAFT: A-Z-T-E-C.

BELL: Aircraft?

KRAFT: Aircraft Incorporated.

BELL: Do you know the address?

KRAFT: Forty-two, twenty-five, McDonnell Douglas Drive.

WOODWARD: Long Beach Airport?

KRAFT: Right.

BELL: Do you know the phone number out there?

KRAFT: Four, two, one, . . . eight, eight, three, six.

BELL: How long have you worked for them?

KRAFT: Since last July.

BELL: Almost a year.

KRAFT: Yeah, but. . .

WOODWARD: How long have you been in Long Beach?

KRAFT: I was born here.

WOODWARD: You were born here? Did you, weren't you living in Huntington Beach for awhile, or one of the beach cities for a while?

KRAFT: Uh. . . I lived in Sunset.

WOODWARD: Sunset Beach?

KRAFT: About. . . seventy, seventy-one.

BELL: Who did you work with at AZTEC AIRCRAFT, uh, that Sunday, Easter Sunday?

KRAFT: Well, let's see who's * *. BOB WAGNER was probably there. . .

JIMMY WALLACE. Either of those two people aren't with the company any longer but they're. . .

BELL: Anybody. . .

KRAFT: . . .still around and readily available.

BELL: Anybody that is with the company now. . .?

KRAFT: Uh. . .

BELL: . . .working there?

KRAFT: Not that I recall. BOB was chief flight instructor and he was, I don't remember seeing him, but he always worked Sundays, so I imagine. . .

BELL: What, what is your job there? What do you do?

KRAFT: I'm the dispatcher.

BELL: Dispatcher.

KRAFT: More or less, I took, uh. . .

BELL: They're, they're not charter service there or. . .

KRAFT: Well, they charter, and they give flight instructions, and rent aircraft and sell them.

BELL: I see.

KRAFT: And I work in the office.

BELL: Okay.

KRAFT: I picked it up as a part-time job when I was going to school.

BELL: You still going to state?

KRAFT: No, I finished, last semester.

BELL: What's your major?

KRAFT: Well, my major's economics, and I graduated in sixty-eight from Claremont Men's College. And I just went back beginning, oh, a

year and a half ago to get a teaching credential.

BELL: Uh, do we have your fingerprints and, and mug shot on file here in Long Beach? Where, have you ever been busted?

KRAFT: I got busted once for a six forty-seven, "A".

BELL: How long ago was that?

KRAFT: I was twenty-one, nine years?

BELL: Okay. Do you have anything else?

WOODWARD: Uh, I don't think so.

BELL: Conclude the interview, it's now seventeen twenty-five hours, May nineteen, nineteen seventy-five.

(END OF TRANSCRIPTION)