

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7 *

ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI, * Accident No.: DCA18MM028

JULY 19, 2018 *

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Interview of: [REDACTED]

Passenger

Cox Medical Center
Branson, Missouri

Friday,
July 20, 2018

APPEARANCES:

SGT. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP)

TOMLYN McDONALD
([REDACTED] mother)

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
By Sgt. [REDACTED]

4

I N T E R V I E W

(8:35 p.m.)

1
2
3 SGT. [REDACTED] All right. With me here is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
4 It is July 20th, 2018. Mom is -- mom, Tomlyn, is also present.
5 We're at the Cox Branson Hospital, and it's about 8:35 in the
6 evening.

INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

BY SGT. [REDACTED]

7
8
9 Q. And what is your middle initial? Do you know your middle
10 initial?

A. [REDACTED].

11
12 Q. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Do you know your date of birth?

A. [REDACTED]

13
14 Q. What month? I'm sorry.

A. [REDACTED]

Q. [REDACTED]

A. -- [REDACTED].

17
18 Q. [REDACTED]. And you're a big how old now?

A. [REDACTED]

19
20 Q. [REDACTED] in a row. That's pretty good, right?

A. Yeah.

21
22 Q. Okay. All right. So what do you remember when you went, got
23 to the Ducks? Do you -- what can you tell me about when you went
24 to Ride the Ducks?

25 A. So the first time we went, they said you're going to have to

1 wait till 6:30. And that was when the storm started rolling in.

2 Q. Do you remember them saying anything about the weather when
3 you were there?

4 A. Yeah. They said before you get on, we want to let you know
5 about the storm that's rolling in.

6 And then we got on, we all got on, we started driving. We
7 were like the third duck in the water. And then he -- when the
8 waves started picking up, we were all laughing, giggling, thinking
9 it was all fun and, fun and games, till some water started getting
10 into the duck.

11 Q. Where, where were you --

12 A. That's when everybody --

13 Q. -- sitting?

14 A. I was sitting in, on the right side.

15 Q. Who were you sitting by?

16 A. To, next to my cousin, [REDACTED] the one that was in the orange
17 shirt that was here earlier.

18 And the water -- he took too sharp of a turn on the right
19 side and water started coming in. And it was on my cousin and I's
20 side first. And as soon as it was right here, my shoes were gone;
21 everyone's shoes were gone. Anyone who was wearing sandals, they
22 were gone.

23 Q. Were most of your family wearing sandals? Or --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- flip-flops or something like that?

1 A. Most of them.

2 MS. McDONALD: We all were. But my were straps --

3 [REDACTED] Besides [REDACTED].

4 MS. McDONALD: -- across here --

5 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] didn't have sandals. He was wearing
6 his \$300 shoes.

7 MS. McDONALD: Tennies?

8 [REDACTED] Yeah.

9 MS. McDONALD: Um-hum. Hard for her to swim in.

10 [REDACTED] I, and I started, I got up to try to run out of the
11 duck. But everyone else was doing that also, so I couldn't get
12 out of it. So people -- so I couldn't get out of the way. But
13 the duck filled fast. And I was banging on the roof when the duck
14 was filled up, see if the roof would try to come off. Next thing
15 you know, it's off. I'm swimming up as fast as I can. And I had
16 my eyes open, so like I could see the brighter it got, I'd be
17 closer to the surface.

18 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

19 Q. So, you went down in the water a little ways, then --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- is that right? Do you remember him reaching up and
22 letting the roof off, the driver letting the roof off or anything?
23 Do you remember anything like that?

24 A. No. All I, all I could see was white, from the roof. And --

25 MS. [REDACTED] So you didn't see him get up and release

1 the --

2 [REDACTED] No. All I could see was the white from the roof. I
3 did hit my head on the roof. And when he released the, from up
4 top, I bruised my arm real bad.

5 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

6 Q. Yeah. I see you got a bruise on your right arm about 4
7 inches long.

8 A. Um-hum.

9 Q. Top of your arm there. Okay.

10 A. I scraped it when he released the roof. And so, I didn't
11 even care. I was just trying to swim up so I could get breath.
12 The brighter it got, and I'm like, yes, I'm going to actually
13 live. And then the closest person next to me was my other cousin,
14 Talyssa. And I tried to get on her back, see if that would help
15 me. Then she kicked me off and someone threw a lifesaver, as soon
16 as she kicked me. And the lifesaver went perfectly around me, and
17 then they pulled me up. I was the first one on land.

18 Q. And somebody threw that onto you from the boat; is that
19 right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then you got onto the land then?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. Anything else that you recall?

24 A. I think I saw a dead kid. He -- it was a, it was a black
25 kid. He had a green shirt on. He was in someone's arm. He was

1 either knocked out or dead. And he was getting rushed to, to a
2 room. That was the last thing I saw of him.

3 And that's basically it. I didn't see any other like knocked
4 out or dead bodies, besides my grandma. I know she was knocked
5 out. She's in CCU 12 right now.

6 Q. All right. Okay. Well, anything else that you can remember?

7 A. No, not really.

8 Q. All right. Thank you very much for helping me out. Okay?

9 A. You're welcome.

10 SGT. [REDACTED] All right. I'm going to go ahead and I'll
11 stop this right now. Okay?

12 [REDACTED] Yeah.

13 SGT. [REDACTED] All right.

14 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7
 ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI,
 JULY 19, 2018
 Interview of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA18MM028

PLACE: Branson, Missouri

DATE: July 20, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.


[REDACTED]

Karen Coen Brooks
Transcriber