

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: SHAYNE COLLINS

Passenger

APPEARANCES :

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

SGT. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
MSHP

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1
2 MR. COLLINS: There is an Asner, I think was his name. He's
3 a marine Coast Guard investigator.

4 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. Has he been by to talk to you?

5 MR. COLLINS: Well, no, he hasn't. So I was wondering if you
6 all have talked to him or what's going with that.

7 SGT. [REDACTED] No. Haven't talked to him.

8 MR. COLLINS: And then, I guess, NTSB is here.

9 SGT. [REDACTED] Yeah.

10 MR. COLLINS: But I -- so --

11 SGT. [REDACTED] They're going to do a different side than what
12 the Highway Patrol is going to do.

13 MR. COLLINS: Got you.

14 SGT. [REDACTED] The Highway Patrol is looking at the
15 -- one section of it. They're looking at --

16 MR. COLLINS: So we won't have to talk to NTSB or do you --
17 okay. I was just wondering how this is going to play out.

18 SGT. [REDACTED] I'm not sure --

19 MR. COLLINS: I don't care. I just was --

20 SGT. [REDACTED] Yeah.

21 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

22 SGT. [REDACTED] Yeah, I'm not --

23 MR. COLLINS: All right.

24 SGT. [REDACTED] I'm not sure if you'll need to talk to them or
25 if they'll contact you or not.

1 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Got you. I got you.

2 SGT. [REDACTED] We're doing two different things.

3 MR. COLLINS: Yes, sir.

4 SGT. [REDACTED] They're doing a certain side of it while we're
5 doing another side of it.

6 MR. COLLINS: I understand.

7 INTERVIEW OF SHAYNE COLLINS

8 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

9 Q. So the -- just to make sure I have your name and date of
10 birth. What is your date of birth?

11 A. Shayne Collins, S-h-a-y-n-e, Collins, C-o-l-l-i-n-s, and it's
12 [REDACTED].

13 Q. Okay, and just -- let's just start by you just kind of
14 telling us what happened?

15 A. Okay. Well, real quick, originally we went to the Titanic --
16 God, how crazy that -- went to the Titanic Museum. We decided to
17 get tickets for the Ride the Ducks there. We had (indiscernible)
18 tickets. We finished the Titanic. We went over to Ride the Ducks
19 sometime around 5:30, maybe a little after. We got in line for
20 that as well as the family of 11. I don't know their names. They
21 were black. But the family of 11, they were in line too to go to
22 the 6:00 one, ducks. Their tickets were for -- there's two Ride
23 the Ducks. I don't know if they do something different, but
24 there's one down on the strip, and then one that's off on the
25 river.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So there's -- their tickets for off on the river, which
3 wasn't a big deal. They said you just need to go to the ticket
4 booth over there, and you'll have to get your tickets adjusted so
5 that it's for here. So they got out of line to go do that.

6 Right after that we were in line, and we had the tickets from
7 the Titanic. And my sister-in-law had asked them, hey, does it
8 matter what -- you know, I guess she asked the wrong person, but
9 somebody said, no, you can just get in line. So we got in line.
10 But our tickets were generic, which means we had to go and do the
11 same thing, take them up there, and say we need these and get them
12 for a time or whatever. So we got ours done like that. And so
13 ours as well as the other family was --

14 Q. So you --

15 A. -- made for 6:30. So --

16 Q. So you had to get out of line also?

17 A. Yes. And they were real nice about it. They said, hey, you
18 know, sorry. So we got out of line, and then we waited until the
19 6:30 time. And so that happened. We got in line. They took our
20 picture. We got, we got inside the duck, amphibian boat, whatever
21 you want to call it. And I remember they were doing -- one of the
22 ladies came over, and told the driver, the black gentleman driver,
23 not the captain or whatever you want to say, but the driver, the
24 one that drives to the water area.

25 Q. Captain.

1 A. Captain talks the whole time. I don't know what else to -- I
2 mean, he was the -- we'll call him the captain. But he talks the
3 whole time, and then when they get to the water they switch.

4 Well, I remember she had said, hey, we got your check. And
5 he said, well, you know, I'll be back. I ain't going nowhere.
6 So, and so he didn't bother with the check.

7 I do remember they gave a count. I don't know if it's soft
8 count, hard count, but they said, hey, we got 29. And I'm taking
9 that was the 29, not to include the two crew members, which would
10 be 31.

11 We took off down the road, made it over the dam, whatever,
12 and got to the lake part of -- if you have a pen and paper I can
13 draw the -- I don't know if I can draw, but I can show you how it
14 went around and what, about what point I knew it was getting bad.

15 Q. Right here.

16 A. I mean, so see, I haven't done it yet, but I think -- because
17 it's hard for me to explain it.

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. And obviously this is not going to be --

20 Q. Nope, that's quite all right.

21 A. -- perfect. So here's the lake.

22 Q. Yep.

23 A. You have an island out here. We have the steamboat somewhere
24 around here, let's say, the paddles here. The duck comes out
25 somewhere through here. There were -- I know I said there was two

1 ducks, but there was actually four ducks.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Two ducks ahead of us. There might have actually been three
4 ducks ahead of us. Two ducks went around. I know for sure
5 actually two ducks went around the island.

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. The captain was letting the kids drive this and that. And we
8 knew -- let me start off also by -- they knew there was a storm
9 system coming in, and that's why they decided to go and do the
10 lake first. There wasn't any issues.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. All the way through here everything was nice and calm. As we
13 began to slowly turn off here, you could see on the lake the
14 weather coming down. You could see the clouds out ahead. But I
15 could see where it was just -- it was fogging up. And this was
16 quite a distance away, and I --

17 Q. So this is on this side of the island still? You're on this
18 side of the island?

19 A. Right through here. Right getting close to the island. But
20 we -- I could see -- and I think that's maybe why they -- the guy
21 decided to do this. The other duck, I don't remember if the other
22 duck was ahead of us, but it came around and started trying to cut
23 through here. So it's here. As we're getting here, this, and
24 this is where they want to dock back.

25 Now these tugboats have gotten pretty close. I don't know.

1 I couldn't tell you at what point. But as we're coming around
2 here, this boat is getting pretty close to this. Now the paddle
3 boat, I guess, I thought it maybe had just docked because the
4 paddles were moving, but I think, I -- well, I guess what I read
5 was that the steamboat didn't go anywhere because of the rain or I
6 don't know if they had finished dinner or if they were going to
7 have dinner and they didn't. I don't know what the case was.

8 I do know at some point through here, and we were getting up
9 here close here, I told my wife, I said, something's not right.
10 This boat was chugging along. And that's when it started getting
11 -- that's when the waves started coming in. This boat looked like
12 it was almost getting pulled in, and I was like, I was like, oh, I
13 said. And the captain had went from, you know, talking jolly to
14 not saying anything, not saying anything. So somewhere through
15 here I knew things were going bad.

16 And we kept chugging and going along. And I don't know, it
17 seemed like we were pretty much directly -- I'm guessing this is
18 -- I don't know if this is north or south of the boat. I'm
19 guessing this is probably north of the boat, but we were on the
20 back side of it. I -- from here to here, I'm surprised we made it
21 as far as we did. Things started getting bad. I knew as we were
22 making our way -- this boat had came in, and was in front of us,
23 somewhere through here and was making it up there. Through here
24 had fucked up because --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Because, I mean, I knew shit was bad. And I saw the captain.
2 Everybody was just laughing. My kids are screaming. Everybody's
3 going, oh, whoa. And I told my wife, something's wrong,
4 something's wrong.

5 The preservers are at the top, and I should have just started
6 throwing stuff out. But I was thinking, well, the captain's not
7 saying anything, but he's not worried. I mean, I don't know that
8 he's worried. He looked like he might be a little worried. I
9 should have read better. But I should have just started throwing
10 preservers out. But I'm thinking I don't know anything about
11 these amphibious boats. They do this 100 times, I mean, every day
12 it seems like. So I'm just trying to keep cool, but I'm
13 stressing, and I should have just, I should have started throwing
14 the preservers out. I should have started throwing preservers
15 out, and I didn't, because I knew shit was wrong.

16 And at some point through here around the back side, and I
17 couldn't tell you where, it just -- the back just started going.
18 The guy that was in the very back -- because they -- well, they
19 call it the soggy bottom back there because they knew sometimes it
20 gets a little -- but it just started getting bad. At that point
21 when it started getting up to people's knees, yeah, I knew, I knew
22 we were screwed. I don't know. I --

23 Q. Where was the driver at, at that time?

24 A. Okay. So the driver was up front.

25 Q. With the captain?

1 A. Okay, no, the driver was directly behind the captain.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Because so he was here when we get off -- when he goes in to
4 go in the water, the driver got out and got on the back. It
5 was -- I don't know if he was sitting down, because he was just
6 kind of, he was kind of chilled back behind where the driver is.
7 And he was letting the kids -- the captain was over here on this
8 seat talking and letting the kids do the little driving, get up
9 there for a few minutes, not even that. Maybe about 20, 30
10 seconds, little (indiscernible) a few questions, get them out and
11 let another kid get in there.

12 I don't know -- I never really paid attention. I don't know
13 -- the driver was there. He was behind him. He never got up to
14 do anything. I don't think he had any clue what was going on
15 either. The captain, look, I'll tell you this, he didn't say
16 anything to anybody. I didn't even know the top released. As we
17 were going down and we're going under water -- I've got eight
18 family members.

19 Q. Yep.

20 A. And I don't, I mean, I've never felt so helpless. And I'm
21 like thinking at this point there's nothing I can do. I can't get
22 them out anyway. The sides had been brought -- you know, the
23 plastic sheeting, the screening had been brought down. The top's
24 coming down. And I was just resigning to -- because what am I
25 going to do? Pick one over the other, try to fight it out? I

1 didn't -- I just said forget it.

2 Captain, if you want to call him that, hit some release. I
3 don't know if it's a release or what he did, but he was going up.
4 I thought maybe it was release. Maybe it just does it on its own.
5 But he never said shit. He was up here, and he shot out. And
6 that's the top, just disappeared, and that's when -- had I known
7 that, I would have been telling, I would have been telling
8 everybody. I didn't say, hey, we need to just get ready. Swung
9 the top back. I had no idea. I saw that, and we were already
10 going, and then we started -- I --

11 Q. So were you going down like this?

12 A. Like this, but at some point it almost seemed like it kind of
13 evened out.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. But it might not have. We were here --

16 Q. Okay. So the front was up --

17 A. I mean, we're --

18 Q. -- back was down?

19 A. -- standing up, and I'm holding here, and I know -- I
20 remember as we were going down, that's where it started. But it
21 was going down. Now, whether it went like this, I don't think so.
22 It could have after we -- as we were going, as I saw the top
23 release, we were probably still -- we were angled, but it wasn't,
24 it wasn't straight back. Because yeah. I mean, because I was
25 here and I was holding on, then I saw it go. I was like, fuck.

1 And so now I'm going up, and I'm just thinking my family. So
2 I'm making my way up, and I'm sure more than likely I was maybe 10
3 feet from the top but, you know, you've got the force of that boat
4 probably pulling us somewhat down. So as we're working our way up
5 it's taking a while. And I'm not -- had it just have been me, I
6 wouldn't have been worried about it. I'm calm enough I would have
7 been -- but every -- I was so helpless for my family. I just, I
8 was worried. And I'm getting up and I'm -- I get up to the top.
9 The waves were coming up high.

10 I know so I've got, I've got I know my three kids, my oldest
11 can swim fine. My son [REDACTED] -- they're both my steps, my oldest
12 and my youngest, my stepdaughter and my son, they're fish. And I
13 know if they get up, they'll be fine, but I don't know where
14 they're at, at this point.

15 I come up. The waves are here. I see the captain probably
16 at least 10 to 15 -- no, I'd say about 15 feet -- I don't know, 10
17 to 15 feet from where I'm at, and he's going -- so, okay, so
18 here's the steamboat. And -- god dang it. So it looks like, and
19 I show when it dropped further. So it looks like there's a brace
20 that comes out, and I think there's one over here somewhere, and I
21 think there's piping system under here, and there's a -- it almost
22 looks like a walkway, but I think it's -- I don't know. I think
23 they just have it there for the piping system. But as you're
24 going out to here, there, you know, there's like -- it's not a
25 boat, but it's like a little buoy system or -- right here, and

1 then the paddle is here. So I see this guy going this way. I'm
2 looking around. My daughter said she saw me. My -- not my
3 stepdaughter but my daughter, and she's not a strong swimmer. So
4 I saw her. She said, dad, dad, dad.

5 Q. Take your time.

6 A. We were probably somewhere up here. And this is probably
7 further out maybe over here, but, you know, this is a quick
8 drawing. We might have been somewhere through here. But the
9 closest might have been the paddles. But when I was coming around
10 I saw paddles slightly moving, and I didn't know what to expect
11 for there.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. I knew over here, you know, the waves are hitting, but
14 there's no chance of getting sucked in by paddles. I didn't --
15 the paddles were barely moving, but I didn't want to take a
16 chance. I don't know much about that system. I knew it was just
17 a wall here. I mean, you had this scaffolding going. So I -- my
18 daughter's coming up, and she keeps -- she's panting. She's like
19 dad, dad, and she grabs me, and it was the hardest thing, but I
20 had to yank away from here. And I'd pull away and say, [REDACTED]
21 come on, we got to go, we got to go. You're okay. You can do it.
22 You can do it.

23 Because I mean we teach survival swimming and stuff like in
24 the Border Patrol. I, and I teach it at the academy. I'm not the
25 greatest swimmer, but we do teach that. And the number one thing

1 is if somebody is moving, I mean, unless you're, you know, really
2 good at what you do, I know my daughter, and she's going to pull
3 me in and we're both going down. So I pull away from her, and I
4 talk to her, got to go, we got to go. I swim out, and I'm like
5 come on, come on, just like you would a kid, you know. You swim
6 -- come on, come on. And she said dad, dad, I'm scared, I'm
7 scared. I said, well, you're doing good, you're doing good. And
8 we get up, and we get going, and we start making our way here.
9 She tried to grab me again. I pulled away from her again, and we
10 got up here where this little buoy system is or whatever.

11 It almost looks, it's just like I don't know. It's -- that,
12 this is coming out, and then I don't remember what this is. It
13 almost looks like a little boat, but it's not. But it's kind of
14 shaped out, and I don't know what it is. It might be for a brace
15 for the steamboats or what -- I mean, for the boat or whatever.
16 But we're here, and so we're trying to hold on.

17 The freaking ledge is right there. That's the only thing
18 that the waves were -- had it not -- had it been calm, I wouldn't
19 have been so worried. But with the waves, my daughter kept -- you
20 know, it was making her panic more. But when we did get there the
21 waves are what helped us because the steamboat crew was
22 everywhere, but they didn't know what to do. The ledge was going
23 up to the top. I grabbed the ledge, and I'm like one more, one
24 more and I'll be able to get it. Well, I lost it. It's over
25 here; I'm here. I'm waiting for that freaking (indiscernible) the

1 way that gets.

2 I get both hands, and I told [REDACTED] just wait,
3 wait, wait. I get -- and it luckily caught -- there's still cable
4 there, right there, and I grabbed it, and I pulled -- said help
5 us; over here, help us, help us. And I'm trying to get her. And
6 I don't remember, she said she was holding onto something wooden.
7 But I was getting her, and I hold onto her for a minute, and then
8 let go, and hold on. And then when they came up, we got two
9 people here and one person here on her. And it's -- where she's
10 at is real hard. I mean, it's a little more tight area. I mean,
11 I don't know how to describe it. I could take you out to exactly
12 where it was, but it was a tight area for her, and this -- I don't
13 remember if it was a woman or a man, and they're holding onto her.
14 And so I'm like, [REDACTED] calm down, calm down.

15 And, yeah, so I'm trying to hold onto her, and this guy is
16 here, and then another guy shows up and they're trying to pull me
17 up. I said, look. I said, just get my foot, get my foot. And at
18 this time the woman's got her -- or the man's got her or it might
19 be both, but she's good. She's just freaking out. He gets my
20 foot up, and I said, just yank me up, yank me up. So he pulls on
21 my foot, and I use his -- he used the back, I used the back of my
22 heel to pull up on him, and I get up. So I'm up, and I get up,
23 and I'm worn out. This, like I said, had it not been for
24 everything else, I should have been able to keep my composure, but
25 I didn't. I was worn. I was worn. My daughter just had drained

1 it from me because I was so scared that something was going to
2 happen. And I was just, I was done.

3 I got up. I took a breather. I came around here, got behind
4 the man and woman, and tried to find something to grab onto. I
5 don't remember if it was a cable or some kind of ledge. I grabbed
6 onto that, and I tried to get under [REDACTED]'s shoulder, under her
7 armpit. We got her. Let's just go, let's just go, and we just
8 started pulling. And I don't know if I was even helping, but I
9 tried, and I pulled, and I finally, I got to a point where I had a
10 little more leverage, and I just started yanking. She got up. We
11 put her up on top of this, and I said, [REDACTED] just lay there,
12 lay there. And she's spasming out.

13 The only thing I'm worried about is her into some kind of
14 shock and her standing up. So I'm just worried about her getting
15 -- doing something dumb, but I don't think she's going to. So I
16 didn't want to leave her too far. [REDACTED] you have to calm down.
17 Stay there. We have to find everybody else. Just calm down, calm
18 down. And she's like, dad, dad, I'm scared, I'm scared, I'm
19 scared. I look, and so here just down the way my wife is just
20 laying there on the -- on this -- on whatever this is, this old
21 scaffolding, this walkway. It's not a walkway, but you can walk
22 on it. It's very, very -- from what they're telling me it's very,
23 very --

24 Q. (Indiscernible)?

25 A. Yes. Now the problem with between there and where we were on

1 this big metal dock thing, where the water was hitting this dock
2 thing was going down and up. So it was causing a scissor effect
3 right here at the dock between the freaking scaffolding and that.
4 So I wanted Tiffany to come that way, but I was afraid -- I could
5 tell she was out of it. I was afraid if she started walking that
6 way she might get cut by it. So I was saying, Tiff, just crawl,
7 just crawl this way, crawl this way.

8 Another guy showed up, and he was there, and he had his hand
9 there. He didn't even realize -- sir, sir, watch out, watch out.
10 And he moved his hand. Tiffany made her way this way. I got her
11 and [REDACTED] and I think that -- I got her and [REDACTED] and that
12 man helped us, and we got them into the steamboat. We got in
13 here, right here [REDACTED] saw the -- more of the black kids face
14 down, and man, I tell you what, dude, I -- God. And I kept my
15 composure -- not had been worried about [REDACTED] I would have had
16 a little more, but I didn't have anything, man. I didn't have
17 anything.

18 And I'll mention this. When I was here, and I was coming up,
19 there was a man here with a radio, and I did tell him I saw people
20 on -- in the paddle. Because I just happened when I came up, I
21 said there's people in the paddle; there's people in the paddle.
22 And he got on the boat, and said, there's people in the paddle. I
23 don't know if there's already people over there, but he was
24 letting him know. Because I just happened to look over there. So
25 I did -- I will mention that. And I don't know if there's people

1 in the paddle -- I don't know if they already had workers going
2 that way or not, but he saw it, and he radioed, thank God.

3 We got inside, and I started, I started going back and forth.
4 I'm mainly around here. I started looking around here. I made my
5 way on top, and I was looking down, and I kept on trying to get
6 down to the paddle system, but the lady was, like, sir, you can't
7 go down there. I said, well, how do I get there? And she goes,
8 just go up here. And I don't know if it was just being tired or
9 what, but I could not find the paddle system.

10 When I came back through here, Talyssa, my oldest, was here
11 and [REDACTED] my nephew. So at that point we're missing my son, my
12 mother-in-law, my sister-in-law, and my niece. And so they're
13 freaking out. I'm saying, hey, don't worry about it. There's
14 people in the paddle. There's people in the paddle that's
15 probably -- I come back, I go back out here, and I'm talking to
16 people here, and I finally make my way around down -- downstairs
17 somewhere somebody brought the child in there, the black kid in
18 there, and they were trying to resuscitate him.

19 I went around there, and came back out, and I started asking
20 people, look, I'm missing people. I said, do you have names of
21 anybody that's made it? She goes, well, some people made it up
22 shore. She goes, I know at least one or two made it up shore. I
23 said see if, please, just find out who, just find out who.
24 Talyssa said that she was -- I guess she was up here somewhere
25 close to the captain as well as my wife. My wife had saw [REDACTED]

1 make it to shore, but she was despondent. She was -- she couldn't
2 -- she never voiced to me -- she didn't realize that we didn't
3 know that [REDACTED] was there.

4 So I didn't know that. So I'm -- I get back, and I see [REDACTED]
5 and then Tomlyn. And that's my niece and my --

6 Q. And nephew.

7 A. And they were together at that point. And I told them
8 Tayden's over here, this and that, and that happens. God, it was
9 a mess. Like I said, I was worthless. I was going back and
10 forth, and just trying to look out at the freaking, out at the
11 lake, and just looking out. And it was finally at some point
12 starting to calm down. Yeah.

13 So I knew we were just missing Nan and [REDACTED] And Tiffany
14 was more worried about Nan, got more worried about Nan, but she
15 knew [REDACTED] made it. She was like my mom, my mom. I said, well,
16 I can't find [REDACTED] either, but she just -- she couldn't yell.

17 Q. She couldn't get it out.

18 A. So this lady came and said, they're -- your son is at the --
19 is on shore. I said, are you sure? What's the name? And she
20 said, what's his name? She asked me. I said his name's [REDACTED]
21 and she said, yes. So like, thank God. So we were just missing
22 Nan.

23 And so we're here. At some point we make it up here, and I'm
24 looking around. I still haven't found [REDACTED] I don't know where
25 he's at, who's dead. The woman that had talked to me earlier

1 said, your son's upstairs with the lady. He's eating a cookie.
2 He's blanketed up. He's fine. I said, okay. I said, we still
3 have to find my mother-in-law. That's when they brought her up.
4 That's when they brought her up the, up the actual walkway system.

5 Q. Yep.

6 A. And so I knew we had everybody together, and that was --

7 (Phone ringing.)

8 Q. Your phone, is that somebody you need to answer?

9 A. Oh, it's Talyssa.

10 (Mr. Collins having phone conversation.)

11 MR. COLLINS: It's a mess. The kids have been going crazy
12 today. Sorry. I kind of went all over the place.

13 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

14 Q. No, that's fine.

15 A. I tell you, I --

16 Q. At the beginning, what happened at the beginning when they
17 gave you instructions and all that stuff?

18 A. There wasn't any. He talked about the life preservers being
19 up there, blah, blah, this and that.

20 Q. Did he --

21 A. But there was nothing -- there was no, there was no really
22 kind of safety briefing that I remember, no. I mean, as I'm
23 thinking about it, I don't remember any kind of a safety briefing.

24 Q. Okay. Did he explain where you guys were going? Did he
25 explain that they were going to do the water first?

1 A. Yeah, they did say -- they had told us that they were going
2 to get the water first out of the way so I guess that storm system
3 could go through.

4 Q. Okay. And those racks that held the life preservers, how
5 were they?

6 A. They're above our heads. I believe the adults were on this
7 side kind of right -- if you look at where we are in the picture,
8 we're like in the middle to maybe just they're, you know, the back
9 middle.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. Life preservers are here. I believe adults. And then up not
12 adjacent, but just up ahead on the left side looked like the
13 children's. So --

14 Q. Did they tell you those were the adults and the children or
15 did you just see that they were adult and children?

16 A. I looked up. You could just tell from the size. I believe,
17 I remember on the life jackets, I don't know if I saw SM like
18 small or what --

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. -- but if there was something to distinguish, but you could
21 tell the difference.

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. And I should have -- I just kept thinking, you know what,
24 these guys do this all the time, and I just, I was worried about
25 it, because everybody's having fun, and I'm just here telling, I'm

1 telling Tiffany, this ain't good; something's not right. And I'm
2 watching out of the boat, and it's just -- it looks like it might
3 go under, like with the steamboat there, and I'm like, something
4 ain't right, something ain't right. And when he turned, I don't
5 know, I almost think we might have been better had we just not
6 tried to --

7 Q. Stayed straight?

8 A. -- had we just let it just coast. I don't know that for
9 sure, but had we just gone with it, but -- I don't, honestly, I
10 don't think these guys are trained to really deal with -- you
11 know, it's a leisurely cruise thing. I don't think they're
12 trained for something like that. And those winds came in hard,
13 and I don't blame him for what happened there. The only thing is
14 that son of a bitch didn't say anything to anybody and he scurried
15 out like a rat, and I just remember, yup and I'm looking at that
16 -- I'm looking at him, and I felt sorry for him. At the same time
17 it was like, man, you know.

18 Q. Did you see him --

19 A. I was just --

20 Q. Did you see him pull a latch or anything like that to release
21 the top?

22 A. I thought it looked like he pulled something, but it might
23 have just been that he knew it was going to break at some point.
24 Because I guess they're made -- I don't know if it's made to break
25 or if you have to push something or what. He was here, and we're

1 going down, and as we're going down, I just remember he's up at
2 the -- like up in the top middle of this boat, and I don't know if
3 he's standing on the seat or what he's doing, but he's either
4 pushing it off or releasing something or he knows it's going. But
5 as soon as it happens, he shoots out. He doesn't say shit. He
6 looks back a couple of times, and at the point when it started
7 sinking down, and I saw him, and he wasn't saying anything, I'm
8 just like thinking, whoa, we're screwed.

9 Because I didn't know if I -- number one, I should have had
10 everybody put the life preservers on as soon as I saw those -- I
11 should have said, hey, everybody put these on, and I didn't. I
12 failed to do that. And then as -- yeah, and when that popped up,
13 I would have said everybody just get ready to shoot up. I mean,
14 but I didn't know. As it was going down, I saw him. It was
15 almost like he just disappeared, and I -- we just started going --

16 Q. Well, I take it you're with the Border Patrol; is that what
17 you said?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You know as well as I do hindsight is 20/20, and --

20 A. Right.

21 Q. -- you can beat yourself up all day long about that stuff.

22 A. I know.

23 Q. And it's -- you do it 9 times out of 10 you're going to do it
24 the exact same way that you did it the first time because you just
25 don't think, hey, that's going -- this is what's going to happen.

1 A. I think having family in here really just -- I think that's
2 the detriment. Like as we were going down, like I, you know, I'm
3 thinking that top, I mean, that's holding us all in, and I'm not
4 even -- I'm just like thinking, you know what, I'm not going to
5 find it. There was too many people around, and it's like, it is
6 what it is. I know I'm going to start suffocating this and, I
7 mean, I was resigned. I mean, I didn't want to, and I knew I was
8 going to be freaking gagging and gasping and everything else, but,
9 you know, everything -- (indiscernible) heard that pop top, I'm
10 like -- so I'm thinking, I'm thinking I'm -- you know, this is
11 ridiculous.

12 I know, I mean, you know -- and I can't see anyone. I don't
13 see anyone except that guy, and he stubbed his shoe down, I don't
14 -- I don't remember seeing anybody in the background, but of
15 course I looked. [REDACTED] said she saw me looking around, and she
16 hollered for me, and that's when I started talking to her.

17 SGT. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] you got anything that --

18 MR. COLLINS: I'm sorry I'm not more -- I mean, it's playing
19 in my head, but that's a mess. I mean you know what I'm saying?

20 SGT. [REDACTED] Shayne, I'll tell you, you've been through a
21 traumatic, traumatic experience, and I'm telling you I'm very
22 happy your family made it out, and everything like that. It's
23 just one of those things that you, you get back, and you need to
24 talk to somebody, and you don't want to talk to anybody at home,
25 call me.

1 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. Thank you, thank you. I appreciate
2 it. Like I said, I just -- I feel like this all could have been
3 avoided. And I'm not talking about this storm system and stuff
4 because these guys do this all the time. I think that came in
5 hard and fast, but I think -- and it just --

6 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

7 Q. But just not saying anything is --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- what's bothering you?

10 A. Yeah. And then him just going -- like, it was almost, like,
11 I'm done, I'm out of here. And he was panicking. Like I saw him
12 in the, I saw him in the water. He was panicking. Evidently he,
13 where he ended up going, he made it there a lot quicker because
14 I'm with [REDACTED] and she's doggie paddling and I'm just doggie --
15 I'm thinking at this point she's not going to make it, and I'm
16 going to have to go in for her, and I'm thinking if she doesn't go
17 unconscious -- she's not going to go unconscious going under, and
18 I'm going to go after her, and she's going to pull us both under,
19 and that's going to be it. But she kept doggie paddling. She
20 said, I'm scared, I'm scared, dad, help me dad, won't you help me,
21 dad? And I'm like, [REDACTED] I can't. You've got to come. You've
22 got to go. Just keep going, keep going. Because if she would
23 have brought me in -- she's a big girl, I mean we wouldn't have
24 been -- I wouldn't have been able, I mean, there's no way. If she
25 had been unconscious, yeah, you know.

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. It would have been much easier. I could have, I could have
3 got her out of there a lot easier.

4 Q. Turned around and float her out. Yeah.

5 A. Yeah, exactly. Even in the breaks, but -- I mean, even with
6 the waves. But, yeah. So that was the hardest thing to do. But
7 I didn't see -- I don't remember seeing anybody else until we were
8 -- until I was up. And I remember seeing a couple people hanging
9 on that, but it looked like there was -- it looked like the guy or
10 two that were up there or -- I didn't notice it was my wife, but
11 it looked like they knew what they were doing. They were doing a
12 good job. Yeah.

13 So, I mean, it was -- I mean, yeah. If it wouldn't have been
14 for the people on the shore and the people on the steamboat we'd
15 have been done. Because I was spent trying to get my daughter
16 over there. I don't know if I could have -- I really don't know
17 if I could have got up and held onto her with the way I was
18 thinking at that point. So, yeah, if they wouldn't have showed
19 up. They made all the difference. I mean, thank God.

20 Q. Have you talked to your superiors?

21 A. Yeah. I've had people call. Because I lost my phone, so
22 I've been using my son's, and, you know, I've got a class going on
23 over there at the Academy. I'm an instructor. I have a class
24 going on in the Academy. And so I touched with my -- I touched
25 down with my boss there, hey, this happened; I don't have a phone.

1 So if anybody is calling me about it, whatever, just let me know.
2 And, of course, I guess they -- at the time I knew it was big
3 news, but I hadn't really checked anything out until at that time.
4 I knew it was big, like, before I called him, but I said, well,
5 you know, I'd better say something. And, yeah, and then so, yeah,
6 I've been getting calls from the whole team.

7 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

8 Q. Well, [REDACTED] and I both have been in shootings over our
9 careers, and stuff like that, and you get to where you're
10 struggling --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- look for help.

13 A. Thank you. No, like I said, I can handle -- you know, I'd
14 much rather be getting shot at and everything else, but --

15 Q. Yeah, it's your family.

16 A. But, yeah, no, I -- yeah, I don't know how it happened, all I
17 know is -- and then that poor family of 11, you know.

18 Q. That's a bad deal.

19 A. And it could have been avoided at least, but, you know, like
20 I said, that guy, the only thing I can fault him for is him not
21 saying, you know, hey, the life -- get the life jackets. This
22 thing is going to pop off, if it goes down. He just -- he didn't
23 say nothing. And then he, you know, it wasn't no man going down
24 with the ship because he jettied. And I'm not trying to put him
25 down or anything, but I saw that. I saw the fear in his eyes.

1 Like I said, I feel sorry for him, but I also hold contempt.

2 But I hold contempt for myself too because I mean, you know,
3 I saw it, and I knew it, and I was telling my wife. But I saw I
4 was getting her worked up, and I was thinking, well, you know,
5 what if this happens? We get up there, you know, and instead I
6 was fighting myself instead of just saying everybody put these
7 things on. At least half of us could have had them on, if not
8 more.

9 Q. You said that they had you all leave early because of the
10 storm. Did they say that?

11 A. No, no. We left on time. We left on the time --

12 Q. I'm sorry.

13 A. -- we were supposed to.

14 Q. Do the water first. What was --

15 A. Yes, yes, yes.

16 Q. Explain that part of it.

17 A. The guy, what was his name? He has a strange name. It might
18 have been like Little John or Billie Willie or something like
19 that. The guy that was there doing the tickets and stuff. I
20 thought he was the -- one of the captains. But he was taking the
21 tickets. There was a woman that was going to take our pictures,
22 and that's the pictures you all got as we're leaving, and also the
23 pictures in front of the life preserver. He was saying, yeah,
24 there's a storm system coming in. So we're going to go ahead, you
25 know, just to be -- take precaution, you know, we're going to take

1 you out there first.

2 And, like I said, as we, we were coming around everything was
3 blue skies. You saw the dark clouds off to here, but I mean these
4 guys deal with this stuff all the time. You know? I mean, they
5 know this stuff. I mean, that's what you think. So I'm sure they
6 didn't expect for that to happen. Those waves came in, like I
7 said, it went like -- yeah. But when we started, when we -- that
8 island that was here --

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. -- when we came around that island it started getting choppy.
11 Oh, yeah.

12 Q. So did you guys go around the island?

13 A. No, no, no. He --

14 Q. This is your path, right?

15 A. Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

16 Q. Did you see where these two boats went during this?

17 A. They're up in front of us. They're already up in front of
18 us.

19 Q. They had already made it out?

20 A. This was the boat that was struggling, and at some point they
21 were up ahead of us, I mean, but it didn't look like they were
22 going to make it out.

23 Q. And how far is the distance from where you guys entered to
24 where you guys exit?

25 A. I wouldn't know. I wouldn't even want to estimate because

1 this is, this is a lot further out from the front of this
2 steamboat than to where it looked like the other -- the other
3 ducks made it over here. Because the direction we were traveling
4 was, I'm guessing, where we were supposed to come up at, where we
5 were supposed to go out at. Now I don't know if that's the
6 normal.

7 Q. Had you been on the water quite a while before you got out to
8 here or was that you just came off --

9 A. Well, you know, we came on, you know, through here. Hey, who
10 wants -- I'm tired of driving or whatever, and that's when the
11 kids come on. The kids are here, this and that. And at some
12 point, I think he realized -- I don't know if their radio contact
13 or what but they're noticing it's getting bad. Can't really see
14 anything, but somewhere through here as this is -- and I don't
15 know, this obviously isn't a perfect turn. But somewhere through
16 here I'm seeing way off here not just the clouds, but I can see it
17 hitting the water. I mean, you can just tell from afar. Almost
18 looks like fog the way it's hitting, and you can just tell out in
19 the distance. And I think, I don't even know if all the kids went
20 through. Because I think he realized --

21 Q. Yeah.

22 A. And so they got in there. So, I mean, but, yeah, it started
23 getting really choppy and really bad, and he looked back every now
24 and then, but he never said anything. I looked back, the soggy
25 part, there was a kid back there -- I say a kid. I don't really

1 know how old he was. He could have been anywhere from, I don't
2 know, it seemed -- I didn't remember seeing him before that, but
3 it looked like he might have been around 18, 19, 20, 21. I could
4 be completely wrong about that. But I remember him just jumping
5 up surprised as could be, go whoa, and he came up a little because
6 the water was going back. And I think everybody was just
7 expecting it to come back up. At that point it was, it was just
8 kind of doing this, and everybody up here is just kind of laughing
9 still. My kids are going crazy, you know, woo, yeah, oh, my gosh,
10 and I'm just, I'm just white knuckling it and, yeah.

11 But I, like I said, I didn't know what the boat's capability
12 was. I think about all that it can go through and stuff. I
13 didn't really think this is a big deal. That was my --

14 Q. You said one of the guys was white -- the captain and the
15 driver, one was white and one was black.

16 A. Yeah. The one that drove there, actually drove it on the
17 road, the pavement, was a black gentleman.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. When we got down to where it departs down at the water at
20 some point they switched out, and then he drove it down into the
21 water.

22 Q. Okay. One more question. I know you want to go see your
23 family. Did the boat have sides on it? Like windows along the
24 side?

25 A. When they started, they started at some point, and I believe

1 it was the black gentleman -- at some point when, you know, it
2 started getting raining and coming down before the water got
3 really choppy, the water was just coming -- they came and closed
4 those sides down.

5 Q. Is it just one full length of a side or is it --

6 A. I don't think so. I think it's like -- that's a good
7 question. Because you have bars every so often.

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. And I don't know if it comes down like blinds or whatever
10 because I wasn't really paying attention to that at that point.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. But it's just like they pulled down -- I don't know if it was
13 one side or if it was like in sections. I really don't know.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I really don't remember that part. Yeah, but I mean it was
16 almost like we're enclosed at that point. So there's no -- like I
17 said, I didn't want to -- I mean, I was just like, what's the
18 point in me trying to get out. I mean, how guilty am I going to
19 feel trying to get out and my family goes down?

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. I was like, I was like, fuck it. I mean, I didn't -- you
22 know, it's like -- because I'm thinking we're just enclosed, we're
23 going down, and what's the point? So we're going down. And then
24 that pop topped. I'm thinking, well, you know, we -- I don't know
25 what I was thinking, but I'm just thinking live.

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. And so go up. And that's when it turned into -- just yeah,
3 it's all bad. It's all bad. I was scared. Like I said, I've
4 never been through -- like I said, I'd rather be getting shot at,
5 anything else. I mean, you take a bullet, you take a bullet, you
6 know, but to go under and your kids, your family are there, you
7 know, God.

8 Q. It's rough.

9 A. Yeah. No, yeah, I can't, I can't fathom the day, the -- just
10 the fear that was like nothing I ever felt ever, and hope to God
11 never fear again -- it never happens again.

12 Q. You all have been through a lot.

13 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

14 Q. How long are you guys down here?

15 A. Well, you know my -- I guess you know my mother-in-law's --

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. I don't, I really don't know.

18 Q. What was your plan? Though this next week?

19 A. Leave here on the -- I believe we're going to try to leave
20 late 23rd or early 24, probably early on the 24th.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And then try to get back some --

23 Q. In case we have any other questions, I've got your cell
24 phone, your boy's cell phone number. He'll get a hold of you that
25 way or your wife?

1 A. Yes, sir. Sir, like I said, I talked -- this is the first
2 time I've actually talked about this. I know it's a jumbled mess
3 what I'm telling you, but it's the first time I've actually -- I
4 mean, I see it in my head how it happened, but it's kind of just,
5 it's still surreal.

6 Q. Yeah.

7 A. And it was a mess. Like I said, I, yeah, I don't know, I
8 don't know. After I heard my daughter there really wasn't no,
9 there wasn't no trying to get anybody else or do anything else.
10 What are you going to do? Had she been a swimmer, a strong
11 swimmer like Talyssa and [REDACTED] I'd have been like, hey, go
12 towards the shore, go towards the, you know, towards the barge or
13 whatever over there. But being [REDACTED] --

14 (Phone ringing.)

15 (Mr. Collins having phone conversation.)

16 MR. COLLINS: I'm getting all confused. See, dad, I'm
17 thinking my dad. You know, that's my stepson; it's his. So I'm
18 like what, who? I've been doing it all day, man. I see them all
19 -- oh, gosh, it's my life. I'm like, man, it's a mess. Who the
20 heck is this? So, yeah, I'm sorry.

21 Hang on a second. We weren't that far, but the waves is
22 what's causing the issue. And my daughter --

23 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

24 Q. No, I have to tell you, I'm a --

25 A. -- she is not a strong swimmer.

1 Q. I'm impressed that you recognize not --

2 (Phone ringing.)

3 (Mr. Collins in phone conversation.)

4 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

5 Q. I have to say I'm impressed with you just talking through it.

6 I mean --

7 A. No, no, I fucked up, man. I -- these people could have, I
8 mean, you know, I don't know how Tomlyn and her kids made it.
9 They're not the greatest swimmers, but, you know, they're not bad.
10 But I, like I said, I knew if Talyssa and [REDACTED] made it up,
11 they'd be fine, and if Tiffany didn't -- Tiffany was a strong
12 enough swimmer. But I figured, I figured they were all lost until
13 I saw Tiffany. And then, see, I mean, I just thought everybody
14 was gone. It just kind of, oomph, here's one, here's one. It's
15 like Easter egg hunting. That was insane. So if her mother-in-
16 law makes it, I mean, we all somehow freaking blessed. But I
17 mean, yeah, I just can't -- you know, nine of us live, and nine of
18 the other family died. It just doesn't seem. I mean, I'll take
19 it, but it's not fair. I don't know.

20 Q. You're together and they're together. God takes care of us
21 in strange ways.

22 A. Yeah. I agree with you there. I agree with you there.

23 Q. Really does.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Shayne, what's your address?

1 A. [REDACTED] (ph.) [REDACTED]

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And that's at [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

4 Q. [REDACTED]?

5 A. No, [REDACTED]. And that's [REDACTED] and the ZIP is [REDACTED]

6 Q. Okay. Shayne, can I keep this drawing?

7 A. Yeah. Sorry, man.

8 Q. It was good.

9 A. Yeah. It's kind of -- thinking in my head. And I know it
10 would be so much easier to walk out there, and just say this is
11 what happened, this is what happened, but, you know, I just -- I'm
12 not a great drawer. And it, obviously, I'm sure if I looked at
13 it, it wouldn't look near like that, but it just seemed like it
14 was -- it seemed like that, those systems kind of ran out like at
15 an angle and where we were at. But, yeah, I don't know.

16 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Well, we'll get at it. I'm going to
17 leave you my number too --

18 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

19 SGT. [REDACTED] -- just in case you don't get a hold of [REDACTED]
20 You know you got a brother anywhere you go in law enforcement.

21 SGT. [REDACTED] I appreciate it. Thank you. Believe me, I
22 appreciate.

23 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

24

25

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 Shayne Collins

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA18MM028

PLACE:

DATE:

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.



Katherine Motley
Transcriber