

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

*

CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7 *

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

JULY 19, 2018 *

*

* * * * *

Interview of: TIFFANY COLLINS

Branson, Missouri

Tuesday,
July 24, 2018

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL KARR, Marine Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

BRIAN YOUNG, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES GILLETTE
U.S. Coast Guard

I N D E X

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Tiffany Collins:	
By Mr. Karr	4
By Mr. Gillette	27
By Mr. Young	33

P R O C E E D I N G S

(10:16 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. KARR: So it's 10:16 in the morning on July 24th. I'm
4 Mike Karr with the National Transportation Safety Board and we're
5 going to be interviewing Tiffany Collins in Branson, Missouri.

6 Let's go around the room and introduce ourselves.

7 MR. GILLETTE: Hi, I'm Jim Gillette. I'm with the U.S. Coast
8 Guard.

9 MR. YOUNG: And I'm Brian Young, I'm the Investigator in
10 Charge for the NTSB's investigation into the Stretch Duck 7 boat
11 accident.

12 MS. COLLINS: And I am Tiffany Collins, a survivor from the
13 duck boat.

14 MR. KARR: All right. Thank you, Tiffany.

15 INTERVIEW OF TIFFANY COLLINS

16 BY MR. KARR:

17 Q. Tiffany, I would like you -- the first question I'm going to
18 ask you is just tell me your story and just tell me everything,
19 it's a narrative and then if -- I'll keep some notes and if I want
20 to go back and fill in a blank or ask you a question, I'll do
21 that.

22 A. Okay. Well, it was our first day out as a family. We had
23 actually started at the Titanic Museum, which is total irony in
24 the whole thing. Yeah, I was walking through that wondering how
25 those people felt because I know, when I went down, that's what I

1 was thinking and right after we had bought our tickets together as
2 a package deal, so we went there and then we went literally across
3 the street and we were trying to get on the 6:00 boat and they
4 said we could get on the boat, but then we were actually in line
5 with the other family, the family of 11, at 6:00 -- that -- for
6 that -- I'm sorry, I'm like all over the place with this.

7 Q. Yeah, that's fine.

8 A. And that family had been told that their tickets were for the
9 wrong loading, so then one of the ladies had gone back to the line
10 to see if she could still schedule it for the 6:00 boat. And then
11 that happened to our family because we actually had to turn in our
12 ticket from the Titanic to get different tickets to ride that
13 boat. So we also got bumped off out of our line from the 6:00 and
14 then rescheduled for 6:30. So both of our families sat there and
15 waited for that 30 minutes so we could load onto the 6:30 boat.
16 It went by pretty fast, we were just kind of hung out, hung out
17 with the kids there.

18 And then there was a person that worked there and I know that
19 we had gotten in line, the boys. My boys wanted to get in line,
20 my son and my nephew wanted to get in line first, so they ran over
21 there and one of the employees did state that we're going to have
22 some kind of bad weather and I do recall making the statement is
23 it pretty bad, do we need -- should we reschedule this and
24 postpone it for another time and they said that they were just
25 going try to get us into the water before the land, I believe, so

1 maybe we would miss it, miss the storm, because I guess usually
2 they do land before water so there's no flipping.

3 So we thought it would be okay and I mean, we don't know
4 really much about the territory or the landscaping or, you know,
5 where we're going anywhere around here, so we just got on and rode
6 across town and it seemed okay. When we first got to the water,
7 we sat there for a minute, it seemed like we were waiting for
8 another boat to move or something, and we went in.

9 I think I did -- I recall seeing one light, lightning go once
10 right before we hit the water, but then it just seemed pretty --
11 you know, it didn't -- it went -- well, the weather just changed,
12 just like -- it just escalated. I mean, I don't know how to
13 describe it, the intensity of it. It was just like snap of a
14 finger and everything was just -- I felt like we were in a
15 hurricane in the middle of the ocean.

16 We went in and all the kids kind of just thought that the
17 craziness with the waves and the splashing, I think that they
18 actually kind of thought it was like a part of the ride, the way
19 that -- you know, like it was supposed to be like an amusement
20 ride. You know, I don't -- I'm sorry, I can't even speak right
21 now. And then it started getting just really -- the waves kind of
22 felt like they were overpowering the side of us and he had started
23 to drop the -- like, it was kind of like, just like a straight
24 curtain on each side that comes down.

25 And but probably about 10, 15 minutes before -- no, probably

1 about 10 minutes before that, my husband and I both -- we started
2 to get real nervous and we were first getting nervous because the
3 big boat on the side had this thing in the back, I don't know what
4 it's called, the red propeller thing or whatever, was spinning.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Paddles.

6 MS. COLLINS: Yes. And we thought that we were actually
7 going to, like, get stuck in it, like the boat was going to get
8 pushed and caught up into that. So that was our first worry.

9 And then I was actually on the back right side, kind of more
10 towards the back, sitting and -- sorry, I took a pretty good hit,
11 I took a pretty -- really good hit to the head and I've been
12 pretty, really scatter-brained from all this. I looked down at my
13 feet and my son was sitting -- my son and my nephew were sitting
14 in front of me and my husband and I were right here and my son
15 was -- we were the ones close to the inner side and I just recall
16 looking down and the crack between the boat and like, I guess, the
17 wall, you know, like, you have your bottom and you have your wall.

18 BY MR. KARR:

19 Q. The wall, meaning --

20 A. It just seemed like there was like a big hole right here. It
21 almost felt like I was like looking down and I -- and there might
22 already be a hole right there, I don't know what it looks like on
23 the outside prior to entering it, but it just looked like the wall
24 had just parted from the whole bottom of it. I mean, it just
25 felt -- looking at it, I just felt like I was looking at, like, a

1 piece of paper was the wall. I mean, it just seemed like it was
2 just so fragile like, it was like, how could we be sitting in this
3 thing that looks like it's made out of paper is what -- kind of
4 like what I was thinking. And the water just started coming in
5 through the bottom and I had my bag and I just picked it up and
6 threw it on my shoulder and my son and I, because he was right in
7 front of me on the other seat, we both just stood up and we
8 started trying to push everybody towards this way and we were
9 screaming, the water's coming in, we're going down back here, and
10 not even like 10, 15 seconds, my son was already knee deep in the
11 water.

12 And I know I reached up to look for the life jackets, but
13 from my recollection, I don't even recall them being above me when
14 I went to try to grab one and when I was trying to grab one, I
15 couldn't -- it was just not even -- there was no way I could get a
16 life jacket, like no way on earth that I could get a life jacket.
17 And I mean, I blankly remember trying and it was just like, you
18 know, shooting to the moon, that's what it felt like.

19 And I didn't have time to think about my family or my kids or
20 trying to grab them. It was just like the movies, right up to the
21 top, get your last little breath, hope there's a little piece of
22 air, an inch of air to take in before you're -- you know, might
23 have a chance to fight. But unfortunately, when I got up there,
24 the water had already consumed it, so we didn't even have a moment
25 to get our last breath; that was that. I mean, it felt like

1 within 30 seconds we were down, like completely under. And I
2 mean, I don't know how to really describe it, other than almost
3 feeling like a caged animal in water that can't escape, like
4 literally it was like a rock just thrown in and we were done and
5 that's when the thought came to my mind, all day, reading all
6 those articles about, you know, the Titanic, how it's ironic and
7 the irony in the whole situation is how I tried to understand how
8 those people could feel and I truly just in that moment
9 understood, I completely understood. And it's just crazy because
10 I literally, in that moment, had accepted that that was the end of
11 my life and it was over and I was okay with that.

12 So I was going up for that last breath that I couldn't get.
13 I just kept going like this and I couldn't get out. I just felt
14 like I was just stuck right here going like this, going like this
15 and I just told myself just keep going like this, going like this
16 and maybe --

17 Q. Pushing arms up?

18 A. Yes, I just going like this until my arms could go freely
19 straight up and then when I finally found a moment where I could
20 go free up, I just went and I felt like I swam for eternity, just
21 going straight up, thinking is this ever -- am I ever going to hit
22 the top? Yeah, I don't even know -- I don't -- my son practices
23 holding his breath at our house, under the water, but apparently I
24 should've been practicing that, too. I've never held my breath
25 that long. I don't even know how I did that.

1 But then I came up and I couldn't see anybody, I couldn't
2 hear anybody. When we went under, in the boat, it was like you
3 were there by yourself, you -- I mean -- and those boats, too, I
4 mean, my husband and I were sitting on it, it felt like we were
5 just squished, you know, when we were riding it, I felt like I had
6 no room at all in that thing to move. So it's ironic that I felt
7 so confined in it when we were driving and getting in it, but then
8 when we went down, I felt like I was the only one in it. I
9 don't -- it's just very -- I don't know, it's hard to even explain
10 or describe. You just literally feel like you're alone in the
11 ocean swimming for your life.

12 And then when I came up, I just started trying to get --
13 well, that thing was still spinning, so you're trying to swim out
14 farther just so in case that thing -- I had no idea how fast
15 that's going or anything else, so you know, I was trying, at the
16 time to swim out a little bit, swim out a little bit farther so I
17 didn't get caught up in the red thing, which that thing actually
18 literally saved my mom and my sister and my niece's life.

19 It -- I made it around that and then I think they had
20 eventually turned that thing off and then I came up to that pier
21 lock, lock thing --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

23 MS. COLLINS: -- and I did -- I do recall, when I got a
24 little bit more out, I had looked to my left and the captain was
25 actually between my son and I, and I know he was in complete shock

1 about the whole situation.

2 I mean, I don't personally feel like that it was
3 professionally handled, but I can't opionate on that because I
4 am a mother and I had three children on that boat and I could not
5 even do a thing for my own children. So I can only imagine what
6 the captain was feeling with a boat of strangers. It was not even
7 really feasible. I know we were going, we were all starting to
8 panic because we couldn't -- we didn't know what to do. We had no
9 idea what was going on, there was no direction, and once it
10 started getting choppy, he just sat down and he just was driving
11 frantically and never said another word to us. So we were pretty
12 much just on our own when that was all taking place, just looking
13 at each other like what's going on?

14 And then when I had started to go down on this side,
15 everybody started freaking out and I think that's at the point
16 when everybody started realizing this is it. And my husband went
17 to stand up and he said, everybody just calm down, and that was
18 the last thing I recall hearing on the boat because it was --
19 that's when we had gone under. Sorry, I'm going back and forth
20 from memories.

21 When I was swimming, again, and I had finally saw the captain
22 and then my son, [REDACTED] and he actually had his phone and he was
23 using it as a paddle, booking it, trying to bring his self through
24 and he -- it was kind of weird, though, the captain, just looking
25 at him, because I just kind of felt like he had no regards for any

1 of us and my child. It was just kind of like -- I don't know.
2 It's almost in his way and he made it up there and then my son had
3 made it up there.

4 I couldn't -- they were trying to get me to pull up. I
5 couldn't pull up, I had no more strength left, I was hanging on to
6 that thing. And then somebody had thrown a life jacket or
7 something at me and it actually had hit me in the head right here
8 and it threw me back and I almost passed out and I remember going
9 back under the water, literally laughing, thinking you're kidding
10 me? I just made it through that and somebody's going to kill me
11 with a life preserver? Seriously? Yeah. So I did have a pretty
12 good knot here and I think when I came out of the boat, I must've
13 hit something because this entire section of my head has just
14 been -- I can hardly touch it or wash my hair or anything, it's
15 been really bad.

16 And anyway, so after that happened, I was able -- after I got
17 knocked out by the thing, I need to come back to the -- what was
18 that thing, that big old black thing? I don't even know what it
19 was, from the land to the --

20 BY MR. KARR:

21 Q. They call it a, like a finger pier.

22 A. Yeah, that's what I was on. So then I made it back to that
23 after getting hit with the thing and then they were screaming,
24 come up. Well, I couldn't come up. I mean, it's all I could is
25 to hold on -- I had no energy whatsoever. I mean, I was just

1 lifeless. So then they pulled me up and then I sat there for a
2 minute, I believe, in shock, and then I remember trying to crawl
3 without slipping, falling back into the water up to the boat and
4 then I had no -- I had looked back and my son, somebody grabbed my
5 son and they had taken him up onto the land.

6 And I do recall, in the water, hearing my husband scream
7 behind me at one point in time, I think I heard him screaming for
8 my stepdaughter, [REDACTED] What else do I remember? I don't --
9 this has just been -- and I apologize, I haven't got back with you
10 guys. I really haven't slept. I mean, I've slept probably two to
11 three hours a night since this happened. That first night I
12 didn't sleep. My mom was in the hospital and my daughter and I,
13 neither one got checked out or evaluated after the situation
14 because my mom, she -- when we were up on the boat -- gosh, sorry.

15 Whenever I was crawling up, I came up to the side and there
16 was a older lady and I guess they were trying to resuscitate her,
17 but she was pretty much gone and I actually thought that was my
18 mom. So then when I went over there, I was screaming, thinking it
19 was her and then it wasn't and then I feel guilty because I was
20 relieved that it wasn't my mom, but then the lady was, you know,
21 gone.

22 But then we went up to the top and we still couldn't find her
23 and my sister and my niece, they -- it had been awhile, they
24 weren't there and it seemed like we were up there on the boat,
25 they finally showed up, but it seemed like we were up there for

1 about a good 10, 15 minutes and my mom still hadn't been there,
2 she was like one of the last ones up and I -- and so then I was
3 panicking, trying to get off the top and they wouldn't let me off
4 to come find her, so I was trying to escape the top of the boat to
5 go out to find my mom. So I got drug back in, like, three
6 different times, so that was very frustrating for me.

7 I think that when we first came up, it was so quick that
8 there really weren't many people out there helping at that point
9 in time. By the time they had already come out, we had already --
10 I mean, it was -- it happened so fast, there was no time for the
11 real reaction, the initial reaction, for the situation to be -- to
12 be helped. I mean, I don't know, I don't.

13 So anyway, when they finally pulled my mom up, somebody had
14 told me my daughter was screaming and she was trying to go with
15 her and then nobody was going to let her go with, I guess, her on
16 the ambulance, so then I went. I just took off running behind
17 the -- where everybody were, that building, and I ran and found
18 what ambulance she was in and then I finally got a guy to let me
19 into the ambulance there and he was really nice.

20 So then we rushed her and I think that whenever I was in
21 there with her, she thought we were all gone. She said that she
22 swam and swam and then she got onto the back of the red thing and
23 she was holding on and then I think that she said that at the end,
24 she just gave up and I don't know if she let go or whatever,
25 because I'm pretty sure they resuscitated her and I think she

1 probably was gone. She just said that she was going to stop
2 trying because she thought we were all dead at the end, so she
3 just let go.

4 So anyway, we got her to the hospital and then she ended up
5 pulling through -- but like, right now, she only has 10 to 15
6 percent of her heart working and she has to wear -- I can't even
7 think of what it's called. I think it starts with a R right now.
8 I can't think. Something here with -- all over her chest for like
9 maybe three months, to see if we can build her heart up, but they
10 did tell us that she could still maybe have a sudden death, just
11 unexpectedly at any moment. So you know, we're just very lucky
12 that she even made it. I mean, fortunate for us, she was on the
13 swim team. Her brother was on -- you know, they were swimmers
14 growing up.

15 Q. So she's your grandmother?

16 A. My mother.

17 Q. Your mother, your mother.

18 A. Yes. So we had three generations, my mom, my sister, myself,
19 and then, you know, our kids. But I mean, I don't know. I could
20 go on and on about this whole situation. I lay -- when I try to
21 go to sleep at night and shut my eyes, I can't go to sleep because
22 so many things are replayed. It's -- I still don't think I can
23 even accept that this happened because it's just so absolutely
24 unbelievable. I mean, I really truly felt like I was somebody --
25 I was like in a horror movie, somebody grabbed us, threw us in a

1 cage, and threw us in the water to drown, that's what it felt
2 like.

3 Q. Well, I'll tell you what, I'll start asking some questions.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. And again, you know, if anything else comes in your mind, go
6 ahead. I'm going to cover a lot of what -- I'm going to cover a
7 lot of what you -- excuse me. I'm going to go back to the
8 beginning, but what I want to do is I want to pick up from when
9 you came to the surface. I'm interested in how you eventually
10 made it to the -- those finger piers or to the tugboat and then
11 how did you get -- actually get out of the water and then who
12 helped you get to the boat, you said?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. So a question. So tell me, when you popped up to the surface
17 of the water, describe to me what you did in as great as detail as
18 possible.

19 A. When I first came out of the water?

20 Q. Correct.

21 A. I just --

22 Q. When you say out of -- excuse me. When you came to the
23 surface.

24 A. When I came to the surface, I just came up and looked around
25 and panicked, kind of, and then I looked where the land was from

1 where I was located and the boat with the spinning thing and I
2 just started looking at --

3 Q. And what did you -- you started swimming towards the land?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And I mean, I was looking around for to see if there was
7 anybody around me, but I do know, when I got towards the end, my
8 daughter, she was back there. I looked back and I did finally see
9 her, but she was trying to carry my -- if she wasn't there, my
10 nephew would've died because she pretty much -- she, my daughter's
11 strong. She would go under and when he was still under, she would
12 go under and she would push him up and then come up for a breath
13 and then he would go back under and she would go back under and
14 push him up. He's pretty, he's pretty -- he's a big old little
15 boy, but yeah.

16 Q. How old is your nephew?

17 A. My nephew is 10 and my son and him are a month apart.

18 Q. Okay. So, and so who was pushing him up, your daughter?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And how old's your daughter?

21 A. She's 19.

22 Q. Nineteen. And everybody sounded like they were swimmers,
23 so --

24 A. Yes, I -- we are very fortunate that my whole family has
25 grown up -- I mean, well, we have a pool and my mom has a pool.

1 You know, there -- my brother has a pool. I mean, we're not like
2 athlete swimmers, but we, you know, hang.

3 Q. And your nephew, did he tell you -- you know, we haven't
4 talked to him. Did he tell you why he was having trouble hitting
5 the shore?

6 A. Well, he's, he's really -- he's overweight, first of all --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- for his age, like pretty, quite a bit and he has pretty
9 severe asthma as well.

10 Q. All right. And so how did you actually get from the water?
11 So when you eventually swam, did you swim by yourself? Was there
12 anybody with you?

13 A. No, I just took off swimming and then when I got a little bit
14 more up, that's when I saw the captain, right, literally pretty
15 much next to me on this side, to my left, where he was closer to
16 the land than I was. So I was the farthest one out between -- it
17 was me, the captain, and then my son, that's when I saw him
18 booking it with his phone, phone this way.

19 Q. And then how did you actually get from the water up onto
20 those piers?

21 A. Well, I don't even know how I made it. I had my bag. I
22 actually carried my entire bag through all of that and that's
23 brought me a lot of guilt, too, because there's like, you know,
24 kids dying. Not even carrying my kids, but I somehow made it
25 through with my bag still on my arm, it's just unbelievable that I

1 had grabbed that thing and I was just hanging onto it.

2 And then some people came up from the boat and they were up
3 there and they were like, just climb up and -- no, I was like, I
4 was just going to stay in the water until somebody could
5 physically pull me up. I mean, there is no life in you at that
6 point. It's like either somebody's pulling you up or I'm just
7 going to hang on here and then fall off until I die because that's
8 how exhausted I was. So some man was there and he just grabbed
9 both my hands and lifted me up there.

10 Q. And lifted you up, right.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then how did you make your way to the --

13 A. Well, then --

14 Q. -- the boat, the big boat?

15 A. -- that's when I -- I was real wet, so actually I almost fell
16 back in. So then I had to get back down on my knees and that's
17 when I started crawling, but then he got behind me because I was
18 swimming back off of it and then kind of pushed me back up there
19 and then that's when I noticed a little something to the side.
20 There was a little -- some -- there was something else that was
21 like a boat, a little boat or something.

22 Q. A little tugboat?

23 A. Yeah, something to the right. I don't even know, recall what
24 it is right now, but that's when I thought that my mom was on the
25 other side of that. And then, so then I ran that way and got --

1 jumped on that and saw that. And then they took me off that and
2 made me go back up there and then they were giving us a bunch of
3 napkins to cover up with. I mean, everyone was very supportive,
4 but unfortunately, we were just so far out there and nobody was
5 really around to help us when we needed to be truly helped to have
6 the life saved. I don't know how to make sense of that.

7 Q. All right. Well, let me go back, I've got some follow-up
8 questions. You said you saw lightning before entering the water.

9 A. Yes. I think I saw just one little one off to the side --

10 Q. Did --

11 A. -- when we cruised by.

12 Q. And so is your, again, so before you're -- when you're
13 entering the water, you're sitting in the boat or you're sitting
14 in the boat there, where was it, was it off to your left, was it
15 off to your right?

16 A. I want to say I think it was off to my right.

17 Q. Did anyone else talk about seeing the lightning?

18 A. No. I mean, we just --

19 Q. Was it a topic of conversation?

20 A. No. I don't even know if anybody else -- I mean, I even
21 started, like, looking around, like I don't know. After I had
22 that conversation, that thing about the weather, then I started
23 just kind of looking around a little bit more, you know, because
24 we didn't look at the weather, we were just trying to get in as
25 much as we could, you know, we're like, let's go, go, go, that's

1 how my -- we are.

2 Q. And when -- can you recall where the vessel was when the
3 captain dropped the curtain? And I say where the vessel was, you
4 know, could you see the Showboat Branson Belle? I mean, is there
5 anything in your mind that could help you tell us?

6 A. Yes, I could see the boat when he dropped the curtain.

7 Q. And where was -- again, where was the Branson, where was the
8 Showboat Branson Belle when he dropped the curtain? Because
9 that'll give me an idea where --

10 A. I know the boat was to my -- it was to my right from where I
11 was sitting and I don't think we were quite to the middle of the
12 boat yet, so we were maybe just arriving towards the back, the
13 back part of the showboat.

14 Q. The back part of the showboat. So the showboat would've
15 been --

16 A. Kind of like maybe like this, because I was on this right
17 side, back.

18 Q. So the showboat was up here?

19 A. This would be the showboat.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. Yeah, just something like that --

22 Q. Okay. And that would've been --

23 A. I mean, honestly, it's so hard.

24 Q. Well, and that would've been the stern. So here's the
25 showboat and -- oh, excuse me, this was the bow of the showboat,

1 you know, the front part --

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. -- the gangway. So that was where --

4 A. No, like, on the -- I'm thinking of the boat being -- like
5 this is the back of the boat.

6 Q. This is the -- where the paddle wheel is?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. The boat -- okay. So let's say that this is my, this is my
10 land.

11 Q. Land, okay.

12 A. This is my land, this is my boat. I'm going to put my boat
13 right here.

14 Q. Your boat, okay.

15 A. And this is the front of my boat and this is the back of my
16 boat.

17 Q. All right.

18 A. And then this is -- that's on the duck and like, maybe like
19 this, so we're cruising back here and then maybe back around here,
20 he drops it.

21 Q. And here's a question. So this is the back of the -- that's
22 the --

23 A. Yes, because the -- from my recollection, the back of the
24 boat was here when we were on the side and then the red whatever
25 it is -- I don't know why I cannot remember these names right now.

1 Q. Ahh, the paddle wheel.

2 A. Went back here, spinning.

3 Q. Okay, the paddle wheel.

4 A. So this was on -- and yes. So this is where I was when I
5 looked up and saw these, these were still going, literally.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. It took a little bit for those to come off when this actually
8 went down. So that was probably a big terror for most people,
9 because it was a terror for us in the boat. We thought the boat
10 was going to go into it before we went under. Yeah, so that's why
11 I swam a little bit more out that way, because I thought I was
12 going to get caught in that.

13 Q. Understood, yeah. You said you hit your head. Do you recall
14 what you may have hit your head on?

15 A. No. I'm starting now, I was just starting to think, probably
16 when I was trying to get out, going up, that's probably when I hit
17 back here, because I'm pretty sure when they hit me here, that was
18 just from the life preserver.

19 Q. You mentioned water came in the bottom?

20 A. Yes, it just -- yes.

21 Q. So describe more of that. Yeah. So water came in the
22 bottom, so do you know where that water came from?

23 A. It was from the -- it was just there in the lake. It just
24 came right in.

25 Q. How did it get in?

1 A. It felt like the floor was separating from the side wall and
2 it just came straight in like that.

3 Q. The floor. Now, when you talked about --

4 A. So, like the -- like the actual boat wall, like that would be
5 the actual boat wall and this would be the floor or ground of the
6 boat, like where we'd walk.

7 Q. So -- okay.

8 A. It felt like this just completely separated, this section was
9 like separating in the water. It was just in -- coming -- it was
10 just --

11 Q. All right, okay. All right.

12 A. -- fiercely through the bottom right there.

13 Q. Now, if this was -- so if this is the side of the boat and
14 this is, you know, basically the bottom of the windows or where
15 the curtain came down.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Did any water come over here?

18 A. Through the curtain part?

19 Q. Right.

20 A. We -- it happened so fast, I wouldn't even be able to tell
21 you that. We were, once I -- once this started happening, that's
22 when I stood up, I grabbed my bag, my son stood up, looked at me,
23 and we went like this, saying the water's coming in, we're going
24 under, we were gone. We were done, we were under.

25 Q. And when you said you were -- so if here's the boat and you

1 said you were gone and you were under, can you recall how the boat
2 sank?

3 A. I think that it probably started going -- yeah, I mean --

4 Q. Did it sink like that or did it --

5 A. I mean, logically, I think it probably went, like if this is
6 the boat, since we were on the right back side, I feel that it was
7 actually going down faster on this side --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- because we were under water on this side before this
10 section was.

11 Q. Ahh, good description. Good description.

12 A. Because I started screaming at my mom because she was on the
13 side next -- it was me, my husband, and my mom, and then my
14 sister, because they were on the other side. They weren't under
15 water that I recall, or maybe I didn't even look to notice, but I
16 just feel that my son, in our section, we were under water first
17 right there and that they weren't and then once we screamed out,
18 that's when everybody stood up and my husband stood up and
19 screamed that everybody calm down. I don't know -- did I answer
20 that okay?

21 Q. Yeah. Yeah, you did. Yeah. And then when it -- go ahead
22 and continue, if you can recall.

23 A. So I mean, I just -- I think that it just started going like
24 this and after that, I don't even know what happened, I just know
25 that I was completely embodied in water and I just started

1 swimming up and --

2 Q. When it started going down like this, remember you were
3 talking about pushing your arms up, so --

4 A. Yes. At this, when I noticed that happened, I grabbed my
5 bag, I stood up, and I went like this to get onto the other side
6 of the boat and after that, I was completely in water and then
7 that's when it straight. I just -- natural reaction, just started
8 going up.

9 Q. When you started doing like this, what was the last thing you
10 saw before you went under water? When you -- were you -- did
11 you --

12 A. I didn't see -- once that water, it was so murky, like, I
13 didn't see anything.

14 Q. Well, when -- before your head went under water, were you --
15 did you see --

16 A. That's it. That's my last -- like, that's all I can recall
17 right now, but my last envision is standing up, going like that,
18 and then everybody on that side realizing that we were going down
19 on this side and my husband standing up and saying that.

20 Q. Did you, by chance, notice -- did you notice anyone else,
21 like, did you see what happened to the captain as the boat was
22 sinking?

23 A. I just remember looking at him and wondering if he was going
24 to ever say anything to us like, I don't know, some kind of
25 precaution or do this or do that. No, I just remember him going

1 like this, like real frantically. I mean, I was in shock. I'm
2 sure he was in shock, I know, you know.

3 Q. And that was showing, moving the steering wheel back and
4 forth.

5 A. Yeah, I mean, just real intense. And I mean, he was all
6 joking and everything and then once all this started, he just
7 completely dropped, like, talking to us altogether. He never said
8 another word to us and we were just completely on our own as
9 tourists on the boat.

10 MR. KARR: Well, that's all the questions I have for right
11 now. I may have some more as -- I may have some more. So we'll
12 go to Jim.

13 BY MR. GILLETTE:

14 Q. Hi, Tiff -- excuse me. Hi, Tiffany. I just want to do just
15 some follow-ups from what Mike asked you. One of them was, start
16 back when you are at -- arrived at the duck location, when you
17 were getting on the duck, itself.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You had mentioned that somebody had spoke to you about
20 weather.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you remember, did that person have a name tag? Do you
23 remember who it was, what he looked like, or she? Describe him or
24 her.

25 A. He was a man, he was thin. I don't know, middle aged,

1 probably. He was very polite. I think that whenever I asked
2 about the postponing or if we should reschedule, I think that he
3 probably just felt bad because we already had to -- we were
4 already waiting for the next boat and I think that they kind of
5 felt bad, so they wanted us to be able to go. And so that's
6 understandable. But no, I don't -- did not look at his name or --

7 Q. Did he have a job there?

8 A. Yes, he was in a unif- --

9 Q. What was his job?

10 A. He was an employee.

11 Q. Do you know --

12 A. -- and he was just waiting. I believe he was the man
13 standing there, when we went in to board, he was standing at the
14 line, actual like, you know, you have the greeter at the line, at
15 the front of the line, for you to get on --

16 Q. So he was --

17 A. -- so he was standing there. I don't know if that -- that's
18 probably not the right term, but that's what I'm thinking of right
19 now.

20 Q. Okay. Another follow-up question is going to the curtains
21 that they lowered.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who lowered it? Did you have more than one captain on board,
24 like someone drove the vessel?

25 A. Yes. The other captain, Bob was his name, I believe.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yes. Is that right?

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. He actually was -- he just drove us on land and then once we
5 got in the water, they switched places and the captain was there,
6 and then he was sitting right here behind him on the left side.
7 And when the curtains got lowered, I don't know if I honestly, at
8 this point, recall if he lowered them or the captain lowered them.

9 Q. Okay. All right. And then --

10 A. It did look like he was really -- I did look over at Bob and
11 he looked like he was just really -- I don't know, just there,
12 like quiet and mesmerized like, in like, deep thought like.

13 Q. Was this during the entire trip on the water or towards the
14 end of it?

15 A. I don't know because I only looked at him that one time. I'm
16 sorry.

17 Q. Okay, just the one time?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Yeah, no problem. Okay. And then, I just want to also do a
20 follow-up kind of on the vessel sinking and I really want to just
21 try to get it for the transcriber because you described it. Was
22 that, can you tell me, right, left, back, front, like which end
23 started going down first? You can describe it, if you can
24 describe it --

25 A. Well, like if this is -- if this is the --

1 Q. If you can describe it, right, left, front, back, back in the
2 back.

3 A. It, okay, so we have -- if this is the big ship right here
4 and this is the back of it and this is us --

5 MR. KARR: Now, the back of it meaning the side --

6 MR. GILLETTE: The back of the duck.

7 MS. COLLINS: Yeah, this is the -- no, this is the back of
8 the showboat right here.

9 MR. GILLETTE: Okay.

10 MR. KARR: And the paddle wheel is here, okay.

11 MS. COLLINS: Yes, and the paddle wheel is right here.

12 MR. GILLETTE: Okay.

13 MS. COLLINS: This is the duck boat coming up this way.

14 MR. GILLETTE: The duck boat.

15 MS. COLLINS: The right side, that's where I was sitting.

16 MR. GILLETTE: Okay.

17 MS. COLLINS: And that's where it started going down, right
18 here.

19 BY MR. GILLETTE:

20 Q. And so what you're pointing out is the --

21 A. Kind of the --

22 Q. -- aft and the back and the right side started going --

23 A. Yeah. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. Did --

25 A. Probably more towards -- yeah, it's probably definitely more

1 towards the back, maybe a little bit towards the aft (ph.) back.

2 Q. Okay. Did you see the front end rising or anything to that
3 nature?

4 A. To me, it just felt like it went like this, kind of like.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Because I'm pretty sure we were definitely under water and
7 they really hadn't quite experienced it on this side to the depth
8 that we had over here.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. So it was kind of maybe it started going like that and then I
11 don't know what happened, it was just, like, done.

12 Q. Okay. And then wind. Do you know which way the wind was
13 blowing, like on your --

14 A. I felt like we were, I was wondering because we were going
15 against the wind, so we were fighting the waves and the wind,
16 because I do recall thinking to myself, would it be easier if we
17 were, like, driving away from the waves? Like, you know, ride the
18 waves back to where we came from. So I do recall we were
19 definitely going against all of that.

20 Q. So you were going into the wind?

21 A. Yes, it was like we were going straight, like fighting coming
22 towards it, that's what it felt like.

23 Q. Okay. Did the wind feel straight, did it feel to your left,
24 did it feel to your right?

25 A. It seems like it felt straight, but then it felt like it was

1 coming from every direction except the back, you know, when it was
2 all said and done, it was like just -- just the whole, all three
3 sides.

4 Q. Okay. All right --

5 A. It's like we were like in a -- I don't know, a water-like
6 whirlwind, tornado thing. I don't know.

7 Q. Okay. Did you hear any alarms? When you were talking
8 about -- you said you saw water and you felt water coming up from
9 the lake, towards your feet.

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. Did you hear any type of alarms?

12 A. There was nothing. Uh-uh.

13 Q. Okay. Did you ever hear any conversations about the captain
14 or from the captain or the driver at all? Like, other than the
15 beginning, I'm talking about the end.

16 A. When all the chaos started or just the weather?

17 Q. Yes. Yes.

18 A. No, when the weather started getting bad, no, we never heard
19 anything from the captain.

20 Q. Did you hear if there was anything mentioned about shutting
21 the curtains or did they just do that kind of quietly?

22 A. I don't recall hearing anything about that. I just recall
23 seeing it happen.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But it was also really hard to make out when he was talking

1 or when he was -- when he would get on that thing, it was hard to
2 make out his words. But he didn't say anything in it though to
3 make out.

4 Q. Okay. And when you're saying this thing, what are you
5 referring to? What was he speaking into?

6 A. I don't know, a little mic --

7 Q. Like a microphone?

8 A. Yeah. Yes.

9 MR. GILLETTE: Okay, all right. Thank you, Tiffany.

10 MS. COLLINS: Oh, you're welcome.

11 BY MR. YOUNG:

12 Q. I have a few questions, too, Tiffany. This is Brian Young
13 with the NTSB. This is a really, really good recount of what you
14 remember and since we're recording it, they're not going to be
15 able to see the tissue box, but when you're using a tissue box to
16 show the orientation of the boat, how it's sitting in the water,
17 and one of the things you've identified to us is that it was
18 definitely leaning towards the right side or the starboard side,
19 but if you can, as they're looking forward towards where the
20 captain steers from, do you think you might've seen the captain be
21 uphill a bit or would the captain have been downhill, like the
22 front of the boat? We really understand that you were leaning
23 this way.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But could you remember if it was up or down, like the bow of

1 the boat or the front of the boat? You know, like would you --

2 A. I would say it would probably be, since we were going back, I
3 mean, that this was up maybe a little bit more.

4 Q. So maybe the front end was a little higher?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Okay, great. No, that's, that's very helpful to us. And
7 when you talked about these curtains coming down, did they come
8 down slow or did they jump down fast? Do you remember?

9 A. It -- I don't think it was a slow thing, I mean, it was just
10 like that, then down.

11 Q. Did you remember any of them being released like --

12 A. No, they were never released. Not to my knowledge or that I
13 noticed. I don't believe those were ever released and I thought
14 kind of that the captain had popped the top, but from what I've
15 been reading and looking into, that that's not even really
16 feasible. So no, it was just a cage, we were caged in. It didn't
17 come -- they didn't come up.

18 Q. Okay. So the two side curtains are like clear vinyl that you
19 can see through. The top canopy is a vinyl, it's white. Do
20 you -- when you did say you pushed up, do you think you may have
21 pushed through a white vinyl or could you see it or do you think
22 you actually broke through something or had it broken up already
23 before you -- do you remember?

24 A. I don't even think I could know because it just felt like we
25 were -- it was so dark. I mean, it was dark --

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. -- and I honestly don't know if I contributed to making a
3 hole. I just know that I just kept going like this until it
4 was -- there was a hole. So I don't know if it all came off
5 together or I made a hole. I can't tell you, I don't -- I mean --

6 Q. I just don't know if you remembered actually breaking through
7 the vinyl or if maybe the force of the water broke through as it
8 was going down? I'm just trying to think how you --

9 A. I would -- if I was gambling, I would say that the water is
10 the only reason that it got lifted off --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- because I don't -- I don't recall actually breaking
13 something, but I don't recall hitting the back of my head right
14 here, either.

15 Q. Right, right.

16 A. But, yes. I mean, if I have to pick out of the two, my
17 option would be that the ceiling just finally popped off.

18 Q. Okay. While you were out on the lake, could you hear the
19 engine running, were you aware that the engine was making some
20 sort of a noise like a car engine?

21 A. Oh, yeah.

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. It did sound not natural or right, but --

24 Q. And you knew it was operating by --

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Yeah. At any time did you hear it stop? While you were
2 trying to get towards the ramp, do you remember hearing it go
3 quiet in terms of the engine?

4 A. It seems like maybe right before it happened, it might've
5 gotten quiet. Honestly, it's just hard to --

6 Q. Sure, sure.

7 A. -- know.

8 Q. We're just trying to see how long the engine was running
9 prior to.

10 A. Right. No, I understand.

11 Q. Yeah, just, if you could recall how it sounded, you know, if
12 it got louder, it got quieter, or if it stopped.

13 A. Well, I know when it, before it all happened, it was getting
14 like, louder and making, you know, more raucous noises than I
15 would think that would be normal. It might have gotten quiet
16 right before we went down. Probably, it probably did, but I'm
17 sorry.

18 Q. No, it's a big engine and it's way up forward and you might
19 -- you know, might be able to hear the rumbling of it or the
20 vibrating of it, you know, just like a car.

21 A. I mean, it obviously sounded like it was breaking down. That
22 was like, definitely obvious.

23 Q. Towards the end?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And would that be maybe around the time when there was water

1 coming up to the -- kind of put it --

2 A. I would say that would be a little bit before that.

3 Q. Okay. When they changed drivers --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and the captain got in and you started going into the
6 lake, do you remember any sort of a life jacket demonstration?

7 A. They -- he did say that they were up there and it went real
8 quick, but it wasn't like -- you know what I mean? He didn't
9 physically put them on, that I recall, and demonstrate how to do
10 it. He said they were there, but --

11 Q. Okay. And you said you tried to get to one?

12 A. I did. And it --

13 Q. It sounds like it was --

14 A. Yes, it -- I couldn't, there was no way. And then it's like
15 I felt that they weren't even -- at that point in time, when I was
16 trying to get one, it seemed like they weren't even above me
17 because I felt like I was reaching in front of me, like I don't
18 know why because I actually have a picture on here that shows
19 they're above me and when I -- when I placed it back, I'm thinking
20 that they're all in front of me and there was none above me at the
21 time that I was trying to get one. So that doesn't make any
22 sense, right?

23 Q. Well, you could see it, but you felt you couldn't get to it.
24 Maybe?

25 A. No, like in the picture that I have, it shows that there's a

1 life jacket above me, but when I'm trying to count them, I don't
2 count enough per person, like -- and then if you look on the --
3 but when I was actually in the boat, when I was trying to get
4 my -- decided I better grab a life jacket, it didn't feel like
5 they were above me anymore. It felt like they were up there and I
6 was like turning and wrapped, but I couldn't -- I don't know.

7 Q. No, you couldn't reach them?

8 A. Yes. I mean, I -- there -- no. I mean, there was no time to
9 do it anyway, or I don't even know how that thing came apart to
10 get them, to pull them down. I don't know. I mean, first of all,
11 the life jackets shouldn't be like that. Here I am talking about
12 my opinions, but I mean, they should be accessible per person
13 right there, like an airplane, you know? I mean, that was not the
14 situation in any case, in my opinion. And I mean, if you're
15 short, how are -- what are you supposed to do? I mean, you can't
16 get it and wear it. How are they even attached up there? I don't
17 understand, how are they up there, are they individually, because
18 I didn't know how -- are they like on a rod, you pull one thing or
19 does each have a thing to pull down?

20 Q. Right.

21 A. I don't think any of us really knew. I'll get -- the -- on
22 the other side where my sister was sitting, I have the picture, if
23 you guys want to see it --

24 Q. Sure. Yeah. How tall are you, Tiffany?

25 A. I'm about 5'2 and a half on a good day.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I just had to throw that half in there. Sorry, I take a lot
3 of pictures.

4 MR. KARR: You did or --

5 MS. COLLINS: No, I have -- like, this is my daughter I've
6 taken. No, I already have a lot of pictures on here --

7 MR. YOUNG: Do you have videos on there as well?

8 MS. COLLINS: I think I have one. Sorry, my vision's been
9 off, too. I have lupus and a lot of other stuff, so I don't even
10 know how I managed all of this.

11 MR. KARR: What was that that you have?

12 MS. COLLINS: I have lupus and well, I have several
13 autoimmune illnesses and nerve damage and all kinds of stuff. I
14 don't even realize that I had taken this many. Sorry. I
15 apologize. Okay, so here we -- here is this afternoon. This was
16 just when we got there and then we have that little, you know,
17 30-minute wait because we were waiting. This was of the boys --

18 MR. YOUNG: Can we make them big and look at them
19 individually?

20 MS. COLLINS: Yes. Okay, so the boys were right here and
21 then waiting. So if you looked right here, there's -- well, you
22 guys can just take my phone and utilize this (indiscernible).

23 MR. KARR: Okay.

24 MS. COLLINS: It'd probably be easier for you to enlarge. So
25 that's my son, that's my nephew, that's myself, and my husband.

1 Okay, so here is some life jackets. I don't -- I don't know
2 what's -- my daughter took this. This is my daughter right here,
3 but -- and then that's my niece, my step-daughter, and my mom.

4 MR. YOUNG: Are those selfies or did someone else --

5 MS. COLLINS: My daughter took this. That's her kind of like
6 she did like a back.

7 MR. YOUNG: Okay. She --

8 MR. KARR: And so this is looking towards the rear of the
9 boat?

10 MR. YOUNG: Yeah.

11 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

12 MR. YOUNG: Near the end of this.

13 MS. COLLINS: Because she's in front of.

14 MR. KARR: Yeah. Can you e-mail me this picture because this
15 would help us identify where everybody was sitting.

16 MS. COLLINS: Yes. And then if you -- which, if you'll
17 notice, too, because I was trying to replay this whole life jacket
18 thing, like right here, this is them and it doesn't look like
19 they're -- and these ones right here, I believe, were all children
20 life jackets. So if you look back through here, there's nothing
21 here and then these are children life jackets, so there's
22 absolutely nothing for these individuals. I mean, this is just
23 what I was seeing.

24 MR. KARR: When you -- all right. So at any time when the
25 captain talked, did he explain where the life jackets were stored?

1 MS. COLLINS: He did say that the adults were up on the --
2 I -- well, I remember thinking it was all the adult were above --

3 MR. KARR: Well, what did the captain say?

4 MS. COLLINS: He's -- I think he said they were on the top
5 right of, so on the opposite side in front of my daughter were the
6 adults, on this side. And then back here were the children.
7 That's what I believe he said.

8 MR. KARR: And did he say anything else about how you -- did
9 he explain how you were supposed to go get them?

10 MS. COLLINS: Not that I recall.

11 MR. KARR: All right. Did he explain how to pull them down?

12 MS. COLLINS: Not that I recall.

13 MR. KARR: Okay -- good.

14 MS. COLLINS: Let me see if I have anything different.

15 (Indiscernible). Yes. So then back right here, that's where the
16 water -- like right in here, that's where it started coming in.

17 MR. GILLETTE: Do you know when that picture was actually
18 taken?

19 BY MR. YOUNG:

20 Q. Could that have been before you left, because I see a blue
21 fence over here right alongside it. Is that where you --

22 A. Yes, yes. That might've been before he took off.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. That might've been where she -- yes, because then they're
25 driving right here.

1 Q. And which one, is it 7?

2 A. Well, see -- this is my son right here.

3 Q. Oh, okay.

4 A. That's my nephew and that's my daughter. See, that's when I
5 was, like, looking at this because I really didn't remember one
6 being in front -- above me -- I thought they were all in front
7 above me. So that kind of threw me, but you can see them more
8 there.

9 Q. So this is when you're driving on the road through Branson?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you make that one larger?

12 A. Yes. This one? You guys can feel free to just -- you know,
13 it's -- it -- my nephew too, he made the statement or before he
14 went under, I hope this isn't the next Titanic. And the two older
15 men to his left were laughing and joking about it.

16 Q. Did any of your kids have any pictures or video on their
17 phones where -- in the jay (ph.) back there?

18 A. My niece lost hers, my husband lost his. My son probably --
19 well, I think my husband has my son's phone, so I think you
20 guys -- have you had access to that already, his?

21 Q. I haven't seen those.

22 A. Oh. Well, then yes, he has some stuff on his phone.

23 Q. Didn't you have that purple (indiscernible)? Was that with
24 the other family or --

25 A. No, that was with the family of 11.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. There's actually one -- somebody in our crew had -- does have
3 a (indiscernible), there's a video where we kind of went around
4 the boat a little bit, where you did see people's placement
5 (indiscernible).

6 Q. And that's what we really want to do is make a little map of
7 where everybody was sitting, so that'll help us understand the
8 positions of every person.

9 A. Right, right. Well, I mean, and I think that that's part of
10 the -- when I'm thinking about how we survived, I mean, just well,
11 the fact that we wound up swimming and then also the placement of
12 maybe where we were on the boat. And then the ages, too. You
13 know, there were a lot of young and old, you know, if my kids
14 would've been four or five.

15 Q. This is the drive there?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that over the dam?

18 A. I think so. Yeah, I think so.

19 Q. And this is it, also. Like if they --

20 A. Yes, that's -- I think that's when we were stopped, maybe.
21 Is that right before we went into the water?

22 Q. Yeah. Stopped or maybe the drivers changing out, is that the
23 reason you stopped?

24 A. It seems like we were backed up. I think that the first boat
25 had some kind of difficulties or something. They had to do

1 something, so we were behind schedule.

2 Q. And did you skip the road part? Did you just go directly to
3 the water part?

4 A. I believe, yeah, we went straight to the water --

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. -- from the location where we started.

7 Q. Okay, you didn't have a tour down the mountain?

8 A. No. I think I had another video.

9 MR. KARR: Oh, matter of fact, what -- see, we ID that. See,
10 for the -- I'd like that picture, too.

11 MR. YOUNG: If you don't mind?

12 MS. COLLINS: Oh, no, sure.

13 MR. YOUNG: Can you send them all?

14 MS. COLLINS: Yes, so that's what I figured. Just make it
15 simple, right?

16 (Crosstalk.)

17 MR. YOUNG: Is this one (indiscernible) AirDrop them or is
18 this a Samsung?

19 MS. COLLINS: Honestly, I've had a generic phone because I
20 don't believe in paying for phones or contracts, so this is -- I
21 just got this phone before we left and I hadn't had a good one in
22 9 years, so. I can't tell you, I'm still getting familiar with
23 all of this.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You've got -- well, I've got to get on
25 your plan --

1 MR. YOUNG: This is you going into the water?

2 (Indiscernible) --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, you just went into the water --

4 MR. YOUNG: -- into the water. (Indiscernible).

5 MS. COLLINS: There's one where my daughter got my phone and
6 I was telling her to try to film the thing because he was driving
7 the boat, that's on there.

8 MR. GILLETTE: And we heard your son had a bunch of pictures,
9 too; he did mention that. So you had his -- I'm sorry, your
10 husband said your son had photos, as well --

11 MS. COLLINS: Um-hum.

12 MR. GILLETTE: -- on his, and videos and stuff. We'd like to
13 get those, as well (indiscernible) --

14 MS. COLLINS: Oh, sure.

15 MR. GILLETTE: -- a tremendous help to us.

16 MS. COLLINS: Oh, I'm sure.

17 MR. YOUNG: Even for us to look at the weather. I mean, this
18 tells us so much about the weather. This video is --

19 MR. GILLETTE: It's thundering -- yeah (indiscernible).

20 MR. YOUNG: -- very important, yeah, this is great.

21 MR. GILLETTE: (Indiscernible) that's (indiscernible) --

22 MS. COLLINS: Okay. So then, do I have a picture? There
23 is -- there was a -- he let the kids drive for a minute, so [REDACTED]
24 went up there for a minute and he was like -- I mean, I don't
25 think he's really driving it, I don't know, I couldn't tell up

1 there. But then after him, my nephew went and then the little
2 boy, the littler one that didn't make it, went up there. And then
3 after that, he -- it got serious.

4 BY MR. YOUNG:

5 Q. So this right here, this is with the curtain down. Now,
6 who's taking this picture? This is you?

7 A. Um-hum.

8 Q. And you were on the starboard side, so this is looking out of
9 your starboard window?

10 A. Um-hum.

11 Q. Your right-side window?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that was your mother?

14 A. That's my mom. Um-hum. And that right -- yeah, I was
15 literally right behind him.

16 Q. The woman?

17 A. My daughter, yes.

18 Q. Okay, so you positioned, positioned (indiscernible) --

19 A. Apparently, there's a -- I thought I had another one on here
20 where they were.

21 Q. Did -- was that the end of that or did that come to
22 (indiscernible) or --

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Let's see. I thought I saw some --

25 A. I might have my --

1 (Video played.)

2 BY MR. YOUNG:

3 Q. Was water coming over this, though?

4 A. Like down this low?

5 Q. Yes.

6 MR. KARR: Yes.

7 MS. COLLINS: I don't know, I don't -- I don't know. It
8 might -- maybe again when I turn it off I can look at it.

9 (Video stopped.)

10 MS. COLLINS: No, no, it's like --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, it was turned and then
12 (indiscernible).

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Um-hum, (indiscernible).

14 MS. COLLINS: There was another -- well, where's the -- I
15 thought there was a little -- yes, right, this one. That kind
16 of -- if you -- it goes real fast, but --

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's great.

18 MS. COLLINS: I was, like, yelling at my daughter, film your
19 brother, so --

20 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, these are really good videos.

21 (Indiscernible) --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now, now this on here --

24 (Video played.)

25 (Video stopped.)

1 MR. YOUNG: They're very good videos, yeah. Yeah. Thank you
2 for showing them.

3 MS. COLLINS: Oh, sure.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. I just had two or three more
5 questions. And do you need a break or anything or water?

6 MS. COLLINS: Oh, no, no. Go ahead.

7 BY MR. YOUNG:

8 Q. There was one thing you mentioned when you talked with Mike,
9 you said something saved their lives. What were you talking
10 about? When they were in the water, you said possibly the paddle
11 saved their lives or something they grabbed onto saved their
12 lives?

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 MR. KARR: The paddle wheel.

15 MS. COLLINS: Well, my mom, when she, you know, kind of
16 talked -- she's really a big mess, but when she kind of says
17 stuff -- she just said that she had made it to that red -- this
18 big red thing in the back. What is that called?

19 MR. YOUNG: It's a paddle, it's a paddle.

20 MS. COLLINS: A paddle, yes. Sorry, I don't know why I
21 cannot do this right now.

22 MR. KARR: It's a paddle wheel, yeah.

23 MS. COLLINS: Yeah, she said she just climbed onto that and
24 she just held on as long as she could and I think she probably
25 fell off and then started floating and then they grabbed her and

1 resuscitated her. But my sister and my niece said that they had
2 swam -- or my niece got up on it and I guess my sister was kind of
3 giving up a little bit and my niece was screaming mommy, mommy,
4 just keep going, keep going, to her and then she, too, finally,
5 eventually got up there and they were on there together.

6 BY MR. YOUNG:

7 Q. So at some point when you first got out of the water, the
8 paddle wheel was running?

9 A. Yes, but they -- yes.

10 Q. And then it stopped?

11 A. It did.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I think that when it -- you know, it all happened so fast
14 that when they could get to it, yes, they did turn it off. From
15 listening to their stories.

16 Q. So a few people were actually holding on to the stopped
17 paddle, the red paddle, is that right?

18 A. Yes, I think so. Well, my mom did state, she said, I was --
19 gosh, I wish I -- she did tell me if it was spinning when she got
20 there or not. She just -- I think I asked her if it, she thought
21 she was going to get hurt from it --

22 Q. Right.

23 A. -- and she said well, it was either that or drowning, so --
24 yeah.

25 Q. On the side of the boat, on the Duck Boat 7, there are little

1 tiny pipes that stick up about that far and there's a little cap.
2 And they -- sometimes water comes out of those. Did you guys
3 notice any of that water coming out of little tiny pipes and
4 shooting up at all --

5 A. No, I don't even think that that would have been visibly
6 because it was just so choppy --

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. -- that --

9 Q. Would it just have been outside the screen?

10 A. Well, of course, I mean, there was so much water already
11 splashing on the screen that I couldn't even decipher if it was
12 the huge waves or that. So no, I did not, I did not notice that.

13 MR. YOUNG: For the moment, it looks like you've answered all
14 of my questions. Thanks.

15 MS. COLLINS: Okay.

16 MR. YOUNG: And the other thing is too -- whatever family
17 members have, other pictures or videos, they're a tremendous help,
18 so we appreciate them sharing with us --

19 MS. COLLINS: Yes, yes, of course.

20 MR. YOUNG: -- what happened, you know, (indiscernible) it's
21 a great help.

22 MR. KARR: Could I -- let's see, give me a second to see if
23 I've got any more. Well, you know, we haven't spoken to any kids.
24 Did the children relay anything to you?

25 MS. COLLINS: I'm fine with you guys talking to my children.

1 I mean, I don't know how the procedures go with all of that. I
2 mean --

3 MR. KARR: Well, thanks for offering that up, but as a
4 organization, we decided not to talk to kids.

5 MS. COLLINS: Okay. And not my 19-year-old, either? She's
6 pretty -- she recalls stuff pretty well.

7 MR. YOUNG: I think a 19-year-old is --

8 MR. KARR: Yeah, we'd be happy --

9 MS. COLLINS: She'll be 21 in October. Sorry, 20.

10 MR. KARR: Sure. If she's, if you, you know, I --

11 MS. COLLINS: Yes, I can send her over.

12 MR. KARR: Sure.

13 MR. YOUNG: If there's anything else, you know, if we want to
14 be done here, just if there's anything else that you recall and
15 I'll leave my business card and at any time --

16 MS. COLLINS: Yeah.

17 MR. YOUNG: -- you could contact us. You know, just any
18 other pictures, or that kind of thing.

19 MS. COLLINS: Okay, yes. And if you guys have any other
20 questions, which I mean, I know I -- you know, when you leave,
21 you're reflecting on it and you recall things --

22 MR. YOUNG: Absolutely.

23 MS. COLLINS: -- so I know that will be natural. And I'm
24 not -- I haven't been answering my phone with all the different
25 random phone calls. So now that I know this is you guys, so --

1 MR. KARR: All right. And I'm going to -- well, and what
2 I'll do is I'll stop the recording, so it's 11:17. And we want to
3 say, yeah, thanks for providing information. This is --

4 MS. COLLINS: No. I mean, I really -- I hope that you guys
5 can -- I personally don't think these boats -- I've ridden these
6 things, I even rode the one in Delaware and I've never thought
7 about these things coming down like that and I would never want
8 another human being to get on one of those in the water.
9 Absolutely, I do not. I don't think that should ever be allowed
10 again, with the shape that they are. That boat there should never
11 be in the water with another human being as far as I'm concerned.
12 Like no way, that thing is not meant to tolerate what we endured
13 out there. It's not. So that was an opinion, so it was --

14 (Crosstalk.)

15 MR. KARR: Well, let me ask you this. One of the questions
16 we -- the last thing we do is -- if anything that you'd like to
17 tell us that we didn't ask and that's -- that counts as one.

18 MS. COLLINS: Yes. And I -- you know, and I caught -- I
19 caught -- was it Wisconsin or somewhere it said that they weren't
20 going to change any safety cautions with theirs? Was that a title
21 that came out? I didn't read all of it, but I saw that and I was
22 absolutely disgusted. I mean, I didn't even look at it. I'm
23 like, seriously? But I -- and I don't know what their boats are
24 and they could be completely different protocol or whatever, from
25 the ones here, but those things have no business being on the

1 water.

2 MR. KARR: And let me ask you why -- what makes you say that?
3 What specifically about --

4 MS. COLLINS: Honestly, when that all took place, I felt like
5 I was sitting in a paper boat that a kid made, floating --

6 MR. KARR: Okay.

7 MS. COLLINS: -- trying to stay -- that's what it felt like.
8 I felt like I was in a paper machine.

9 MR. KARR: Because of the way the waves went in?

10 MS. COLLINS: It (indiscernible) -- it was weak, it couldn't
11 handle it, it couldn't -- it just couldn't.

12 MR. KARR: All right. And anything else?

13 MS. COLLINS: I don't know. Get them off the water.

14 MR. KARR: All right, okay. All right, we're going to -- so
15 now it's 11:19 and I'm going to stop the recording. All right,
16 thank you, thank you.

17 MS. COLLINS: Okay, uh-huh.

18 (Whereupon, at 11:19 a.m., the interview concluded.)

19

20

21

22

23

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 Tiffany Collins

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA18MM028

PLACE: Branson, Missouri

DATE: July 24, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to
the recording accomplished at the hearing.



David Martini
Transcriber