



Attachment – United Bikers of Maine Interview

Augusta, ME

HWY17FH014

(32 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH INVOLVING UNITED BIKERS

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OF MAINE TOY RUN, AUGUSTA, MAINE

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Accident No.: HWY17IH014

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

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Interview of: SANDY LYLE and
RICHARD FOSSAugusta Police Station
Augusta, MaineWednesday,
December 6, 2017

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL FOX, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Sandy Lyle and Richard Foss:
By Mr. Fox

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I N T E R V I E W

(2:27 p.m.)

MR. FOX: So today is December 6th. The time is 2:27, and I'm located at the -- this is Michael Fox, investigator, Office of Highway Safety, NTSB, Washington, D.C. bureau. I'm located at the Augusta Police Station, Augusta, Maine. And, I'm going to be interviewing the United Bikers of Maine, Incorporated.

So what we'll do is we'll go around the room and introduce each person, and please state your name, spell your last name, and then tell me your title.

MR. LYLE: My name is Sandy Lyle, that's L-y-l-e, and I'm the President of the United Bikers of Maine.

MR. FOSS: I'm Richard Foss, F-o-s-s. I am the Public Relations Executive Assistant and Toy Run Coordinator for the 2018 Toy Run.

MR. FOX: Very good. So thank you, gentlemen, for coming to talk to me, and I appreciate you bringing the new coordinator for next year also, so that we can all learn together about this tragedy that happened.

So as I mentioned earlier on the phone, the purpose of this discussion is to talk about the events that took place on that Toy Run, your last toy run in September in which there was an accident involving two riders.

INTERVIEW OF UNITED BIKERS OF MAINE

SANDY LYLE AND RICHARD FOSS

1 MR. FOX: So let's start with the United Bikers of Maine.
2 Can you tell me a little bit about the organization, you know, how
3 long it's been in existence, for example.

4 MR. LYLE: It's been in existence since 1975, which is when
5 it was originally incorporated. It's original purpose was to get
6 involved in legislation that would be beneficial to motorcyclists
7 as well as education. We believe very heavily in -- we have,
8 since the very beginning, believed that education, rather than
9 legislation, is the best way to get safe riders on the road.

10 We have at various times had safety schools. We had, for a
11 number of years, we had a rider education course that was put on
12 and that was stopped probably 12 years ago. About 12 years ago --

13 MR. FOSS: Somewhere in there.

14 MR. LYLE: -- was when that ended. A number of the key
15 people who were running that and had the certifications to do it
16 moved out of state, and so originally they were just putting it on
17 hiatus but it hasn't been brought back yet. This is one of the
18 things that, among other things, that we're looking at under this
19 new group is this sort of thing, to bring it back.

20 But principally the United Bikers of Maine was organized to
21 promote safety and to promote reasonable legislation through the
22 state legislature.

23 We have had a learning curve as to how to do that, and as of
24 right now, we are very successful in the legislative ends of
25 things. We have a very good reputation among the legislators in

1 the state. A number of years ago the mentality was a lot
2 different, and I mean that on both sides of the house it was a lot
3 different, in that it was felt that if you brought as many bikers
4 into the state house as absolutely possible, to make as much noise
5 as possible, you'd get things done, and nothing could be further
6 from the truth. We now bring just key individuals, and we're
7 respectful of the fact that that's their house and we're visiting
8 their house. So we get an awful lot further. And that also means
9 that when they have questions, they don't hesitate to give us a
10 call.

11 We also participate in different safety committees. There's
12 the Maine State Transportation Safety Board, which we meet on
13 quarterly, which there are members of the Department of Public
14 Safety, which means the state troopers, DOT, Registry and other
15 interested groups. What's the truck one?

16 MR. FOSS: Yeah, you had to ask. Transportation
17 Association --

18 MR. LYLE: Maine State Transportation --

19 MR. FOSS: Yeah, yeah.

20 MR. LYLE: -- Association.

21 MR. FOSS: Association, yep.

22 MR. LYLE: And they're the group that represents the truckers
23 in the state. They're part of that. We're part of it, and there
24 is a group that, as we got bigger, became an offshoot of the
25 United Bikers of Maine, and although we are very closely related

1 to it, it is pretty much a separate working organization, although
2 I'm a member of it, and that would be the MMPAC, and that's the
3 Maine Motorcycle Political Action Committee. They're actually the
4 ones now that -- us -- I say they -- we/they, working under the
5 Political Action Committee, are the ones that go up and do the
6 legislation right at the moment.

7 MR. FOX: Okay.

8 MR. LYLE: But that's kind of the history of it.

9 MR. FOX: So you represent motorcycle owners and riders.

10 MR. LYLE: Um-hum, and people with an interest in
11 motorcycling as well.

12 MR. FOX: Do you -- correct me if I'm wrong -- you do or you
13 do not do any beginner course training?

14 MR. LYLE: Not at the moment, we do not.

15 MR. FOX: You do not. Okay.

16 MR. LYLE: We have a history of having done it in the past.
17 In fact, we had a school bus and a number of motorcycles and
18 classroom and that sort of thing.

19 MR. FOX: Right. But you're not involved in it now?

20 MR. LYLE: Not now, no.

21 MR. FOX: Okay. So as far as your organization is concerned,
22 is there a fee to join?

23 MR. LYLE: Yes, there is.

24 MR. FOX: How much is that?

25 MR. LYLE: \$20 for a single and \$25 for a family.

1 MR. FOX: Is that per year?

2 MR. LYLE: Yes.

3 MR. FOX: And how many current members do you have?

4 MR. LYLE: Around 1700 is what --

5 MR. FOSS: 14- last meeting.

6 MR. LYLE: I think he just took a whole bunch more --

7 MR. FOSS: Oh, did he? Okay.

8 MR. LYLE: Yeah, we'll go with that.

9 MR. FOSS: Yep.

10 MR. FOX: 1400?

11 MR. LYLE: 14- was reported, but he had taken in a number of
12 new members in that month prior to that, that hadn't been recorded
13 yet. But we have a fluctuation in --

14 MR. FOSS: You come back to us in June and it's, you know,
15 it's close to 2,000. You come to us in December and it's -- you
16 know, it's off the mindset of everybody, so --

17 MR. FOX: Okay.

18 MR. LYLE: Like a lot of other motorcycle things, we are
19 suffering at the moment from the same thing that Harley-Davidson
20 and those people are suffering from, in that the younger
21 generation doesn't necessarily want to get involved.

22 MR. FOX: In riding?

23 MR. LYLE: In riding, correct. Or with us. I mean, they see
24 that they're there, and when you speak to an awful lot of the
25 younger generation, their attitude is, well, that's what you guys

1 did. That's there, and they have the attitude that it's there
2 forever, that it's going to perpetuate. They don't understand
3 that it takes work to keep it where it is.

4 MR. FOX: Now I have -- I printed off this diagram of your E-
5 Board.

6 MR. LYLE: Yeah.

7 MR. FOX: This appears to be the president, vice president,
8 treasurer, you know, secretary, board members.

9 MR. LYLE: Yep.

10 MR. FOX: And then this group of other folks that I guess
11 represent counties. Am I saying that correctly?

12 MR. LYLE: That's correct. Each county is represented by
13 what they call a CD, or a county director. Initially the state
14 was divided into four divisions and the counties were divided up
15 in each of those four divisions, and it was found at one point
16 that it would be much better to actually have 16 individual
17 counties for better representation at the executive board.

18 MR. FOX: And are any of these paid positions or voluntary?

19 MR. LYLE: Everything is voluntary.

20 MR. FOSS: Everything is voluntary.

21 MR. LYLE: Nobody's paid for anything.

22 MR. FOX: Okay.

23 MR. FOSS: No, we have -- and United Bikers is proud of that
24 fact, that this is an all volunteer community. Nobody receives
25 any monetary value from being with United Bikers.

1 MR. FOX: Switching gears, the event is called Toy Run. Is
2 that the official title of it?

3 MR. LYLE: Yep.

4 MR. FOX: The Toy Run.

5 MR. LYLE: Yep.

6 MR. FOSS: United Bikers of Maine Toy Run.

7 MR. LYLE: And, in fact, you made the same mistake that a lot
8 of people make in referring to it as the United Bikers of Maine
9 Toys for Tots. It's not, and we work very hard to make sure that
10 there is a separation of that.

11 MR. FOX: Correct. And forgive me if I did say that.

12 MR. LYLE: No, no, no. No, it brings up a point that we deal
13 with every year. So you're not alone and it's not --

14 MR. FOSS: We get it every year.

15 MR. FOX: So what -- so while we're on that topic, what is
16 the United Bikers of Maine Toy Run? What is its purpose?

17 MR. LYLE: Its purpose is to collect toys in a central
18 location from around the state and from donations from businesses,
19 from bikers, from -- let's see. We have one of the car
20 dealerships that donates bicycles. There are other people like
21 Walmart donates, usually donates cards every year for us to
22 purchase toys and that sort of thing.

23 Once we gather all the toys together, they're divided up into
24 actually 17 different groups because we have included the
25 Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe as one of the groups that we divide it

1 up for. And then they go out to them -- they're given to
2 representatives. The representatives are tasked with being there
3 at the Toy Run, and they hand them the bags of toys and they take
4 them back to their counties.

5 Each county is allowed to pick an organization which hands
6 them out to the kids. A lot of them use the community action
7 programs, which is a group that kind of watches over seniors and
8 kids and Head Start programs and that sort of thing. The whole
9 idea is to make sure that as many kids as absolutely possible
10 within the State of Maine have a Christmas.

11 MR. FOX: And is there any way to gauge how many toys you
12 have, you get out of this event?

13 MR. FOSS: We usually get between 3- and 5,000 people coming
14 in and out of there, whether on bikes, cars, whatever. And
15 typically I don't see anybody coming in with anything less than
16 two or three toys in their hands. The math is after that. We
17 don't have a verifiable -- you know, we don't do a count as
18 they're coming in, but that's the average.

19 MR. FOX: Right, you don't --

20 MR. LYLE: Because of the way -- once it gets to the counties
21 that it's divided up, we can't actually tell how many total
22 families. I can tell you that from my own county, which is Waldo
23 County, last year we served 800 families.

24 MR. FOX: That's very good.

25 MR. LYLE: And if you take that as a rough estimate, I'm sure

1 that there are counties that there are a lot more. Then they
2 spread it a little differently because each county also gets
3 individual donations as well.

4 MR. FOX: Right.

5 MR. FOSS: And that number, you know, when the toys are
6 coming into the Toy Barn, which is where the collection, actual
7 collection point is, the crew running the Toy Barn diligently
8 equally divides all the toys against all 17. So if he's got a
9 number of 800, you just -- you know, the math after that would
10 give us a fairly good estimate on how many houses we,
11 quote/unquote, "touch."

12 MR. LYLE: I'm one of the smaller counties, as far as total
13 numbers of people, so you're talking about a minimum of 800 people
14 in each group that's hit.

15 MR. FOX: Wow. It's certainly a good cause. And how many
16 years have you been doing the Toy Run?

17 MR. FOSS: Thirty-seven this -- 37 or --

18 MR. LYLE: I don't have that shirt on today.

19 MR. FOSS: I've got to look.

20 MR. LYLE: Yeah, it was 36 last year because '15 was 35.

21 MR. FOSS: Was it 36 last year?

22 MR. LYLE: So 37.

23 MR. FOSS: Thirty-seven coming up.

24 MR. LYLE: Yeah, 37 coming up.

25 MR. FOX: So this run was 36?

1 MR. LYLE: Correct.

2 MR. FOSS: Thirty-six. I'm going to look before we -- I even
3 do the thing and I can't remember off the top of my head, but it
4 looks like --

5 MR. LYLE: It's interesting, the original roots of United
6 Bikers of Maine started --

7 MR. FOSS: Yeah.

8 MR. LYLE: -- with the patch holder --

9 MR. FOSS: Thirty-six was 2017.

10 MR. FOX: Okay.

11 MR. LYLE: Started with the patch holders in the state, and
12 they were the ones that made a decision way, way, way back in the
13 beginning, that they needed to get together and have a united
14 front. And very early on, they realized that there needed to be
15 representation of not just the bad boys of motorcycling, so to
16 speak.

17 MR. FOSS: Patch holders were the motorcycle clubs.

18 MR. LYLE: Like the Hell's Angels, the Exiles, the --

19 MR. FOSS: Saracens.

20 MR. LYLE: -- Saracens.

21 MR. FOSS: Exiles, Saracens. Whose the third one? There's a
22 third one in state. Anyways, they were the formation of United
23 Bikers. There was a large group and I don't want to misrepresent
24 the number of people that came together and finally said, hey,
25 we've got to do this right. You know, we've got to -- we don't

1 want to be the leather clad, the fisticuff.

2 MR. FOX: Right.

3 MR. FOSS: We need to come together. Let's produce something
4 that's going to take us into the next, you know, the next
5 generation, and UBM was born. It was actually born from one fatal
6 accident. A gentleman by the name of Mike Smith had an accident
7 in Manchester, if I remember right.

8 MR. LYLE: Auburn, I thought it was.

9 MR. FOSS: Was it Auburn? Sonny Bridges and himself were
10 riding, a car came out in front of him. At that time there was a
11 helmet law in effect. And Mike T-boned the car, went across the
12 car, was still viable and living. When he came down, the helmet
13 caught and snapped his head back and broke the C3-C4 vertebrae in
14 his neck. At that time, Sonny Bridges, which is member 001 of
15 United Bikers of Maine, that's when action started moving, you
16 know, to go to the patch holders, the clubs, and saying, okay, we
17 need to do something about this; you know, we need to have a say
18 in what legislation is being passed.

19 From there it was, you know, it was also branched out into
20 the safety and education part of it. We need to ride better. We
21 need to learn from what goes on, and --

22 MR. LYLE: The slogan was not, let's not learn to crash
23 better; let's learn to ride safer.

24 MR. FOX: There you go. Okay. Do you have to register to be
25 in this Toy Run?

1 MR. LYLE: No. It has always been open to anyone that shows
2 up with a motorcycle and a toy.

3 MR. FOSS: Most of the cars will come in, if people are
4 coming in via car, they'll come in, they won't ride with the bikes
5 for obvious reasons, but they do show up out at the fairgrounds.
6 There's a parking lot across from the fairgrounds that usually is
7 half full of cars in addition to the bikes.

8 MR. FOX: So there's no stipulation -- you don't have to be a
9 member or pay to attend this run?

10 MR. LYLE: No. Because the way we advertise this is, this is
11 open, you know, for all of the kids in the state of Maine and it's
12 also open, meaning we're collecting toys for all of the kids in
13 the state of Maine, not just people's families who belong to
14 UBM --

15 MR. FOSS: Right.

16 MR. LYLE: -- and as such, every biker in the state is
17 welcome to contribute.

18 MR. FOX: And it's also motorists and people, like you're
19 saying, car dealerships or whoever else is going to pitch in.

20 MR. LYLE: Yep.

21 MR. FOSS: Yeah.

22 MR. FOX: All right. Is there any way -- would you know how
23 many bikes participate in this? Is there any way for you guys to
24 gauge that do you know?

25 MR. LYLE: It varies year to year. The estimate that we got

1 from the Augusta Police Department was roughly 3,000 bikes were
2 involved this year.

3 MR. FOX: This year 3,000.

4 MR. LYLE: And we've had years where it's been more than that
5 and we've had years that, due to the weather, it's been
6 drastically less than that.

7 MR. FOSS: You get a good warm day. It really depends on the
8 weather. Last year, raining in the morning, raining mid ride, it
9 was horrid. This year, we had a great day and a lot of bikes
10 showed up.

11 MR. FOX: Yeah, it was very warm that day.

12 MR. FOSS: Yeah.

13 MR. FOX: I remember.

14 MR. LYLE: Some of us ride regardless, but a lot of people,
15 that's their final ride of the year, weather permitting, and if
16 the weather doesn't permit, they're done. I just put mine up.

17 MR. FOX: Yeah, it's getting pretty chilly to ride. So --

18 MR. LYLE: I was more worried about salt, sand and ice.

19 MR. FOSS: Yeah. Salt's down now.

20 MR. LYLE: I can dress warm enough.

21 MR. FOSS: Yep, chrome does not like salt.

22 MR. FOX: Oh, yeah, it's no good for it.

23 Do you know if any of the victims were members of the club?

24 MR. LYLE: The members that passed away, no. Neither one.

25 That was one of the -- as soon as I got names, that was one of the

1 very first things that I checked. I went to my membership
2 chairman and spoke with him, and he searched back a number of
3 years, actually, to see if anyone of them had been members, and
4 neither one was. In fact, the only members that were involved was
5 the couple that was on the motorcycle that was injured --

6 MR. FOSS: Tori and --

7 MR. LYLE: -- that was hit, one of the bikes was further back
8 and hit --

9 MR. FOX: Oh, further back.

10 MR. LYLE: Yeah, behind. That would be Tori and --

11 MR. FOSS: I can't remember his name now. Tori is her name.

12 MR. LYLE: Yeah.

13 MR. FOX: Tori McGraw?

14 MR. LYLE: Yep.

15 MR. FOSS: There it is. Yep. Yep.

16 MR. FOX: Okay. And Trevor --

17 MR. LYLE: Yes.

18 MR. FOX: -- Proctor.

19 MR. LYLE: There it is. Yep.

20 MR. FOX: They were members?

21 MR. LYLE: That's correct.

22 MR. FOX: All right.

23 MR. LYLE: We actually have what's known as a BikerDown fund
24 for members. That's part of -- one of the benefits of being a
25 member.

1 MR. FOX: Oh, I see.

2 MR. LYLE: And they receive payments from the BikerDown fund,
3 almost immediately actually. Because my checking for membership
4 is twofold, because the other part is, is part of our membership,
5 one of the other benefits is we have a death benefit. Regardless
6 of how you die, if you are a member and you pass away, there's an
7 immediate no cost to you \$4,000 payment that goes out. The
8 insurance company will sell you as much insurance as you want, but
9 just by virtue of membership, you automatically get the \$4,000
10 without doing anything else.

11 MR. FOX: Regardless if it was a motorcycle crash or not?

12 MR. LYLE: If you lose your life --

13 MR. FOSS: Death and dismemberment is its title.

14 MR. LYLE: Yep.

15 MR. FOX: Very good.

16 Did either of you participate in the event?

17 MR. LYLE: I did. I was leading it with the motor officer
18 from Augusta.

19 MR. FOSS: And I did not. I was out at the fairgrounds.

20 MR. FOX: Okay.

21 MR. FOSS: I haven't been in a situation where I can ride in
22 a few years.

23 MR. LYLE: Somebody's got to do boots on the ground.

24 MR. FOSS: Yeah, I got to boots on the ground.

25 MR. FOX: Let's talk about the route.

1 MR. LYLE: Okay.

2 MR. FOX: So it's my understanding that we have to -- in
3 order to do a parade, I think is the official legal term of this
4 type of thing. Anytime you have to stop a road for a gathering, I
5 think the law classifies it as a parade.

6 MR. LYLE: Correct.

7 MR. FOX: So that's what this is, I'm showing both of you, is
8 it's an application for a parade permit. So this is a city form
9 that gets filled out by the organization and then it's submitted
10 into the police department and it's reviewed by the chief. So in
11 front of us is the -- is your application for the run. Now here
12 it says Darrell --

13 MR. LYLE: Darrell Spears is --

14 MR. FOX: Is he an officer or --

15 MR. LYLE: He is a former president and his wife was actually
16 the Toy Run Coordinator --

17 MR. FOX: I see.

18 MR. LYLE: -- for 2017.

19 MR. FOX: Oh, okay.

20 MR. LYLE: He's not really an officer, but he's a former
21 officer and, as such, the two of them worked together. She
22 actually is the -- as you'll see on here, she is the products
23 person that we have, because we sell products --

24 MR. FOX: Oh, okay.

25 MR. LYLE: -- hats and stuff. She and her husband actually

1 run the product trailer, and don't tell them I said it like that
2 because she will take great offense to it. She's a little tiny
3 woman and he's a big man and he runs --

4 MR. FOSS: She's been doing Toy Run coordinating for a few
5 years now and --

6 MR. FOX: I see.

7 MR. FOSS: -- and that's -- you know, the involvement is
8 Darrell is a former president. So it's, you know --

9 MR. LYLE: In fact, I relieved --

10 MR. FOSS: -- there's a wealth of knowledge there.

11 MR. LYLE: I didn't relieve him as -- we had a gentleman who
12 was president for just under a year who left under other
13 circumstances.

14 MR. FOSS: Yeah.

15 MR. FOX: So the application is filled out here, and I do
16 see, if I can go beside you here --

17 MR. LYLE: Sure.

18 MR. FOX: -- it says, "Intended Route." It says, "See
19 below."

20 MR. LYLE: Yeah.

21 MR. FOX: So it says, Civic Center Drive, Route 27 to
22 Interstate 3 to Windsor Fairgrounds. So --

23 MR. LYLE: There's actually a part of that that's missing,
24 and they probably let it fly like that simply because it's not
25 part of the Augusta Police Department jurisdiction. What that's

1 missing in there is Route 3 to Route 32 South --

2 MR. FOSS: South.

3 MR. LYLE: -- to Windsor Fairgrounds.

4 MR. FOSS: Yeah.

5 MR. FOX: Okay. Now this route, who decided that route?

6 MR. LYLE: The Augusta PD decided that route. Originally we
7 had a situation several years ago where we were -- most
8 immediately from this, we were starting from the Civic Center,
9 onto Route 27, down to Route 17; Route 17 down to Route 32 in a
10 northerly direction, coming the other way.

11 The Augusta Police Department received a number of complaints
12 about the roads being blocked and an inconvenience to the public
13 and so they approached us and said, if we're going to continue to
14 do this, this is the route that we would like to take because it
15 had the least impact on the city streets. Previous to that
16 routing, it was always held right in Augusta here, and it went
17 from the Civic Center to the State House.

18 MR. FOSS: That was the original -- right there in that park.
19 In that park right there.

20 MR. FOX: And this is a park over here.

21 MR. FOSS: That was the original destination of Toy Run.

22 MR. FOX: That's what I heard, and then it just grew too big
23 and it couldn't accommodate you all.

24 MR. FOSS: Yeah. We outgrew that.

25 MR. LYLE: Oh, yeah. It was really a mess with the number of

1 bikes. It had to go bigger.

2 MR. FOSS: Yeah. So I'm going to use the map here. So Civic
3 Center -- here. Civic Center is right about here.

4 MR. FOX: Um-hum.

5 MR. FOSS: Okay. Let's see. Come on, I'm going to come on
6 the interstate -- I have to drive it in my head. We're coming
7 down, yeah, we're coming on -- this is an old map.

8 MR. FOX: Yeah, it's an old map.

9 MR. FOSS: No, it's not. No, it's not. It's right here.
10 Darin Drive right here.

11 MR. LYLE: Civic Center and then --

12 MR. FOSS: University Drive. So Civic Center is up in here.

13 MR. FOX: Right.

14 MR. LYLE: Through here and then up there.

15 MR. FOSS: Come across here.

16 MR. FOX: Right.

17 MR. LYLE: This is where the accident was, right there.

18 MR. FOX: Yes, you're correct.

19 MR. LYLE: And then we actually -- it's only this short hop
20 and then we come off and -- this is old because that doesn't have
21 the other intersection there. Then you come down through here.

22 MR. FOSS: All the way out through.

23 MR. LYLE: All the way out through, and it goes beyond this
24 actually. This doesn't actually --

25 MR. FOX: Right. It goes off the map, from what I was told.

1 MR. LYLE: Right.

2 MR. FOSS: Now the original route was here, down Mount
3 Vernon, the way I understood it --

4 MR. LYLE: Right.

5 MR. FOSS: -- across by the turn bridge, up around here, and
6 then out 17.

7 MR. LYLE: Route 17, and this is Route 105.

8 MR. FOX: Right. Okay.

9 MR. FOSS: Okay.

10 MR. FOX: Very good.

11 Now do you recall when the route changed?

12 MR. LYLE: The route changed on -- I said to you the other
13 night that I thought it was about 8 years ago, and it was actually
14 longer than that. It's closer to 12 years ago. Because I was
15 gauging that by what bike I was riding back then, and that was
16 when I was riding the Buell and I had the next one for 10 years.
17 So the Buell was 2, 10 -- so roughly 12 years ago is when that
18 changed.

19 MR. FOSS: Thirteen, because you had the Harley now for
20 another year.

21 MR. LYLE: Yep, 13 years ago is when that changed.

22 MR. FOX: Okay.

23 MR. LYLE: It's either 12 or 13, one or the other. At that
24 point I actually was only involved on the county level and was not
25 really involved with statewide things with United Bikers of Maine.

1 MR. FOX: Okay.

2 MR. LYLE: I participated in the Toy Run and several other
3 things but --

4 MR. FOX: But not in the routing?

5 MR. LYLE: Not in routing or doing anything like that.

6 MR. FOX: How long have you been the president?

7 MR. LYLE: I have now been the president, I'm in my second
8 year. Previous to that I was the vice president for a year.
9 Previous to that I was the legislative affairs guy for 4 years, I
10 think.

11 MR. FOSS: Something like that, yeah.

12 MR. FOX: So just for clarification, 12 years ago was when it
13 was changed from coming to this park --

14 MR. LYLE: Coming down Route 17, correct.

15 MR. FOSS: No, no, no. The park is back in the early '80s.

16 MR. FOX: Oh, it's been -- that part has been --

17 MR. FOSS: Discontinued.

18 MR. LYLE: That was long before my time.

19 MR. FOX: Okay. Long ago.

20 MR. FOSS: Yeah, long ago. So it started in -- 36 years ago,
21 whatever the date is, it started coming here, grew so fast, so
22 quickly, that then you had to be changed to the Windsor
23 Fairgrounds.

24 MR. FOX: Fairgrounds and the Civic Center.

25 MR. FOSS: And they were using the downtown route up until

1 12, 13 years ago when we were moved to the highway.

2 MR. FOX: Highway. Okay.

3 MR. FOSS: Yeah, I think they only did it in the park for 3
4 or 4 years, and that was very --

5 MR. LYLE: It was very messy.

6 MR. FOSS: Yeah.

7 MR. LYLE: That, and people were complaining about noise and
8 all kinds of things.

9 MR. FOX: Prior to this crash, had you had previous
10 accidents, do you know, with the Toy Run?

11 MR. LYLE: Not during the Toy Run itself. In fact, we had
12 prided ourselves on the fact, up until this year, that we have had
13 no crashes. I mean, the worst that has happened is that somebody
14 has stopped short and somebody's banged into their rear fender
15 with another motorcycle. We haven't had any altercations that I'm
16 aware of with automobiles. We have people who were frustrated
17 because they couldn't get through, but other than that --

18 MR. FOSS: Clean bill of health as far as the Toy Run from
19 the Civic Center to the Windsor Fairgrounds, or, you know, any
20 other destination that they had, you know, in previous years.

21 MR. LYLE: We have had people who were rumored to be coming
22 -- and I say rumored, because I don't know for a fact that they
23 were coming, but it's said that they were. We've had people who
24 have been involved in accidents coming to the Toy Run from
25 different places, because each county usually organizes a group of

1 riders to come from that county --

2 MR. FOX: Oh, I see.

3 MR. LYLE: -- and meet here at the Civic Center.

4 MR. FOX: I see, yeah.

5 MR. LYLE: And that's not anything that is actually under the
6 auspices of the United Bikers of Maine as far as the state is
7 concerned. That's a locally organized thing from each county.

8 MR. FOSS: Because we have like -- and there's two major
9 groups in United Bikers of Maine that tend to form up, one being
10 the southern half of the state at L-A Harley in Lewiston, Maine.
11 So they'll bring in everybody from Androscoggin, Cumberland, York
12 Counties. That's a collection point of bikers. It's not a
13 requirement. It's just a gathering place for a lot of --

14 MR. LYLE: Actually in those terms, there's three now.

15 MR. FOSS: What's the third one?

16 MR. LYLE: We have Washington, Hancock and Waldo.

17 MR. FOSS: Oh, they ride together on --

18 MR. LYLE: We all come in from Renys, as a group, and meet at
19 the Civic Center.

20 MR. FOSS: There's a large group coming out of L-A Harley,
21 and then there's another large group coming out of K-Mart Shopping
22 Plaza in Waterville, which is normally the northern half of the
23 state. That's just another collection point. They roll out of
24 there about 10:00, if I remember right. And then the group he
25 spoke of. And then those come to the Civic Center to join up and

1 get lined up, get staged, and then from there, go through.

2 MR. LYLE: And a myriad of individual riders coming from
3 everywhere.

4 MR. FOSS: Everywhere, yeah. Yeah, you know it's Toy Run Day
5 because there's bikes on the road all day long, other than toys
6 being strapped to bikes.

7 MR. FOX: You mentioned social media. Did -- do you know if
8 any of your riders had any video of the crash?

9 MR. LYLE: Not that I'm aware of.

10 MR. FOSS: No. I keep an eye on all the social media as far
11 as at the state level, and try to keep an eye, because I'm "liked"
12 in with most of our counties. I watch that specifically, between
13 reports of people that maybe Mr. McCausland hasn't gotten, you
14 know, word of or from, anything, video. Typically as a biker
15 we're not going to strap a video recorder to our -- typically
16 video recorders are coming in with the support bike riders, and we
17 have a very small group of them that ride.

18 MR. FOX: Right.

19 MR. FOSS: But typically the riders that come to the Toy Run
20 don't have --

21 MR. FOX: Right, right.

22 MR. FOSS: -- you know, they'd strap something to their
23 helmet and a lot of our riders don't wear helmets. I did watch
24 for things like that. I was hoping for things like that, so that
25 it would be a clear cut case. Through social media, we just

1 didn't see it. There was nothing --

2 MR. LYLE: I have one of the cameras. I just never put it on
3 the bike.

4 MR. FOSS: A lot of speculation, but nothing -- no hard
5 concrete evidence in video or even audio.

6 MR. FOX: Okay. Do you think that there might be an
7 opportunity to think about countermeasures that we could do in the
8 future?

9 MR. LYLE: Absolutely.

10 MR. FOX: We can talk about that offline but --

11 MR. FOSS: Yep. We've already been -- since the crash,
12 almost day 1 since the crash, we've already been just bouncing
13 around ideas in the back of heads, small talk, hey, what do you
14 think of this? Hey, what do you think of that? Kind of bringing
15 those ideas together. And not nailing down anything, just saying,
16 okay, here's our list of ideas. Here's what we can do, what
17 things we saw, what we've heard. How can we take, you know, the
18 tragedy that happened and make it into something that's a positive
19 down the road. United Bikers is safety over -- education over
20 legislation. We're going to educate after this. There's -- we
21 can't not.

22 MR. FOX: Right.

23 MR. LYLE: One of the things that both I and my counterpart,
24 in fact, have briefly spoken to our counterpart with the DOT on,
25 is the state has an awful lot of these lit-up signs with messages

1 on them. And the possibility of putting them several days
2 beforehand in a couple of places down the highway so that people
3 are aware that this is going to be happening.

4 MR. FOX: Right.

5 MR. LYLE: We were supposed to have a meeting last month and,
6 of course, we had that big storm that blew all the trees down.

7 MR. FOX: Right, right, right.

8 MR. LYLE: So we didn't get to have that, but that's one of
9 the topics we're going to be talking about in this upcoming
10 meeting.

11 MR. FOX: Very good.

12 Well, these were basically the questions I wanted to ask you.
13 Is there anything that I didn't ask you about that is on your
14 mind?

15 MR. LYLE: Not really.

16 MR. FOSS: No.

17 MR. FOX: Okay.

18 MR. LYLE: One of the things that we immediately started to
19 do, working through Rick and -- I got all the county directors
20 together, and we can talk about this amongst ourselves, but there
21 is to be no outside talk, and my concern at that point was
22 misinformation getting out --

23 MR. FOX: Right.

24 MR. LYLE: -- you know. I wanted to make sure that the only
25 information that was getting out was the correct information,

1 because we could see right off the damage that social media had
2 done, and I wanted to prevent that.

3 MR. FOSS: We've released a few press releases, per se, under
4 the direction of Steve McCausland and Public Safety. Past that,
5 very tight lips. You know, we -- I don't want to -- we and I
6 don't want to put anything out there that is incorrect. You know,
7 I take my direction from him, first of all, and second of all,
8 Mr. McCausland, as far as the facts on the case. I'm not going to
9 speculate. I'm not going to guess. I'm not going to second
10 guess. I'm going to go by what the state police say as far as why
11 it happened, how it happened, and then we're all going to learn
12 from those and come up with a better plan going forward. Because
13 I'm going to tell you right now, I spent a week in front of
14 cameras, and I'm not a tearful guy, but at the end of a week in
15 front of cameras, your brain says I've had enough. And we're not
16 going to do -- I don't want that to ever happen again, especially
17 on my watch, let alone anybody else's watch.

18 MR. FOX: Agreed.

19 MR. LYLE: And he also accompanied me to the funerals as
20 well.

21 MR. FOSS: Yeah.

22 MR. FOX: Okay. So at this point I'm going to go ahead and
23 go off record. So at this time, it's 3:03 p.m., and the interview
24 is concluded.

25 (Whereupon, at 3:03 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH INVOLVING UNITED BIKERS
OF MAINE TOY RUN, AUGUSTA, MAINE,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2017
Interview of Sandy Lyle and Richard
Foss

ACCIDENT NUMBER: HWY17IH014

PLACE: Augusta, Maine

DATE: December 6, 2017

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.



Kathryn A. Mirrin
Transcriber