

Interview of Mrs. Lorraine Smith

Four (4) pages total including this cover

MRS. LORRAINE SMITH

Mrs. Smith was accompanied by her representative, Joel Cohen. Under advice from her representative, Mrs. Smith did not provide information about statements that her husband made to her.

She and Richard Smith have been married about 20 years. Four children in all.

On the day of the accident she got up at 0600, he got up later, she doesn't know what time he got up. Her 8-month old grandson got up so she had to feed him. She was working that week and she gave the baby to their daughter so she could get ready for work. She is a data entry clerk for the Visiting Nurses of SI.

About 0815 she left for work. He was asleep at the time. She saw him sleeping. She goes home for lunch; on that day she got home about 1215. He was there with the baby and their daughter. She has two daughters at home and they were helping with the baby. The baby is her son's. She leaves work about 1215 and gets home around 1222. She was helping the daughter with the baby because the daughter was having trouble with diapering the baby.

Her husband was busy trying to fix a leak in the bathroom so they really didn't talk that much then. When she left she just said bye, because she had to be back by 1.

She got back to work, although she is not sure of what time, and after that she doesn't know about the times at which events occurred that day. She left to drop a bill off, and a co-worker said that her husband had called saying that there had been an accident in the ferry. She went to her desk, sat there for a minute, and then called her daughter who was at home and asked her if she had heard anything. The daughter had not heard anything so she asked her to tune in to NY One. The daughter did that and said that there had been an accident. She asked what side, and was told SI. She asked which ship and their daughter did not know.

Her husband then called her (she doesn't remember the time) at work. She then told her employer about the accident and that she had to get home. A friend drove her home and her boss followed her. She ran in the house, and her daughter Hallie was hysterically crying. She was holding the baby who was also crying. The daughter said that she didn't know what was going on. The daughter did not want Mrs. Smith to go upstairs but she went upstairs and he, Mr. Smith, was locked in the bathroom.

She was unable to get in. Her daughter was yelling, and trying to hold her. She was yelling. She was trying to find a screwdriver to open the door. She doesn't know how long she waited before two men from the ferry who knew Richard Smith, Gene Grady and John White, arrived. They all ran upstairs. He wouldn't come out of the bathroom so they forced open the door and one of them called 911, and she went in.

He was on the floor; his wrist was bleeding. She put a towel on his wrist since she felt that it would help, then she noticed that he had shot himself. She did not see the pellet gun.

She was able to see him at the hospital, although not immediately, he went into surgery. Next time she saw him he had the breathing tube down his mouth. She was able to talk to him just recently. He was not making any sense.

He took blood pressure medicine, cholesterol medicine, and medication for a problem with prostate. He had herniated disk in his back, and he was taking medication for his back only when it hurt him, which was like when he worked in the yard. He had trouble sleeping and was taking Ambien. She is not sure how often he took him. She doesn't know whether he took it the night before the accident. He would not take a full dose, but would break the pill in half and only take half.

He came home around 11 the night before the accident; she cooked dinner for him. They had the baby, the baby was sleeping but kept waking up. The baby got up at 1030 and again at 0100. Just a regular night except that the baby was there. They talked about routine stuff, they were having fun with the baby, that was the big thing, the baby was there for 1 ½ weeks. The baby was there because the dad, their son, got married and they went on the honeymoon.

Ordinarily he, Mr. Smith, would go upstairs after dinner, she would clean up the dishes, and then she would go up. They would watch television after dinner, upstairs in their bedroom. The night before the accident there was nothing out of the ordinary. They were both up when the baby got up at 0100. She went down and took care of the baby. She was up when her daughter Hallie came in, she works in Hollywood Video, a little after 0100. She brought the baby upstairs, gave him a bottle, then everyone went to sleep, about 0115-0130.

His health was good. He had high blood pressure, cholesterol, back pains. He was seeing physicians for these and was seeing a dentist.

He smoked 10 years ago but gave it up. He gave it up because it was bad for him. He just gave it up, just quit. He was OK with that.

She described their financial situation as good or normal. They have two children in college; they weren't planning for any major expenditures until their children finish college. One is a student at Hunter College and one to College of Staten Island.

She does not know about what time he got up that day.

When she saw him that day his mood was "fine," he was happy. She was working on Tuesday and she had gotten up and left the house that morning at 0815; he was still asleep. Monday he was off. They had to bring a car in and she was going to drive him to

the place and he was going to drop her off at work. He got up with her on Monday. She got up at 0530, and he got up around 0700.

Sunday he was off, and they went to sleep but she doesn't remember what time he went to sleep. They had the baby on Sunday. On Sunday morning she had the baby so she did not sleep late because she had to take care of the baby, but she does not remember what time he got up on the Sunday before the accident.

He was feeling good about the downgrade in his position because he was working as an "Out of Title" captain and he felt that it would be better to be assistant captain because it was more secure, and he got better vacation times since he was no longer at the bottom of the seniority ladder. He got more overtime as a result, and therefore ending up making more money.

One time, about 10 years ago, he lost weight and was taking the same blood pressure medicine, but it was too much and he felt dizzy, he went to the doctor and they gave him a lower dose. This was when he gave up smoking. This is the only episode she remembers that may have resembled the episode he was described as having at the time of the accident.

She does not remember meeting Captain Gansas, although his picture looks familiar to her. Some of the people that he worked with he hung out with. One was someone who just died. Frank Dedario was probably his closest friend from work, the rest were acquaintances.

Before the accident he was normal, happy, and busy playing with the baby. He was planning to work until he was eligible to retire. They talked about going upstate after retirement, her son works there. He was probably going to continue with his painting. His hobby was oil painting, although he had done sketches. Fixing the house was another activity. He built models of boats, and he took an interest in gardening. They had gotten rid of the pool in the back and they fixed up the back yard. They have 3 big oak trees out back and as a result the pool was always cold, the kids were getting older and not going into it.

He is a little better now than when they first saw him after the accident. He's worried about everybody who was hurt in the accident.

There is a regulation about physicals, but she doesn't know how often he got physical examinations as a result of the requirement. He liked the ferry operations. He felt that this was the top of his profession. He had started as a deckhand on a tugboat. She doesn't know about his attitude about the company.