

In the Matter of:

MISS MAJESTIC

WHITE AND YELLOW DUCK

MAY 1, 1999

DCA99MM021

May 2, 1999
Garland County Sheriff's
Department
Conference Room

I N D E XWITNESSES: EXAMINATION BY THE INVESTIGATOR:

Diane Elaine Ledin 3

Gary Roy Ledin 3

THE INVESTIGATOR: The date is May 2, 1999. We're
in the Garland County Sheriff's Department Conference Room.
We're going to do an interview with Gary Roy Ledin and Diane Elaine Ledin,
the passengers aboard the White and Yellow Duck that sank on

MR. LEDIN: Gary Roy Ledin.

THE INVESTIGATOR: And, Diane?

MRS. LEDIN: Diane Elaine Ledin.

THE INVESTIGATOR: Diane, can you repeat that, please?

MRS. LEDIN: Diane Elaine Ledin.

THE INVESTIGATOR: And your address?

MR. LEDIN: It's Oakdale, California 95361.

THE INVESTIGATOR: And your age, Gary?

MR. LEDIN: Fifty-four.

THE INVESTIGATOR: Diane, your age?

MRS. LEDIN: Fifty-four.

THE INVESTIGATOR: And your occupation?

MR. LEDIN: I'm retired.

THE INVESTIGATOR: Occupation, you're retired. Okay.

1 Could you please tell me -- your occupation is retired?

2 MR. LEDIN: Yes.

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: Retired from where?

4 MR. LEDIN: I was a plumbing contractor in Seneca Valley.

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

6 MR. LEDIN: In California.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: Could you please tell me what you
8 recall about the events that occurred on the 2nd?

9 MR. LEDIN: Is this the sinking part?

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: Please start with what made you
11 take the ride? Just start from there and just...

12 MR. LEDIN: We were driving through town and saw these,
13 basically, ugly ducks.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: You were on vacation. You were on
15 vacation?

16 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, we were on vacation. We were just
17 traveling around the Southern States. And we had gone to the Tower over
18 there up on the hill. And we'd gone up there.

19 There was some guy over there talking, "Oh," he said, "you
20 have to go on the Ducks. That's really neat."

1 So we said okay. So we hurried to make sure we could
2 make the 11 o'clock time. And when we made it, the Duck that we should
3 have been on was full.

4 So they said, well, there would be another one right off,
5 coming up. So, at 11:30, we got on that one.

6 And we took off. We were talking to the people in front of us
7 and kind of chitchatting. So we really didn't pay much attention to who got
8 on. And we took off from there and she said we had to make one more
9 stop, she meaning the driver of the boat, the duck.

10 And we thought she said she was going to pick up four more
11 people. And we boarded it across from the bath houses. I guess there's
12 like eight bath houses on what's called the Main Street.

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

14 MR. LEDIN: And one of them is the Visitor Center, which we
15 were going to, which we haven't been to. Anyway, all that's almost directly
16 across from that.

17 But, anyway, so we picked up the other people. We
18 assumed four now. And she was just giving a nice talk, the captain, the
19 driver. And, all of a sudden, we got to the water and she shifted gears and
20 stuff like that, and we took off.

21 And we were going slow and no problems. And then, all of a
22 sudden, she'd asked one person to move because I guess she kind of felt

1 the boat listing or something. I don't know why it would have because
2 everybody was pretty evenly spaced on the sides, because we did kind of
3 look back, even though we were talking to the people up in front of us
4 most of the time.

5 And the one guy stood up. She asked him to move. Then,
6 we looked back. And, all of a sudden, we looked down and we saw this
7 water rushing in from the back.

8 And I got out the opening, the window, if you want to call it
9 that. There was no actual window. It was just an opening because the
10 shades were up.

11 And I tried to give a life vest. But, it was too late. And I
12 thought, well, I'm blocking the window for my wife to get out so I thought
13 I'd better get out of there.

14 And I got out and went, got to the top. I looked around and
15 there was really, the only person I remember seeing, there was this kid,
16 James, that lost his mother and sister and father.

17 And we were both screaming for help and a couple of boats
18 were around the area. And I guess it was probably -- it's hard to tell time.
19 But, two or three minutes later, my wife, Diane, showed up. And this little
20 girl was hanging around her neck.

21 And, evidently, when she was coming up, this little girl
22 grabbed on to her. And my wife was screaming, "Get the girl off my neck,"

1 because she was choking her, because she was, my wife was out of
2 breath.

3 And then the person in the boats -- had thrown us life vests.
4 So we grabbed on to those and we made it aboard a boat and got to the
5 dock.

6 Q Did the child survive?

7 A Yes, the child did survive.

8 Q When you talk about people that were in front of you, please
9 identify them if you know who they are.

10 A Okay.

11 Q Their first names or -- you were sitting in the front of the Duck.

12 A We were sitting in the second row. There was a side and then the
13 front row.

14 MRS. LEDIN: We were on the left-hand side.

15 MR. LEDIN: We were on the left-hand side. There was one
16 woman in her mid-forties that we were just talking about. She was in San
17 Diego in 1970, and she said "I was thirteen then." So it's pretty obvious to
18 me how she's about forty-three.

19 And then there was her neighbor across from her, which I
20 would guess is probably about twenty-eight, approximately. Okay, and
21 then she had her son with her, Logan.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: This was in the second row?

1 MR. LEDIN: This was the first row.

2 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay, on your side?

3 MR. LEDIN: Yes. The one woman, about forty-three, was
4 right in front of us.

5 MRS. LEDIN: By herself.

6 MR. LEDIN: On the lefthand side.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: I'm going to give you a piece of
8 paper and I think maybe that will help us.

9 Let's stop for a second.

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: You can use each line as a row if
11 that will help you any.

12 MRS. LEDIN: Okay.

13 MR. LEDIN: So, should I keep talking?

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: Yes, please do.

15 MR. LEDIN: So, directly in front of us was this lady from
16 Tennessee.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: Mark that as a position. Position A.
18 Do you want to draw the outline of the boat roughly?

19 MR. LEDIN: Directly in front of us was a lady and like I say,
20 we were talking to her and she was about forty-three years old.

21 Do you want to use that as row one (indicating)?

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: Yes.

1 MR. LEDIN: And then there was the aisle. Then, on the
2 right side was this lady about we'll say twenty-eight, thirty years old,
3 whatever. And her son.

4 We just remember her calling him "Logan".
5 And he was approximately four years old. He was on the window seat.

6 And I don't recall anybody being behind us.

7 Do you, Diane?

8 MRS. LEDIN: I never looked.

9 MR. LEDIN: And then directly to my right was one lady.
10 Because when we got on, I was just sitting on the right side and Diane
11 was sitting on the left side. Just when we were chit-chatting before we
12 took off.

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: And then you moved?

14 MR. LEDIN: And then I moved over and took the window
15 seat. And the lady that I was talking about was in the third row with her
16 daughter. We assume daughter. That's where -- we kind of figured that
17 out.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay. Is that row three (indicating)?

19 MRS. LEDIN: Yes. That -- there was something wrong with
20 her. I don't know if it was like Down's --

21 MR. LEDIN: We think she might have had Down's or
22 something like that.

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: The mother and daughter were on
2 the same row?

3 MRS. LEDIN: No.

4 MR. LEDIN: Then, they moved. Once I moved over, the
5 mother moved to the third row and then the daughter was right behind her
6 on the fourth row.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: The mother right here and the
8 daughter here?

9 MRS. LEDIN: No. No, the mother was up in front of the
10 daughter.

11 THE INVESTIGATOR: Were they on the same -- was the
12 mother on the same row opposite you?

13 MRS. LEDIN: As us, right.

14 MR. LEDIN: Same row as us, on the third row.

15 MRS. LEDIN: On the outside.

16 THE INVESTIGATOR: On the outside. And then the
17 daughter was in the fourth row?

18 MRS. LEDIN: The daughter was in the fourth row. And I
19 have a feeling that --

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: Two rows behind the mother?

21 MRS. LEDIN: No, one.

22 MR. LEDIN: No, one row.

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: You were in row two. And the
2 mother of this daughter, she was in row two. Okay, so the daughter was
3 in row three?

4 MR. LEDIN: Yes.

5 MRS. LEDIN: And I have a feeling the son and husband
6 were behind the daughter. But, I don't know that for a fact.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: So it was a mother, daughter and
8 her son and --

9 MRS. LEDIN: This "James".

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: Just write it in there if you had a
11 name.

12 MRS. LEDIN: Okay. And I don't know where they were. I'm
13 just assuming that this is --

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: Well, if you don't know, that's okay.

15 MRS. LEDIN: It was James and his father.

16 MR. LEDIN: And then behind him was the other couple.
17 They might have skipped a row. I'm not sure on that.

18 MRS. LEDIN: Yes, there was a black couple.

19 THE INVESTIGATOR: A black couple was either behind
20 them or one row --

21 MRS. LEDIN: Who was at the window? I think it was the
22 woman.

1 MR. LEDIN: I think so. I'm not sure on that.

2 MRS. LEDIN: Or I think the man. I'm not sure.

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: Please mark it as "black couple".

4 MRS. LEDIN: I know. I hate to say that but that's --

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: No, we just need to know where they
6 were.

7 MRS. LEDIN: But, I'm not sure where they were.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: This is really important when you get
9 into the window size. What row is that?

10 MRS. LEDIN: Well, I'm just going because I'm not sure. I
11 mean, I don't even know how many rows are on the thing.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: All right.

13 MR. LEDIN: And then behind us on our side I think we both
14 assumed that Joe was probably back about in the fifth row or so because
15 when we stood up, it seemed like he was real close to us.

16 MRS. LEDIN: I'm just wondering if his wife and daughter
17 were behind -- directly behind us because his daughter is the one that
18 grabbed on to me. And I don't know.

19 You know, I don't remember when it was that I felt her on
20 me.

21 THE INVESTIGATOR: Just approximately. And identify
22 who they were, and we might be able to find out.

1 Because I'll talk to other survivors.

2 MRS. LEDIN: Yes. And the ones in the back would know.

3 MRS. LEDIN: So I'm going to say like a mother and small
4 daughter.

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: Do you know of any name?

6 MRS. LEDIN: Madeline.

7 MR. LEDIN: Madeline. And then Joe was probably behind
8 them.

9 THE INVESTIGATOR: And Madeline was the young girl?

10 MRS. LEDIN: Uh-huh.

11 THE INVESTIGATOR: And her mom?

12 MR. LEDIN: Her mom.

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

14 MRS. LEDIN: That's just, you know. And the father was --

15 MR. LEDIN: Probably behind him because, like I say, when
16 we looked back, we could see Joe. He was pretty tall.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: Joe was the father?

18 MRS. LEDIN: Yes.

19 MR. LEDIN: Of the daughter.

20 MRS. LEDIN: But, I can't imagine that he would -- except
21 they got on last. So, maybe the seats, they couldn't sit together. That
22 could have been why he was back farther.

1 MR. LEDIN: Well, you couldn't sit more than two people in a
2 seat.

3 MRS. LEDIN: Right. But, I'm saying he seemed like he was
4 back farther than just --

5 MR. LEDIN: Oh. Maybe.

6 MRS. LEDIN: And, like I say, I'm not sure that they were
7 directly behind us. Maybe there was an open seat behind us.

8 MR. LEDIN: Yes.

9 MRS. LEDIN: I don't know.

10 MR. LEDIN: And I think the majority of the group, the
11 mother, father, son, daughter-in-law, they were --

12 MRS. LEDIN: They were up on the high top.

13 MR. LEDIN: And then there was the two grandchildren.

14 MRS. LEDIN: I would draw a line differentiating between
15 them.

16 MR. LEDIN: We thought she said, "Children". But, then the
17 paper said "grandchildren". So, whatever the case may be, those...

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: So back there was the large family?

19 MRS. LEDIN: Large family.

20 MR. LEDIN: Mother, father, son -- who was twenty-two, I
21 believe, or twenty-three, something like that.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: This is the "Todds"?

1 MRS. LEDIN: I don't know.

2 THE INVESTIGATOR: Did they all survive?

3 MR. LEDIN: No. Oh, no.

4 MRS. LEDIN: No.

5 MR. LEDIN: The daughter-in-law --

6 MRS. LEDIN: Just the mother and son survived.

7 MR. LEDIN: The daughter-in-law, the father and two of the
8 kids didn't make it.

9 MRS. LEDIN: Does it help with the ages -- on two little kids?

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: Madeline, nine. Powers, Patton,
11 fifteen years old.

12 MRS. LEDIN: I bet that was the daughter.

13 MR. LEDIN: Yes.

14 MRS. LEDIN: James was fifteen.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: James Patton.

16 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah. And his mother, as far as I know --

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: How about Laura Todd?

18 MRS. LEDIN: Who's --

19 THE INVESTIGATOR: Laura Todd.

20 MRS. LEDIN: Is there another Todd?

21 THE INVESTIGATOR: Yeah. Ronald, Thomas and Emily
22 Todd.

1 MRS. LEDIN: I think that's about -- is that the little girl?

2 That's the --

3 MR. LEDIN: Blond-haired lady.

4 THE INVESTIGATOR: So, one survived. I don't have any --
5 is that it?

6 MRS. LEDIN: Is that two Todds?

7 MR. LEDIN: Well, evidently, the infants are grandchildren
8 and must be a different name.

9 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay. That's possible.

10 MR. LEDIN: We thought they were her kids the way she
11 was talking, but I guess --

12 MRS. LEDIN: She said one of them had Down's, one of the
13 babies.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: That baby did not survive.

15 MRS. LEDIN: No. And she said "my babies". But, as a
16 grandmother, she might have said "my babies" and I just assumed they
17 were hers.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: How old was the young -- the girl?

19 MRS. LEDIN: The wife of the son?

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: The one that might have had
21 Down's.

1 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, I think she was like four or five, the way
2 they --

3 MR. LEDIN: She talked.

4 MRS. LEDIN: But, you know, everybody is--

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: Oh, and this is a Todd? Emily
6 Todd?

7 MRS. LEDIN: I bet.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: Ronald, Thomas. A fairly young
9 boy?

10 MRS. LEDIN: Evidently, there were two children with them.

11 THE INVESTIGATOR: Right, Thomas and Emily.

12 MRS. LEDIN: And their last name was Todd?

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: Yeah.

14 MRS. LEDIN: Ronald must be the father.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: Right.

16 MRS. LEDIN: Her son. What's her name? Her last name
17 isn't Todd?

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: Laura.

19 MRS. LEDIN: Is it Todd?

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: Yeah, Laura Todd survived.

21 MRS. LEDIN: Because they were --

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: So there were four of them and three
2 did not?

3 MRS. LEDIN: There were five.

4 THE INVESTIGATOR: There might have been somebody
5 with another name.

6 MR. LEDIN: That's what we were thinking, that the two kids
7 might have been grandchildren, and they might have had a different
8 name.

9 MRS. LEDIN: It was the mother and son who survived. The
10 son's wife did not survive. And I think it might have been his two children
11 that did not survive. And the grandmothers.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: Well, we can go through some other
13 --

14 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, her husband didn't survive.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: But, the thing is we have three -- that
16 didn't.

17 MRS. LEDIN: Right. And that figures out. But, there's a
18 wife that did.

19 MRS. LEDIN: Oh.

20 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, it doesn't work out.

21 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, it doesn't work out.

22 MR. LEDIN: One of them is a grandchild, for sure.

1 MRS. LEDIN: I think there were --

2 MR. LEDIN: With a different name.

3 MRS. LEDIN: -- seven in that group.

4 MR. LEDIN: I think six.

5 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, the mother -- the blond-haired lady, her
6 son survived. The father --

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay, why don't we just write that
8 down.

9 MR. LEDIN: -- the father-in-law and the two children.

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: How do you know what their
11 relationships were?

12 MR. LEDIN: Well, we were talking at the church.

13 MRS. LEDIN: We were talking afterwards.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay, why don't you just put father-
15 in-law and I can tie these together later.

16 MRS. LEDIN: Okay.

17 MR. LEDIN: All right.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: Father-in-law. This is in the back
19 portion of it.

20 MRS. LEDIN: I'm going to put "grandma and grandpa".

21 MR. LEDIN: Yes, grandparents.

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: Son, daughter-in-law and two
2 children. Right?

3 MRS. LEDIN: Uh-huh.

4 MR. LEDIN: And they had all the seats because they just --

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: Were they on there when you got
6 on?

7 MR. LEDIN: They got on first.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: That's like the primo seats right
9 there? Is that where everybody wants to sit?

10 MRS. LEDIN: No.

11 MR. LEDIN: I don't know. He probably was just giving them
12 the back. And I guess they probably all wanted to be together.

13 MRS. LEDIN: Okay. Its an elevated part, I'll put there.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

15 MRS. LEDIN: The ones that got on last were Joe and
16 Madeline. And whatever Joe's wife was. We picked them up at a different
17 spot.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: There's no "Joe".

19 Anyway, we have --

20 MRS. LEDIN: Well, what's Madeline's last name?

21 THE INVESTIGATOR: Powers.

22 MRS. LEDIN: Is there another Powers?

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: Robert Powers.

2 MRS. LEDIN: Maybe, he goes by "Joe".

3 MR. LEDIN: For some reason, we called him Joe.

4 MRS. LEDIN: I heard him say something about "Robert".

5 That's basically who --

6 THE INVESTIGATOR: So you were driving down the road
7 picking up people? Is that how it works?

8 MRS. LEDIN: Just the one.

9 MR. LEDIN: One stop. It was one of their locations. There
10 was another Duck sitting there, and there was a little booth. And the
11 driver was on the radio and somebody greeted her from by across from
12 the bathhouses and told her there was another group being picked up.
13 That's when, you know.

14 So she swung in there and picked these other people up.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: And where did they say you were
16 going to go?

17 MRS. LEDIN: Just...

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: Around the lake or any place?

19 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, just around, looking at homes on the
20 lake.

21 THE INVESTIGATOR: How long was the tour?

22 MRS. LEDIN: It was supposed to be an hour and a half.

1 MR. LEDIN: And this happened at 12 o'clock.

2 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, because my watch stopped at 12

3 o'clock.

4 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, we got going probably --

5 MRS. LEDIN: Eleven thirty-five.

6 MR. LEDIN: -- around 11:35. So it happened, I would say,
7 at 12 o'clock, within five minutes.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: Tell me about when you went in --
9 just before you went into the water. Did you notice anything unusual?

10 MR. LEDIN: Nothing at all.

11 MRS. LEDIN: No. She stopped and she said, "I have to
12 disengage this gear."

13 MR. LEDIN: Well, I think she had to engage the prop,
14 disengage the --

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: Did she get out to do that?

16 MR. LEDIN: No. She had levers right there.

17 MRS. LEDIN: No, and then she pointed to the life jackets.

18 She said, "I've got to tell you," you know. And I looked up there and I read
19 that it said "16 adult life jackets."

20 But, you know, when you're in that, you're not going with the
21 idea of like how am I going to get out of this if something happens.

1 So she was able to get out even though she was in the front
2 because she knows the configuration of that thing and knew exactly where
3 to go.

4 THE INVESTIGATOR: Did you observe what she did after
5 everything started happening?

6 MRS. LEDIN: When she told the guy to move--

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: He was up front or in back?

8 MRS. LEDIN: No, he was --

9 THE INVESTIGATOR: All the way back?

10 MRS. LEDIN: I don't know.

11 MR. LEDIN: About three rows in. Three or four rows behind
12 us.

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: And why would she want him -- was
14 he a big man or --

15 MRS. LEDIN: No. But, I think she might have, well, I mean,
16 he's not a tiny --

17 MR. LEDIN: He's just -- he's not obese.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay, but it feels like a little bit of a
19 port list?

20 MR. LEDIN: We didn't feel anything. We didn't feel any list
21 at all.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: Where did she ask him to move?

1 MRS. LEDIN: She said, "Can you move to the other side?"

2 So maybe something was starting to come in a little. I don't know.

3 MR. LEDIN: I think, at that time, the water had already
4 started coming in, and she didn't know that. Okay? The driver didn't know
5 the water was coming in. And she must have felt it shifting.

6 That's the only thing I can think of.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

8 MR. LEDIN: So she kind of looked back there to ask this
9 guy, asked him to move over. And I think that's when she noticed the
10 water coming in the back, too.

11 MRS. LEDIN: And I mean she had this look on her face and
12 then she turned around and she was talking into the -- and then it was, I
13 mean it was just "sssspt".

14 MR. LEDIN: And that was it.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: Now, did anybody say anything
16 about the water coming in?

17 MRS. LEDIN: No.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: No one sitting in the back?

19 MRS. LEDIN: No.

20 MR. LEDIN: Well, she didn't have to. It was very, very
21 obvious.

22 MRS. LEDIN: No, but he's saying if she started to --

1 MR. LEDIN: Oh, no. No. Instead of sitting there, to begin
2 with, and just saying, hey, by the way, there's water coming in?

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: There was nobody expressing
4 concern?

5 MRS. LEDIN: I think that that one lady that survived back
6 here said --

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: The blond lady?

8 MRS. LEDIN: -- said yesterday that she -- by the time she
9 saw it and could say something, it had already happened.

10 I think that's what she said. I mean, I know you'll be talking -
11 - it's hard to talk to them. I mean they're going through all this horrible --

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: I know. This is --

13 MRS. LEDIN: -- period of time.

14 But, I think that's what she said to me.

15 MR. LEDIN: I was there. I'll tell you how fast it went down. I
16 felt my feet wet. Okay. I had on shorts, the same thing I have on now,
17 tennis shoes, socks and a pair of shorts on.

18 I felt my feet getting wet and I thought, boy, you can really
19 get mad over getting your feet wet.

20 I grabbed for a life cushion. I don't know if they were jackets
21 or not -- life cushion, life jacket, whatever -- up above.

1 I couldn't get a hold of it. So then I thought I'd better get out
2 of here. And by the time I said to myself I'd better get out of here,
3 because I was blocking the way, the window, for Diane, it was full of water
4 by then. In seconds.

5 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, yeah. And I know I went, I'm pretty sure I
6 was probably at the bottom because it took me a long time to get up.

7 MR. LEDIN: It's eighty feet of water there. Eighty?

8 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, I doubt if it was eighty feet there.

9 MR. LEDIN: The -- says 60 feet of water.

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: How about your ears? How did your
11 ears --

12 MRS. LEDIN: They weren't bad. But, my lungs just from
13 holding my breath. And, like I say, today, my ears are full -- and when I
14 came out, my nose was bloody.

15 But, it took a long time going through dark, dark water before
16 I ever started to see a little light and knew I was headed in the right
17 direction.

18 And this little girl, bless her soul, was just hanging on to my
19 neck. And like I told Gary, if it had been an adult, I wouldn't have made it
20 because I was having a hard time.

21 You know, with her. I mean, luckily, I didn't have tennis
22 shoes on. Like my shoes had fallen off. And she just wouldn't let go.

1 Later, she said, "I thought you were my daddy." And she
2 kept -- once we got out of the water, she kept, you know, crying for her
3 dad. Thank goodness, he was there. Yeah.

4 THE INVESTIGATOR: Tell me a little bit about was it a sink
5 stern first? You went into the water. And how long were you underway
6 before -- how far off shore?

7 MR. LEDIN: You would estimate ten minutes?

8 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, probably ten minutes.

9 MR. LEDIN: Five to ten minutes.

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: So, when you went into the water,
11 you made a left turn and started --

12 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah.

13 MR. LEDIN: There's kind of a right turn. There's a dock as
14 soon as you pull in that says something about somebody won't give them
15 a permit so you can't dock here, or something like that.

16 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah. Wet Willie's.

17 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, Wet Willie's. They were kind of ticked off
18 at somebody around here.

19 MRS. LEDIN: But, anyway, as I kind of went in, I turned
20 around.

21 MR. LEDIN: Turned right. And then there was that point
22 she had told us was a -- what? A three million dollar home or something?

1 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah.

2 MR. LEDIN: She was telling us about Jerry Joe's across the
3 lake. Scottie Pickens, that one getaway down the cove. And some
4 people didn't want to be mentioned.

5 MRS. LEDIN: And then that was it.

6 MR. LEDIN: And then that was it. The next thing we knew,
7 all hell broke loose.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: How far off shore would you
9 estimate you were?

10 MR. LEDIN: Well, at the time, we, I mean, the paper says a
11 quarter of a mile to a third of a mile. I guess that's probably right.

12 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah. Probably, yes, just from where I could
13 see where they were doing their search yesterday. You know, it wasn't
14 that far out.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: Now, it sank by the stern? Did the
16 bow go down?

17 MR. LEDIN: No, the stern went down. It just went like this.
18 The stern started settling and the nose was up in the air, and then that
19 was it. Pretty much, it wasn't leaning that bad. It just pretty much sunk --

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: Straight down?

21 MR. LEDIN: Almost, yeah.

22 It was probably maybe 20 degrees.

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: That's important. That isn't too bad.

2 MR. LEDIN: Because the stern fell in the back. You've got
3 the motor, I assume, in the front of it, obviously, so you've got a little
4 weight up there, too.

5 So the front wasn't that far out of the water, do you think?

6 Twenty degrees would be about--

7 MRS. LEDIN: I didn't seem like it. I don't know. Like I said,
8 I just went to the front and I thought I can't get out here. There was
9 windshields here.

10 And about that time, it was like, okay, lady, you'd better hold
11 your breath.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: Where was everybody else? Do you
13 have any idea where --

14 MRS. LEDIN: I just know there were arms. Of course,
15 everybody panics. I mean, you know, everybody is trying to fight their way
16 out.

17 And Beth, the captain, we talked to her after. She said she
18 had a hold of that little boy. And the mother pulled him back. The mother
19 was probably trying to protect him or do something.

20 MR. LEDIN: The captain said she had a hold of Logan's arm
21 and was pulling. Evidently, the mother was pulling the other way.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: Was she trying to get out?

1 MR. LEDIN: Yeah.

2 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah.

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: You two were very lucky.

4 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, tell me.

5 (Simultaneous voices.)

6 MR. LEDIN: You just don't understand --

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: You were in the worst seats.

8 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah. I said God wants me alive for some
9 reason.

10 MR. LEDIN: The one you would have thought would have
11 had it the easiest to get out, because they were higher and I would think
12 could tell first that those three of them -- four of them that didn't make it.

13 MRS. LEDIN: Those two were little kids and, no, they
14 wouldn't have a chance.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: Well, they have railings. I'm looking
16 at the picture.

17 MR. LEDIN: Oh, that's true. When they're driving, you have
18 to have the rail in so you don't fall out.

19 MRS. LEDIN: And I was telling Gary --

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: Did they raise? Did they put railings
21 in place once they boarded?

22 MR. LEDIN: No. I think they --

1 MRS. LEDIN: I think they did.

2 MR. LEDIN: All we know is I mean they had to lift the stairs
3 because when she pulled up, they dropped the stairs.

4 MRS. LEDIN: So you can get on it. That's how you get on it
5 was these stairs.

6 MR. LEDIN: These big steel stairs.

7 MRS. LEDIN: Because I said to Gary, "Maybe those stairs
8 dropped or something."

9 THE INVESTIGATOR: And that shouldn't have made -- that
10 sure wouldn't be a water -- well, it could be a water-right type thing. I don't
11 know that.

12 MR. LEDIN: Like I say, when we leave here, I'll swing by
13 and look at one just to see how it's configured in the back.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: Anything else you can recall?

15 How about the accessibility? You said you couldn't get a life
16 jacket?

17 MR. LEDIN: Yeah. I told you before ---- don't think. If that -
18 - well, I couldn't get a life jacket on. And I wanted to say that this cover
19 restricts you.

20 If you would have had a life jacket on, with that cover on,
21 Diane would not have made it. I probably couldn't have got through the
22 window because it would have been bulkier.

1 On the other hand, if everybody would have had life jackets
2 on and that cover wasn't on, everybody would have floated to the top.

3 There wouldn't have been -- I don't think -- I can't imagine
4 anybody having a problem. The little kids, everybody would have just
5 floated to the top.

6 But, the cover, that was the whole thing. It was just the
7 cover should not have been on it.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: How cold was the water?

9 MR. LEDIN: It was warm.

10 MRS. LEDIN: I was thinking about that this morning. I
11 thought, God, I don't even remember what it was like.

12 MR. LEDIN: Right before this happened--

13 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, that's right.

14 MR. LEDIN: -- I put my hand out there just to feel the water.
15 And the temperature was very comfortable.

16 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, it was.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: When the Duck is in the water, how
18 much free-board do they have? Do you know what I mean?

19 MR. LEDIN: Sure. Very little. I know exactly. And,
20 because I didn't have to lean over.

21 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

1 MR. LEDIN: When I touched the water, I didn't have to lean
2 out. I could just kind of go like this (indicating).

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: So we're looking at what? A couple
4 of feet?

5 MR. LEDIN: A couple of feet of free-board is all. And I could
6 feel the water on the... very comfortable. Probably, in the low eighties,
7 high seventies.

8 MRS. LEDIN: That hot?

9 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, it was nice and warm.

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: How about the speed of the Duck?

11 MR. LEDIN: Very slow.

12 MRS. LEDIN: It was hardly moving.

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: She was just kind of going slow and
14 --

15 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, she was taking it very easy. There was
16 no -- she wasn't speeding at all.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: Let's talk about what kind of
18 information, if any, the operator gave you before coming on regarding
19 safety while on board.

20 Did you receive any?

21 MRS. LEDIN: She just when we stopped at the lake, she did
22 make it a point about no smoking.

1 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, the Coast Guard would get after us.

2 MRS. LEDIN: The Coast Guard, you can't smoke and
3 pointed where the life jackets were, and that was it.

4 And we were joking about a tip or something. And Gary
5 says, "Yeah, well, you get a tip if we get back," or something to that effect.

6 But, that was all. I don't recall any other.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: How about the engine? Was the
8 engine running all along?

9 MR. LEDIN: Yes.

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: Was it sputtering? It didn't flood out?

11 MR. LEDIN: Nothing. It was so loud.

12 MRS. LEDIN: Not that I know of.

13 MR. LEDIN: I mean, you're driving along. I'm hard of
14 hearing to begin with and I don't even think Diane could hear everything
15 because you put a lot of shake, rattle and roll, I mean, it's very loud.

16 I think that thing is fifty something years old, I guess, it rattles
17 and all that kind of stuff. But, that to me would be normal.

18 MRS. LEDIN: It was much quieter on the water.

19 MR. LEDIN: Oh, very much.

20 MRS. LEDIN: Than it was on the road.

21 MR. LEDIN: Much quieter because everything wasn't
22 shaking.

1 MRS. LEDIN: No, I just, I told Gary this morning that it
2 seems to me that the people next to the window should have gotten out
3 except that they panicked or didn't know, you know, what to do.

4 MR. LEDIN: In fact, I guess I was the only one, by the way
5 that --

6 THE INVESTIGATOR: Can you speak up a little bit?

7 MR. LEDIN: I'm thinking I'm the only one by the window that
8 got out.

9 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, I don't know.

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: I'm looking at your drawing, Diane,
11 and I'm looking at the Tennessee lady in front of you.

12 Did she make it?

13 MR. LEDIN: No.

14 MRS. LEDIN: No.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: Do you recall anything about her
16 efforts to get out?

17 MR. LEDIN: No. No.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: Yeah, I have to ask the question.

19 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah. No, I don't know. You know, like Gary
20 said, unfortunately, it's like every man for yourself when you're in that kind
21 of a situation.

22 We just want out of there.

1 MR. LEDIN: This isn't like the Titanic where you have, if
2 we're going down, you have an hour to think about it.

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: Madeline, the nine-year old was
4 sitting behind you with her mother?

5 MRS. LEDIN: I think. I'm not sure.

6 MR. LEDIN: Well, somewhere behind.

7 MRS. LEDIN: She's the one that grabbed on to me so I
8 figured she had to be pretty darned close

9 MR. LEDIN: Which I didn't even look back. After the mother
10 and the father got on, the three of them, okay, Joe and Madeline and the
11 mother --

12 MRS. LEDIN: I didn't see anybody.

13 MR. LEDIN: I didn't even really pay any attention when they
14 got on. That's why we didn't know how many people got on.

15 MRS. LEDIN: It's hard to imagine how fast it was. I mean, it
16 was almost instantaneous. It was just unbelievable, it was so fast.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: Now, on the other side on row one,
18 the Tennessee lady and her son, who is three or four years old?

19 MR. LEDIN: Yes.

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: What was her name? Do you
21 remember her name?

22 MR. LEDIN: No, we didn't catch either one.

1 MRS. LEDIN: They were staying at the Arlington and they'd
2 just had massages that morning, and they were all --

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: They were staying at the Arlington-
4 Seton?

5 MR. LEDIN: Yes, which is the big hotel downtown. They
6 were talking about how they'd stayed up real late last night and they went
7 to the spa and all this kind of stuff and how neat it was.

8 When they got through this morning, they were going to go
9 do more stuff. It was just kind of...

10 MR. LEDIN: There was one child and there were four
11 neighbors. They lived across the street from each other.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: So it was the mother, her son, her
13 mother --

14 MR. LEDIN: No, no.

15 MRS. LEDIN: No.

16 MR. LEDIN: They weren't related. It's a mother and son.

17 MRS. LEDIN: These are related.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: All right, just mark it.

19 MR. LEDIN: Okay, so the people that were in the second
20 and third row on the right side, a mother, daughter. James was the?

21 MRS. LEDIN: The son that survived.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: And his father did not?

1 MRS. LEDIN: And his mother, as far as we had heard, was
2 on life support. I don't know if she has since passed away. Because
3 somebody said that she was under for like thirty minutes or something.

4 I can't imagine her...

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: Floy? There was somebody in the
6 ICU.

7 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, that was James' mother from what we
8 heard.

9 MRS. LEDIN: It didn't seem like...

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: So she was the mother?

11 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: So the daughter, was that James' --?

13 MRS. LEDIN: Sister.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: Oh, sister. Okay.

15 So mother, son and daughter and the father.

16 MRS. LEDIN: Right.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: Or, the parents.

18 And James is how old?

19 MRS. LEDIN: Fifteen.

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: And the girl?

21 MRS. LEDIN: I don't know.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: And did any of them survive?

1 MR. LEDIN: No.

2 MRS. LEDIN: Just James.

3 MR. LEDIN: James was the only one of the four. And I
4 didn't even notice James or the father because the only reason I noticed
5 the mother and daughter was because the mother had moved up to the
6 seat.

7 And like I say, I had noticed the girl because she looked like
8 she had a physical problem, or Down's, or something like that.

9 THE INVESTIGATOR: All right. Well, there are different
10 names here so I'd have to --

11 MRS. LEDIN: Well, see, I heard a lot of stories from one of
12 the church ladies where James stayed last night.

13 The parents were divorced. They were finally getting back
14 together. They had been divorced for twelve years, and she said
15 something about a step-sister. So that might be a step-sister.

16 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay. How about the black couple
17 that was a couple of rows back on the starboard side? Did you see them
18 from there?

19 MR. LEDIN: No, we just --

20 MRS. LEDIN: Just happened to look back and I noticed
21 them.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: Did they survive?

1 MR. LEDIN: No. No.

2 MRS. LEDIN: Of all the people that I know, there are only --
3 there were four of us out of this group that survived.

4 THE INVESTIGATOR: So as far as you were aware of, it
5 was James --?

6 MRS. LEDIN: Gary and I and Madeline.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay. Can you recall anything else
8 you'd like to -- anything? Sometimes, it seems inconsequential but --

9 MR. LEDIN: Well, I'm sitting here looking at this picture. I
10 don't know how many rows are there but it looks --

11 THE INVESTIGATOR: You're looking at the brochure.

12 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, the brochure.

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: The White and Yellow Ducks
14 brochure.

15 MR. LEDIN: It didn't look anything about -- would you say?

16 MRS. LEDIN: How many people do they hold?

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: They hold twenty. Well, they hold
18 thirty-three.

19 MRS. LEDIN: I can't imagine thirty-three in that.

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: Well, it's rated for thirty-three. The
21 Coast Guard allows them to carry thirty-three. That would include the
22 operator.

1 Now were there any deck hands and people other than the
2 operator?

3 MRS. LEDIN: No.

4 MR. LEDIN: The first time we knew we were supposed to
5 get on, at 11 o'clock, it was full.

6 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, and I said, "We're not going on that
7 one, are we?"

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: Do you have any idea whether this
9 was the first run of this vessel for the day? Was it like parked in the --
10 when you --

11 MRS. LEDIN: He had to call her on the radio and said,
12 "Bring the duck around." So evidently she was parked somewhere else.
13 They must have a lot.

14 MR. LEDIN: There's only parking for one duck, I believe, at
15 that location. Because there's a sign there that says, "Permit parking
16 only." And it's kind of a load or something like that.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: So, when you showed up, they
18 called and asked the operator to bring the Duck around?

19 MRS. LEDIN: Right, because one had just left. And they
20 leave, I thought I saw, at 9, 11, 12:30. They had them listed as that.

21 So I would assume this might have been the first run.

22 MR. LEDIN: But ours wasn't a scheduled run.

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: It wasn't?

2 MRS. LEDIN: No. The 11 o'clock was so full, they had to
3 bring in an 11:30.

4 THE INVESTIGATOR: This is important from a
5 maintenance standpoint. We're interested in whether this was the first trip
6 or not.

7 MRS. LEDIN: I'd say I'm just assuming.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: Do you know?

9 MRS. LEDIN: I don't know. I don't know.

10 MR. LEDIN: Don't know what?

11 MRS. LEDIN: If it was her first trip that day with that one. I
12 don't know.

13 MR. LEDIN: Oh, we don't know.

14 MRS. LEDIN: I know the first one's at 9 o'clock. But, I don't
15 know if she did it or the other one that had just left at 11 did it. I don't
16 know.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: Was the one that had just left, was it
18 wet? Did it look like it had been in the water?

19 MR. LEDIN: Oh, you wouldn't have noticed it.

20 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

21 MR. LEDIN: I'm assuming a ten-mile ride.

1 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, it probably would have dried out by that
2 time.

3 MR. LEDIN: It's probably ten miles to the lake.

4 THE INVESTIGATOR: Oh, really? Where you were picked
5 up was ten miles?

6 MRS. LEDIN: No.

7 MR. LEDIN: Pardon?

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: Ten miles where you picked it up
9 before you got to the lake?

10 MR. LEDIN: Yeah. Yeah. It was probably ten miles.

11 THE INVESTIGATOR: You were just lumbering through
12 town?

13 MR. LEDIN: Yeah. We went lumbering all over the place.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: And that's part of the tour?

15 MRS. LEDIN: Uh-huh.

16 MR. LEDIN: Yeah.

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: Oh, okay. All right.

18 MR. LEDIN: And if the tour is an hour and a half, assuming
19 you're on the lake -- I don't know. I don't have any idea we were
20 supposed to have been on the lake. But, I didn't think we were going to go
21 that far.

1 MRS. LEDIN: About a half hour to get there, a half hour in
2 the lake, a half hour to get back.

3 MR. LEDIN: Something like that, yeah. See, a half hour to
4 get there would have been 12 o'clock.

5 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah. Actually, I thought they said it was four
6 miles to the lake.

7 MR. LEDIN: Oh, that's all?

8 MRS. LEDIN: I think she said that.

9 MR. LEDIN: But, then we were moving pretty slow. We
10 were made to stop and all that kind of stuff. For my own, it seemed like it
11 took a long time to get to the lake. You actually make the stop and the
12 thing--

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: Where did you get on it?

14 MR. LEDIN: Right here. See all these bath houses on the
15 map here, on the brochures?

16 MRS. LEDIN: It's across from the Visitor Center.

17 MR. LEDIN: It's almost across in the last map. I think it was
18 --

19 MRS. LEDIN: Fordice. For-dice or Fordus. It's a visitor
20 center.

21 MR. LEDIN: Yes. And they provide for you. And 200 yards
22 and you actually pay for your ticket and stuff.

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: Now you've been up on the
2 mountain tower. What is that?

3 MR. LEDIN: It's just an overlook of the whole view of this
4 end of Arkansas.

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

6 MR. LEDIN: You just go up in an elevator and look things
7 over.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: Can you think of anything else you'd
9 like to -- I have your telephone number.

10 What I'd like you to do is take a look at this diagram and see
11 if it reflects the approximate position of the people that were around you.

12 And if you would sign it, both of you would sign it, I'd
13 appreciate it.

14 MRS. LEDIN: Okay.

15 MR. LEDIN: Okay.

16 (Complied.)

17 THE INVESTIGATOR: If you turn this around to where we
18 are now, let's see. Where's the Clarion?

19 The Clarion is right here.

20 MR. LEDIN: See, we came in here. This is pretty close.

21 They were showing us around here. We were right about here. No, right
22 about here (indicating).

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: You were right about here.

2 MR. LEDIN: No. Huh-uh.

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: The Clarion?

4 MR. LEDIN: The Clarion, we came out and this is the
5 Troops is right there.

6 THE INVESTIGATOR: Yes, and this is the dock.

7 MRS. LEDIN: No, you're confused.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: You're right here.

9 MRS. LEDIN: Well, no.

10 MR. LEDIN: No, no, no, definitely not.

11 We came in here, the right side of the road. We came right
12 here. And we were right here when it sank. We were either here or here
13 when it sank. And that's this big tour around. But, no, we were on this
14 side.

15 The Clarion is on that side because here's the church where
16 they brought us.

17 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, we were about right there.

18 MR. LEDIN: We were right about here. Either here or there.
19 I think it was here. They have that point to make it...

20 MRS. LEDIN: I'm going to put a question mark on this just to
21 see because I'm not sure that they were actually in that row.

22 THE INVESTIGATOR: That's row three. Okay. All right.

1 MRS. LEDIN: And Joe was somewhere on this side
2 because when I saw him, he was moving to this side.

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: All right. So, he was on the left side
4 some place. Row unknown.

5 MRS. LEDIN: So he was telling me -- evidently, he could tell
6 right away because he grabbed like four life things and threw them.

7 MR. LEDIN: Well, he was standing up, too, which helped.

8 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah.

9 THE INVESTIGATOR: So, when the operator said move, he
10 didn't have time to move?

11 MR. LEDIN: No, he didn't move.

12 MRS. LEDIN: He stood up.

13 MR. LEDIN: He didn't get very far. He stood up and that
14 was about it. He must have put one foot like in the aisle because I could
15 see him and I was sitting next to the window.

16 THE INVESTIGATOR: And he was Madeline's father?

17 MR. LEDIN: Yes.

18 MRS. LEDIN: And he survived.

19 THE INVESTIGATOR: He did?

20 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, he did. So father and daughter
21 survived. Mother didn't.

1 THE INVESTIGATOR: Well, you've been threw it. And my
2 last question generally what observations or recommendations do you
3 think could be made that, you know, that -- I know.

4 MRS. LEDIN: I think that's the main one that comes.

5 MR. LEDIN: The main reason I wanted to comment on it is
6 just to tell somebody, the Coast Guard or whoever, you've got to get the
7 off cover off. You've got to get that cover off when you get in the water.

8 The life jackets would have been nice to have been wearing.
9 There's no question about that. But, if you had the cover off, everybody
10 would have had a chance. With that cover on, there's too many people
11 didn't have a chance because that thing sank so quick.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

13 MR. LEDIN: Life jackets would be handy to put on and
14 there's no reason why you shouldn't, especially the little kids.

15 MRS. LEDIN: But, they couldn't have gotten out.

16 MR. LEDIN: I mean, I have a boat and when I take it out,
17 little kids wear life jackets. That's it.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: But, here the canopy kind of -- no
19 one could have -- okay.

20 MRS. LEDIN: Right.

1 MR. LEDIN: The canopy wouldn't have helped anybody. If
2 the kids would have had a life jacket on, 90 percent chance it wouldn't
3 have made any difference because they couldn't have floated out.

4 You would have floated to the top. The canopy would have
5 stopped you and that would have been it.

6 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

7 MRS. LEDIN: And I think that's probably what happened to
8 most people. I don't know. You know, I don't know if most of them were
9 trapped in there? Or, you don't know?

10 THE INVESTIGATOR: I can't say. I'm looking for your
11 observations because you were there.

12 MRS. LEDIN: Right.

13 THE INVESTIGATOR: And that's all we have.

14 MRS. LEDIN: Right.

15 THE INVESTIGATOR: Would you like to add anything else,
16 Diane?

17 MRS. LEDIN: I can't think of anything.

18 THE INVESTIGATOR: We're going to talk for a couple of
19 minutes about the people that came out to help them out of the water.

20 Okay, Gary, can you tell me what you recall about the
21 people that responded to the emergency?

1 MR. LEDIN: I kind of think if it was -- there really was two
2 boats. I believe there was a third one. The boat we got on was a red
3 boat. Okay, just a regular boat. I think it was either an in-board or an I/O,
4 one of the other.

5 It must have been an in-board because I stepped up on the
6 I/O. And he did put a ladder down.

7 MRS. LEDIN: Right.

8 MR. LEDIN: But he had thrown us some life jackets.

9 MRS. LEDIN: It was a man by himself.

10 MR. LEDIN: By himself. And then there was another man
11 and a woman in a pontoon boat.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay. And they had some people
13 there. I think James --

14 MRS. LEDIN: James was with us.

15 MR. LEDIN: James was with us.

16 MRS. LEDIN: And then Joe was on the pontoon boat and
17 they brought him over to our boat because I had Madeline.

18 MR. LEDIN: Right. There might have been another boat.

19 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, there might have.

20 MR. LEDIN: I'm not sure.

21 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, you know, I think the captain was in a
22 boat by herself.

1 MR. LEDIN: Oh, with the sheriff. The sheriff was there in a
2 boat.

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: Really?

4 MR. LEDIN: I'm pretty sure.

5 THE INVESTIGATOR: Were you still in the water?

6 MR. LEDIN: Yeah, I'm almost positive it was the sheriff.

7 THE INVESTIGATOR: That's a fast response. On marine
8 patrol or --?

9 MR. LEDIN: I'm almost positive. I'm almost positive it said
10 "Sheriff" on there.

11 MRS. LEDIN: I got there late (laughing).

12 MR. LEDIN: I'm almost positive.

13 MRS. LEDIN: It seemed to me there were three boats.

14 THE INVESTIGATOR: Do you know if everybody who
15 popped to the surface got picked up?

16 MRS. LEDIN: I believe so because there weren't very many
17 heads. I was looking.

18 MR. LEDIN: There was so much chaos, you know,
19 everybody was yelling and screaming. There was so much chaos, you
20 weren't really looking to see what was going on.

21 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

1 MRS. LEDIN: But, I think that -- and like I say, when we got
2 over there, the paramedics were there. I mean, everybody was really --

3 THE INVESTIGATOR: Were the paramedics there when
4 you came ashore?

5 MRS. LEDIN: Yes.

6 THE INVESTIGATOR: They were waiting?

7 MRS. LEDIN: Yes.

8 THE INVESTIGATOR: And do you recall how many units
9 were there?

10 I'm just trying to develop a time line because I will have their
11 log sheets.

12 MRS. LEDIN: I don't know if there were two at that side
13 because we... all right. And then I had just finished with chemotherapy in
14 November.

15 So then I started thinking, you know, maybe I'd better have
16 them check me out. You know, so I went in and they checked my heart
17 and my oxygen and something else.

18 And I was, you know, fine.

19 MR. LEDIN: From the time we went ashore though there
20 were a lot of sheriff cars.

21 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah, there were a lot of people.

1 MR. LEDIN: The one young -- I call them young sheriff, he's
2 been on it for probably like nine years, he said?

3 MRS. LEDIN: Yes.

4 But, they were there. They were really quick.

5 MR. LEDIN: The first unit in. It took us a long time.

6 MRS. LEDIN: As was the camera man.

7 MR. LEDIN: That's why I think -- that's another thing I think
8 that's why one of the boats out there was a sheriff. Kind of, I think,
9 because he might have radioed it in.

10 I don't know why I can't get that out of my mind because it
11 was a sheriff.

12 THE INVESTIGATOR: Well, they have a marine patrol and
13 it might have been one of those.

14 MRS. LEDIN: But I know I'm pretty sure there were two
15 paramedics.

16 MR. LEDIN: And the response on the boats, the private
17 people, boy, that was instant, I think. When I looked around, they were
18 there.

19 THE INVESTIGATOR: Do you have any idea how long you
20 were in the water before you got picked up?

21 MR. LEDIN: Boy, not long.

1 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, I bet I wasn't. Maybe, two minutes. I
2 mean, the boat was there where I popped up by Gary and he took the little
3 girl's arm away from me and gave me a life jacket. And I --

4 MR. LEDIN: Probably, five minutes I was out.

5 MRS. LEDIN: And I kind of went around to the back of the
6 boat. Like the man tried to pull me over the side. Well, I was too heavy.
7 So I went around the back and I just told him, "I'm okay. Let me just take
8 a while to get my breath."

9 THE INVESTIGATOR: So the two of you were on the same
10 boat. So you knew right away that each one of you had --

11 MRS. LEDIN: Oh, yeah. I popped up really just behind him.

12 MR. LEDIN: Yeah. We were there quite a while. When I
13 say "quite a while," another five minutes, I guess?

14 MRS. LEDIN: Yeah. Then they took us to the-- I think they
15 were probably trying to wait to see if anybody else would come up.

16 And I'm sure they didn't want to start their motors.

17 MR. LEDIN: No.

18 MRS. LEDIN: In case, you know, somebody was around.

19 No, the response I thought was excellent.

20 MR. LEDIN: There were some private people taking our
21 hands.

22 MRS. LEDIN: Everybody.

1 MR. LEDIN: I'm almost positive he was a sheriff...

2 MRS. LEDIN: And like I say, the church people, they were
3 just so nice. They did take some home. Or, I know of one, James, they
4 took home with them. And he was waiting for his grandparents.

5 You know, they offered for us to stay there with them.

6 THE INVESTIGATOR: Okay. Thank you very much.

7 This concludes the interview between Gary and Diane Ledin,
8 on May 2, 1999.

9 (INTERVIEW CONCLUDED.)

10 (Reviewed 10/19/99 PSP)

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