

Interview John Yablonsky  
Pages Redacted (Edited)  
Entirely or Partially from  
The Jury

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The ones I think were Edited

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

Pages in Total or in Part Redacted from  
Interview Shown to Jury Edited Out

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RA: Ok, how long did you live out in Lucerne Valley?  
JY: Um, I lived in there right after we got out of the military and uh, I guess about five or six years.  
RA: When was that? What time frame?  
JY: It must have been maybe three, four, five, about 85, uh, 90 or 91.  
RA: What did you do out there for - - some type of job I mean it's pretty (overlapping conversation)  
JY: Well I work in construction. My dad lives out there in uh Trade Post Road.  
RA: Your dad lives in Lucerne Valley?  
JY: Oh, yeah.  
RA: In the same spot that he lived for the last twenty years?  
JY: Yeah.  
RA: Really? So you rented from Rita?  
JY: Uh-hum.  
RA: Tell me about Rita. Tell me about her.  
JY: Um . . . .  
RA: We are investigating her murder.  
JY: Yeah, that's what I had heard that she had been murdered, um, I just rented a, she had a front house and we rented the back house from her.  
RA: How long did you guys rent?  
JY I don't know probably eight months I mean we moved into the house right down the street from her.  
RA: (Inaudible) who did she hang out with? Who were her friends, who were. . . .  
JY: You know she uh, I never really man I just rented from her um, God I can't remember the name of the this family out there that did a lot of uh, I don't even remember their names. There was a, a family of brothers that a, they're

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1           troublemakers. I can't remember the frigging last names of them, um, Valdez or I  
2           don't remember.

3   RA:    Uh-hum.

4   JY:    But anyways uh, two of the guys you know they were about her age she would  
5           date.

6   RA:    Uh-hum.

7   JY:    or they were at her house, uh. . . .

8   RA:    Two of the brothers, are they half brothers?

9   JY:    I don't really, I don't think their last name was Valdez I'm thinking um, I don't  
10          remember their last name though. I could talk to my dad and he'd come up with  
11          their name. Yeah, well there was one of em that uh, kept coming around and uh,  
12          she had asked me to ask them to leave one time but . . . .

13   RA:    Uh-hum.

14   JY:    other than that you know just . . . .

15   RA:    Was he, was he bothering her or something?

16   JY:    I guess he was like a nuisance to her you know.

17   RA:    Did she live by herself? I mean who else lived with her?

18   JY:    I was under the impression she had lived by herself. Oh, God damn it I can't  
19          remember the name. Uh, one of the guys worked with us for a little while worked  
20          with me and my dad.

21   RA:    Uh-hum. How long did you rent you said that she had uh, a place behind her  
22          house?

23   JY:    Yeah, she had a . . . .

24   RA:    Was that like a apartment, a duplex, or . . . .

25   JY:    Yeah, uh, here let me. . . .

26   GM:    Did the detectives, did the detectives talk to you back then cause we're missing a  
27          lot of paperwork from the investigation. We're trying to put it together.

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1 RA: What kind of work were you doing?

2 JY: Hanging doors.

3 RA: For your dad?

4 JY: Yeah.

5 RA: You're dad has a pretty good business out there?

6 JY: Well it was I mean it was just you know something to do at the time when uh, we  
7 became business partners and then it changed from there.

8 RA: Tell me about, more about Rita I mean who was, who were her friends, who did  
9 she hang out with I mean you guys lived . . . .

10 JY: We lived right there I mean dude I, I worked from sunup to sundown and uh, I  
11 seen her periodically on the weekends just to pay her rent but she was like in a,  
12 like a Moose Club or Lion's Club or some shit like that and I just never really saw  
13 her very often.

14 RA: Was that a pretty good likeness of her with that photograph?

15 JY: Uh. . . .

16 RA: Did she have a, a boyfriend?

17 JY: That's what I was trying uh, say earlier these two guys God I can't remember their  
18 names um, I mean if you don't mind I'll call my dad right now we can get the last  
19 names. There was a two guys and two brothers that uh, I guess that she was, you  
20 know going to be with and then the one I, he was drunk you know and uh, I was  
21 pulling out of the driveway one day and he was out in the front you could see him  
22 and she'd wave me in and asked me could I, could I ask this dude to leave.

23 RA: Uh-huh.

24 JY: and that's what I did.

25 RA: What, what happened?

26 JY: Nothing, I just told him say hey dude you need to be that you know, get out of  
27 here, kick rocks and he goes I wanted to talk to her or something I don't even

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1 remember all he was just you know she doesn't want you here. I live here and he  
2 split.

3 RA: And he left?

4 JY: Yeah.

5 RA: Was there any other problems?

6 JY: (Inaudible).

7 RA: After you guys moved did you, did you have anymore contact with Rita? Did you  
8 go over for barbecue's or hang out with her or stuff like that?

9 JY: No, I just seen her occasionally once in awhile you know like we'd see her at the  
10 gas, uh, the, the market in town. She'd ask me to come over and do some repairs.  
11 You know her door's sticking or, or her uh, uh, bathroom faucet was dripping,  
12 they're just little things. It wasn't very much. It wasn't very often. It wasn't all the  
13 time. mostly...

14 RA: How about her friends? What, what can you tell me about her friends?

15 JY: Dude really I wasn't, wasn't into her you know what her relations were or anything  
16 like that I'd only known that one incident and I told that uh, the detective or some  
17 the same thing when he had asked me. I gave him the name God I can't  
18 remember Dalperding (sp?), Dalperding (sp?) um. . . .

19 RA: That's the name of the detective, Dalperding (sp?)

20 JY: No, the family out there. I went to school with one of the kids. That's the only thing  
21 I can think of is uh, that one incident where this guy was like trying to get it, get to  
22 her or get in her house you know and uh, what I was leaving that one day. I was  
23 going to town get something and uh I noticed her in the door, her window I forget  
24 what it was, waiving at me and asked me if I could uh, I got out and went in and  
25 asked her what was going on and then she goes can you have him leave, that  
26 was it.

27 RA: Did he ever comeback again or . . . .

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: Hi, how are you?

2 RA: Melody? Melody? Nice to meet you. This is, I am Rob. This is Greg. Yes. . . .

3 JY: Yeah, they're investigating something I guess uh, uh the lady that I had rented  
4 from had been killed and it had never gotten solved and I guess they're working  
5 on the case and they're trying to find paperwork and some of it's missing and . . . .

6 RA: There is a lot of people that um, that lived out in that area that were never talked  
7 to or if they talked to them we don't have the paperwork saying that they were  
8 talked to so that's why we're here talking uh, with John right now see if he can  
9 help us out.

10 UN: Ok. ——— Melody, Johns wife

11 GM: Nice meeting you.

12 RA: It was nice meeting you.

13 JY: I'm trying to remember the name that's the only altercation that I had ever seen  
14 her have you know I mean. . . .

15 RA: Did she date guys her own age or younger, older I mean I know a lot of people  
16 have uh, preferences and stuff like that like your wife I would say that there can't  
17 be too much of a difference in your age maybe five years at the most.  
18 (overlapping conversation)

19 JY: No, that's um. . . .

20 RA: But some people date guys that are young.

21 JY: The dude, the dude was about her age. You know he was older than me. I'm  
22 trying to remember his name. It's just a family name, uh, I swear (inaudible).

23 GM: I think we have that name so I think we know who you're talking about.

24 JY: Cause uh, four or five or six uh everybody in town was just scared to death of em.

25 RA: Why is that? Just bad characters or . . . .

26 JY: Uh, yeah violent. Um, leave your card I'll tell my dad uh, uh, what's going on and  
27 see if he can come up with a last name.

28

INTE

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) Rita Cobb

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1 GM: I think we have it.

2 JY: He lived out in um. . .

3 GM: Cause, we have actually been told about this person by some other people so  
4 yeah, we're talking about the same person.

5 JY: The (Inaudible) Barstow Road.

6 RA: That's the back road from Barstow into Lucerne, correct?

7 JY: Yeah.

8 RA: Ok.

9 JY: Eighteen comes through Barstow but it runs out this way. Somewhere right out in  
10 here in the valley.

11 RA: Uh-hum. That's where these guys live.

12 JY: Yeah, they lived out in uh, I forget what it's called and that's all I hear some shit  
13 like that. It's off of Barstow Road.

14 RA: Uh-hum

15 JY: And it's a (inaudible) one of the brothers and then uh, he worked with me and my  
16 dad for a little while.

17 RA: What other kind of things did your dad tell you happened he said he told you  
18 some various rumors?

19 JY: Um, just that somebody had killed her with a nylon or some shit I couldn't  
20 remember for sure.

21 RA: Did they say how they did it with a nylon and what, what was actually done or. .  
22 They had to have been a lot of a lot of talk back then. It's a small community.  
23 Things like that don't happen that often.

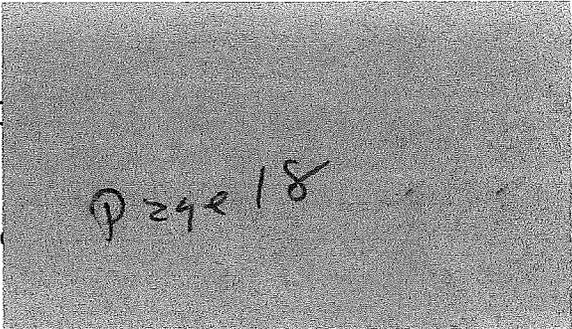
24 JY: I didn't hang a round anybody you know I you know I was pretty much to myself  
25 with my uh, my wife and my kids and then uh, I had a couple of other friends that  
26 uh, I hung out with (inaudible). I didn't, I didn't go to the Moose Lodge's or you  
27 know Lion's Club.

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INTERVIEW WITH JO

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1 RA: And what are those? The Moose Lodge  
2 activity out there to go to those?  
3 JY: Yeah, just some of the people there is stuff that uh, people get involved with?  
4 (Phone ringing)  
5 RA: But you weren't a member of it?  
6 JY: Uh-uh.  
7 RA: Was your dad a member of the Moose Club and Lion's Lodge and. . . .  
8 JY: Yeah, he is he's a member of the Moose Club. (overlapping conversation)  
9 UN: Hello? Good morning.  
10 GM: Moose Club, you said the Moose Club what's the other ones?  
11 JY: The Lions and then the uh, the VFW. I think this, she hung out with the VFW.  
12 RA: What kind of places are those? I mean what, what do you do there? What . . . .  
13 JY: Did uh, . . . .  
14 RA: I've never. . . .  
15 JY: They, they have banquets and just basically bar.  
16 RA: So it's a local social scene.  
17 JY: Yeah.  
18 RA: Where people get together and socialize there, um, did Rita go to those places?  
19 JY: Now that I mention it I, I think that she did go to the VFW but again I didn't keep  
20 tabs on her.  
21 RA: Right, how about your dad? Did you dad go there?  
22 JY: Yeah.  
23 RA: He was. . . .  
24 JY: Yeah, I remember uh, that he had gone to what the VFW and then uh, the Lions  
25 Club. Right now he's uh, I think it's the Lions Club that's in charge of the range,  
26 the firing range down there.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100.

Nothing of Pinto  
Conversation  
Robert Alexander/  
John Thomas knew  
about Blue Pinto  
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1 JY: What kind of car?

2 RA: What kind of car did you have back then?

3 JY: Um, a Toyota pick up. Something that could carry tools and get my family around.

4 RA: Got descent gas on it too you weren't spending all your money on gas even  
5 though it was a \$1.25 back then or maybe even less that that. (overlapping  
6 conversation)

7 JY: Yeah, it was much cheaper.

8 RA: Who, who else could we go talk to in Lucerne who is in the know who knows  
9 everybody out there?

10 JY: Uhhhhhhh....

11 RA: If you were us who, who should we go talk to?

12 JY: See I wouldn't even know, uh, I wouldn't even know. I don't even remember half  
13 the names of people out there.

14 GM: Does your dad know some of the people we've already been talking too  
15 (inaudible).

16 RA: Yeah, would your dad know or. . . .

17 JY: Yeah, my dad would probably have a clue. He's more in her age group.

18 GM: Any, beside, or what color was your Toyota pick up truck?

19 JY: Um, thought it was cream.

20 GM: What other cars did you have?

21 JY: I don't know, I had an old Toyota well it's, it's a cream color Toyota (inaudible)

22 GM: Cause I think there is something in there about a Pinto?

23 JY: Yeah, I did as a matter of fact I had bought a Pinto from (inaudible).

24 GM: What kinda, what year, what color. . .

25 JY: It was a blue Pinto. Yeah, it was a so she could a have transportation.

26 RA: Light blue? Dark blue?

27 JY: Blue, dark blue.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Dark blue? Good car? Bad car?  
2 JY: Well she kept the car you know but she didn't have a license she didn't know how  
3 to drive you know it was. . . .  
4 RA: I don't think I've seen a Pinto in years.  
5 JY: Me neither you know it's been a long time.  
6 RA: Their not around anymore.  
7 JY: I don't know we split up and I sold it.  
8 RA: She didn't take it with her.  
9 JY: No she still didn't have a license.  
10 RA: So you get, you still have that vehicle when you  
11 JY: Uh-huh.  
12 RA: Wow, that's a long time. So are you, are you a mechanic you . . . .  
13 JY: Yeah.  
14 RA: work on cars too? (overlapping conversation) Let me throw a couple of names uh,  
15 do you know Terry Radar (sp?)? She is someone that we should picked up we  
16 could go talk to?  
17 JY: Is it a lady?  
18 RA: I don't know. How about Carol Tevass (sp?)? No? Ok, Daniel Cook?  
19 GM: Wanna show him the photo's maybe, are you a face person or name person?  
20 JY: I'm a face person.  
21 RA: Oh, ok, here. Look through these uh, those are people that were talked way back  
22 in the day um, you might recognize them from some of the business that I don't  
23 know. But, those are some of the locals from Lucerne Valley that were talked to  
24 back then um, (pause) Here let me see this real quick. Do you know Donald  
25 Stone? How about Ed Lee? Edwin White? Francesca Drake?  
26 JY: Uh-uh.  
27 RA: No? Uh, Fred Holbrook? No?  
28

Page Missing  
from Jury  
  
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INTERVIEW WITH J

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

Asking if  
intimate with  
Rita/Melody  
in Next Room  
within hearing  
still at home  
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1 RA: How do you spell Mitchell?

2 JY: M-I-T-C-H-E . . . .

3 RA: You gotta come in

4 UN: Yeah. (overlapping conversation)

5 RA: Right, no problem dude.

6 UM: (Inaudible)

7 RA: All right why don't you go ahead and do that. Hey how you doing? Oh, that's ok,  
8 that's ok. (overlapping conversation)

9 UF: My sister is coming over too so if you see someone come up it's just her.

10 (Pause)

11 GM: If you he intimate with Rita we need to ask. I'm not ready to go. (Inaudible) I do  
12 now. (Inaudible) Just so you know you know this is. . . .

13 RA: Uncomfortable.

14 GM: Yeah because of your age difference I gotta ask questions like this ... I don't you  
15 (inaudible).

16 JY: Sorry about that.

17 RA: Oh, no problem.

18 (laughing)

19 JY: I am by myself all week and I don't eat much but when I get home on the weekend  
20 I eat regularly you know.

21 RA: Are you on some kind of a diet or something?

22 JY: No I just start working and I eat during the day.

23 RA: Sure.

24 JY: I slow down you know. My production isn't high enough so. . . .

25 RA: So your eating habits are different cause your busy at work?

26 JY: Yeah, when we eat, I'll eat two or three times after I get home but I won't eat  
27 breakfast or lunch.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: You know I know your wife's here and we're asking a lot of questions.

2 JY: She's probably tripping out.

3 (laughing)

4 RA: Right, I know, I know we're trying to be cool cause we want you to help us with  
5 this. (overlapping conversation)

6 JY: Really trying to be cool.

7 RA: Um, I know it's kind of uncomfortable. Did you have a relationship with, with Rita?  
8 Were you guys, you guys ever hook up? You guy's ever get intimate or anything  
9 like that? I mean she was, there is a considerable age difference there but we  
10 don't know who she dated or what her habits were and the only thing you're telling  
11 us is that there were possibly two guys that she had seen.

12 JY: no, I didn't see her.

13 GM: I mean if you did you know let us know. No?

14 JY: Nah.

15 RA: No?

16 JY: What kind of a relationship?

17 RA: What's that?

18 JY: Sexually you mean?

19 GM: Yeah. She was like fifty-five and you were twenty-two. (overlapping conversation)

20 RA: Twenty-two, right?

21 JY: Yeah, that's pretty, pretty young.

22 GM: And you just well the only reason we're asking is cause you said you were having  
23 problems with Holly and all that and you know. (overlapping conversation)

24 JY: No, it wasn't nothing like that. Our problems me and Holly's problems came much  
25 later.

26

27

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 think some things that we're gonna talk about are gonna be a little bit private,  
2 embarrassing and I just wanna make sure that we're in a comfortable location um,  
3 kind of away from your wife. Do you mind going with us?

4 JY: Where are we going?

5 RA: Go down to Signal Hill police department so we can sit down there and talk.

6 JY: I guess so.

7 RA: I appreciate it.

8 JY: I mean I'm now like a suspect, suspect on this thing or what?

9 RA: Well we're talking to everybody trying to get as much information as possible John  
10 and um, sometimes we have to ask personal questions and . . . .

11 GM: You got your family sitting right there. (overlapping conversation)

12 RA: Your family's right there and we don't wanna cause any type of embarrassment.

13 JY: I don't think there is gonna be any kind of complications.

14 RA: I think it would be just be better if we did it kind of back at the station as opposed  
15 to right here. And you have been very cooperative with us talking to us right now  
16 and um . . . .

17 JY: Hey Mel, Melody?

18 GM: Hi, how are you?

19 UN: (Inaudible)

20 RA: Hi.

21 UN: (Inaudible) Uh, here Montana.

22 UN: Montana here.

23 GM: That's him huh? He's big.

24 RA: He looks like a big friendly dog.

25 JY: Was, was killed and they are trying solve the case and they wanna just ask. . . .

26 UN: Who?

27

28

Signal Hill  
Suggested  
  
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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: A lady named Rita. Me and uh, J.J. and Jasmines mom had rented from her that  
2 she had gotten killed (inaudible).

3 UN: Ok, so? *Melody*

4 GM: He had never been interviewed back then officially and he lived in a back rental  
5 that the detectives didn't know about back then.

6 UN: (Inaudible) *Melody*

7 GM: So, obviously we wanna clear him if he didn't have anything to do with it. He was  
8 living back there. . . . (overlapping conversation)

9 RA: We wanna. . . . (overlapping conversation)

10 GM: about the time when this happened

11 RA: We'd like to sit down and have a talk and we, we have a lot more questions that  
12 we'd like to ask.

13 UN: Ok, I mean. . . . *Melody*

14 RA: Ok.

15 UN: So he's gonna ride with you or you want me to give him a ride up. . . . (overlapping  
16 conversation) *Melody*

17 GM: He can ride with us and we can bring him back.

18 UN: Ok. *Melody*

19 JY: Do you mind if I take uh, we got your car never mind.

20 RA: Um

21 UN: Do you want me I can give him a ride up there if you want me uh, just let them. *Melody*

22 GM: If you want that would be fine.

23 RA: If you want, that's cool.

24 JY: Ok.

25 GM: Whatever's easier.

26 RA: As long, as long as you don't mind.

27 UN: Cause I don't mind giving him a ride no. *Melody*

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN Y

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You Can Leave  
Any Time  
Edited Out  
for Jury  
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John was Not Permitted To Leave!!!

1 JY: Say, I don't know why but I'm like scared to c  
2 RA: Uh, just relax man.  
3 JY: I'm trying to man.  
4 RA: Ok, like we said (overlapping conversation)  
5 JY: Ok, I spoke to my dad and uh explained to him uh, what was going on and he said  
6 that her son had been uh, arrested and convicted of it you know it's . . . .  
7 RA: Of what?  
8 JY: Rita's murder.  
9 RA: Oh, really, ok, that's not true I can tell you that right now. Um, I appreciate you  
10 coming down here and talking to us uh, what we wanna do is I wanna basically go  
11 over what you told us earlier um, because I wanna get a little more detail as far  
12 where you lived and time frames and you know that type of stuff I just want, want  
13 a use much information from you as possible be a little more comfortable here  
14 than it was at your house.  
15 JY: For you guys (inaudible).  
16 RA: I'm, we never been here before so I feel pretty comfortable and I hope you feel  
17 comfortable to uh, I appreciate you coming down here, uh, you're free to leave at  
18 anytime that you want. You're not under arrest but I'm, I'm glad that you, that you  
19 came down here to talk to us. Do you remember how to get out?  
20 JY: Yeah.  
21 RA: Ok, great, great. Anyways let's I'd like to kind of stop at I'd like to start from when  
22 you were growing up and where you lived and let's just progress that far you know  
23 I wanna talk about everything that you that we talked about earlier but I wanna  
24 start from where you lived and then all the way until you moved down to Lynwood.  
25 JY: Ok, talk about where I lived growing up?  
26 RA: Yeah. Just . . . .  
27 JY: All right.

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 name of the peoples faces out there, um, when you lived at the rental, Rita's  
2 rental, um, who did she socialize with? Who did she hang out with? Tell me  
3 about Rita?

4 JY: It was just uh, a couple of ladies that were in there and I had that one moment  
5 when I'd said that I had come up and she had like invited to drink a beer and then  
6 uh. . . .

7 RA: Did you recognize those pictures that I showed you? Were any of those ladies . . .

8 JY: No it doesn't bring back any. . .

9 RA: Ok.

10 JY: Anything but uh; that gentleman that I was speaking about, the Leftwich's I think  
11 there's five brothers or six brothers or something like that.

12 RA: You said David right? David Leftwich.

13 JY: Dave, David he's the one that was in the front yard.

14 RA: Ok.

15 JY: But uh, she was like trying to get him to leave and he wouldn't leave.

16 RA: Is that the same day or we talking about different days?

17 JY: Oh, it was a different day.

18 RA: Ok.

19 JY: And, and he was drunk he was, he was pretty drunk. And then I don't remember  
20 how he left I wasn't I told him to leave, I don't know uh . . . .

21 RA: So you didn't have to wrestle with him in the front yard or. . . .

22 JY: I just told him, dude you gotta leave, you gotta split she doesn't want you here.  
23 And he left.

24 RA: Had you ever seen Leftwich or David Leftwich at the house before?

25 JY: Uh, yeah I have seen him up there with her before but I, uh . . . .

26 RA: Was he her boyfriend or just you don't know what the relationship was? Ok, was  
27 there any other guys coming around visiting or socializing with Rita?

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: I, I just I'd heard you know through other people that she was messing around with  
2 one of the other Leftwich's and I heard that from an ex-girlfriend of mine who was  
3 up there. Her mom was dating the guy, one of the Leftwich's and then the and  
4 she was telling me that uh, he used to talk shit you know everybody talks shit but  
5 you know. . . .

6 RA: It's a small, it's a small community.

7 JY: Yeah, you know I mean uh, I don't even know how it came up uh, something  
8 happened oh, you used to live up there, apartment or something like that or you,  
9 they said I'd lived with her or something and it's like no I rented a, a house from  
10 her and then she goes oh well my, my boyfriend used to date her and he  
11 remembers seeing you there and I was like ok whatever you know.

12 RA: Uh-huh.

13 JY: So I wasn't really that important you know uh, that's how I found out that she was  
14 dating one of the other's and I know it wasn't David that uh, this gal was uh,  
15 seeing at the time. Well it had to been another Leftwich.

16 RA: How far away from Rita's house that she was living in the main residence was the  
17 studio apartment? I mean how much?

18 JY: From here to the parking lot I mean it wasn't even that it was here to the front door  
19 of the station.

20 RA: We're just talking. . . .

21 JY: Twenty feet.

22 RA: A few feet? Ok, how about friends that would come over and visit her, who did  
23 she socialize with?

24 JY: There was always cars there but I don't know who was there.

25 RA: What kind of cars do you remember?

26 JY: (Inaudible)

27 RA: No? But you owned a cream colored, Ford, Ranger? (overlapping conversation)

28

R.A. = Dark Blue  
P. 85 Pinto

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- 1 JY: Yeah, it was a tan, Toyota.
- 2 RA: Toyota? Toyota what? Like SR5 or . . . .
- 3 JY: Yeah, it might have been a SR5?
- 4 RA: Cause I think that was the popular model back then
- 5 JY: (Inaudible)
- 6 RA: Ok, so you owned a Toyota truck? Standard? King Cab?
- 7 JY: It, it's just a regular cab.
- 8 RA: Regular cab. Long bed? Short bed?
- 9 JY: It's just six or eight foot bed I think.
- 10 RA: Was it uh, like uh, uh, 4-wheel drives were pretty popular back then people would
- 11 jack em up like five feet off the ground, nothing like that just a regular stock truck.
- 12 Ok, and it was yours?
- 13 JY: No, my dad co-signed the uh, it was mne.
- 14 RA: Well he's trying to help you out a little bit. And then you also owned a dark blue
- 15 Pinto.
- 16 JY: Correct, I bought a dark blue Pinto from a guy out of Apple Valley or I think it was
- 17 Apple Valley. My wife was staying at home you know she cause I was gone all the
- 18 time.
- 19 RA: Uh-huh.
- 20 JY: By that time uh, me and my dad were working six or seven days a week all year
- 21 you know and you figure twelve, fourteen hours a day gonna be gone it's like I
- 22 need to get to the store get you know groceries or never mind that she never
- 23 cooked you know she may need to take the kids to town for an emergency, never
- 24 mind that she didn't take care of the kids you know but uh. . . .
- 25 RA: But she needed transportation is what you're saying?
- 26
- 27
- 28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: All it was is just you know something to try and influence her hey why don't you  
2 clean the house, why don't you take care of the kids, why don't you cook some  
3 groceries you know and uh, she just never learned how to drive.

4 RA: So you were being, so you were bribing it was a bribe to get her to be what you  
5 wanted her to be as a mother and a wife? What, what was your normal schedule  
6 back then when you would be working? What time did you guys, what time did  
7 you get up and leave?

8 JY: Um, I usually got I think I got up like 5 o'clock at my house, my dad's house by 6  
9 or 6:30.

10 RA: Uh-huh.

11 JY: And we'd jump on the road and or load tools up and head to wherever our  
12 destination was you know.

13 RA: Uh-huh.

14 JY: Worked again in San Bernardino or um, I think we even did a job in Colton, um,  
15 Needles was uh, kinda we went there and stayed all week.

16 RA: Yeah, I was gonna say that's. . . . (overlapping conversation)

17 JY: We went to Barstow, um, Apple we went all over the place. We knew where we  
18 were gonna be.

19 RA: So, wherever in Southern California you had to go that the job site was you guys  
20 went?

21 JY: Yeah.

22 RA: And generally you'd come back at night. What time would you normally get back?  
23 around about?

24 JY: Probably about six or seven at night.

25 RA: So you got about, about a twelve-hour workday?

26 JY: Yeah.

27 RA: All right, with travel?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Yeah.

2 RA: and then you'd get home about six o'clock what did, what kind of things did you  
3 and Holly do?

4 JY: I just you know go through the house and do the cooking and cleaning and she  
5 was. . . .

6 RA: That she didn't do during the day?

7 JY: Correct yeah, and spend time uh, and play with the kids.

8 RA: Right.

9 JY: Go grocery shopping and the things we needed to do.

10 RA: Sounds like it was probably pretty, pretty tough for you actually because you go  
11 out and you work all day but then you come home and it's almost like you have to  
12 start working again.

13 JY: I was young I guess is, it's the normal.

14 RA: Young, had a lot of energy.

15 JY Yeah and then uh, not I guess about six months before we moved, I moved back  
16 down to the city we were having problems we had uh, start getting I came home  
17 one day and the note on the door says that she wasn't there that the kids were at  
18 the babysitters. So I went to pick up the kids and, and then I contacted her mom  
19 said I don't know where she's at, she came up there and we looked around for her  
20 I finally found her and then she moved down to the city with her mom and I kind of  
21 followed right along.

22 RA: Uh-huh.

23 JY; And uh, once we got out of that atmosphere everything was kinda cool. And then  
24 uh, um, I think when we were, were gone and uh went up to go see my dad for  
25 some reason or another and uh, that's when he had told me about the incident of  
26 Rita you know?

27 RA: Uh-huh.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: No.

2 RA: How about you? Did you date on her? Were you messing around on her?

3 JY: Uh-uh.

4 RA: No, were you messing around on Holly? No nothing like that? Ok, so about when  
5 give me a, a approximate year and, and time frame that you split up with Alicia.  
6 You'd say about 96?

7 JY: Around 93.

8 RA: 93.

9 JY: Yeah

10 RA: It must have been really rough for you but that . . . . .

11 JY: Can I go to the bathroom I mean I gotta like pee right now.

12 RA: Yeah, well let me find out where the bathrooms are. I have no problem with that.

13 (long silent pause)

14 RA: Do you have stomach problems or you just have to go pee?

15 JY: I just had to pee dude.

16 RA: Drink a lot of water or coffee?

17 JY: Yeah, well I drank a bunch of coffee this morning and then uh, I was saying I had  
18 a big meal last night and normally first couple of hours in the morning I take a  
19 dump.

20 RA: Right.

21 JY: And I woke up late this morning and my son just moved out and you know how  
22 that I had a I don't know what I ate gave me bad gas.

23 RA: Well you know last night was the time change?

24 JY: Anyways and then uh, you know I like get ready go get a pack of cigarettes and  
25 you guys pull up so I hadn't made my, my normal bowl movements for the day.

26 RA: Right, right.

27 JY: And I'm sitting in the kitchen. There's. . . .

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 RA: Squirming in you seat obviously.
- 2 JY: Yeah you know.
- 3 RA: I'm glad it was you and not me actually, um, sometimes I you know have those
- 4 problems too. So, sometime around 1993 you end things with Alicia, um . . . .
- 5 JY: 9..n...
- 6 RA: Now you're with Melody right now. So about 96 is when things totally ended with
- 7 Alicia?
- 8 JY: Yeah, 95.
- 9 RA: 95.
- 10 JY It was done.
- 11 RA: All right. So, things end with her and now you're back on your own again. Or I
- 12 shouldn't say on your own but you're back by yourself again.
- 13 JY: Yeah.
- 14 RA: Um, and then you meet Melody? Correct? Melody? Ok? So then you meet Melody
- 15 Did you have any girlfriends in between Alicia and Melody?
- 16 JY: Uh, yeah. I dated a bunch of girls.
- 17 RA: A bunch of em.
- 18 JY: I mean I was a single parent I had a good job and my own place.
- 19 RA: Everything was good, right? Who else did you date back then?
- 20 JY: Uh, Dana, uh, Brittney, uh, Julie, uh, Lorie, a couple more.
- 21 RA: Uh-huh, when did you meet Melody?
- 22 JY: Um, I met Melody in um, probably about 2000.
- 23 RA: 2000.
- 24 JA: And then uh, I met Melody in the year 2000 in a meeting.
- 25 RA: You guys hit it off pretty good obviously.
- 26 JY: Uh-huh.
- 27 RA: How long after that did you guys get married?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: What happened to that?

2 JY: Uh, my dad came and got it because I missed a couple of payments or . . . .

3 GM: He repoed it? (overlapping conversation)

4 JY: missed four payments and he took it.

5 RA: He took it and sold it or did he keep it?

6 JY: No I think he kept it and left it in Mexico when he moved from Mexico. He still I  
7 mean a couple of years ago they sold their place in Mexico he still had that truck.

8 RA: So that was his driving around vehicle down in Mexico.

9 JY: Yeah, it's painted like a camouflage tank.

10 GM: And what about your Pinto?

11 JY: Excuse me?

12 GM: Your Pinto?

13 JY: I sold that.

14 RA: To a person, to a wrecking yard?

15 JY: A car, a car lot over here on uh, Long Beach Boulevard.

16 RA: Down hear in Long Beach? What was the name of it do you know? Is it still  
17 around or did it close up shop?

18 JY: Oh, it's been closed up long time ago.

19 GM: When did you sell that?

20 JY: Right after me and my wife had moved down here.

21 GM: After you and Holly moved out? Do you know why we're talking to you today?

22 JY: Hmm.

23 GM: Do you know why we're talking to you today?

24 JY: Um, you were gonna . . . .

25 GM: Now John people make mistakes. We're not here to judge you.

26 JY: Yeah.

27 GM: Your young but you had a rough childhood. You had a rough life.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 a lie we have no credibility. Nobody trusts us. Nobody will talk to us. Nobody will  
2 help us. That even includes when we talk to the person that committed the  
3 murder. We're honest with that person and we're up front. We're being up front  
4 with you right now John. You're DNA links you to Rita's death.

5 JY: It's just uh. . . .

6 GM: Was it an accident?

7 JY: Dude I didn't, I didn't. . . .

8 GM: John, John, was it an accident?

9 JY: You're not hearing me. I, I didn't hurt this lady.

10 RA: Are we done?

11 GM: Yeah, we're done.

12 RA: We're done.

13 GM: You're under arrest for the murder of Rita Cobb that occurred in 1985.

14 RA: Stand up. Turn around. Put your hands on the wall.

15 (END OF RECORDING)

16 Where was Miranda?  
17 Find killer! Check DNA  
18  
19 on watch pin  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28