

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 Interviewer: Det. Greg Myler

2 Interviewer: Det. Rob Alexander

3 Interviewee: John Yablonsky

4

5 RA: Test. -- Today's date is March 08, 2009. It's approximately 09:15 hours.

6 GM: Can we talk to you for one second?

7 RA: The following interview will be reference to case number 07-88. (overlapping
8 conversation)

9 Radio Transmission GM: Alright, we'll be talking to him at the house.

10 Radio Response: We're still gonna stand by right?

11 (door closing)

12 Radio Response Transmission RA: Yes.

13 GM: Hey, how you doing?

14 RA: Hi.

15 (door closing)

16 RA: Hey, we're detectives, we're following up on a, on a case.

17 GM: I'm Greg. (overlapping conversation)

18 RA: We'd like to sit down and talk with you for a couple of minutes. I've got some
19 photographs I'd like to show you. Do you have a couple of minutes?

20 JY: Yeah, absolutely.

21 RA: Ok, great.

22 JY: And your name is?

23 RA: Rob and Greg.

24 JY: Need to get my dog out of there.

25 RA: Move in the little area here. Is he an attack dog?

26 JY: No, he's a golden retriever. He'll lick you to death. We can go in here...make sure,
27 c'mon.

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- 1 RA: Great, appreciate it.
- 2 JY: Yeah, he's a friendly dog he just
- 3 RA: Looks like an old neighborhood here but uh. . . . it's really well taken care of
- 4 (overlapping conversation)
- 5 JY: I just don't want him to uh climb up into your guy's laps or what have you.
- 6 GM: What kind of dog is he?
- 7 JY: Golden Retriever.
- 8 GM: How old is he?
- 9 JY: About five years.
- 10 RA: Five years old? I used to have a Rottweiler and everybody thinks they're ferocious
- 11 dogs but, they're just huge babbies. . . .(overlapping conversation)
- 12 JY: I used to have a Rottweiler but he's obese, he's like, God he's like that big his
- 13 head is huge.
- 14 GM: Wow!
- 15 JY: He's a loving dog you know. I work over at his house one day and I had a little rip
- 16 in my pants and he just I mean he literally ripped the bottom portion of my pants
- 17 off, yeah.
- 18 GM: You guys remodel in here? It seems pretty nice for an older house.
- 19 JY: Yeah, we just kinda upgraded everything. What it is, is they had the drop ceiling.
- 20 RA: Right, uh-huh.
- 21 JY: I just pulled the drop ceiling out.
- 22 RA: Did you do all the work yourself?
- 23 JY: Yeah.
- 24 GM: It looks pretty clean.
- 25 RA: Well as long as you said I did.
- 26 JY: Hell yeah I did.
- 27 RA: It looks good though.

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1 JY: Yeah.

2 RA: It looks good. At any rate we're following up on a, on a case where some uh
3 interviews we been working on a case for probably about two or three months.
4 We've talked about three people, um, they keep telling us that you lived in
5 Lucerne Valley back in 19, back, back in the mid 80's. So we're out talking to
6 everybody who lived in Lucerne Valley trying to get additional information um, the
7 case is, it's a homicide case.

8 JY: Really?

9 RA: And I'd like to show you a couple of photographs see if you recognize anybody,
10 see if you can help us out. Is that cool?

11 GM: How long you been living here?

12 JY: Um, about six or nine months, yeah about six months.

13 RA: Did you buy right at the peak or

14 JY: No, that's my father in-laws house.

15 RA: Oh, ok, lucky. (showing a photograph) Do you know him?

16 JY: No, I don't know him.

17 GM: That's Bruce Nash.

18 RA: Bruce Nash, yeah.

19 JY: Uh-huh.

20 GM: That's Angela?

21 RA: That's Angela Neete. Do you know?

22 JY: Um, yeah, yeah we um, used to rent from her, me and my wife and a, had a kid.

23 GM: Rita Cobb?

24 RA: Rita Cobb?

25 JY: Yeah.

26 RA: Out in Lucerne Valley?

27 JY: Uh-huh.

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1 RA: Ok, how long did you live out in Lucerne Valley?
2 JY: Um, I lived in there right after we got out of the military and uh, I guess about five
3 or six years.
4 RA: When was that? What time frame?
5 JY: It must have been maybe three, four, five, about 85, uh, 90 or 91.
6 RA: What did you do out there for - - some type of job I mean it's pretty (overlapping
7 conversation)
8 JY: Well I work in construction. My dad lives out there In uh Trade Post Road.
9 RA: Your dad lives in Lucerne Valley?
10 JY: Oh, yeah.
11 RA: In the same spot that he lived for the last twenty years?
12 JY: Yeah.
13 RA: Really? So you rented from Rita?
14 JY: Uh-hum.
15 RA: Tell me about Rita. Tell me about her.
16 JY: Um
17 RA: We are investigating her murder.
18 JY: Yeah, that's what I had heard that she had been murdered, um, I just rented a,
19 she had a front house and we rented the back house from her.
20 RA: How long did you guys rent?
21 JY I don't know probably eight months I mean we moved into the house right down
22 the street from her.
23 RA: (Inaudible) who did she hang out with? Who were her friends, who were. . . .
24 JY: You know she uh, I never really man I just rented from her um, God I can't
25 remember the name of the this family out there that did a lot of uh, I don't even
26 remember their names. There was a, a family of brothers that a, they're
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1 JY: Somebody had came and uh, uh, yeah they came to by dad's house and, and
2 talked to me and uh, I gave him some information based on uh, I remembered the
3 guys name then but it was - - (inaudible).
4 JY: But she had a, her house was set up like this and then she had like a little
5 GM: I got this.
6 RA: Video pack here.
7 GM: Maybe you can help us out here. We're not really familiar with Lucerne Valley but
8 here's, you got a pencil?
9 JY: Her road came down like this. This is 18 and. . . .
10 RA: Highway 18, right?
11 JY: Yeah, and her place is set up like this right here. This is what we rented and this is
12 where her house was.
13 RA: So Rita, could you write Rita there so I don't forget cause I might, I might forget.
14 Ok, and then you and your wife, what's your wife's name?
15 JY: Uh, Holly.
16 RA: Holly, you guys still together?
17 JY: No, no we split up for fifteen years.
18 RA: Oh wow (inaudible). It's been quite a long time huh?
19 JY: You know and then while we were there you know I just uh, I'd do little
20 maintenance things up inside there for her and. . . .
21 RA: To help her out?
22 JY: Yeah.
23 RA: Cause you kind of a handy guy you do construction stuff.
24 JY: Yeah.
25 RA: Right. Now, was she killed while you were living in that apartment back there?
26 JY: Not that I know of, no.

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1 RA: Ok, maybe that's like Greg said there's a couple of reports that are missing from
2 the original investigation um, obviously we don't we didn't know that you had been
3 talked to before.

4 JY: Yeah.

5 GM: We're actually missing a lot. (overlapping conversation)

6 JY: There was a detective uh, a private investigator or something like that. My dad is,
7 said that he took on the case and

8 GM: We don't have any of that.

9 JY: a penny was gonna solve the crime or something.

10 GM: Who?

11 JY: That he was gonna do uh, solve the crime for a penny or some shit like that I don't
12 know.

13 RA: Wow, really? How long did you, Holly, Holly, um how long did you guys live in that
14 apartment?

15 JY: I'd say about six or eight months or something like that. It wasn't very long.

16 RA: It was just something to tide you over until you got another place?

17 JY: Yeah, cause like right up the street down over here uh, there was a dirt road and
18 there was a house down over here we were renting.

19 RA: You mean from someone else?

20 JY: Yeah, another house.

21 RA: A bigger place?

22 JY: Yeah, yeah absolutely cause this one was, was just like a big studio. It was just a
23 big room with a, a bedroom, uh I mean a kitchen and the bathroom.

24 RA: It was reasonable?

25 JY: Pardon?

26 RA: It was reasonable rent?

27 JY: Um, it, I don't remember, I was making like eight dollars and hour you know so. . .

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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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1 JY: I didn't, no cause we moved after that shortly after and then uh, I'd see her in town
2 couple of times at the, at the little Lucerne Market and uh, she had asked me if I
3 could uh, you know come by and do some, some things. I don't even think she
4 even rented that back out anymore. I think she turned it back into a storage or her
5 son was gonna move in or

6 RA: Uh-hmm.

7 JY: I don't even remember the name

8 RA: Did you grow up out in Lucerne Valley or

9 JY: I went to school out there for a little while.

10 RA: What kind of school, like high school, trade school?

11 JY: Yeah, it was high school. Yeah, for a couple of years I went to Apple Valley.

12 RA: And so they bused you from Lucerne Valley to Apple Valley High School?

13 JY: Yeah.

14 RA: Wow, that must have sucked.

15 GM: Oh wow.

16 RA: What did you guys do out there for, for entertainment, for fun?

17 JY: Um, ride dirt bikes and they had a little uh, arcade or a uh, uh, yeah it was like a
18 little arcade and uh we'd go down there and uh,

19 RA: Cause we'd been out there and we told you we talked to about. . . .

20 JY: There ain't nothing out there.

21 RA: We talked to about thirty people out there and um. . . .

22 GM: There's nothing. . . .

23 RA: I don't know what you would do out there myself, um, unless you had a pool in the
24 back yard or something in the summer time.

25 JY: My dad had had horses you know. He'd get into the Gymkhana but I didn't do any
26 4-H or anything like that though you know. Playing around with the horses and I
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1 worked out at the little chicken ranch right out, Rabbit Springs Road I think that
2 what it is.

3 GM: I think we're on that road one time.

4 JY: Rabbit Springs Road and it had a . . .

5 RA: Is it kind of a long road?

6 JY: Yeah, every road there is long.

7 RA: It's like...

8 JY: My dad was very short you know as far uh, my behavior was out of line, uh, me
9 and the kids would party after school and sometimes he was like you need to get
10 out I've had enough of you. Pack your stuff up and go back to your mom's. I, I
11 didn't even finish high school I think I was out there for about a year and a half in
12 high school.

13 RA: Uh-hum. Where did your mom live?

14 JY: Um, Hawaiian Gardens in Long Beach or something like that.

15 RA: Oh, so from this area.

16 JY: Yeah.

17 RA: It's a little bit nicer here than. . . .

18 JY: Yeah.

19 RA: I mean I guess it all depends on what you want to do right? If you want a quiet
20 desolate, no neighbors, Lucerne Valley's probably perfect.

21 JY: Yeah.

22 RA: Everybody knows everybody's business out there.

23 JY: Yeah. That's um, that's crazy that uh, she had gotten killed but there was the thing
24 I was I had moved away or something like that uh, or we were in the process of
25 moving away or something I forget but anyway cause I remember uh, uh, my dad
26 had mentioned something to me he was, we were in the process of moving down
27 here to uh, we moved to Lynwood to uh, my mother-in-law's (inaudible) house.

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1 GM: When you were living there?

2 JY: Um, yeah we were, we had all ready moved out and we were in the process of
3 moving down here. God that was such a long time ago, I can' recall back quite
4 that far but um, yeah, we were in the process of moving down here and uh, I'd
5 come back up and my dad said, "hey something happened Rita had gotten killed
6 or something I just, wow what a trip.

7 RA: Kind of a shocker especially since you used to rent to her or you used to rent from
8 her.

9 JY: Yeah.

10 RA: Now was she, was she descent lady or

11 JY: Yeah, she was very polite, very proper you know she wasn't, she was polite she
12 was very proper.

13 RA: So you left Lucerne Valley to go you said in the military? Is that what you said?

14 JY: No, I left the military to come and uh move up to Lucerne Valley. I left the military
15 in um, first I moved down here into uh, thought it was South Gate or Lynwood or
16 something like that. I was supposed to go and work for my dad and then uh, he
17 said there was nothing and it had just gotten really bad where I had nothing as far
18 as employment you know I had a wife and a kid and he gave me a shot and I went
19 up there and worked for a about eight dollars an hour.

20 RA: Uh-hum, tight to make it on eight bucks an hour huh?

21 JY: Yeah.

22 RA: You gotta run a tight budget or else your wife has to work, one of the two even
23 back then.

24 JY: Yeah.

25 RA: So living in the, the rental here it was you your wife and you said you have a child?
26 (overlapping conversation)

27 JY: My son.

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1 RA: Your son, what's his name?
2 JY: John.
3 RA: John, how many kids do you have?
4 JY: I got six now. I have with my first wife I had two kids John and Jasmine and then
5 uh, my second wife I had three kids, Joseph, Kenneth and Breanna.
6 RA: What was her name?
7 JY: Alicia.
8 RA: So your, with Alicia you had Joe. . . .
9 JY: Kenneth and Breanna.
10 RA: Kenneth and Breanna.
11 JY: Yeah.
12 RA: That makes five kids.
13 JY And I married this wife here and she had one so that makes six.
14 RA: And this is your current wife right now?
15 JY: Yeah.
16 RA: What's her name?
17 JY: Melody.
18 RA: Melody and that's what's that child's name?
19 JY: Sarah.
20 RA: Is that a, an adopted child or stepchild?
21 JY: No, that's hers.
22 GM: You've been staying busy, wow, a lot of kids.
23 RA: Is she a good kid?
24 JY: Uh-hum.
25 RA: Good girl?
26 JY: Yes. I can't remember the, it's like right there. You know how you got the names
27 right there and just

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1 RA: Uh-hum, it's right on the tip of your tongue but just can't quite get it out.

2 GM: I'm sorry I, I was looking down John Jr. lived here with you and Holly?

3 JY: Yeah, yeah.

4 GM: Ok, how old was he?

5 JY: Uh, a year and a half, two years?

6 RA: You had him, before you moved back from the military?

7 JY: Oh yeah.

8 RA: Right?

9 JY: Yeah.

10 RA: So you are in the military and have a child and is that where you met Holly from?

11 JY: No, I met Holly from uh, school.

12 RA: You went to high school together?

13 JY: Yeah.

14 RA: Like high school sweethearts?

15 JY: Kinda, it's a long drawn out story.

16 RA: It doesn't sound like your split was a, a pleasant split I guess that's the best way to
17 put it.

18 JY: Uh-uh.

19 RA: What's she doing now?

20 JY: Nothing, living in Canada I guess I don't know. (inaudible)

21 RA: So, you don't keep in contact even through the kids?

22 JY: Uh-uh, the kids don't even keep in contact with her.

23 RA: How come? Does she have her own problems?

24 JY: Yeah, well we both split up uh, it's a bad story.

25 GM: Sounds like it.

26 RA: Sounds like it probably pretty tough on the kids too.

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1 JY: Yeah, it was pretty tough on them. I had to uh, me and my son got a good
2 relationship and then uh, me and my daughter we got a good relationship from my
3 first wife.

4 RA: Jasmine?

5 JY: Yeah.

6 RA: Ok, I'm trying, trying to get the list going down of all the kids.

7 JY: Yeah.

8 RA: So what else can you tell us about uh, about Rita?

9 JY: Uh, she was a nice lady, man ya know, she was a nice lady. I heard so many
10 things about how she had gotten killed. I was like. . . .

11 RA: What kind of things did you hear?

12 JY: Um, my dad said something about a, a

13 RA: What's your father's name?

14 JY: George.

15 RA: George.

16 JY: Um. . . .

17 RA: Same last name?

18 JY: Yeah.

19 RA: Ok, I know it seems like a funny question but nowadays uh, I have to ask the
20 question. (overlapping conversation)

21 JY: Nylon or something she was killed with a nylon or something I don't even

22 RA: Killed with a nylon?

23 JY: Yeah, pantyhose, nylons.

24 RA: Is that, how did your dad know about that?

25 JY: That's what he said he had heard somebody had killed her a nylon or some shit.

26 RA: When did he tell you that?

27 JY: (Inaudible) (overlapping conversation)

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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.

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.

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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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1 RA: And what are those? The Moose Lodge and Lion Club I mean is that like the big
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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1 RA: Ok, like it had skeet shoots or turkey shoots stuff like that. (overlapping
2 conversation)

3 JY: Yeah, yeah. It's pretty sad (inaudible) it's, there was never really anything to do,
4 you know?

5 GM: Out there?

6 JY: Yeah.

7 RA: Did you grow up around guns when you were younger?

8 JY: Uh-uh.

9 RA: No.

10 JY: I mean there was guns.

11 RA: Your dad, so your dad was involved with that stuff but he never took you shooting
12 or anything or

13 JY: Yeah, I even went shooting I just you know

14 RA: It just wasn't your thing.

15 JY: No, I had, I was only but it was just you know we'd go out and go quail hunting
16 some other bullshit.

17 RA: So you had like a little twenty-two or a pellet or something like that growing up?
18 Well, back then it wasn't a big deal I guess to give your son a gun and let him
19 cruise around the desert and do his thing.

20 JY: Uh-uh.

21 RA: What, what kind of things did you do in the military? What was your job?

22 JY: Uh, Nike Hercules Missile Crewman.

23 RA: A what?

24 JY: I worked on a nuclear missile.

25 GM: Wow!

26 RA: Wow!

27 GM: Sounds interesting.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: How did you get that job? Just, cause it sounded interesting or they just stuck you
2 there?

3 JY: Well it was something that my brother had done and I started off in it and then I
4 had traded of into air defense.

5 RA: You didn't like the Hercules Missile?

6 JY: No, it wasn't that. What they did was they phased it out. They phased out the
7 Hercules Missile and the Persian.

8 RA: Oh, ok so you had to be retrained to work on the new . . .

9 JY: Yeah.

10 RA: Missile.

11 JY: Yeah, correct.

12 RA: The new thing.

13 JY: No, I, I trained into a different job. The thing with the military they only guarantee
14 to train nothing specific. It's not that you're gonna work in that job.

15 RA: Right, cause I was in the military uh, back in the early 80's and I was in the Navy
16 though, uh, but I worked on electronics, I worked on radios and transmitters and
17 receivers and radar systems and crypto systems so I know um, that when they
18 generally send you for training it, for me it was a long time. How long was your
19 training?

20 JY: Um, thirty-two weeks for basic and then my AI key and then uh, I did an additional
21 sixteen weeks for a Chaparral Crewman.

22 RA: Hmm, I imagine it's probably pretty much the same way that we did it where it's
23 you go to class eight hours a day and uh, you do all your training there.

24 JY: Correct.

25 RA: Where did, where was that training at?

26 JY: Ft. Bliss, Texas.

27 RA: Good place?

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: Humid huh?
2 JY: Yeah, some days it was fucking hot.
3 RA: I was up in Illinois, freezing cold. I had never been so cold in my life.
4 GM: How long were you in the military?
5 JY: Uh, about five years, six years.
6 RA: That's a long time.
7 JY: Eighty-two to eighty-six, yeah, some like that.
8 RA: So you did like a full tour? I think back then in the contracts . . . (overlapping
9 conversation)
10 JY: What I did was I enlisted for three years and then I reenlisted for more so I can go
11 to a Europe Command Sponsor.
12 RA: Uh-huh.
13 JY: And then my wife didn't show up and I ended up getting out of the military before
14 the, my extension date?
15 RA: So what, where in Europe did you go?
16 JY: Um, Frankfurt, Downhausen (sp?), (inaudible).
17 RA: That's in Germany, right.
18 JY: Yeah.
19 GM: Wow!
20 JY: (Inaudible).
21 GM: Sounds interesting.
22 JY: Yeah, it was pretty cool.
23 RA: A lot of good memories.
24 JY: Wish I'd a stayed in.
25 RA: Why is that?
26 JY: Life was easier you know but you don't know what you have until it's not there.
27 RA: Until it's gone?

28

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Yeah.

2 RA: Cause there you just gotta show up to work and do your job and they're happy
3 with you right?

4 JY: Yeah.

5 GM: Is Holly the one you were married to in the military?

6 JY: Uh-hum.

7 GM: Ok, she's the one that didn't show up.

8 JY: Yeah.

9 GM: When you went overseas.

10 JY: Yeah, was back here uh, with her high school sweetheart.

11 RA: She had a boyfriend on the side then?

12 JY: Yeah.

13 RA: That must have been pretty stressful?

14 JY: Yeah, it was fucked up.

15 RA: How did you handle something like that cause I don't know what I would do?

16 JY: Uh, I got out dude and uh, just worked right through it you know, uh . . .

17 You ever go to Europe?

18 RA: No, when I was in the military they took us to the shittiest places in the world. I
19 went to Bangladesh. I went to uh, anyplace that you could think of that was a third
20 world country that's where I went. So, I was in there for six years like you were.

21 RA: Yeah, but I was on a ship so I, they took us all over the place and we'd stay a
22 week here and a week there and you know two weeks was the longest place we'd
23 ever go. For me it wasn't uh, it was interesting but uh, as far as going to cool
24 places where I could you know get immersed in the culture or check it out or, or it
25 wasn't like being on vacation, not at all. So we didn't live off the economy. We
26 didn't you know it wasn't like that.

27 JY: Huh.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 RA: We just kind of bounced around like nomads.
- 2 JY: Yeah.
- 3 RA: Whereas, what branch were you in?
- 4 JY: Army.
- 5 RA: In the Army? In the Army you actually get to go to a base and you stay at the base
- 6 for a little while.
- 7 JY: Yeah.
- 8 RA: Couple of years right?
- 9 JY: Yeah.
- 10 RA: And we had to do what's called seashore rotation where we go out to sea and at
- 11 the time my job was five years at sea, two years on shore. Good rotation, huh? If
- 12 you were a woman it was exact opposite. (overlapping conversation)
- 13 GM: That, that will cause a divorce.
- 14 RA: Yeah, we were gone all the time so for me it wasn't, it wasn't, it was interesting
- 15 and I got some good training out of it but uh, it wasn't something I wanted to do for
- 16 the rest of my life.
- 17 JY: Yeah.
- 18 GM: So, you guys got divorced but she's the one that lived with you in Rita's back
- 19 house, Holly?
- 20 JY: Yeah.
- 21 RA: And both your kids too?
- 22 JY: Just one.
- 23 RA: Just one kid, John?
- 24 GM: John Junior.
- 25 JY: Yeah, John Junior. Jasmine hadn't been born yet.
- 26 RA: When, when was she born?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Uh, she was born after we moved over to here and I was in that house for a
2 couple of years.

3 RA: Really? And then from here from this house over here you moved down to
4 Lynwood at your in-law's place?

5 JY: Yeah.

6 GM: Well did they have hospitals back then out there or?

7 JY: No, uh the baby was born in uh, Apple Valley.

8 RA: Did you have to go by ambulance or I mean. . . .

9 JY: No, I mean we just took her and drove her in.

10 RA: So you already knew that she was in labor and it was time and you had to do your
11 thing.

12 JY: Uh-huh.

13 RA: Any other kids born in that house?

14 JY: Uh-uh.

15 RA: No?

16 GM: How long had you guys been living there when Jasmine was born?

17 JY: Um, I don't know probably about nine months or so.

18 GM: Ok.

19 JY: She was about two when we moved down here to the city and then we battled
20 trying to make the relationship work down here. It was about three when it
21 probably ended.

22 RA: So how long were you and Holly together?

23 JY: About eight years.

24 RA: That's kind of a long time actually you know, eight years. Some, some marriages
25 don't even last that long nowadays or relationships don't.

26 GM: What street is that?

27 JY: I really remember I don't

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Is it a named road or just a dirt road?

2 JY: It was a dirt road. It's a named dirt road.

3 RA: Cause I know sometimes out in the outlying areas like that like Lucerne or uh,
4 Newberry Springs or Adelanto or some of those out, you know smaller rural areas
5 like that there's a lot of roads but there is no signs on the road.

6 GM: We drove a lot down dirt roads the last couple of months.

7 RA: We're way up in the hills in Lucerne driving around in circles he couldn't believe
8 me he kept telling me that's a road and I said, "no that's a wash we better not go
9 back in there.

10 GM: But there are houses back on some of these roads like 4 by's could only get to.
11 It's, it (overlapping conversation)

12 JY: It is a dirt road right here. (overlapping conversation)

13 GM: I'm a city guy I'm not, I'm not used to that.

14 RA: There is what now?

15 JY: Uh, there used to be a dirt road that I'd come right down along this right here to
16 get to my house.

17 RA: Oh, really why is that?

18 JY: It was just easier. Pretend this was a wash.

19 GM: What's north, south, east and west? I know there's all I know is 18 and 247.

20 JY: Over here is Big Bear and over here is Barstow and I'm not sure about that.

21 RA: So that would be north and south then, right?

22 JY: Yeah, I'm lost Barstow is further, I know Barstow is further north and Big Bear is
23 gotta be further south.

24 RA: You wrote, you just drove a road this way. . . .

25 JY: Uh-huh.

26 RA: Was that a marked road or was it like . . .

27 JY: Just a dirt road.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Just a dirt road. Probably pretty crappy road too. They have roads on this side of
2 the freeway too?

3 JY: Yeah, they got dirt roads everywhere.

4 RA: You used to ride dirt bikes out there so you probably know all the little, all the little
5 dirt roads out there, right? Growing up as a kid, probably just tooled it all over the
6 place.

7 JY: Yeah.

8 GM: When you lived with Rita what was her like schedule everyday where, what, what
9 this lady do?

10 JY: She always had some community thing when she was doing I again I don't know
11 what it was.

12 RA: Did she work? Did she have a job? Or was she retired or what, what was her
13 deal?

14 JY: Gee I don't remember.

15 RA: Cause I know sometimes when people get I mean she looks like she's a little bit
16 older there but when people get older they'll have a rental and they're on social
17 security or they're just or they're a, they're pension or whatever it is and then
18 they'll rent a place out like this for a little bit of extra money and they just kind of
19 cruise and do whatever they want to do. (overlapping conversation)

20 JY: I thought she was retired from someplace but I'm not really sure.

21 RA: Uh-hum. Did she, did she work?

22 JY: I don't think so.

23 RA: So you never saw here get up every morning and go to a job. (overlapping
24 conversation)

25 JY: No, I, from sunup to sun sundown you know I just I work all the time you know
26 cause our jobs would be in Barstow or Victorville or Apple Valley, Adelanto,
27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 Needles, we went fucking everywhere, San Bernardino on the other side of the
2 mountain.

3 GM: Oh wow!

4 RA: So you would drive from place to place basically with your dad? So he doesn't
5 strictly work in Lucerne he goes wherever the job takes him? (overlapping
6 conversation)

7 JY: (Inaudible)

8 RA: Who did she hang out with I mean what social events was she involved in?
9 (overlapping conversation)

10 JY: I don't really (inaudible).

11 RA: Who would she have. . . .

12 GM: You didn't party with her or anything like that?

13 JY: Nah, none of that.

14 RA: So, the way you're making it sound, it sounds like it was almost strictly a renter uh,
15 rentee relationship like she owned the place you rented it. You and your wife and
16 your son lived there and other than that there was no other interaction between
17 you and Rita or Holly and Rita or Rita and your, your grand or your, your son or
18 anything.

19 JY: No, she didn't watch my kid and her and my wife that I know of never hung out or I
20 dude don't know I was gone all the time.

21 RA: But she didn't come over just to you know how some ladies are real into kids and
22 they'll make a big fuss over any kid like it's their grand kid and they'll try to spend
23 time and volunteer to watch the baby that you and your wife could go out and
24 have a dinner or catch a movie or something like that.

25 JY: Not really it wasn't like that, no.

26 GM: She never watched the kid.

27 JY: Not that I would remember dad was always in town or something like that.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: That's true.

2 RA: What's that?

3 JY: My dad was always in town for something like that.

4 RA: Well I could see why you'd use your dad. Would your dad watch the kids for you if

5 you needed it?

6 GM: What about troublemakers back then anybody I mean we've spoke to a lot of

7 deputies who worked back there in the 80's and they've identified a lot of people

8 who were troublemakers who maybe responsible for something like this. We've

9 talked to people in the older crowd we're trying to talk to people in the younger

10 crowds like you. Anyone you can

11 RA: Any direction you can point us in?

12 JY: Just that one guy's name you know but I can't, I can't remember.

13 RA: You can't remember?

14 GM: Well what kind of car did Rita drive? Cause we're missing some of that stuff.

15 JY: a larger car.

16 RA: A large car?

17 JY: (Inaudible)

18 RA: Like a Buick or a

19 JY: A Cadillac or a

20 RA: Do you know what color, what color it was?

21 JY: Gray maybe? I don't know.

22 RA: Where did she normally park it? Some people have garages some people park

23 them in the front yard.

24 JY: I think she had a garage?

25 RA: Some people have driveways but they still park the car on the grass.

26 JY: (Inaudible)

27 RA: In the garage? What kind of car did you drive back then?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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

(v) Rita Cobb

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

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(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 guys split up?

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

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: You know what I mean I didn't socialize with the lady I didn't hang out with her.
2 GM: These are people that were interviewed back then. (overlapping conversation)
3 RA: These aren't all her friends. These are just people that the detectives spoke with.
4 How about Fred Holbrook, Senior? No? John Sullivan? Mage Ball (sp?) Marta
5 Cramer? Who's this guy? Rebecca Townsend? Ok, Richard Lash, anybody that
6 you worked or did some work at their house or anything like that?
7 JY: God, I can't remember it's been a long time.
8 GM: Yeah, a long time ago.
9 RA: Yeah we're almost out of photographs here. Uh, Ron Cobes, Cobbs (sp?) No,
10 nobody else? Sherry Halopa (sp?), Halopola (sp?), Halapola (sp?) Uh, Sherman
11 Henderson? No?
12 JY: Dude, I don't remember any of those people.
13 GM: You're just working.
14 RA: Cheryl. . . .
15 JY: Yeah.
16 RA: (Inaudible)
17 JY: All I was, was trying to build the business with my dad.
18 RA: Oh sure, I understand. Uh, Valerie Hernandez?
19 JY: Her name is, sounds familiar but (inaudible)
20 RA: Kinda sounds familiar to you. How about uh, Ronald Backoff? anything
21 (inaudible). No?
22 GM: When you rented from her, guys come over all the time?
23 JY: Just the, the two guys I that I had seen and mentioned.
24 GM: Besides those two?
25 RA: Was she sociable or
26 JY: Yeah, she was

*They knew
about
Backoff!!
How Much?
we tip??*

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: We're trying to get a, a basic overall idea of who Rita was, who she hung out with
2 um, who came over to her house, what her normal activities was, uh, most of the
3 people that we've talked to did not, in fact we haven't talked to anybody that lived
4 in the rental house you're the first one so um

5 JY: I didn't know that there was anybody else you know uh, I don't even remember
6 how we got the number it might have been off the bulletin board in uh, the market
7 there in town.

8 RA: So you were looking for a, were you staying with your dad when you were looking
9 for a place?

10 JY: Yeah.

11 RA: You had just got out of the military so you were looking for a place. There's
12 a local bulletin board, you probably working for your dad at the time.

13 JY: Uh-hu.

14 RA: Didn't want you used to do as a kid growing up. You work for your dad when you
15 were growing up?

16 JY: Yeah, he did construction, yeah. He was a door hanger.

17 RA: You found, you saw the advertisement and said hey let's go check this out.

18 JY: I don't even remember how I got that. My dad may have told me about it.

19 GM: The rental here?

20 JY: Yeah.

21 GM: Was your dad good friends with Rita?

22 JY: Hmm, I think they kind of traveled in the same circle.

23 RA: Over at the Legion and the Moose Lodge, the Moose Club? (overlapping
24 conversation)

25 JY: Yeah.

26 GM: What of the other bars I don't think we asked him that for socializing.

27 RA: Uh, Y-Saloon or the Y, the Y-Café?

28

*They hired
to you*

*They Hadn't spoken to
me at the time of
your interview
only after arrest*

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: I don't think she ever, I don't think she ever uh, occasioned I don't know. She
2 seemed more like the uh, the Lions Club or the VFW.

3 RA: What about you did, did you go to those type of places too? To hang out socialize.

4 JY: No, I'd go to the "Y" uh, with my dad and shoot pool or uh, the Moose Lodge and
5 they have little events, dinner was served, barn dances and

6 RA: Fundraiser stuff like that?

7 JY: Not really fundraising

8 RA: Things for the community.

9 JY: Uh-uh.

10 GM: You ever bump into Rita at the bars?

11 JY: (Inaudible)

12 GM: Cause we heard, I mean we don't know if it's true but we she kind of frequented
13 the bars and drank a lot.

14 JY: I, yeah I'd hate to say anything cause I don't wanna you know be lying you know.

15 RA: So you never drank with her or you never saw here while she was did the
16 drinking?

17 JY: Uh-uh.

18 RA: Well how about, how about when you were living over here did she ever invite you
19 over to have a drink you and your wife or

20 JY: (Inaudible)

21 RA: So she pretty much kept to herself then huh? I mean that's like kind of sounds to
22 me. She kept to your, herself you were probably busy your wife was probably busy
23 with the kids.

24 JY: Probably, I don't know.

25 RA: It's been a long time.

26 GM: She was probably a lot older cause you would have been. . . .

27 JY: Yeah, she was quite a bit older than I was.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 RA: How old are you now?
- 2 JY: I'm forty-six. So she was twenty years older than I was.
- 3 GM: She was
- 4 RA: Wow!
- 5 GM: She's fifty-five?
- 6 JY: She's fifty-five.
- 7 RA: She's fifty-five so she would have been way older than you and Holly, yeah.
- 8 JY: Yeah.
- 9 RA: You probably didn't have anything in common at all.
- 10 JY: Not really. Just to pay the rent and
- 11 GM: How much was the rent? Fifty bucks a hundred bucks?
- 12 JY: It, it was um, three or four hundred bucks I'm not sure. It's
- 13 GM: Normal back then.
- 14 JY: Yeah
- 15 RA: So for whatever it was back then it was reasonable.
- 16 JY: Yeah.
- 17 GM: And who was the detective you think that talked to you?
- 18 JY: I don't know if it was a detective or a private investigator or who it was. I don't
- 19 remember. It was auh,
- 20 GM: So it wasn't anyone with a gun or a badge and uniform or dressed like us?
- 21 JY: No.
- 22 GM: Ok.
- 23 RA: Do you recall how long after uh, she was killed that - -
- 24 JY: Umm.
- 25 RA: That the investigator came around asking questions?
- 26 GM: Was it immediately or
- 27 JY: Maybe, maybe six months, maybe three months I'm not sure.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: At that time you'd already moved down here, right?
2 JY: Yeah, we were
3 RA: Down in Lynwood.
4 JY: Right.
5 GM: So was, you weren't here when you talked to the private eye?
6 JY: No.
7 GM: Ok.
8 JY: We were like in, I think maybe some of my stuff (overlapping conversation)
9 GM: I think you said you stayed. . . . (overlapping conversation)
10 JY: My stuff was still yeah we were in the process of moving.
11 GM: And you had been here I think you said almost a year or
12 JY: We had been about two years.
13 GM: At this place about two years? Ok - - and the private eye didn't talk to you when
14 you lived here?
15 JY: Uh-uh.
16 GM: So it would have been several years, several years after she died then.
17 (overlapping conversation)
18 JY: They got in touch, they got in touch with me through my dad.
19 GM: So it wouldn't have been three to six months after she died. It would have been
20 two to three years.
21 JY: Dude I...
22 GM: Ok.
23 RA: So they contacted your dad and your dad contacted you and said hey
24 JY: Yeah, they contacted my dad and like I said they were just asking everybody they
25 knew to ask in town. I don't how they came up with this.
26 GM: You were living in Long Beach?
27 JY: Luc uh. . . .

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: When the private eye got a hold of you.
2 JY: We were in the process of moving.
3 GM: Ok.
4 RA: So you moved probably back and forth?
5 JY: Yeah. (Inaudible)
6 GM: Did you relocatd down here to Long Beach or from here you went to Long Beach?
7 JY: Yeah.
8 GM: Ok.
9 JY: Or Lynwood?
10 RA: Have you stayed here pretty much the whole time since you moved down here.
11 JY: No.
12 RA: Maybe not in this house but I mean in this area of Long Beach. (overlapping
13 conversation)
14 JY: No, since I left here? No, we left I got (inaudible)
15 (laughing)
16 RA: Oh, ok man not a problem, not a problem. (overlapping conversation)
17 JY: I'm sitting here trying to
18 RA: Thanks for being polite.
19 JY: Jumping around here man I'm like. . . .
20 RA: Not a problem, he has that problem. (overlapping conversation)
21 (laughing)
22 JY: Fuck, man these guys think I'm nuts all right uh. . . .
23 GM: But she's not a party girl? That you knew of?
24 JY: Not that,
25 RA: Didn't have a lot of boyfriends, didn't have
26 GM: She ever mean to you?
27 JY: Uh, no.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: I heard she was a nice lady.

2 JY: She's a very nice lady.

3 RA: How about when she was drinking? Some people when they drink alcohol their
4 personality changes and when they do drugs their personality changes, was she
5 descent when she had been drinking?

6 JY: I wasn't very sociable with her you know at least it wasn't my, my thing. You know
7 like

8 GM: And you were married too, right to Holly?

9 JY: Yeah.

10 GM: How long had you guys been married that time?

11 JY: Um, probably three years.

12 RA: Were you guys pretty much together that whole time?

13 JY: Uh-hum.

14 RA: Cause I know some people relationships um, sometimes relationships are real
15 good and sometimes uh you have problems.

16 JY: No, everything was cool between me and her.

17 RA: You guys were together the whole time then?

18 JY: Uh-huh.

19 RA: No issues where you got pissed off and said I'm going to my dad's house I don't
20 wanna hear it and you were gone for two or three months or anything like that?

21 JY: No.

22 RA: Same thing with her where she'd get pissed off and come down to mom's house
23 with the kids anything like that?

24 GM: So Holly might be able to help us out? Was she a stay at home mom?

25 JY: I don't think. . . . (overlapping conversation)

26 GM: I mean when you guys were living here, she was a stay a home?

27 JY: Yeah.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 GM: So she might have know Rita better.
- 2 RA: She could have they could have talked. They could have spent time together. If
3 Rita was retired like you, like you believe and Holly was a stay at home mom it's
4 probably pretty possible that they, that they talked together, had coffee or did
5 something. How, how do we get a hold of Holly?
- 6 JY: Dude I don't know she lives in Canada.
- 7 RA: Does she have any does she have a phone number? (overlapping conversation)
- 8 GM: Oh, in Canada, oh wow!
- 9 JY: I don't have any.
- 10 RA: How about your kids?
- 11 JY: Try and ask them.
- 12 RA: How about does she family? She have any brothers or sisters that are, are her
13 parents still around?
- 14 JY: Um, yeah I think her parents, her mother in law, her mom lives in Lynwood still.
- 15 RA: Does what?
- 16 JY: In Lynwood..
- 17 RA: In Lynwood?
- 18 JY: Yeah, uh.
- 19 RA: Same house.
- 20 JY: Yeah, Abbott, Abbott Road. What the hell is her name um, Linda Smith.
- 21 RA: That's her mother, Linda Smith?
- 22 JY: Uh-hu.
- 23 RA: Ok.
- 24 GM: (Inaudible).
- 25 JY: Linda Mitchell.
- 26 RA: Linda Mitchell.
- 27 GM: Not Smith?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

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 be 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.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(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

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: So you weren't. Ok I'm gonna ask this question here. When you were, you and
2 Holly were renting the apartment now you weren't having any problems? Cause
3 we, I was kind of (overlapping conversation)

4 GM: Oh, I was mixed up then.

5 RA: Yeah, I was kind of wondering if maybe there was a something with Rita that was
6 causing a problem between you and Holly? No?

7 GM: Ok, we're both mixed up on that then. Ok, yeah cause I thought you had problems
8 in the military with her and then when you moved here the problems were still
9 going on.

10 JY: Yeah, I mean (overlapping conversation)

11 GM: Cause you had mentioned she didn't come with you to Germany, right?

12 JY: Yeah.

13 GM: And then you went to Texas or Texas to Germany.

14 JY: We were in Texas together. I got transferred to Germany. When I got to Germany
15 I got all this stuff straightened out for her to come and she didn't show up. So, I
16 finished a little bit more time and then you know I made a couple of mistakes and I
17 got out of the service.

18 RA: So I mean like you were waiting at the airport for her and nobody got off the
19 plane?

20 JY: No, I mean I set up for her to go get her uh, passport.

21 RA: Uh-huh.

22 JY: She never even went to get the passport.

23 RA: Oh, so she had planned on not going period?

24 JY: And then uh, when I got out we just got back together and things were cool.

25 GM: And then from Texas moved to Lucerne Valley started working for your dad.
26 Initially were you living with your dad or where'd you live at before you moved into
27 Rita's rental?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Yeah, I was living, staying at my dad's I think?

2 GM: On Trade Post?

3 JY: Yeah.

4 GM: Ok, how long?

5 JY: Probably three or four maybe six months.

6 GM: And then to Rita's rental. You and Holly were still good. You lived there for how
7 long?

8 JY: Maybe eight months, nine months.

9 GM: And then went to the second rental lived there or you had John Junior here and
10 then you moved to the second rental?

11 JY: John Junior, yeah John Junior was all ready born when we moved in here.

12 GM: You said he was like a year and a half?

13 JY: Yeah.

14 RA: So then you moved over to this house and you had Jasmine when you

15 JY: Yeah, J.J., Jasmine are uh two years apart so. . . .

16 GM: So J.J. was born there also?

17 JY: No, J.J. was born when I was in the service.

18 RA: Ok, so J.J.

19 GM: J.J.

20 RA: would be the son?

21 JY: You guys want something to drink?

22 GM: No, we're cool.

23 RA: No, I'm all right.

24 GM: J.J.'s John?

25 RA: J.J.'s John Junior.

26 GM: John Junior, ok.

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Ok, Jasmine would be the one that was born at this house and then when you left
2 this house and moved down to Lynwood how long did you stay at this house?

3 JY: I believe a year and a half.

4 RA: A year and a half, um did you have any more kids in that year and a half besides
5 Jasmine and J.J.? No, so then that was when you moved down to Lynwood it was
6 Holly, you, Jasmine, J.J.?

7 GM: Like my partner said it, it's embarrassing for us to ask but because you lived here
8 and we don't know what type of person you were back then. We don't know if you
9 were partying you cheated on Holly all the time we don't know what kind of scene
10 you were into you know and Rita's right here you know we, we gotta ask those
11 questions. You ever get in a fight with her a physical fight?

12 JY: With who?

13 GM: Did she ever get in a physical fight with you and hurt you?

14 JY: No.

15 GM: She never attacked you physically or anything like that? I mean we don't know
16 her. We, we've never met her. We heard she can get belligerent and cause
17 problems so (overlapping conversation)

18 RA: Yeah, we heard that she, get a little, get very belligerent when she'd been drinking
19 and kind of turn into obnoxious person. But, you're, to, you're describing that you
20 never saw that.

21 GM: And she was always kind to Holly.

22 JY: Always very kind and very compassionate.

23 GM: And you and her never partied you guys never got intimate?

24 JY: I don't think we even got a beer together. She just wasn't that kind of partier.

25 GM: Cause like I said we didn't we don't know you and your not so we have to ask
26 those questions because you lived on her property. You guys never kissed? Never

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 had sex? Never got in any fights with her? She was a nice lady? You're nodding
2 your head no?

3 JY: Yeah, no

4 GM: Ok.

5 JY: (inaudible)

6 GM: And this is, how was Holly back then? Was she

7 RA: Was she strictly with you or did she have boyfriends?

8 JY: I was hoping she would go. As far as I know she was always with me, just with
9 me.

10 GM: Ok.

11 RA: So you guys, you guys had a relationship where um, you didn't date outside of
12 yours and Holly's marriage. Cause I know that some people do that you know.

13 GM: Talked a lot of different types of people.

14 RA: Yeah, people do that. That's their thing but that wasn't your guy's thing?

15 JY: Uh-uh.

16 RA: Ok.

17 GM: Anything else you can think about? You hear any other rumors back then?

18 JY: No.

19 RA: Any other. . . .

20 GM: Did she get you guys had a key for the rental or

21 JY: Yeah, I'm sure we had a key.

22 GM: Ok, did you guys also have a key to Rita's house?

23 JY: Um, yeah.

24 GM: Ok, so she wasn't like that it was strictly business? She didn't allow anybody in her
25 house?

26 JY: No

27 RA: Did, did she have a key to your apartment?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: No

2 RA: Did she have a passkey to your apartment?

3 JY: No

4 RA: So it would not be common for her to go over to your apartment though, right?

5 When you guys were living there she just wouldn't. . . .

6 JY: She was thoughtful.

7 RA: And you guys wouldn't go over to her house obviously because it's two separate
8 houses.

9 GM: Does she have any pets?

10 JY: I think she had a dog.

11 RA: What kind of dog?

12 JY: (Inaudible)

13 RA: You don't remember? Was it a big dog or a small dog or

14 JY: I don't remember you know I mean honest it's

15 RA: Did it have a dog house? Was it a outside dog? An inside dog?

16 JY: I don't remember.

17 RA: Excuse me?

18 JY: I don't even remember.

19 RA: Ok.

20 GM: Now what about the pistachio place? We talked to some people up there. Maybe
21 he might be able to help us on that.

22 RA: Yeah, um, there was a couple other pista- - or couple of other people that we
23 talked to that lived at the pistachio farm. I'm thinking it's out this way cause you
24 said Big Bear's over here.

25 JY: Yeah.

26 RA: So. . . .

27 GM: Is 18, does that take you to Big Bear?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Yeah, uh, pistachio farm is over here.

2 RA: Do you know which one we're talking about? It's called Minnie, Minnie Springs
3 Pistachio Ranch maybe?

4 JY: I don't know what, what it is now?

5 GM: So your road was in between Rita's and the pistachio farm?

6 JY: Yeah.

7 GM: Ok.

8 RA: Did you

9 JY: No, it was. . . . (overlapping conversation)

10 RA: Did you hang out with the people at the pistachio farm?

11 JY: Uhhh, God I can't keep (inaudible)

12 GM: Do you have a map Rob?

13 JY: No, I didn't bring a map of that area.

14 JY: I don't remember the name the road, uh, just like an old bar and there used to be
15 restaurant used to be right up here.

16 RA: Right.

17 JY: You know right by

18 GM: Can you draw like a smaller scale like Rita's, the dirt road you lived on, the
19 pistachio farm and that way we can kind of get a better picture.

20 RA: Ok, so that's Big Bear.

21 JY: Big Bear.

22 GM: You got 247 and 18 come together down here.

23 JY: Well you got

24 RA: Ok so that's where he lives and that's the rental.

25 JY: And this is the rental right here, there's a, a wolf sanitarium or whatever. It's, they
26 call her the wolf lady.

27 RA: She grow flowers there or what does she do?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: No, she raises wolves.
2 GM: On that road?
3 JY: Yeah.
4 GM: Oh wow! Still to th—oh you probably wouldn't know.
5 JY: Yeah, still to this day. (overlapping conversation)
6 GM: Still today?
7 RA: So where is her house? This is wolf lady?
8 JY: Yeah, yeah. . . .
9 RA: And this is your rental right?
10 JY: Yeah, this is where the rental was and then down in the county here and this goes
11 to I think 240. . .
12 RA: 240, ok that's 247 and then what you said Barstow Road earlier.
13 JY: And Barstow Road is like. . . .
14 RA: Ok, all right.
15 JY: Barstow Road.
16 RA: Now where was the pistachio nut place in relation to here?
17 JY: It's like right here.
18 RA: We, we thought we'd been out and talking to about thirty different people I think a
19 little bit more than thirty actually. Um, we went over to the pistachio farm it looks
20 like there might be more than one farm back there. When we spoke to them um,
21 did you ever go over hang out with them and party with those guys?
22 GM: I heard it was kind of a party spot back then.
23 RA: We heard that if you were gonna party. . . .
24 JY: It, it was a, a, I think this road right here, there was a house right there uh, two
25 story old it's on that side uh. . . .
26 RA: Could you put pistachio farm so I remember,
27 JY: Yeah.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Ok, than this was the wolf lady can you write wolf. . . .

2 GM: So real wolfs full-bred?

3 JY: Yeah.

4 RA: Where did she get em from? She breeds them?

5 JY: It's like a wolf rescue.

6 GM: Really?

7 RA: They kind of dangerous?

8 JY: Yeah, I guess.

9 RA: Did you ever go check them out?

10 JY: Yeah, you know (inaudible) my wife you know.

11 RA: Are they a trip? I never seen a real wolf.

12 GM: I'll have to go check that out. I'd like to see that.

13 RA: Yeah, but anyways what's up with that house?

14 JY: That's a guy that used to live there that's where I bought my vehicle.

15 RA: Do you know what his name was?

16 JY: No, I can't remember.

17 RA: What's that?

18 JY: I couldn't remember.

19 GM: And then whose house was this? I never saw this. (overlapping conversation)

20 JY: That's were I used to rent, uh, it was just a

21 GM: From a friend, a family member?

22 JY: It was somebody that lived out of state you know, and he owned the house and he

23 actually paid like sixty dollars a month rent there, you know?

24 GM: Ok, so you guys weren't squatting or anything?

25 JY: No, no we weren't squatting.

26 RA: So basically he's giving you free rent.

27 JY: Right.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: So you'll take care of his place and won't bust it up?
2 JY: Correct.
3 RA: Right?
4 JY: Correct and (overlapping conversation)
5 RA: And you guys pay a small maintenance fee for you to live (inaudible).
6 JY: Right, well I mean I did a lot of work there so basically we kind of negotiated a, a
7 rental.
8 RA: Sure.
9 JY: Price, cause I put on a front porch and uh, uh just remodeled.
10 RA: The whole place?
11 JY: Yeah.
12 RA: That was good for him actually.
13 JY: Yeah.
14 RA: Did this guy used to go over and party over at the pistachio place?
15 JY: Gee I don't. . . . you're asking the wrong guy you know?
16 GM: We just heard. . . .
17 RA: Did he ever take, we heard that this was the party spot over here.
18 GM: Where Rita would go.
19 RA: Where Rita would go um. . . .
20 GM: That's where we thought something may have happened.
21 RA: Don't know, ok.
22 JY: You guys want some coffee?
23 RA: No, no I'm cool.
24 JY: (Inaudible)
25 RA: Um, did your friend did he ever take you to the pistachio place to hang out?
26 JY: No.
27 RA: (Inaudible) drink over there.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: What a trip. I thought for sure you guys had already solved this thing a long time
2 ago.

3 GM: How come you never came forward to talk to any of the detectives?

4 JY: Well I only spoke to the guys that spoke to me. I you know I had nothing to offer
5 them what am I gonna say.

6 GM: Cause you were living on the rental property that could have been helpful back
7 then for the detectives.

8 JY: I, again I didn't run in the circles that she ran I was in a different you know.

9 GM: I guess that kind of makes sense. But at no time you didn't no detective tried to
10 reach out to you, tried to make an appointment to talk to you, come by your house
11 leave a business card?

12 JY: Somebody again. . . .

13 GM: Just a private eye?

14 JY: I don't know if it was a private eye or it was a detective or I don't know who it was.

15 RA: But somebody was asking questions? (overlapping conversation)

16 JY: (Inaudible) somebody in person and I spoke to somebody over the phone and
17 they asked me what I had to offer as far as anything and the only uh, complication
18 I had ever seen her have was with that one gentleman out in uh. . . .

19 RA: Right, but never nothing turned physical with that I mean nothing ever happened.
20 (overlapping conversation) You know this guy.

21 JY: He left.

22 RA: Right.

23 JY: And I don't even think he had a car. I think he left walking. I don't even remember
24 him how he got there maybe he had somebody drop him off or what I don't know .
25 . . .

26 RA: You wanna after you discuss this a little more in detail with him I wanna ask him
27 some more questions. I'd like to go down to um, the other location to speak. I

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(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) *Melody*

20 RA: Hi.

21 UN: (Inaudible) Uh, here Montana. *Melody*

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? *Melody*

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(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*

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Your daughters beautiful how old is she?

2 JY: Seventeen.

3 RA: Seventeen, is she a handful?

4 JY: No, they're all my kids are good. I got one kid that uh, nineteen, Joseph and he's,
5 he's a handful.

6 RA: Does he tests your patience a little bit?

7 JY: Yeah, well he's going down all the roads that I went down and making all the
8 mistakes that I had made. I'm just like

9 RA: When you dad probably used to say, "you wait till you have your own kids."

10 JY: No, my mom said you're gonna have somebody that is going to do the same
11 things to you that you're doing to me.

12 RA: So did you ever tell your dad, "hey man you know what I'm sorry dad."

13 JY: I always call my dad and apologize.

14 (laughing)

15 RA: That's pretty funny.

16 JY: I always.

17 RA: So you smoke and Melody doesn't, huh? Is that correct?

18 JY: Yeah.

19 RA: Yeah, I kind of figured cause I saw you leave your cigarette here.

20 JY: Well that I don't smoke inside so. . . .

21 RA: Is that just a courtesy thing for is that mother or your grand—

22 JY: Yeah, that's my mother-in-law.

23 RA: Mother-in-law, ok how old is she?

24 JY Uh, eighty-nine.

25 RA: She doesn't have emphysema or anything does she?

26 RA: Uh-uh.

27 GM: You guys ever been to Signal Hill P.D.?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Yeah.

2 GM: You guys know where it's at?

3 UN: We lived across the street. (overlapping conversations) *Melody*

4 JY: We used to live right across the street.

5 RA: Oh!

6 GM: We'll follow you then I was gonna put my little navigator on.

7 RA: Yeah cause we don't know how to get there.

8 JY: Where you guy's from?

9 RA: We're from San Bernardino.

10 JY: Ok.

11 RA: All right thanks.

12 JY: Hey we're gonna stop at the gas station on the way back there. (overlapping
13 conversation)

14 RA: Ok, ok not a problem.

15 (car doors closing)

16 RA: Uh, this is Detective Alexander, it's approximately uh, 10:30 hours, Melody and
17 John are gonna drive over to Signal Hill P.D. uh, we're gonna continue our
18 interview with John over there.

19 GM: They'll be in a white Ford Expedition, Four, Yellow, Queen, Victor, One, Two, Six
20 (4YQV126).

21 RA: Melody is driving.

22 Radio: Looks like his wife or girlfriend is driving and uh, apparently he's a passenger
23 they're gonna follow behind. (inaudible) copy.

24 RA: (Inaudible)

25 GM: Yeah, why don't you call them it sounds like they are watching us but. . . .

26 RA: Call who?

27
28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 GM: Call Scott let him know what's going on. I'll get him. Hey guys uh, we're following
2 him to Signal Hill P.D. his a girlfriend's driving so I have you guys hold off on the
3 search warrant he's going a willingly to talk to us at the station.
- 4 RA: Uh, have them contact . . .
- 5 Radio: Copy.
- 6 RA: Ok, hey Scott could you do me a favor contact Signal Hill P.D. and let them know
7 that we're on our way.
- 8 GM: Keep the recording going.
- 9 RA: Uh-huh.
- 10 Radio: (Inaudible).
- 11 GM: Is the recorder going on?
- 12 RA: Ok, and have them turn the recorder on to uh, so that when we take him into the
13 interview room everything's going and we don't have to wait outside very long.
- 14 Radio: Ok.
- 15 GM: And you're off on that?
- 16 RA: No, I'm still on. It's right now, 10:35 hours I'll be going off tape. Is that correct
17 time?
- 18 GM: Yes.
- 19 RA: Ok, we'll be going off tape and when we get back uh, to Signal Hill P.D. then we'll
20 uh, we'll continue the recording.
- 21 RA: Test? Test? This is Detective Alexander it's approximately 10:46 hours we're at
22 Signal Hill P.D. back on tape. Oh. . . .
- 23 UN: Can you give me your business cards or you know so I know who you guys are?
24 (overlapping conversation) *Melody*
- 25 RA: Sure, not a problem.
- 26 GM: This is still Long Beach right?
- 27 UN: Signal Hill is different. *Melody*

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Uh, (inaudible).
2 GM: But is it in Long Beach?
3 UN: Long - - yes.
4 JY: Yes.
5 RA: So it's a city within a city?
6 UN: Yeah. (overlapping conversation)
7 JY: Yeah, it's a city inside a city.
8 RA: So, this is Signal Hill over here.
9 GM: (Inaudible)
10 UN: Yeah.
11 GM: I'm confused?
12 UN: Yeah, this Signal Hill it's own community.
13 RA: Right.
14 UN: And then past I think if you go past Willow no actually they go down quite a bit up
15 to Spring Street, that's Long Beach and if you go down to PCH past is Long
16 Beach. So, this is it's own
17 RA: Oh wow! How did they incorporate a city within a city?
18 UN: Um, many moon's ago I guess.
19 RA: Many moon's ago, ok, anyway there's my card.
20 UN: So, just call me whenever and come get him or
21 RA: Um, yeah.
22 UN: Ok.
23 RA: That's fine, that's fine.
24 UN: Ok.
25 GM: When you said across the street you were right.
26 UN: I love you babe.
27 JY: Ok.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 UN: Call me?
2 JY: Yeah.
3 RA: Thank you.
4 GM: This is the lobby?
5 JY: Um, yeah.
6 RA: We've never been down here before so we don't even know where the station's
7 at. There we go.
8 GM: Do you wanna finish your cigarette?
9 JY: When I spoke to my dad and the guy's names are Leftwich (sp?).
10 GM: Leftwich (sp?) we do have that name.
11 RA: Yeah, we do have that name. (screeching noise)
12 JY: And uh, (screeching noise), a Dave Leftwich .
13 RA: Dave?
14 JY: Yeah.
15 GM; I think we have that. That name has come up.
16 JY: Yeah. (screeching noise)
17 RA: Hi, are you Sergeant Ducey (sp?)
18 UN: No.
19 RA: No, ok, ok is there a room? Do you have a room?
20 UN: Yeah, come on back here.
21 RA: Ok, thanks.
22 UN: We actually have two rooms so we wanted to talk to you about I don't know which
23 you guys wanna use that one interview room that's in the jail room or one that's in
24 the detective bureau?
25 GM: Detective Bureau. (overlapping conversation)
26 RA: Detective Bureau, yeah something a little more laid back. (screeching noise)
27 GM: I gotta use the restroom.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Ok.

2 GM: I don't know which way it is?

3 RA: We don't, we don't know either.

4 UN: And we have to try to figure out how the video thing works so uh, why don't you
5 have a seat in here for a minute. (Inaudible)

6 UN: Yeah.

7 RA: Sarge?

8 UN: There you are?

9 RA: Hey, how you doing? I'm Rob, nice to meet you.

10 UN: Nice to meet you too.

11 UN: So uh, one of you guys (inaudible) I have two rooms (inaudible).

12 UN: I have one next to the jail. I don't know if you want that one, do you want that
13 one? Ok give me a second.

14 RA: Oh, what looks good, Snapple?

15 JY: No, a Diet Pepsi.

16 RA: Diet Pepsi, you're a Diet guy? No?

17 JY: For awhile man I, my wife had me convinced that the regular Pepsi upsetting my
18 stomach and I just, tough getting used to but once I got used to it, it was cool.

19 RA: You have stomach problems?

20 JY: No, just trying to keep from getting fat.

21 RA: Oh, ok but you don't look fat did you put a bunch of weight on or something?

22 JY: No, but now I'm forty-six years old I'm in pretty good shape.

23 RA: You know what's funny is my wife before I uh, got married I been married for too
24 long probably uh, don't tell my wife that uh, I never drank Diet Coke. I just couldn't
25 drink it and that's when I married my wife that's the only thing that she buys. She
26 doesn't buy anything else but what she likes so I had to become used to it and

27

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 become accustomed to Diet Coke so now all I drink is Diet Coke and when I drink
2 the regular Coke it doesn't taste the same.
3 JY: (Inaudible) (overlapping conversation)
4 RA: Exactly, it taste funny to me. I, I can't drink regular Coke now.
5 GM: How is this department? You ever have any problems when you lived across the
6 street?
7 JY: Yeah, I had some tools missing but I kind of figured out you know, nobody in their
8 right mind would break in a truck right across the street from a police station and
9 take the tools but I think it was my son.
10 GM: That would be pretty balls. . . . (overlapping conversation)
11 RA: Do you think he pawned them or something?
12 JY: Huh?
13 RA: Do you think he pawned em?
14 JY: Sold them to his connection yeah probably.
15 RA: (Inaudible)
16 RA: They have a room back here that we can actually sit in. This isn't that comfortable.
17 UN: What's up bud?
18 JY: (Inaudible)
19 UN: All right man.
20 JY: I'm all right how you been doing?
21 UN: I'm all right.
22 RA: You guys know each other?
23 JY: Yeah.
24 RA: Did he take your burglary report or your property theft report?
25 JY: Yeah, I have a friend that lives in (inaudible) with my kid. I don't know why but you
26 guys got me scared to fucking death here.
27 RA: What's that?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Say, I don't know why but I'm like scared to death here.

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.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Tell me everything about yourself. (overlapping conversation0

2 JY: My parents, my parents split up when I was uh

3 RA: Uh, let me do this when you when you're explaining thing to us if you could give
4 me approximate years or if you know the date or the month that would be great to
5 and maybe name I know that your dad's name is George cause you told me
6 couple of minutes ago but I don't know your mother's name so

7 JY: Ok, her name is Betty Joe.

8 RA: Ok.

9 JY: And my parents split when I was ten. And it's like a normal kid at that age I played
10 parent for parent. Get what I can out of this one and go to that one so when I
11 mentioned that my dad got short it was like I played all out and ok pack your shit
12 and move back with your mom and. . . .

13 RA: Uh-hum.

14 JY: Um, that's what had happened you know I just bounced back and forth my mom
15 lived in Lynwood, Compton, South Gate. She moved all the time uh, Long Beach
16 uh, and uh, I drank when I was living with my dad at the age of fourteen.

17 RA: So dad was cool with that?

18 JY: Yeah, we drank beers you know we go out in the truck and shoot rabbits at night
19 and stuff like that so uh. . . .

20 RA: So back then you probably said dad's really cool.

21 JY: Yeah, but then when the beers turned into liquor after school you know with the
22 guys uh going to the arcade then uh, you know I did some stupid things and uh he
23 says like that's enough you gotta go back to live with your mom.

24 RA: So when you lived with your dad you lived in Lucerne Valley.

25 JY: Yes sir.

26 RA: At the same exact house Trade Post Road.

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Um, initially yeah, we lived at Trade Post Road and then the house had caught on
2 fire one day and burnt and we moved up onto Rabbit Springs Road and then uh,
3 that's one of the moments where you know I was just out of line and uh drinking
4 and I wrecked a motorcycle that belonged to somebody else. He says fucking
5 pack your stuff you're going to your mom's.

6 RA: Right.

7 JY: You know and then and came back down to my mom's and um

8 RA: How old were you when you came back down to mom's?

9 JY Um, like fifteen something like that.

10 RA: So you moved back down with mom down to Lynwood, Compton and Long Beach
11 area.

12 JY: Yeah.

13 RA: Hung out with her for a little while.

14 JY: And then uh, um, I went back and ended up with my dad for about a yea., no six
15 months so. . . .

16 RA: You moved back to Lucerne?

17 JY: Yeah, when I was sixteen and um. . . .

18 GM: On Rabbit Springs?

19 JY: Yeah, no I think we had moved no it was on Rabbit Springs he hadn't finished
20 rebuilding the house yet.

21 RA: Uh-huh. So did dad rebuild the same, rebuild the house?

22 JY: Rebuild the same house and

23 RA: And is that the house that he's living in now?

24 JY: Yes sir.

25 RA: Oh wow, so he's been out there for a long time huh?

26 JY: Oh yes he's been out there for a long time.

27 RA: So he's probably had that paid house, that house paid off numerous times huh?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 JY: Yeah, yeah, a couple of times. He even sold it and uh, somebody had bought it
2 and were making dope and let the insurance lapse and he foreclosed on it and he
3 got it back so and he married uh, married a lady from the town. They get along
4 good (inaudible).
- 5 RA: So at sixteen you moved back with dad. He's now back at the Trade Post.
- 6 JY: No, he was still over on Rabbit Springs Road you know. He moved over into uh, a
7 little housing track right off of eighteen in between town and uh, Rita's it's on the
8 north side of eighteen.
- 9 RA: By the school?
- 10 JY: Yeah, over by the school. . . .(overlapping conversation)
- 11 RA: Right, ok cause we, does Rabbit Springs Road go past that little housing area?
- 12 JY: Uh-uh, eighteen.
- 13 RA: Ok, eighteen all right cause I remember driving we were cruising around through
14 Lucerne Valley I remember going over by that school and I think that was the only
15 like housing track there. Most of the other houses were I, I wanna say like custom
16 built houses or houses that your next door neighbor doesn't look like your house.
- 17 JY: Yeah.
- 18 RA: Right, they're not track houses?
- 19 JY: No, it's tough to do out there because of all the stuff that gets stolen so. . . . it's a
20 big meth factory out there.
- 21 RA: Is it a big meth problem out there?
- 22 JY: Yeah.
- 23 RA: So you moved back to dad's house at sixteen and then uh, obviously you started
24 tending. . . .
- 25 JY: High school.
- 26 RA: Victor Valley High School.
- 27 JY: Yeah, Apple Valley.

28

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Apple Valley High School.

2 JY: Yeah.

3 RA: Um, tell me about that. When did you go there?

4 JY: Uh, I think I, it was about a year from the time that uh, I had wrecked the bike and
5 my dad sent me to my mom's before I came back.

6 RA: Uh-hu.

7 JY: And then uh when I moved back uh, it was in my junior year of high school I was
8 still a little hellion you know getting into trouble and stuff you know. He made me
9 move back, back with my mom.

10 RA: So how long did you stay with your dad that time?

11 JY: Uh, probably about nine months.

12 RA: So, nine months and then your senior year you moved back with mom?

13 JY: Yeah, from uh, for my junior year, freshman, sophomore, junior from my junior to
14 my senior year in high school (overlapping conversation)

15 RA: You're back down Lynwood or wherever your mom was living at that point.
16 (overlapping conversation)

17 JY: Yeah, yeah, she was living in Paramount at that time.

18 RA: Ok, and what high school were you going to then?

19 JY: Um, Paramount High School.

20 RA: Paramount.

21 JY: Uh-huh.

22 RA: How many different high schools did you attend John?

23 JY: Probably four.

24 RA: We have Apple Valley, Paramount – (overlapping conversation)

25 JY: Paramount High School, went to Polly for a little bit.

26 RA: Polly, what's that?

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Polly High School it's here in Long Beach as a matter of fact (overlapping
2 conversation).

3 RA: Is that like Poly Tech?

4 JY: No.

5 RA: Ok, just Polly High School. (overlapping conversation)

6 JY: Polly High School. I didn't go to Polly cause my brother went to Polly.

7 RA: Ok.

8 JY: And he was like calling people niggers and I wasn't that way. He'd end up in fights
9 all the time so I ended up going to Jordan. A predominantaly I was kind of raised
10 right here in this little area.

11 RA: Uh-huh, what other high schools?

12 JY: That's it.

13 RA: That's it. And I think you told me earlier that you, that you never, that you never
14 graduated correct?

15 JY: No, I quit in my uh, half way through my second semester in my senior year uh, I
16 got a job as a, a machinist. First, I was a, a line worker for you know the roll-a-
17 matic mops.

18 RA: Mopping floors?

19 JY: No, the roll-a-matic mops, the mops that you guys mop the floor with and you
20 push that little handle and it rings the sponge out.

21 RA: Yeah, uh-huh. (overlapping conversation)

22 JY: Well I worked for a company that made those and then uh.

23 RA: So you worked in a factory?

24 JY: Yeah, and then uh he asked if I uh could build him a, a warehouse. Not a
25 warehouse but a, uh, machine shop you know just build the walls up. . . .

26 RA: Uh-huh. (overlapping conversation)

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: and shit and working with my dad I was pretty mechanically inclined that way so I
2 built him a machine shop and he taught me how to run a milling machine making
3 computer, a computer doors.
4 RA: That's pretty cool.
5 JY: Yeah.
6 RA: So he must a had a lot of trust in you then? He must a liked you?
7 JY: He must of liked me I don't know about
8 RA: Give you a job, teach you a trade and let you help him out.
9 JY: By that time I was uh. . . . I don't think he fired me I think I quit though.
10 RA: But you knew that your time was coming that he was pissed off at you.
11 (overlapping conversation)
12 JY: Yeah, I was just, got bored I guess.
13 RA: Really, was the same task over and over?
14 JY: Yeah, (inaudible).
15 RA: So now who were you dating back then? Were you seeing Holly?
16 JY: Uh, yeah.
17 RA: When did, when did you first meet her?
18 JY: Um, when I was in high school. We had set out by the bleachers and uh, smoked
19 weed together.
20 RA: She pretty cool? Tell me about Holly.
21 JY: She was cool. She was just uh I didn't really like her. I liked her, I liked her friend
22 you know so and her friend had a boyfriend so I, I probably just uh, I had a couple
23 of girlfriends and you know and she was one of them.
24 RA: Who did you know in Texas?
25 JY: My brother he was in the Army by then, my older brother.
26 RA: And what's his name?
27
28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: George. I have, I have four brothers, three brothers, one older and two younger.
2 George is older.
3 RA: How old is George?
4 JY: Um...47 he's about 48 now.
5 RA: I'm gonna ask you this question, do all of your brothers have the same last name?
6 JY: Yeah.
7 RA: Ok.
8 JY: They have different fathers but you know they all have the same last name. My
9 dad. . .
10 RA: Ok.
11 JY: met my mom and she was all ready pregnant, she was sixteen, he married her
12 anyway. She's from deep South Mississippi and uh, my dad explains it as uh, a
13 shotgun wedding. My mom explains it as you know he fell in love with me and
14 swept me off my feet kind-of deal you know then I was born and then my mom got
15 heavy into drugs and. . . .
16 RA: This is Joe, John. . . .
17 JY: Joe, yeah George. . . .
18 RA: George.
19 JY: John.
20 RA: John.
21 JY: Kenny.
22 RA: Kenny.
23 JY: And then uh. . . .
24 RA: How olds Kenny?
25 JY: Forty-four.
26 RA: Forty-four.
27 JY: Yeah.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: And

2 JY: Brian.

3 RA: Brian.

4 JY: I mean he's I guess he's thirty-nine right now, thirty-eight. Four or six years
5 difference between uh those two.

6 RA: Do they all live in California or are they kind of like spread out throughout the
7 United States?

8 JY: Yeah, they live in California.

9 RA: Where does. . . .

10 JY: By brother Kenny lives in uh, Alisa Viejo. My brother Brian lives in Huntington
11 Beach and my brother George lives in uh, Bakersfield.

12 RA: So anyways you go back to Texas and you end up joining the Army.

13 JY: I joined the Army. I went in.

14 RA: How old were you?

15 JY: I was eighteen and uh, when I joined the service my brother he went in as a Nike
16 Hercules Missile crewman. Nuclear missile seems like a descent enough
17 challenging enough basically it wasn't about to quality of the job I wanted
18 something to mentally challenge me I guess.

19 RA: It sure sounds good huh?

20 JY: And uh, they trained me for it and went through basic training and I went my Al-
21 Key (sp?). They trained me to be a Nike Hercules Missile crewman and then uh,
22 this is hey your job's being phased out we don't no longer need you. The military
23 only guaranteed you the training. You have your training and now you're going to,
24 they gave me a couple of jobs to choose from and I chose another missile job.
25 Which was a Chaparral crewman missile. Which is surface to air uh, support.

26 RA: So you shoot down planes or missiles with that, with that missile?

27 JY: Yeah, it was a, yeah that's what we did.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 RA: Sounds pretty cool did it cross over or was it an easy, easier school?
- 2 JY: Yeah, it was a much easier school.
- 3 RA: Was that because you'd had the previous training and you could relate it or. . . .
- 4 JY It just wasn't as technical you know nuclear missiles is pretty technical. I got a
5 secret clearance it's declassified by now I'm sure.
- 6 RA: So you go you finish your schooling in the Army how long, how long were you in
7 school from or let me ask you this when did you join the Army?
- 8 JY: In February of 82.
- 9 RA: February of 1982. And then how long were you in basic training your school
10 training? (overlapping conversation)
- 11 JY: Total of about, total of about six months.
- 12 RA: For basic training?
- 13 JY: Basic training and the two job, job trainings.
- 14 RA: Ok, so both of them all together lumped up was six months worth?
- 15 JY: Uh-huh.
- 16 RA: Ok.
- 17 JY: And then I stationed in uh, Fort Bliss, Texas, uh, and I worked there for probably
18 eight months and then uh, I got orders to go to Europe and we'd planned
19 everything with the wife and everything you know.
- 20 RA: Uh-huh.
- 21 JY: You get ready to go and I set it up you know and I, I went over there I did a
22 reforger tour and then uh, I called the uh, uh, naval base down here to set up for
23 her to get her uh. . . .
- 24 RA: Passport.
- 25 JY: Passport photo's and all that and they even went to the house where she was at
26 to pick her up and she just wasn't there.
- 27 RA: So, while you're stationed at Fort Bliss working she's in California?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: No, she was there with me.

2 RA: She was with you?

3 JY: Yeah, and they transferred me to Europe. She moved to California or moved back
4 to California with her mom.

5 RA: So you transferred to Europe somewhere around April of 1983?

6 JY: Something like that.

7 RA: Something like that. And when you went over were you supposed to go over and
8 look for housing and get everything set up?

9 JY: I did, I went over there I got housing I got all my training I got everything that we
10 were required to move her

11 RA: Uh-huh.

12 JY: off post. . .

13 RA: Right, right.

14 JY: with me and made the, I tried to make the arrangements to move her over there
15 and uh, she just never responded.

16 RA: Did you guys have kids now?

17 JY: Uh, yeah the, my transfer to Europe was delayed because of my son. I was
18 supposed to be like

19 RA: When, when was your son born?

20 JY: Uh, August, August 22 of 1983. Ok, and I was supposed to be in Europe in
21 August 15th or something like that or August 20, it was like right in that same day.

22 RA: Right, right around that same time frame.

23 JY: Yeah.

24 RA: So your son was born how much time did they give you to kind of hang out with
25 your wife and cause it's different now than what they, the way they did it back
26 then.

27 JY: Uh, they gave me a uh, two weeks.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: That's it? So you had two weeks to get acquainted with the baby, get her on her
2 own and get to your duty station.

3 JY: Correct.

4 RA: Yeah, that kinda sucks.

5 JY: Yeah.

6 RA: Two weeks isn't very much time.

7 JY: No.

8 RA: Especially if you in the military.

9 JY: Yeah.

10 RA: So, somewhere around the end of August, September of 1983 right roughly
11 sometime in September of 1983 you go overseas?

12 JY: Correct.

13 RA: To Germany?

14 JY: Correct and I think I stayed there.

15 RA: Where in Germany? Where was the first place?

16 JY: Uh, I was in first I went to Frankfurt to do my uh, my processing and they teach
17 you the German culture, the German languages stuff so that you can live there
18 and then uh, and then I went to uh, Budingen that's what its called you know?

19 GM: What was that?

20 RA: Is that a base or a town?

21 JY: It's a town with a base in it. Uh. . . .

22 RA: Ok, so Frankfurt's like a big area?

23 JY: I think, I think Texas was Charlie 3-1, Third Battalion, First Air Defense Artillery
24 and Germany was yeah it was it was 4-1 it was the spearhead unit uh, it was 4th
25 Battalion, First Air Defense Artillery.

26 RA: Wuh, that's a mouth full.

27 JY: Yeah, it's a cool job.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: So Frankfurt is that like a major city?

2 JY: Yeah.

3 RA: So it's a big city and then Buding (sp?) is like. . . .

4 JY: Budingen.

5 RA: Budingen.

6 JY: Yeah.

7 RA: That's like a smaller Post or a smaller base or whatever you wanna call it a
8 smaller post. And so how long were you in Budingen?

9 JY: I think I was a total over there about nine months I'm not really sure I did uh,
10 reforger tour, which is like thirty days and then I did two field tours uh, sixty days
11 training.

12 RA: Uh-huh.

13 JY: Or was it four months, five months and then I got my house off post and got the
14 car and got the furniture got all the everything arranged for her to move for me to
15 get permission for her move.

16 RA: Right.

17 JY: And then uh, try making arrangements and I spent I think it was totally about nine
18 months cause uh, after I had gotten in touch with her and she was supposed to go
19 she agreed she was gonna everything was supposed to work you know and it
20 didn't. Uh, at the last minute and she just wasn't available.

21 RA: Right.

22 JY: The MP's from the naval base went to her house to pick her up you know so that
23 she could get her passport and she just wasn't there. They went there a couple of
24 times.

25 RA: Wow! That must have been a pretty big stressor for you?

26 JY: Yeah, kind of a heartbreak.

27

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 RA: Especially when you're, I don't know how many miles that is three thousand it's
2 probably more than that.
- 3 JY: It wouldn't of mattered if it was five miles you know either you go or you don't go.
- 4 RA: Yeah, so how did you like Germany?
- 5 JY: I thought it was great. I should have stayed.
- 6 RA: Would you go back again?
- 7 JY: I would. My wife now is a German decedent so
- 8 RA: Does she speak German?
- 9 JY: Yeah.
- 10 RA: How about you?
- 11 JY: Not much anymore.
- 12 RA: Just curse words and drinking words?
- 13 JY: Enough to get a beer I don't even know the curse words.
- 14 RA: Yeah, that's one of the places I always wanted to go. See I never I wasn't lucky
15 like you I never got to go to the cool places.
- 16 JY: It was cool.
- 17 RA: I wanted to go to like uh, all of the northern European countries um, you know I
18 plan I wanted to go to Spain and Italy. I did go to Spain but um, I didn't get to go
19 like you did and actually live there for months on end.
- 20 JY: It's cool you could travel from one side of Germany to the other.
- 21 RA: Well they have the rail system there too.
- 22 JY: Almost nothing flat on a rail you know? Went and seen Amsterdam and a couple
23 of other places while I was there.
- 24 RA: Now that's pretty wild huh?
- 25 JY: Ok, and uh, things weren't working out with her coming home and you know and
26 I'd gotten into trouble a couple of times, uh
- 27 RA: In the military?

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1 JY: Yeah, you know just

2 RA: What did you get in trouble for?

3 JY: Uh, I had wrecked a, my car and uh, when I was working uh, I had a twenty-four
4 hour duty, guard duty.

5 RA: Right.

6 JY: Uh, for the barracks and like twelve o'clock one night somebody called from a club
7 saying their ride had left them there so I went to go pick them up and um, I picked
8 them up and we were on our way back to post and I was coming off a mountain
9 and hit some black ice and went through an intersection and wrecked my BMW
10 stone cold sober. It wasn't that big a deal but then by that time I had lost my
11 interest I'm like well where's my wife, where's my kid you know I don't really
12 wanna be here anymore. These guys are --they asked me if I wanted to go home
13 I said yeah.

14 RA: Sounds like they're screwing you over basically.

15 JY: Well I just wasn't following the rules man you know and uh, I was, I was a, a really
16 good soldier you know and then they saw you know night and day and they go
17 what's wrong and I told them well what do you wanna do? Well I wanna go home.
18 So, what are you gonna do when you get home? I said I'll work in construction.

19 RA: So, what happened then they just let you go?

20 JY: Yeah. I got out with a general discharge and uh. . . .

21 RA: When was that?

22 JY: My God we were working on the time there before probably 85, 84, 85 I'm not sure
23 something like that. I called my dad before I had uh, made the decision to come
24 home. He says yeah, come on home I got work for you and then uh, I went ahead
25 and began procedures of getting out and I got out and I got home and he like
26 sorry there's not enough work for you, you know.

27 RA: The economy sucks and I don't have any right.

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- 1 JY: I think a lot of it was just the fears and my behavior from being younger you know?
2 And uh, and probably to that there wasn't enough work for him and uh. . . .
- 3 RA: So did you come you leave Germany did you discharge in Germany and get flown
4 to the states or
- 5 JY: Uh, no they fly you to the states and you discharge in uh, I think at Fort Bragg,
6 North Carolina, South Carolina something like that .
- 7 RA: And then what then they just fly you home?
- 8 JY: Yeah, and from there you get, if you got money fly if you don't you get a bus.
- 9 RA: Wow! Just like that huh?
- 10 JY: Yeah.
- 11 RA: I didn't know that they would just let you out like that.
- 12 JY: Again, I was a good soldier and it was just a problem with me being there uh....
13 with things that were going on. (overlapping conversation)
- 14 RA: Real hardship on your, on your family.
- 15 JY: Well I mean I, I didn't mind being punished I just uh, once I stepped out of my
16 normalcy, my normal behavior, my normal actions as a you know I wanted to be
17 the poster soldier and, and then uh, you know and then my wife is she is uh, just
18 kind of ruined me.
- 19 RA: Sure.
- 20 JY: And then I didn't wanna be a soldier no more.
- 21 RA: Sounds like you had a lot of fun in the beginning and you really enjoyed it.
- 22 JY: Yeah, it was cool.
- 23 RA: Did your brother retire from the military?
- 24 JY: No, he got out. He got kicked out or something.
- 25 RA: Yeah, just think though you're old enough now that if you'd a stayed in there for
26 the full twenty or twenty-five. . . (overlapping conversation)
- 27 JY: I think I'd been retired.

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1 RA: You'd be retired onto your new career. Probably would have been nice having that
2 retirement coming in huh?
3 JY: Life's good right now.
4 RA: Good, good so you discharged from the military sometime around 1984 or 1985.
5 JY: Correct.
6 RA: and you relocate back to directly back to Lucerne or just hang out with your mom.
7 JY: No, I came, I came in and moved directly back in with uh, my mother-in-law.
8 RA: And her name was?
9 JY: Linda, Linda Mitchell. (overlapping conversation)
10 RA: Linda Mitchell, ok, and she lived in Lynwood on Abbott.
11 JY: Correct.
12 RA: Ok.
13 JY: And then um. . . .
14 RA: Was
15 JY: Me and my wife were working things out.
16 RA: Was your wife living there too?
17 JY: Yeah.
18 RA: So, Holly's living there with the baby?
19 JY: Correct.
20 RA: And at that time you still only have one?
21 JY: Correct.
22 RA: Which is J.J.?
23 JY: Correct.
24 RA: Ok.
25 JY: And then uh, there was a couple of mechanic jobs and little stuff like that and then
26 uh, I begged my dad for a chance you know and he said ok come on up. Brought
27 me up there and we lived with him I don't know probably

28

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1 RA: How long did you stay with your mother-in-law do you think? (overlapping
2 conversation)

3 JY: Maybe six months.

4 RA: So it wasn't that long.

5 JY: No.

6 RA: Oh, ok.

7 JY: And I moved up with my dad and uh. . . .

8 RA: When do you think um, approximately, you said 1984 or be about 1984-1985,
9 approximate month?

10 JY: About six months from I don't know.

11 RA: Do you remember when you discharged?

12 JY: No.

13 RA: What month? Was it the summer time, the spring, the winter?

14 JY: I believe it was winter.

15 RA: So the winter of 1980. . . .

16 JY: It might a been a 85.

17 RA: 85.

18 JY: I. . . .

19 RA: Could have been 84.

20 JY: I think I did a total of two years uh, almost three total years.

21 RA: Active duty?

22 JY: Yeah.

23 RA: Did you have to, did you have to do any inactive reserve or active reserve or you
24 just, the contracts done?

25 JY: It wasn't a contract then it was a they had made an arrangement that I was getting
26 into trouble and uh, uh, they just said ok so we're gonna do this. We're gonna
27

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1 discharge you, get you a general discharge you can't come back in and we won't
2 let you back in that was our arrangement.

3 RA: So you guys basically came to an understanding right?

4 JY: Correct.

5 RA: You're in trouble and they said ok here's the deal. This is your punishment and as
6 a result we'll give you a general as opposed to a dishonorable

7 JY: No, I did my punishment and, and uh, one of the officers asked me what's wrong
8 with you, you said your not the same guy and I just told him I says this is a
9 different a, I don't wanna be a soldier anymore.

10 RA: Alright, I can understand that.

11 JY: I just want my life with my kids and I told him and then he told his superior and
12 they told their superior and somehow I ended up in a the Colonel's office
13 discussing my military career and what do you wanna do. I'm tired I don't wanna. .
14 ..

15 RA: John it must have been tough because uh, I was, I was never married when I was
16 in the military but uh, when I was in the Navy but uh, being gone for away from
17 people that I knew for six months, nine months at a time that's tough. It sucks I
18 know what you went through.

19 JY: I'm trying to figure out why my whole life story is pertinent to what's going on here.
20 I'm just like I wanna help you but (overlapping conversation)

21 RA: Well we're getting up to, we're gonna be getting up to a

22 JY: Ok.

23 RA: more of it.

24 JY: Well we are right I done left my mother-in-law's and I moved back up with my dad.
25 I lived with my dad. I lived with my dad for - - maybe five months, maybe four,
26 maybe six.

27 RA: Uh-huh, with Holly and

28

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Yeah.
2 RA: J.J.
3 JY Holly and J.J. and uh, rental came about uh and I had did I don't even know how.
4 GM: That was on trade post or
5 JY: It was on Trade Post Road. We had moved into the new house by then and uh,
6 somehow the rental availability came up you know.
7 RA: The rental being at Rita's.
8 JY: Rita's.
9 RA: back
10 JY: Correct.
11 RA: Studio?
12 JY: Yeah, and I went up and I talked to her and she told me how much the rent was
13 and how much a there was even a deposit I think, maybe.
14 RA: First last month a hundred bucks?
15 JY: I'm not sure I think the rent was like I'd be lying it couldn't have been much you
16 know probably about five hundred bucks, well four hundred bucks you know it's
17 like a hundred put two hundred dollars on the deposit.
18 RA: That's pretty reasonable actually.
19 JY: Yeah.
20 RA: You think about it.
21 JY: Eight dollars an hour though you figure it's not very much even though I was gone
22 from sunup to sundown. Only working maybe eight or nine hours out the day the
23 rest of it you're commuting back and forth.
24 RA: Plus you had to pay for gas.
25 JY: Well I just drove to town rode with my dad.
26 RA: Oh, that's pretty cool.
27 JY: Yeah.

28

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: Get a ride from him.

2 JY: Yeah, and we lived there maybe nine months.

3 RA: At Rita's?

4 JY: Yeah, and uh, this house had come up there was one of the guys I went to school
5 with lived on that same road I can't, I can't remember the name of the road but he
6 lived on the road said there was a house available that his brother had just moved
7 out. . . .

8 RA: Uh-huh.

9 JY: and would I be interested in renting it and I'm just like well yeah. You know I went
10 and looked at it and they had a number and I called the owner and talked to him
11 and he goes well you see the condition it's in. It was like unlivable. I mean it had
12 a water tank and all the rooms were there but it was like no there was a bathtub
13 but there was no toilet you know and there was a vanity but no sink, um, kitchen,
14 um had the cabinets but no sink, there was no flooring in there and. . . .

15 RA: Oh, so this thing was an overhauler.

16 JY: Yeah, he goes will you give me a hundred dollars a month and we go yeah, sure
17 you know and then uh, uh, I fixed the place up and uh after six months or so he
18 came out to visit you know, wanted to meet me, and he couldn't even he couldn't
19 recognize his house.

20 RA: Must have been impressed then huh?

21 JY: Oh yeah, I would think so. You know I did a front porch on there and new roof
22 and you know redid the inside and

23 RA: What month do you think or what year and month do you think you moved into
24 that place?

25 JY: 85-86 I mean uh. . . .

26 GM: Had your second one been born yet?

27 JY: Well, 83-85, uh. . . .

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(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 RA: Well when was, when was Jasmine born?
- 2 JY: Um, September 30, 1985.
- 3 RA: Ok, ok so we'll go back.
- 4 JY: Ok, so when she was born just uh, about a year before we moved out of that
5 place. I'm just guessing. (overlapping conversation)
- 6 RA: Ok, how long do you think you lived in there before Jasmine was born? I mean in
7 that place on the dirt road that you fixed up?
- 8 JY: Probably about, probably about five months.
- 9 RA: You lived there about five months and that was September so we're looking at
10 somewhere around April of 1985, somewhere around there.
- 11 JY: Um, could be.
- 12 RA: Could be, ok.
- 13 GM: I'm sorry I wanna make sure I got that right Jasmine was already born when you
14 were living at the second rental?
- 15 JY: No, she had just been born in that second, second rental up there in Lucerne.
- 16 GM: And you had been in the second rental how long when she was born?
- 17 JY: Probably about five or six months.
- 18 GM: Ok.
- 19 RA: So, yeah so if that I mean if that's the case then you'd have moved in you would
20 have moved out Rita's rental somewhere around April and moved into that rental
21 on the dirt road somewhere around April of 1985. Five months later now it's
22 September 30, 1985 Jasmines born, correct?
- 23 JY: Something like that.
- 24 RA: Ok.
- 25 JY: Ok, and go ahead.
- 26 RA: No, go ahead.
- 27 JY: Um, we lived there for say probably about a year and a half old.

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1 RA: Who's we?

2 JY: Me and Jasmine and J.J. and Holly their mom.

3 RA: Ok, well let's, let's back up to when you were living in the rental at Rita's house
4 cause we kind of skipped over that whole thing real, real quick and I just wanna
5 make sure I got it right. So, you lived at your dad's house maybe six months while
6 you're helping him and doing doors and windows and framing or whatever it was
7 that you did. (overlapping conversation)

8 JY: No it was just doors.

9 RA: Just doors? Just hung doors? So, you're living with your dad you're back together
10 with Holly, right, and J.J. and then you move into Rita's?

11 JY: Uh-huh.

12 RA: Ok, and you lived at Rita's for six months, eight months?

13 JY: Something like that

14 RA: Ok, um, when you lived at Rita's did you guys ever socialize with Rita?

15 JY: Sir, we never really socialized. I mean I had spoke with the lady.

16 RA: Uh-huh.

17 JY: You know a few times and uh, I just never really, just kicked it or partied or we
18 may have drank a beer you know.

19 RA: Sure.

20 JY: Uh, when she had a, God I'm trying to remember all of this uh. I went down there
21 to pay rent or something like that one time and she had some friends over and
22 introduced me to them and I don't even think I finished drinking the beer so . . .

23 RA: Tell me a little bit about Rita.

24 JY: She's just a really nice lady. Very, very proper very polite and maybe she drank
25 I'm not really sure I (inaudible).

26 RA: Uh-huh. When you um, lived there in that rental, Rita's rental cause I know we
27 kinda skipped over when you lived in that you guys were talking I will just throw the

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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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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)

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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?

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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?

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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

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: So. . . .

2 RA: Ok, so you move over to the house over here you stayed in Rita's house for eight,
3 nine months then you move over to the house where you were doing basically the
4 work, right? Paying a hundred bucks a month or so doing all the work. I'm gonna
5 assume that the guys paying the supplies for everything?

6 JY: No, I, I took care of everything.

7 RA: And then you have another baby here.

8 JY: Uh-huh.

9 RA: And that would be Jasmine?

10 JY: Yeah.

11 RA: You stayed here for I think this be a year and a half, maybe

12 JY: Yeah.

13 RA: Then you move back down to end up moving back down to Lynwood. You stayed
14 with uh, your mother-in-law. How long after you moved did you and Holly split?

15 JY: How long after we moved here or after we moved back down here?

16 RA: After you moved down to Lynwood? (overlapping conversation)

17 JY: Um, probably about three months, two months. We were living in a trailer in the
18 backyard and I was working during the day and mowing lawns at night trying to get
19 the funds together so we get our own place and get out of her mom's and the
20 whole time I was married to her she had you know like you don't love me and you
21 think I'm fat, dud-ah, dud-ah, dud-ah, you know why don't you just leave and I had
22 from the most part just you know just blew it off she's angry she's that kind of a girl
23 you know all ready physical. I mean she, she wouldn't beat on me but she would
24 run and she'd beat herself up literally.

25 RA: Uh-hum.

26 JY: You know beat herself literally. And she told me one day when I was coming
27 home I was loading up my construction tools I was loading up my garden tools

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1 and then uh, I told my son J.J. well go get your jacket and you can come with me.
2 And uh, when he went in to get the jacket she had convinced him that she was
3 gonna take him to the park and uh, he came out he goes mommy's taking me to
4 the park. I'm like (inaudible) you know you're not gonna take him. If you wanna be
5 mean that's fine but be mean to me not the kids. So fuck you go do your yard
6 work and when you get done fucking just keep going so I did. But she called me
7 about a, a week later and said that uh, you just abandoned us and I never just
8 abandoned them you know? She got her own place uh, shortly there after and uh,
9 as I was paying rent and giving her. . . .

10 RA: What year did you divorce her? Remember?

11 JY: No, I don't even remember. I filed some paperwork and shot it to Texas.

12 RA: Were you married in Texas?

13 JY: Yes. (overlapping conversation)

14 RA: Or you had to file it with them?

15 JY: I got out of basic training and uh, my mom came across country and escorted me
16 into the justice of the peace and told me I'm gonna marry this girl.

17 RA: Because she was pregnant or because your mom liked her?

18 JY: I'm not truly sure.

19 RA: Something?

20 JY: Yeah, my mom said something you just do it you know so that's what I did.
21 (Inaudible).

22 RA: Then after Holly, you said you had another wife. What was her name again?

23 JY: Alicia. After me and Holly had split up. . . .

24 RA: Did you have a girlfriend after, after Holly?

25 JY: It was probably about six months before I even got out I'd just be madder than hell
26 you know?

27 RA: You probably swore women off huh?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 JY: Uh, I just buried myself in the work you know I got a job down at the naval base
2 and started framing and um, making good money and I mean that's the whole. . .
- 3 RA: Do you have any idea what year that was that you and Holly split?
- 4 JY: Uh, (inaudible) probably like 88.
- 5 RA: 1988?
- 6 JY: Yeah, because uh, my son from my second wife, my oldest son is nineteen um,
7 10-2-89, God (inaudible) I don't even remember. (inaudible) might have been 88,
8 10-2-89, 10-2-89 it was 89.
- 9 RA: Oh, October 2, 1989. (overlapping conversation)
- 10 JY: That's when I met, 10-2 yeah it might have been the very beginning of 89.
- 11 RA: Uh-huh.
- 12 JY: Uh, the end of 88 as a matter of fact cause I had, I'd, I'd, even hang out with a girl
13 for a couple few months you know.
- 14 RA: Oh yeah
- 15 JY: We had split up and then I'd started I met this other girl and then we were hooked
16 up for about three months.
- 17 RA: Who was that what was her name?
- 18 JY: Alicia.
- 19 RA: Alicia.
- 20 JY: Yeah, Alicia Smith.
- 21 RA: Was that the same Alicia that- - you didn't date any other people between Holly
22 and Alicia?
- 23 JY: No.
- 24 RA: No? How long did you, how long did you see Alicia?
- 25 JY: I dated her for about eight years, somewhere around there. I keep saying eight but
26 the reality it was probably about seven.
- 27 RA: Uh-huh.

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: You know after we'd been seeing each other for about probably two months or
2 three months she said she was pregnant and then uh, uh, we moved in together
3 and I filed a divorce with uh, Holly.
4 RA: Oh, ok so you were still married to Holly when you. . . .
5 JY: Yeah.
6 RA: Technically but you guys weren't together.
7 JY: No, no. (overlapping conversation)
8 RA: Ok, so, got it. (overlapping conversation)
9 JY: Yeah, filed for divorce in, in uh, sent it off to Texas. I never got a response back I
10 just uh. . . .
11 RA: Uh-huh.
12 JY: I didn't really live in the same place either so I don't know whether, what
13 happened.
14 RA: So now when you were with Alicia were you guys actually married or just dating?
15 JY: We just dated nobody got married.
16 RA: You had enough of the married stuff.
17 JY: Correct.
18 RA: Got it.
19 JY: And um. . . .
20 RA: Did you have kids together?
21 JY: Yeah, we had a, I had our first boy together uh, eleven months, twelve months
22 after we first met.
23 RA: So she delivered eleven months after or she conceived? (overlapping
24 conversation)
25 JY: Yeah, she conceived about two or three months we first met and started dating
26 and then uh, and then Joseph was born, 10-2-89, and then uh, 7-19-91, two years
27

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 later uh, my son Kenneth was born and then um, a couple of years after that my
2 daughter Breanna was born.

3 RA: Then that's all your kids then right?

4 JY: That's all of em.

5 RA: Right, so you're with Alicia was she pretty cool. Tell me about Alicia?

6 JY: Alicia was cool.

7 RA: Did you date anybody between Holly and Alicia? Did you have any other
8 girlfriends?

9 JY: No.

10 RA: Wow! So then things end with Alicia. I'm assuming that it almost sounds like it was
11 a pretty clean break.

12 JY: With Alicia? Just you know mad, what else can you do?

13 RA: Hurt?

14 JY: She's pregnant with another, another guy.

15 RA: Right.

16 JY: You know and uh

17 RA: Did you know about the other relationship?

18 JY: No, I, I met him. I spoke to him he seems like a nice enough guy but they're both
19 in their diseases. I think she's still getting high now.

20 RA: He wasn't a friend of yours was he?

21 JY: No.

22 RA: No.

23 JY: I had never even met him.

24 RA: When you guys, did you guys date outside of your relationship? With that I mean I
25 know I remem at the house I told you some people do that and uh, a lot of times
26 people do, do that. But you and Alicia never dated outside of the relationship?
27 Not that you knew of?

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. . . .

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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?

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Um, about fourteen months. I proposed to her after a couple of months you know
2 and we lived together for a year. Find out we were actually compatible.

3 RA: That's probably a good idea actually.

4 JY: It wasn't the same on the first two. We fuckin lived together for a year and see if
5 we were compatible and you know if we were still willing and we got married in uh,
6 February 29 of. I be lying here cause if I said we just celebrated our ninth of 2000.
7 I must have met her in the end of 99.

8 GM: February of 99?

9 JY: Something like that?

10 RA: How things work with her, she pretty cool? She seemed like a real nice lady.

11 JY: She's a good woman, a good woman. She's probably at home tripping out right
12 now.

13 RA: You guys been together ever since? No break ups or anything like that?

14 JY: Uh-huh, uh, we had a speech because of her daughter didn't wanna fucking uh,
15 didn't wanna get along with my kids and my kids didn't wanna get along with her
16 daughter.

17 RA: Uh-huh.

18 JY: So they spent a week up at the hotel here and even though (inaudible) split the
19 kids up and I'm thinking ok, you made the decision now you're gonna have to
20 suffer by em you know?

21 RA: Sure.

22 JY: A week later they moved back in and everything was fine.

23 RA: So for the last nine years you and Melody have been together. That's, that's good.

24 JY: We just celebrated our ninth anniversary.

25 RA: That's good.

26 JY: Six months ago uh, we were six or seven living across the street here and her dad
27 had passed away uh, he had his house almost paid off but you know and there's

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 no insurance and mom's doesn't have any kind of an income, brother can't afford
2 to so we moved in over there to help salvage his investments.

3 RA: Uh-huh.

4 JY: We moved in over there for about six months. You know her dad and her mom
5 had been together forty-five, forty-nine a long time you know so I been trying to
6 change what their house looked like to something different.

7 RA: Something modern.

8 JY: Yeah, you know so that it doesn't you know remind her of the guy but evidently his
9 spirit keeps coming around and this, I've seen him in the living room one time uh,
10 some, one of the kids' friend come over and goes hey man. . . .

11 RA: No shit?

12 JY: Is a, did somebody die here. I'm like no, why? He goes well there's a man
13 standing right there and then my son came down to the bed, bathroom and uh,
14 was going into the bathroom and saw him standing in the bathroom. He wanted a
15 palace you know so I been trying to build this if you could imagine a pretty dingy
16 old house from where when we first moved into what it is now I'm just probably
17 pretty impressed. With the way things turned out. That's my story.

18 RA: Interesting, and you and Melody have been together the whole time. You guys
19 don't date outside of do, or I should say do you date outside of your marriage?

20 JY: No.

21 RA: You guys have been exclusive the whole time? Let's go back and talk about when
22 you lived at Rita's apartment. You told me that you moved in there when uh, you
23 and Holly and, and J.J. moved in there and you lived, um, tell me a little bit more
24 about Rita, about her the person that she was with a, a, who she socialized with?
25 What her normal routine was?

26 JY: Yeah, I don't I just she was a really nice lady that we met and she agreed to let me
27 and my wife and my kid live in her house and uh, she probably tired to get us to

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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1 come over and hang out with her a couple of times but I just wouldn't you know? I
2 didn't, I didn't know her normal routine. I didn't know any of her friends. I, I figure
3 by the time I moved up there I was I had been gone for a few years from the time
4 I'd been there before up there.

5 RA: Uh-huh.

6 JY: You know and uh, then I'm back up there and I probably wasn't up in the desert
7 nine months before we had moved into her house you know so I, and my whole
8 time that I was up there even the guys that I went to school with uh, Dave
9 Richards and all these other knuckleheads that I went to school I never even
10 socialized with them I just, just me, my wife, uh, uh, me, my wife with the kid and
11 uh, Janice and uh, anyways the girl Janice said uh, I had met when I was in
12 school that married into a guy and that's who we hung out with just Janice and her
13 husband. They didn't have any kids and I don't know where they live and I don't
14 even know the last name I just remember her as Janice you know.

15 RA: Did you and Holly used to go over and watch TV or anything with Rita?

16 JY: Uh, not that I know of.

17 RA: Did Rita come over to your place and watch TV with you and Holly and J.J.? No?

18 JY: No, not with me there.

19 RA: Did you and Holly ever invite or go over to Rita's house for a bar-b-q or anything or
20 uh, Christmas dinner or Thanksgiving?

21 JY: The only time I had ever been into Rita's house is that one time when I uh, when I
22 paid rent evidently you know but I normally wasn't just walk in and pay the rent
23 and uh, that one time when I went to pay rent she invited me in. She had her
24 friends and you know a couple of times that she had asked me there you know
25 help her out around in the house that was it you know?

26 RA: What kind of, what kind of things did you do around the house? (overlapping
27 conversation)

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: One of the things the bathroom door didn't shut all the way uh, there was a
2 problem with the uh. . . .

3 RA: What did you have to do with that?

4 JY: It was an adjustment on the hinge.

5 RA: No big deal?

6 JY: No big deal um, uh, the faucet had a drip in it you know and just so I took the. . . .

7 RA: New washer?

8 JY: Yeah, you know uh, kitchen sink was un, was plugged up, the back sliding glass
9 door didn't shut. Just little things you know?

10 RA: Uh-huh.

11 JY: I couldn't you know it wasn't a lot you know?

12 RA: What kind of locks did she have on the house, do you remember?

13 JY: (Inaudible)

14 RA: (Inaudible) Did uh, how about the back sliding glass door was that do you know
15 what kind of lock that had?

16 JY: I'm not even sure

17 RA: Did it lock?

18 JY: I, I couldn't even I don't even remember?

19 RA: Did she ever ask you to come over and check her house out for any safety issues
20 or anything like that maybe she was scared or uh, she wanted to make sure that
21 her door locks worked or you know how women are sometimes they'll call a guy
22 over to take a look and make sure everything's cool and you're a handy guy.

23 JY: Just the little things that need to be repaired. She had her son's you know. I
24 never really met the guy.

25 RA: Did her son live in obviously he didn't live in the studio. Did he live in her house
26 with her while you were living there?

27 JY: No not that I know of, no.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: So she lived by herself totally as far as you know?

2 JY: And from what I had heard from other people after we had moved away and uh,
3 found out that she had been killed that uh, um, her son moved in so I don't even
4 know. My dad right now is under the impression that he hangs around a grip of
5 older people and older people have the tendency to talk.

6 RA: Sure. (overlapping conversation)

7 JY: He, you know he says that according to his information he married the town ex-
8 mayor you know from up there so she knows like probably fucking everybody up
9 there that's descent you know and his feedback was that her son his uh, was the
10 one that got convicted of the I don't even know.

11 RA: Of what?

12 JY: Of Rita's murder.

13 RA: Oh, really!

14 JY: Yeah.

15 RA: Ok, well that's not true. We know that's not true I'm sure.

16 JY: You guys. . . .

17 RA: Yeah, we wouldn't be out here asking questions trying to figure out who was
18 around her um, did you ever go over to Rita's house for drinks and maybe Holly
19 wasn't there? Maybe to socialize with her or anything?

20 JY: First of all, I had, I'd gone over there that one time when we were

21 (overlapping conversation)

22 RA: Just the one time right? Never had any type of a relationship with Rita? Excuse
23 me?

24 JY: No.

25 RA: No, did you ever date her?

26 JY: Uht uh

27 RA: Uh, kiss her?

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

- 1 JY: Uht uh *No*
- 2 RA: Um, have sex with her?
- 3 (cell phone ringing music) *sick No!!! No.*
- 4 RA: Excuse me I'm sorry. Nu-no intimate relationship at all? *No*
- 5 GM: You said you had brothers and sisters?
- 6 JY: Uh-hum.
- 7 GM: What were your brother's names?
- 8 JY: Joseph, I mean not Joseph, George.
- 9 GM: George, what was his first birthday?
- 10 JY: February something.
- 11 GM: He's older than you?
- 12 JY: Yeah.
- 13 GM: How many years older?
- 14 JY: Sixty-one, he's born in sixty-one.
- 15 GM: And then came who next?
- 16 JY: Then me, uh, John and that's uh, September of 63.
- 17 GM: You, sixty-three, and then? (overlapping conversation)
- 18 JY: And then Kenneth was uh, December of 65 and then uh, Brian was December of
- 19 72.
- 20 GM: Any sisters?
- 21 JY: No.
- 22 RA: How about stepbrothers or sisters? Stepbrothers? Stepsisters?
- 23 JY: Uh, my mom married a Mexican family I'm sure there's probably five hundred of
- 24 them out there in Mexico, um. . . .
- 25 RA: Were your brothers living in Lucerne Valley?
- 26 JY: Yeah.
- 27 RA: All of em?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Um, yeah.
2 RA: When Rita as killed were all of them living up there?
3 JY: Uh, Brian, uh, I don't think any of us lived up there when Rita was killed but I'm not
4 sure you know I don't know when she was killed. I don't know.
5 GM: Were they living up there before?
6 RA: She was killed in 1985.
7 JY: 1985?
8 RA: 1985, uh-hum.
9 GM: Were your brothers living up there in 85?
10 JY: My brother George was.
11 GM: What about Kenneth and Brian?
12 JY: Um, no.
13 GM: So just George?
14 JY: Yeah.
15 GM: Where was he living at?
16 JY: Um, in a motel downtown.
17 GM: He doesn't live with your dad?
18 JY: No.
19 RA: He was kind of like on a month by month?
20 JY: Yeah, (inaudible).
21 GM: And then your dad did he ever get a new wife or girlfriend or
22 JY: No, he's been with the same lady for twenty-six or twenty-seven years.
23 RA: What's her name?
24 JY: Uh, Betty.
25 GM: Betty?
26 JY: Betty Murrie.
27 GM: How do you spell that last name?

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: M-U-R-R-I-E.
2 GM: M-U-R. . . .
3 JY: R-I-E.
4 RA: Is she a local or she from Lucerne?
5 JY: Yeah.
6 RA: Is she.
7 GM: And that's his wife right now?
8 JY: I guess you could say they been together that long.
9 RA: Are they still together now?
10 JY: Uh-huh.
11 GM: What about we heard the name Pam Hardwick.
12 JY: Yeah, he did. He married Pam as a matter of fact and when uh. . . .
13 RA: Are they still together?
14 JY: No.
15 RA: No?
16 JY: No, there's a, she was with twenty-eight or something like that when they met and
17 he was just Pam oh my God that thing was jacked. That's how long it's been.
18 RA: You totally forgot about her, huh?
19 JY: Yeah, she lived off of uh, a little housing community I was telling you about.
20 RA: Going by the school?
21 JY: Yeah.
22 RA: Or just up the street from the school.
23 JY: Yeah, it's just right up the street. It's right, right up there half a mile from the
24 market. (overlapping conversation)
25 RA: Going towards the mountain.
26 JY: The Lucerne Valley market, yeah.

27
28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: When did they get married? Before you got up to Lucerne Valley? When you were
2 in the Army or after?
3 JY: After, uh, before the last time, God, uh, they got married.
4 GM: Before you went in the military?
5 JY: Yeah, oh hell yeah.
6 GM: When did they get divorced or separated?
7 JY: Excuse me?
8 GM: When did they separate?
9 JY: Um, I don't even know that either.
10 GM: What you'd say I didn't catch your mom's name?
11 JY: Betty Jo.
12 GM: Is that one word?
13 JY: No, first and middle name. Betty Jo Cook is her name.
14 RA: Does she spell it J-O-E or J-O?
15 JY: J-O.
16 RA: Just J-O, right? C-O-O-K?
17 JY: Uh-huh.
18 RA: Ok.
19 GM: You still keep in contact with her?
20 JY: No, she's passed away.
21 GM: Ok.
22 JY: She's been passed away for, ahhh maybe eight years.
23 RA: She. . . .
24 JY: No, it was longer than that. (overlapping conversation)
25 RA: get sick from something or what happened to her?
26 JY: I don't even my brother went to go and visit her and she was passed away.
27 RA: Oh, that's terrible.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

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(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Yeah, and then uh, the coroner couldn't figure out what it was that she had
2 passed away from.
3 GM: How about George, was he dating back then in 1985.
4 JY: He's been married to the same lady since he was seventeen.
5 GM: Still?
6 JY: Yeah.
7 GM: They have a good relationship obviously then huh?
8 JY: Yeah, I guess, uh. . . .
9 GM: What's her name?
10 JY: Becky.
11 GM: Rebecca or Becky or
12 JY: Becky.
13 GM: Becky Yablonsky?
14 JY: Yeah.
15 RA: What was her name then? Do you know? Becky's?
16 JY: Montoya?
17 GM: Montoya?
18 JY: Yeah.
19 RA: She pretty cool, you like, you like her?
20 JY: No, we don't get along. I don't like her. She don't like me.
21 RA: Do you get along with your brother?
22 JY: Yeah.
23 RA: Huh.
24 JY: This kind of burdens with relationship was between me and her.
25 GM: You know you said you had those two cars back then, a pick up truck you still
26 have that today?
27 JY: (Inaudible)

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 RA: I think people probably don't understand you. Some of the things that you've
2 done some of the things you've been involved with.

3 JY: You guys think I did this.

4 JY: There's just no way.

5 GM: We're not here to judge you man.

6 JY: I just like....

7 GM: We've been investigating homicides for a long time. We've talked to a lot of
8 people including you and, and many other cases we've worked on. We've been
9 working this one for a long time and my partner and I, I think he'll agree with me I
10 get the sense that you feel bad for her. I saw what you looked like when you
11 looked at her photo. I saw the hurt there.

12 RA: We saw how it tore your stomach up back at the house. John life, life is good for
13 you right now. You've turned things around. You're with a good woman. Back in
14 1985 there were a lot of you had a lot of stress in your life. You had a new child.
15 You had a wife you weren't getting along with.

16 JY: I didn't. I didn't do this. (Inaudible)

17 RA: John.

18 GM: We wouldn't be here today talking.

19 RA: We wouldn't just pick you out of a, a needle in a haystack to talk to.

20 GM: You know there is many reasons why these types of things happen. You told us
21 about your childhood and the things that happened to you and the things that
22 you've gone through and there were a lot of stressors in life for you. We know
23 that you made some mistakes. Nobody's perfect.

24 JY: I made a lot of mistakes but not this. I've never made this mistake there's just no
25 way.

26 GM: It's all right John. We don't think you're a bad person. I think it would be good
27 that you get this off your chest. I really do.

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: You know when we get to this point have you ever put a puzzle together?

2 JY: Uh, yeah.

3 RA: Everybody has in their life and when you first start out as a kid you start out with
4 the puzzle with the gigantic pieces that are huge, right? Right? When you're four
5 or five years old and you only gotta put twenty pieces together and as you become
6 older you get the puzzle that has a whole bunch of little teeny pieces. But you can
7 put those together. You usually start out at the edge and you put the edge in and
8 you pick out the right one and you start putting it in. Before you've got that puzzle
9 finished you know what the picture is. You know what it is. Well that's how our
10 investigations go. Like Greg said just a second ago we've been working on this
11 case for quite a few months. This is all we do. We only work cold cases. We
12 don't do any other cases and we've been putting pieces of this puzzle together for
13 a long time and we know what the picture is.

14 JY: That's just, just...

15 GM: John. . . . (overlapping conversation)

16 JY: I, I can't even imagine how it leads to me. (overlapping conversation)

17 GM: John you know you know with new technology today the things they can do back.
18 We don't have to spell this out.

19 RA: You're a smart guy. Things have changed a lot since 1985. We do things
20 differently now. Technology that wasn't available in 1985. It's available now. And
21 we go back and we look at the evidence. We go back and we look at the scene.
22 We go back and re-reanalyze things.

23 JY: I never hurt anybody like you guys are saying had I did to her. You know I've
24 done some stupid shit. I done some wrong things not like that not to her. That
25 lady was always nice to us. And would of never even hurt anybody whether she
26 was or not. It's just not in my line. It's not in my nature.

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: I don't think you'd intend to do something like that. I think it may have been an
2 accident. Something, something happened and she got hurt.

3 GM: This case actually started getting worked on before we worked on it back in 1999.

4 JY: Yeah.

5 RA: As a matter of fact people have been working on it nonstop ever since the case
6 originally was investigated and the guys did a great job. We talked to a lot of
7 people and every now and then a detective would pick it up as technology became
8 more available and more accessible and new things were around. They would
9 start working the case. And they did this numerous times. (overlapping
10 conversation)

11 JY: I, I,

12 GM: So, like my partner said we're not here to judge you. We've talked to literally
13 thousands of people during these homicide investigations. We've been doing this
14 a long time. We've seen a lot of bad people. A lot of bad stuff happened. I can
15 tell you sitting to, sitting here and talking to you today you're not like the people we
16 normally deal with. The people we normally deal with are gang members and
17 drug dealers who don't care about hurting anyone and repeat those offenses if
18 they're not caught. You're not one of those people. We've talked to many people
19 just like you who have made the same type of mistakes in life. It's time to do the
20 right thing.

21 JY: I'm trying to do it. (overlapping conversation)

22 GM: Say what happened John. It's time man.

23 JY: Can, can I call my wife?

24 GM: We, we already know what happened in the house. You're not gonna say
25 anything that's gonna get us excited. You're not gonna tell us anything that we
26 don't already know. So, I don't want you to feel like this is gonna be
27 (overlapping conversation)

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: I don't think you guys are trying to bully me into this but I'm, it's gonna be really
2 hard for me to admit to something that I didn't do. And there's a lot of things going
3 on that uh, I don't even fucking know you know? I, I, I don't even know.

4 RA: How are you gonna explain this to Melody?

5 JY: Dude, I have. . . .

6 RA: She has been by your side for the last nine years. Let me ask you a question
7 here, ok? Let's say that we take this table and we wipe all, we wipe it all off, right,
8 we wipe it all off it's nice and clean. When you come up and you touch it with your
9 hand or a finger all right? And we don't know that though. And then you leave the
10 room and we come in here and we dust the whole table for fingerprints and we
11 come up with one and then we do our magic with it. We run it through the
12 computers and they say hey John Yablonsky touched this table, right? We come
13 up to, we come up to you and we talk to you and we say, "John were you in this
14 room?" And you tell us, "no, I was never in that room, never been in that room
15 before." What are we gonna know by that fingerprint.

16 JY: I understand what you're saying.

17 RA: No, I'm asking you what are we gonna know by that fingerprint being there.

18 JY: That I was in this room.

19 RA: Exactly.

20 JY: I'm not saying I was never in this

21 RA: And if you continue and if you were to deny it what would we think?

22 JY: Yeah.

23 RA: You would know that the evidence was there. The evidence was left behind. The
24 fingerprint on the table tells everything. John the evidence tells everything. We
25 know.

26 JY: I understand that. (overlapping conversation)

27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 RA: You can't sit here and tell us that you did not have a part in this because we have
2 the evidence. We have the evidence. Not only, not only do we know but when we
3 tell your wife, she's gonna know and everybody else is gonna know too,
4 everybody. The fingerprint's there, the table was clean. John the fingerprint was
5 there, the evidence is there. This is your chance to come forward tell us the truth.

6 JY: Can I come and talk to my wife? Can I please smoke a cigarette? I didn't do this
7 guy's? I'm not saying I wasn't around the lady.

8 GM: John, John, let me clear something up, ok? That evidence was collected during
9 that crime scene investigation back in 1985 and I'm sure you watch cold case files
10 and other shows that type of physical is refrigerated and frozen. Those items
11 were taken out in 1999, reevaluated, worked, and profiles were obtained. They
12 were put into a system. We got a match to you.

13 JY: The fact that she's been killed, yeah, is disappointing. (overlapping conversation)

14 GM: Was it an accident or did you intend to do it?

15 JY: Dude I didn't, I didn't . . . (overlapping conversation)

16 GM: John?

17 JY: intentionally or accidentally kill this lady.

18 GM: John.

19 RA: John, we're being polite with you and I (overlapping conversation)

20 JY: I understand you're being polite with me I'm just being for real with you, you
21 know? I'm just

22 GM: John there is nothing to be ashamed of or embarrassed of at this time. Like I said
23 we're not here to judge you.

24 JY: I, did not kill this lady. I never hurt this woman, ok, never. Uh,

25 GM: Look at her John.

26 JY: Yeah, I been noticing it. It's the same lady that uh, uh, was descent enough to
27 rent us a spot in her uh, yeah.

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 GM: Are you evil?

2 JY: No.

3 GM: You're not evil, right?

4 JY: No.

5 GM: You're a human being. You have feelings? Do you have feelings, John?

6 JY: Yes.

7 GM: Cause there are people that we have talked to who have murdered more than one
8 person, that being serial killers, serial rapists, those types of people. During
9 interviews of those types of people uh, very rarely do they show any type of
10 remorse, very rarely will they admit to what they did or admit what they did was
11 wrong. They don't have any feeling inside. They are broken. They don't think like
12 you. They don't think like us. It doesn't mean anything to that type of person to,
13 to kill somebody.

14 JY: If I did something like that and you guys had me in here, I'd be like admitting to it
15 man, ok?

16 GM: A search warrant is being served at your house right now John.

17 JY: Can I at least go outside and smoke a cigarette right to this point? I mean I know
18 they're not gonna let us smoke it in here.

19 RA: I think we're gonna be, we're gonna be done here John. I'm not gonna, there's no
20 need for us to carry this on any further.

21 GM: We tried to give you the opportunity to be remorseful and (overlapping
22 conversation)

23 GM: How do you feel about talking to us today?

24 JY: I, I, I don't even know what to say man I, I understand what your guys' job is to do
25 and, and I just, dude I had nothing to do with it, you know?

26 RA: What are you gonna tell Melody?
27

28

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(v) Rita Cobb

1 JY: Well, I'm gonna have to tell her. She got a search warrant over there going
2 through the house she all ready knows right now. She's gonna end up calling uh,
3 this attorney.

4 GM: We told the detectives not to tell her at this point what's going on.

5 JY: I told her you know what you guys are questioning me about and you know she's
6 very understanding about what you guys are questioning me about.

7 RA: Women are usually very understanding up to a certain point. I think when the
8 details come out I don't believe she's gonna be quite as understanding as she is
9 right now, John.

10 JY: I've been truthful with my wife about everything.

11 RA: So, you told her about what happened with Rita?

12 JY: I, dude ain't nothing happened with Rita.

13 GM: You understand, we did tell you right, John that there is undeniable DNA evidence
14 that links you to Rita's death.

15 RA: You understand that, right?

16 GM: I wanna make sure we're clear about this.

17 JY: Yeah, I understand what you're saying.

18 GM: John, you don't wanna go into a courtroom this way.

19 JY: First, I, I'm, I, I . . .

20 GM: John if we lied to you during any point of this interview from the beginning and you
21 caught us in a lie we'd have no credibility, correct?

22 JY: Uh-huh.

23 GM: Inside you'd be thinking those guys are full of shit, right? We've been straight up
24 with you from the beginning. We told you why we were at your house. We told
25 you why we were talking to you. We haven't been deceitful. We haven't tried to
26 back door you. We've been up front with you the whole way through because
27 credibility is everything John. When we do these investigations if we get caught in

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN YABLONSKY

DR #1331036-07 / H #1985-100

(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
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27
28