

GENERAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

DO NOT PUT SUSPECT INFORMATION ON THIS FORM

- ARREST MADE SUSPECT SUPPL. ATTACH
 JUVENILE SUBJ. INVOLVED PROPERTY SUPPL. ATTACH
 ATTEMPT CONNECTED/SUPPL. REPORTS ATTACH

DATE	COMPLAINT NO.	INCIDENT CODE
04 Jul 89	C87-7018X	

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE 251-A North Main St.	TYPE OF OCCURRENCE Homicide Investigation	DISTRICT 5	TIME - RPT
--	--	---------------	------------

OCCURRED:	DAY 08	MO Mar	YR 87	DA. WK 1	TIME 2027	TIME SPAN <input type="checkbox"/> Unk. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend <input type="checkbox"/> 2400/700 <input type="checkbox"/> 700/1800	<input type="checkbox"/> 1800/700 <input type="checkbox"/> 1800/2400
-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	-------------	--------------	--	---

CODE: V - Victim W - Witness R - Complainant O - Other

V	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) OR FIRM NAME Martin, Bernice	ADDRESS 251-A North Main St.	CITY 077	STATE CT	PHONE
	RACE W	SEX F	DATE OF BIRTH 16 Jun 98	VALUE OF LOSS \$	
O	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) Lapointe, Karen	RESIDENCE 75 Union St.	CITY 077	STATE CT	PHONE
	RACE W	SEX F	DATE OF BIRTH 08 Nov 50	VALUE OF LOSS \$	
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	RESIDENCE	CITY	STATE	PHONE
	RACE	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	VALUE OF LOSS \$	
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	RESIDENCE	CITY	STATE	PHONE
	RACE	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	VALUE OF LOSS \$	

NARRATIVE

On this date, Richard Lapointe voluntarily came to Police HQ for an interview concerning the death of Bernice Martin on 3/8/87.

At approximately 4:30 PM on this same date, I was directed to interview Richard's wife, Karen Lapointe, concerning a more detailed account of Richard's activities on the date of Bernice Martin's death. I made contact with Karen Lapointe at her residence located at 75 Union St., Manchester. At home with her at that time was her son, Sean. After identifying myself and advising Mrs. Lapointe of my intent for additional information, she invited me into her living room where the interview was conducted. I advised Mrs. Lapointe that her husband Richard was the person that the Police Department felt was responsible for the death of her grandmother, Bernice Martin. She just nodded her head in acknowledgement with no sign of emotion or surprise. I asked her for a detailed account of what had transpired on that date. She stated that, due to the tragic event that occurred, she recalled clearly what the family's activities were. She stated that they met with Bernice Martin at their apartment from approximately 2:00 to 4:00 PM on that Sunday just as she, Richard and Sean had done for years.

During their stay at the apartment, she recalled watching a Celtic's game and discussing what they were going to have for supper. She stated that she mentioned that she was preparing a meatloaf and that Bernice had commented that this sounded good. Mrs. Lapointe stated specifically that no arrangements were made for a dish to be prepared and brought over to her at supper time. All three then left Bernice at about 4:00 PM, and walked home. Upon arriving home, Mrs. Lapointe stated that she began preparing dinner, which consisted of the meat loaf, scalloped potatoes and green peas. (Note: That the Medical Examiner's Report disclosed that the victim's stomach contents consisted of green peas, among other food substances.) Mrs. Lapointe stated that their dog had been in the house for most of the day while they were out and needed to be walked. She recalled the time as being about 5:00 PM, as she had the short walk home and then was just about finished preparing the dinner. At that time, Richard took the dog out for a walk and was observed by her to be walking southbound on Union St. toward

OFFICER PREPARING REPORT - PRINT Det. Michael Morrissey	NO. <i>4502</i>	SUPERVISOR APPROVING REPORT <i>[Signature]</i>	ID. NO.	DATE <i>04 Jul 89</i>
CLERK NAME	DATE	THIS OFFENSE IS	<input type="checkbox"/> UNFOUNDED <input type="checkbox"/> INACTIVE - NOT CLEARED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TO CONTINUE/DETECTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> CLEARED BY ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> TO CONTINUE/PATROL <input type="checkbox"/> CLEARED	

INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS

DATE	COMPLAINT NO.
04 Jul 89	C87-7018X

North Main Street. She noted specifically that he usually walks the dog up Union St. (south) to Wood Lane (east), then down North St. (north) over to Kerry St. (west), and then back up Union St. (south) to their residence. On this date, she noticed that he walked past Wood Lane and continued up toward North Main St. in the direction of the Mayfair Gardens. She recalled that he was gone about twenty minutes and that he did not appear disturbed when he returned. She stated that to her knowledge, after walking the dog, he never left the apartment until receiving the phone call from her Aunt Nathalie. She estimated the call to be around 8:00 PM. She stated that Richard was gone for a short period of time and then she received the call from him reporting that there was fire in the apartment.

Mrs. Lapointe acknowledged that she was aware of some problems that her husband had, one of which was the fact that he was known to have been "peeping" into windows around the neighborhood. Karen stated that she confronted Richard with her knowledge of his activities and he admitted that he had been looking into neighbor's windows but that he would stop.

The interview was concluded at 6:30 PM.

At approximately 8:00 PM, Richard Lapointe was at Police HQ and being interviewed by Detective Lombardo. It was about that time that I spoke with Richard and asked him if I could speak with him further as I had just come from his residence and had already spoken with his wife. Lapointe agreed with my request, with no hesitation, and I sat down and explained to him what had transpired in my conversation with his wife. Lapointe's immediate response was something to the effect of . . . she knows what I did? I advised him that she did in fact know the result of our investigation and that our belief was that he was responsible for the death of Bernice Martin. Lapointe was extremely concerned about the consequences of his actions with respect to his wife and family, and commented that "They're going to read about this in the newspaper". I assured him that his wife and family would know the truth about his cooperation and that we would try and keep the incident out of the newspapers for as long as possible. I explained that there was no longer any secret to what he had done and he appeared somewhat relieved. I told him that we needed to know "why" this incident happened and we needed as many details as possible. I explained that his wife had told us that he did in fact leave the house after returning to their residence, after 4:00 PM that Sunday. He concurred with that fact and stated that he was walking the dog and had walked back up to Bernice's apartment. He stated that he could not recall where the dog was during the time that he was in the apartment but that he thought he had brought the dog inside. He stated that he was invited in the front door as the rear door was seldom used. He stated that he had a cup of coffee and Bernice had a cup of tea. At this point in the statement, Lapointe stated that he was suffering from a "Black Out" and does not recall the rest of the details of the incident. He then made some mention of his wife and then totally recanted the previous statements and stated he had never gone to the apartment.

Again, I advised him of his wife's wishes of his cooperation and the help that this cooperation will provide him. After speaking with him a short time, he again began to relate the sequence of events. He stated that after coffee, he was seated on the couch and at a point got up and went to the bathroom. He stated that when he got out of the bathroom, which is located off the bedroom area, he found Bernice standing at her dresser brushing her hair. At this point, Lapointe again stated that he was suffering from a black out and that he could not recall any more. He asked to use the men's room and the interview was recessed for a short period. Lapointe was familiar with the layout of the building and was allowed to walk freely about. When he returned to the interview room, I asked him to carefully think about what had happened that day, and try to recall the details. We started from the beginning again and he reiterated the same points and, after further coaxing, (he showed obvious signs of embarrassment and shame) he stated that he thought the time was right and that he grabbed Bernice around her mid-section. He made a motion with his hands in an open fashion, in the manner that you might grab someone's waist. He stated that she was wearing a pink housecoat

INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS

DATE	COMPLAINT NO.
04 Jul 89	C87-7018X

type nightgown that he called a "mow-mow". He stated that he could see that she was not wearing a bra as he had already seen her breasts when she bent over. He stated again that he was suffering from a black out and that he probably just blacked the whole incident out of his mind. I continued speaking with him and he stated that he was hungry. I brought him out to a snack machine and bought him a package of cookies and he also requested a can of juice, which I purchased for him. After this break, I questioned further about the incident and he stated that after grabbing Bernice, she reacted by pushing him. He then threw her onto the bed (which is located immediately adjacent to the dresser and bathroom). He stated that he pulled her underwear off while she was on the bed so that he could have intercourse with her. He stated that he inserted his penis "inside her" (from the context meaning vaginally) for a "couple strokes and then pulled out". I inquired as to whether she was screaming or yelling at this time. He stated she was not, and remained adamant about this even after testing him with a statement that one of the neighbors thought they heard someone screaming. He stated he could not recall why she was not screaming but that he was sure she was not. He continued, that after "pulling out" he masterbated and did "cum" on the bedspread when he was finished. After the sex was completed, he stated that he was going to leave and go home but that Bernice had said that she was going to tell his wife what he had done. When he related the portion referring to his wife learning of the incident, he became more sheepish and shameful with his head looking down. I asked him what did he do next and he stated that he stabbed Bernice. I asked him with what and he replied with a knife. I inquired further as to whether he carried a knife and had brought one with him. He stated that he didn't bring one with him and that he had gone into the kitchen and gotten one of the steak knives with the brown handles and used this knife to stab Bernice. He recalled stabbing her in the stomach. I asked what location within the apartment that this took place. He recalled her to be lying on the couch at that time. I inquired whether anything else had happened inside the apartment. He admitted to having strangled Bernice and made a motion of two-handed strangulation to ones neck when I asked him how he strangled her. He then made continued statements of a black out on the details and not recalling anything else. He did add that he recalled having his tobacco pipe with him on that date and that he used his matches to start a fire on Bernice's couch. He stated that he had lit the couch at two different locations, one at the base of the couch and another spot near the top of the couch. He then returned home.

Michael Morrison
 PFC #3827