

08/29/05
09:08

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office
LAW Incident Table:

Incident Number: 03-030010

Nature: Dead Body Case Number: _____ Image: _____
Addr: CASNER MT/SYCAMORE CYN Area: 3 District 3, V>
City: Sedona ST: AZ Zip: 86336 Contact: karen thornton

+-- Complainant: _____
Lst: _____ Fst: _____ Mid: _____
DOB: / / SSN: - - Adr _____
Rac: Sx: Tel: () - Cty: _____ ST: Zip: _____

Offense Codes: DBOD Reported: DBOD Observed: DBOD
Circumstances: LT10

Rspndg Officers: Hansen, A
Rspnsbl Officer: McDormett, J Agency: YCSO CAD Call ID: 422531
Received By: Pogue, R Last RadLog: 19:51:00 07/12/03 98
How Received: 9 911 Line Clearance: RCI Do Not Use: CIB use >
When Reported: 16:32:18 07/12/03 Disposition: ACT Disp Date: 12/20/04
Occurrd between: 16:28:20 07/12/03 Judicial Sts:
and: 16:28:20 07/12/03 Misc Entry: 305

MO: _____
Narrative: (See below) +
Supplement: (See below) + (See below) + &

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INVOLVEMENTS:

Type	Record #	Date	Description	Relationship
NM	340966	12/09/04	ROSS, RICK	contacted
NM	340922	12/08/04	DUNHAM, VERONICA	victim's sister
NM	218815	08/13/03	KILLIAN, LORA SUZANNE	contact person
NM	293708	08/13/03	YI, SANGHO	resort worker
NM	306471	08/13/03	BERGER, HEATHER PAIGE	hiker
NM	308422	08/13/03	RUEB, ROBERT	hiker
NM	308423	08/13/03	CHARTER, ANN	hiker
NM	308424	08/13/03	SULLIVAN, GENIA	hiker
NM	308425	08/13/03	KIM, CHARLIE	GUIDE
NM	159167	07/14/03	SEDONA DAHN RETREAT,	related to incident
NM	306353	07/13/03	SIVERLS, JULIA	Victim
NM	306354	07/13/03	SHIVERS, ROBERT	Person of Interest
MI	22076	09/02/03	Copy to Allen Siverls	\$0 brother/victim/dv
CA	422531	07/12/03	16:32 07/12/03 Dead Body	*Initiating Call
EV	55623	12/09/04	Cassette/side a/Veronica	*Evidence Incident
EV	40022	07/17/03	cassette/lauree killion	*Evidence Incident
EV	40023	07/17/03	micro/side a: robert rube, ann	*Evidence Incident
EV	40024	07/17/03	micro/side a: heather berger,	*Evidence Incident

LAW Incident Offenses Detail:
Offense Codes

Seq	Code	Amount
1	DBOD Dead Body	0.00

LAW Incident Circumstances:

Contributing Circumstances

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	LT10	Field/Woods

LAW Incident Responders Detail

Responding Officers

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
1	Hansen, A	E25

Main Radio Log Table:

<u>Time/Date</u>	<u>Typ</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Agnc</u>	<u>Description</u>
19:51:00 07/12/03	1	E25	98	3	YCSO	incid#=03-030010 Assignment Co
17:30:28 07/12/03	1	E25	97	3	YCSO	with fire
16:41:27 07/12/03	1	E25	ENRT	3	YCSO	incid#=03-030010 Enroute to a
16:37:15 07/12/03	1	E25	6	3	YCSO	CV 103
16:36:43 07/12/03	1	E25	ASSGN	3	YCSO	incid#=03-030010 Assigned to a

Narrative:

On June 12, 2003, at approximately 1628 hours, I was dispatched to assist a hiker in distress on Casner Mountain, west of Sedona.

When I arrived on scene Sedona Fire personnel and DPS Ranger were already on scene. Several paramedics were lifted to the location which was approximately halfway up the west side of Casner Mtn. The paramedics attempted to resuscitate the victim, Julia Siverls, who had stopped breathing and had no pulse. She was pronounced dead on the scene by a DPS paramedic. DPS Ranger then flew the body down to the bottom of the mountain where myself and medical personnel were staged. I observed the body but found nothing suspicious and no obvious injuries.

At the scene I spoke with Heather Berger who said the group was hiking up toward the top of Casner Mtn. Part way up they found that Julia was having difficulty. They attempted to get her into the shade and give her water by mouth. Shortly after that she began shaking so badly that she could not drink. She eventually lost consciousness and they tried to revive her. Someone in the group got to a cell phone and called 911. I was not able to speak with all members of the hiking party as they were still coming down the mountain.

Later I spoke with Lara Killian of the Il Chi Meditation Center. She was in charge of organizing the conferences there and this is where the group of hikers was staying. Lara stated that the following individuals were in the group:

Heather Berger
Robert Raurub
Anne Charter
Gina Sullivan
Charles Kim (guide and employee of the center)

Julia was transported to Prescott by Westcott Funeral home. She was taken to the County Coroner's Office. An autopsy was performed and her death was declared an accident related to dehydration and hyperthermia.

This concludes my involvement in the matter. The case has been turned over to Criminal Investigations.

Fri Aug 15 18:54:28 MST 2003
Adam Hansen #325

Fri Aug 15 23:10:45 MST 2003,
Report Approved
Sgt. R. Escoffier, 302.

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The cause of death report from the ME Philip E. KEEN M.D. was received reference JULIA SIVERLS. The report stated the CAUSE OF DEATH: "Findings consistent with Dehydration, due to Hyperthermia, Due to: Enviromental Exposure" and MANNER OF DEATH: "Accident". This report will be placed in the records for any future information needs.

Wed Jul 23 08:30:06 MST 2003
Lt. Ted Symonds #221

Law Supplemental Narrative:

Seq	Name	Date	Supplemental Narratives
			Narrative

1		: : / /	
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Supplemental Report Dep. R. Martin #329

On 07-14-03 I learned of a dead body call on Casner Mountain Trail that was reported on Saturday 07-12-03. I had witnessed a group of people hiking up the trail On 07-12-03 while I was on days off and riding my quad in the area. On my way out I was driving down Casner Mountain and I saw a group of people hiking up the mountain.

I was almost to the bottom of the mountain when I saw the group hiking up and it was approximately 0930 hours when I passed them. The group of people consisted of one oriental male subject in the lead and he was approx. 30-50 yards ahead of the group. This subject did have a cell phone on his side. The rest of the group approx. 5-6 people was in a cluster. In the center of the cluster was a black woman with a purple or maroon top. The woman appeared to be having difficulty walking and was hunched over when I saw her. As I got closer I saw the black woman fall to the ground and land on her hands and knees. There was a large man to her right and woman to her left. Both the man and the woman reached underneath the black woman's arm pits and tried to lift while continuing to walk. They began dragging her for a short distance. The woman was unable to get to her feet and they stopped. They began talking to her, I could not hear anything they said. I continued by them at a very slow speed. They did not say anything to me.

My first impression was that the black woman was mentally handicapped because of her poor coordination. The group was strange due to the fact they did not appear to be in the physical shape necessary for doing such a strenuous hike. They did not appear to be carrying a large amount of water and it was all ready very hot at 0930. This trail goes up the south side of Casner mountain and the terrain is primarily grass and cactus. The trail is very rocky and requires four wheel drive on a quad to go up.

I continued driving out. When I reached F.S. Rd. 525C I noticed that there were no vehicle tracks on the road other than mine. It had rained the night before and erased all tracks except fresh ones. As I drove out I noticed that there were no vehicle tracks until I reached the next intersection.

I later learned that the group was from a Korean owned resort that is in the area. From where I saw the group it was least 2-3 miles from the resort in straight line.

I informed Sgt. Rhodes, Dep. Hansen, Det. McDormett of what I had witnessed. This concludes my activity in this case.

Mon Jul 14 18:35:52 MST 2003 R.Martin #329

Fri Aug 15 23:13:27 MST 2003,

Report Approved
Sgt. R. Escoffier, 302.

On 07/14/03 Sgt. Rhodes assigned me this case. Based on Deputy Martin's observations while he was off duty. See Martin's supplement for further. After interviewing Martin it was determined contact should be made with the people who were on the hike with the deceased. On this date I also contacted the ME, Karen Gere. She said Dr Keene and her were in the process of the autopsy. She said they could not determine the time of death. They did not report any bruising or any other indications that Julia was dragged. She did say she appeared to have severe sunburn. I also spoke to the original responding deputy, Adam Hansen. See his narrative for further.

On 07/15 I went to the Dahn Retreat Center near Sedona where Julia was staying as a guest and where the hike originated. While there I conducted interviews with the following people:
Laura Killian-contact person for the resort.
Sangho YI (Scott) - 911 contact
Fellow hikers Robert Rube, Ann Charter, Genia Sullivan, Heather Berger, Charlie Kim (Guide).

The retreat is a meditation center. All the people interviewed (which includes all those who were reported to be on the hike with Julia) were affiliated either as volunteers or paid employees of the resort, or yoga centers or other businesses affiliated with the center. Indications are the center acts as somewhat of a national headquarters for these other concerns. It was reported that Julia was also a volunteer at a yoga center in the Bronx (NYC) that was affiliated with the Dahn Center. Another common theme of the hikers was a lack of the concept of times during the hike. All stated they did not have a watch on them during the hike and when pressed on time issues said they were unaware of the time. Time is an issue because Deputy Martin reported Julia appeared to be struggling at 10:00 AM. Most indications are the hike to the top of the mountain from the resort takes 3-5 hours. The general consensus of the time the hike began was approximately 7AM. The hikers said they never reached the top of the mountain and it appears the contact point for the paramedics was approximately 1/2 to \ way up the mountain. The 911 call came in at 4:28PM. This would mean it took the group over 9 hours to get a little more than half way up the mountain. As stated a slower group usually makes the climb to the top in 5 hours. There is also the over 6 hour time differential from the time Martin first observed Julia struggling to the time paramedics were called. As stated the hikers were very vague as far as timing of events were concerned. The hikers indicated there were adequate provisions for the trip and that all had water. Fruits and chocolates also were reported to be available. Most accounts were the hikers carried their own provisions including water and that extra water was available either through the guide or other members. The weather the day of the hike was hot and sunny. Elevation in the area is about 4500 feet. Laura said Julia had been at the center for about 2 weeks giving her time to adjust to the elevation. Julia was reported by fellow hikers, guests and retreat people as being in fair shape. I was advised she had no known mental or physical problems other than fibroids. Two of the hikers said Julia had told them she had some bleeding as a result of the fibroids. Julia was reported to have a full time job as a college professor.

I first interviewed Robert Rube, 40, Of New York. Robert is a paid employee of a yoga center in Queens, NY affiliated with the retreat. He said this is his 6th trip to the resort. He knew Julia as a volunteer at the Yoga Center in the Bronx. He said Julia fell down twice. The first time she collapsed they helped her to a shade tree where they rested. He said Julia said she wanted to go on. The second time she collapsed it was in the sun. She was carried to a shade tree a little further up the mountain. When she appeared to lose consciousness Genia performed CPR on her and 911 was called. Robert thought she first collapsed some time in the afternoon but could not be sure. He said it "happened quickly" and he had no concept of time. He was vague on how long between the 1st and 2nd time of collapse and approximate times and estimates of when things occurred. He said he had given a lot of his water to Julia. He said they were not hiking fast and were basically going from shade tree to shade tree and stopping.

I next spoke to Ann Charter, 43, a volunteer at a center in Boston affiliated with Dahn. She said Julia started having problems in the "middle" of the trip. She thought this was between noon and 2PM but said it could have been earlier. She said Julia fell twice and the times she fell were within \ hour of each other. She said the first time she fell she got up. She thought paramedics were called within \ hour of when she fell the second time. She said she was "struggling" after the first time. When I asked whose decision it was to carry on she said "we all did-her included." She said Charlie, the guide, was ahead of the group. When Julia fell a second time they got him and he carried Julia to a shady spot.

I spoke to Genia Sullivan, 29, who is a paid employee of a yoga center in Boston affiliated with the retreat. It appeared to her Julia started having problems at a time she estimated to be between 130PM-200PM. When I told her we had an off duty officer who saw Julie being helped at 10AM she said it could have been at that time although she did not think so. She said the first part of the trip started on flat terrain and it did not appear to her Julia had any problems until they got to the mountain. She said Julia wanted to continue on even when she was struggling. According to Genia, Julia said "no no no I can do it." She said Julia was having a hard time but had a good attitude-which was the general consensus of the group. Genia said she is an experienced hiker and should have recognized signs Julia was in trouble. Genia said she was tired and not feeling good herself so she was not thinking clearly. I asked where the guide was and she said Charlie was not with the group very much-usually travelling well ahead of the group. She said after the second time Julia went down Charlie was summoned and carried Julia to a shade tree. Genia said Julia was shaking and would not eat or drink. At one point she felt for a pulse on Julia and thought she felt one but in hindsight, was not sure. She felt for a pulse a second time and this time did not feel one. She began CPR and said Charlie was told to call 911. Again questions about time were met with vague answers.

I spoke to Heather Berger, 27, who is a paid employee of the Mago Caf\ in Sedona which is affiliated with the retreat center. Heather said there was not much of a time difference between the first time Julia fell and the second time she fell. She thought the first time Julia fell was in the afternoon. When I told her we had information Julia was

struggling in the morning she hesitated, said "really?" and indicated she was not sure what time it was Julia fell. She said she was unclear about time and it was "surreal." She also said she was feeling sick at the time.

I spoke to Charlie Kim, 30, a volunteer at the resort. Charlie said he has been a volunteer for about two months and he lives at the resort. He said he has hiked the mountain before. He said he carried some extra provisions and the cell phone. Charlie said he thought he called for help at around 3PM but was not sure. He said Julia fell 3-4 times before that. It should be noted that there was a bit of a language barrier as Charlie, who is Korean, speaks broken English. He was unsure of times as to the sequence of events. At first he indicated he was told by the staff at the retreat to try CPR before the paramedics were called. When I asked the question again he said the paramedics were called while CPR was being performed. These conflicts may be a result of the language barrier.

Apparently Charlie did not call 911 directly. Charlie called a Scott (Sangyo Yi) who called a Bup Sang who called a Karen Thornton who called 911. All these people are employees of the retreat. Karen Thornton verified this series of events. I spoke to Scott who also spoke broken English. Scott indicated the total time from when he received the call to the time 911 was called was 10 minutes. He said after he contacted his contact person he went to the trailhead with a vehicle.

I spoke to Laura Killian who said she was contacted by the retreat while she was in Phoenix. She said she was appraised of the situation and called for air rescue. She thinks Charlie might have "panicked" and that other people from the retreat may have also called 911.

It is reported DPS Ranger paramedic David Berkshire said Julie had been deceased for about an hour prior to his first contact with her and that rigor had set in. He arrived on scene shortly after 5PM. I am awaiting an exact time of arrival.

I also spoke to relatives Julia. They said she was a jogger and in good health. They were told a report would be available with further details of the situation. They were told how to obtain a copy of the report once it becomes available.

It appears Julie was in sound mind when she went on the hike. It appears she went on the hike and continued the hike voluntarily. By all accounts Julie stated she wished to go on with the hike despite struggling physically. Even with the time issue considered and all factors taken into consideration these appear to be questions of judgement and procedure rather than matters of law. There is nothing to indicate anything criminal took place.

Case closed.

Approved Det. Sgt. Rhodes #305