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6 April 25, 2002

9 **RECORDED STATEMENT**

10 John Whitsett

11 Permissive Recorded Statement by: Private Investigator Keith Jackson

12 March 19, 2002

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15 Jackson: This is March 19, 2002, I'm doing an in-person recorded statement with John Whitsett.
16 Mr. Whitsett may I have your permission to audio tape record this interview for an
17 insurance investigation?
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19 Whitsett: Yes, you do.
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21 Jackson: Thank you and you're the owner of Raysoncraft Boats in Gardena is that correct?
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23 Whitsett: Yes.
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25 Jackson: I have four photographs and I have previously discussed a boat that we're handling an
26 investigation on, a reported stolen boat owned by Abe, Abraham, I've showed you
27 photographs that I've labeled on the back 'Photo 1-4' and they depict a tunnel boat
28 with no markings on it other than a bright yellow base color and an orange reddish set
29 of flames that begin on the top deck and extend to the hull. Is that correct?
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31 Whitsett: Yes.
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33 Jackson: Okay, if I could show you photograph #1, and photograph #1 is a photograph of the
34 side view of the front this boat, from the starboard side, and looks like it is inside of a
35 shop. Do you recognize where that photograph was taken from?
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37 Whitsett: Yes, our shop.
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39 Jackson: Okay. Is that your shop in Gardena?
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Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: What's the address of that shop?

Whitsett: 16539 Main.

Jackson: Do you recognize that boat depicted in the photograph?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Can you tell me about that boat? Who you made it for?

Whitsett: Abe and I think Sue...Sue.

Jackson: Okay, and they bought the boat new from you?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: How about the design of the boat was that a design that you or your company came up with or one that he came up with?

Whitsett: I'm not sure. I think it was he and his wife.

Jackson: All right. The coloring depicted is this bright yellow with kind of an orange flames going back on it?

Whitsett: Right...I think it's reddish orange.

Jackson: Okay. The flames appear to extend beyond the simulated Nascar ducts?

Whitsett: Vents, yes.

Jackson: Vents up front?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Looking at the side of that, I'll show you a view of this...what appears to be the same boat in a photograph labeled #2. Which is at a launch ramp and it shows a yellow trailer

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with carpet padding at the front and what appears to be the same boat with a gray interior.

Whitsett: Correct.

Jackson: Do you recognize that boat?

Whitsett: Yes, same boat.

Jackson: Okay, how about the interior...that gray interior was that something that your company subcontracted to have installed during the manufacture of the boat?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Who did the particular interior in that boat if you recall?

Whitsett: I don't recall.

Jackson: Okay, how about a company called 714 Motorsports? Have you ever done any business with them?

Whitsett: Yes, yes.

Jackson: And were they doing interiors for you around the time that this boat was manufactured? This is a 2000 model boat.

Whitsett: Right, I don't think they were 714 they might have had another name at that time.

Jackson: Okay, what other name would they have gone by?

Whitsett: Access I think.

Jackson: It would have been the same owners of the company?

Whitsett: Yes, same owners.

Jackson: Whose the owner of that company?

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Whitsett: Allen Hayes.

Jackson: Allen Hayes?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Okay, the trailer depicted below that, which had the ladder up front and is yellow in color. Do you recognize that trailer?

Whitsett: Yes. It's a Hensley.

Jackson: Okay, and that's built by Allen Hensley, of Intertec Trailers?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: And is that the trailer that you supplied and ultimately sold to the owners, Abe and Sue?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Okay, when you processed the Department of Motor Vehicles work here through the business, do you or someone you employ carry that original MSO to the Department of Motor Vehicles for registration?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Do you do it personally?

Whitsett: Either one of my guys or I do it.

Jackson: Okay, and that would have included the MSO for the Hensley trailer is that correct?

Whitsett: Correct, correct.

Jackson: Do you keep a photocopy of that MSO or record the vehicle identification numbers of the trailer down in the package?

Whitsett: We do now.

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Jackson: Okay, at that time you didn't?

Whitsett: I don't think so.

Jackson: Okay, cause during this claim there has been a discrepancy on the exact vehicle identification number that was on that trailer at the time.

Whitsett: Okay.

Jackson: Are you aware of that?

Whitsett: No.

Jackson: Do you think there would be any notes in the package that you kept on this that would indicate which VIN number was on that trailer?

Whitsett: We can get with Max tomorrow and find out.

Jackson: Okay, if you could get back to me on that, it's just a matter of clarification. The trailer does appear to be made by Allen Hensley?

Whitsett: Right.

Jackson: Do you use his trailers pretty much exclusively?

Whitsett: Yes, are Competitive now too.

Jackson: Okay. I'm going to show you another photograph, photograph #3, which appears to be the same style of boat on the front deck. Do you recognize that?

Whitsett: Yes, same boat.

Jackson: Again, same boat?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: And an overall view, probably the best view, indicated by photo #4. Same boat?

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Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Was that also taken in your shop?

Whitsett: Yes, yes.

Jackson: All right, and that boat is complete except it has not been rigged yet is that correct?

Whitsett: Correct.

Jackson: A few days ago I talked to you by telephone and we talked in detail about this particular boat, which appears to be quite unique in the flames. We talked about the tunnel style boats that you built, and this is a 26'?

Whitsett: 26.

Jackson: Okay, and we talked about this boat...you made a comment to me that this is essentially one of one. Having to do with the colors not the hull.

Whitsett: Right. Right.

Jackson: Would that be accurate?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: That would be the yellow color base and the orange reddish flames on the front of this boat, is that correct?

(Pause in taping)

Jackson: Okay back on tape on March 19th. We talked about the uniqueness of this particular hull and the coloring as designed by the current owners of the boat, Abe and Sue. Can you tell me have you ever made another boat with the same, a 26' Cat racing craft, of the same coloring that this depicts here?

Whitsett: We've made two similar but not these colors.

Jackson: Okay, not these colors?

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Whitsett: Yellow and red flames mostly but not yellow with orange and orange w/red.

Jackson: Okay, would the flames, when these are originally taped, I'm assuming in the mold? Is that correct?

Whitsett: Right.

Jackson: You don't have a...or do you have a particular template that you use....

Whitsett: No, it's all free-hand.

Jackson: It's all free-hand so this uniqueness of the flames including the tips of the flames at the point they terminate or at the point they start at the bottom loops as I'm pointing here on photograph #2, as we look down at it on the launch ramp, would be a free-hand design as done by the taper at the beginning.

Whitsett: Right.

Jackson: Now in photograph #3 it appears that there's an outline to the flames?

Whitsett: Yes, blue.

Jackson: It is blue. Is that white and blue or appear to be blue?

Whitsett: I have no idea. It looks like it's white and blue.

Jackson: Okay, and that's looking at this photograph. Do you have an independent recollection of at least blue in that area?

Whitsett: Yes, no, I don't. I just go by the picture.

Jackson: Okay, but the boat is all consistent...of the same boat?

Whitsett: Right.

Jackson: Is there anything that you can help us that would assist us in locating this reported stolen boat for the insurance investigation any clues that you've heard that might help us find it?

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Whitsett: No, but I'll look through my notes when Max gets here tomorrow and whatever I can find I'll help you like I always do.

Jackson: Also dealing with the trailer identification.

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: This will complete the in person interview with John Whitsett of Raysoncraft Boats.

Jackson: Okay we are going to go back on tape on the 19th of March and I've asked Mr. Whitsett to put his initials on the back of photos 1 thru 4 by the identifiers of photo 1 thru 4 and you're doing that now is that correct?

Whitsett: Yes.

Jackson: Okay, very good. That'll complete the in person interview of John Whitsett.

THE END