



County of Los Angeles, Department of Coroner
Investigator's Narrative



Case Number: 2000-07890

Decedent: KEY-MARER, LAUREN SERENE

Information Sources:

1. Detective Martinez LASD Homicide Bureau (323) 890-5500
2. On scene investigation

Investigation:

On 11/08/2000 at 1614 hours Detective Martinez reported this case to the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner – reporting desk. At 1620 hours Supervisor M. Riddle assigned this case to me for investigation. I arrived at the location at 1720 hours and departed at 2215 hours.

Location:

Inspiration Point 5200 Palos Verdes Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca 90275

Witness Statements:

According to information provided by Detective Martinez all information provided was preliminary, the Sheriff's investigation will be on-going by Detectives D. Smith and J. Leslie. On 11/08/2000 at approximately 1504 hours the decedent was with her father, walking out on an area known as Inspiration Point. The father told Detectives that the decedent fell from the edge of the cliff and into the Ocean water below. The father stated that he then went around to the East where he entered the water and retrieved the decedent. He then walked to an area along the shore where he found a picnic table where he layed the decedent and summoned help. Los Angeles County Fire Department – Paramedic Dorn responded and pronounced death at 1525 hours. After interviewing the father, Detectives Smith and Leslie felt that the circumstances were suspicious. There are no witnesses to this incident.

Scene Description:

The location is a peninsula- piece of land which extends out southward into the ocean. The area is known as Inspiration Point. The decedent allegedly fell from the east side cliffs which according to Detective Smith may be between 250-300 feet high. At the time of the scene investigation it was dark and it was not possible to safely walk to the area for photographs. However I have had prior investigations at the location which I can state that most of the Point is at least 200 feet high and is surrounded by rocks and Ocean water to the East, West and South. On top of the point there is no concrete sidewalks, there is a beaten path. The top of the Point is not exactly flat, it slopes downward slightly at the cliff edges where the soil is loose. While conducting the body exam I noted that the decedents clothing was wet.

Evidence:

A fingernail and hair kit were collected at the Forensic Science Center.

Body Examination:

The decedent is a female, Caucasian who appears to be the reported 4 years of age. She was wearing purple pants, purple shirt, white t-shirt, red and white underwear, white socks and one



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right shoe. The ambient temperature – outdoors was 54 degrees at 2140 hours. The liver temperature was 75 degrees at 2150 hours. Livor mortis blanched to medium pressure and was consistent with the supine position that she was lying in on a wooden picnic table. Rigor mortis was not noted. The decedent has serious head trauma to the frontal bone. There was a blood tinged foam at the mouth. There were abrasions to the face, chest, shoulders, abdomen, and legs. The right pupil was wide open / large and the left pupil was very small.

Identification:

The decedent was identified by the father at the scene.

Next of Kin Notification:

On 11/08/2000 Sara Key (mother) with legal custody was notified by Detective T. Martinez at the Carson Station.

Tissue Donation:

The decedent is not now a viable candidate for tissue donation due to time lapse since death.

Autopsy Notification:

Detectives D. Smith and J. Leslie request 2 hours notice prior to post (323) 890-5500



ALLEN R. MOSES

MICHAEL RIDDLE

Date of Report



INVESTIGATOR'S CASE ASSIGNMENT FORM

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CORONER



Coroner's Case Number: 2000-07890
Incoming Mode: ACCIDENT
Investigation Type: FIELD-CALL
Mortuary Name:
Decedent's Name: KEYMARER, LAUREN SERENE
Decedent Birth Date and Age: 4
Sex: FEMALE
Race:
Date and Time of Death: 11/08/2000 00:00
Death Place: OCEAN
Hospital Name:
Death Address: 5200 PALOS VERDES DRIVE
Death City: RANCHO PALOS VERDES
Death Zip: 90001
Scene Phone #:
Name of Caller: DET MARTINEZ
Police Agency: LASD HOMICIDE
Investigating Officer: DET MARTINEZ
Describe Terminal Episode: FELL OFF CLIFF
Special Handling Information:
NOK Notified: No
NOK Name:
NOK Phone:
Investigator's Name: ALLEN R. MOSES
Date and Time of Call: 11/08/2000 16:14
DME:
Cause A:

Department of Coroner, County of Los Angeles
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES
 Toxicology Report

Friday, December 01, 2000

PendingTox

To: Dr. Chinwah
 Deputy Medical Examiner

Subject: Coroner Case Number 2000-07890 KEY-MARER, LAUREN S.

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>DRUG</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>ANALYST</u>
Blood, Chest					
	Alcohol	Ethanol	Negative		J. Park
	Barbiturate	Barbiturates	ND		L. Mahanay
	Cocaine	Cocaine and Metabolites	ND		L. Mahanay
	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine	ND		L. Mahanay
	Opiates	Codeine, Free & Total	ND		R. Budd
	Opiates	Hydrocodone, Free & Total	ND		R. Budd
	Opiates	Morphine, Free & Total	ND		R. Budd
	Phencyclidine	Phencyclidine	ND		L. Mahanay

Legend:

% Saturation

*

Done

g

g%

mEq/l

mg

mg/dl

mg/l

ND

Negative

Grams

Gram Percent

Milli equivalents

Milligrams

Milligram per Deciliter

Milligram per Liter

Not Detected

QNS

TNP

ug

ug/g

ug/ml

Quantity Not Sufficient

Test Not Performed

Micrograms

Micrograms per Gram

Microgram per Milliliter

JOSEPH J. MUTO, CHIEF

FORENSIC LABORATORIES

CASE NO

2000-07890

APPARENT MODE

ACCIDENT/ HOMICIDE

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Domestic Violence, Victim of Crime

CRYPT

122

20 NOV -9 11 6:33

LAST, FIRST MIDDLE

AKA

#

KEY-MARER, LAUREN SERENE

ADDRESS 8261 MALLOY DRIVE CITY HUNTINGTON BEAC STATE CAL ZIP 92646

SEX FEMALE RACE APPEARS CAUCASIAN DOB 8/29/96 AGE 4 HGT 42 in. WGT 44 lbs. EYES BLUE HAIR BLOND TEETH ALL NATURAL TEETH FACIAL HAIR OTHER ID VIEW Yes CONDITION FAIR

MARK TYPE MARK LOCATION MARK DESCRIPTION

NOK SARA KEY ADDRESS 8261 MALLOY DRIVE CITY HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE CA ZIP 92646 RELATIONSHIP MOTHER PHONE (714) 969-5473 NOTIFIED BY DET. T. MARTINEZ DATE 11/8/00

ID METHOD FAMILY PRESENT AT SCENE LA # MAIN # CII # FBI # MILITARY # POB CALIFORNIA

IDENTIFIED BY NAME (PRINT) CAMERON BROWN RELATIONSHIP FATHER PHONE (310) 541-9060 DATE 11/8/00 TIME 17:15

PLACE OF DEATH / PLACE FOUND OCEAN ADDRESS OR LOCATION 5200 PALOS VERDES DRIVE CITY RANCHO PALOS VE ZIP 90275

PLACE OF INJURY INSPIRATION POINT / CLIFFS AT WORK No DATE 11/8/00 TIME 15:04 LOCATION OR ADDRESS 5200 PALOS VERDES DRIVE, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, C ZIP 90275

DOD 11/8/00 TIME 15:25 FOUND OR PRONOUNCED BY LACOFD MEDIC DORN OTHER AGENCY INV. OFFICER LASD HOMICIDE - D. SMITH / J. LESLIE PHONE (323) 890-5500 REPORT NO. 000-04268-1741-496 NOTIFIED BY TO LOS ANGELES FSC DATE 11/8/00 TIME 22:55

Table with 3 columns: FINGERPRINTS?, MED. EV., PHYS. EV., SUICIDE NOTE, CLOTHING, INVEST. PHOTO #, EVIDENCE LOG, GSR NO, PA RPT, SEAL TYPE, PROPERTY?, RCPT. NO., MORTUARY, HOSP RPT, HOSP CHART, PF NO.

SYNOPSIS THE DECEDENT WAS WALKING ALONG THE INSPIRATION POINT AREA / CLIFFS WITH HER FATHER WHEN SHE EITHER FELL OR WAS PUSHED. APPROXIMATE 200-300 FOOT FALL. DETECTIVES D. SMITH & J. LESLIE REQUEST 2 HOURS NOTICE PRIOR TO POST 323 890-5500

ALLEN R. MOSES 298382 INVESTIGATOR DATE 11/9/00 TIME 01:30 REVIEWED BY DANIEL P. AIKIN DATE 11/9/00 TIME 01:49

FORM #3 NARRATIVE TO FOLLOW? [checked]

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1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033 (213) 343-0515

Property Released - Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Closed Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

No. 169758
Date 11/08/2000
Case # 2000-07890
Name KEY-MAREK
LAUREN SERENE

NO PERSONAL EFFECTS TAKEN NO CASH TAKEN
 ADDITIONAL RECEIPTS # _____

PERSONAL EFFECTS: U.S. Cash _____ Dollars

Keepsake/Foreign Monies _____

Item	No	Yes	Qty.	Description	To: Notif	Item	No	Yes	Qty.	Number	To: Notif
Wallet						Driver's License					
Purse						Soc. Security					
Misc. Papers						Passport					
Address						Military I.D./Vet. Card					
Suicide Note						Immig. Card					
Glasses						P.F. Card					
Keys						Blank Checks					

The following Identification documents are routinely returned to the issuing agencies: California Driver's Licenses, California Identification Cards, Immigration Cards, Passports and Military I.D. Cards.

Watches, Jewelry & Other Items	Credit Cards, Traveler's Checks and Checks for Decedent (List bank acct. nos., amount, card name and no.)

DECLARATION FOR RELEASE OF WEAPONS IN THE FIELD:
 The Dept. of Coroner does not accept firearms. The following (describe) _____ caliber _____ make _____ model _____ type _____
 Weapon bearing serial number _____ was released to: _____ badge/I.D.# _____
 Name of Agency: _____ Phone Number () _____
 Address: _____

WITNESS DECLARATION: UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, I DECLARE:
 The above list is all the property found on the body, clothing or adjacent area to the above named decedent and was checked by me in the presence of the witnesses signed below.
 Above is listed the property of the above indicated decedent after the body, clothing or adjacent area had been checked prior to my arrival.
 Signature _____ Print Name & Title ALLEN R MOSES
 Witness Sign _____ Print Name & Title DANNY SMITH - DETECTIVE
 Address & Agency _____ City _____ ZIP _____ Phone () _____
 Witness Sign _____ Print Name & Title _____
 Address & Agency _____ City _____ ZIP _____ Phone () _____

DECLARATION FOR RELEASE OF PROPERTY IN THE FIELD:
 The above indicated personal effects were released to me by _____ Date _____
 Signature _____ Print Name & Title _____
 Agency _____ Phone () _____

DECLARATION FOR RELEASE OF PROPERTY TO FAMILY:
 The above listed property was delivered to me by _____ of the Property Section of the Dept. of Coroner, Los Angeles County.
 Signature _____ Print Name _____
 Relationship _____ Date _____ Phone () _____
 Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

PROPERTY WILL NOT BE RELEASED WITHOUT AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO SECTION 630 PROBATE CODE OR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY.

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Please read and answer all questions before signing

Case No. 2000-07890
Case Name

KEY, LAUREN

WAS THE DECEDENT LEGALLY MARRIED
AT THE TIME OF DEATH? ~~NO~~
DOES THE DECEDENT HAVE ANY LIVING ADULT CHILDREN? ~~NO~~

Favor de leer y contestar todas las preguntas antes de firmar
¿El Finado tiene hijos ó hijas mayores de 18 años?
¿El Finado ha sido casado legalmente?

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE • CHAPTER 3 • CUSTODY AND DUTY OF INTERMENT

7100. The right to control the disposition of the remains of a deceased person, unless other directions have been given by the decedent, vests in, and the duty of interment and the liability for the reasonable cost of interment of such remains devolves upon the following in the order named: (a) The surviving spouse. (b) The surviving adult child or adult children of the decedent. (c) The surviving parent or parents of the decedent. (d) The person or persons respectively in the next degrees of kindred in the order named by the laws of California as entitled to succeed to the estate of the decedent. (e) The Public Administrator when the deceased has sufficient assets.

“WARNING: The person signing this Order for Release is liable for all damages caused by any untruthful statements contained in this document. (Health and Safety Code Section 7110). It is also a criminal offense to knowingly file a false statement with a government agency. (Penal Code Section 115 and 470)” Therefore, please release the body upon completion of your investigation of the death of said deceased to:

MORTUARY: HARBOR LAWN MORTUARY

NAME (PRINTED) SARAH MARER Relationship MOTHER

Address 8261 MALLOY DRIVE City HUNTINGTON BEACH State CA. Zip Code 92646

Telephone No. 714-969-5473 Date Signed 11/10/2000

SIGNATURE 

If the legal next of kin is not handling, please enter next of kin information below and explain why they are not handling. Attach supporting authorization documents, e.g. wills, power of attorney, faxes, etc.

Name Relationship Telephone No.

Address City State Zip Code

CODIGO DE SANIDAD Y SEGURIDAD • CAPITULO 3 • Custodia y Obligacion de Entierro

7100. El derecho de controlar la disposicion de los restos del finado a mentos de que otras instrucciones hayan sido dadas por el finado, dar autoridad, y el deber del entierro y la responsabilidad por el gasto justo de entierro de tales restos pasa sobre lo siguiente en el orden nombrado, (a) esposo o esposa (b) hijo ó hijas mayores de 18 años (c) padre o padres del finado (d) persona o personas respectivamente en los grados de parentesco en el orden nombrado por las leyes de California como que tiene derecho se suceder al los bienes del finado (e) El Administrador Publico cuando el finado tiene suficiente bienes.

“AVISO: La persona firmando esta orden para cesion es sujeto por todos los perjuicios causado por alguna falsa declaracion contenido en este documento. (Seccion 7110 DelCodigo De Sanidad y Seguridad) Es una ofensa criminal presenta al proposito falsos testimonio con una agencia del gobierno. (Codigo De Pena Seccion 115 y 470)”. Por eso, favor de entregar los restos del finado despues de completar la investigacion a:

FUNERARIA:

NOMBRE Parentesco (ESCRIBA EN LETRA DE MOLDE)

Domicilio Ciudad Estado Zona Postal

Telefono Fecha Firmada

FIRMA

Si no es el pariente próximo, firme y explique porque el pariente próximo no esta arreglando los trámites en este asunto. Si es el albacea del testamento, incluir una copia del testamento.

Pariente próximo Parentesco

Domicilio Ciudad Estado Zona Postal

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WAS ORIGINAL SCENE DISTURBED BY OTHERS? Y [✓] N []
IF YES, NOTE CHANGES IN NARRATIVE FORM #3.

DATE 11/08/2000
AMBIENT #1 54 °F TIME 2140
AMBIENT #2 _____ °F TIME _____
WATER _____ °F TIME _____

2000-07890
KEY-MARER, LAUREN
DOD 11/08/2000 1525
LASD HOMICIDE
ACC - Homic
THERMOMETER # 95.05

LIVER TEMPERATURE #1 75 °F TIME _____
LIVER TEMPERATURE #2 _____ °F TIME 2150

DATE & TIME FOUND 11/08/2000 LAST KNOWN ALIVE 11/08/2000

APPROX. AGE 4 SEX F EST. HEIGHT 42 EST. WEIGHT 44 CLOTHED? YES NO IF YES, DESCRIBE:
PURPLE PANTS, PURPLE SHIRT, WHITE T-SHIRT, RED + WHITE UNDERWEAR
WHITE SOCKS,

CLOTHING WAS WET

DESCRIPTION AS TO WHERE REMAINS FOUND AND CONTACT MATERIAL TO BODY:

SUPINE ON WOODEN PICNIC TABLE

SCENE TEMPERATURE REGULATED? YES NO IF YES, THERMOSTAT SET AT _____ DEGREES F.

LIVOR MORTIS: TIME OBSERVED 2140 MEDIUM PRESSURE RIGOR MORTIS: TIME OBSERVED 2140

NECK FLEXION: NOT NOTED

BLOOD
TINGED
FOAM @
MOUTH

ANTERIOR _____
POSTERIOR _____
RT. LATERAL _____
LT. LATERAL _____

JAW _____ HIP _____
SHOULDER _____ KNEE _____
ELBOW _____ ANKLE _____
WRIST _____

SCALE

- 0 = ABSENT/NEGATIVE
- 1 +
- 2 +
- 3 +
- 4 = EXTREME DEGREE

USE SCALE TO DESCRIBE INTENSITY OF RIGOR MORTIS.

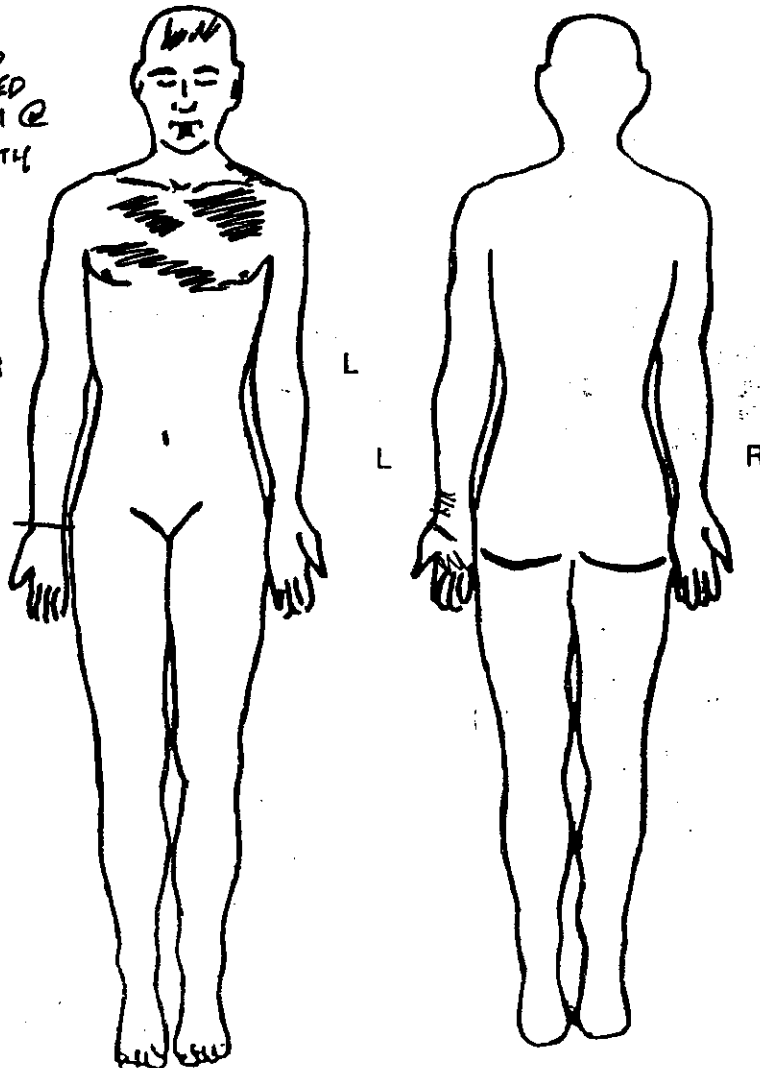
SHADE DIAGRAMS TO ILLUSTRATE THE LOCATION OF LIVOR MORTIS.

DESCRIBE INTENSITY OF COLORATION AND WHETHER LIVOR MORTIS IS PERMANENT OR BLANCHES UNDER PRESSURE.

ALLEN R. MOSES

CORONER'S INVESTIGATOR


REVIEWED BY:



12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

I performed an autopsy on the body of 

at _____ the DEPARTMENT OF CORONER

Los Angeles, California on NOVEMBER 9, 2000 @ 1230 HOURS

(Date) (Time)

From the anatomic findings and pertinent history I ascribe the death to: _____

(A) **MULTIPLE INJURIES**

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(B) **BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA**

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(C) _____

DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

(D) _____

OTHER CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING BUT NOT RELATED TO THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH

Anatomical Summary:

1. Abrasion, contusion, laceration - forehead/face.
2. Abrasion - chest, abdomen, extremities.
3. Massive skull fracture.
4. Intracranial hemorrhage.
5. Atlanto-occipital subluxation.
6. Fracture/subluxation - right wrist.
7. Contusion - lungs, liver.
8. Hemothorax, right.
9. Laceration, spleen.
10. See Neuropathology Report.
11. See Radiology Report.
12. See Toxicology Report.
13. See Pediatric Consult Report.

12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 2**INJURY DATE:**

11-8-00.

CIRCUMSTANCES:

See investigator report.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY:**EXTERNAL:**

Head/face: There is extensive abrasion contusion of the forehead involving an area about 3-1/4 inch in diameter. The abrasion contusion extends down the face over the nose lip to the chin. It also extends to the left side of the face and the cheek. On the forehead are multiple irregular lacerations, some oriented horizontally, others diagonally. They vary in size from 1/4 inch to 1-1/2 inches. Three of the larger lacerations are gaping and underlying irregular skull fractures are evident. Palpation of the left facial bone reveals fracture of the maxillary bone.

Chest: On the upper chest are areas of brown abrasion. They extend to the top of the left shoulder area. These abrasions vary in size from 2-1/2 x 3/4 inch to 1 inch. On the lower chest in the midline between the nipples there is also a horizontal brown-red abrasion measuring 3-3/4 inch x 1 inch.

Abdomen: There are two linear abrasions on the abdomen. On the upper abdomen in the midline the abrasion measures 1-1/4 inch and is brown. The other abrasion is vertical on the left abdomen measuring 2 inches.

Extremities: On the back of the left forearm near the wrist there are red abrasions measuring about 1-1/4 inch. Close to the wrist on the back of the left hand, a 3/4 linear abrasion is also noted. On the back of the right arm near the shoulder a red-brown abrasion is present measuring about 1-1/4 inches. On the front of the right knee and left thigh there are small abrasions which are brown; the one on the right measuring 1/2 inch.

12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 3INTERNAL:

Head and Central Nervous System: There is extensive compound fracture of the frontal skull with extension posteriorly on the right and left but particularly on the left. The fracture extends to the basal skull extensively fracturing the orbital plate of the frontal bone. The atlanto-occipital joint is dislocated. There is intracranial hemorrhage and cerebral contusion.

Chest/abdomen: There is significant contusion of both right and left lung particularly the right. Laceration is noted in the hilum area and hemorrhage is present in the right chest cavity measuring about 250 cc. There is contusion of the right hemidiaphragm and right lobe of the liver with hemorrhage into the subcapsule of the liver. The spleen reveals a small laceration at its attachment to the tail of the pancreas.

Extremity: There is a fracture dislocation of the right wrist with small contusion of the skin.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is identified by toe tags and is that of an unembalmed Refrigerated female Caucasian child who appears about the reported age of 4 years. The body weighs 44 pounds with the following measurements: crown heel 109 cm, crown to rump 57 cm, head circumference 52 cm, chest circumference 55 cm and abdomen circumference 50 cm. There are no scars or tattoos seen. Rigor has presumably been altered.

The head is normocephalic and is covered by black hair. Examination of the eyes reveals irides that appear to be blue in color. The sclera are white. There are no petechial hemorrhage of the conjunctivae of the lids or sclerae. The oronasal passages are unobstructed. Upper and lower teeth are present. The neck is unremarkable. There is no chest deformity. The abdomen is flat. The genitalia are those of a female child and there is no trauma. The extremities show no deformity.

12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 4**EVIDENCE OF THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION:**

There is no evidence of any recent hospitalization.

CLOTHING:

The body was not clothed and I examined the following clothing which are unremarkable: a purple shirt blouse cut open, purple pants cut on both sides, white shirt cut also, red-purple-white underwear and one white shoe.

INITIAL INCISION:

The body cavities are entered through the standard Y-shaped incision.

NECK:

The neck organs are removed en bloc with the tongue. There is abrasion of the lips as described above. There is no trauma of the oral mucosa. Both hyoid bone and larynx are intact. There is no hemorrhage in the strap muscles of the neck or around any throat organ. The tongue when sectioned shows no trauma.

CHEST/ABDOMINAL CAVITY.

See "Evidence of Injury". The pleural cavities contain no adhesion. The lungs are well-expanded. The organs of the abdominal cavity have a normal arrangement and none are absent. There is no adhesion.

SYSTEMIC AND ORGAN REVIEW

The following observations are limited to findings other than injuries, if described above.

12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 5**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:**

There is no abnormality of the bony framework or muscles present.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

The aorta is elastic and of even caliber throughout with vessels distributed normally from it. Within the pericardial sac there is minimal serous fluid. The heart weighs 85 grams and it has a normal configuration. The valves are thin and competent. There is no lesion of the myocardium. The great vessels enter and leave in a normal fashion. There is no congenital anomaly.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

The upper and lower respiratory passages contain minimal secretion. The mucosa is intact. The lungs are crepitant. The left lung weighs 110 grams. The right lung weighs 110 grams. The visceral pleurae are smooth. The lung parenchyma is unremarkable.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:

The esophagus is intact throughout. The stomach contains small gray slightly mushy material. The mucosa is unremarkable. The small intestine and colon are unremarkable. The appendix is present. The pancreas occupies a normal position and is unremarkable.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:

The liver weighs 650 grams. It is red-brown. The capsule is smooth. The parenchyma is unremarkable. The gallbladder is present. It contains bile and no calculi.

12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 6**URINARY SYSTEM:**

The left kidney weighs 40 grams. The right kidney weighs 58 grams. The kidneys are normally situated and the capsules strip easily revealing surface that is unremarkable. The corticomedullary demarcation is well-demarcated. The kidneys are unremarkable. The urinary bladder contains 30 cc of urine and is unremarkable.

GENITAL SYSTEM:

The uterus and adnexa are unremarkable.

HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM:

The spleen weighs 40 grams and is of average size. The capsule is smooth. The parenchyma is dark red and unremarkable. Lymph nodes throughout the body are small. The bone is not remarkable. The bone marrow of the ribs is unremarkable.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

The thyroid is unremarkable. The parathyroid glands are not identified. The adrenals are unremarkable. The thymus is unremarkable. The pituitary gland is unremarkable.

SPECIAL SENSES:

The eyes are not dissected. The middle and inner ears are not dissected.

HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

See "Evidence of Injury". The brain weighs 1300 grams. It is placed in formalin solution for fixation and later neuropathology consultation.

12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 7**HISTOLOGY:**

Representative sections from various organs are preserved in one storage jar in 10% formalin.

TOXICOLOGY:

Blood and urine have been submitted to the laboratory. A homicide screen was requested.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photographs have been taken prior to and during the course of the autopsy.

RADIOLOGY:

The body is fluoroscoped and x-rays are taken of the entire body.

WITNESSES:

Detective Smith (LASD-Homicide) witnessed the autopsy.

DIAGRAMS USED:

Diagram Forms 20, 22, 28 and 34 were used during the performance of the autopsy. The diagrams are not intended to be facsimiles.

OPINION:

The cause of death in this 4 year female is multiple blunt force traumatic injuries including massive skull fracture consistent with drop from a height. The autopsy findings are consistent with an assisted drop and not consistent with accidental fall from the reported site of the incident. This opinion is

12**AUTOPSY REPORT**

No. 2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 8

supported by a site visit with our pediatric consultant (see Pediatric Consultant Report), Coroner's investigator, law enforcement officers and Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner, wherein it was observed that the terrain is rugged and it is not likely that a 4 year-old female would voluntarily hike there without experiencing fatigue. Further given the circumstances, child endangerment is a consideration therefore, the manner of death is classified as homicide.



OGBONNA CHINWAH, M.D.
DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

5/2/01

DATE

OC:mtm:c
T-1/18/01

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Key-Marer, Lauren
2000-07890

Page 1 of 2

Pediatric Consult

Lauren Key-Marer (DOB 08/29/1996, DOD 11/08/2000, 2000-07890) was a 4 2/12 year old girl who died after allegedly falling from Inspiration Point on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The police report documents the events that transpired on the day of her death. In addition, the report offers additional information about Lauren's biologic parents, and contains statements by Lauren's teachers about her affect on the day of her death as well as her usual demeanor and level of activity.

The school reported that on the morning of her death, Lauren was particularly tearful and had been crying that she didn't want to go with her father, Cameron. The school documented that they had called Lauren's mother at 12:15 pm to advise her that Lauren had been crying for 1½ hours. Lauren's mother spoke to Lauren and told the school to allow Lauren go with Cameron. Lauren was subsequently picked up by Cameron. The two proceeded to the Abalone Cove parking lot where they parked at about 1400. They then walked down to the playground where, by report, Lauren played on the equipment for about 20 minutes. After leaving the playground, they hiked up the trail, past Portuguese Point and then over to Inspiration Point, a narrow, unguarded cliff. Cameron maintained that Lauren was throwing rocks while on Inspiration Point, he turned away and then he heard a sound variously described as an "Ooh," and Lauren had fallen over the edge. Cameron ran down the trail leading to the nude beach where he enlisted the cell phone of a person on the beach to summon the paramedics. He then ran around the southern aspect of Inspiration Point, climbed out on the rocks, removed his clothing leaving on his underwear and his hiking boots. He then entered the water and retrieved Lauren's body. He allegedly attempted several rescue breaths, removed his wet underwear and replaced his dry clothes and then carried Lauren's body to a picnic table near the archery range where he placed her while awaiting the arrival of the paramedics. Lauren was pronounced dead by the paramedics at 1525.

Lauren's autopsy revealed multiple traumatic injuries. There were multiple irregular traumatic lacerations (horizontal and vertical) of the forehead and face, along with abrasions and contusions. There was a massive, gaping compound skull fracture, extending to the basal portion of the skull. There were accompanying intracranial hemorrhage and cerebral contusion. There was a fracture of the maxillary bone. There was atlanto-occipetal subluxation. There was a fracture of the right wrist involving the ulna and the radius. The lungs were well-aerated and had a contusion as did the liver. There was a right hemothorax and a laceration of the spleen. Toxicologic evaluation was negative. The autopsy was felt to be consistent with a suicide-like jump or an assisted throw, rather than with a fall, with Lauren landing on her face and chest, and with hyperextension of her neck. The height of the cliff is about 140 feet. The apex of the cliff is slightly recessed from the base. The base of the cliff is surrounded by water as well as by rocks. High tide on the day of Lauren's death was reported to be at 1942.

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Key-Marer, Lauren
2000-07890

Page 1 of 2

Pediatric Consult

Physically, Lauren was 44 pounds and 109 cm. Her weight had been at the 95th % and her height had been at the 90th %. Her developmental skills were appropriate to age and her development had previously been recorded as normal (e.g., age 2 years: runs, climbs, scribbles). Temperamentally, Lauren's teachers described her as a cautious child, fearful of animals, and not a risk taker. Lauren had recently returned from a trip to England, and could have been experiencing some degree of travel related fatigue ("jet lag").

The question that is posed is whether Lauren would have initiated a hike from the playground to Inspiration Point and would have participated in such a hike unassisted. On March 26, 2001, I had the opportunity to hike through the area that allegedly Cameron and Lauren hiked along on the day of her death. I was accompanied and assisted during the hike by Detective Danny Smith, LASD, and Deputy John C. Shannon, Forensic Artist, LASD. Detective Jeffrey S. Leslie also was with us, but remained with Drs. Lakshmanan and Chinwah of the Coroner's Office who chose not to follow the path. The hike was strenuous and physically challenging. The terrain had both sharp inclines and declines. As adults, with adult length strides, the walk took about 50 minutes. I am in excellent physical shape, being a runner (including the LA Marathon) and found the hike difficult. I believe that a 4 year old could have completed the hike **only** if she had been assisted (carried part or all of the way) or she had been **forcefully coerced** and was fearful of the consequences of her refusal to carry on. The attention span of a child is 3 to 5 minutes per year of age. One could expect Lauren, at best, to have walked for about 20 minutes and then lost interest in the hike, even if she had the stamina to continue. In addition, she had a witnessed history of having spent 1 1/2 hours that morning crying. Crying is a fatiguing experience, and would have hampered Lauren's ability to hike for even a short period of time. She was also recovering from a recent trip abroad, another factor that would have impacted on her physical endurance.

I would conclude that, based on her developmental and temperamental abilities, and the antecedent events, Lauren did not initiate a strenuous 1 1/2 mile hike, and that her participation in the hike was under coercion/fear or with assistance, such as being carried.



Carol D. Berkowitz, M.D.
Pediatric Consultant



Date

13NEUROPATHOLOGY

2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

November 28, 2000

AGE: 4 years

DATE OF DEATH: November 8, 2000

REFERRING DME: Ogbonna Chinwah, M.D.

CIRCUMSTANCES:

The following information is taken from the Investigator's Narrative and Dr. Chinwah's note on Form 42 dated November 10, 2000. At approximately 1504 hours of November 8, 2000, the decedent was walking with her father in an area known as Inspiration Point in Palos Verdes Peninsula when the decedent allegedly fell from the edge of the cliff, a distance between 250-300 feet. Responding paramedics pronounced the decedent at the scene at 1525 hours.

Amongst other findings, autopsy revealed abrasions/contusions/lacerations of the forehead/face, abrasions of the chest, abdomen, and extremities, and massive skull fracture horizontally across the frontal bone into the right parieto-temporal region and extending across the orbital plates and continuing posteriorly along the left temporal fossa, crossing the petrous ridge into the left occipital bone.

GROSS DESCRIPTION:

Specimen consists of a formalin-fixed brain and incomplete portions of cranial dura mater including the dorsal convexity regions, attached falx cerebri, attached tentorium cerebelli, and the adjacent areas of the posterior fossae. On the left side of the frontal vertex, there is a large gaping dural defect measuring approximately 6 cm in greatest diameter which has the appearance of a postmortem incision. The margins of the defect show no evidence of hemorrhage. Dura is otherwise unremarkable, showing no special congestion. Dural blood clots and stains are absent.

13

NEUROPATHOLOGY

2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 2

Brain weighed 1300 grams at removal. It is large for the stated age of four years. Aside from the below-described traumatic injuries, the cerebral hemispheres are approximately symmetrical and of normal configuration. Interhemispheric fissure is straight and flat at the midline. Leptomeninges over cerebral hemispheric convexities are thin and transparent, but there is a small amount of fresh subarachnoid hemorrhage, only sufficient to fill sulcal openings, mainly over the right posterior frontal, paracentral, and lateral parietal regions. Cortical surfaces show moderate generalized flattening.

Viewed from the front, a horizontal linear laceration cuts across the frontal poles bilaterally ending at the mid-level of the inferior frontal gyrus on the right but extending laterally across the Sylvian fissure and cutting obliquely across the left lateral temporal lobe. For the extent of the laceration, hemorrhage is minimal. No gliding contusion is recognized in the parasagittal cortex. Convolutional pattern appears normally formed through the brain swelling.

At the base, a small fragment of thin squamous bone is found buried in the cortex of the left orbital lobe. The fragment is 2 mm in thickness and measures 2.5 x 1.0 cm in diameter. Underlying orbital cortex is macerated. The right orbital cortex is intact except for a small amount of fresh subarachnoid hemorrhage filling sulci. The left olfactory tract is minimally contused along with the adjacent cortex. Optic nerves are grossly normal. A small amount of recent hemorrhage fills the chiasmatic cistern and extends along the floor of the third ventricle into rostral prepontine cistern. There is no herniation mark, nor any evidence of herniation contusion. Belly of the pons is full and symmetrical, and medulla also appears intact. Cerebellar hemispheres are full and symmetrical with normal-appearing folia, free of contusions. Vallecule is closed at the midline, and cisterna magna is also small but without tonsillar herniation.

Coronal sections of the cerebral hemispheres reveal symmetrical but mostly effaced lateral ventricles without shift of the midline. Third ventricle is narrow but patent at the midline. Aqueduct is patent and of normal size and contour, and fourth ventricle is normal. Sections confirm the externally noted cortical laceration of the frontal poles

13

NEUROPATHOLOGY

2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 3

extending across the left mid-temporal lobe. As noted externally, the lacerations are only faintly hemorrhagic and mostly limited to the cortex. There is no deep subcortical component, and there is no contusion hematoma. Cerebral cortex is generally dark from congestion. Cerebral central white matter is homogeneous and clear except for pinpoint minor petechiae/congestion of the frontal white matter. Corpus callosum is intact and of normal thickness. Basal ganglia and thalamus show no gross change. Hippocampal formations are symmetrical and normally formed.

In the brainstem, the midbrain is of normal size and configuration with no evidence of side-to-side compression. There is no Duret's hemorrhage. Pons and medulla show no gross change, and cerebellum is unremarkable.

Selected areas are retained in storage. Representative sections are submitted for microscopic examination.

GROSS IMPRESSIONS:

- A. Acute cerebral trauma, fall from estimated 250+ height, November 8, 2000 at approximately 1504 hours (pronounced November 8, 2000 at 1525 hours).
1. Skull fracture, massive, horizontal linear across frontal bone, extending into temporoparietal region on the right and across orbital frontal plates and left floor of temporal fossa into basioccipital bone (autopsy).
 - a. Horizontal cortical laceration across bifrontal poles, extending across left temporal lobe.
 2. Acute subarachnoid hemorrhage, very small amount, sites noted above.
 3. Generalized brain swelling, moderate.

13NEUROPATHOLOGY

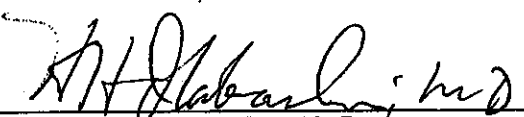
2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Page 4

COMMENT:

Composite findings are consistent with a fall with impact on the forehead with skull fracture and fracture cortical laceration. No old pathology is found.


HIDEO H. ITABASHI, M.D.
NEUROPATHOLOGY CONSULTANT

DATE

12/7/00

HHI:am/hg:c
T-11/29/00

13NEUROPATHOLOGY

2000-07890

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

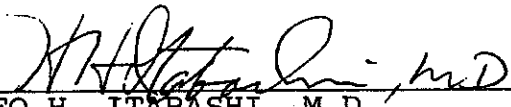
November 30, 2000

MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Sections of brain (4) stained by H&E method include cortical samples from areas of traumatic injury and hippocampal formation. The samples show presence of acute subarachnoid hemorrhage composed of formed RBC's without inflammatory reaction, superficial cortical disruptions with superficial pial and subpial hemorrhage, and minute cortical petechiae. Hippocampal formation is intact. No underlying chronic lesion or histologic process is noted.

FINAL NEUROPATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS:

See Gross Impressions.


HIDEO H. ITABASHI, M.D.
NEUROPATHOLOGY CONSULTANT

12/7/00
DATE

HHI:am/hg:c
T-12/01/00

13

00-07890

KEY-MARES, LAUREN SERENE

RADIOLOGY CONSULT

REQUEST:

4 year old Caucasian female reportedly was out with her father at Inspiration Point, Palos Verdes Peninsula when she wandered away and fell from the edge of the cliff and into the ocean below. Circumstances are suspicious. Child custody dispute ongoing with mother.

Autopsy - massive head trauma with wrist fracture. No abrasions on extremities. Evaluate for any old fractures.

FILMS:

Limited radiographic survey - skull, chest, right forearm.

FINDINGS:

There is an elongated comminuted acute skull fracture involving the right and left sides of the head. There is also acute fractures of the distal radius and ulna. The chest is unremarkable. No old fractures or other evidence of old trauma are seen.

IMPRESSION:

1. There is no radiographic evidence of old skeletal trauma.
2. Acute skull fracture.
3. Acute fractures of the distal right radius and ulna.

Donald C. Boger M.D.
DONALD C. BOGER, M.D.
RADIOLOGY CONSULTANT

11/28/00
Date

DCB/fvh:hw
T/11-27-00

14

I performed a microscopic examination on

11-16-00



2000-07890

at THE DEPARTMENT OF CORONER

KEY-MARER, LAUREN

Los Angeles, California

MICROSCOPIC DESCRIPTION

Lung - well expanded alveoli with no edema. Extravasated red blood cells in interstitium and alveolar space in one section consistent with contusion. No inflammatory reaction.

DIAGNOSIS:

Lung - contusion.



OGBONNA CHINWAH, M.D.
DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

1/22/01
DATE

OC:mtm:f
T-1/18/01

15

AUTOPSY CLASS: A B C Examination Only D
Date 11/9/00 Time 1230 Dr. CHINWAH
FINAL ON 4/25/01 By CHINWAH

APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: (Enter only one cause per line for A, B, C, and D)
IMMEDIATE CAUSE
(A) Multiple Injuries
DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF
(B) Blunt Force Trauma
DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF
(C)
DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF
(D)

PRIOR EXAMINATION REVIEW BY DME
 BODY TAG CLOTHING
 X-RAY (No. 14) FLUORO
 SPECIAL MED. RECORDS
PROCESSING TAG
 AT SCENE PHOTOS (No. 3)
TYPING BLOOD TAKEN BY CHINWAH
SOURCE CHEST

Other conditions contributing but not related to the immediate cause of death:

TOXICOLOGY
 NO BLOOD
 Embalmed
 >24 hr in hospital
 Decomposed
 Other _____
Reason

NATURAL SUICIDE HOMICIDE
 ACCIDENT COULD NOT BE DETERMINED

SPECIMENS
Collected by CHINWAH / SANCHEZ
 HEART BLOOD STOMACH CONT.
 FEMORAL BLOOD BRAIN
 CHEST BLOOD SPLEEN
 _____ BLOOD KIDNEY
 BILE VITREOUS
 LIVER _____
 URINE _____

If other than natural causes
HOW DID INJURY OCCUR? Drop from height (cliff)
WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION STATED ABOVE: YES NO

STORAGE JARS
 Regular (No. 1) Oversize (No. _____)
Histopath Cut: Autopsy Lab

TYPE SURGERY _____ DATE _____
 ORGAN PROCUREMENT TECHNICIAN SANCHEZ
 WITNESSES TO AUTOPSY EVIDENCE RECOVERED AT AUTOPSY

NO TOXICOLOGY REQUESTED
TOXICOLOGICAL ANALYSES ORDERED
SCREEN: C H T S
 ALCOHOL ONLY
 CARBON MONOXIDE
 NEOGEN SCREEN
 OTHER (specify drug and tissue)

Item Description:
D Smith (LARD-HOM)
4410CF

REQUESTED MATERIAL ON PENDING CASES
 Police Report Med History
 Tox Histo
 Microbiology Investigations
 Radiology Cons. Eye Path. Cons
 Consult on _____
 Brain Submitted
 Neuro Consult DME to Cut
 Criminalistics
 GSR Sexual Assault Other

NOTIFICATION
Valerie notified for 1130 autopsy
Gordon Chinnah
1010 11/9/00

Resident _____ DME Gordon Chinnah

16

52 H 50 A
55 C
57 CR
109 CH

01-013-01
LAUREN S. 122
LASO HUN

EXTERNAL EXAM

Sex F
Race C
Age 4
Height 42
Weight 44
Hair Blond
Eyes Blu
Sclera
Teeth crown
Mouth
Tongue
Nose
Chest
Breasts
Abdomen
Scar
Genital
Edema
Skin
Decub
HEART Wt 85
Pericard
Hypert
Dilat
Muscle
Valves
Coronar

AORTA

VESSELS

LUNGS Wt

R 110
L 110

Adhes
Fluid Blood (R) 250cc
Atelectasis
Oedema
Congest
Consol
Bronchi
Nodes

PHARYNX

TRACHEA

THYROID

THYMUS

LARYNX

HYOID

ABDOMINAL WALL FAT

PERITONEUM

Fluid
Adhes

LIVER Wt

650
Caps
Lobul
Fibros

G B

Calc
Bile ducts

SPLEEN Wt

40
Color small laceration
Consist helix

Caps

Malpig

PANCREAS

ADRENALS

KIDNEYS Wt

38/40
Caps
Cortex
Vessels
Pelvis
Ureter

BLADDER

GENITALIA

30cc
Prost
Testes
Uterus
Tubes
Ovar

OESOPHAGUS

STOMACH gray slightly mushy

DUOB & SM INT

APPENDIX

LARGE INT

ABDOM NODES

SKELETON

Spine
Marrow
Rib Cage
Long bones
Pelvis

Skull fx
Atlanto-occip subluxation
(R) wrist fx

BRAIN Wt

1300
Dura
Fluid laceration
Ventric hemorrhage
Vessels
Ears
Nasal Sin

PITUITARY

SPINAL CORD

TOXICOLOGY SPECIMENS

B.P., Urine

SECTIONS FOR HISTOPATHOLOGY

Stomach
Cassette Lung
MICROBIOLOGY

OTHER PROCEDURES

GROSS IMPRESSIONS

Date 11/9/00

Time 1230

Deputy Medical Examiner
Offense Chiodini

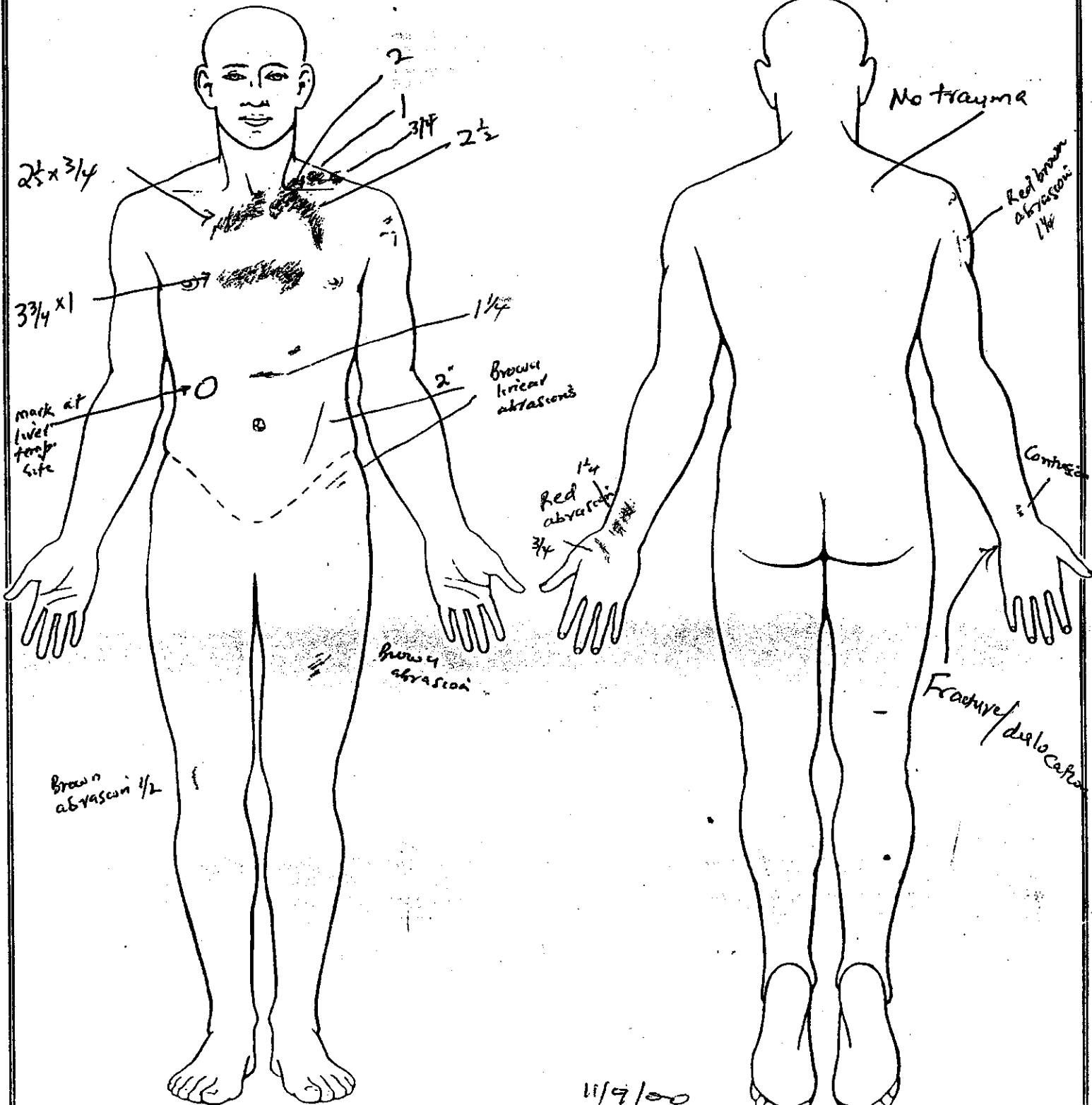
20

00-07890

11-11-00 R.L. HUR

1 ASD HOM

Brown abrasions



No trauma

Red brown abrasions 1/4

Brown linear abrasions

Red abrasions 1/4 3/4

Contusion

Fracture/dislocation

Brown abrasion 1/2

Brown abrasion

11/9/00

[Signature]

[Signature]

M.D.

Deputy Medical Examiner

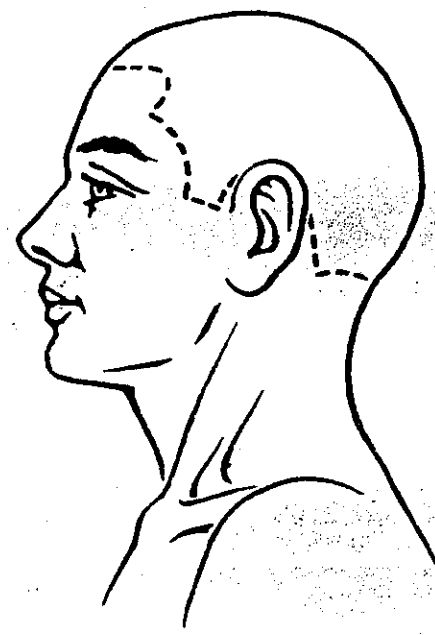
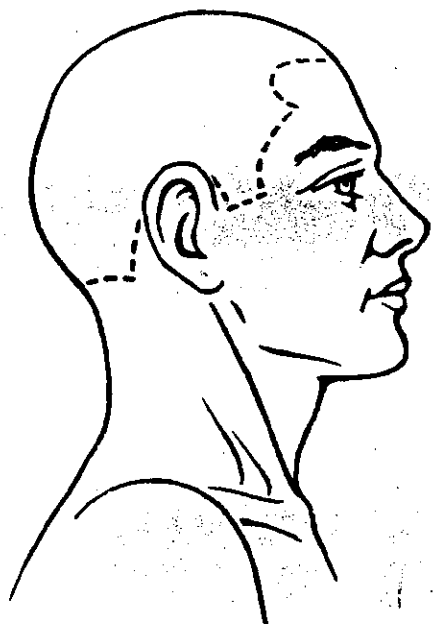
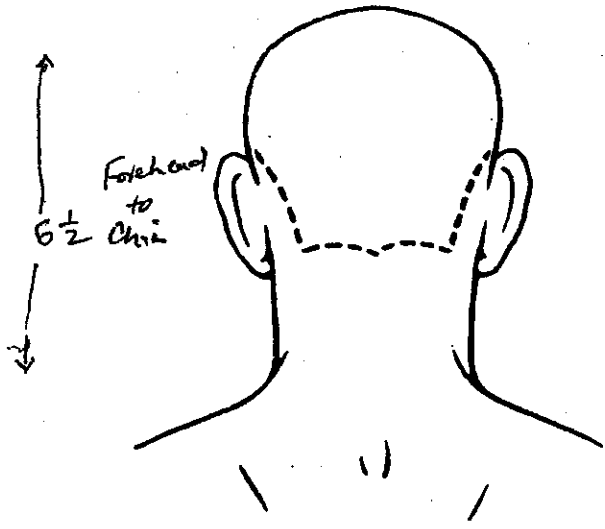
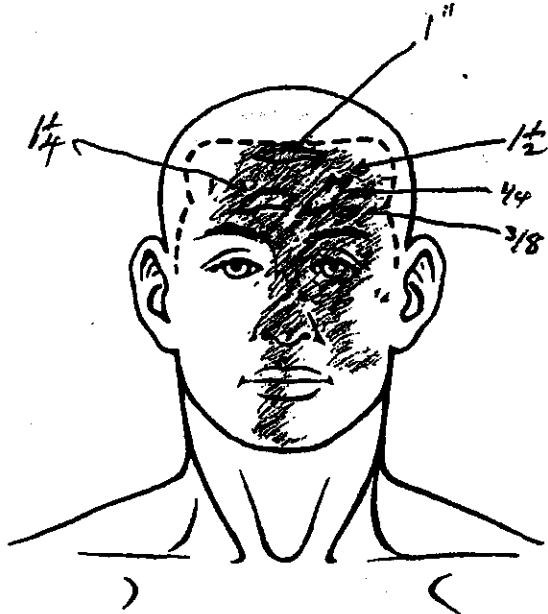
22

Red abrasion/contusion/lacerations

Forehead width

← 3 1/4 →

01-07840
Sgt. SAVER, LAUREN S.
H.M.
LASD HQ



11/9/80

George Chivash

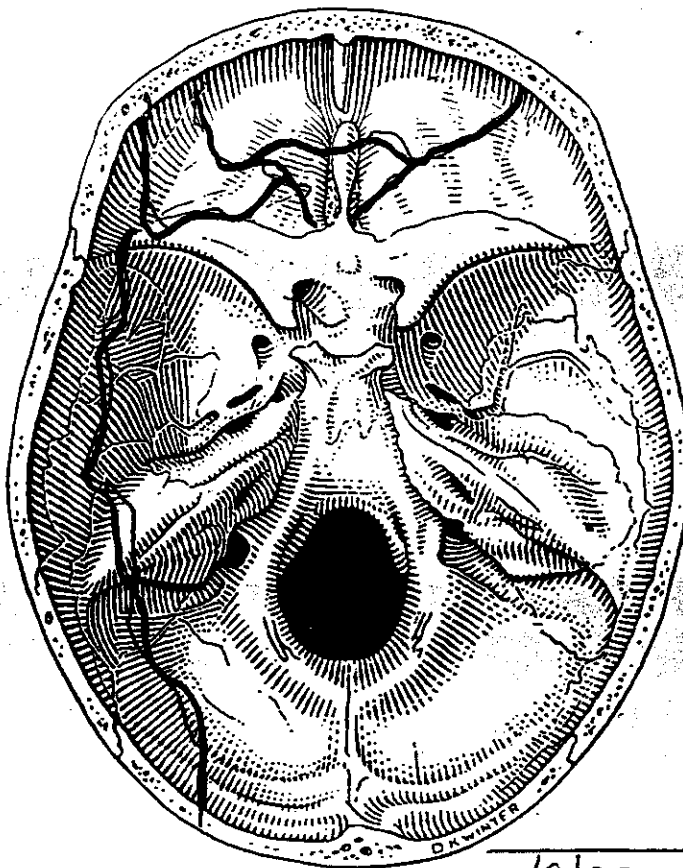
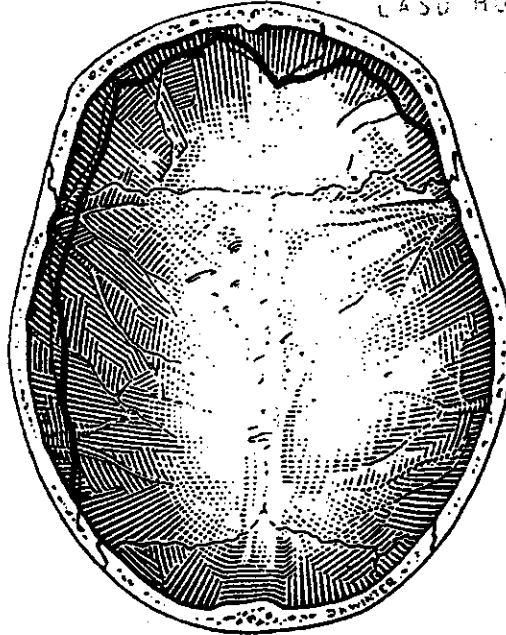
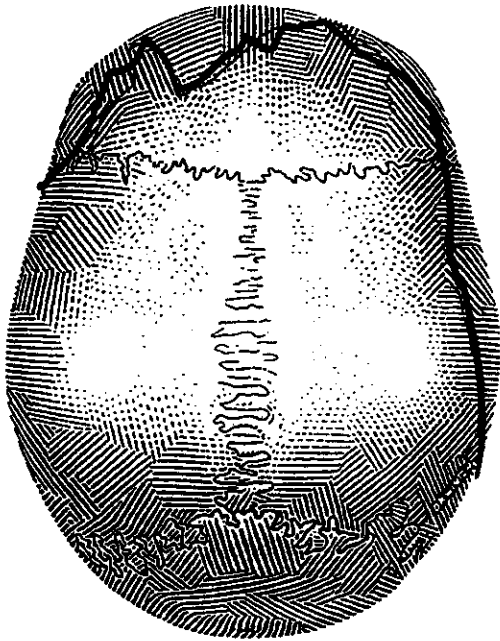
M.D.

Deputy Medical Examiner

28

— Fracture line

11-07240
LAUREN S.
LASO HON



11/9/00

George Chival

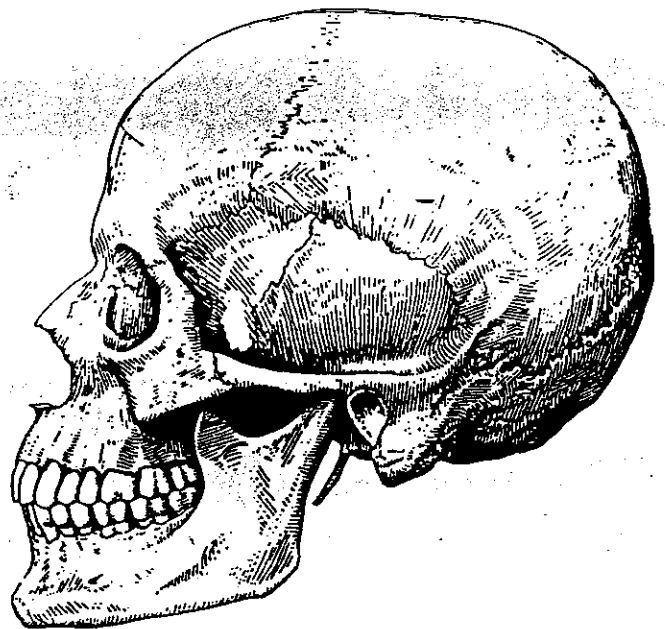
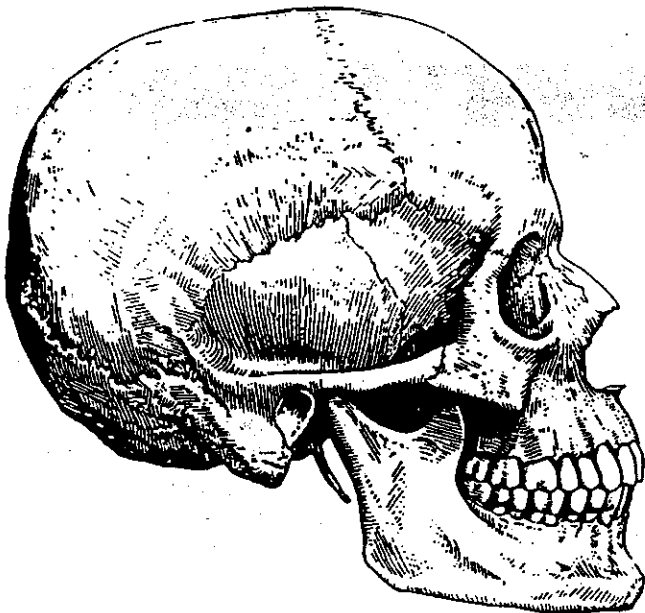
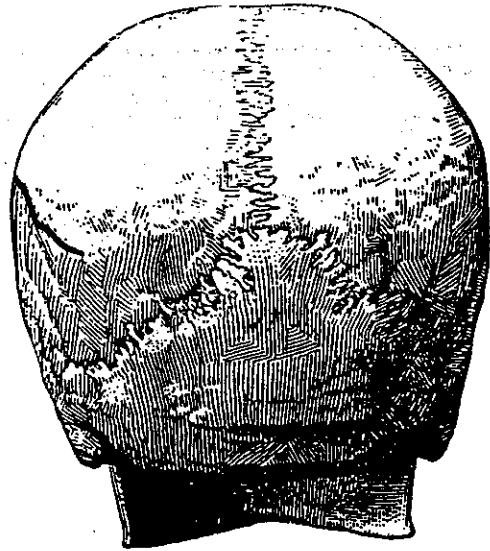
M.D.

Deputy Medical Examiner

34

— Fracture line

LA-071340
M. L. LAUREN S.
12



11/9/00

James Chival
Deputy Medical Examiner

M.D.