

Q= Detective Lisa Kasperek  
A= George Hamilton

**Witness Interview**

[Ringing]

A: Hello?

Q: Hi. Is this George?

A: Yes.

Q: George Hamilton?

A: Yes.

Q: Hi. Detective Lisa Kasperek, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.

A: Hi.

Q: How are you?

A: Good. How are you?

Q: Good. Hey, I don't think I've ever talked to you. I talked to your wife, um-

A: Yeah.

Q: -uh-

A: Peggy?

Q: Peggy. Yes, Peggy. Yep. So, anyways I just, I know you had talked to Ron too the night of the November 10<sup>th</sup>.

A: Yeah.

Q: Um, so do, do you, can you recall what he was saying? Or were you on the phone-

A: Oh, yeah.

Q: -with Peggy? Or was it a, were you guys on the same phone?

A: Well we, I had it on speaker. I had it on speaker-

Q: Oh.

A: -every- everybody was kinda listenin', plus I had it up to 911 too.

Q: Sure. Okay.

A: So they could hear what he was sayin'. He was just screamin' out of his mind. You could hardly understand him.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: Says I'm gonna kill every motha' fucker around. He said I'm gonna come out shootin', anybody I see. Then the first time he shot in the garage.

Q: Yep.

A: He goes, see, I went to my neighbors, I blew her fuckin' head off, he said. And I said, man—I knew he didn't because y-ya know.

Q: Yeah.

A: But he was just actin' crazy, sayin' yeah, I'm gonna shoot 'em all. I can't take it, I'm not, I'm-

Q: Did he-

A: -[Inaudible] Peggy and the kids, he said.

Q: He said what?

A: And I was [Inaudible]. To take care of Peggy and the kids.

Q: Oh, yep. Did you hear-

A: And then, uh-

Q: -the shots fired?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Okay.

A: I heard [Inaudible] at the end there.

Q: Your, your phone's-

A: I think when they shot him-

Q: -your phone is cutting.

A: -I was talking to him and they-

Q: Your phone is kinda cutting out.

A: Oh.

Q: Sorry.

A: I'm in the garage. Here, let me go outside a minute.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: Yeah, he, uh...yeah, he said he was gonna take everybody down. I think I was talkin' to him when he shot, when he got shot too.

Q: Oh, really?

A: But it didn't sound like he hung up, it just went dead. Uh, ya know-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -it didn't, ya know—'cause he called me twice. The first time he told me to take care of Peggy, ya know, this and that, and then, uh, I tried callin' him back, and it—he wouldn't answer. Then I tried callin' his house a couple times, he didn't answer, it was busy actually. And then, uh, finally he called me back, and that's when it happened.

Q: So what happened-

A: [Inaudible].

Q: -after you heard the first shot fired? Did, w-, he said something then like...

A: Yeah, he said I went to- hey, I went to my neighbor's, just blew her fuckin' head off he told me.

Q: Okay.

A: And I, I says Ron, you're cr- don't, no, don't do that, ya know, d- no. He says, he says I'm, I'm [Inaudible] he says I can't take it. I'm, I can't take it no more. And I go, Ron—he says I killed my mother, I killed my son, I killed my brother. I go what the hell, no you didn't, I said what do you mean you killed 'em. Well it's all my fault, I said the hell it is Ron.

Q: Yep.

A: Quit actin' crazy. And, uh, and sure enough, [Inaudible]. I, I couldn't believe it.

Q: So-

A: Still can't, my wife still, she's on medication, she's shook.

Q: Mm.

A: Her and the one, her and the two daughters, just—that's all they do is cry all day just about.

Q: Oh.

A: Yeah, it just-

Q: It's terrible.

A: I know. It's just unreal.

Q: Um, w-, uh, s-so the two phone calls you had, did he hang up on you both times? Or-

A: The first, the first time he did, but I don't, I don't know. I think that's when they shot him, the second time.

Q: Mm.

A: 'Cause I did—he must'a hung up because I didn't hear nothin' after that.

Q: Yeah.

A: 'Cause I, ya know. I didn't hear. It went dead like he did hang up, but-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -but, but then I look at the time, and then they—I, I got that recording too when the, when the cops are surroundin' him and stuff ya know.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: It's on police clips or somethin'.

Q: Oh, sure.

A: And at the same time, that is the same time I was talkin' to him.

Q: Hm. Mm-kay.

A: Yeah, so.

Q: Alright.

A: Yeah.

Q: Um-

A: And I don't know-

Q: What's that?

A: -[Inaudible]. He's always been a little, a little crazy, I guess, ya know.

Q: Yeah.

A: Not crazy stuff-

Q: Right.

A: -but—I was in the service with him. We were in the Marine Corps together. That's how I met my wife.

Q: Oh, wow.

A: 'Cause we took leave together, me and Ron.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: And I met her, well it was deer huntin' season too, 'cause I was gonna spend half it down here with his family, and we were gonna go up north where I lived and go deer huntin' and stuff.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: But they had a uncle die that same day, so I says ah, I'll just hop on the Greyhound and then he came up later with his deer rifle and we went deer huntin' and stuff.

Q: Hm. So you have known him a long time?

A: We still lived—yas.

Q: Yeah.

A: Yes. Forty somethin' years, yeah.

Q: Wow.

A: Then I sure and the heck don't—I can't believe Fred did that either, the young brother.

Q: Yeah.

A: I can't believe that. I, I—that's funny, and somebody said the gun was layin' on his chest when they found him.

Q: Mm.

A: [Inaudible].

Q: Yeah, I don't know about that.

A: Somebody said, I don't know who it was that said, said that.

Q: Oh, the, the, Fred d- Fred do ya mean?

A: Yeah, Fred.

Q: Yeah, I don't, I don't know about that.

A: I, I can't believe he would do that to himself, but-

Q: Yeah.

A: -I don't know, he must'a—he had a drinkin' problem, he went to treatment.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: Right before we moved to Willmar here.

Q: Hm.

A: Ya know what's odd, when we went to visit him one day, then he seemed doin' good and stuff. And then even after he got out he was workin' every day. Ron would—they'd go out for breakfast every Sunday I think.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: And, uh, Ron would say oh yeah, he's doin' good, he's doin' good, you know, and then, it's find out he was started drinkin' again. So called girlfriend of his, ex, he left his, uh, life insurance or he got two life insurance policies in her name and stuff, and she, boy, she's gonna have a good ol' time.

Q: Oh, boy.

A: She ain't havin' no funeral or nothin' for him.

Q: Really?

A: Yeah. She says ya know this and that, and oh boy. Anyway, uh, I think we're gonna have a little somethin' for the both of 'em in January.

Q: Oh, okay. Sure.

A: In Maple Grove, a little celebration of life or whatever.

Q: Oh, that's nice. Yeah.

A: And then, uh, his, Ron's wife, now she's another one, a cold one. He, uh, I'm gettin' him cremated, and I'm puttin' him on a shelf and that's where he's stayin', that's where he wants to be, and I ain't havin' no fu- I ain't havin' no funeral, I'm not puttin' his name in obituary, I ain't doin' nothin'. Just a cold-

Q: Oh, no.

A: -[Inaudible].

Q: That's not good.

A: Yeah.

Q: Mm.

A: And my wife tried callin' her couple times to see how she's doin', ya know.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: She won't answer.

Q: Hm.

A: She said that she did go there before Ron, Ron's deal.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: And was talking to Ron and Nellie, you know.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: And, uh, [Inaudible], dang it. Uh, or maybe it was—it must'a been after. It was after Ron. That's what it was. It was after Ron's death and she went and, and Nellie had told Peggy that Ron was kinda pissed off at her.

Q: Mm.

A: And we don't know why.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: 'Cause she—so we live way in Willmar, and ya know, and we always were tight, but I don't know, somethin'-

Q: Hm.

A: -somethin' that went on when Fred's deal I guess.

Q: Sure.

A: I don't know, but Peggy says I didn't do nothin'.

Q: Hm.

A: And here his girlfriend and her kids are there takin' all Fred's stuff, and s- ya know, and this and that, and who are they, ya know.

Q: Were they married?

A: No. They were just friends.

Q: Oh, okay. Hm.

A: Yeah.

Q: Wow.

A: So, yeah, I don't know.

Q: Hm.

A: About all I know.

Q: Okay, well yeah, I just called to talk to ya about the call ya had with him.

A: [Inaudible-talk over].

Q: 'Cause I don't think anybody ever called ya yet, so.

A: No, nobody did.

Q: Yep.

A: No.

Q: Okay.

A: No, no.

Q: Well very good, I'll-

A: You can also, maybe you can call my wife too, maybe she can 'member somethin' that I forgot or whatever.

Q: Well I think I talked to her the night of the incident, I think I called her.

A: Oh.

Q: Yeah, 'member?

A: Okie-doke.

Q: I think you were there too-

A: Okay.

Q: -in the background probably or I think I remember.

A: Yeah.

Q: Yeah.

A: I probably was, okay.

Q: Yep.

A: Alright.

Q: Okay. Well thanks much, I appreciate it.

A: Mm-kay, thank you.

Q: Alright, take care.

A: Yep. Have a good day.

Q: You too.

A: Bye.

Q: Bye.