

Date:
03-25-98

Citation No. Reference No.

Reporting Deputy
MICHELLE SHELHAMER

Case No.
98011295

NO#5810

DANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Supplement Report

DEATH INVESTIGATION (KUNZ)

SUBJECT INTERVIEWED:

BRIAN J. JACKSON
MALE/WHITE
DOB [REDACTED]

Home Address:

[REDACTED]
Sauk City, Wisconsin

Home Telephone Number:

[REDACTED]

Occupation:

Teacher

Employer:

St. Michael's Catholic School/Church

INITIAL INFORMATION:

On March 25, 1998 at approximately 4:45 PM, Investigator Merle Ziegler and I, we interviewed Brian Jackson at the Dane County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Building. This interview was conducted in an interview room of the 2nd floor of the PSB.

INTERVIEWED BRIAN J. JACKSON:

Investigator Merle Ziegler asked Brian Jackson if he drove to the Public Safety Building. Brian Jackson stated that Father Fiore dropped him off and intended to run errands and pick Brian back up at approximately 6:00 PM. Investigator Ziegler conducted the majority of the interview, while I took notes. Brian was asked what he knew of Father Kunz' death. He replied, "Probably not much." He stated he has heard people talking in the Village of Dane and in other places, but feels that most of it is just hear say. He states that he is currently living with Father Fiore and it's just the two of them in Father Fiore's residence. Investigator Ziegler asked Brian Jackson how well he knew Father Fiore. Jackson states he was just starting to get to know Father Fiore, prior to Father Kunz' death. Brian states he first met Father Fiore and Father Kunz at Magdeline College when they came out to visit. He states that he met both priests at separate times.

Jackson was asked if he knew Father Kunz well. He stated "kind of". He states in the beginning of 1998, he first knew Father Fiore and met Father Kunz prior to that period. He states he recalls seeing both priests at Magdeline College in 1997. Brian Jackson went onto explain that he likes to live with Father Fiore and they are "holding each other up" during this investigation. He was asked if Father Fiore practiced at any parish and Brian Jackson stated not to his knowledge. He states Father Fiore has an altar in his home and performs Mass in his residence. Brian Jackson states Father Fiore does not usually attend other parishes as far as he knew. Brian states he tries to attend St. Michael's Catholic Church for Mass when he can.

Date: Citation No. Reference No.

03-25-98

Reporting Deputy
MICHELLE SHELHAMER

Case No.
98011295

Investigator Ziegler asked Brian Jackson if Father Fiore had a maid. Jackson states no, Father Fiore and he do all of the housework together, however Father Fiore tends to do most of the cooking. Jackson states he is not very good at preparing meals. He states they also go out to eat on occasion.

He was asked if they talk much about case and Brian stated, "No they do not talk about it" He went on to explain, he does not really know anything and has not developed his own theories on gossip and hearsay around town. He states Father Fiore does not talk to him much about Father Kunz' death.

Jackson was asked if he felt if anyone else was in danger. He stated the thought was in the back of his mind and thought that maybe somebody else could possibly be in danger. According to Brian, Father Fiore has not told him he fears for his life and Brian states he has not asked him about this. According to Brian, he does not recall Father Fiore or any other priests hiring bodyguards or any other protection to watch over them while this investigation is ongoing.

Jackson was asked what he thought may have happened pertaining to Father Kunz' death. He stated he was trying to put his life back together and put this out of his mind. He states that the only thing he could possibly think of was Father Kunz' death was possibly a hate crime. We asked Brian Jackson what other buildings on the property he had access to. Jackson states that he has been in the white house rectory and also in the business office to use the copier. He told Investigator Ziegler he did not remember any checks or cash laying around the office.

He was asked what vehicles Father Kunz was known to work on for individuals. Brian states Father Kunz had worked on his vehicle due to a gasket problem he was having. Brian estimated this to be Monday night but then stated that he really could not recall and felt he was "screwed up on the dates". Investigator Ziegler attempted to narrow down the date with Brian Jackson, however Brian Jackson could not recall if it was Monday or Tuesday evening, March 2nd and March 3rd, 1998. He was asked what other church activities he participates in and he stated, "The church choir." When asked who else was in the church choir with him, he could not come up with names and stated he is "terrible with recalling names". He did recall there are approximately ten choir members and they usually practiced on Tuesday evenings. When asked if he had attended choir practice on Tuesday, March 3rd, 1998, he stated Heather Goedjen would know better than him. He stated she is the director of the choir. We asked Brian Jackson if he could recall where he was on Tuesday, March 3rd, 1998. Brian stated he thought it was either Monday or Tuesday, approximately 6:30 PM. These dates would have been March 2nd and March 3rd, 1998. He stated choir practice usually lasts an hour, however dates have been changed around in the past and cannot remember if they actually practiced on a regular day that week. He then stated that things are so crazy right now, he just has problems keeping track of where he was on certain dates. Brian was not successful in ever recalling what date the choir practice was the week of March 1st, 1998. 3/2

He was asked what other church activities he participates in besides church choir. He stated he taught a religion class to his kids on the usual school days and heard of a Saturday adult religion class, however had not attended.

He was asked if Father Kunz asked for his assistance in counting money or bookkeeping. He stated no he was never asked to perform any of these tasks, nor was he asked to put together church bulletins. When asked if there were a roster of members for St. Michael's Church, he stated "I do not know". We asked Brian who Father Kunz relied on to perform these duties for him. Brian stated Father Kunz was a "super man" and did all these tasks himself.

Investigator Ziegler asked Brian Jackson where he was currently living. He stated that he is currently living with Father Fiore. He was asked where he had lived prior to that and he stated in Sauk. He was asked if Father Kunz had found his apartment for him and he stated yes. When asked who owned the

Date:
03-25-98

Citation No. Reference No.

Reporting Deputy
MICHELLE SHELHAMER

Case No.
98011295

building, the name of the building, or his landlord's name, he stated that he could not recall any of this information. He was asked if he had a say where he lived and he stated he felt comfortable with Father Kunz determining that for him. When asked how his rent was paid, he stated I don't know. When asked if heat was included in his rent, he again stated that he did not know. We asked how he paid his phone and electric bills and he stated Father Kunz paid these for him. He states he showed the bills to Father Kunz and Father Kunz gave him cash for the bills. We asked what denomination of bills Father Kunz usually used and he stated twenties.

Brian Jackson was asked how he bought food and he stated Father Kunz would help him with purchasing items. He stated Father Kunz also heated up soup for him and gave it to him. He stated he occasionally took Brian to Sam's Club and bought him items. When asked if Father Kunz had ever taken him grocery shopping and stocked his cupboards, he stated no. He stated if he needed help with buying items, Father Kunz usually gave him cash. Brian Jackson stated that he was not given a salary for teaching at St. Michael's Catholic Church. He stated all of this was volunteered by him to Father Kunz and St. Michael's Church and School. He states to purchase gas for his vehicle Father Kunz also helped him out with this and gave him money to buy gas.

When asked how often Father Kunz gave him money and how much money he had received from Father Kunz, Brian Jackson could not recall. He could not be specific as to how much cash Father Kunz usually gave him and seemed to not want to discuss this topic further. He qualified his past statements by stating whenever Father Kunz was able to help him out, he would do so. He stated we had to know Father Kunz to understand what kind of man he was. We explained to Brian Jackson that was our purpose of our interview and in order to properly investigate this that we needed to know as much about Father Kunz as possible. He was asked what he would do to purchase new shoes and other clothing. He stated that he has had no need to purchase new clothes or shoes due to the fact that he had brought many from his home in Ontario. We asked if Father Kunz had ever offered him a wage and he stated that nothing was ever said like that to him by Father Kunz. We asked how long he intended to volunteer at St. Michael's Catholic Church and he stated a year or two. When asked what he would do after teaching at St. Michael's Catholic School, he stated he did not know and was still trying to figure it all out.

Jackson was asked where he originated from and he stated Kingston, Ontario, near Toronto. He stated the last time he was home was at Christmas time in 1997. He says his parents paid for him to come home. He stated that he hadn't seen them for quiet some time and have called them frequently. He states his parents are scared for him and he has spent much time on the phone with his mother discussing the death of Father Kunz. We asked Brian Jackson how he has been holding out financially. He stated people in the congregation have offered him money, however he has not yet taken any money. We asked if Father Fiore gave him money and he stated no. He states Father Fiore cooks him meals and lets him stay with him rent-free. We asked how he was purchasing gas for his car and he stated that his car is currently in the shop. He states Father Fiore drives him to and from school and takes him places when he needs to go. We asked how he was eating at school and he states he makes a sandwich at school during lunch time. He states these items are kept in the school.

Brian was asked what Father Kunz' relationship was a Magdeline College. Brian states Father Kunz did know people in Magdeline College, however did not know how their relationships were. We asked Brian who [REDACTED] was. Brian Jackson knew [REDACTED] was the Vice President of Magdeline College. He states Father Kunz directed [REDACTED] to Magdeline College and [REDACTED] also went to Magdeline College. When asked if anyone else in Dane had gone to Magdeline College that he could recall, he stated no. When asked if any of the [REDACTED] family or [REDACTED] family had ever gone to Magdeline College, he stated he did not know. When asked if any of the [REDACTED] children had gone to Magdeline College, he again stated he did not know. Brian Jackson could not recall if Father helped individuals out with the tuition at Magdeline College. We asked if Brian Jackson knew how much it cost to go to Magdeline College and he stated he did not know, his parents took care of that. Brian estimated approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000 per year, but he couldn't remember what that included. When asked if he felt if this was quite cheap for a one

Date:
03-25-98

Citation No.

Reference No.

Reporting Deputy
MICHELLE SHELHAMER

Case No.
98011295

year tuition at college, possibly including room and board, he stated that we could call his parents to find that out. He went onto explain that Magdeline College does a service to the Catholic Church. We asked if teachers at Magdeline College were volunteers like he was at St. Michael's. Brian Jackson laughed and stated he did not think so. When asked who runs Magdeline College, he stated [REDACTED] (ph). We asked if there were religion classes at Magdeline College and he stated yes. He stated it is basically a liberal arts education, however the Roman Catholic Church runs it and there is daily Mass.

Brian was asked if he ever discussed his beliefs with Father Kunz or vice-versa. Brian states he does not recall ever discussing these with Father Kunz or Father Kunz ever seeking him out to discuss his beliefs with Brian. When asked if he attends Mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church, he stated yes. He stated he sometimes attends the 10:00 AM Latin Mass on Sundays. When asked if he took Latin, he stated yes he has. We asked where he had taken Latin and he stated he was home-schooled, however the Latin instruction did not rub off on him and he still had to use the book during Mass which explained what Father Kunz was talking about. When asked who taught him, he stated "my mommy taught me".

We asked how Brian Jackson did in college and he stated he did not know. We asked what was his grade point average and he stated he did not know. We asked if he went to Mass at Magdeline College which was performed in Latin and he stated no. He stated however while being home-schooled by his mother, she had arranged for a Latin Mass to be performed in their church once a week. According to Brian, a priest came in special and performed the Mass in Latin. He stated at that time, he served Mass, so he knew it pretty well. He states he is an altar boy, however adults can serve Mass as well. He asked if adults serving Mass were called altar boys also and he stated that he thought so. We asked if women ever served Mass at St. Michael's, and he stated no. We asked what it would take for a woman to serve Mass. He stated she needed to be a man. We asked what Father's views were on this and he stated according to old church law, women were not allowed to serve Mass and current catholic churches occasionally let women serve mass on a need-be basis.

Brian was asked what Father's views were on abortion. Brian stated Father was definitely against it because he is a Catholic. We asked if he ever tried to change the minds of parishioners and Brian stated he did not know. We asked Brian what his thoughts were on abortion and he stated it's taking of another life and he feels Father Kunz' beliefs are good beliefs.

We asked what Father Kunz' views were on homosexuality. Brian stated it's immoral and he agrees with Father Kunz on this. We asked what else is controversial in the church and Brian Jackson stated he did not know, he just knows Father Kunz was a good Roman Catholic. We asked if he ever discussed problem areas in the church, such as homosexual priests or children raped by priests. Brian Jackson states no. We asked if Father Kunz ever talked to Brian on a personal level and he stated yes. He states Father Kunz had occasional talked to Brian about his childhood. Father Kunz apparently talked to Brian concerning his family and games he had played when he was young. We asked where they were when Father Kunz had talked about this with Brian and he thought it had once occurred while driving a truck and taking furniture to Father Kunz' apartment. We asked if he ever saw Father Kunz drink beer, and he stated no. We asked if Father Kunz was ever seen intoxicated, and he stated no. He was asked if Father drank, and he stated yes but not beer. We asked if Father Kunz had ever offered him a drink and he stated no.

Brian Jackson was asked if he ever recalled Father drinking in public and he stated yes, once at a birthday party. He stated he thought Father Kunz had a beer but then recanted his story and said that he could not recall if it was a birthday party or not. He stated that he could not specifically recall where he had seen Father Kunz drinking in public or what he was drinking.

We asked if Father Kunz had ever invited Brian Jackson into his apartment and he stated no, Father Kunz never did that. We asked how he felt about Father Kunz' apartment and he stated did not know what we meant. He was asked if he knew where Father Kunz slept and Brian stated in the common area of the room. He states the only time he has seen the inside of Father Kunz' apartment was the day of March 4,

Date: Citation No. Reference No. Reporting Deputy Case No.
03-25-98 MICHELLE SHELHAMER 98011295

1998, when Father Kunz' body was discovered by him. We asked if he recalled seeing a bed and he stated he cannot say. We asked if there was a bathroom in the apartment and he stated he also cannot really say. We asked if there was a kitchen and he stated yes, he saw a kitchen when he walked into the apartment.

We asked if Father Kunz ever mentioned people he was having problems with and Brian stated no. Brian also could not recall any thefts at the church, school or white rectory house.

We asked Brian Jackson if he has dated anyone since he has come to Dane, Wisconsin and he stated no. We asked why not and he stated he tends to go out with groups of people like the CALL group. We asked if he liked girls and he stated that yes he does and that he is not a homosexual. When asked if Father Kunz ever came onto him and he stated no, Father Kunz had not. We asked if any other priests had come onto him and he stated no, they had not. We asked him if anyone had come onto him prior to or since the murder and he stated no.

We asked Brian to tell us about Ms. O'Leary. Brian states he does not know too much and asked what we would like to know. We asked if Father was in charge of St. Michael's Catholic Church and School and Brian stated yes. We asked if the church was operated different now that Ms. O'Leary is in charge and he stated no, that they were trying to keep things as much the same as they can. We asked specifically how the Catholic Church and School are run now that Father Kunz is gone and he stated the main difference is Father Kunz not being around, however they were trying to operate the school as before. We asked if anyone has helped them out with things since the death of Father Kunz and he states yes, that people have donated books. We asked if Brian Jackson agreed with Ms. O'Leary running the school and he stated, yes she is a good principal.

We asked Brian Jackson if he recalled Father Kunz calling out the altar boys on Monday, March 2nd, 1998, and taking them out of class. Brian Jackson states that he does not recall this. We asked if he recalled hearing Father Kunz talking to the altar boys on March 2nd, 1998 about the altar and where things were located for Mass. Brian started to laugh inappropriately and stated he really did not know. We asked why he was laughing and he stated the altar was a special place and you weren't allowed back there unless it was for a reason. He stated he has really never taken the opportunity to look up on the walls behind the altar and see if that is where the things were located that altar boys needed to serve Mass.

We asked what Brian's thoughts were on Dane County Sheriff's Office Personnel coming up to school to speak to the altar boys. Brian Jackson stated it depends. He stated he would hope we would contact their parents and have them present. We asked why parents should be present and he stated, well if you are going to ask questions about abuse, I think it is necessary. He then stated you had to know Father Kunz, "he was a great man". We asked if Father Kunz had ever mentally punished the children of the school or the altar boys and he asked what we meant by this. We asked if the children were ever verbally reprimanded and possibly emotionally hurt by Father Kunz. He stated he does not think so and seemed uncomfortable with this question. We asked if he thought it was necessary to ask these questions of the children and he stated, all he knew was if he was a parent, he would want to be present if we were to questions his child concerning the death of a priest.

We asked Brian Jackson if he had any idea when they would be returning to St. Michael's Catholic School and he stated he did not really know. We asked if they had discussed what is going to happen at St. Michael's Catholic School since Father Kunz' death and he stated that they have had meetings. He stated that they only talk about school and not about money.

We asked if St. Michael's Catholic Church was going to fold or disband due to lack of money. He stated no. We asked if he had ever heard of Father Kunz wanting to leave St. Michael's Catholic Church and he stated no.

Date: 03-25-98 Citation No. Reference No. Reporting Deputy MICHELLE SHELHAMER Case No. 98011295

We asked Brian Jackson up to this date, if he has heard of anything pertaining to the investigation of Father Kunz' death. He stated no. We asked if Father Kunz wore a neck scapular (ph). He stated yes, and he had a metal scapular (ph) with precious metal on it, which had an oval shape to it. He stated he did not know what this metal was of. We asked if he could recall any other characteristics of Father Kunz. He stated when Father Kunz walked around, you could hear his keys in his pocket, jingling. He said sometimes he would hold onto them and cup them so they did not make noise.

Investigator Ziegler asked Jackson how the door was when he found it on the morning of March 4, 1998. Investigator Ziegler was referring Father Kunz' apartment door. Brian Jackson got up and showed Investigator Ziegler how the door was cracked open using the door to the interview room. Investigator Ziegler estimated the door to be 4 to 5 inches open upon having Jackson demonstrate this for him with the interview door. He was asked he had to push open the door, and he stated, yeah, he did but he wasn't thinking straight. We asked if he was scared that somebody may have been in the apartment and he stated he really does not know what he was thinking at that moment.

We asked if Father Fiore had given him any insight or theories as to what happened to Father Kunz and Brian Jackson stated no. We asked why Father Fiore had taken him into his residence, and he stated because they are friends and the death of Father Kunz brought them closer together. We asked if Father Fiore had any family in the area and Brian Jackson did not know. We asked if he had a business on the side and Brian Jackson stated he did not know Father Fiore's business.

At this point, Brian Jackson observed a large binder Investigator Ziegler was holding from this investigation. Brian asked Investigator Ziegler "are we going to go through the whole book". We stated that we only wanted to clarify some issues with him and possibly gain insight as to what Father Kunz was like. Brian Jackson asked if he was going to get his stuff back. He was told once everything was processed, he would be getting his property back. Brian Jackson was referring to his bag and other items in the bag that were taken due to Brian finding Father Kunz' body on March 4, 1998, and these items thus becoming part of the crime scene. We asked if Brian Jackson had to lock or unlock the door to the school upon entering on the morning of March 4, 1998. Brian Jackson stated he had to unlock the school door upon entering the school. We asked if the lights were usually on in the hallway, and he stated yes, he thought they were. We asked what he did with his items, once discovering Father Kunz' body and he stated he set them down away from Father Kunz so not to get blood on them.

We asked Brian Jackson who he thought we should talk to in reference to this death investigation. Brian stated that he really did not know. He stated obviously someone is out there that knows what happened and only this person knows why Father Kunz is dead. We asked again who he thought we should talk to. He stated he has no idea, approximately 500 to 600 people came to Father Kunz' funeral so he obviously knew a lot of people. We asked if he went to Father Kunz' funeral and he stated yes. We asked if Brian Jackson felt if there was a direction we should be headed in this investigation. Jackson stated he thought Father Kunz' death was a hate crime and the weapon possibly used was a knife. We asked if Brian Jackson felt that the person had tried to show Father Kunz by cutting his throat and he stated yeah. We asked Brian Jackson what kind of vehicles Father Kunz owned. He stated he is terrible with car styles and their names. We asked if he had been near the red car and he stated he did not know. We asked how many cars Father Kunz had and he stated that he was not sure. We asked how many guns Father Kunz had and he stated he did not know. We asked if he knew Father Kunz went hunting and he stated yes. We asked how he knew and he stated that Father Kunz told him he did. We asked if Father Kunz ever gave him any venison or meat from his hunts and he stated Father Kunz had planned to but never did.

We asked if Brian Jackson knew who Father Kunz' best friend was. Brian Jackson stated Jesus Christ. We asked if there was somebody else that we could talk to that was a friend of Father Kunz. He stated probably any of the priests in the area. We asked Brian if he remembers the day of Father Kunz' wake at St. John's Catholic Church. He stated yes he does and recalls sitting with Attorney Peter Kelley (ph). He states Peter Kelley is a friend of Father Kunz and had never met he before. We asked who said Mass that

Date: 03-25-98

Citation No.

Reference No.

Reporting Deputy

MICHELLE SHELHAMER

Case No.

98011295

day and he said Father Niesen (ph). We asked Brian Jackson who the biggest kids were in his classroom and he stated [REDACTED]. He stated [REDACTED] is a little taller than he is. We asked Brian Jackson where he sat in the funeral. He stated somewhere in the first three pews. He stated that he really did not know where he was. Investigator Ziegler then made reference to an individual giving the Dane County Sheriff's Office information that Brian Jackson was laughing during Father Kunz' wake. At this point, Brian Jackson became very upset and stated, "I want to go, this is nuts, very nuts." "I was trying to hold it in and not show the kids that I was crying." Brian Jackson went onto explain he was trying to throughout the church service to forgive the man that may have done this. He stated that he was concentrating so hard on the Lord's Prayer and trying to forgive this person as God would want him to do. He stated that this was so hard to do when you don't know what the death was all about. He went onto state, it may have looked like he was laughing because he was cupping his hand over his mouth in attempt to not make any sounds and possibly have his school kids see him crying. Brian Jackson was noticeably upset at being asked this and could not believe somebody would give this information to the Dane County Sheriff's Office. He went on to say, who was he to not forgive anybody, and then agreed it could have possibly looked like that to another person, however this was not what was going on.

Investigator Ziegler gave a brief explanation to Brian Jackson stating needed input was required for the Dane County Sheriff's Office to investigate this crime and solve the murder. We asked Brian to please be aware of any rumors or information he may be exposed to regarding the death of Father Kunz. Brian was told he needs to then notify the Dane County Sheriff's Office if he feels any of this information could help us in our investigation. Brian stated he understood this and stated he then needed to leave because of the time. This interview was terminated at approximately 6:00 PM, March 25, 1998, due to Brian arranging for Father Fiore to pick him up at the Public Safety Building at that time.

END OF REPORT

Deputy: MICHELLE SHELHAMER

DCSO

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03-27-98

I.D. #: 13782