

Testimony of Jennifer Roberts in Misskelley trial Feb 1994

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY CROW

Q: Would you state your name, ma'am?

A: Jennifer Roberts.

Q: And how old are you?

The Court: You'll have to speak up and speak into the microphone please.

A: I'm sorry, sir.

Q: How old are you?

A: I'm sixteen.

Q: Do you go to school?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: What school are you in?

A: Marion High School.

Q: What grade are you in?

A: Tenth.

Q: How long have you known Jessie Misskelley?

A: A year and a month.

Q: Where do you live?

A: Highland Trailer Park.

Q: Where's that map? This is State's Exhibit 105B. Circled in red is Highland Trailer Park. Do you recognize the way the streets are laying out? Those are the two entrances there?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Where on that map do you live?

A: (barely audible) These are entrances? On Linden Avenue.

Q: Can you tell from where the streets intersect and center where you live on there?

A: Uh huh.

Q: Now I'm gonna ask you to turn around to this big map over here. (witness steps down to map)
There's another-this has Highland Trailer Park but it's not quite correct. Can you roughly show
the jury where you live?

A: Right in here.

Q: Kinda where that green X already is?

A: No, on this side.

Q: On the other side? Ok. Thank you ma'am.
(witness retakes the stand)
How long have you lived in Highland Trailer Park?

A: A year and about two months.

Q: During that time have you become aware of any cult type activity?

A: No, sir.

Q: To your knowledge, is anyone you know involved in any kind of cult?

A: No, sir.

Q: I'm going to ask you to think back to May 5th. Did you see Jessie Misskelly that day?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: When?

A: I was at Johnny Hamilton's house about 4:00 or 4:30 and Sissy and him walked up.

Q: You're talking about Susie, his girlfriend?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And you were at who's house?

A: Johnny Hamilton's.

Q: Where's that? In the trailer park?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: In relation to Jessie's house where is that?

A: Right behind Jessie's house.

Q: Who all was at the trailer when they walked up?

A: Johnny Hamilton, Kristy Jones-Moss and I.

Q: You think that was about when?

A: About 4:00, 4:30.

Q: Did you - what happened next? Who left? Did you leave?

A: I left.

Q: By yourself?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: When was the next time you saw Jessie Misskelly that day?

A: I seen him and Kristy sitting on his front porch later that afternoon.

Q: Do you know what time that was?

A: No, sir.

Q: Did you see Jessie Misskelly any more that day?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Do you know when?

A: Yes, sir. He and Roger Jones my cousin, came to my house after they got back from Dyess wrestling.

Q: Do you think you know what time that was?

A: About eleven.

Q: Do you know how long Jessie stayed at the house?

A: About an hour.

Q: When did he leave, do you know?

A: A couple minutes before twelve.

Q: Is that couple minutes before twelve an important time, why would he leave a couple minutes before twelve?

A: Because my mother was supposed to be home at twelve.

Q: He liked to leave before your mother got home?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Why do you remember this being May 5th?

A: Someone had come and told me that - about the incident with Cody being pulled off a bicycle.

Q: Are you sure it was Cody?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: It wasn't some other child?

A: No, sir.

Q: You're positive about that?

A: I'm certain-I'm positive.

Q: Nothing else for this witness.

[u] CROSS EXAMINATION BY DAVIS [/u]

Q: What's the little yellow ribbon on your blouse there?

A: It show's support for Jessie Misskelly and to bring him home.

Q: And you're strongly behind that movement, correct?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And you've been a close friend of Jessie Misskelly since you moved into the trailer park, is that correct?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And that's-are you also a friend of his girlfriend, Susie Brewer?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And what about Stephanie Dollar? Do you spend some time at her house and trailer?

A: No, sir. Not at her trailer. We see each other at Shelby's house.

Q: Have you ever discussed this case with her?

A: We discussed the boys being killed, and after Jessie was arrested she told me about the news, what was in the media, while I was gone.

Q: Have you discussed with her where Jessie was on May 5th?

A: No sir.

Q: You never discussed with Stephanie Dollar anything about his whereabouts on May 5th?

A: We might have.

Q: Did you or didn't you?

A: We could have, I'm not for sure.

Q: You don't remember anything specifically about what you and Stephanie would have discussed about his whereabouts on May 5th?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: You do remember some specifics?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: How was it that that conversation came up?

A: Somebody said something about Jessie.

Q: Did she come to you or did you go to her?

A: We just happened to be at the same place at the same time.

Q: Now, you indicated that you-when was the last time that afternoon you saw Jessie?

A: About eleven.

Q: That night?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And when-it's your testimony that he left, did you see him when he left before he came to your house that night?

A: Could you repeat the question?

Q: You indicated he was on the front porch with Susie Brewer?

A: No, with Kristy Moss-Jones.

Q: With Kristy Jones?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Ok, is this a female?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And he was on the front porch and he was sitting up there with her sometime between 4 and 4:30?

A: No, sir. After 4:30.

Q: Between what time?

A: I don't know.

Q: Was it daylight or dark?

A: It was daylight.

Q: Was it before 6:00?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: So sometime before 6:00 on May 5th, it's your testimony under oath that you saw Jessie sitting with a Kristie Jones, is that right?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And that's Kristie Jones-was Susie Brewer there?

A: Not that I can remember.

Q: And how long did you observe the defendant sitting up there with Kristie Jones?

A: Long enough to walk by.

Q: Do you know how long he was there? Who's trailer was it at?

A: His.

Q: So he was at his trailer sometime before 6:00?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And he was sitting on the front porch, or on the front of the trailer with Kristie Jones?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Now, did you observe him later that same afternoon before dark there in the trailer park?

A: No, sir.

Q: So you didn't see him anymore at that point, correct?

A: Not up til 12:00, I mean 11:00.

Q: Now, how is Roger Jones related to you?

A: He's my double cousin.

Q: Does he live with you?

A: He did.

Q: Did he back in May of 1993?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: So y'all were living at the same house?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Did he at that time frequently go to this wrestling ring down in Dyess?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Went more than once per week, correct?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: In fact he'd been going a number of times per week for at least a month prior to this incident, correct?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And they continued to go at least 2 or 3 times a week after this incident, correct?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And to your knowledge had Jessie been with him on other occasions and gone to this wrestling ring at other times?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: So there was nothing unusual about him being gone, with your double cousin to Dyess to a wrestling ring?

A: No sir.

Q: So that had happened on a number of occasions on other dates, other than May 5th, right?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And how is it that you're absolutely certain it was May 5th?

A: Because he had mentioned before that he was going then, and then I spoke to someone and she had -

Q: Ok, let me stop you right there. You say you're certain it was May 5th because somebody had mentioned they were going wrestling ?

A: Because Jessie mentioned he was going wrestling.

Q: Jessie had been wrestling a bunch of times before that and went a bunch of times after that, correct?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: So the fact that Jessie mentioned he was going wrestling, that wouldn't pinpoint May the 5th as the date, correct? You would agree with that.

A: But he did.

Q: So the fact that he was going wrestling does not in any way pin point it was May 5th. He did that on other times.

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Now the other thing was you said somebody said something to you.

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Did they say something to you so that you would recall that it was May 5th that Jessie was going wrestling?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And who was it that said something to you?

A: Vickie Hutcheson.

Q: And who is Vickie Hutcheson?

A: At that time, a friend.

Q: And had you also talked with Jessie Misskelly, Sr. about this?

A: No sir.

Q: Did you ever discuss with Jessie Misskelly Sr. the whereabouts of Jessie Jr. on May 5th?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And so you did have conversations with him, is that right?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And did he indicate to you in those conversations that it was important to place Jessie somewhere other than at the scene of these murders on the date of May 5th?

A: No, sir.

Q: He never mentioned that to you, that it was important to have him at a location-

A: He told me to tell the truth, and that's what I'm doing.

Q: Now who else did you discuss it with?

A: A bunch of people.

Q: So Jessie had been wrestling with Roger Jones on a bunch of occasions before and after this incident?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And you say on some night Roger Jones comes back and Jessie's with him-

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Is that right, about eleven o'clock?

A: May 5th.

Q: How is it you are absolutely certain it's May 5th?

A: Cause I remember. I know the day.

Q: What happened on May 4th?

A: Nothing.

Q: What happened on May 6th?

A: I was told about the boys missing.

Q: Any other events that day?

A: Jessie was at my house.

Q: Remember what happened on May 3rd? Do you remember what -

TAPE TURNED OVER

Q: -day that they would go?

A: Well at times they'd go on other days. It's mostly Wednesdays.

Q: And is that another way that you remember it was May the 5th-

A: Yes, sir.

Q: -because it's usually Wednesdays? And you're absolutely certain it was that May 5th, Wed., and not April 27th?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And that's based on what? Why is it you know it's May 5th?

Stidham: Your Honor, she's answered that at about five times since I've been in the room.

The Court: Go ahead, it's cross examination.

A: That he had mentioned it to me, and Ms. Hucheson had told me about Connie being slapped and that it was on a Wednesday.

Q: Did you observe Connie getting slapped?

A: No, Cody, did I say Connie? I'm sorry.

Q: Did you observe that?

A: No sir.

Q: Ok, so you're not saying you saw Jessie after 4:30 there at the trailer park.

A: I saw him and Kristie sitting on the porch, and it was after 4:30.

Q: That'd've been before 6:00.

A: Right.

Q: Did you witness any incident out there that drew your attention to that particular time?

A: No sir.

Q: And after you saw him on the porch you didn't see him later that evening up until sometime say around 11, 11:30?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: So you don't know - if you do have the right date, you don't know what he did during that time period of your own personal knowledge.

A: I do, and he told me that he was at Dyess-

Q: I'm asking if you know of your own personal knowledge, if you do have the right date, you don't know where he was or what he did between 4:30- between when you saw him on the front porch and the time you say on that evening that you saw him later?

A: No.

Q: Pass the witness, Your Honor.

A: No further questions, Your Honor.

The Court: All right, you may stand down.