

JIM BOUTWELL INTERVIEW

Brad: How did you get involved with Henry?

J.B.: That story itself is just a little bit involved but it would go back to about nineteen seventy eight or seventy nine when we started having a few bodies dumped on Interstate thirty five in our county. I say a few. I'm talking about maybe two or three. That was unusual and we didn't have any... we couldn't get anywhere with the investigation. There just were no leads. One of them...a girl who is still unidentified that was dumped there October thirty first, seventy nine.

Brad: This would be the "Orange Socks" case?

J.B.: Yea, that's all she was wearing was orange socks. We've never identified her. Then there were a couple of others that were connected. One here and one near Waco (TX). Anyway, I started to get curious...we weren't getting anywhere. We didn't have any leads. I prevailed on a friend down at the headquarters of the Texas Department of Public Safety to let us put on a seminar...a workshop...and we did. It was called "the Interstate 35 Homicide Workshop" and we limited it to (Interstate) thirty five. If we had been smarter we would have covered some other major highways to but at that time that was my main interest. We discovered there were some, as I recall, some twenty two unsolved homicides along Interstate 35 here in the state of Texas from border to border so we meet and compared notes. I was thinking that there may be some common thread that would link some of these. We really didn't come up with much but at least we became aware of what was going on. Different jurisdictions started working a little closer together. Okay, in June of eighty...well, prior to June of Eighty Three the Sheriff Conway of Montague County, Texas was down here on a case. He and I had lunch and got to talking shop and I told him about our homicides and about our conference and where we were still frustrated by not getting very far. Anyway, in June of Eighty Three he called me at home one Saturday and I think that was about June Twenty Second of Eighty Three. He said "Jim, I got an old boy up here you might want to talk to." I said "What do you have?"

and he said "Well, he's killed two people up here and he's claiming he's killed over a hundred more." So, that's how Henry Lucas and I got acquainted. I went on up there Monday. The following Monday.

Brad: What do you think about Henry's allegations that he was cold celled and severely mistreated in Montague?

J.B.: Oh, that's mostly a bunch of bull. The cells up there were cool. That's pretty hot country in the summertime but they weren't freezing cold (laughs). He was isolated for his own safety and the safety of some of the other prisoners. After I brought him down to our jail, quite some time later, he insisted on a single cell.

Brad: For his own protection?

J.B.: No. He told me that he might wind up killing somebody else and he didn't need anymore trouble.

Brad: What was...

J.B.: I don't think he was unduly deprived of anything up in Montague. At that time he was somewhat suicidal also.

Brad: When they had him in Montague?

J.B.: Yea. We considered him so for a little while down here. He had attempted to take his life a couple of times in Montague so he was deprived of some things just to keep him from hanging himself and all. He was kept under pretty close observation.

Brad: I understand that before Henry was arrested for "Orange Socks" that there was another suspect.

J.B.: That is absolutely incorrect. That has come up since then. Long since then.

*This is a lie. Brad*

Brad: I was told it was a driver for a business called "Oak Farm Dairys."

J.B.: Yea. That came up sometime later but he was never connected to this. His records were checked with the trucking company and everything. That was just someone for some unknown reason tried to jump in on the thing and complicate it. That was looked into but there was never any corroboration or anything else.

Brad: Henry has stated that "Orange Socks" was changed to a capital case because he would not keep confessing.

J.B.: No. No. That's absolutely incorrect. The District Attorney decided to fill it as capital murder.

Brad: It was originally filed as capital murder?

J.B.: No. It was originally filed as murder and within weeks upgraded to capital murder and that was early. That happened back in the summer of eighty three and that was about the time Henry was confessing and he keep confessing for nearly a year and a half.

Brad: Does the medical examiners report show sexual contact with that victim?

J.B.: Well, she...yes...By that I don't understand exactly...

*This is a lie.  
Brad*

Brad: Correct me if I'm wrong but on a capital murder case you have to be committing one crime within another. Correct?

J.B.: That is correct. It also showed sex after death.

*This is a lie.  
Brad*

Brad: Would you know exactly how that determination came about? I know she was wearing the homemade tampon.

J.B.: Right. That was found right close to where she was drug out of a vehicle but it was a...I don't recall the medical term for it but the vagina remains enlarged. Where normally it does not.

*This is a lie.  
Brad*

Brad: Do you know if there where any sperm samples taken?

J.B.: Henry does not ejaculate.

Brad: Is this a problem stemming from when he was stabbed in prison?

J.B.: I think it was because of an attempted suicide that he had when he was in prison there for killing his mother.

Brad: How many people would you estimate Henry has killed?

J.B.: Of course I don't really know. I don't think anybody else does. I don't think Henry knows but I would say over a hundred and possibly as many as two hundred. This business that got out into the press that he claimed to have killed six hundred, he has never made that claim.

Brad: It seems like the media just took everything and ran with it.

J.B.: Yea, that's true and then when he recanted his confessions they did the same thing. He said he killed three thirty one or three thirty six or some figure like that. Never did claim six hundred.

Brad: I believe during the "Orange Socks" case that Ottis Toole was spoken to and that his confession didn't correspond at all to Henry's confession.

J.B.: Yea, it did pretty well. It actually did pretty well. Henry didn't indicate for a long time that Ottis was even along. Later on he did and of course Ottis did. I'll never forget Ottis's term he used when they unloaded her from the car and dropped her in the culvert. He said she was limper than a sack of potatoes. Ottis also claimed to have choked her there in the car and Henry claimed to have choked her. The defense attorney chose not to put Ottis on the stand.

*This is a lie  
Brad*

Brad: Do you know why this was?

J.B.: No sir I really don't. I just don't think they wanted him as a defense witness.

Brad: I thank you very much for talking to me.

J.B.: All right sir. Goodbye.

Brad: Goodbye.

Interview 2-Sheriff Jim Boutwell-April 15, 1992

Brad: Do you remember Lucas telling the court that he wanted to commit legal suicide?

J.B.: Yes, I remember him saying that at one time.

Brad: Do you know what he meant by that?

J.B.: Yea, I think I do. He had...You know he had got caught and he gave up initially on two cases that happened. One in Denton County and one in Montague County. That was the Kate Rich case and the Becky Powell case. At that time that's when he started admitting all these other murders. Lucas...When he killed becky he broke his pattern and she...In my opinion and I really did get to know him pretty well...In my opinion, when he killed her something went out of him and he had to hang around there. In fact, he told me, whether it was true or not, that he used to go back to that site and talk to her. Her body was in pieces and he had made an attempt to bury some of them in the ground and such and couldn't bury all of her. He said he would go back there occasionally and talk to her. He kept hanging around up there and it wound up getting him caught because he broke his pattern but I feel like, and understand this is only an opinion, that he killed the only person in the world that he gave a damn about. I think he thought "What the hell. I'm going to give it up. I don't have anything else to live for." He had made a couple of half hearted suicide attempts there in Montague County Jail.

Brad: How did he try to commit suicide there?

J.B.: One time I think he tried to cut his wrist with a broken light bulb and I don't recall the other.

Brad: What was he deprived of because of these attempts?

J.B.: Up there he was, I think, deprived of, for awhile, of the majority of his clothing so he couldn't hang himself. He was given a heavy blanket to cover with. They keep that jail pretty cold. It gets hotter than hell in Montague in the summertime. The whole jail was cold as I recall when I was up there. It wasn't just his cell. A heavy blanket is rather difficult for someone to commit suicide with unless they can rip it in strips.

(CONTD)

Brad: Lucas mentioned in his confession that he was denied a lawyer. Do you know if he had access to one?

J.B.: I'm sure that he did. Hell, I know that he did. He had a lawyer come in the day I talked to him.

Brad: Do you know how long that was after he had been put in the jail?

J.B.: No sir I don't but I really feel like I can assure you that the people that were handling Henry, in particular Ranger Phil Ryan, is professional and they would have had to...of course he was told in his Miranda warnings, repeatedly, that he could have a lawyer appointed and I'm sure a...of course he was arraigned before a magistrate shortly after his arrest and would have been given the same warnings and then as soon as he was taken to the district judge I'm certain a lawyer would have been appointed. There was not much time in there between the time of his arrest and of a lawyer being appointed. Now sometimes there is a period of time between the lawyer being appointed and the lawyer actually coming to see the inmate. Up there I can't tell you what that time period might have been. It may have been within hours or it may have been days. That's something law enforcement has no control over.

Brad: Did Lucas really confess to killing Jimmy Hoffa and to transporting the poison to Jonestown?

J.B.: Oh yea. He told...Well, I had never heard this about killing Jimmy Hoffa. He may have told somebody that. He did tell them that he transported the poison to Jonestown. He told some media people that in my presence and of course he had kind of a twinkle in his eye and looked around to me when he said that.

Brad: Was Lucas kept on any kind of medication during the confessions?

J.B.: Yes. He was medicated, at his request I might add, because he could not sleep at night. Had a hell of a time sleeping at night. Again he was suicidal. He was given Thorazine which was prescribed by a physician. It was not heavy dosages but it a fairly potent tranquilizer. He didn't walk with what you call a Thorazine Shuffle like you see in mental hospitals.

(CONTD)

Brad: That is an anti-psychotic drug isn't it?

J.B.: Yes. All of that, of course, came out at his trial in great detail. Was considered by the lawyers, the jury. His attorneys knew he was on it. At least I speak of the time he was with us here. There was never any attempt to get him drugged just to get him to confess. That would be total bullshit and there was expert medical testimony to that effect.

Brad: Is there any truth to Lucas's claim that law enforcement threw him a large party when he confessed to killing an officer in West Virginia?

J.B.: No sir. That is absolutely incorrect. That is an absolute falsehood.

Brad: How was Lucas handled in Georgetown? Was he treated differently after he started confessing?

J.B.: He was in an isolation cell. This again was at his request. That was done because he said if he was put in a cell with other people he might kill somebody and he didn't want to do that again. Hell, we took him at his word. He was checked frequently by jailers. He was given some special food but this was brought in by sister clemmie. She brought him some special meals quite often. Occasionally he would request a strawberry soda and that would be brought to him. Not a strawberry soda but a strawberry milkshake. It has been said that every time he gave a confession one of those was given to him as a reward and that's more bullshit.

Brad: Lucas has made the claim that at times was allowed to roam free of restraints and unsupervised?

J.B.: Absolutely incorrect. We couldn't take that chance at all. There were occasions in the jail between his cell and the task force interview office. Rare occasions when he was taken without handcuffs but he was under guard. He was never allowed out unsupervised. I'll tell you, during the roughly eighteen months that I had him here I would wake up at night, more than once, in a cold sweat dreaming that Lucas was escaping. That was something that I could not stand to have happen and I'm sure you can't realize how that weighed on me. He was never unsupervised. Even when he was in his cell locked up he was checked every fifteen to thirty minutes.

(CONTD)

Brad: How do you see the discrepancy between Lucas's Colorcoat work records and the charges against him?

J.B.: Yes sir he was. In our initial investigation of the case we ran into that quite early and he and Ottis Toole were both working there. Working together and living together and it looked like initially that there was no way he could have done our murder and I sent one of our investigators, my chief investigator, and a Texas Ranger to Florida to see if there was anything to it. They talked to employees, one of which later testified in the trial that he was falsifying records...I mean that the foreman... I can't think of his name right now. Mike something or other. That the foreman was falsifying records and getting a payoff off for it. They were working at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station on a big contract to re-roof airplane hangers and things and hell, that foreman was doing that, I think, on a regular basis because he could show somebody there when they weren't and it was money in his pocket. By the way the foreman was a convicted forger and so on and so forth. He was an exconvict. He didn't have any credibility.

Brad: Can you explain why the Attorney General's report finds the Colorcoat records to be true?

J.B.: No sir. That Attorney General's report is flawed from start to finish in many respects. One thing for example, they would say that Lucas could not have been in a certain spot at a certain time when someone was killed because records would show that maybe he was selling blood in Jacksonville that day. Well, what they did not pick up on or at least ignored was the fact that frequently they would use a date that a body was discovered rather than the date of the actual murder and alot of those were skeletal remains when they were found so you could have a day or days or even weeks discrepancy. Months in some cases.

Brad: Another statement made by the report is that their findings show that Lucas could not have killed "orange Socks".

J.B.: All of that was brought out in court at the trial and the defense had access to all that. They had access to all of our information. They made trips to Florida and it was a...The Attorney General's

(CONTD)

report is quite a flawed work. I think the whole thing was politically motivated to start with. That's my personal opinion but I will always stick with it.

Brad: Politically motivated by whom?

J.B.: By the AG (Attorney General) and the District Attorney in Waco.

Brad: How did Lucas lead you to crime scenes?

J.B.: In various ways. First of all I think you should realize that... Hell, I'm gonna give you a little monologue here. If your taping this this is fine. Lucas was questioned on...I don't recall now if it was two thousand or five thousand cases and I'm going to give you a name that could tell you exactly. That's Captain Bob Prince of the Texas Rangers. Bob is still maintaining the files on all that. Bob was with me as a member of the task force. (B.P.'s phone number) If you call Captain Prince and tell him I said to call him. He can tell you. Lucas was questioned by officers on either two thousand or five thousand cases I don't remember which now. He was questioned by alot of officers about that many cases. Now he only took, out of all the cases he was questioned on, he only took two hundred and something of them. If he had been of mind to he could have taken a thousand, I guess. He turned down a majority of the cases but another thing the Attorney General tended to ignore, and it happened repeatedly, is that Lucas would spontaneously tell us about cases. Things we didn't even know about and when he would come down in the morning a member of the task force would have to call that jurisdiction and in many cases they would find out that there was a murder of that type. It was committed in such and such a way. Sometimes they had to check their records to be able to remember it. So, this bullshit of him being feed information continuously was wrong because a large number of those confessions were spontaneous on his part. He was never asked about them by anybody.

Brad: So he freely gave the information?

J.B.: He freely gave the information.

Brad: Was there ever a blood or semen sample taken from Lucas?

(CONTD)

J.B.: Blood, yes.

Brad: In what cases, if you know, did blood samples, semen samples or fingerprints put Lucas at the scene?

J.B.: Uh, yes. There was, seems like there was a case in Brownwood, Texas and there were others but I don't recall. There was a fingerprint or a palmprint in Louisiana.

Brad: Louisiana?

J.B.: Yea. I can't recall exactly where now and would you believe that damn thing got lost in the D.A.'s office.

Brad: The Palmprint.

J.B.: The print did, yea. The latent that was picked up. It got lost before the trial. That's what I'm told.

Brad: So we're all told.

J.B.: Yea.

Brad: Do you know anything about the Debra Sue Williamson case?

J.B.: It rings a bell but you may have to refresh my memory on it.

Brad: She was Bob and Joyce Lemons's daughter.

J.B.: I heard quite a little about it but I have no personal knowledge about it.

Brad: Have you had any dealings with the Lemons's?

J.B.: No. I never have.

Brad; The reason I am asking is because Bob Lemons has made statements regarding Bob Prince...

J.B.: Yea, I know that but a...I know Bob Prince very well and this isn't just a case of one officer taking up for another. Bob is a very credible person. I don't know anything about the Lemon's credibility.

Brad: What do you know about Vic Feazell's investigation of the cases?

J.B.: He got very involved along with Maddox. I personally feel, again, that it was a political thing. Maddox wanted to run for Governor and I had heard but hadn't confirmed, it was rumored, that Feazell wanted to take Maddox's place.

(CONTD)

J.B.: Wanted to make a big statewide name for himself and take his place as Attorney General but I don't know that.

Brad: He had stated that information disappeared from the NCIC Computer after he brought some discrepancies to law enforcements attention?

J.B.: We never did...I would like to state this and I'm speaking for the task force now and myself. We were not set up as an investigative agency. The task force wasn't. We were just simply set up to make Lucas available to other officers and including those from Waco. So, whoever the investigating officers were in Waco are the ones who can tell you more about that than myself.

Brad: Do you know anything about his claim that the FBI tried to tamper with his witness? His witness being Lucas.

J.B.: Yea. It wasn't a tampering matter but shortly after Lucas was transferred to Waco Lucas sent word to me, through sister clemmie by the way, that he felt like he was being badly treated up there. He didn't have a lawyer. These are facts now. This has been checked out. He did not have a lawyer. He was not getting proper medical attention and he was really being leaned on. When I heard that I kind of hit the ceiling and I called a conference with a group of people and we decided to call in the U.S. Attorney because we had very carefully observed all of Lucas's civil rights here. We had heard what was going on up there and about to go on and I felt like what was good for us oughta be good for them up there. The DA in Waco. We called in the U.S. Attorney and they in turn called in the F.B.I. to investigate that. That's how that happened. The F.B.I. did not tamper. They were called in by the U.S. Attorney.

Brad: What do you think about Feazell's allegations of malfeasance by law enforcement?

J.B.: I think, by and large, their bullshit. If you will excuse the expression. I know how Lucas was handled in the majority of cases. I did not sit in on all the interviews. I had a sheriff's department to run. I sat in on some of them. I've heard time and time again when Bob Prince or occasionally myself in Prince's absence or one of the other rangers assigned to the task force would tell the officers how to handle Lucas.

(CONTD)

J.B.: They were always told don't believe everything he says but don't call him a liar to his face.

Brad: He might clam up on you?

J.B.: He would. Only believe what you can confirm.

Brad: Well, I am confirming all my information.

J.B.: In other words, I can't say that there weren't some officers that just wanted to close out an old case but I do know from personal knowledge that a lot of those cases were legit as could be and I would say the majority of them were.

Brad: Detective Charles Fagen of Lake County, IL. has said that he felt the Rangers requested him to give too much information to Lucas during questioning.

J.B.: I don't know anything about that. You had to give him some information. You do in your daily questioning of whatever suspect you have. They have to know where you're from and where you're looking at a case. You can't just say "Hey, I want to talk to you about a murder that happened in such and such in Illinois in nineteen-sixty-five." and then not give him something to go on.

Brad: Why do you think Hugh Aynesworth claimed Lucas was innocent?

J.B.: Money. Hugh was a... He felt like he had exclusive rights to a book about Henry and Henry was interviewed by several writers while he was in jail. Not just Aynesworth but others. Hugh got into a big shouting match with Sister Clemmie one day down in the jail and I don't think that turned out really well.

Brad: So, you think his motivation was because he was going to be Lucas's biographer?

J.B.: Yea. He was looking to write a book and I don't fault that, Hell, a lot of writers talked to him. Writers, that's the way they make their living.

Brad: He had made the claim that his home was broken into and that his Lucas interview tapes were stolen.

J.B.: I know nothing about that either. I would just find that a little difficult to believe but I can't say that it didn't happen.

(CONTD)

J.B.: It sounds strange to me but it makes a good story but it could have been true. I don't know.

Brad: Do you think that Lucas confessed to murders he did not commit?

J.B.: Oh yes. Yea.

Brad: Why do you feel he would do this?

J.B.: I don't know.

Brad: Some people have stated that he may have done it to get law enforcements approval of him.

J.B.: Well, Yea, that's partly right. Lucas is a...He's kind of like a cockroach. He's gonna find a home wherever he goes and he's street smart. He's con smart. He's a good con man and he's gonna do what he can to take care of Lucas and make thing easy on himself, I suppose. Wherever he is or who ever he's next to. We were aware of that and a we knew...Heck, we would test him on occasion. We would give him a fictitious case and many times he would turn them down but once and awhile he would take one. Again, as I say, we had to tell officers to believe only what you can confirm.

Brad: Did Lucas have any pattern to his killings?

J.B.: Yes. To best of my recollection there were thirteen diffrent cases where the victims were left only with the socks.

*this is bull shit  
Brad*

Brad: Would it be right to say that this was his M.O.?

J.B.: It was not really consistent. This was one of the things that made him so hard to catch. He didn't really have alot of consistency in his M.O. but that was one that did show up out of the two hundred and some odd cases that we feel are probably pretty good. but, I believe, there were thirteen with just the socks. Other than that, their killings, and I say their killings. They weren't all lucas. Some of them were Lucas and Toole together. Some of them were just Toole but some people were strangled, some were knifed, some were terribly mutilated, some shot, some burned. There was no real pattern that ever showed up.

Brad: When interviewing Lucas how did law enforcement insure that they did not feed him to much information?

(CONTD)

J.B.: Well, the majority of them, that I saw in here, were very professional officers. They don't want to close out a case unless their pretty damn sure of it. Again, I did not sit in on all the interviews. The majority of them were videotaped but the officer that did the interviewing kept the videotape and so I can't really tell you but again, it's a common thing during interogation. You have to lead them a little bit so they know where your coming from and I hope you don't take that out of context when you say lead them.

Brad: I won't I assure you.

J.B.: When I interviewed Lucas myself for the first time and I may have told you, I showed him a full...Told him where I was from. Near Austin and he said "Well, I've got some down there." Not necessarily meaning Georgetown. The Austin area and I had to show him a picture of a victim otherwise, hell, where would we have started? I very carefully concealed the fact that the victim had some scratches on her neck. I had my thumb over it.

Brad: This is the "Orange Socks" case?

J.B.: Yea. Then he told me "Well, that was one of mine. She would have been strangled." You know you couldn't tell if she had been stabbed, strangled or shot or what, you know. It was just a full face photo that was it. Within just a short while after that he told me of another case which is the Sandra Dubbs case. Which was an unsolved killing on I-35 just south of Austin or just off I-35 and he told about a woman he had killed down there who had had car trouble and that she had...that she was blonde but she had some dark roots to her hair. Hell, I didn't carry that on at all. When I got back I talked to Travis County officers and let me take just a moment and let me tell you what happened there. They came up here after I got Lucas here and picked him up and he told them a great deal about the Sandra Dubbs case and took them to the place where her body had been found. Her body at that time was very badly decomposed but it was terribly mutilated but that was south of Austin. Okay, we're thirty miles north of Austin. On the way to Austin when he was in the car with these two Travis