



**HALE & MONICO**  
AMERICA'S JUSTICE ATTORNEYS

October 3, 2022

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Mr. James R. Glasgow  
Mr. Chris R. Koch  
Ms. Colleen M. Griffin  
Will County State's Attorney's Office  
57 N. Ottawa Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

Re: The Starved Rock Murders

Dear Jim, Chris & Colleen:

As you recall, Celeste Stack and I first came to your office back in May 2021 to discuss this case with you. Although we possessed substantial evidence of Chester Weger's innocence at that time, we have since developed a tremendous amount of new evidence that not only confirms Chester Weger's innocence, but also points to the real culprits who were involved in these brutal murders.

This letter summarizes the results of our investigation. Since time is of the essence, and Chester Weger is now 83 years old, we would like to schedule a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss this new evidence and to formally request that you vacate Chester Weger's conviction.

**New DNA Evidence Proves Chester Weger Is Innocent**

Among the items of evidence recovered at the crime scene were several hairs found on the left index finger of Frances Murphy's glove. Her left index finger was also found to be missing the tip of the finger and her autopsy report indicated this tip had been removed postmortem. (See Ex. 11). Thus, these were not random hairs that were found on Frances Murphy's left index finger. Nor had the hairs been present prior to the murders, since due to the brutal struggle and beating that took place, and the way the women's bodies were handled and dragged, any hairs that may have been on the glove would have surely been dislodged. Rather, these were hairs left by one of the killers, and these hairs may have been pulled by Mrs. Murphy from her attacker during the violent altercation.

The State clearly found the hairs on the left index finger of Frances Murphy's glove to be significant, and to have been left by one of the killers, as the State had one of these hairs sent to the Washington University Medical School for comparison to hair samples from Chester Weger, Frances Murphy, Mildred Lindquist, and Lillian Oetting. That forensic examination found the hair on Frances Murphy's left index finger glove to be "dissimilar" to Chester Weger's hair, or the hairs of the three women. (See Ex. 2).

As you know, we recently submitted several items of evidence to Bode Technology for DNA testing. Among the items submitted was another one of the hairs found on the left index finger of Frances Murphy's

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glove. Bode Technology was able to obtain a male STR profile and Chester Weger is excluded as a potential contributor of that DNA profile. (See Ex. 1). This DNA result, combined with the prior hair that was found to be dissimilar to Chester Weger, now proves that Chester Weger is not, and cannot be, the killer who left those two hairs on Frances Murphy.

### **Chicago Mafia Member ██████████ Hand-Picked Several Men To Travel To Starved Rock State Park To Kill Frances Murphy, Mildred Lindquist And Lillian Oetting**

A woman named ██████████ recently reached out to us with a stunning revelation. Ms. ██████████ told us that her grandfather, ██████████ who was part of the Chicago mafia, confided in her shortly before he died that the man in prison for the Starved Rock murders was innocent and that he knew this because he had hand-picked the five or six men who went down to Starved Rock State Park and carried out the premeditated execution. (See Exs. 6,7).

Mr. ██████████ told Ms. ██████████ that one of the husbands wanted his wife killed and paid the Chicago mafia to carry out the execution. As part of this plan, all three women had to be killed. Ms. ██████████ was living with her grandfather at the time and was very close with him. She said her grandfather expressed remorse that an innocent man had been locked up all this time for a crime he did not commit.

I met Ms. ██████████ in person and took a court reported statement from her. She is an honest, credible, and compelling witness. She has no motive to fabricate such a story and has nothing to gain by coming forward. In fact, she is concerned for her safety by exposing this long-hidden secret.

We also recently obtained a sworn statement from attorney ██████████ who testified that Ms. ██████████ told him the same story when she worked at his law firm as a legal assistant many years ago, thus refuting any claim of recent fabrication. (See Ex. 30).

### **Local Hoodlum Harold “Smokey” Wrona Assisted The Chicago Mafia In Carrying Out The Killings**

A man named ██████████ reached out to us with another stunning revelation. (See Exs. 8, 9). Mr. ██████████ tells a similar story, i.e., that one of the husbands wanted his wife killed and that the husband hired the Chicago mafia to do the job. As part of that plot all three women had to be killed.

Mr. ██████████ was friends with Harold “Smokey” Wrona (See Ex. 10), who was much older than Mr. ██████████ and who had a long criminal rap sheet in his younger years. One day, prior to his death, Mr. Wrona told Mr. ██████████ how he was contacted by the Chicago mafia to help carry out the plan to kill three women who would be traveling to Starved Rock State Park. Mr. ██████████ also testified that Smokey Wrona told him that he was concerned about how to get rid of the bloody clothes that were in the trunk of a car and that Smokey said he wound up burning the clothes at a burn pit in Bureau County, Illinois.

Mr. Wrona told this information to Mr. ██████████ in confidence, and Mr. ██████████ had kept that information in confidence all these years. Like Ms. ██████████, Mr. ██████████ is credible and sincere and has nothing to gain by coming forward.

### **The Illinois State Police Believed The Chicago Mafia Was Involved In The Murders**

The testimony of ██████████ and ██████████ is consistent with a newspaper article we recently found from March 13, 2000, where Harland Warren states that the Illinois State Police believed the Chicago mafia was involved in the murders. (See Ex. 25).

William Jansen, who was investigating the case for the Illinois State Police during the summer of 1960, also reported that “someone mixed up in the rackets” might be involved in the case. (See Ex. 26).

### **Robert Murphy May Have Had A Powerful Motive To Have His Wife Killed**

Neither Ms. [REDACTED] nor Mr. [REDACTED] were told which husband had ordered the killing of his wife, but Robert Murphy looks like the most likely candidate.

Robert Murphy wound up marrying a woman named Marion Anderson in 1962, two years after the murders. (See Ex. 29). That by itself may be insignificant but what is significant and relevant is that in January 1960, two months prior to the murders, Marion Anderson gave birth to a baby boy. (See Ex. 27). There was no biological father listed on the birth papers. If Robert Murphy was the biological father, and was having an affair with Marion Anderson, it could provide him with a powerful motive.

In fact, Sheriff Ray Eutsy received a letter from a friend in April 1960 specifically asking him “were any of the husbands running around with some other babe who wanted at least one of the wives out of the way and had to kill all of them to get the one?” (See Ex. 28).

### **Frances Murphy Was Targeted**

Frances Murphy seemed to be treated more harshly than her two companions. Her autopsy report states that she was missing a fingertip (postmortem), had bruising to her vagina, and soiled clothing. (See Ex. 31). Law enforcement handwritten notes from March 20, 1960 state that there was no explanation for the missing fingertip. (See Ex. 35). But now, a likely explanation is that the fingertip was taken by the killers as proof that the murder contract had been fulfilled.

The nature of Mrs. Murphy’s injuries and her soiled clothing undoubtedly provided the context for the police to ask Chester the following otherwise outlandish questions during his interview: “Did you take a crap on them?” . . . “Did you piss on them?” . . . “You didn’t shit on any of their clothing?” . . . “Did you kick any of them in the crotch?” (See Ex. 32). [REDACTED] stated that her grandfather told her that this husband was very angry and wanted his wife to pay, which could explain these injuries and this evidence of defecation and urination.

Also, William Jansen, who was investigating the case with the Illinois State Police, reported he believed this was a crime of “vengeance.” (See Ex. 33).

### **The Big Break: Telephone Operator Lois Zelensek Overhears The Palmatier Brothers Talking About the Murders And Bloody Overalls In The Trunk Of A Car**

There is additional compelling evidence of the Chicago mafia being involved in this crime. A week after the murders, a telephone operator named Lois Zelensek overheard two men talking on the phone about the murders and how a “kid” still had bloody overalls in the trunk of a car and was not sure what to do with them. The other party on the call said the kid should get rid of them and burn them. There is a detailed two-page police report from the Illinois State Police regarding an interview of Ms. Zelensek, whom the both the Aurora police and the Illinois State Police found to be credible and sincere. (See Ex. 12).

What Ms. Zelensek reported hearing about the bloody overalls – that the “kid” should burn them – aligns precisely with what [REDACTED] testified to, i.e., that Smokey Wrona had bloody clothes in the trunk of a car, Smokey was unsure what to do with the bloody clothes and wound up burning the bloody clothes.

Importantly, my first conversation with Mr. [REDACTED] on this issue occurred before I had even discovered the Illinois State Police interview of telephone operator Lois Zelensek.

This phone call was subsequently traced and was found to have originated from a pay phone in a tavern in Aurora, Illinois owned by a man named Glen Palmatier and was placed to the house of William Palmatier (Glen's brother) in Peru, Illinois. (See Exs. 13, 14).

This was a huge break in the case.

Yet, an August 31, 1960 newspaper article from the Aurora Beacon News reported that "Although investigators have had the report of the phone conversation since late March, the Palmatier brothers were never questioned before." (See Ex. 13).

Further, a September 1, 1960 newspaper article reported "[Assistant State's Attorney Craig Armstrong] said it was a 'thousand-to-one shot that [Glen Palmatier] had anything to do with the crime, but it's just one of hundreds of things we have to check out.'" (See Ex. 13).

Had law enforcement conducted a proper and thorough investigation of this bombshell evidence, the case would have been solved. But, as discussed herein, that was not what happened.

### **The Palmatier Brothers Falsely Denied The "Bloody Overalls" Phone Call**

The Palmatier brothers did not claim that the telephone operator misunderstood what she reported hearing. Rather, they denied that any conversation took place at all. (See Ex. 13). The Palmatier brothers' denials of the phone call have zero credibility. Again, the phone call was traced to William Palmatier's house.

Ms. Zelensek also reported that the two men, in addition to the part about the murders, were talking about a car transaction and she reported that it sounded like one of the parties was in the car business. (See Ex. 12). As it turns out, William Palmatier owned a car dealership in Peru.

### **Glen Palmatier Had Ties To The Chicago Mafia**

Just last month, we came across some new documents we had never seen before. Among those documents was a transcribed interview with Glen Palmatier that took place on August 30, 1960, four months after Lois Zelensek had first reported the conversation that she overheard (See. Ex. 15).

That interview is significant in several respects. First, it shows that the Illinois State Police were investigating Glen Palmatier, because during the interview the officers talk about conducting surveillance on Mr. Palmatier's tavern, as well as tracing certain phone calls that he had placed.

During this interview, Mr. Palmatier had counsel present and it was clear that he was aware he was going to be questioned about the phone call that Lois Zelensek said she overheard. Glen Palmatier denied making any such call, claiming that the pay phone in his tavern is a public phone and anyone could have placed the call.

The officers also questioned Mr. Palmatier about a man named Lupe "the Chief" Cardenas, who the officers said they would see in the tavern daily talking to Mr. Palmatier. The officers inform Mr. Palmatier that Mr. Cardenas is an ex-convict and known hoodlum. Mr. Palmatier responds, "I am aware of nothing." (See Ex. 15).

We have researched Lupe “the Chief” Cardenas and discovered that he was connected to the Chicago mafia. (See Ex. 16).

In 1968, Mr. Cardenas was sentenced to 15 years in prison for his role in the hijacking of a multimillion-dollar load of silver. (See Ex. 16).

It very well could have been Lupe Cardenas who placed the call to William Palmatier. Ms. Zelensek stated that “the Aurora voice I can’t forget” . . . “It was the voice that gave the impression of an uneducated person. Harsh deep voice, no softness in it at all. Limited vocabulary.” . . . “Gave impression that might be big, burly man.” . . . “Gave impression that he was reporting to the boss.” (See Ex. 12). Even if that were the case, Glen Palmatier would have surely been in the loop on the issue, since the Illinois State Police officers witnessed Mr. Palmatier talking to Mr. Cardenas daily and the call was placed to William Palmatier’s house.

Regardless of who placed the telephone call, we have now established a connection between Glen Palmatier and the Chicago mafia, which aligns with what Ms. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] have reported.

### **Glen Palmatier Knew Robert Murphy**

Another startling revelation is made on August 30, 1960. There is a report from one of the Illinois State Police officers that spoke to Glen Palmatier, prior to Mr. Palmatier’s attorney arriving for the previously mentioned interview. Mr. Palmatier told the officer that he knew Robert Murphy, the husband of Frances Murphy. Mr. Palmatier said he had previously run an appliance store and sold Stewart-Warner refrigerators and that Mr. Murphy was connected with Borg-Warner or Stewart-Warner. (See Ex. 17). It was an odd connection that may or may not be the real truth as to how the two men had met.

In any event, the point is, there is not only a connection between Glen Palmatier and the Chicago mafia, but also a connection between Glen Palmatier and Robert Murphy.

### **Harland Warren’s Apology Letter to William Palmatier**

Among that batch of new documents that we just came across was a remarkable two-page letter from Harland Warren to William Palmatier dated September 2, 1960. In the first paragraph of that letter Mr. Warren states:

“The publicity given your name is connection with the very nebulous and remote possibility that a telephone call was made to your home from the telephone located in your brother’s tavern in Aurora, Illinois, and its possible connection with the ‘Starved Rock murder case,’ is very regrettable.” (See Ex. 23).

Harland Warren further notes in his letter that “I want you to know that the investigation of this telephone call incident was under the jurisdiction of the Illinois State Police, and not my office, or our Sheriff’s Office.” (See Ex. 23).

It is difficult to come up with an innocent explanation for how Harland Warren could characterize what the telephone operator Lois Zelensek reported hearing – and the fact that the call was traced to William Palmatier’s house – as a “very nebulous and remote possibility” of occurring.

### **Around The Time That The Palmatier Brothers Get Implicated, Harland Warren Takes A More Active Role In The Investigation**

As of August 30, 1960, the Illinois State Police now know that Glen Palmatier and his brother William were overheard on the telephone discussing the Starved Rock murders, they were aware of an individual

who had bloody overalls in the trunk of a car, and William told his brother Glen that the person should get rid of the bloody overalls and burn them. The Illinois State police also know that Glen Palmatier has links to both the Chicago mafia and Robert Murphy. This is where things seem to take a suspicious turn. It is right about this time that Harland Warren decides to take a more active role in the investigation and assigns two LaSalle County Sheriff's deputies, William Dummett and Wayne Hess, to work exclusively for him.

For example, in an October 21, 1960 letter from Harland Warren to William Morris of the Illinois State Police, Mr. Warren states, in part:

"It was my conclusion during the month of August 1960, that I should personally make a reinvestigation of the Starved Rock case. My primary reason for doing so was to analyze all of the evidence accumulated to date, and for the further reason that, in view of all the unfortunate publicity which occurred in the past, I would be able to do so with maximum security." (See Ex. 68).

### **Harland Warren Intentionally Misrepresented The Twine Evidence**

Once Harland Warren took a more active role in the investigation, he focused on the twine evidence and falsely claimed that the twine found at the crime scene matched the twine used at the Starved Rock Lodge. Mr. Warren used this false narrative to re-investigate Starved Rock Lodge employees, including Chester Weger. Instead, Mr. Warren should have been using all his resources to thoroughly investigate Glen Palmatier, William Palmatier, Lupe Cardenas, Robert Murphy, and others.

We have written a comprehensive article detailing Mr. Warren's egregious and intentional misrepresentation of the twine evidence titled "The Tale of the Twine." (See Ex. 41).

### **The Polygraph Exam Ruse**

On September 6, 1960, Harland Warren arranges for Glen and William Palmatier to take polygraph exams to be administered by John Reid & Associates, not the Illinois State Police. (See Ex. 18). Bear in mind, these polygraph exams are administered within days of Mr. Warren sending his "apology" letter to William Palmatier on September 2, 1960.

In an October 14, 1960 report, polygraph examiner Stephen Kindig concludes that both Glen and William Palmatier were telling the truth when they denied a phone conversation about bloody overalls and denied knowing who committed the Starved Rock murders. (See Ex. 18). This result is dubious, to say the least.

On November 10, 1960, Lois Zelensek is given a polygraph exam by Stephen Kindig. In a November 29, 1960 report, Mr. Kindig concludes:

"The polygraph charts of this subject indicate that she is not telling the whole truth in this case. There are general indications of deception throughout her charts. However, they are not consistent enough for the examiner to be able to indicate specifically in which areas, in his opinion, she is being truthful. It would appear that these test results could be due either to the subject's fabrication of facts or her not being sure what she actually overheard, and quite possibly, a combination of both of these." (Ex. 19).

This is nonsense. Lois Zelensek was a credible witness who accurately reported what she heard.

These polygraph examinations were given not with the intention of conducting a legitimate investigation but rather with the intention of creating a ruse to "clear" Glen and William Palmatier as suspects in the Starved Rock murders.

### **Telephone Operator Lois Zelensek Was A Credible Witness**

We have obtained sworn statements from [REDACTED] (See Ex. 22), the daughter of Lois Zelensek, and [REDACTED] (See Ex. 21), the neighbor of Lois Zelensek to whom Ms. Zelensek first turned to for advice. Both these women confirm that Lois Zelensek was a woman who was truthful, honest and took her job very seriously. They corroborate what we all know. . . that Lois Zelensek accurately reported what she heard and what she heard was a bombshell. Unfortunately, Lois Zelensek died in 2015. (See Ex. 20).

### **Polygraph Examiner Stephen Kindig Was Friends With Robert Murphy**

In doing some research, we came across a newspaper article from November 18, 1960. We were shocked to learn that polygraph examiner Stephen Kindig was friends with Robert Murphy. (See Ex. 24). A Hollywood screenwriter could not make up a story so scandalous and incestuous. Mr. Kindig's friendship with Robert Murphy, and Mr. Murphy's relationship with Glen Palmatier, renders all these polygraph reports unreliable.

### **Harland Warren Arranges A Secret Polygraph Exam Of Chester Weger**

In September 1960, Harland Warren, without the knowledge of the Illinois State Police, arranged for Chester Weger to take a polygraph exam in Chicago at the offices of John Reid & Associates. (See Ex. 64). Bear in mind, Chester Weger had already passed six polygraph exams administered by the Illinois State Police. (See Ex. 63). John Reid & Associates claimed that Chester failed the exam.

### **Sheriff's Deputy William Dummett Threatens Chester Weger With The Electric Chair**

There was absolutely no evidence linking Chester Weger to the murders. Yet, on the drive back to Chicago, LaSalle County Sheriff's Deputy William Dummett repeatedly threatened Chester Weger with the electric chair if he did not confess.

William Dummett committed perjury at Chester Weger's criminal trial when he denied making these death threats. Mr. Dummett was impeached at trial by ASA Craig Armstrong who was also present in the car with Chester and Dummett when the threats were made. (See Ex. 43).

### **William Dummett Was A Known Dirty Deputy**

LaSalle County Sheriff's Deputy William Dummett had the reputation as a dirty officer, as former prosecutor Tony Racugglia alluded to in his 2010 ICLE presentation on the Starved Rock murders. Deputy Dummett was found to have committed serious misconduct in several cases after the Starved Rock murders. (See Exs. 48, 49, 50).

### **Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Hess Confided In A Friend That Chester Weger Was Innocent**

We recently obtained a sworn statement from [REDACTED] whose father was good friends with LaSalle County Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Hess. Mr. [REDACTED] testified that his father told the family that Wayne Hess had admitted that Chester Weger was innocent but Hess claimed, "there was nothing I could do about it." (See Ex. 46). Mr. [REDACTED] like Ms. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] is a credible and sincere witness with no motive to fabricate a false story.

## **Harland Warren Orders 24/7 Surveillance On Chester Weger**

After Chester Weger refused to confess in September, Harland Warren, during the month of October, ordered the Illinois State Police to conduct a 24/7 surveillance of Chester. (See Ex. 44).

Harland Warren's own handwritten notes explicitly lay out a scheme to "commence psychological warfare" . . . "get man to confess." (See Ex. 45).

The lengths that Harland Warren and his cronies went to inflict coercive stress upon Chester Weger is stunning and outrageous. In a 2010 ICLE presentation, former prosecutor Tony Racugglia stated that he was not surprised that Chester Weger ultimately confessed based on the amount of psychological pressure inflicted upon him by Deputies Dummett and Hess.

## **Chester Weger Is Arrested Without Probable Cause, Interrogated and Threatened, Leading To A False Confession**

On November 16, 1960, Chester Weger was picked up by Deputies William Dummett and Wayne Hess and taken to the Ottawa courthouse for questioning. Chester continued to maintain his innocence. The Sheriff summoned a justice of the peace, Louis Goetsch (who was also a local grocer), to the courthouse who proceeded to prepare complaints against Chester and warrants were issued. As stated by attorney Donna Kelly in a prior filing, "As there was no physical evidence or witnesses placing Chester at the crime scene and since Chester had maintained that he had not committed the murders, it is unclear what exactly the Sheriff told Goetsch to convince the grocer that there was probable cause to charge Chester with the murders. In any event, Goetsch did so and the warrants charging Chester with the murders of the three women issued." (See Ex. 69).

Thereafter, Chester was placed in an incredibly suggestive lineup regarding a robbery that had occurred at Deer Park and a rape that had occurred at Deer Park in 1959. Deputies Dummett and Hess continued to interrogate Chester and Dummett told Chester that if he confessed, he would receive a life sentence but be out of prison within fourteen years but if he refused to confess, he would get the electric chair. (See Ex. 69). As aptly stated by Donna Kelly:

"After having been kept awake by authorities and repeatedly interrogated in September over a twenty-four hour period, after having been tailed by the Illinois State troopers for nearly two months, after having been threatened by LaSalle County Sheriff's Deputy William Dummett that if he did not confess he would receive the electric chair and 'ride a thunderbolt,' after having been served with warrants for murders that he had steadfastly maintained for eight months he had not committed, after having been brought to the courthouse on November 16<sup>th</sup> and interrogated off-and-on for an eight hour period, Chester Weger, shortly before 2 a.m. on November 17, 1960, gave Dummett and Hess a confession." (See Ex. 69 at p. 10).

The alleged confession that Chester gives is nonsensical, and no one could have believed it at the time. Indeed, Tony Racugglia, one of the prosecutors, during an ICLE presentation from 2010 on the Starved Rock murders, readily admitted that he did not believe the details of Chester's alleged confession. Likewise, as you recall, Mr. Glasgow told us at our May 2021 meeting that he did not believe Chester Weger's confession.

As soon as Chester Weger was allowed to see a public defender, Chester recanted his ridiculous tale. Chester's confession contains all the factors typically present in false confession cases. (See Ex. 42).



### **The State Is Worried That Chester Weger's Confession Will Be Barred At Trial**

Based on this false confession and little else, the State proceeded to trial. The State only charged Chester Weger with the murder of Lillian Oetting. The State's reason for doing so is telling. Prosecutor Tony Racugglia admitted that the State elected to do so because the State feared that Chester's confession would be barred as being involuntary. The State wanted to preserve the option to try Chester again, a second time, should the confession be barred, and Chester be acquitted.

### **The State Falsely Claimed That The Log Was The Murder Weapon**

The day after the women's bodies were discovered, Harland Warren claimed, with no foundation or expertise, that he was "fairly positive" that a log found near the crime scene was the "death weapon." (See Ex. 34). However, within days, the State Crime Lab ruled out the log being the murder weapon and stated that the blood on the log did not result from hitting. (See Exs. 35, 36).

In late November, after Chester Weger had allegedly confessed to using the log to kill the three women, Harland Warren and an expert from the United States Department of Agriculture, Forestry Service Division, went into St. Louis Canyon and attempted to match up the log with a tree in the vicinity of the crime scene. (See Ex. 37). They were unable to do so. Thus, Harland Warren confirmed in November that Chester Weger's alleged confession about finding a log and beating the three women with it was false.

The fact that Harland Warren found the log to be foreign to St. Louis Canyon is consistent with the testimony of ██████████ who stated that Smokey Wrona told him that he had found the log near his home and brought the log with him to St. Louis Canyon.

### **The State Presented Bogus Evidence At Trial That Chester Weger Had Scratches On His Face**

At trial, the State elicited certain false circumstantial evidence in an effort to bolster its admittedly weak case. For example, the State called several Lodge employees to testify that they allegedly observed scratches on Chester's face in the days after the murders. The State developed this bogus evidence during October when it was trying to pin the case on Chester. ASA Craig Armstrong's October 12, 1960 interview of Lodge employee Victoria Hobneck is a prime example of how the State badgered employees with repetitive and leading questions in an effort to dig up dirt on Chester. (See Ex. 65).

The most telling evidence on this "scratches" issue is the fact that Chester was interviewed several times by the Illinois State Police in the days and weeks after the murders and the Illinois State Police officers made no mention in their written report of Chester having any scratches on his face or body (See Ex. 62).

Further, law enforcement handwritten notes from March 20, 1960 indicate that Frances Murphy and Lillian Oetting were found wearing gloves, and Mildred Lindquist was found wearing one glove. (See Ex. 35). Thus, it is very unlikely the women could have caused any scratches on their killers' faces.

### **Chester Weger Is Found Guilty But The Jury Refuses To Impose The Death Penalty**

We know what happens. Chester is convicted but, tellingly, is spared the death penalty by the jury and sentenced to life in prison. Clearly, the jury had doubts about Chester Weger's guilt. It is incredible to think that the State even asked the jury to electrocute Chester Weger based on everything the State knew, as discussed herein.

And finally, there is juror Nancy Porter, who was interviewed by the Chicago Tribune in 2016. (See Ex. 66). Ms. Porter stated that she found Chester Weger's confession implausible and stated "I was the holdout. . . I was getting pretty dirty looks so I gave in. I've been sorry ever since."

Ms. Porter also made mention of the fact that a sheriff deputy in charge of the sequestered female jurors broke the rules by sharing incriminating information about Chester Weger's past and other details that were not allowed into evidence at trial. (See Ex. 66). This was serious misconduct which, had it been known, would have resulted in Chester Weger being given a new trial.

### **Harland Warren, William Dummett, Wayne Hess & Stephen Kindig All Share In The Reward Money**

In a fitting conclusion to this colossal injustice, the reward money is doled out to the men who conspired to frame Chester Weger. (See Ex. 51). Harland Warren, the State's Attorney, received the largest share of the reward, over \$11,000. His two henchmen, William Dummett and Wayne Hess, each received over \$5,000. And, Stephen Kindig, the trusty polygraph examiner who claimed Glen and William Palmatier passed their exams, but Lois Zelensek and Chester Weger failed their exams, was also awarded over \$5,000 for his good work on the case. That these men collected reward money is truly astonishing.

### **Dr. Brian Peterson's Expert Opinion Re: The Likely Murder Weapons**

We hired a forensic pathologist, Dr. Brian Peterson, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner, who studied the autopsy reports and the women's injuries. Dr. Peterson concluded that the women had been beaten with a heavy object used with strength. He opined that there were injuries consistent with the use of a baseball bat or similar object, as well as a sledgehammer or similar object. (See Ex. 38). He doubted any injuries were inflicted by a rotted tree limb, binoculars, or camera.

Even back in 1960, the Illinois State Police had other ideas about the murder weapon. William Jansen, who was working with the Illinois State Police during the summer of 1960, concluded that the murder weapon was likely a steel pipe or tire iron. (See Ex. 39). Newspaper articles mentioned that chrome metal had been found on one of the women's shoes. (See Ex. 40).

### **There Is An Abundance Of Other Evidence Inconsistent With Chester Weger's Alleged Confession**

There were so many red flags and pieces of evidence demonstrating that Chester Weger could not have been the Starved Rock killer. For example:

- Chester Weger's buckskin jacket, which he was claimed to be wearing during this brutal bloodbath, during which he allegedly carried the women over his shoulder in a fireman's carry into the shallow cave, only contained "minute" spots of blood, the size of a pinhead. (See Ex. 61). If Chester had committed these murders he and his jacket would have been covered in blood.
- The women, when found, were still wearing their watches and jewelry, which is inconsistent with this being a case of robbery. (See Ex. 59).
- George Spiros reported seeing the women talking to five men next to two cars. (See Ex. 52).

- There was a report that the women ate breakfast on Tuesday and thus could not have been killed on Monday, as stated in Chester Weger's alleged confession. (See Ex. 53).
- Several witnesses who saw the women on Monday said that at least one of the women was wearing slacks. (See Ex. 54). When the women's bodies were discovered, none of the women were wearing slacks, again casting serious doubt on the notion that the women were killed on Monday.
- Newspaper articles reported "indisputable" evidence that the women had been "trailed" into St. Louis Canyon, a fact inconsistent with Chester Weger's alleged confession but consistent with men from the Chicago mafia following the women into the Canyon to kill them. (See Ex. 55).
- Reports indicated the twine around the women's wrists appeared to have been both severed with a sharp knife and sawed and then pulled apart. (See Exs. 35, 56). Again, this evidence was inconsistent with Chester Weger's alleged confession, which makes no mention of Chester having a knife or serrated blade, but consistent with there being multiple offenders present at the crime scene who possessed such items.
- An eyewitness named John Kovalik told police he saw the women talking to man on the side of the road while two or three other men were present in a nearby car. (See Ex. 57). Mr. Kovalik was not called as a witness at trial by the State for obvious reasons.
- A State police bulletin described this man's physical appearance, and it had no resemblance to Chester Weger. (See Ex. 58). The police bulletin also noted that a yellow 2-door Chevrolet Bel Aire automobile was parked in the parking lot a short distance away.
- Robert Murphy told police that his wife Frances was not the aggressive type. This evidence was inconsistent with Chester Weger's alleged confession, which had Mrs. Murphy aggressively attacking him. (Ex. 60).
- The police interviewed a man named Arthur Kennedy who was found to have bloody baseball bats, twine, and a blanket with pine needles in the trunk of his car. (See Ex. 67). This sounds incredibly suspicious, but we have seen no evidence of any further investigation of Mr. Kennedy.
- There were several reports that red orlon fibers were found at the crime scene. (See Exs. 4, 5). Those red orlon fibers had no connection to the clothes that Chester Weger was wearing on the days the women were killed.

In sum, this letter demonstrates that there is overwhelming evidence that Chester Weger is innocent.

The State's case against Chester Weger has been completely dismantled.

DNA evidence proves Chester's innocence, as does the reliable testimony of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that shows the murders were committed by the Chicago mafia, at the request of one of the women's husbands.

That evidence is further corroborated by so much other evidence, including the Illinois State Police report detailing an interview with telephone operator Lois Zelensek, the statements of Glen and William Palmatier,

and the relationship between Robert Murphy, Glen Palmatier and Stephen Kindig, and so much more, as discussed herein.

The level of corruption and coverup is unspeakable.

We would like to meet with you as soon as possible.

We intend to respectfully request that you immediately vacate Chester Weger's conviction.

Justice needs to be promptly served.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Hale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, the name "Andy Hale" is printed in a simple, sans-serif font.