

**ES088F: A Foundation for Medical and Forensic Geology  
Preliminary Information For Final Report (Part 2 of 3)**

**The Xavier Pye-Hurd Case**

**Bulletin #2: prepared July 17, 2006**

**(Preliminary Findings of CSI, London, Ontario Investigation Team)**

**Preliminary Examination of Eberth-DeWitt Property**

At the request of London Police and CSI, London, Ontario, Investigation Team, Bancroft Police visited Mr. Eberth and Ms. DeWitt at their home (13 Friday Street, Bancroft, Ontario) to do a preliminary search of their property for any evidence indicating their possible involvement in the X. Pye-Hurd murder. Although obviously stunned by the arrival of police at their door, Ms. DeWitt and Mr. Eberth were agreeable in allowing police to make a cursory “walk through” of their residence. DeWitt expressed strong disbelief about her husband’s murder, but was not willing to comment further on her feelings on the matter. She told police to continue their questioning on Mr. Eberth as she was “a bit broken up” about the matter.

A background check on Mr. Eberth had revealed two previous arrests for forced entry and assault, both in 2004. When asked about these incidents, told the officers that he was in “a bad headspace” during that time and that he was now trying his best to reform himself. He told police that he was “making an honest living as a masonry finisher and was making “a bit of money here and there, selling rock from local quarries.” He explained further that he had recently been putting in long hours in his workshed, cutting some stone he was intending to sell at the upcoming Annual Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree in early August. He also complained that his neighbour, Ivan Oswald Clewe had been harassing him about the noise from his rock saw and was threatening to “put an axe to it” the previous week. When asked about how he reacted to the neighbour’s complaints, Mr. Eberth responded, “I thought I would give the cutting a rest this past couple weeks. I really didn’t want the old guy to be mad at me.”

**Interview With Mr. Ivan Oswald Clewe**

After interrogating Ms. DeWitt and Mr. Eberth, police questioned their neighbour Ivan O. Clewe (15 Friday Street), a retired auto mechanic, about “any unusual activity at the Eberth residence” that he had witnessed over the past month. Mr. Clewe was eager to point out that the couple were “a bit odd and a little rough” but otherwise good neighbours. He commented that, just before Canada Day weekend, Eberth asked him to roll back the mileage on the odometer of his van because he wanted to sell it soon. He said “I rolled it from 77,000 km to 40,000 km. I know I shouldn’t have done it, but I really needed the fifty bucks.” Clewe added that he had never seen Clewe and DeWitt use the van as much as they did in the first week of the month (July). He stated “I never saw him use the van before then. Come to think of it, I haven’t seen him use it for the past week either – it’s just been sitting there in the driveway.”

When asked about his recollection of events since June 30, Clewe provided some very interesting details. The following is a transcribed excerpt of Clewe’s comments

from a tape recording made by police:

**Clewe:** *I heard the van leave at about on early Saturday morning – 6:00 am maybe, I think I heard them return late the next evening just as I was falling asleep. About 11:30 pm in think.*

**Officer D.O. Nutt:** *Did you notice anything else that might be considered unusual ?”*

**Clewe:** *Yeah, now you mention it, I saw a big brown car in the driveway behind the van. Must have come in that night too. Didn’t hear it though- must have fallen asleep by then.”*

**Officer N. Coffi:** *How long was the car there ? It obviously isn’t here now.*

**Clewe:** *Two or three days maybe – can’t remember for sure. No more than that though. Didn’t bother asking what was up with the car - I figured maybe they were taking care of it for a relative or something. Wasn’t really my business anyway.”*

**Officer D.O. Nutt:** *So the car left maybe Tuesday ? Wednesday ?*

**Clewe:** *Yeah, something like that. Wednesday I think. After supper sometime.*

**Officer N. Coffi:** *And the van ?*

**Clewe:** *Well, I know it left with the car. Saw them dragging a tarp into the car trunk. I asked them what they were doing, and Eberth told me that he killed a big porcupine that got into his shed and was just going to dump it somewhere in the country. Actually, Ditzzi left in the car and Eberth was in the van I think. As I said they’re kinda strange. I didn’t think anything of it after that.*

**Officer N. Coffi:** *And when did they come back ?*

**Clewe:** *Well, I saw both Ditzzi and Eberth getting out of the van at about 10:00 am on Thursday morning. I asked them what happened to the car. Eberth told me that Ditzzi had to give it back to her mom. Quadeville I think she said. She said they had just come back from her mom’s the morning I saw them roll up.*

**Officer D.O. Nutt:** *On another subject, Eberth said you were ticked off about the noise from his shed sometime early in the month?*

**Clewe:** *Yeah it was pretty noisy with all that sawing – and rock no less. But what was really starting to make me nervous was that this fox started coming by – hanging around his shed. They can carry rabies, you know. It would always walk across my lawn on the way to Eberth’s yard. I told him that I wanted to take an axe to that shed – it was driving my dog nuts.*

**Officer N. Coffi:** *And then what?*

**Clewe:** *Well the fox hasn’t come back since Eberth finally got rid of that porcupine carcass. No wonder that fox was coming around. It obviously didn’t bother Eberth to have a dead porcupine festering away in there – but then again, he hasn’t been working in there for a while.*

### **Examination of Suspect’s Vehicle**

After interviewing Mr. Clewe, the officers examined Eberth’s vehicle. Contents of the back of the van were consistent with Mr. Eberth’s claim of working in construction; two pails, a portable cement mixer, several pairs of work gloves and a roll of duct tape. A small patch of blood, approximately 40 cm in diameter was noted near the back doors of the van. On the floor was noted some greyish-white rock dust. In the process of

examining the contents of the van, Officer D.O. Nutt accidentally stepped on a plastic bottle on the floor of the vehicle. Officer N. Coffi mentioned that some of the contents of the bottle spilled on the dust-covered floor of the van and seemed to fizz slightly. The label on the bottle revealed its contents as PROSOCO, Inc. Sure Clean ® Custom Masonry Cleaner. Not wanting to disturb the van's contents any further, Officer N. Coffi exited the back of the van.

Under the brake pedal in front of the driver's seat of the van, N. Coffi found grayish-white mineral grains similar to those noted in the back of the van intermixed with sand-sized grains of a blue-colored material.

### **Comments on Progress of Case, and Suggestions for Further Study**

Police have requested that the Eberth property be secured for detailed forensic examination. Investigators are currently in the process of collecting samples of various materials from the interior Eberth's house, vehicle and backyard shed. It has been requested that any additional evidence collected from the Eberth property be brought to the attention of our team immediately. Our investigators continue to inspect the Pye-Hurd residence and have notified us that the victim's car has yielded some additional evidence that may be significant to our investigation. Details will be described in the next bulletin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I Ree Tihir". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

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