

POSTMORTEM REPORT

Decedent: Jennifer M. Hill, 353 Hastings St., South Williamsport, Pa.  
Age: 12 Sex: Female Race: White  
Date of Death: On or about 10/19/73  
Pronounced dead on 10/28/73 by Earl R. Miller, M.D., Coroner, Lycoming Co., Pa.  
Identification of body: By the decedent's father, Jack E. Hill, 353 Hastings St., South Williamsport, Pa.  
Authorization for autopsy: By Earl R. Miller, M.D., Coroner, Lycoming Co., Pa.  
Autopsy performed by: Robert L. Catherman, M.D., Forensic Pathologist, 1115 Lindsay Lane, Rydal, Pa. 19046  
Date and time of autopsy: 10/29/73, 5:50 P.M.  
Place of autopsy: The Williamsport Hospital, Williamsport, Pa.

PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES:

00054

1. Manual strangulation:
  - a. Contusions and abrasions of the skin of the front, the postero left lateral and the posterior aspects of the neck.
  - b. Soft tissue contusions of the strap muscles and larynx.
  - c. Diffuse petechiae of the epiglottis and skin of the face and palpebra and bulbar conjunctivae.
2. Early slight postmortem decomposition of body.
3. Postmortem insect anthropophagia skin of the trunk and limbs.
4. Superficial abrasions of right side of face, ? scratch marks.
5. Postmortem changes of the skin of the back, buttocks, and legs and the left hand and forearm.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Manual strangulation

MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide

COMMENTS: The findings at autopsy reveal that the decedent died from manual strangulation. Evidence of injury or presence of semen in the mouth, vagina, or anus-rectum is not present. The vaginal introitus is virginal. Postmortem changes and some insect anthropophagia are noted on the skin of the trunk and limbs. Based on the autopsy findings and a review of the circumstances surrounding the decedent's disappearance and the circumstances of the location and discovery of the decedent's body, there is nothing inconsistent with the decedent's death occurring on or about 10/19/73.

*(305) "Fixed"  
Jennifer Hill  
Coroner of Lycoming Co.  
Advised day of death  
11/11/73 - if stated a boy  
stated he had some food  
in his stomach when he was  
found on 10/24/73  
His name is 241*



EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

This well-developed, well-nourished, and slightly obese, 12 years old, white female measures 5'1" and weighs approximately 120 to 125 pounds. She is first examined partially clad.

*After 9 days of death?*

CLOTHING: Over the upper portion of the body is a gold with white striped jersey containing the white numeral 33. No clothing is worn over the lower portion of the trunk and upper legs. A pair of light blue, soft, cotton denim dungarees is rolled downward at the ankles and is worn over a pair of multi-colored white with blue and green design panties. On the ankles and feet are a pair of sweat socks and a pair of below-ankle-high, black and white, well worn tennis shoes. A white, cloth-type belt is worn about the top of the dungarees.

On the ring finger of the right hand is a gold-colored ring with a round red stone. On the ring finger of the left hand is a wrap-around ring of silver-colored metal. The jersey worn over the upper portion of the body is angled obliquely upward toward the decedent's left shoulder. The white cotton bra worn on the body is elevated above the top of the left breast but covers the right breast in the usual fashion. The bra is fastened normally in the back of the body.

Slight green discoloration is at the umbilicus and in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen. The tips of the thumb and fingers of the right hand show desiccation and mummification. The skin on the hypothenar eminence of the left hand, the wrist, and the exposed surface of the forearm below the jersey which is just below the elbow, shows moisture-water maceration effect. Still clinging to the skin is a fairly large quantity of moist dirt.

BODY: The scalp hair is brown, moderately long, mostly straight. The irides are blue. The globes are soft and sunken. The pupils are round, equal, and in mid dilatation. White-blue or blue-gray eye liner is on the upper eye lids just above the eye lashes. The ears are not remarkable. Just beneath the nostrils and in the right corner of the mouth, along the right side of the mouth where moist brown watery to mucoid fluid is draining, are clumps of fly eggs. From hatched fly eggs small maggots up to 2.5 mm. in maximum length are in the mouth and the nostrils. Natural dentition anteriorly is in fair repair. The upper right canine and left canine teeth are missing. The gingival margins are not remarkable. Through a pierced right ear lobe and a clasp of gold-colored metal is a round thin ring of red painted metal. The left ear lobe is pierced but contains no earring. The neck is supple. The chest is expanded. The developing breasts are free of masses or other abnormalities. The slightly rounded, obese abdomen contains no palpable organs or masses. Axillary hair is not visible. A small amount of pubic hair is developing. The extremities are symmetrical. The volar surfaces of the wrists are unremarkable. The nails on the right ring and little fingers are quite short, somewhat irregular, dry along with the other desiccation that is present, but consistent with having recently been broken and torn away. The remainder of the nails on the fingers and the thumb of the right hand and all of the fingers and the left thumb are of similar length, are fairly well groomed, and all intact. The skin of the soles of the toes and feet shows irregular maceration from being in the damp to wet socks and sneakers.

Over the back in areas where there is fairly heavily caked wet mud over the bony prominence of the posterior inferior thorax, over the bra and the elevated jersey, over the buttocks, more the left than the right, the posterior surfaces of the thighs and the calves is red to blue-purple discoloration in the skin with super-

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*NOTE #710 CONT. 11-28-81 (M. Leeisler)*



ficial skin slip measuring up to 20 x 12 cm over the buttocks. In areas along the periphery of these discolorations, dry orange to red-tan epidermal denudations measure up to 0.8 x 0.4 cm. Over the right zygoma extending from the upper portion of the right cheek and across the right side of the forehead additional red-brown denudations and discolorations, in some areas more orange-tan than red-brown measure up to 0.8 x 0.4 cm. and are similar to those seen on the legs. They are without swelling or other surrounding discoloration.

There is tanning of the body except for a full one-piece bathing suit area. The exposed areas of skin, however, not covered by any of the clothing mentioned have a somewhat darker discoloration than the skin elsewhere. This is particularly noted over the exposed areas of the legs and not present where the folded down trousers, the socks, and shoes were over the lower legs and feet.

The virginal introitus shows irregular softening, maceration of the mucosa of the adjacent labia minora, but no injuries are present. The hymenal ring is intact admitting just the tip of the examining index finger. The anus and sphincter are dilated but no injuries are present. Swabs and material taken from the oral, anal, and vaginal areas and placed on glass slides are obtained for further examination. A duplicate set of these is obtained. One is given to Corporal Donald Houser, the other is retained by me.

JENNIFER HAS A SEVERE CASE OF POISON IVY - J.R. Hubbard  
IDENTIFYING MARKS AND SCARS

1. Numerous areas of hypopigmentation on the dorsum of the right forearm, hand, and the distal portion of the right upper arm in white to white-pink blotchy areas, some confluent, others small and oval to rounded, are from 0.6 cm. up to areas of 6 x 2 cm.
2. On the lateral surface of the left forearm and upper arm are similar areas of hypopigmented white scarring to that on the right arm.
3. On the lateral to posterior surface of the left upper arm, 12.5 cm. below the top of the shoulder, an oval, variegated hyperpigmentation measures 1.6 x 1.0 cm.

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INJURY

1. Above the front and right side of the neck, principally over the right cheek and chin but also dense about the periorbital skin and also present on the palpebral and the bulbar conjunctivae of both eyes are focal petechiae.
2. Across the front of the thyroid prominence of the larynx slightly pink-blue discoloration and stippled pink-red petechiae are separate from those seen above on the mandibular rami and cheeks and have a vertical to oblique pattern that matches the cloth pattern of the top rim of the jersey worn by the decedent. Also on the postero left lateral aspect of the neck and over the center of the back of the neck are curvilinear, 1.5 to 1.2 cm. x 0.2 cm. areas of pink stippled petechiae and discoloration.
3. Along the left ramus of the mandible beginning beneath the left side of the point of the chin and extending laterally are three progressively larger 1, 1.8, and 2 cm. in diameter pink to purple-brown discolorations.
4. The torn nails of the right ring and little fingers have been described above.

(It's not mentioned above)



INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The subcutaneous tissues and fat average 3.0 cm. over the anterior abdominal wall. The soft tissues are well preserved except for moderate hemolytic staining particularly of the mesenteric and splenic veins and the portal vein at the porta hepatis. Slight staining is seen in other blood vessels. The organs are situated in the usual manner. The left pleural cavity contains 50 cc. of blood tinged watery fluid and is associated with marked edema of the visceral pleural surface of the left lung. The musculoskeletal system is everywhere intact and unremarkable.

INTERNAL EVIDENCE OF INJURY

1. The superficial layers of strap muscles are not remarkable. Focally blue-purple hemorrhagic discoloration up to 0.8 x 0.6 cm. is over the tip of the inferior pole of the left submaxillary gland. Adjacent thin red-pink hemorrhagic discolorations are beneath the thyrohyoid muscle on the antero-lateral surfaces of the flat upper thyroid cartilage of the larynx externally.
2. Diffuse red-pink to blue hemorrhagic discoloration is within the soft tissues under the mucosa overlying the vocal cords, somewhat more pronounced on the right than the left. Red-pink hemorrhagic discoloration is over the mucosa of the vocal cords and above it. Petechiae are on the epiglottis.
3. A focal blue-purple hemorrhagic discoloration is just to the right of the center line under the ligamentous attachment of the inferior surface of the hyoid bone above the thyroid cartilage of the larynx. Fractures of the hyoid bone, the thyroid or cricoid cartilages or cornua of the larynx are not present.
4. No other internal injuries are present.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The heart and great vessels show no anomaly. The heart weighs 250 grams. The epicardial surface is smooth. The different valves, myocardial septa, and ostia of the coronary arteries are unremarkable. The foramen ovale is closed. The equally distributed coronary arteries have thin elastic walls and no occlusion. The myocardium, cardiac chambers, aorta, and great vessels, except for slight irregular marbled mottling of the outer third of the left ventricular myocardium, are not remarkable.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The remaining neck organs are intact and show no injury. The larynx, trachea, and bronchi are patent. The mucosa distally is lined by pink to red mucoid to bubbly edema froth. The right lung weighs 450 grams; the left lung 490 grams. Lobar configuration is normal. Black anthracosis is very minimal throughout the visceral pleural surfaces and almost none is on the parenchymal surfaces. The parenchyma shows diffuse congestion and fine edema. Nodularity, areas of consolidation, or other lesions are not noted. Slight emphysema proximal to the mucus and edema in the smaller bronchi is evident. The pulmonary artery is patent, intact, and free of thrombo-emboli.

BILIARY SYSTEM: The liver weighs 1420 grams. The capsule is smooth. The anterior margins are sharp. The parenchyma is homogeneous, brown-purple, and shows no nodularity or other lesions. The gall bladder and biliary tree are unremarkable. A small amount of green-brown bile is in the gall bladder.



HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM: The spleen weighs 160 grams. The capsule is intact. The parenchyma is soft, dark purple-red, mushy, congested, showing early changes of decomposition, and no other abnormality. Adenopathy is not significant. The bone marrow is not remarkable.

PANCREAS: The pancreas weighs 100 grams. The parenchyma shows hemorrhagic discoloration, softening, and autolysis but no other lesions.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: Each kidney weighs 120 grams. The cortical surfaces are smooth. Sections show good cortical medullary differentiation and no other lesions. The renal calyces, pelves, and ureters are unremarkable. The urinary bladder is empty. A small developing prepubertal uterus is approximately 3 x 2 x 1 cm. The serosa, endometrium, and myometrium are unremarkable. The cervix and endocervix show no lesions. The fallopian tubes and ovaries are developing and show no lesions. The remaining internal and external genitalia as described are not remarkable.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM: The esophagus is patent. The mucosa is unremarkable. The stomach contains 360 cc. of a mucoid to watery and particulate content with an odor suggestive of slightly oily vegetable matter. Moderately well digested fragments of bread, french fries, tomato, lettuce, and onion, one whole brown-green grape skin, and a softened, partially digested central portion of a grape with seeds, and very tiny soft, pink-brown material consistent with meat although not well defined are identified in the contents. The rugal pattern is preserved and shows no ulceration or hemorrhage. The small and large intestines and appendix are unremarkable.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thymus gland weighs 60 grams. The parenchyma shows slight milky-like softening centrally but the peripheral pink lobular parenchyma is not remarkable.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: The scalp, calvarium, and base of skull are intact and unremarkable. The scalp and temporalis musculature show diffuse, larger petechiae similar to those described externally on the face. Petechiae in these areas are up to 0.3 cm. across but no other evidence of contusion or blunt injury is seen in the scalp. The meninges and meningeal spaces show no lesions. The generally swollen and softened brain, consistent with early decomposition, weighs 1550 grams. The convolitional surface pattern, basal cerebral arteries, cranial nerves, and dural sinuses are all symmetrical and intact. Coronal sections through the hemispheres disclose only the generalized softening and edema. No areas of hemorrhage, infarction, tumor, or other injury are present. The slightly to moderately swollen basal ganglia compress the lateral ventricles; otherwise the ventricular system, basal ganglia, brain stem, cerebellum, and the proximal cervical spinal cord, except for generalized swelling, are not remarkable.

Present during the entire autopsy examination were Dr. Mahlon Pophal and Mr. Larry Bender from The Williamsport Hospital Pathology Department, Corporal Donald Houser and Corporal Ronald Barto from the Pennsylvania State Police Barracks, Montoursville, Pa.

Present during a portion(s) of the autopsy examination were Dr. Earl R. Miller, Coroner; Drs. T. Larson, W. Todhunter, G. Fries of The Williamsport Hospital Staff; District Attorney Allan E. Ertel, Assistant District Attorney William Keiser, and police officers Sgt. C. Benson and Det. C. Croft.



PHOTOGRAPHY: Color transparencies of the body and its organs were taken by Cpl. Donald Houser.

SPECIMENS: Samples of all organs are preserved in 10% formalin.

Samples of blood, kidney, liver, stomach content, and bile are obtained and submitted by me to Fredric Rieders, Ph.D., of the National Medical Services, Inc. for toxicological analyses. A receipt is obtained and retained by me. A sample of strained stomach content is retained by me for further examination.

The clothing and samples of scalp and pubic hair, finger nail scrapings, and the nail from the right middle finger, dirt from the back of the legs, vegetable matter entwined about the ring on the left ring finger, the earring from the right ear lobe, and the slides and swabs described above are taken by Cpl. Donald Houser.

Blood is obtained for typing.

BLOOD GROUPING: Type "A", Rh positive.

Examination of stained slides of the material taken from the mouth, vagina, and anus-rectum shows no spermatozoa. The swabs of material taken from the mouth, vagina, and anus-rectum reveal are negative for other than a trace amount of acid phosphatase in that from the vagina.

Examination of the strained stomach content under the dissecting microscope confirms the gross impression of partly digested fragments of bread, french fries, tomato, lettuce, onion, grape, and meat.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION: Sections of cerebrum, cerebellum, brain stem, thymus, spleen, thyroid, uterus, fallopian tube, ovary, liver, kidney, larynx, adrenal, urinary bladder (1 each); lung (4); heart (3); and gut (4) are examined. Slight vascular congestion is focal, varies in amount, in the brain, lung, and kidney. The gut shows autolysis, especially of its mucosa. In the section of larynx fresh hemorrhage manifest by numerous red blood cells with only normal amounts of white cells in the interstitial muscular tissue and the submucosa over the vocal cords. The remaining tissues are not remarkable. Except for the autolysis in the gut, all the tissues are well preserved.

A verbal report of toxicology from Dr. Fredric Rieders as of A.M. 2/20/74 reveals only the presence of ethanol in the stomach contents most likely the result of fermentation. No other psychoactive agents or drugs were found.

*Robert L. Catherman, M.D.*

ROBERT L. CATHERMAN, M.D.  
Forensic Pathologist

*Catherman  
AM 2-22-74  
No other psychoactive agents or drugs were found*