

DON DORSEY
Sheriff

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF INYO

P.O. BOX "S"
INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA 93526

CA01400

1 FILE NUMBER 86-01-057	REFER	2 DATE/TIME REPORTED 1-10 unk	3 DATE/TIME OCCURRED 1-5 Unk 1-6	4 DATE/TIME ASSIGNED 1-13, 1400	5 DATE/TIME START INV 1-13, 1500	6 DATE/TIME INV TERMINATED 1-21, 1730			
7 DAY 2	8 OFF ID 611	9 DIST 317	10 CRIME - CT	11 CRIME - CT	12 CRIME - CT	13 TYPE CLH OPN	14 TYPE CTD REF	15 ADULTS ARRESTED 0	16 JUVENILES ARRESTED 0

17 OFFENSES: CODE SECTION	COUNTS	CRIME	CLASSIFICATION
		SEARCH AND RESCUE	Missing Campers

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE Saline Valley	TYPE OF PLACE Warm Springs
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CODE V - VICTIM C - CONTACT P - PARENT RP - REPORTING PARTY DC - DISCOVERED CRIME (LIST AS W1, W2, V1, V2, ETC.)

18 LAST NAME-FIRST-MIDDLE (FIRM IF BUSINESS) V BERMAN, Barry Alan	19 RESIDENCE ADDRESS [REDACTED]	L	T	20 RES. PHONE	COPIES SENT TO DETECTIVE			
21 OCCUPATION 1 Self Employed	22 SEX DESC. W M A	23 AGE 35	24 DOB [REDACTED]	25 BUSINESS OR SCHOOL ADDRESS Same	26 BUS. PHONE			
27 LAST NAME-FIRST-MIDDLE (FIRM IF BUSINESS) V BERMAN, Louise Rhoda	28 RESIDENCE ADDRESS [REDACTED]	L	T	29 RES. PHONE	PATROL			
30 OCCUPATION 2 Self Employed	31 SEX DESC. W M A	32 AGE 52	33 DOB [REDACTED]	34 BUSINESS OR SCHOOL ADDRESS Same	35 BUS. PHONE			
36 LAST NAME-FIRST-MIDDLE (FIRM IF BUSINESS)	37 RESIDENCE ADDRESS	L	T	38 RES. PHONE	COURT			
39 OCCUPATION	40 SEX DESC.	41 AGE	42 DOB	43 BUSINESS OR SCHOOL ADDRESS	44 BUS. PHONE			
45 LAST NAME-FIRST-MIDDLE S N/A	46 SEX DESC.	47 AGE	48 HT	49 WT	50 HAIR	51 EYES	52 ID NO. OR DOB	COMPUTER
53 ADDRESS - CLOTHING - OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS OR CHARACTERISTICS								
54 LAST NAME-FIRST-MIDDLE S N/A	55 SEX DESC.	56 AGE	57 HT	58 WT	59 HAIR	60 EYES	61 ID NO. OR DOB	OTHER
62 ADDRESS - CLOTHING - OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS OR CHARACTERISTICS								

LIST ADDITIONAL NAMES PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE NARRATIVE (SHOW CODE AND LIST IN SAME SEQUENCE AS ABOVE) APR 1/3 SENT

PROPERTY	STOLEN/RECOVERED PROPERTY VALUES				
	CURRENCY AND NOTES	JEWEL & PRECIOUS METALS	FURN	CLOTHING	MISCELLANEOUS
STOLEN	PS1 \$	PS2 \$	PS3 \$	PS4 \$	PS6 \$
RECOVERED	PR1 \$	PR2 \$	PR3 \$	PR4 \$	PR6 \$

TOTAL VALUE STOLEN (ALL CATEGORIES) \$ -0- TOTAL VALUE RECOVERED (ALL CATEGORIES) \$ -0-

MODUS OPERANDI (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

63 DESCRIBE CHARACTERISTICS OF PREMISES AND AREA WHERE OFFENSE OCCURRED Hot Springs area, Saline Valley	REC'D ENTRY CHLD
64 DESCRIBE BRIEFLY HOW OFFENSE WAS COMMITTED Victims camped in hot springs area, locked vehicle with personal items inside, went for hike, never returned.	REPORTING OFF. # 611 REVIEWED BY [Signature]
65 DESCRIBE WEAPON, INSTRUMENT, EQUIPMENT, TRICK, DEVICE OR FORCE USED N/A	TYPED BY cb
66 MOTIVE - TYPE OF PROPERTY TAKEN OR OTHER REASON FOR OFFENSE Unknown	RECORDS
67 ESTIMATE LOSS VALUE AND/OR EXTENT OF INJURIES - MINOR, MAJOR Unknown at report time, possibly two human lives	ENTERED EOP
68 WHAT DID SUSPECT/S SAY - NOTE PECULIARITIES N/A	INDEX CARD MADE
69 VICTIM'S ACTIVITY JUST PRIOR TO AND/OR DURING OFFENSE Hiking in immediate area.	FILED BY 1-31-86 MICROFILM
70 TRADEMARK - OTHER DISTINCTIVE ACTION OF SUSPECT/S Leaves camping area, fail to return.	
71 VEHICLE USED - LICENSE NO. - ID NO. - YEAR - MAKE - MODEL - COLOR (OTHER IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS) 1982 Datsun King cab, blue with white camper.	OTHER

SIGNATURE Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611 1/29/86

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry Berman and Louise Berman

Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

ASSIGNMENT:

On Monday, January 13, 1986, at approximately 1330 hours, I received a phone call from Lt. Bill Lutze, Southern Division Commander. Lt. Lutze advised me that at the Palm Springs area of Saline Valley, a blue Datsun pickup had been found abandoned. Personal property, ie: camping equipment, clothing, food, et cetera, was locked in the vehicle, but no one had been seen around it for several days. He advised that Deputy Freshour was enroute to the area to check the vehicle.

At 1500 hours that date, I responded to the Bishop Substation, and contacted Search and Rescue member, Charlie Shore, and asked him to begin a call out for a possible search in the Saline Valley area, for the following morning. I asked that all accepting the call out would meet at the Bishop Substation at 0600 hours on January 14th. I later received word that Pat Elliott, Bob West, Bob Wilson, Guy Godfrey, and B.L.M. Ranger Bruce Albert had accepted the mission, and along with myself would be enroute to the Saline Valley area in the a.m.

Later in the evening I contacted Deputy Freshour regarding what he had observed while at the location that afternoon. The victim's pickup truck was located parked at Palm Springs, the first camping area to the right as you enter the Palm Springs. He advised that he had found two towels draped over bushes in the area, two bathing suits hanging on the steering wheel, the rest of the vehicle secured and locked. In talking with other campers, he discovered that no one there at the time had seen anyone around the truck.

DESCRIPTION SALINE VALLEY:

Saline Valley is a desert valley, located approximately 60 miles from the town of Bishop, bordered by the Inyo Mountains on the west, the Saline Range on the north, the Panamint Range on the east. The main entry and exit into the valley are passes on both the north and the south end. The road leading into the valley, via both passes, is a dirt road maintained by the Inyo County Road Department. The road is well travelled and in good condition. Most two wheel drive vehicles would have access to the Saline Valley area via this road. The Warm Springs area is a series of fresh hot water springs in the northeast corner of the valley. Access to that area is gained by three routes. One being the widely used eastwest road marked by large green rock painted with a black bat. This road branches off of the Saline Valley Road, opposite the Pat Keys Canyon in the Inyo Mountains. Approximately 5 more miles south on the Saline Valley Road, is the second road called the Artesian Road or South Warm Springs Road. This road travels northeast for approximately 5 to 6 miles and joins the North Warm Springs Road. The third access is via the Corridor Route, which would be through Eureka Valley. This route is much more difficult, requiring normally a four wheel drive type vehicle. There are two areas that have been developed by individuals, the first being lower Warm Springs.

Suggest this report be cleared as:

Officers Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 1-29-86

Hour 1100

Approved _____ Rank _____

Time _____ 19____

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry and Louise Berman

Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF SALINE VALLEY, CONTINUED:

This consists of three cemented in hot tub type areas, and approximately a mile above that would be the Palm Springs. This consists of two cemented in hot tubs. Camping areas in both spots are available for visitors. A third area called upper warm springs is an undeveloped hot spring, enclosed by chain link, from a prior attempt to raise pup fish. Population at these areas varies from one to two people to on long weekends up to 70 to 80 campers in the area.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1986:

I met with the members of the Rescue Team at the Bishop Substation at 0600. After briefing, obtaining food, we were enroute approximately 0700. At 0930 we arrived at the Saline Valley Warm Springs.

At lower Warm Springs I met with a subject known as "Chili Bob". He is the B.L.M. Host for the campground area. It was Bob who reported the incident to Independence regarding the abandoned vehicle. Bob advised that he had been told by several campers in the area that this vehicle had been left unattended since approximately January 6th or 7th. Bob advised that he had been out of the area during that time period, but it had been brought to his attention first on Friday, the 10th of January.

At approximately 1030 hours, we arrived at the the victim's vehicle location. Two 2-man teams were assigned to start cutting circles around the vehicle in attempt to cut the victim's tracks. B.L.M. Ranger Albert, was assigned to check several areas of interest north on the Corridor Road.

The area right around the vehicle was checked for sign. The time that had elapsed from when the victim's had left, until now, and with other people in the area having walked around the vehicle, no usable tracks were found.

The vehicle itself was locked, including the camper portion. Using a piece of wire we were able unlock the vehicle, and using a camper-type key belonging to SAR member Pat Elliott, we were able to unlock the camper. The search of the vehicle was then conducted. The vehicle contained items necessary for a camping-type outing. Sleeping bags and blankets, were found in the camper portion. Several pieces of foam rubber and cushions had been placed in the bed of the truck to form a bed, comprising the full width of the truck bed. The front of the pickup contained clean clothing, both men's and women's, a plastic bag containing a day's supply of dirty clothing for both a man and a woman. Both a man's trunk-type swimming suit and woman's swimming suit were found in the front of the pickup. No wallet or identification

Suggest this report be cleared at _____

Officers Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 1-29-86

Hour 1345

Approved _____

Rank _____

Time _____

19 _____

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry and Louise Berman

Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1986, CONTINUED:

other than vehicle registration and a temporary driver's license for Mrs. Berman were located. The only footwear were two pairs of cowboy boots, one being a larger man's, the second being a smaller size, female's. No notes or anything indicating what the Berman's plans for their stay were found. Several maps were found, one containing marks on the Saline Valley Road, with the entrance to the Warm Springs Road circled. A note indicating right turn at Bat Rock, was written on the map at that intersection.

The ground teams continued their circular track cutting search for the rest of the afternoon. At 1600 hours we as a group, met to discuss the needed resources for enlarging the search Wednesday, January 15th. A call was made to Independence for resources, including a request for foot searchers and air support to do an air search and to transport search members to other areas of the valley. A short time later I received information from Independence that Indian Wells Search and Rescue would be enroute at 1800 hours this date, and China Lake Mountain Rescue would be enroute early hours January 15th. Air support was still being requested for the a.m. period.

JANUARY 15, 1986, WEDNESDAY:

At 0700 hours, I was advised that China Lake Naval Weapons Center would be sending two helicopters to assist us. At 0730 hours two Marine Cobra gunships arrived at Search Base. Note: Search Base had been set up at Lower Warm Springs the previous evening. The victim's truck, had been driven to that location, using a set of keys found in the vehicle.

At 0830 hours China Lake Mountain Rescue arrived with 12 members. A strategy meeting was held to plan the day's search activity. The air power provided was to be used for search only, as this type of helicopter was not capable of carrying search team members. The helicopters divided their search area up, using the Corridor Road as a boundary. One helicopter started a grid search, starting at lower Warm Springs, working directly west, over the alluvial fans of the Saline Range, then continuing to fly east and west proceeding north up into the Saline Range. The second helicopter did a similar search flying west and back to the lower Warm Springs working its way flying that same direction, north along the bottom part of the valley up into the foothills of the Panamint Range. The air search was very effective as the helicopters were flying approximately 20 knots per hour about one hundred feet off the ground. They continued this until the area was covered approximately two times. After they accomplished this, they were assigned search areas south of lower Warm Springs, but still in the area that would be considered a day hike's distance from the campsite.

Suggest this report be cleared as:

Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Officers

1-29-86

Date

Hour

1415

Approved

Rank

Time

19

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Larry and Louise Berman
Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

JANUARY 15, 1986, CONTINUED:

The search of the vehicle the day prior, had revealed two cameras, one 35 mm, one 126. The film from both these cameras was removed and on Wednesday, when the Cobras returned to Bishop for fuel, the film was sent, in hopes that pictures obtained from this film, would give hints as to who these people we were looking for, the type footgear they might be wearing, and what other locations in the area they had been to.

Ground teams were assigned to the immediate area around both upper Palm and lower Warm Springs. Other teams were sent out to cut for tracks along the alluvial fans west towards the Inyo Mountains, southeast towards the dry lake and Panamint Range. Other teams were sent out along the Corridor Road, as far up as two miles above Upper Warm Springs, to cut for track. All tracks located were either marked, or followed to some type of conclusion. This type search continued throughout the day.

At approximately 1500 hours, the 35 mm film that had been developed in Bishop, was returned to search base. Using this film it was determined that the two subjects were probably wearing a Nike-type running shoe, as both were pictured wearing such shoes, and shoes of this type were not found in the vehicle. By this time other information regarding the subjects was being obtained the Detective Division of the Sheriff's Department.

A request was again placed regarding helicopters of the type which could be used to transport search members to higher and further out locations for the following day's search plan.

At 1730 hours, all search teams had returned to base, and at 1930 hours Base Camp was shut down for the day.

JANUARY 16, 1986, THURSDAY:

Resources available at 0800 hours, at Base Camp were as follows; Indian Wells Search and Rescue, China Lake Mountain Rescue, Inyo County Search and Rescue, June Lake Search and Rescue, an Air National Guard CH47 helicopter, from Stockton, a C.H.P. Hughes 500 from Barstow, a C.H.P. Long Ranger, from Fresno, and an Army UH1, from Sacramento. Note: the Huei from Sacramento, did not arrive on scene until approximately 1230 hours, January 16th.

The search was expanded this date, using the CH47, with 24 ground members on board. Teams were placed on the high ridge areas all along the southernmost part of the Saline Range, on the ridge overlooking the warm springs area. All drainages, washes, and other attractions were searched for clues.

Suggest this report be cleared as:

Officers Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 1-29-86

Hour 1430

Approved _____

Rank _____

Time _____

19

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry and Louise Berman
Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

JANUARY 16, 1986, CONTINUED:

Numerous foottracks were located, with none matching the type of footwear the victim's were wearing. All foottracks were located, were identified or followed to a natural conclusion. This type search continued through the rest of the day with negative results.

That evening the victim's vehicle was flown to Bishop for storage by the Air National Guard CH47. Search and Rescue member Pat Elliott, also left via the helicopter.

Indian Wells Search and Rescue Captain, Ron Smith, advised that his team would have to be leaving that p.m., to return to their homes and work. Remaining on scene for the following day's search were twelve members of the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group and myself.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1986:

Today's search consisted of eleven China Lake Search and Rescue members being driven to an area approximately one mile above the upper Warm Springs. The groups split in half and did a cutting line-type search from that location, parallel to the roadway, all the way back to lower Warm Springs. These efforts were again met with negative results.

At 1030 hours, I was requested by Undersheriff Vaulet to return to Bishop A.S.A.P. for a meeting regarding the search and rescue.

The outcome of the meeting was that I was requested by Sheriff Dorsey to return to the search area on Saturday, the 18th, and continue the search.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1986:

At 0600 hours, teams from Inyo and June Lake Search and Rescue met at the Bishop Substation. At 0630 hours, we were enroute to the search area. A total of nine team members, two additional members from China Lake Mountain Rescue were to meet with us at lower Warm Springs. Air Support for the day consisted of two C.H.P. helicopters, one out of Barstow, and one out of Fresno. Search Base at Lower Warm Springs was operational at 0800 hours.

Attraction areas were concentrated on that day. Teams were dispatched to the west side of the valley to cut track from Willow Creek back to the camp at Lower Warm Springs. Teams were placed via helicopter again on the ridge line northwest of Warm Springs, with instructions to check at cliff faces and other hazardous areas. The area around Chicken Foot, which is located east of lower Warm Springs, was searched again. A cabin belonging to a subject by the

Suggest this report be cleared as:

Officers Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 1-29-86

Hour 1515

Approved _____

Rank _____

Time _____

19

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry and Louise Barman
Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1986, CONTINUED:

name of "Wolfman", which is located approximately two miles up the Corridor Road from Upper Warm Springs, was also concentrated on. A two man team was dropped off at that location by helicopter to cut circular patterns around the cabin, again looking for footprints.

I drove to the location of the "Wolfman" cabin and conducted a search of the immediate area. I observed a rock approximately two feet high in front of the cabin. The rock had several white stripes painted on to it. A dark liquid had ran from the top of the rock. A piece of approximately 12 inch square slate, probably a quarter of an inch thick was found on top of that rock. When I turned that piece of slate over I noticed a large amount of what appeared to be blood and fine-type hair stuck to the slate. Several nine millimeter pieces of empty brass, .38 brass, and .44 magnum brass, were located in the area. At this time I requested for ID technician, Dick Wood, to be sent to the scene to collect this type of evidence. At approximately 1100 hours, I was advised Independence that the C.H.P. helicopter was requested to return to Bishop to pick up Detective Nixon and a priority passenger, this being a psychic by the name of Char, who had been hired by the family, to assist us in our search.

A helicopter arrived a short time later with both of these passengers on board. Before landing the helicopter did a fly over of the area to acquaint the passengers with the search area.

After the helicopter landed I met with Detective Nixon and Char. I briefed them on the scope of the search so far. The areas covered, and the general scope of the search.

Char asked that she be taken to where the Barman's campsite was located. We drove to Palm Springs and I showed her the site.

Two possible suspects, Olson and Lee, were pointed out Detective Nixon. (Refer to Det. Nixon's report regarding F.I. and other information gained from these two suspects.)

After walking around the campsite for awhile, Char requested that she walk up the road alone, which she did. After walking for some time the subject was picked up with the Sheriff's Department Bronco and taken to various locations in the search area that she requested to see.

Ground teams were placed in specific spots mentioned by Char as being possible locations of the victims. All these were with negative results. Char was later taken to the cabin used by the "Wolfman". She expressed at that site she had no feelings one way or another as to the victims having had been there. Char and Detective Nixon were then returned to Lower Warm.

Suggest this report be cleared as:

Officers Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 10-29-86

Hour 1600

Approved _____

Rank _____

Time _____

19

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry and Louise Berman

Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

JANUARY 18, 1986, Continued:

Springs where they boarded the helicopter and did some more air surveillance. At approximately 1500, they returned to the Bishop Airport.

Ground teams continued to work various locations until approximately 1700 hours, at which times all teams returned to base for debriefing.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1986:

At 0700 Base Camp was operational and making plans for the search activity for the day. Resources available for the day were Inyo County Search and Rescue, June Lake Search and Rescue and China Lake Mountain Rescue. Independence advised that two C.H.P. helicopters, one from Barstow, H82, and H42 from Fresno would be enroute to our location.

It was planned that two teams would be air lifted to the Dry Mountain area. These teams would search the two routes, leading to the top of Dry Mountain. Another team in a four wheel drive vehicle was again sent up the Corridor to cut for sign, along the Corridor Road, approximately one mile above Upper Warm Springs. Another team was sent into the Chicken Foot area to once again check that high probability attraction. At approximately 1000 hours the C.H.P. helicopter arrived with Deputy Boyer, and Psychic Char, on board. Using the helicopter the area was overflown, with Char on board. Compass headings were pointed out to her, using various headings, matching numbers that she had thought of.

I asked her which area she specifically wished to consider and she advised that the Indian hogan and the Three Springs areas were of main interest to her. Using the Sheriff's Bronco we drove to that area. A foot search consisting of myself, Deputy Boyer and Char took place in that area for approximately two hours. This search met with negative results. We returned to Base Camp at approximately 1300 hours.

At her request, Char and Deputy Boyer were placed into the helicopter and the area of Chicken Foot was flown several times. This also led to negative findings.

At approximately 1500 hours all ground teams were returned to Base and met for debriefing.

With negative leads it was decided that the official search would be over this date. Char and Deputy Boyer were returned to Bishop via the C.H.P. helicopter. Base Camp was disbanded at approximately 1700 hours, with all units returning to their areas.

Suggest this report be cleared at:

Officers Dand Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 1-29-86

Hour 1630

Approved _____

Rank _____

Time _____

19

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-057

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry and Louise Berman
Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1986:

On Monday evening, January 20th, I was contacted by Lt. Goodrich. He requested that myself and one Search and Rescue member would be available to meet with Deputy Boyer and Psychic Char, at the Warm Springs area in the a.m. of January 21. At approximately 0830 hours, myself and Search and Rescue member Dan Coker arrived at Lower Warm Springs. At approximately 1100 hours C.H.P. helicopter H42 arrived with Char and Deputy Boyer on board. Char requested that a flyover the Chicken Foot area be done. After this myself, Coker, Boyer and Char were dropped in that area for a approximate 3 hour search. Char requested that this area be foot searched again, looking shallow graves, indicating that she felt they were buried in the area, with something sticking out of the grave, perhaps a shoe lace. The search was again met with negative results. Myself and Coker searched until approximately 1430 hours at which time we hiked back to the Base Camp at Lower Warm Springs. The helicopter picked up Deputy Boyer and Char and returned them to Bishop.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1986:

During the previous week, I was requested Sheriff Dorsey, to conduct a search of the mine and cave sites in the Saline and Eureka Valleys. Arrangements were made for the C.H.P. helicopter from Barstow to meet myself and B.L.M. Ranger Bruce Albert at the Bishop Airport on Monday morning at 0800 hours. Ranger Albert is familiar with the type of sites we needed to search. Due to problems with the fuel for the helicopter, our departure from the Bishop airport was delayed until approximately 1030 hours. We started with the east side of the Inyo Mountains, checking cabins and mine sites known to Ranger Albert. One landing was made at a cabin site located near Waucoba Mountain. Nothing around the cabin or mine indicated anyone had been in the area. The canyons at Beveridge, Hunter were checked from the air, again with negative results. Some Indian caves in the southeast corner of the valley were explored by myself and Ranger Albert after our helicopter landed us in the area. From there we flew the Corridor Route looking for mine shafts, etc. None in that area were located. An area called Marble Bath was explored. This is a sheer sided canyon on the Panamint Range known for its' petroglyphs and water. Nothing to indicate that our victims had been there was located.

Fuel was obtained from the C.H.P. fuel truck at Eureka Valley sand dunes, and at approximately 1400 hours we landed at the Palm Springs. At that location we met with Mr. Berman, victim Barry Berman's father, and approximately 14 family members and friends who had gathered to conduct their own search of the area. After discussing the situation with them at some length, and advising them that the official search, pending new leads, was being called off. We then returned to the Bishop Airport, arriving there at approximately 1530 hours.

Suggest this report be cleared at: _____

Officers Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 1-29-86 Hour 1700

Approved _____ Rank _____ Time 19

OFFICE OF SHERIFF
COUNTY OF INYO, CALIFORNIA

Report No. 86-01-05

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

CLASSIFICATION SEARCH AND RESCUE

Complainant or Victim Barry and Louise Berman
Address [REDACTED]

Further Investigation on above Case we report as follows:

CONCLUSIONS:

- (1) The search area within a day hiking distance of the Base Camp, the probability of discovery if the subjects were there, I would place at 85% covered.
- (2) The probability that two people would become lost in that area is minimal.
- (3) The chance that one of the subjects fell or became injured and the second one in an attempt to assist that one also fell or became injured is slight, but that would be the most likely scenario if the people were still somewhere in the area.
- (4) That some natural accident happened, ie: a bank caving away and burying them, a rock falling upon them, is the second most likely scenario, if they were still in the area.
- (5) The possibility of homicide/suicide or suicide/suicide, is another possible scenario. That possibility is way down on the list in my thinking, as the area was covered in such an extent, that if that had happened, I feel they would have been found.
- (6) The possibility of some type of criminal action, kidnap, murder, removal from the area is the last and most likely scenario in my thinking at this point.

HOURS EXPENDED:

Sheriff's Sergeant Lucas	Approximately 200 hours
Volunteer Search and Rescue Members	Approximately 2,500 hours
C.H.P. Helicopter's actual flying time	25 hours
Military Helicopters	Approximately 30 hours
Sheriff's Vehicle miles driven	300 miles
Search and Rescue Vehicle mileage	300 miles

Hours in Activity of Criminal Investigation by
Detectives will not be listed in this report.

Suggest this report be cleared as:

Critics Dan Lucas, Sgt. #611

Date 1-29-86Hour 1630

Approved _____

Rank _____

Time _____

19.