

Knife

Since they had failed to find a knife in the field, or in Keith's trailer, the police were desperate to come up with something.

On March 9th (more than one month after the murder) Sgt. Wynne was speaking to John McGarvey, Keith's friend and neighbor. Sgt. Wynne asked John if he had a knife. John said he had one that he used to skin rabbits and deer. John took Sgt. Wynne to his office and Sgt. Wynne says the knife was in a desk drawer approximately ½ way back and possibly covered by some papers.

This knife was introduced at trial and the prosecution implied to the jury that it was Keith's knife and it had been used on David Rowell. This knife had no connection to Keith nor to the crime. I will give you the facts and you can decide. (TT: 649, 892 and 1015-1016)

- 1.) John McGarvey was proven to be out of town when David Rowell was murdered and yet they took the knife from him more than one month after the murder.
- 2.) John was under no compulsion to give his knife to the police. He volunteered it because he saw no reason not to.
- 3.) John told the police that it was his knife, no one knew where he kept it, and Keith had never had it in his possession.
- 4.) Ask any real hunter and they will tell you that they keep their gear in good shape. They especially keep these skinning knives clean and sharp. John was no exception. The prosecution made a big deal about how clean his knife was and then they said there were minute traces of blood on the knife but they were so faint that they couldn't tell if it was animal or human. (Pretty convenient since they knew John used his knife for skinning animals.)
- 5.) Ray Salunek (who was also a juvenile at the time) was picked up, prior to Keith's trial, and taken to the prosecutors office. He was shown the knife and asked if it was a knife he had given Keith. He said it was not.
- 6.) The prosecutor then told him that the knife had been used in the crime, and if he didn't say it was the knife he gave Keith, he would go to jail. Ray still refused to lie. (see statement of Ray Salunek).